

AGENDA
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
August 3, 2023

530 East Main Street
Aspen, CO 81611
In Person: BOCC Meeting Room
Virtual: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84052840084>

All times are subject to variation without notice.

9:00 AM	PUBLIC COMMENT
	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES 07.06.2023 OSTB Regular and Executive Draft Minutes 07.25.2023 OSTB & BOCC Executive Draft Minutes
9:05 AM	OSTB REGULAR SESSION
	Draft 2023 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan Update
	BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS
	BOARD ACTION - <i>as needed</i>
10:00 AM	OSTB EXECUTIVE SESSION
	Executive session for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of real property, obtaining legal advice, and providing instructions to negotiators regarding the following: • Property interest in Snowmass Creek area; • Property interest in Capitol Creek area All items pursuant to: Property Interest Acquisitions CRS 246402(4)(a); Negotiations CRS 246402 (4)(e); and Legal Advice CRS 246402 (4)(b).
12:00 PM	Adjourn

Monthly Update
Articles and Correspondence (view from OSTB web agenda or from Google Drive)

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Draft Minutes

07.06.2023 OSTB Regular and Executive Draft Minutes
07.25.2023 OSTB & BOCC Executive Draft Minutes

FOR REVIEW and
APPROVAL
08/03/2023

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD
REGULAR SESSION**

**July 6, 2023
530 E Main St.
Aspen CO, 81611**

OSTB Present:

Graeme Means Dist. 1, Chair	Howie Mallory Dist. 2	Amy Barrow Dist. 3	Michael Kinsley Dist. 4	Wayne Ives Dist. 5
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Staff Present: Gary Tennenbaum, Jessie Young, Kim Arensdorf, Drew Walters, Carly O'Connell, Janet Urquhart, Paul Holsinger, Dale Will, Richard Neiley

Others Present: Paul Perry, Slone Shumaker, Rachel Perkins, Matt Annabel, Edgar Boyles, John Armstrong

Graeme Means called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Edgar Boyles, Wildwood Lane resident, commented that he attended the OSTB May 4th meeting where it was discussed that a capacity study was going to be conducted at North Star Nature Preserve (NSNP). Boyles asked for a survey/analysis update. Tennenbaum explained that users are being counted every year at NSNP, additionally staff is monitoring commercial use and conducting post-float surveys. The survey requests feedback from users on commercial use and logistics of their float. OST staff will review the survey results with the Board after this summer season and before the 2024 commercial permit season, he said. Boyles asked if the analysis will include the overall capacity issues. Tennenbaum noted that all areas of NSNP are being analyzed and the capacity is not significantly impacting the natural resources, however the social use and commercial use is being evaluated to determine issues and reflect any needed changes in 2024. The Roaring Fork Outdoor Coalition is surveying the overall recreation capacity again this summer at the heavily used trailheads in the area, he said.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Howie Mallory motioned for the OSTB to approve the 06/06/2023 OSTB & BOCC Regular and Executive Session Draft Minutes. Graeme Means seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Mount Sopris Nordic Council (MSNC)

Tennenbaum explained that the MSNC is located on one of OST's largest conservation easements. OST has been funding the MSNC \$10k per year for the last 14 years. Currently MSNC is looking to expand/improve their operations and therefore are looking for a higher contribution from OST. Staff recommends approving the increase in funding due to inflation and expansion of their program. Tennenbaum explained that the MSNC is currently funded by OST's maintenance budget, and in the future if there are any capital improvements needed it would come from the trails capital improvements budget.

07/06/2023

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Rachel Perkins, Executive Director, explained that MSNC is a non-profit founded in 1986 and it's mission is to serve the lower Roaring Fork Valley and it's visitors by providing a quality, no-cost cross-country ski experience at Spring Gulch. MSNC's organizational structure includes an eight-person volunteer board, one year-round paid executive director, and three part time seasonal grooming staff.

Perkins stated that there has been a significant increase in Nordic use over the last 10 years. She noted that most of MSNC funding comes from memberships, with the addition of grants and fundraising.

Perkins expressed gratitude for OST's support with the MSNC, the Spring Gulch ski area and the donation of a Snowcat. She stated that current expenses include equipment maintenance, wages, utilities/supplies, fuel and insurance. The first \$10k grant from OST was in 2006, and in 2008 annual operating budget was \$50k, which included 200 ski members, and one trail groomer.

Perkins provided MSNC vision which includes:

- Be a true community ski area
- Engage meaningfully with our membership to help develop connection, appreciation, and support for Spring Gulch
- Steward the land and prepare for a changing climate
- Support and collaborate with organizations like AVSC, CMC, and CRMS to provide opportunities for youth and adults to learn, train, race, and enjoy cross-country skiing
- Through high-quality and consistent grooming operations, provide a venue that serves skiers of all ages and abilities

Perkins provided developments and progress within the program:

- First executive director hired in 2023
- Increased grooming staff wages \$5/hr, starting at \$25/hr
- In-progress: 7.5-kilometer trail expansion, with help from Western Vegetation Management & DHM Designs
- Improved grooming capacity with PistenBully while supporting existing fleet of snowmobiles+ implements
- Planned: addition of North Parking Lot on Marion Cemetery Rd
- Planned: trail modifications & practice field

Perkins explained that the northern trail extension adheres to the climate resilience plan, where as new trail additions take advantage of higher elevation, and northern-aspect terrain that receives snow earlier and holds it longer. Additionally, planned installation of North Parking Lot along Marion Cemetery Rd will extend the season and increases access in low-snow years, while addressing overflow issues on North Thompson Creek Rd.

Perkins provided the equipment maintenance and fuel use/costs:

- Regular service of PistenBully plus increased cost for repairs
- Maintain funds to support snowmobile maintenance, repairs, and regular replacement
- Fuel costs have nearly tripled since 2021-2022 season

- Will need to add capacity to store diesel fuel for PistenBully, plus generator and battery jump box

Perkins explained that staff wages were increased to stay competitive and retain staff. Additionally, there was an increase in grooming hours for onboarding/training, and to cover the expanded trail system.

Perkins commented that challenges and remaining projects/goals include:

Climate Resilience Master Plan

- Develop a low-tech and low-cost plan to maximize skier days and increase early/late season access
- Through vegetation management & restoration -carefully steward the land surrounding Spring Gulch, while working carefully with the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and Pitkin County OpenSpace & Trails
- Better support our community through facility improvements and operations enhancement

North Parking Lot Installation – Summer 2023

- 60-car second lot along Marion Cemetery Rd directly connects to higher elevation, more protected terrain. Increases season by several weeks on either end and improves low-snow year access.
- 80% increase in parking capacity –also addresses overflow on N.Thompson Creek Road

Proposed capital improvements include:

- Northern Trail Extension
- North Parking Lot Installation
- Practice Field Installation
- System-Wide Trail Improvement
- Vegetation Management & Restoration
- Grooming Operations Facility Improvement
- Grooming Equipment & Operations Upgrades

Matt Annabel thanked OST staff for work on the conservation easement that includes Spring Gulch. The new trails would not have been possible without the work from the County, he said.

Mallory recommended that at Spring Gulch a snowshoe trail be looked into for those who do not ski. Graeme Means suggested a bus system to and from Carbondale to Spring Gulch.

Wayne Ives commented that Spring Gulch is a great community asset, especially for down-valley residents.

Mallory asked about North Parking Lot construction costs. Perkins explained that funding from saved expenses can be looked into, as well as exploring different grant opportunities and some fundraising.

Amy Barrow asked about Marion Gulch access/use. Annabel explained that Marion Gulch has snowmobile, sledding and backcountry skier use. The parking at Marion Gulch is very limited

and requires memberships. The new North Parking Lot will be about 100 feet lower from the Marion Gulch.

Means recommended that OST increase funding for MSNC to \$25,000 per year and look into funding for capital improvements. Mallory suggested that OST utilize its remaining trails capital budget for potential capital improvements. Barrow suggested that OST wait for the MSNC to come back with a specific ask before providing funding for capital expenditures.

Tennenbaum noted that an annual report of operating expenses from MSNC would be good in the future to track costs.

Board action below.

Fee Simple Open Space Management Categories and Planning Timeline

Carly O'Connell explained that Title 12 Authorizes the OST Board of Trustees to adopt individualized management plans for specific Open Space and Trails properties. Included in the OST policies and objectives there is the Stewardship Policy #1 - Management Plans: Open Space Board will adopt Management Plans for lands in which a fee simple interest is acquired. Smaller parcels, or similar management needs may be grouped into management categories. O'Connell explained that the OST Board and staff have revisited the originally adopted program policies with the most recent updates occurring in 2018.

O'Connell stated that OST management plan adoption has focused on parcels of a size and condition that warrant specific management actions, and not all properties acquired have needed immediate management. She noted that with continued fee simple acquisitions a number of open spaces lack a management plan.

As of the end of 2022 OST portfolio includes 155 individual parcels totaling approximately 5,500 acres of fee simple open spaces. 71 parcels have an adopted management plan, 22 parcels are covered by Stewardship Policy #14 Backcountry Parcels Management Policy or Stewardship Policy #2A Trails and Trailheads for management purposes. O'Connell explained that currently 58 parcels (1,220 acres) of fee simple open space do not have a management plan. Proposed policy updates would enable clear and immediate management of all 58 parcels and future acquisitions of open spaces in the following management categories:

- Trailheads (existing)
- Backcountry (existing)
- **Riparian** (new): Adopt a new Stewardship Policy and reclassify parcels.
 - Isolated or small parcels of land located along the interface of land and a river or stream. May be contiguous to other protected lands.
- **Greenway** (new): Adopt a new Stewardship Policy and reclassify parcels
 - A corridor of undeveloped land preserved for recreational use or environmental protection. Greenways often contain or guide development and contribute to connectivity through preservation of land in the fringe of towns, roads or other developed areas providing a buffer from development.

O'Connell stated that 33 parcels (approx. 264 acres) of fee simple open space would receive immediate guidance with the adoption of management policies for riparian parcels and greenways and 6 parcels categorized as trailheads would receive immediate guidance.

Tennenbaum added that the backcountry policy was changed to accommodate differing regulations regarding dogs off leash, hunting, etc. Riparian and Greenway new categories will be the same.

Kinsley asked how we will discern a specific issue in a generic classification. Klein stated that these parcels can be put into a category for policy guidelines, but can be put into its own management plan if needed. Young added that going forward staff would be able to take any future acquisitions and put them into a category and its specific policies.

Klein explained that staff recommends that the OSTB amend stewardship Policy #1 to include additional management categories of open spaces. Direct OST staff to prepare policies for riparian parcel and greenway parcel management. Lastly, interrelated properties or those adjacent to managed open spaces will be integrated to existing management plans through an addendum. Tennenbaum noted that this classification system and the management plan timeline will reduce the need to interim plans. Staff capacity is a big piece of the puzzle, therefore these categories will help streamline to make all the necessary adjustments to management plans, he said.

Mallory suggested that all the parcels included in the management categories be provided on a map. Tennenbaum stated that a map could be presented when it is brought back to the Board for review.

O'Connell provided the planning timeline and noted that the three new management plans from the list are Thompson Creek OS, Thompson Divide Ranch, and Potato Bill OS.

Board action below.

Correction Deeds

Paul Holsinger stated that the first correction is for Capital Creek Ranch Conservation Easement with regards to development approvals discrepancy with regards to the Caretaker Dwelling Unit (CDU) on a detached agricultural structure. Community Development staff noticed a discrepancy between the resolution approving development and the conservation easement; "Resolution 35- 2013 allows for a CDU "...to be attached to the primary residence, an agriculture structure or the garage." The conservation easement states that all residences may include a CDU so long as the floor area is included in the total residential floor area calculation and is attached to the residence. It also states that the easement recognizes the existing land use approvals awarded in the resolution are consistent with the terms of the easement. Staff determined that this was an oversight and the intention of everyone was to draft the CE to match the resolution language, he said.

Holsinger explained that for 2 Mile Ranch the conservation easement was recorded at the end of 2023 and OST staff noticed early on that a previous version of the CE was recorded instead of

the agreed upon documents. The version recorded has two errors; 1) Exhibit C is listed as the Baseline Report and Attestation instead of the Baseline Report Attestation and 2) the wrong version of Exhibit B was recorded and not legible after being recorded black and white. A correction deed must be drafted to resolve this oversight.

Board action below.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ives commended OST for work on Redstone Park improvements.

Ives stated that a bill will be introduced by U.S. senator Bennett to add new wilderness areas along Castle Creek and the area between Pearl and Taylor Creek Pass. He recommended that staff keep the Board informed about the bill and potentially send a letter of support.

Mallory asked about the status for the Redstone to McClure Trail. Tennenbaum explained that the objections were reviewed and they are recommending that the Forest Service move forward, however they need to include a monitoring plan.

Barrow noted that the first focus group meeting took place for the Brush Creek Park & Ride to AABC potential trail connection to receive community feedback.

Barrow commented that she visited North Star during the 4th of July and applauded staff's recreation management.

Richard Neiley noted that the trial between the County and Rock Creek Association determining whether there is public access along Dorais Way will take place the last week in February and first week of March, 2024. Tennenbaum explained that the public can visit Filoha Meadows with the Roaring Fork Conservancy tours that access the Wildin Property.

BOARD ACTION

Mount Sopris Nordic Council

Graeme Means motioned to increase annual funding for the Mount Sopris Nordic Council to \$25,000. Wayne Ives Seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Fee Simple Open Space Management Categories

Wayne Ives motioned to amend Stewardship Policy #1 to reflect new management categories of open spaces for riparian parcels and greenway. Graeme Means seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Correction Deeds

Wayne Ives recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve the Capitol Creek Ranch correction deed and the 2 Mile Ranch correction deed. Michael Kinsley seconded. Motion passes (5-0).

Colorado Outward Bound Parcel

Michael Kinsley motioned to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve up to \$500,000 expenditure for the acquisition of a conservation easement for the Colorado Outward Bound Parcel. Amy Barrow seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

ADJOURN

The OSTB meeting of July 6, 2023 adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Graeme Means, Chair
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails Board

Kimberly Arensdorf
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails
Administrative Specialist

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD
CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**July 6, 2023
530 East Main Street
Aspen, CO 81611**

OSTB EXECUTIVE SESSION

OSTB Present: Graeme Means (Chair), Michael Kinsley, Amy Barrow, Howie Mallory, Wayne Ives

Staff Present: Gary Tennenbaum, Dale Will, Kim Arensdorf, Jessie Young, Paul Holsinger, Richard Neiley, Drew Walters, Janet Urquhart

Amy Barrow moved to enter executive session at 11:35 a.m. for acquisition and instruction to negotiators, and legal counsel for the following:

- Property located in the Crystal River Valley;
- Property interest located in Capitol Creek area;
- Property interest in Snowmass Creek area;
- Property located near Lenado, Colorado.

As specified above, pursuant to:

Property Interest Acquisitions CRS 246402(4)(a); Negotiations CRS 246402 (4)(e); and Legal Advice CRS 246402 (4)(b).

Howie Mallory seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

ADJOURN

The OSTB adjourned executive session meeting of July 6, 2023 at approximately time 12:55 p.m.

Approved:

*Graeme Means, Chair
Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Board of Trustees*



OST Memorandum



TO: Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Board (OSTB)
FROM: Jessie Young, Carly O'Connell, Liza Mitchell
SUBJECT: Draft 2023 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan Update
DATE: August 3, 2023

Project Need and Background: Nearly 375 acres of open space surrounding the small community of Redstone represent every facet of the diverse mission of the county's Open Space and Trails program. The parks and open spaces in the Redstone area are managed for natural resource protection, recreation, agricultural heritage and their scenic value. The 2023 Management Plan update for Redstone parks and open spaces is a continuation of planning in the area, beginning with the original Elk Park Management Plan, completed in 1996, and the 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan. This management plan offers an expanded footprint - of the 375 acres of Redstone area parks and opens spaces, nearly 95 acres were acquired between the 2010 management plan and this update.

Now, with many of the prior management actions completed or underway, this updated management plan once again draws upon natural resources studies and data, input and expertise of partners, and input from community members and visitors. The diverse attributes that make the collection of parks and open spaces such an important place to protect are also what make it a popular place to visit.

Draft Plan Development: The first planning phase included an evaluation of existing conditions and natural resource reports as well as mapping all parks and open spaces. Next, staff began partner and public outreach. Staff facilitated seven meetings in February and March 2023 with partners from the White River National Forest, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Department of Transportation, Roaring Fork Conservancy, Healthy Rivers Board, West Elk Scenic and Historic Byway, and the Pitkin County engineer. Staff also engaged the Redstone Community Association and the Crystal Caucus before initiating broader public outreach.

Broad community input was collected through an online survey to better understand the community's interests and use of the parks and open spaces. The survey was conducted from mid-April 2023 through mid-May 2022. The survey was promoted through social media and print advertisements in the Crystal Echo and Sopris Sun, and received 123 responses.

Staff facilitated additional outreach opportunities in July to gauge support for draft management ideas. Management ideas were reviewed with community members at a public open house hosted at Redstone Park from 4-7pm on July 12, 2023, a Crystal Caucus meeting on July 13 and a pop-up outreach booth at the Magical Moments Summer Concert Series hosted at



OST Memorandum

Coke Ovens Open Space on July 15. Approximately 150 individuals were collectively present at these three events. Feedback was captured through write-in comment cards. A total of 18 cards were collected.

Draft Plan Updates: Redstone-area acquisitions of open space parcels represent an investment of approximately \$6.2 million to date. The 2010 plan provided management direction for Elk Park, Redstone Park and Redstone Boulders. This plan update adds Coke Ovens Open Space, Drool Open Space and Sawmill Hill. This plan update builds on past accomplishments and celebrates the investments made in the Redstone area. It also recognizes recent improvements to Elk and Redstone parks and open spaces that are functioning well and proposes few, if any, changes to Redstone Boulders, Sawmill Hill and The Drool.

The key updates in this plan, pulled from partner comments and public feedback, include:

- Support new or existing lessees through a long-term lease at Coke Ovens Open Space to continue responsible use of the pastures for agricultural/ranching/compatible commercial activities.
- Prioritize agricultural and ranching activities by limiting events on Coke Ovens Open Space to those hosted by, or affiliated with, the agricultural lessee.
- Maintain and enhance wildlife habitat values and ecological health at Coke Ovens Open Space.
- Formalize a public, natural-surface, walking route at Coke Ovens Open Space.
- Maintain and promote healthy, resilient forests.
- Conduct a coordinated review of wayfinding signage to increase awareness of parking areas and connectivity of parking areas to parks and open spaces.
- Continue to work with private property owners to clarify/improve winter public access to The Pillar ice climb.
- Monitor riparian condition and use of riparian parcels, and ensure angling access.

Next Steps: Following review by the OSTB and completion of any specified edits, staff will release the draft management plan for public comment and present the draft to the Crystal Caucus, the Redstone Community Association and Healthy Rivers Board for comments prior to bringing the final plan for OSTB approval in November.

RECOMMENDED OSTB ACTION: Provide comments on the draft 2023 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan update and release for public comment.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2023 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan update (DRAFT)
2. Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan Appendix A (DRAFT)

Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan

MONTH YEAR ADOPTED X.XX.XXXX - RECEPTION #:





Pitkin County
Open Space and Trails
530 East Main Street
Aspen, CO 81611

PITKIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MISSION STATEMENT

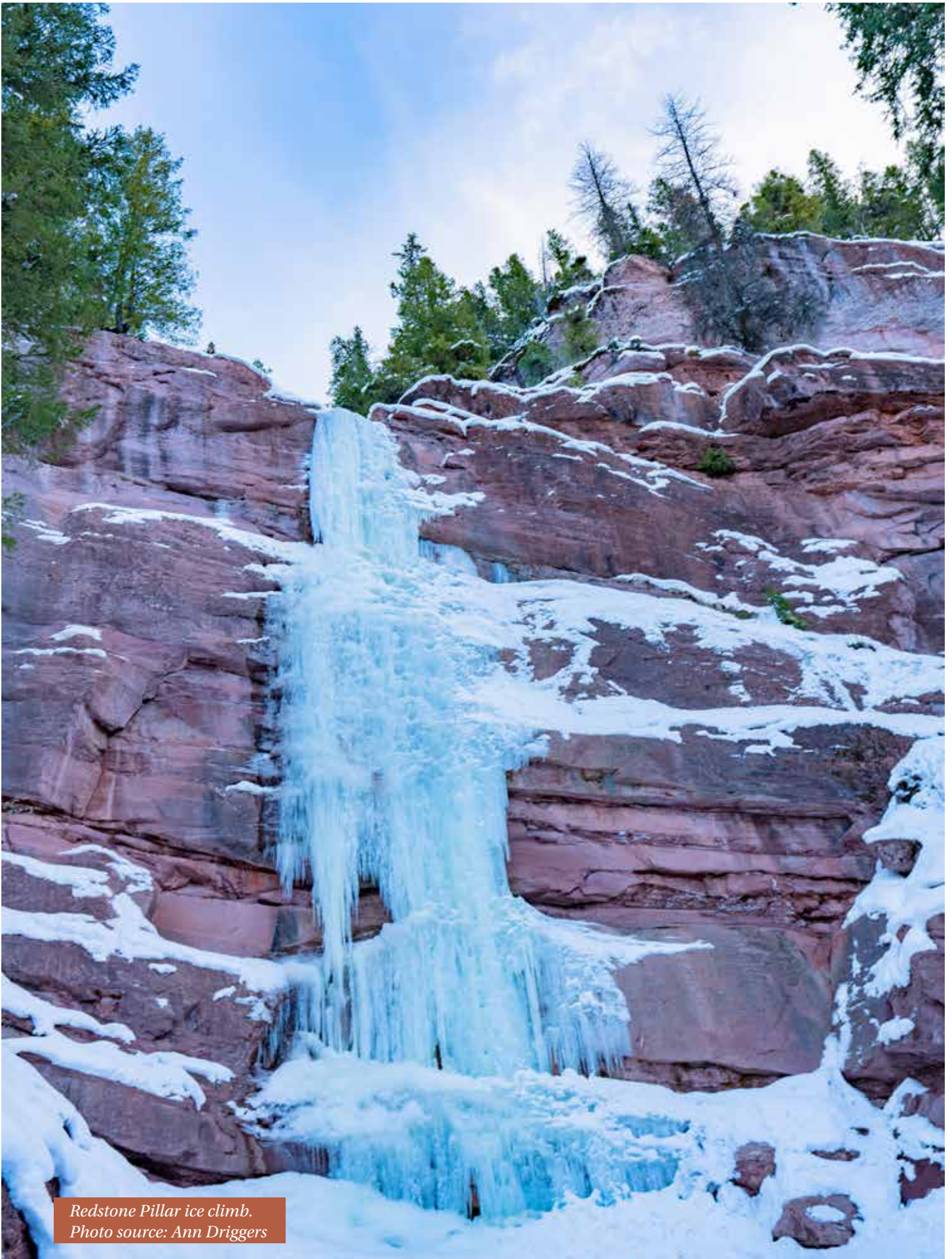
The mission of the Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Board of Trustees is to acquire, preserve, maintain and manage open space properties for multiple purposes including, but not limited to, recreational, wildlife, agricultural, scenic and access purposes; and to acquire, preserve, develop, maintain and manage trails for similar purposes.

The Pitkin County Home Rule Charter provision authorizing the Open Space and Trails Program defines open space and trails as follows:

“Open Space” shall be defined as primarily undeveloped lands and waters which meet one or more of the following criteria: Within public scenic view planes; bounding or within urbanized areas; incorporating or protecting significant wildlife habitat; preserving historic agricultural and ranching activities; protecting riparian or wetlands areas; protecting other public lands from the impacts of development, and preserving cultural, historic, and archaeological resources lying within properties which are otherwise acquired for their customary Open Space characteristics.

“Trails” shall be defined as access ways, either separate from or within County and State

Road rights-of-way, meeting one or more of the following criteria: preserving historic routes of ingress and egress to public lands and waterways; providing access to and from recreational or urban destinations; providing transportation or recreational opportunities throughout the Roaring Fork Watershed.



*Redstone Pillar ice climb.
Photo source: Ann Driggers*



The Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan aligns with the 2011 Pitkin County Strategic Plan.

The Pitkin County Strategic Plan identifies three core Focus Areas: “Flourishing Natural and Built Environment,” “Livable and Supportive Community” and “Prosperous Economy.” The goal is for the three Focus Areas to work together to achieve the county’s vision and mission.

This management plan update aligns with the strategic plan in various ways:

Flourishing Natural and Built Environment

Success Factor 1: Conserved natural resources and environment

Redstone parks and open space conserve and seek to restore important natural resources and wildlife habitat on nearly 375 acres surrounding the small community of Redstone.

Success Factor 2: Responsibly maintained and enhanced county assets

This plan update builds upon actions identified following original parcel acquisitions, focusing on stewardship and maintenance, as well as safety improvements.

Livable and Supportive Community

Success Factor 4: Access to recreation, education, arts and culture

The parks and open space included in this plan represent every facet of the diverse mission of the county’s Open Space and Trails program. Actions support the Redstone community and provide continued access to recreation and educational partnerships to support and expand access to a larger cross section of Pitkin County.

Prosperous economy

Success Factor 4: Responsible and accountable stewardship of county assets.

OST strives to maintain and enhance the health, function and resiliency of the natural resources and ecosystems of the Crystal River Valley and the parks and open space surrounding Redstone.



Plan Summary

The parks and open spaces in the Redstone area are managed by Pitkin County Open Space and Trails (OST) for natural resource protection, recreation, agricultural heritage and their scenic value. The 2023 management plan update for Redstone parks and open space is a continuation of planning in the area, beginning with the original Elk Park Management Plan, completed in 1996, and updated most recently through the 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan. This management plan offers an expanded footprint – of the 375 acres of Redstone-area parks and opens spaces, nearly 95 acres were acquired between the 2010 management plan and this update.

This updated management plan once again draws upon the input and expertise of partners, community members and visitors. The diverse attributes that make the collection of parks and open space such an important place to protect are also what make them a popular place to visit.

REDSTONE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE GOALS

It is the intent of this management plan to promote the long-term resilience of this historic town and its surrounding natural ecosystem through careful planning. The following goals have been modified from the 2010 management plan to reflect public and partner feedback solicited through the 2023 planning process:

- Preserve wildlife habitat and natural resources and promote resilient riparian areas to enrich water quality and aquatic health.
- Protect the scenic beauty of the historic Town of Redstone and the scenic views of the Crystal River Valley.
- Maintain the culture, history and character of Redstone to enhance the entire community and protect its historic and community attractions.
- Offer visitors and residents clear, easy and safe access to recreation amenities through welcoming and interconnected parks and open space.
- Provide residents with places to gather and recreate that foster positive recreation experiences for individuals of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Open Space and Trails met with area partners early in the planning process to discuss current conditions and trends, and identify partner needs to support management of Redstone area parks and open space now and into the future. Staff also engaged the Redstone Community Association and the Crystal Caucus before engaging in broader public outreach.

Broad community input was collected through an online survey to

understand general patterns of use, what attributes are most valued, and what community members believe is working well or in need of change. The survey was conducted from mid-April through mid-May of 2023. Survey respondents rated a typical visit to the Redstone area parks and open space with 4.4 out of 5 stars.

Utilizing the partner and public input, OST compiled draft ideas for the management of Redstone parks and open space. Management ideas were reviewed with community members at three outreach events.

In total, 151 responses were collected from the public. *[Placeholder text: The draft management plan update was released in August 2023 for partner and public comment before it was approved by the Open Space and Trails Board in November 2023.]*

KEY UPDATES

Redstone-area acquisitions of open space parcels represent an investment of approximately \$6.2 million to date.

The 2010 plan provided management direction for Elk Park, Redstone Park and Redstone Boulders. This plan update adds Coke Ovens Open Space, the Drool Open Space and Sawmill Hill. This plan update builds on past accomplishments and celebrates the remarkable investments made in the Redstone area. It also recognizes recent improvements to Elk and Redstone parks and open spaces that are functioning well, and proposes few, if any, changes to Redstone Boulders, Sawmill Hill and The Drool.

The key updates in this management plan update, gleaned from partner comments and public feedback, include:

- Support new or existing lessees through a long-term lease at Coke Ovens Open Space to continue responsible use of the pastures for agricultural/ranching/compatible commercial activities.
- Prioritize agricultural and ranching activities by limiting events on Coke Ovens Open Space to those hosted by, or affiliated with, the agricultural lessee.
- Maintain and enhance wildlife habitat values and ecological health at Coke Ovens Open Space.
- Formalize a public, natural-surface, walking route at Coke Ovens Open Space.
- Maintain and promote healthy, resilient forests.
- Conduct a coordinated review of wayfinding signage to increase awareness of parking areas and connectivity of parking areas to parks and open spaces.
- Continue to work with private property owners to clarify/improve winter public access to The Pillar ice climb.
- Monitor riparian condition and use of riparian parcels, and ensure angling access.

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

Section 1 tracks the acquisition history leading to the portfolio of parks and open spaces that exist today and celebrates the numerous accomplishments since adoption of the 2010 plan. The regional context

Quick Facts

Nearly 375 acres of open space surrounding the small community of Redstone represent every facet of the diverse mission of the Pitkin County's Open Space and Trails program.

Elk Park

Acreage: 3.2

Purchase Price: \$465,000

Redstone Park

Acreage: 1.2

Purchase Price: \$92,425

Coke Ovens Open Space

Acreage: 87.2

Purchase Price: \$2,090,000

The Drool Open Space

Acreage: 35.4

Purchase Price: \$375,000

Redstone Boulders

Acreage: 21.2 acres

Purchase Price: \$645,000

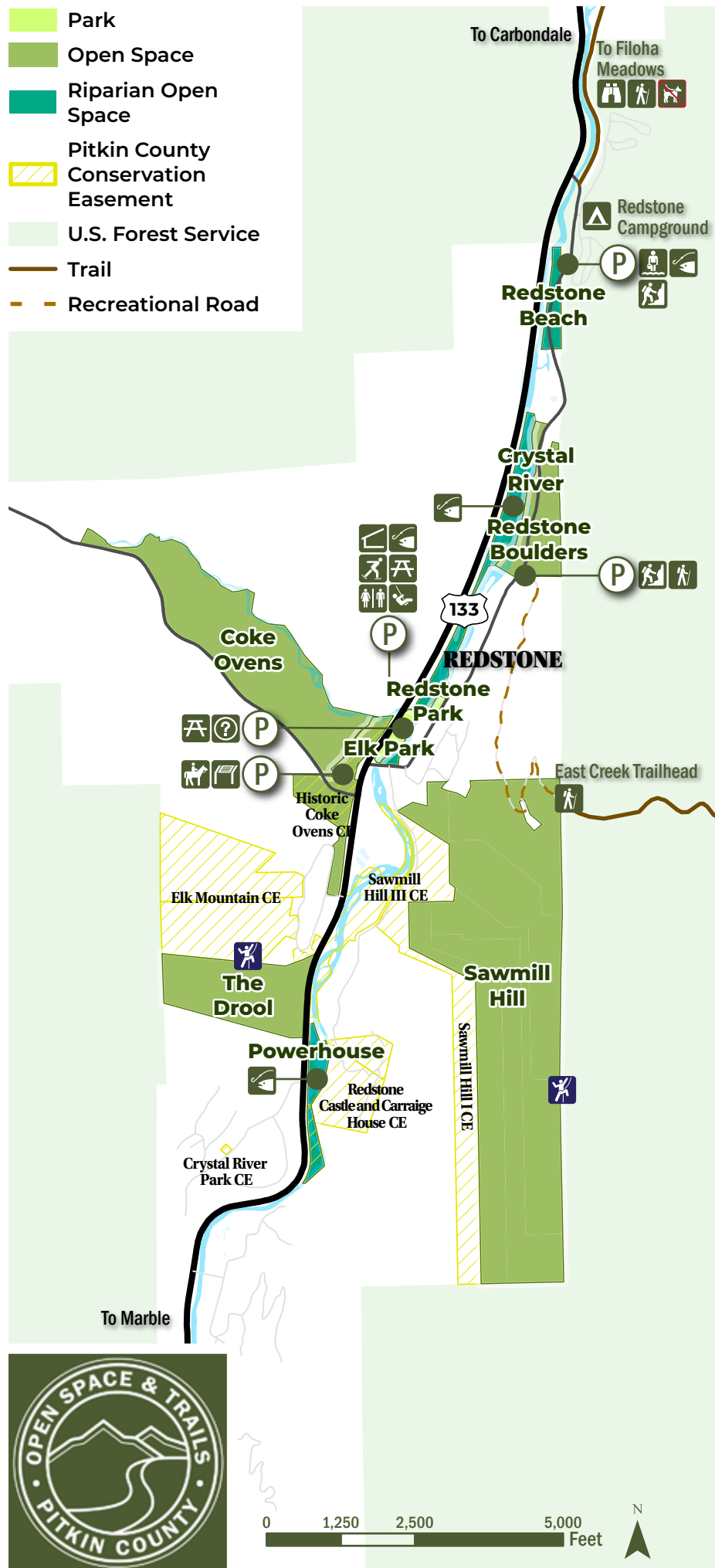
Sawmill Hill Open Space

Acreage: 196.9

Purchase Price: \$1,935,603

Years of acquisition:

1974 - 2020



of Redstone parks and open space, including area recreation and natural resources, are described in [Section 2](#). An update on the current condition of the parks and open space included in the 2010 plan plus the current condition of the newly added properties, complete with references to relevant studies, is found in [Section 3](#). In [Section 4](#), feedback from area partners and the community is summarized. Appendix A contains the full engagement results.

Management actions in [Section 5](#) are a product of background research, assessment of the current park conditions and stakeholder input. This plan is a near- to mid-range planning tool to budget for management actions to preserve this place for future generations of people and wildlife. [Section 6](#) provides an easy-to-use matrix to measure progress in the years ahead.

OVERALL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

OA.1	Maintain and promote healthy, resilient forests.
OA.2	Conduct a coordinated review of Redstone-area parks and open space wayfinding signage.
OA.3	Monitor condition and use of all riparian parcels.
OA.4	Work with partners to establish a multi-modal trail connection between Redstone and the top of McClure Pass.
OA.5	Continue to support educational opportunities such as public tours and school programming with Roaring Fork Conservancy or similar groups.
OA.6	Explore opportunities to add dog-waste stations in coordination with the Redstone Community Association.
OA.7	Control noxious weeds as required by the State of Colorado.

ELK PARK MANAGEMENT

INTENT	Provide public outdoor space, parking and access to the Crystal River. Serve as a stopping point for interpretive education along the West Elk Scenic and Historic Byway and provide parking for Redstone-area events.
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REDSTONE PARK MANAGEMENT

INTENT	Provide an essential amenity to the community of Redstone. Protect the natural character, provide play spaces and serve as a gathering space for residents and visitors.
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COKE OVENS OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

INTENT	Protect significant historic resources and riparian habitat, and support continued agricultural and ranching purposes.
CO.1	Establish a long-term lease at Coke Ovens Open Space through the Agricultural Lease Policy.
CO.3	Require maintenance on leased portions of Coke Ovens Open Space.
CO.4	Accommodate on-site housing needs to facilitate stewardship of the leased area.
CO.5	Improve irrigation ditches and infrastructure.
CO.6	Maintain and enhance wildlife habitat values and ecological health.
CO.7	Evaluate potential to direct Coke Ovens vehicular access to Coal Creek Road.
CO.8	Formalize a public, natural-surface, walking trail.

THE DROOL OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

INTENT	Protect access to the ice-climbing feature known as “the Drool” and the scenic character of the area.
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REDSTONE BOULDERS OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

INTENT	Provide a natural corridor between national forest lands west of Redstone and the Crystal River, and offer public access to bouldering features and public land.
RB.1	Remove unnecessary fencing at Redstone Boulders.
RB.2	Conduct a baseline inventory of bouldering locations and access routes at Redstone Boulders.

SAWMILL HILL OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

INTENT	Protect steep, forested slopes and offer public access to an ice-climbing feature, known as “the Pillar.”
SH.1	Continue to work with private property owners to clarify/improve winter public access to “the Pillar.”



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1. Introduction

The upper Crystal River Valley arguably cradles the most unusual collection of open space properties within Pitkin County. Taken as a whole, nearly 375 acres of open space surrounding the small community of Redstone represent every facet of the diverse mission of the Pitkin County's Open Space and Trails (OST) program.

The wide-ranging resource protection afforded by Redstone-area open spaces extends to historical treasures, spectacular scenery, old-growth trees, Crystal River access, national forest access, an agricultural lease area, recreational climbing features and beloved community gathering places.

Two of Pitkin County's three public parks – Redstone Park and Elk Park – are located here. Protected riverfront parcels encompass Redstone's "beach," where county open space and the national forest combine to preserve a stretch of rock and sand along the inviting Crystal, just north of town. Redstone Boulders and Sawmill Hill, on the eastern flank of this narrow valley, boast the Open Space program's only recreational bouldering opportunity and an impressive stand of old-growth Ponderosa pines, respectively, while eliminating the potential for the development of large homes on the hillsides above Redstone. Open spaces also offer ice-climbing opportunities at the Drool and the Pillar.

Finally, and perhaps most visibly, Coke Ovens Open Space protects an historic landmark linked to Redstone's birth as a coal-mining town more than a century ago. The riparian Powerhouse parcel, just south of town, also boasts a relic from that era. Directly behind the coke ovens, 70 acres bordered by Coal Creek are part of Open Space's agricultural lease program. Since the parcel's purchase, it has provided a place for an outfitter to offer horseback rides and horseback-supported hunting – a use of the property that began prior to Open Space and Trails ownership.

The Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan brings a cohesive vision to these disparate properties, setting the direction for future care and use of many revered features within Redstone's spectacular landscape. This plan serves as an update to the management plan adopted in 2010 and incorporates management actions for a broader range of properties.



In the early 1900s, a public barn for use by Redstone residents stood behind the coke ovens on what is now Coke Ovens Open Space. Photo source: Denver Public Library. Western History Collection.

1.1 HISTORY

History in the upper Crystal Valley can be measured in geologic time and in the more fathomable era of recorded human existence. Factors both ancient and relatively recent help shape the small community of Redstone, where a stunning landscape and a legacy borne of industrial might have been preserved.

The striking red cliffs that tower above the aptly named Redstone can be traced to the late Paleozoic Era – geologic formations far older than the coal deposits that helped shape the town's early fortunes. The red outcroppings of the Permian Maroon Formation are roughly 300 million years old, deposited as material washed down from an ancient mountain range, now long since eroded away.¹ West of town, an intrusion of igneous rock, crystallized from molten magma, metamorphosed coal beds locked in the Mesaverde Formation into the high-grade coking coal that would put the town of Redstone on the map some 66 million years later.²

These elements had long been in place when Native Americans inhabited the region. By the time the first white explorers traveled the Crystal Valley, it was a well-established summer stomping ground for the Ute People as they pursued game and enjoyed its mineral hot springs. Early pioneers observed Ute encampments near what is now called Penny Hot Springs, not far from Redstone.³

In 1873, three years before Colorado gained statehood, famed geologist Ferdinand V. Hayden and his party found “one of the principal Indian trails in the (Colorado) Territory” running the entire length of the Crystal River.⁴

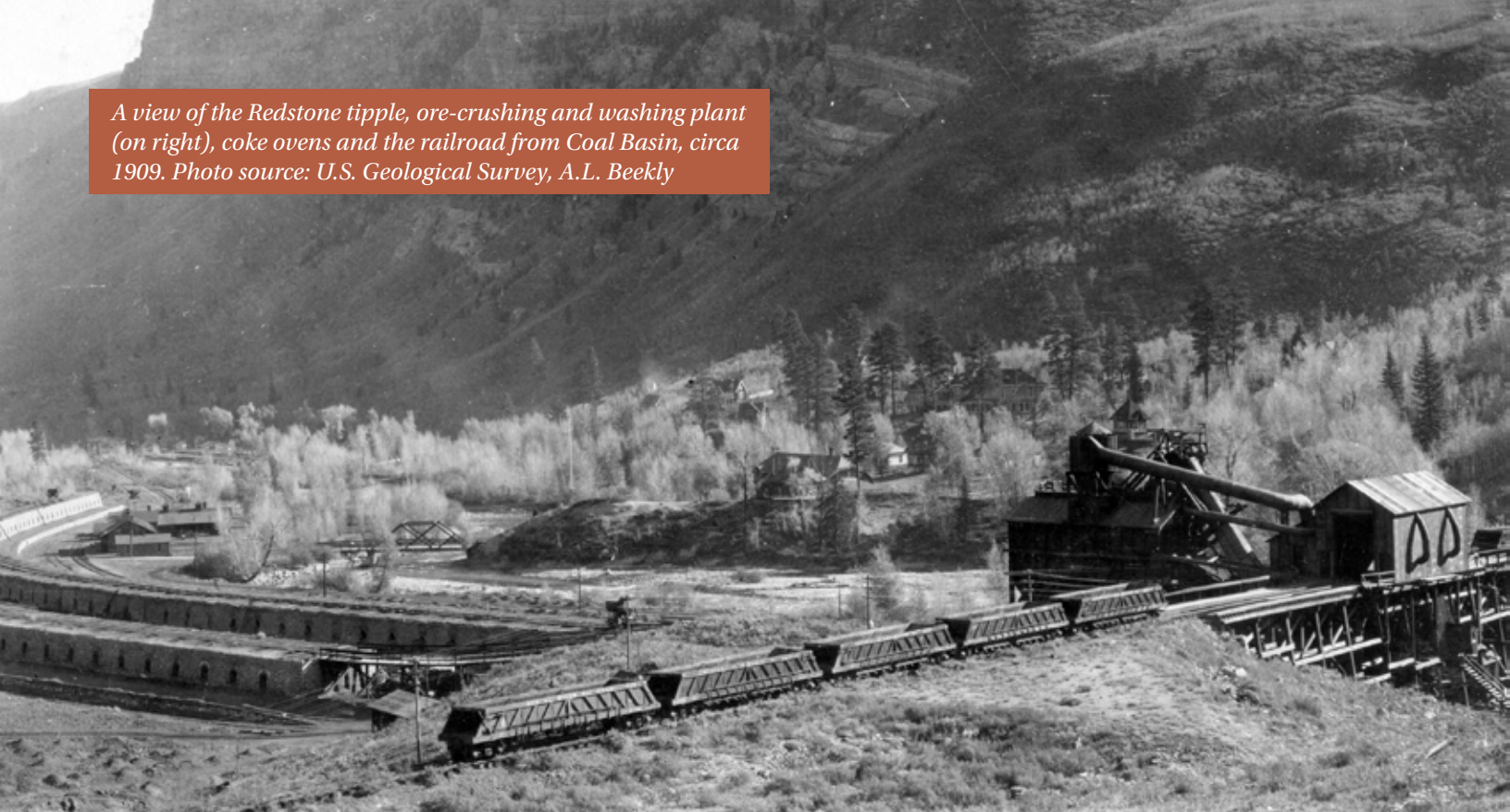
¹ Geologic Road Log of McClure Pass and Vicinity, compiled by Nancy B. Lamm, P.G., for Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forests.

² Ibid.

³ “Some Facts and Conjectures About the Crystal River Valley in Colorado,” Alvin Foote, A & T Co., New York, 1950, p 33.

⁴ Report of the USGS Survey of the Territories, 1874.

A view of the Redstone tipple, ore-crushing and washing plant (on right), coke ovens and the railroad from Coal Basin, circa 1909. Photo source: U.S. Geological Survey, A.L. Beekly



By that time, there were Ponderosa pines jutting skyward in the vicinity of present-day Redstone that were already 200 years old. Some of the magnificent trees would escape the sawmill blade when immigrant workers and a titan of industry brought Redstone to prominence.

John Cleveland Osgood arrived in Colorado on the heels of the federal government's 1881 removal of local Utes from the state. Within a decade, he would become a self-made coal baron and one of the wealthiest men in the country, forming the Colorado Fuel Company, which controlled some 5,600 acres of coal properties within a few years, mostly in the Crystal Valley. Merging with Colorado Coal and Iron Co., the new Colorado Fuel and Iron (CF&I) put 69,000 acres of coal land, 14 mines and coking plants in the West under Osgood's control.⁵

Osgood oversaw the development of Redstone and other company towns with an eye toward welfare capitalism, providing living conditions for miners that would foster a contented, loyal and productive workforce rather than one prone to unionizing and striking. Redstone provided houses for workers with families and a dormitory (expanded into what is now the Redstone Inn) for single men, all with electricity and running water. Other amenities included a school, clubhouse for social functions, a

community garden, wash house for laundry, bath house for workers coming off their shifts and a barn for workers' livestock. South of town, he built his opulent Cleveholm Manor, aka the Redstone Castle.

Osgood's mining operation in Coal Basin, west of Redstone, provided coal that was superior to any other being produced in the West at the time, thanks to its low percentage of ash and lack of impurities.⁶ Laborers built two rows of coke ovens, 249 in all, on the west side of the Crystal River at Redstone. Nearby Placita also provided coal for CF&I's operation. Company towns were built at Placita and Coal Basin, as well, though neither were as grand as Redstone.

Coal from Coal Basin was transported via a narrow-gauge railroad to a tipple over Osgood's standard-gauge Crystal River Railway Co. mainline at the south end of the ovens. A crushing and washing plant was located there. The cleaned, crushed ore was loaded into the ovens for heating at high temperature to produce coke, used at CF&I's steel plant in Pueblo. Gritty workers removed coke from the ovens by hand with a "scraper" and forked it into ore cars before transferring it to railcars on the mainline tracks. A coking job was considered less desirable than mining.⁷

⁵ John Cleveland Osgood, National Mining Hall of Fame, www.mininghalloffame.org/hall-of-fame/john-cleveland-osgood

⁶ National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Dept. of the Interior, 1988, pp 4-5.
⁷ Ibid, p 9.

Between 1900 and 1909, more than 1 million tons of coal were extracted from Coal Basin and the ovens were producing 11,000 tons of high-grade coke a month at their zenith.⁸ The belching smoke from the ovens could blot out views of Chair Mountain to the south, but the mosquitoes were “absolutely banished by the industrious smoke,” according to the Aspen Daily Times in 1901.

Osgood lost control of the company and by 1909, mining and coking activity ceased, leaving Redstone a near ghost town. Mid-Continent Resources revived mining in Coal Basin in the mid-1950s and briefly resumed coking operations in Osgood’s old ovens. A portion of the ovens were rebuilt in late 1959 and some 20,000 tons of coke were shipped to foundries in California for a test run. The coke was rejected as unsuitable and Mid-Continent pulled the plug on further coke production.⁹ The company continued to mine coking coal for use in steel mills and iron smelting elsewhere until it closed the Coal Basin mines in 1991. The crumbling beehive coke ovens saw further use only by hippies camping out in them.

The 14-acre coke oven property was up for liquidation after Mid-Continent closed Coal Basin. Redstone residents were anxious to preserve the site. Aspen Valley Land Trust stepped in to purchase the parcel with a plan to resell it to Pitkin County. The Redstone Historical Society secured a \$195,000 grant from the State Historical Society and Pitkin County paid \$97,000 in open space funds to complete the transfer in 2003-04.

A combination of grants, contributions and county funds subsequently allowed the full restoration of four ovens and the stabilization of 56 others. After work was complete, the coke ovens property was transferred from a county general fund asset to an Open Space and Trails asset in 2020.

Today, Redstone is recognized as a National Historic District and some of its individual elements, including the Redstone Inn, Cleveholm Manor and the Gamekeeper’s Lodge, are individually listed on the National Register. The Redstone Coke Oven Historic District was added to the Register in 1990.

The coke ovens parcel is among about 375 acres in and around Redstone that have been preserved as



Workers pose for a photo during construction of the Redstone coke ovens in 1902. Photo source: Aspen Historical Society, Masterson Estate Collection

open space. Many of the open space holdings are connected in some way to the town’s colorful past as a coking powerhouse under John C. Osgood’s visionary ownership and it’s likely that most, if not all of them, were among his vast property holdings at one time.

Behind the ovens, OST acquired 70 acres in 2016. The area was initially the site of makeshift shacks that housed the immigrant workers who labored to construct the ovens. Residents used whatever materials they could find to build the shanties; a disapproving Osgood built the model community that became Redstone and moved the workers to the east side of the river.¹⁰

After the shacks were gone, the site held a village farm where each Redstone family was offered a garden plot. A public barn was constructed there to house worker’s horses, cows, pigs and chickens.¹¹ Fittingly, the parcel is now under the Open Space and Trails agricultural lease program.

Also located behind the coke ovens were the

⁸ “Elk Mountains Odyssey,” Paul Anderson and Ken Johnson, 1998, Redstone Press, p 26.

⁹ “The Mines of Coal Basin 1956-1991,” John A. Reeves, 2012, Gran Farnum Printing and Publishing, Inc., pp 77-79.

¹⁰ National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Dept. of the Interior, 1988, p 9.

¹¹ Ibid, pp 13-14.



Crystal River Railway station at Redstone, 1903. Photo source: Steelworks Archives, Pueblo, CO.

“Leggett houses,” according to a 1903 map of Osgood’s properties at Redstone, held by the Denver Public Library.¹² James Leggett, an early Redstone postmaster, sold 160 acres to Osgood in 1908; today that property encompasses the Redstone Campground. Directly west of a portion of the campground is the northernmost stretch of Crystal River frontage that was acquired as open space in 2013. Today, this is known as Redstone Beach.

Opposite the railroad tracks that once fronted the coke ovens, today’s Elk Park held the fledgling town’s train depot, built in the late 1800s, along with a doctor’s office, carpenter shop and the wash house for workers, according to the historic map.

Much later, the area was purchased by the Colorado Department of Transportation, which kept road equipment in a large, metal building there before selling the property. By the 1990s, the facility was leased for use as an auto-body repair shop focused on high-end, European sports cars, and then an excavating company.

Pitkin County set its sights on the land in the late 1980s, when then-owners Kelly and Jeanette Lyon contemplated significant commercial development on the property. Their proposal divided the Redstone community between those who said the project would forever alter the character of the town and advocates who hoped development along Hwy. 133 at the main entrance to Redstone would lure more

visitors into the town’s business district. Ultimately, Pitkin County purchased 3.2 acres that would become the bulk of Elk Park in 1994.¹³

After the purchase, a task force involving the Redstone community was formed to determine the site’s potential uses. The Elk Park name was chosen during that process and an Elk Park Master Plan was created in 1996. The plan envisioned a parking area, the bridge connection with Redstone Park that exists today, and accommodated potential relocation of the Redstone firehouse, which did not ultimately occur. The plan allowed an existing cabin to be retained as rental housing for an employee of the county or other public entity. The log house, in poor repair, later sat vacant; it was razed in 2013. The 60- by-70-foot metal shop building that once existed at the site had already been torn down.

On the east side of the Crystal River, the land that became Redstone Park was apparently untouched by similar development threats. The historic Osgood map shows only a railroad spur cutting through what is now the park. The spur paralleled the river behind worker cottages on the north end of town, then cut over to the front of the buildings in the commercial district, terminating in front of the Colorado Supply Co. store (a subsidiary of CF&I), then situated on what is now the curve of Redstone Boulevard at the town’s main entrance off Hwy. 133. The Redstone Country Store Open Space parcel, adjacent to the river at this location, may overlap the same area where a fenced park and pond once enhanced the landscape behind the Colorado Supply Co.¹⁴

South of both the town and Cleveholm Manor, OST owns another historic remnant of the Osgood era. The Powerhouse parcel, situated on the west bank of the Crystal, holds what remains of the facility that generated power for Osgood’s mansion. The luxurious mountain outpost had electricity and indoor plumbing before most of New York City.¹⁵ Unfortunately, the powerhouse has been largely demolished by weather and river flows. The interior workings for electrical generation were long ago removed.

The Powerhouse parcel links to a stretch of riverfront

12 Property of J.C. Osgood and Adjacent Town of Redstone, August 1903, <https://digital.denverlibrary.org/digital/collection/p16079coll39/id/1150/rec/2>

13 “Trail board gets more land,” by Dylan Nugent, Aspen Daily News, March 19, 1994, p. 3.

14 National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Dept. of the Interior, 1988, p 12.

15 “Elk Mountains Odyssey,” Paul Andersen and Ken Johnson, 1998, Redstone Press, p 29.

immediately to the north that is also protected as riparian open space.

Behind Cleveholm to the east, slightly more than 200 acres of former Osgood land, bounded by Hawk and East creeks, has been preserved as open space. Known as Sawmill Hill Open Space, this steep hillside is dotted with Ponderosa pines; some are roughly 350 years old.¹⁶ The name Sawmill Hill, however, dates back only to the 1990s, when its former owner subdivided the land and gave it the moniker.¹⁷ There was, however, a sawmill just over the ridge to the east of the open space, and another along East Creek; both provided lumber for the construction of Redstone.¹⁸

On the eastern edge of the open space, bordering the national forest, sits Sawmill Hill's other notable attraction – an ice climb known as the Pillar. The climbing website mountainproject.com describes the Pillar as a Colorado classic: "...a great single pitch of pure ice ... often chandeliered in the early season." Famed local mountaineer Lou Dawson recalled a first ascent of the Pillar in January 1974; he led the climb, accompanied by legendary local climber

Michael Kennedy. Dawson returned to climb it with both Kennedy and well-known Aspen climber Larry Bruce.¹⁹

Similarly, an ice climb known as the Drool forms on the hillside west of the valley floor, offering "perfect pillar climbing," according to mountainproject.com. It, too, is on land preserved as open space. Closer to the present-day highway, the Crystal River Railroad once crossed the Drool parcel and the railroad's roundhouse may have been located in part, or in total, on the open space, judging from the 1903 historic map of Osgood's properties.

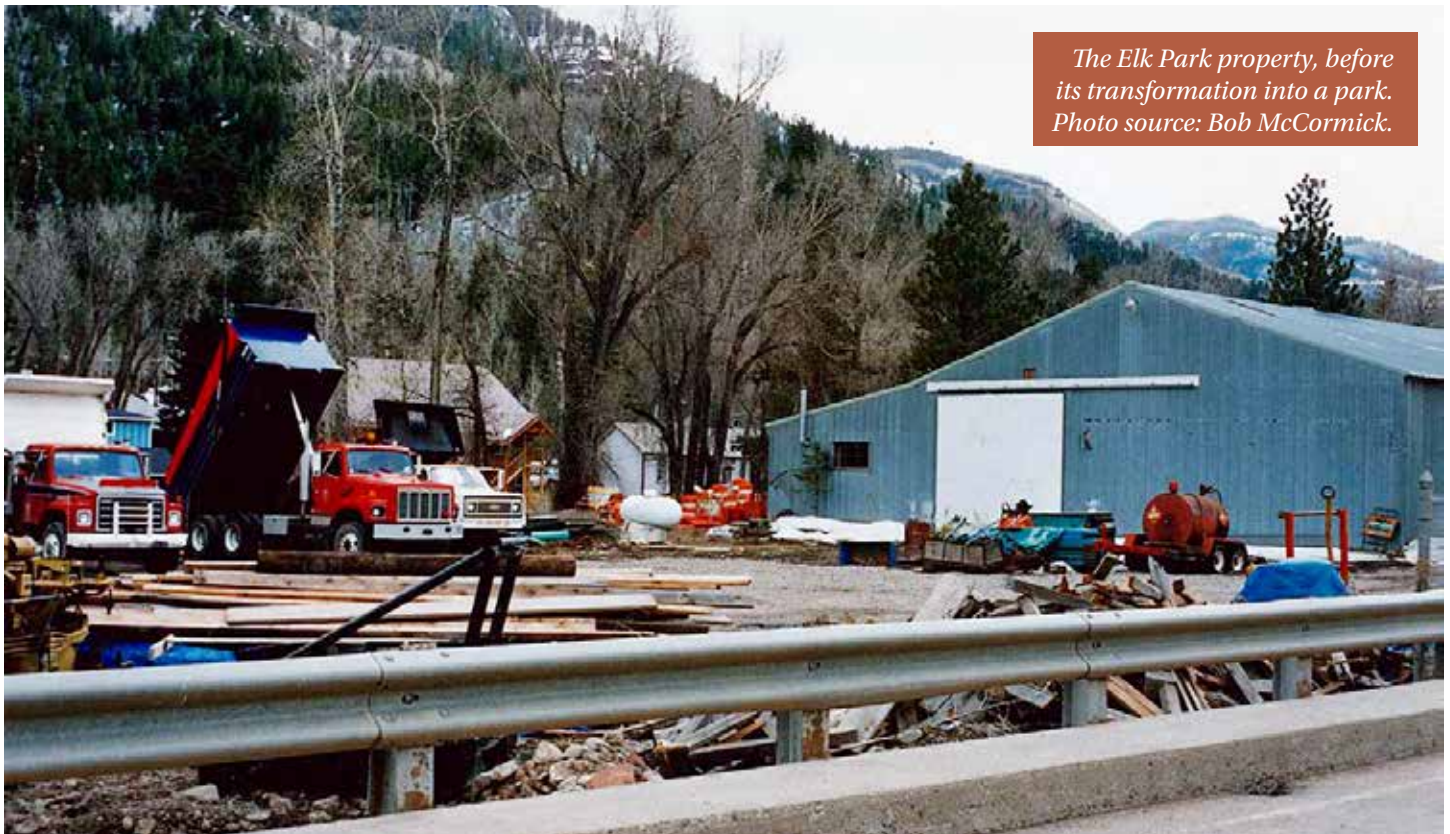
A third climbing area located on open space, Redstone Boulders, is situated on the east side of Redstone Boulevard, immediately north of town. The 1903 map of Redstone shows little more than the railroad, the county road (now Redstone Boulevard) and Hill Road (now Fire House Road) extending through the Boulders property.

16 Sawmill Hill Forest Assessment, Jeff Webster Forestry Consulting, 2009.

17 Telephone interview: Bob McCormick, Dec. 19, 2022.

18 Telephone interview: Jeff Bier, Dec. 19, 2022.

19 Lou Dawson, via email, March 21, 2023.



1.2 REDSTONE AREA OPEN SPACES AND EASEMENTS

Within the immediate vicinity of the Town of Redstone, Open Space and Trails has acquired roughly 375 acres of parks, open spaces and riparian areas (Map 1). The following parks and open spaces are included in this management plan update.

ELK PARK

Year(s) of Acquisition: Purchased by Pitkin County and OST in 1994 with \$139,500 in open space funds for 30 percent interest in the property as open space. The county's general fund contributed \$325,500 for 70 percent interest in the parcel for various municipal uses, to be determined in a planning process. Ultimately, OST adopted the general fund portion in 1999.

Acreage: 3.2

Purchase Price: \$465,000

REDSTONE PARK

Year(s) of Acquisition: Redstone Park was purchased by Pitkin County in 1974. The Klein parcel was added in 1991. In 1999, OST adopted the park from the general fund. The Meredith parcel was acquired in 2009 for \$50,000 plus the issuance of one transferable development right to the seller.

Acreage: 1.2

Purchase Price: \$92,425. Redstone Park was purchased for \$37,500; Klein for \$4,925; and Meredith for \$50,000.

COKE OVENS OPEN SPACE

Year(s) of Acquisition: In 2004, two parcels containing the historic coke ovens, totaling 14.5 acres, were acquired by Pitkin County and a lot line adjustment with the Elk Mountain Lots resulted in 2.5 additional acres. In 2016, the 70-acre Schumacher parcel was added to the open space.

Acreage: 87

Purchase Price: \$2,090,000. The Coke Ovens site was purchased for \$290,000 with a contribution from the state of \$193,000. The Schumacher addition was purchased for \$1,800,000.

Conservation Easement Held by: Aspen Valley Land Trust

THE DROOL OPEN SPACE

Year(s) of Acquisition: 2007

Acreage: 35.4

Purchase Price: \$375,000

REDSTONE BOULDERS

Year(s) of Acquisition: Redstone Boulders Open Space is comprised of the Argeros parcel purchased in 2008 and the Gerbaz inholding, acquired in 2020.

Acreage: 21.2 acres

Purchase Price: \$645,000

SAWMILL HILL OPEN SPACE

Year(s) of Acquisition: 2009

Acreage: 196.9

Purchase Price: \$1,935,603

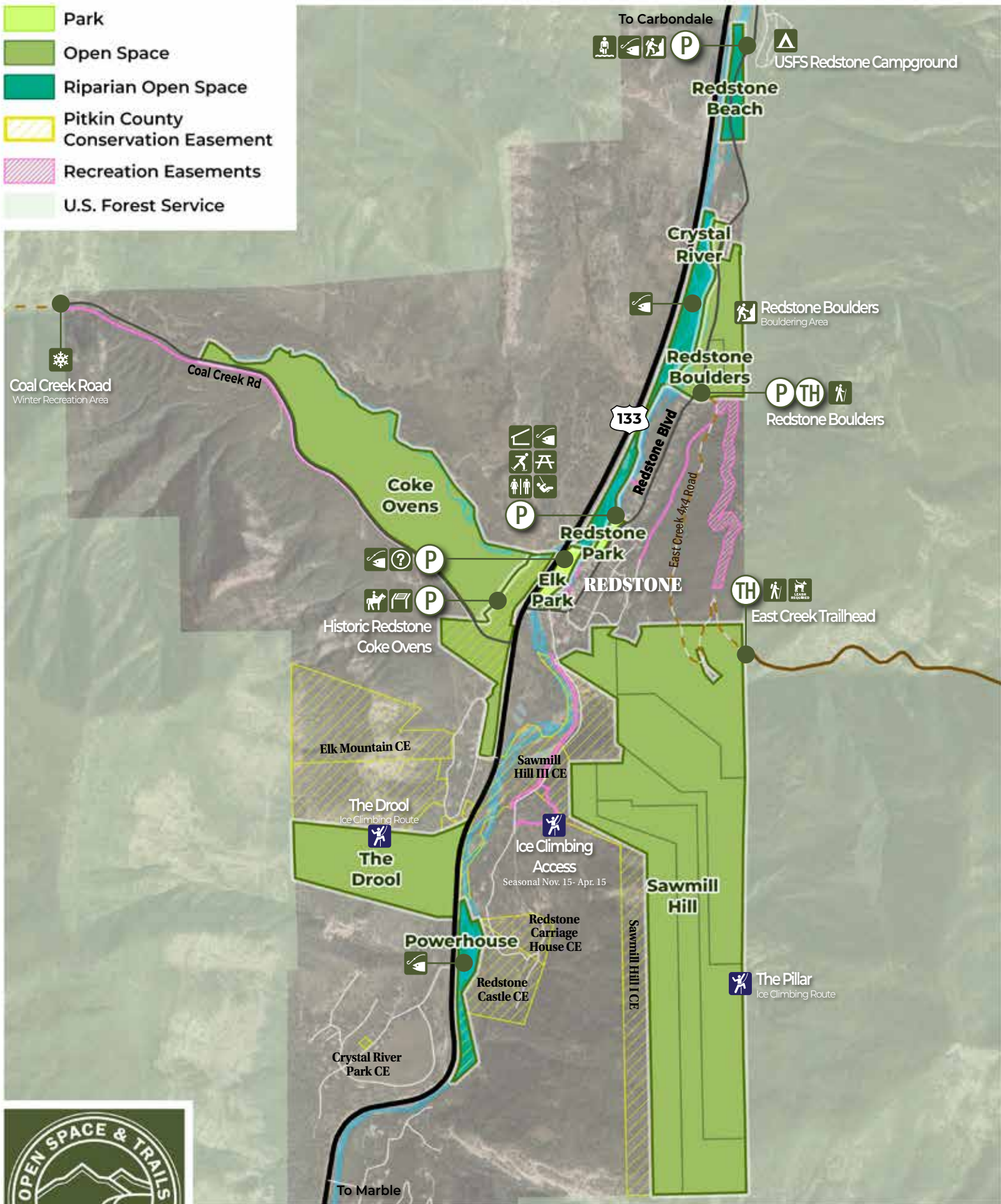
RIPARIAN AREAS

In addition to the above listed parks and open spaces, OST manages 28.9 acres adjacent to the Crystal River to provide environmental and recreation benefits. Riparian open spaces in the Redstone area include:

- Redstone Beach 5.3 acres (2013)
- Crystal River Parcel 15.8 acres (2013)
- Redstone Country Store 0.7 acres (2012)
- Powerhouse I 2.7 acres (2007)
- Powerhouse II 4.4 acres (2008)

These areas are managed for their riparian characteristics. Public use includes fishing and other passive uses. Amenities vary depending on context and use levels. Some riparian areas may provide trails and parking. The investment to acquire these riparian parcels totals \$615,000.

-  Park
-  Open Space
-  Riparian Open Space
-  Pitkin County Conservation Easement
-  Recreation Easements
-  U.S. Forest Service



Map 1.
REDSTONE AREA PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



MILESTONES

Redstone Parks and Open Space

1994

Pitkin County purchased the land that would become **Elk Park**, preventing its commercial development.

1991

The Klein parcel added to **Redstone Park**.

1991

OST program founded.

1974

Initial **Redstone Park** purchase by Pitkin County General Fund.

1881

Upon the federal government's removal of local Utes from the state, John Cleveland Osgood arrived in Colorado. He oversaw the development of Redstone with an eye toward welfare capitalism.

1900-1909

Between 1900 and 1909, more than 1 million tons of coal were extracted from Coal Basin. Mining and coking activity ceased in 1909.

1959

Mid-Continent Resources revived mining in Coal Basin in the mid-1950s and continued to mine coking coal for use in steel mills and iron smelting.

1990

Redstone Coke Oven Historic District added to the National Register.

1991

Coal Basin mines closed permanently.

1900

Laborers built two rows of coke ovens, 249 in all, on the west side of the Crystal River.

1974

Lou Dawson led the first ascent of 'The Pillar,' accompanied by legendary local climber Michael Kennedy.

2008

OST purchased its first bouldering area, **Redstone Boulders**.

2007

OST acquired the **Drool Open Space**.

2004

Pitkin County purchased the 14-acre **Coke Ovens** parcel. Redstone Historical Society secured grants for improvements before it was transferred to OST.

1999

OST adopted **Redstone Park**.

2009

OST purchased **Sawmill Hill**, dotted with 300-year-old Ponderosa pines. The hillside once provided lumber for Redstone's construction.

2009

The Meredith parcel was added to **Redstone Park**.

2010

The first **Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan** completed.

2023

Renovations completed at **Redstone Park**.

2020

A small inholding was added to **Redstone Boulders**.

2016

70 acres of pastures behind the **Coke Ovens** protected through an OST purchase.

2015

Elk Park grand opening.

2021

Coal Basin Ranch opened to the public, converting the former mine site into a mountain bike destination with ongoing ecological reclamation of the landscape impacted by coal mining activity. OST acquired a public trail easement for the trail system.

Redstone Historic District MILESTONES

Area acquisitions of open space parcels represent an investment of approximately \$6,200,000 for the benefit of residents and visitors, as well as wildlife.

1.3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This plan update builds on past accomplishments and celebrates the remarkable investments made in the Redstone area since the original Elk Park Management Plan, completed in 1996, and the 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan. Of the 375 acres of Redstone-area parks and open space, nearly 95 acres were acquired between the 2010 management plan and this update.

NOTABLE OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2010 plan set forth short- and long-term priorities for three parks and open spaces: Elk Park, Redstone Park and Redstone Boulders. See Appendix B for full status of 2010 management plan actions. With many of the management actions complete or underway, an update to the conditions of the parks and open spaces are further detailed in Section 3. Listed below are the highlights of completed action items.

Elk Park

- Final construction documents were prepared for the park, with a ribbon-cutting event hosted in October 2015.
- The Elk Park Depot was constructed, providing historical and wayfinding information to

visitors and a place to gather.

The deteriorated cabin was demolished to make way for the Depot.

- The Commemorative Tree Grove was installed in 2020, following an action item to adopt a memorial policy.

Redstone Park

- With the support of a steering committee, final design for park improvements were compiled into construction documents in 2022.
- In spring 2023, Redstone Park reopened with a new gazebo for community events and gatherings, an enlarged ice rink, improved circulation and overall enhancements to features that had been in poor or declining condition.

Redstone Boulders

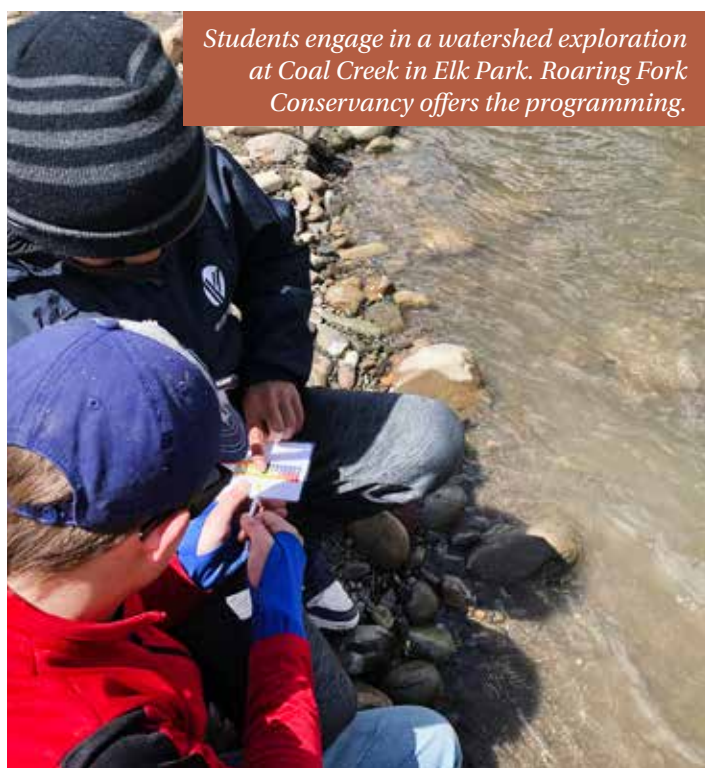
- A two-acre inholding was acquired by OST in 2020.
- Motorized access from the trailhead to the open space was closed.
- A connection from the open space to the Redstone Campground was completed with an informal footpath.



Improvements at Elk Park include a Depot that features an interpretive display on the history of Redstone.



Seventy acres of riparian area and pasture lands west of the Coke Ovens were protected in 2016.



Students engage in a watershed exploration at Coal Creek in Elk Park. Roaring Fork Conservancy offers the programming.



Acquisition of Sawmill Hill protected ponderosa trees as old as 350 years.



Two acres added to Redstone Boulders in 2020.



Park improvements at Redstone Park, completed in 2023.

2. Conservation and Recreation Context

2.1 LOCATION AND CHARACTER

The Town of Redstone, located in unincorporated Pitkin County, is recognized as a National Historic District. The parks and open spaces included in this plan are within a mile of the historic town and fall within the Crystal River Caucus Master Plan Area. Hwy. 133 parallels the river and the Town of Redstone. The highway is a part of the West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway, a route that travels past wilderness areas, national forest and state parks from Carbondale through Redstone, to Hotchkiss and Crested Butte.

Redstone is a lodging and dining destination, and a basecamp for summer and winter activities. Development in the area is largely concentrated around Redstone Boulevard, where a mix of historic and non-historic single-family homes and businesses line the road. Outside of the historic core, development is comprised of single-family subdivisions and small ranches.

2.2 PROTECTED LANDS CONTEXT

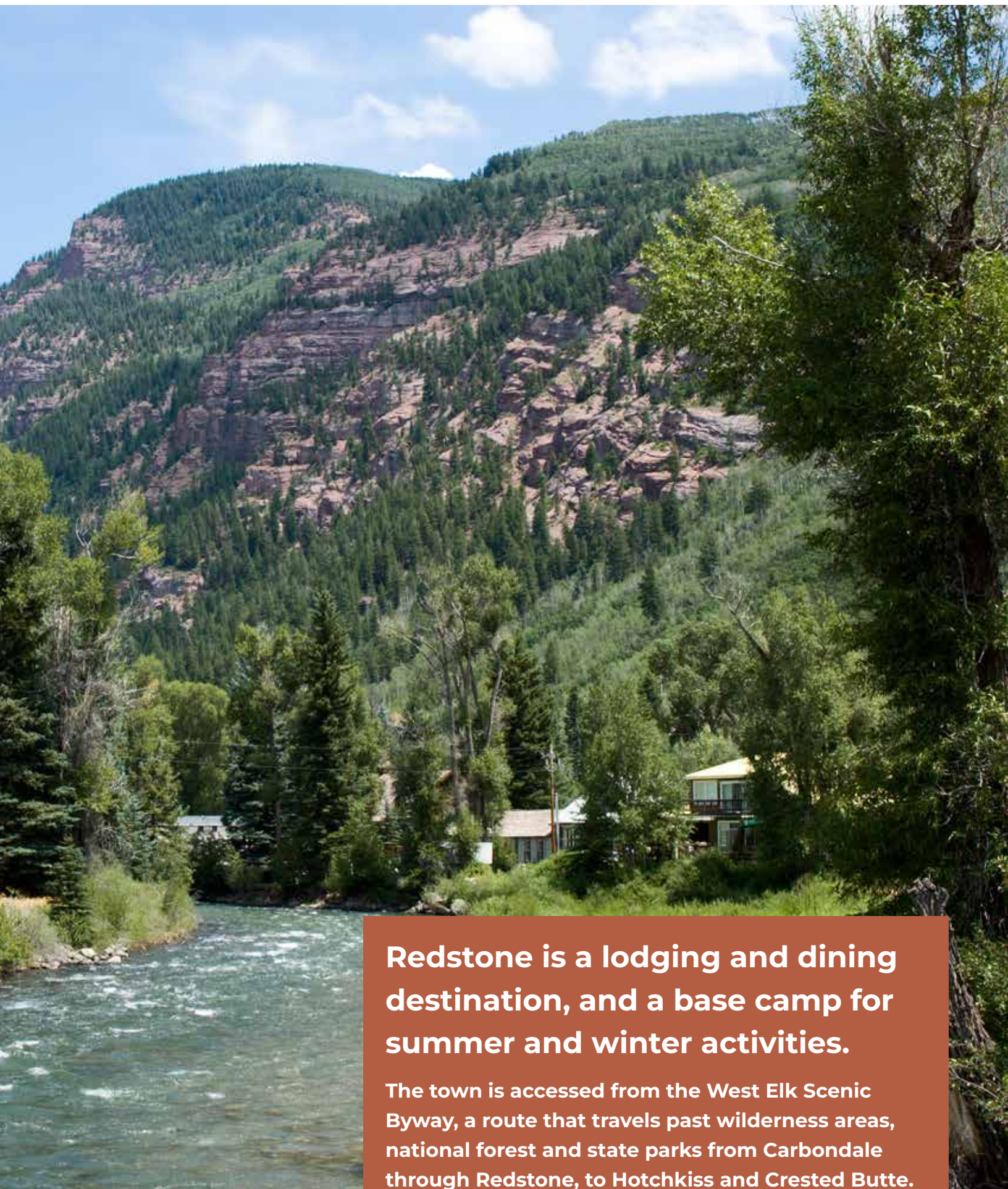
The county’s parks and open spaces around Redstone are part of a larger mosaic of protected lands. Vast tracts of the White River National Forest frame Redstone on either side of the Crystal River. Nearby, Pitkin County open space properties include Filoha Meadows Nature Preserve and Penny Hot Springs. Just over 164 acres of private lands are held under conservation easements in the vicinity of Redstone. Pitkin County easements include Sawmill Hill I and III – two separate parcels and easements. OST purchased the easements on the properties to preserve the open space character, wildlife habitat values and scenic beauty of the area for the benefit of Pitkin County residents and visitors to the area. Additional area conservation easements are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Area Conservation Easements

Easement	Holder	Acres
Elk Mountain Lots 7-8, 10, 14 and 19	Aspen Valley Land Trust	62.4
Coke Ovens [Overlays a portion of Coke Ovens Open Space, owned by Pitkin County]	Aspen Valley Land Trust	14.6
Cleveholm Manor and Carriage House Historic Easement	Colorado Historic Foundation	21.4
Sawmill Hill I and III	Open Space and Trails	62.8
Powerhouse [Overlays Powerhouse riparian open space, owned by Pitkin County]	Roaring Fork Conservancy	2.7
Crystal River Park	Roaring Fork Conservancy	0.2



The Crystal River flows through the historic Town of Redstone.



Redstone is a lodging and dining destination, and a base camp for summer and winter activities.

The town is accessed from the West Elk Scenic Byway, a route that travels past wilderness areas, national forest and state parks from Carbondale through Redstone, to Hotchkiss and Crested Butte.

2.3 AREA RECREATION

RECREATION ACCESS AND EASEMENTS

Between open space properties and recreation easements, there is a near-continuous mile of public access for angling on the Crystal River within Redstone. Various easements have also been secured in the Redstone area to protect recreation access. The McCormick access easement connects to the Sawmill Hill Recreation Easement, which allows for ice climbing access. The short Elm Drive Trail and the Church of Redstone easements provide river access.

South of East Creek Road, the 0.35-mile Bighorn Drive trail easement provides a soft-surface pedestrian/equestrian connection between Redstone Boulders Open Space and Firehouse Road/Mackaby Lane, which intersects with Redstone Boulevard. This 10-foot trail easement crosses through the Bighorn Ridge PUD. A second easement through Bighorn Ridge PUD was granted to OST to connect a trail higher up on East Creek Road, however, this trail has not been constructed. Instead, the 1-mile walk along East Creek Road serves as the de-facto route to the East Creek Trailhead. Both trail easements through Bighorn Ridge PUD are limited to pedestrian and equestrian use and prohibit dogs.

Area recreation easements for the purpose of angling, river access and trails are listed in Table 2.

AREA TRAILS

East Creek Trailhead is the only formal trailhead within the Town of Redstone, providing access to the 8.5-mile USFS East Creek-Gift Creek Trail #1963 and miles of connected national forest trails, including Lily Lake Trail, Avalanche Trail and Placita Trail. According to the White River National Forest, the full 14.4-mile out-and-back route to the intersection with the Avalanche Creek Trail is one of the most challenging and seldom used trails in the Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness. It follows East Creek and much of Gift Creek and rises to a spectacular pass of over 12,000 feet.

Historically, seasonal pedestrian and bike access has been provided from the north end of Redstone Boulevard to Filoha Meadows Nature Preserve via Dorais Way from July 1 to September 30. Several

Table 2. Recreation Easements

#	Easement	Purpose
1	Sawmill Hill Recreation Easement	Ice climbing access. Closed from April 16 through November 14.
2	McCormick	Ice climbing access. Closed from April 16 through November 14.
3	Redstone Ice House Lots 1 and 2	Fishing and recreation access.
4	Church of Redstone	Pedestrian access.
5	Elm Drive Trail	Pedestrian access.
6	Bighorn Drive	Pedestrian access. No dogs; no motorized vehicles.
7	East Creek Trail (called Bighorn Ridge)	Pedestrian access. No dogs; no motorized vehicles.
8	Coal Creek Road	Vehicular and pedestrian ingress/egress use.

other nearby trails can be accessed from points along Highway 133 and Coal Basin Road, see map 2.

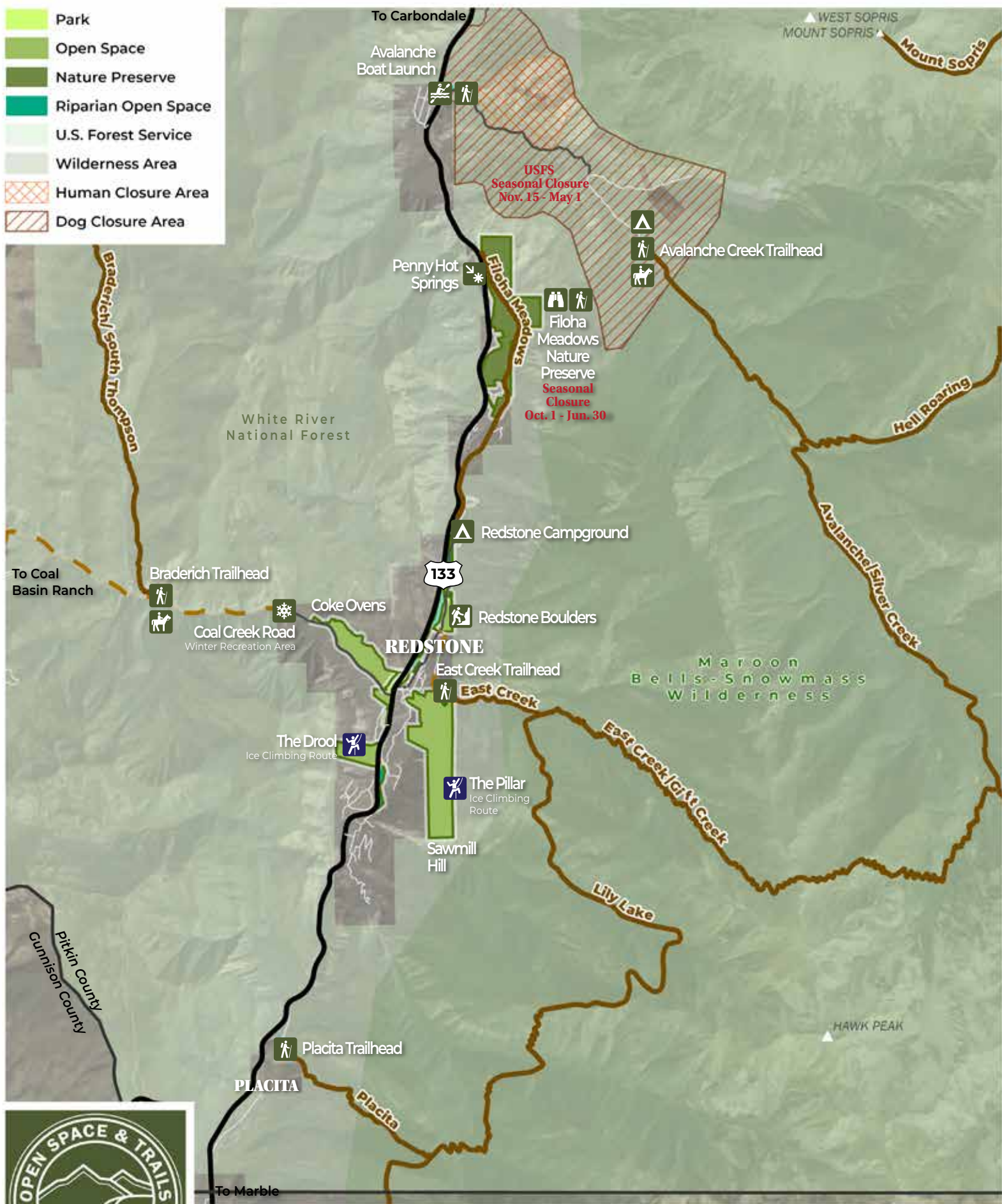
2.4 NATURAL RESOURCES

The open spaces in this area occupy gentle slopes in the valley bottom, river frontage and riparian areas, and steep, forested hillsides and rocky outcrops. Elevations range from approximately 7,000-7,500 feet. Dominant vegetation types include oak shrublands, aspen forest, Douglas fir-narrowleaf cottonwood and dogwood riparian forests, and mixed-shrub riparian plant communities, though much of the area has been disturbed by various land uses. The most common soil type is cobbly loam, but it ranges from bouldery alluvial loam and pasture soils in the valley to exposed sandstone and granite outcrops higher up the hillsides. The bedrock in this area is primarily sedimentary sandstones and shales that are naturally prone to erosion; landslides and rockfalls frequently reshape the topography of the valley and often impact roads, trails and other infrastructure.

The area surrounding Redstone is prioritized within ***The Nature Conservancy’s Resilient Lands Network*** for recognized biodiversity and landscape diversity. There is one Colorado Natural Heritage Program Potential Conservation Area (East Creek PCA) adjacent to the Town of Redstone.

The Roaring Fork Biodiversity and Connectivity Study, completed in 2022 by the Watershed Biodiversity Initiative (WBI) and scientists at the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, provides a

-  Park
-  Open Space
-  Nature Preserve
-  Riparian Open Space
-  U.S. Forest Service
-  Wilderness Area
-  Human Closure Area
-  Dog Closure Area



Map 2.
REDSTONE AREA RECREATION



map of conservation value for the Roaring Fork Watershed. For the Redstone area in general, the map shows a corridor along the valley bottom that is identified as of low to moderate conservation value interspersed with some areas of significant restoration opportunity. Farther afield from Redstone, up the slopes, the map indicates areas with high conservation value. This study also identifies the East Creek drainage as having high biodiversity importance, and is the locale with the highest conservation importance in the area.¹

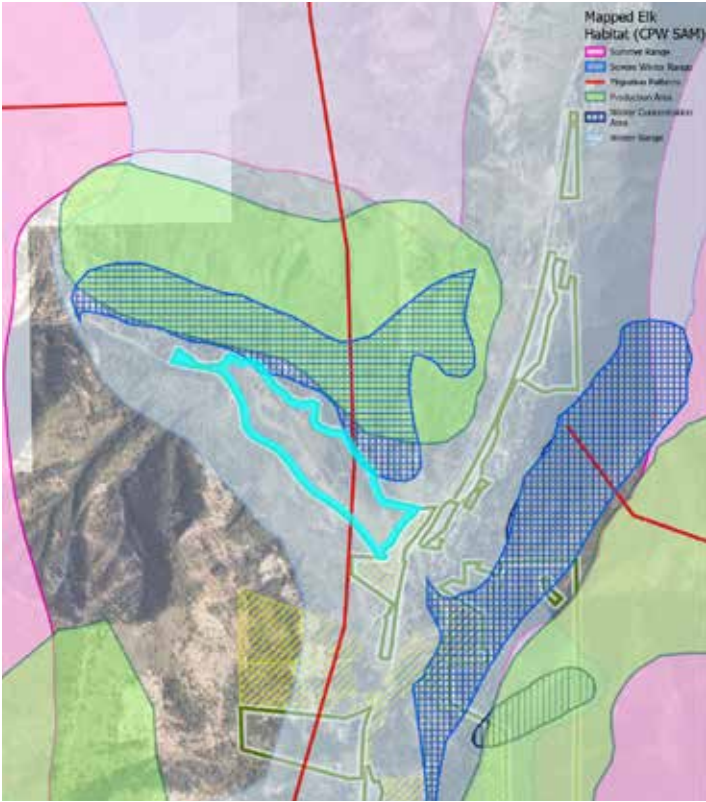
WILDLIFE

A major wildlife habitat value is the connectivity these properties provide between higher-elevation national forest lands to lower-elevation winter ranges, and access to perennial water sources and riparian areas. The WBI found the Redstone-area stretch of Hwy. 133 is a pinch point for elk and deer movement, though less critical than other areas upstream (Placita) and downstream (Filoha Meadows). Several species of conservation concern occur or are likely to occur at Redstone-area open spaces, including Rocky Mountain elk, bald eagle, lynx, mule deer, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, black bear, cutthroat trout and wild turkey. All federal grazing allotments for domestic sheep in this area have been retired via collaborative conservation efforts to protect bighorn sheep.²

Portions of these open spaces are identified by **Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s Species Activity Maps** as important habitat. Mapping in this vicinity includes bald eagle winter forage; black bear fall concentration and overall range; elk winter and overall range; moose summer, winter and overall range; mountain lion overall range; mule deer summer and overall range; snowshoe hare overall range; bighorn sheep summer and overall range; and wild turkey overall and winter range. Several areas are also identified as potential lynx habitat and elk migration corridors.

HYDROLOGY

Roaring Fork Conservancy’s (RFC) Crystal River Stream Management Plan (2016) found a generally healthy river ecosystem above Redstone. The



CPW’s Species Activity Map for Elk shows the importance of the low lying valley lands for winter wildlife use.

channel incision of Coal Creek and the highly erosive geology in this subbasin deliver sediment to the Crystal River and contribute to degradation around Redstone. The river is able to transport the sediment downstream, an important element to river function as it prevents sedimentation that can impact aquatic life. This 2016 plan included advanced studies but general findings agreed with those from the 2007 Stream Health Initiative, which identified the banks and river channel around Redstone as “Heavily Modified.”

RFC monitors water quality several times annually in Coal Creek at Redstone Park and in the Crystal River below Redstone. Monitoring began at these locations in 2000 and 1998, respectively. Macroinvertebrate sampling occurs at these same sites about every 10 years. RFC submits all data collected to the State for review with no major concerns or exceedances reported to OST to date.

Water quantity is a concern in the lower portions of the Crystal River, where large water diversions exist. The Colorado Water Conservation Board holds instream flow rights through Redstone of 40 cfs (October-April) and 80 cfs (May-September).

¹ For a full understanding of designations, refer to the Roaring Fork Watershed Biodiversity and Connectivity Study (2022, Watershed Biodiversity Initiative)

² Domestic sheep are a known vector for pathogens to bighorn sheep that can be fatal with population-level impacts.



Students engage in Roaring Fork Conservancy's watershed exploration at Coal Creek in Elk Park.

3. Existing Conditions

3.1 ELK PARK

Situated at the confluence of Coal Creek and the Crystal River, Elk Park is a 3.2-acre property acquired by Pitkin County in 1994. Accessible from Hwy. 133, this park provides an important link to the Town of Redstone. In accordance with the 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan, improvements to Elk Park were completed in 2015 to enhance the park's natural character, provide parking, and serve as a stopping point for interpretive education along the West Elk Scenic Byway.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Elk Park is primarily a landscaped park. There are a number of mature, narrowleaf cottonwood and Colorado blue spruce trees along the bank of the Crystal River. Other native vegetation

consists of grasses, forbs and some native shrubs like serviceberry, willow and chokecherry. Enhancing the natural vegetation through wild planting zones was high priority with the improvements to the park.

Portions of Elk Park lie within the 100-year floodplains of the Crystal River and Coal Creek. Although there is no record of flooding on the property, its banks have been built up with boulders in some locations to reduce flood hazard.

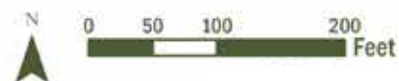
RECREATION AND AMENITIES

This community asset offers three multi-purpose areas, an open-air interpretive center (the Depot), crusher-fine paths, picnic groves, horseshoe pits, a memorial grove and a parking lot.

Two passive-use lawn areas feature low-maintenance turf grass that requires minimal and limited mowing, and provides space for varying activities and events. A



Map 4.
ELK PARK



third, informal field in between the two lawns features native grasses and forbs and can be mowed if needed. The Depot features an open-air kiosk. The structure is reminiscent of the train depots that once dotted the Crystal Valley around the turn of the 20th century. The depot provides seating and a series of interpretive signs that describe and illustrate the Crystal Valley's historic past and present riparian areas.

There is a Commemorative Grove, providing residents and visitors with an opportunity to purchase and plant a memorial tree complete with a marker. The grove can accommodate 30 trees.

Paths internal to the park provide walking spaces through the park and connect to a pedestrian bridge spanning the Crystal River, connecting to Redstone Park. There is no formal crossing of Hwy. 133 between Elk Park and Coke Ovens Open Space and Coal Creek Road. No formal access points to the Crystal River exist at Elk Park.

PARKING AND ACCESS

Improvements to the parking area, accessed from Hwy. 133, provide space for 14 vehicles, including one ADA-accessible spot and five flexible spaces for oversized vehicles or trailers. The parking area was moved to closer to the visitor information site (the Depot) to provide a safer entrance to Elk Park. No overnight parking is allowed.

COMMERCIAL USE AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Roaring Fork Conservancy has used Elk Park for its watershed education programs, which are sponsored by Pitkin County Open Space and Trails.. The programs offer watershed, river ecology and environmental conservation lessons to area schoolchildren.

No commercial activity is allowed at Elk Park. Private events involving more than 20 participants are permitted for a fee. Events are limited to 75 people. Permits are not issued for private events during Memorial Day weekend, July Fourth or Labor Day weekend. On some of those weekends, Redstone hosts community events that draw large crowds. These events are permitted through Pitkin County's Community Development Department. Parking for these events fills the parking lot at Elk Park.

Annual events making use of the parking lot at Elk Park typically include:

- Easter Sunday
- Magical Moments summer concert series, Saturdays in June through September
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day Art Show
- Grand Illumination holiday event





A young angler tries his luck in the Crystal River at Redstone Park.

3.2 REDSTONE PARK

Between Redstone Boulevard and the Crystal River, Redstone Park extends approximately 490 feet along a levee, totaling nearly one acre. From summer concerts and kids playing in the playground, to people picnicking and admiring the Crystal River, the park provides an essential amenity to the community of Redstone. Following direction in the 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan, improvements to Redstone Park were made in 2022-'23 to enhance the park's existing amenities, provide a larger gazebo, improve access and better incorporate the northern end of the park.

PARKING AND ACCESS

The park offers two parking areas providing a total of 10 parking spaces. The main parking area is located just across Redstone Boulevard from the Redstone General Store, in front of the restrooms. On the boulevard to the north, near the winter ice rink, is a second parking area that provides an accessible parking space.

Access from the boulevard is provided at four points. The primary entry is located near the playground and restrooms, from the main parking area. An accessible route at the south end of the park connects to the pedestrian bridge and Elk Park. A north parking area and entrance provide access to the ice rink in the winter months and an accessible route to the high point of the park, the top of the levee and the gazebo. An informal entry at the northern corner of the park connects the ice rink to Redstone Boulevard.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The entirety of Redstone Park lies within the 100-year floodplain of the Crystal River. Its bank on the east side of the river has been built up as levee to reduce flood hazard. Boulders installed at the top of the levee addressed erosion that had occurred.

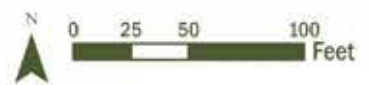
RECREATION AND AMENITIES

The park is linear and relatively narrow. It is characterized by open lawn spaces framed by mature trees, access to the Crystal River and stunning views, all of which lend a rich sense of history and rustic aesthetic to the park.

The top of the levee features an irrigated open lawn with picnic tables and a gazebo. The marble tables were reset on concrete foundations in 2022 to address the sinking that had occurred. A larger, open-air gazebo replaced an aging picnic shelter to meet the needs of the community, providing a covered space for concerts/gatherings in the park. The gazebo is situated behind the existing restroom and museum; it offers views of the river. The gazebo provides electrical outlets. Power also extends to the museum, restrooms and a pedestal behind the skate shed. The event lawn space south of the gazebo totals approximately 3,000 square feet. Using 8 square feet per person for a mixed seated and standing crowd, the lawn capacity is approximately 375 individuals.



Map 5.
REDSTONE PARK



Two heated restrooms are provided for park users and visitors to Redstone. OST has an agreement with the Redstone Community Association to administer the cleaning of the restrooms and the removal of trash from Redstone and Elk parks. OST funds the cost of that maintenance and waste removal.

The ***Redstone Historical Society*** operates from the Redstone Museum adjacent to the restrooms. The museum is open daily, May through October.

The playground, funded by Great Outdoors Colorado in 2006, is a prominent feature along the boulevard. With the 2022 improvements, it was reconfigured to create a single area for the playground equipment and a seat wall set against the levee was constructed.

A passive lawn on the north end of the park provides space for a community-run ice rink in winter months. The skate shed is maintained by the Redstone Community Association and local residents; it was placed on a concrete foundation in 2022 to address drainage issues.

An important park asset is its direct connection to the river. Stepping stones to the river's edge replaced a wood staircase that was in disrepair, providing easier access from the top of the levee to the river.

Additional park amenities include:

- A water fountain/bottle station located near the restrooms.
- Trash, recycling and dog stations near park entrances (south, main and north).
- Bike parking near the skate shed.
- A stone memorial bench near the river's edge.
- On-site dumpster near the skate shed, concealed behind an enclosure.

COMMERCIAL USE AND EVENTS

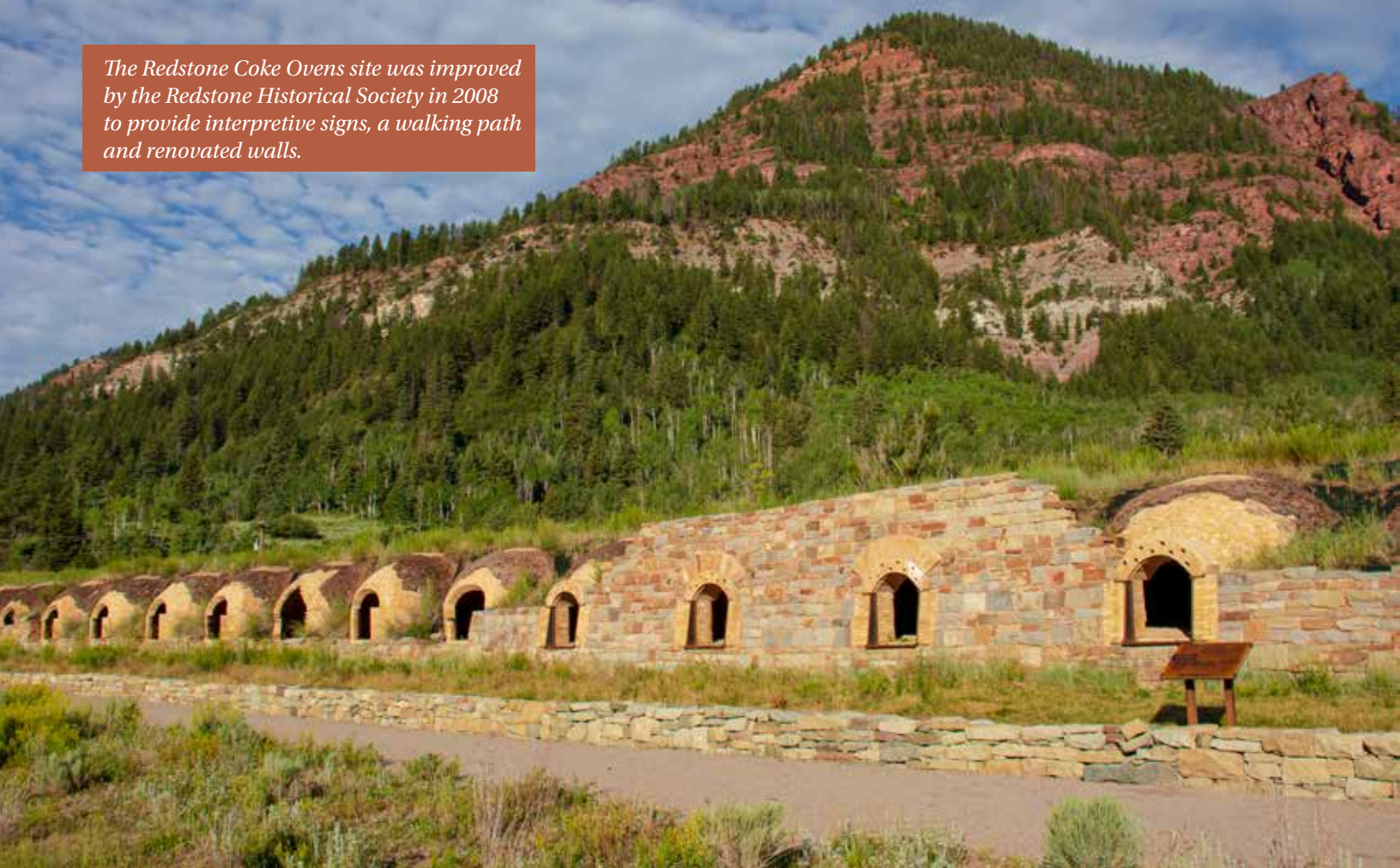
No commercial activity is allowed at Redstone Park. Private events involving more than 20 participants are permitted at Redstone Park for a fee. Events are limited to 75 people. Exclusive use of the park's gazebo is permitted, however, the park must remain open and accessible to the public at all times. Permits are not issued for private events during Memorial Day weekend, July Fourth or Labor Day weekend. On some of those weekends, the Town of Redstone hosts community events that draw large crowds. These events, plus additional annual events, often make use of Redstone Park.

The Redstone Magical Moments summer concert series has taken place at Redstone Park on Saturdays from late June to early September. The concert series is free and open to the public. Distancing requirements due to COVID-19 prompted the concert series to move to Coke Ovens Open Space in 2020. Typical attendance at the concerts prior to 2020 averaged roughly 200 attendees. More recently, with the concerts at the Coke Ovens Open Space, attendance has averaged 250 to 300 people per concert, according to the organizer.

Completed south entry at Redstone Park.



The Redstone Coke Ovens site was improved by the Redstone Historical Society in 2008 to provide interpretive signs, a walking path and renovated walls.



3.3 COKE OVENS OPEN SPACE

Coke Ovens Open Space is located on the west side of Hwy. 133 and encompasses the historic coke ovens. The open space is comprised of four parcels acquired by OST over time beginning in the 1990s, with the most recent acquisition in 2016. It totals 87 acres. This open space was not included in the 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan. Per an interim management plan, much of the western portion of the open space has been leased to an outfitting operation since 2016.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

A conservation easement over the 14 acres containing the ovens is held by Aspen Valley Land Trust for the protection of the historic structures. It also encompasses a piece of the open space south of Coal Basin Road, contiguous with the Elk Mountain Subdivision. The easement permits community events. No construction, alteration or remodeling of the ovens is permitted without Colorado State Historical Society permission, however, a small

structure to provide visitor information or services such as a restroom is permitted. Additionally, continued use of the existing access road through the ovens is permitted.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

The coke ovens and a monument dedicated to the memory of coal miners who worked in nearby mines stand as a lasting reminder of coal mining and the industrial heritage of Redstone and the Crystal River Valley. The ovens are visible from Hwy. 133 and serve as a wayfinding marker to Redstone's main entrance. An informational kiosk is situated south of the Hwy. 133 entrance to the parking area and adjacent to a walking path that parallels the ovens. The ovens are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Per the 2004 conservation easement, it is the Redstone Historical Society's responsibility to prevent any destruction or unnecessary deterioration of the ovens and miner monument.¹ In 2008, the Redstone Historical Society received ***Preserve America Grant Funding*** to

¹ Deed of Preservation and Conservation Easement in Gross Rec#494307

develop an education and interpretive program for the coke ovens.²

INFRASTRUCTURE

Parking and Access

The primary entrance to Coke Ovens Open Space is located between ovens, providing access to both a parking area behind the ovens and the agricultural lease area that is part of the open space. The parking area is also accessed from Coal Creek Road. Improvements to the parking and the stabilization of the coke ovens themselves was completed in 2011, prior to transfer of the property from the county's general fund to the Open Space program.

2 Resolution No. 103-2007

Structures

Development is limited to the east-southeast portion of the open space, where ranch operations were historically headquartered. Existing structures are listed in Map 6. A dwelling unit was demolished in 2017.

Utilities

Several of the structures at the ranch headquarters are served by public utilities (electricity, water and telephone). Two electrical-distribution lines (and two overhead transformers) are located on the open space. There is also a septic system located at the ranch headquarters. The old, log dwelling structure has electrical service and a woodstove for heat. A fuel tank also remains on the property.

Map 6. Coke Ovens Open Space Structures





Map 7.
**COKE OVENS HISTORICAL SITE AND
AGRICULTURAL LEASE AREA**



AGRICULTURE

An assessment based on USDA soils data, climate and existing irrigation indicates the agricultural lease area has 19 acres of productive agricultural land (NRCS, 2023). Of the productive farmland, nine acres have adequate flood irrigation and 10 acres of narrow pastures have limited flood irrigation. Due to the large riparian corridor through the center of the property, the remaining open space acreage available for rotational grazing is effectively 12 acres.

The irrigated fields draw water from the Beaman Ditch. The nine acres of productive pasture have adequate irrigation from this water source. However, the distance and elevation difference of the ditch reduces effectiveness of flood irrigation to the 10 acres of pastures with limited irrigation. Without significant improvements, including piped irrigation and additional, costly fencing, productivity is restricted for the 10 acres.

Much of the western portion of the open space is fenced along the property’s perimeter. Interior fencing, concentrated around the ranch headquarters, defines a pasture area and a corral. Site observations indicate much of the interior fencing is in need of reconstruction and some fencing farther west may be removed. There are several unimproved ranch roads and tracks within the property.

Lessee History

The open space west of the coke ovens has been leased, per an interim management plan, to an outfitting operation (Avalanche Outfitters at Redstone Stables). Review of their annual operating plan occurs between growing seasons (November-February) and is amended as necessary. This operator has leased the site since 2006, prior to OST’s ownership, and holds commercial permits with the Forest Service on neighboring national forest lands. The lessee provides horseback riding, fly fishing, dinner wagon rides and outfitting services and uses the property to graze horses associated with the operation. The lessee generally seasonally grazes 10 to 15 mature horses (up to 20 during

Table 3. Agricultural Land Assessment

Productive Acres	19
Farmland Rating	Not prime farmland
Forage Type	Grass pasture
Irrigation	Partial/Flood
*Productivity Estimate Favorable Year (ton/acre)	0.7
*Productivity Estimate Normal Year (ton/acre)	0.5
*Productivity Estimate Unfavorable Year (ton/acre)	0.4
Irrigated Capability	Class 6 soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuitable for cultivation and restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland or wildlife habitat.
Frost-free Days	80

Land assessment details are based on USDA-NRCS soil surveys for the Coke Ovens property.

*Productivity estimates are based on USDA-NRCS projections of air-dried, grass-hay for this property and are based on soil type, location and local records.

Table 4. Grazing Season Carrying Capacity Estimate

SPECIES	TOTAL ANIMALS PER SEASON
Cow, 1,000 lb, dry	5.0-7.0
Cow, 1,000 lb, with calf	4.8-6.8
Bull, mature	3.5-5.0
Cattle, 1 year old	8.0-11.3
Cattle, 2 year old	6.0-8.5
Horse, mature	3.8-5.5
Sheep, mature	24.0-34.0
Lamb, 1 year old or goat, mature	32.0-45.0

Based on OST staff observation, thin pasture stands and weed pressure indicate the site suffers from historic agricultural use and years of overgrazing.

*Based on an annual carrying capacity of 24-34 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) for the property and a grazing season from May-September <https://wyoextension.org/publications/html/B1320/>

peak season) from May through September. Due to lack of standing forage, the lessee supplements grazing with feed in order to maintain the pasture and irrigated meadows.

Over the past several seasons, the current agricultural lessee has reseeded approximately six acres. Pasture conditions for this acreage has improved as a result. The lessee has also completed ditch work to increase water access to these acres.

Several existing structures are maintained and utilized by the lessee, including the tack barn, garage/tool shed, log structure/office and two sheds.

Due to COVID-19 and distancing requirements, the Redstone Magical Moments summer concert series worked with the lessee and OST to temporarily relocate the concerts to the pasture area at Coke Ovens Open Space in the summers of 2020 and 2021. The series continued to operate at the open space during Redstone Park renovations in 2022-'23. The pasture provides more than 50,000 square feet of space and the lessee maintained the grounds during the concert series relocation.

Water Rights

The Beaman Ditch parallels Coal Creek Road along the southern border of the open space. Open Space and Trails water rights include an undivided interest in 1.3 cubic feet per second (cfs) of the Beaman Ditch water right originally decreed in Civil Action 1040 on Dec. 28, 1903 for 0.8 cfs absolute and 0.5 cfs conditional, with an appropriation date of May 15, 1887, and subsequently made absolute for 0.5 cfs in Consolidated Case Nos. 91 CW87 and 92CW54. OST and the lessee maintain the irrigation headgate; the lessee has maintained the ditch, which is approximately 7,000 linear feet. About 2,000 feet of the Beaman Ditch is suitable for piping, given the difficulty in accessing that section with cleaning equipment.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Because the open space was used previously for industrial and agricultural activities, there is little acreage of intact native vegetation. The natural resource values of this open space include Coal Creek, the riparian zone, seasonal wetlands, ungulate forage in and near pastures and scattered aspen-conifer forests with native understory. The primary pasture area and shrub/scrublands occupy the eastern third of the property, while the



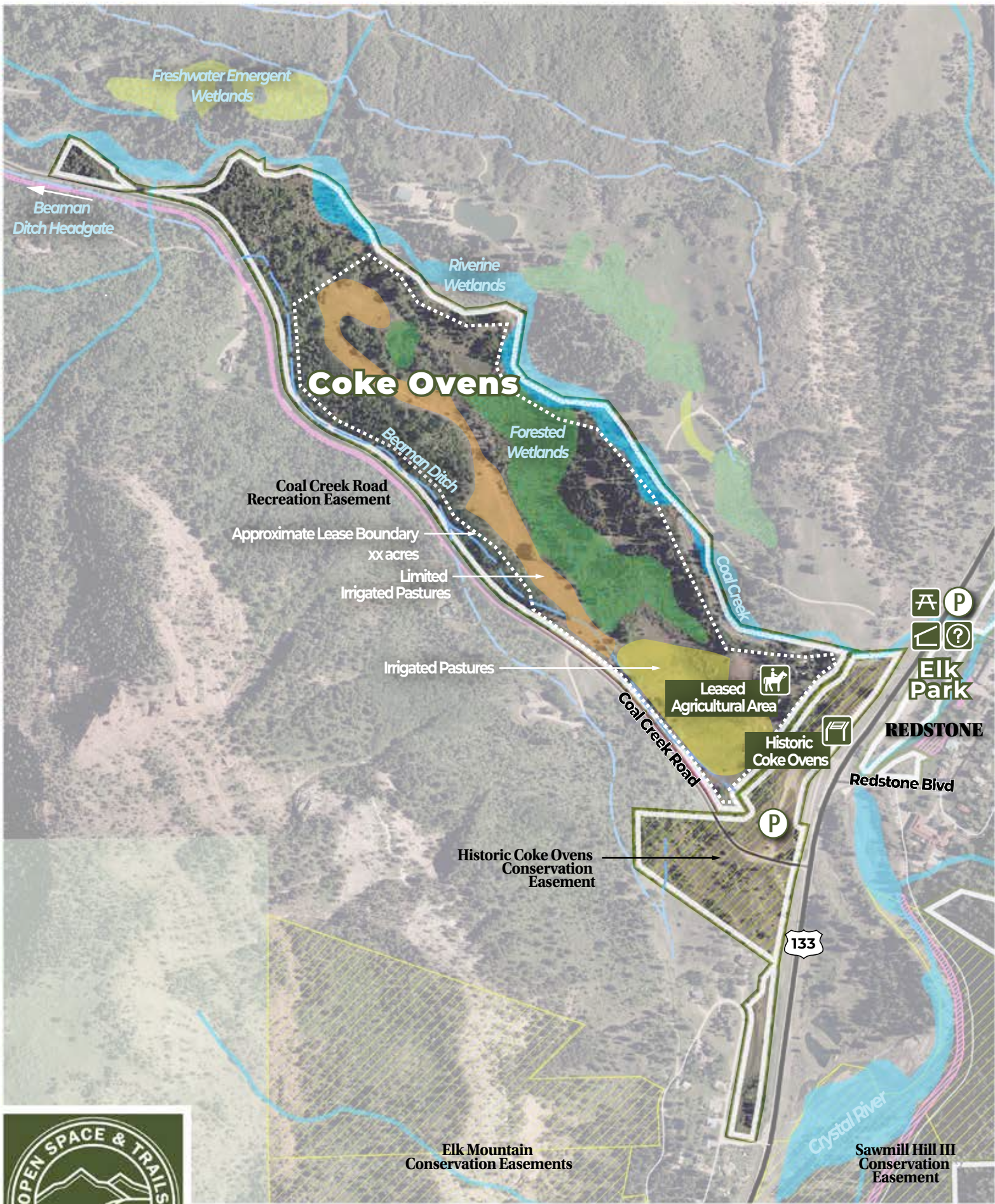
Wetlands are present at Coke Ovens Open Space.

western two-thirds of the open space is dominated by a cottonwood-blue spruce riparian forest with scattered areas of aspen and more upland plant communities, interspersed with smaller pasture areas. Small portions of the open space are identified as seasonally saturated shrub-scrub wetlands and seasonally flooded riverine wetlands.

The topography and perennial creek create conditions for high biodiversity and connectivity from the upper Coal Creek drainage to the valley bottom, resulting in year-round wildlife use on the property. Colorado Parks and Wildlife's species activity maps show the open space is part of an elk migration corridor and the adjacent hillside to the north is identified as an elk production area, severe winter range and winter concentration area.

Hydrology

Coal Creek meanders along the northern boundary of the open space. It pours out of Coal Basin, formerly the site of extensive coal mining operations. Dramatic changes to Coal Creek were initiated when the coke ovens were built and the community of Redstone was planned. The creek was diverted northward to prevent Redstone from flooding and allow the construction of the ovens. When Coal Creek was diverted, it developed an extensive floodplain north of the ovens and west of Hwy. 133, before joining the Crystal River north



Map 8.
COKE OVENS OPEN SPACE

of Redstone. CDOT eventually returned Coal Creek back to its original channel with the Hwy. 133 bridge construction at Elk Park. Coal Creek's confluence with the Crystal River is near present-day Elk and Redstone parks, but now has little floodplain due to the highway bridge and the levee built to prevent flooding.

The absence of a floodplain still poses a flood risk to Redstone and allows extensive sedimentation to flow directly into the Crystal River. The channel incision of Coal Creek and the highly erosive mancos shale basin in this subbasin combine to deliver chronic sedimentation to the Crystal River. In-depth study and modeling associated with the Crystal River Stream Management Plan concluded that the Crystal River is able to transport the sediment downstream - an important element to river function as it prevents sedimentation that can impact aquatic life. Water-quality data for metals and pH in Coal Creek are rated Good for aquatic life.³

RECREATION

Coke Ovens Open Space provides interpretive exhibits and a walking path adjacent to the historic ovens. The general public is not prohibited from

entering the western portion of the property leased by the outfitter, however, there are no developed recreational amenities. In the past, the property was used for a modest Nordic ski system.

Signage and Wayfinding

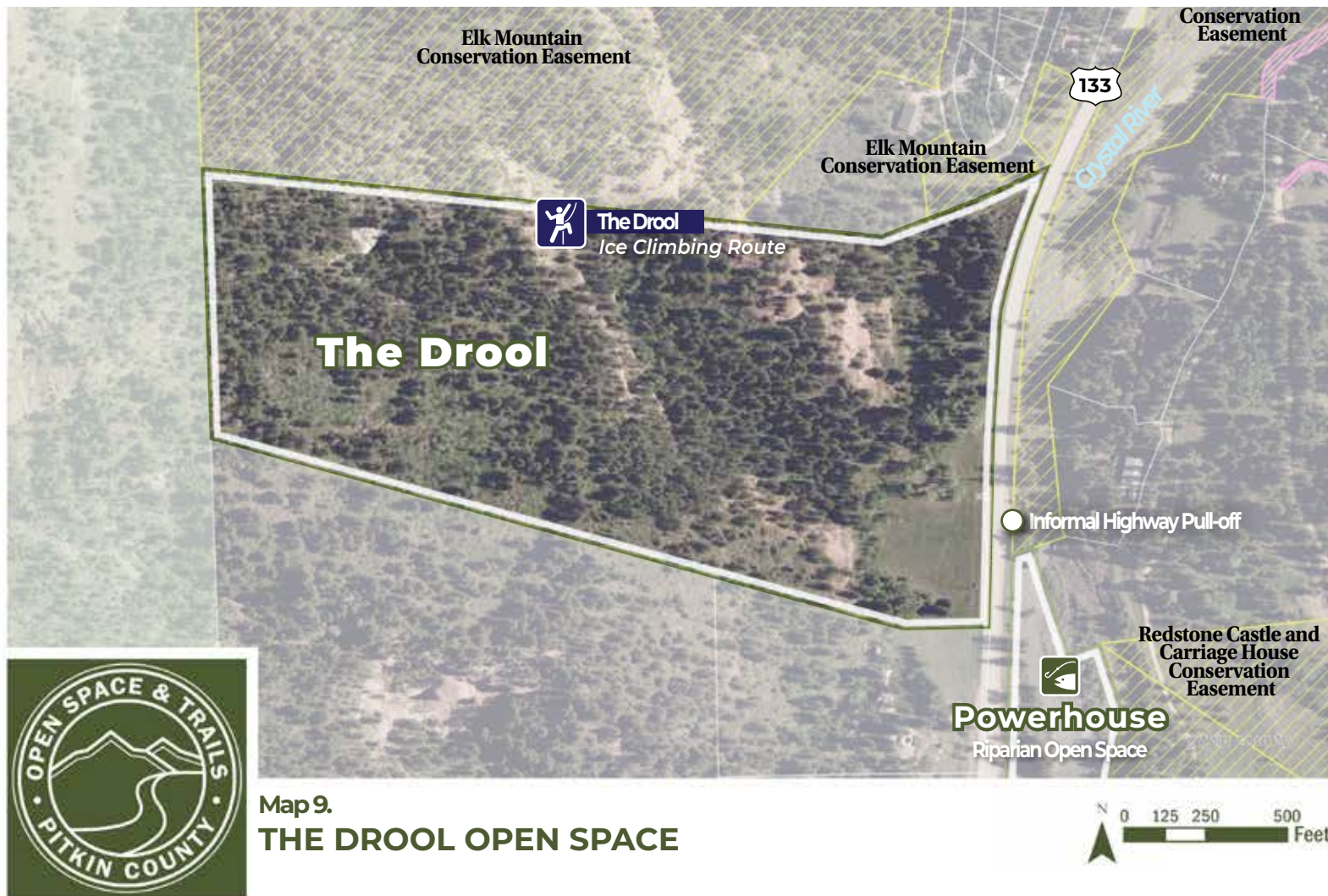
A number of signs have been located at Coke Ovens Open Space and adjacent highway right-of-way. The 'welcome' sign to the Redstone Historic District, in front of the Coke Ovens, is visible to highway passersby traveling south. Highway wayfinding signs have been installed within the right-of-way in three locations: a town limit sign across from the Elk Park parking lot; a highway attraction sign across from the Elk Park Depot; and a National Historic District Sign at the main entrance to the coke ovens. A sign directing visitors to park in the main parking area and 'no parking' signs have been installed to encourage visitors to utilize the parking area behind the ovens. A flashing speed-limit sign on the highway alerts motorists of speeds in advance of the main entrance to Redstone. A temporary sandwich board sign for Avalanche Outfitters is placed at the main entrance to the coke ovens during their operating season.

3

Crystal River Stream Management Plan, 2016.

An ice climber tackles the Drool. Photo source: Duane Raleigh





Map 9.
THE DROOL OPEN SPACE

3.4 THE DROOL OPEN SPACE

South of Redstone, on the west side of Hwy. 133, this 35.4-acre open space gets its name from the property's unique ice-climbing feature, known as "the Drool." The property was acquired in 2007, in part through a contribution from Aspen Valley Land Trust. It was once part of the historic Osgood estate, which includes the landmark Redstone Castle. This open space was not included in the 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan.

NATURAL RESOURCES

In addition to protecting access to the recreation feature, a primary motivation for conserving the property was to protect the scenic character of the area and the native grass meadow, backed by red sandstone cliffs. Adjacent to national forest land, with steep slopes that connect to the valley bottom, this open space increases contiguous protected lands and conserves intact plant communities and wildlife habitat. The dominant land cover is

deciduous and evergreen forests on the mountain slopes, transitioning to shrublands in the valley. The property is mapped as potential nesting area for peregrine falcons.

RECREATION

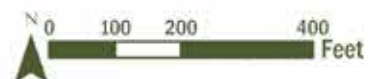
The Drool is an ice-climbing pillar route accessed via a short walk from Hwy. 133. This route has a single pitch that can be top-roped, as well as a second, shorter and easier pitch up the drainage. The Drool does not always form reliably, as the pitches rely on large annual snowfalls with freeze-thaw cycles. Aside from ice climbing, no other formal recreation exists on the open space.

PARKING AND ACCESS

No parking is provided. A widened shoulder on the east side of Hwy. 133 provides space for two vehicles to access adjacent fishing easements and ice climbing at the Drool.



Map 10.
REDSTONE BOULDERS OPEN SPACE



3.5 REDSTONE BOULDERS

Bordering the main residential part of town and providing a natural corridor between Forest Service lands to the west and the Crystal River, the 19.2-acre Redstone Boulders Open Space provides public access to a unique climbing area located on the boundary of the national forest and Open Space lands. Redstone Boulders was acquired in 2008; the Gerbaz inholding was purchased by OST in 2020. This open space was included in the 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan.

RESTRICTIVE COVENANT

Open Space and Trails purchased the Redstone Boulders property in 2008 after two transferable development rights (TDRs) were granted, removing development potential from the property. When the TDRs were issued, a restrictive covenant was placed on the property limiting its future use to existing uses at the time, including recreation, trails, roads, trailhead parking and fishing access.

PARKING AND ACCESS

East Creek parking, a small parking area on the south side of the open space along Redstone Boulevard, provides parking for the bouldering area as well as the East Creek Trail. An informal path connects with the East Creek Road to the south with the bouldering area and the Redstone Campground.

RECREATION

In addition to the trails traversing the property, Redstone Boulders provides access to the only bouldering destination managed by OST. The routes include primarily advanced problems with some beginner opportunities.⁴

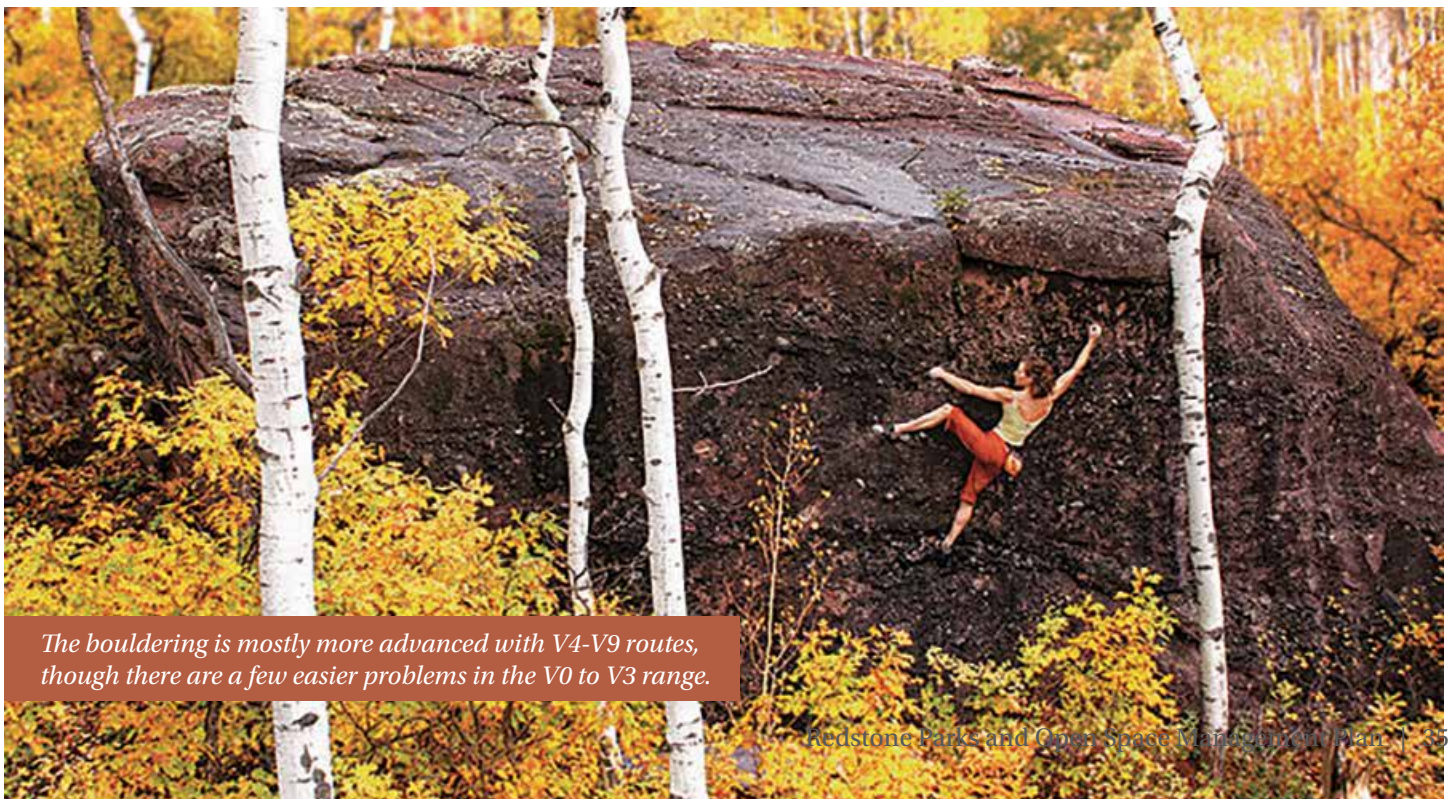
NATURAL RESOURCES

This open space gently slopes up from Redstone Boulevard to the adjacent national forest. The primary natural resource value of the open space is the contiguous connection from protected large tracts of ecologically valuable national forest lands to the riparian area along the Crystal River.

The property also boasts river frontage contiguous to OST-owned riparian parcels. The riparian zone here has not been formally evaluated but is largely intact with understory and overstory vegetation. As one of the few places in the Redstone area where the river channel has room to be dynamic, it moves sediment and sandbars over time in a properly functioning manner. This wider, multi-channel reach of stream also has flood protection benefits and enhanced ecological value as terrestrial and aquatic habitats intermix.

4

More information is provided in Colorado Bouldering: Mountains and Western Slope and Mountain Project.



The bouldering is mostly more advanced with V4-V9 routes, though there are a few easier problems in the V0 to V3 range.

3.6 SAWMILL HILL OPEN SPACE

Southeast of the Town of Redstone on the hillside behind the Redstone Inn sits Sawmill Hill Open Space. It is made up of six parcels totaling 197 acres. The majority of the property is very steep with limited access. East Creek flows through the northeast corner of the open space. On the east, the open space is bordered by the 62-acre Sawmill Hill Conservation Easements. This open space was not included in the 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Sawmill Hill is a forested property with multiple ecological values. The forest stand health ranges from poor to good. Overall, aspen stands were reported to be in good health, though some had high risk factors for Sudden Aspen Decline. Douglas fir stands were seeing quite a bit of mortality occurring from the native Douglas fir beetle. Gambel oak present on the property was generally old and not providing optimal wildlife habitat value. A unique asset, the area contains several old-growth Ponderosa pine trees in the range of 350 years old. Beetle control efforts have occurred here annually to protect the old-growth trees from the mountain pine beetle.⁵

A system-wide forest health assessment of the type and condition of forests on Open Space and Trails lands and nearly 200 acres at Sawmill Hill lands is underway in 2023. This will identify future desired conditions and potential management strategies to improve forest health and wildlife habitat quality, increase ecological resilience and maintain biodiversity.

Additional wildlife species activity mapped for Sawmill Hill includes bighorn sheep winter range and production area; potential wolverine habitat; and elk severe winter range, winter concentration area and production areas. Nearby East Creek is identified as an elk migration corridor.

RECREATION

East Creek Trail parking is provided on the northern end of Redstone Boulevard. The Redstone Pillar, a single-pitch ice climb, is located on the east side of

Sawmill Hill. The Pillar does not always form reliably as it relies on large annual snowfalls with freeze-thaw cycles in order to form. Commercially guided climbing access is not permitted.

Informal access consistent to surrounding Forest Service lands is allowed at Sawmill Hill. Many old branches of a logging road exist in the general area on Sawmill Hill, but these spurs have become impassable due to vegetation growth. The roads are generally in poor condition, with significant erosion developing.

PARKING AND ACCESS

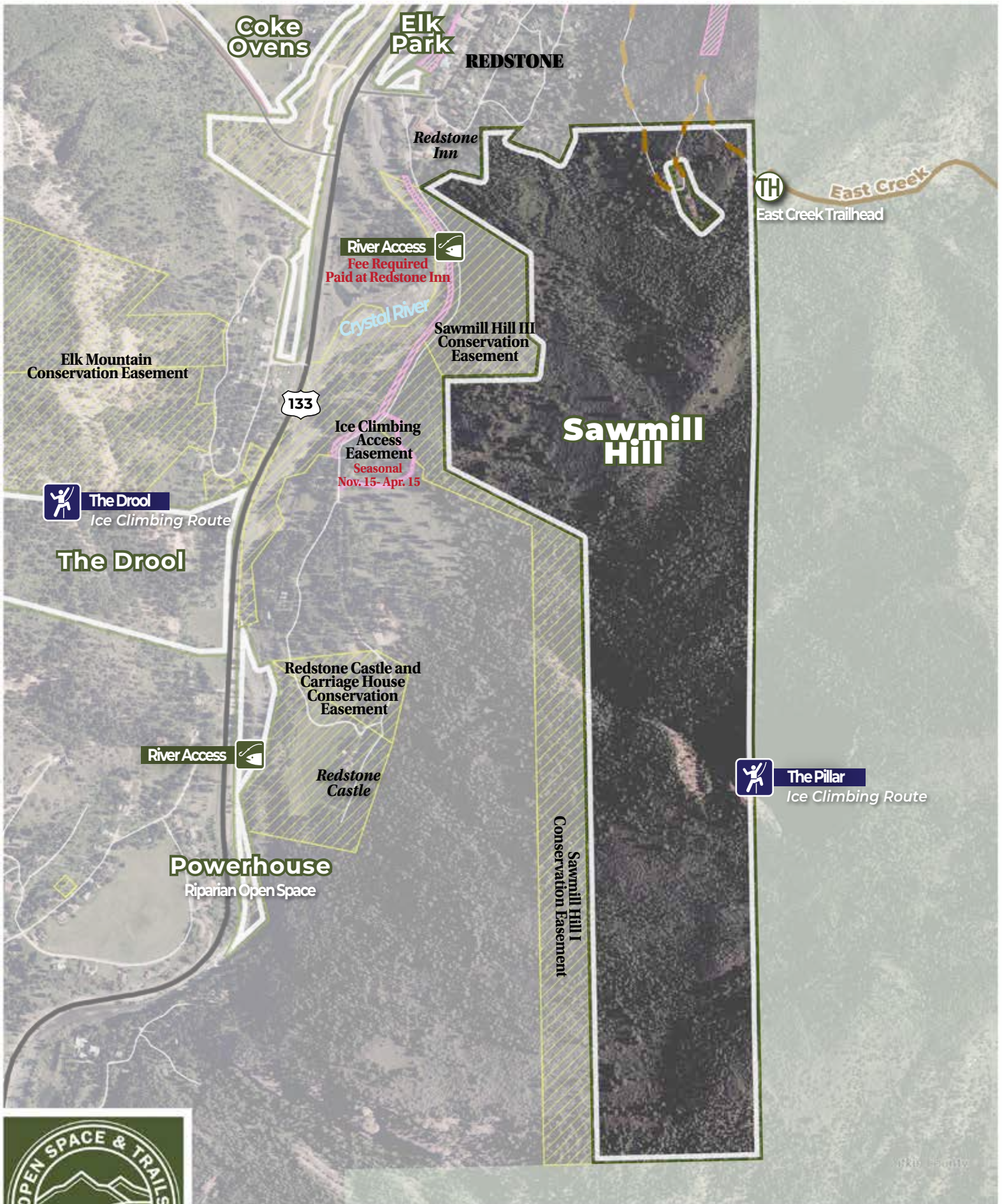
Public access to the property by foot and vehicle is limited. A portion of the gravel East Creek four-wheel-drive road crosses the north end of Sawmill Hill for a short distance before connecting to the trailhead for the East Creek Trail.

Property ownership near the Crystal River limits access to the open space via Redstone Castle Drive. This gated and locked road south of Redstone Boulevard does not provide direct access to Sawmill Hill Open Space. It does traverse the Sawmill Hill Conservation Easement. The road is closed to the public aside from ice climber access from November 15 through April 14 annually, as permitted by recreation easements granted to Pitkin County. Redstone Castle guests may use the road to access the castle and some fishing areas.

Recreation Access Easements

Public access to the Redstone Pillar ice climb, via Redstone Castle Drive across the Sawmill Hill Conservation Easement, is accommodated through a perpetual Trail and Access Easement. This easement is for the use and benefit of non-motorized access by ice climbers and for general access by employees of Pitkin County for management of lands on Sawmill Hill. This public access permit does not allow dogs. Access to the ice climbing route is not signed. Recommended access follows the access easements on Redstone Castle Drive and across the Sawmill Hill Conservation Easement. Additionally, BOCC Ordinance 31-2008 specifies the easement allows for a potential bike trail.

5 2009, the Sawmill Hill Forest Assessment



4. Planning Process and Public Input

4.1 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The 2010 management plan laid the foundation for the management of Redstone's park and open space properties. This 2023 update addresses additional parcels acquired in the area and builds on the previous plan through natural resource monitoring; evaluation of current conditions and progress that has been made toward implementing management actions; analysis of current trends and community needs; and public input collected through community surveys, outreach events and partner/stakeholder meetings. This planning effort supports the implementation of ongoing projects and implements new action items. This plan is a near- to mid-range planning tool to budget for management actions to preserve the historic and natural character of Redstone and the surrounding area.

PLANNING PROCESS

Open Space and Trails coordinated the management plan update for the Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan with the Filoha Meadows Nature Preserve Management Plan to efficiently capture public attention during the outreach process on these proximate planning areas.

Phase 1: Baseline Data Collection

The first planning phase for the Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan update included a review of relevant plans and policies, preparation of up-to-date maps of all properties and an evaluation of natural resource and wildlife monitoring reports and existing conditions. Information collected is summarized in [Section 2](#) and [Section 3](#).

Phase 2: Partner and Public Outreach

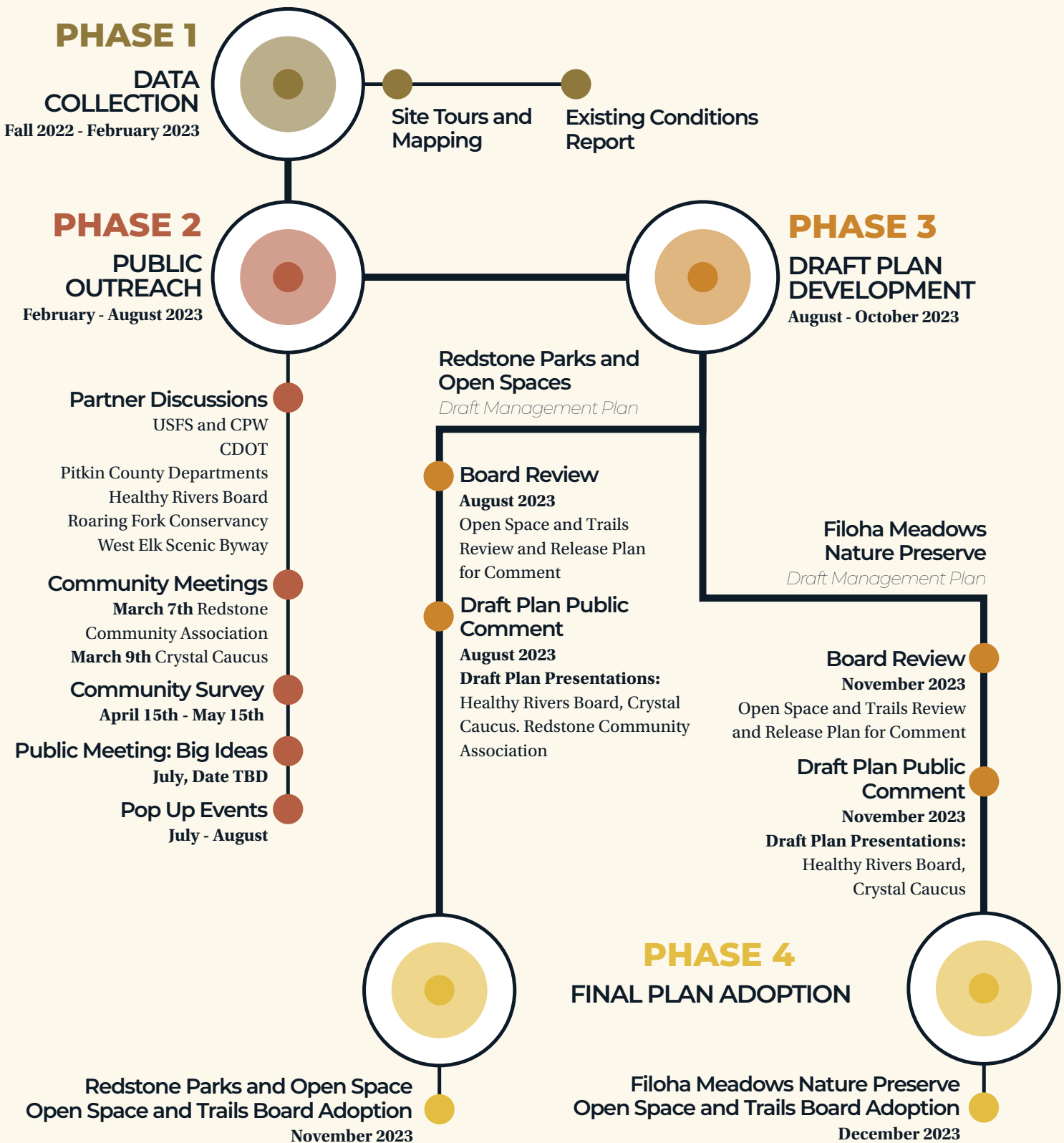
Staff met with partners early in the planning process to discuss current conditions and trends, and identify partner needs to support management of the Redstone-area parks and open space now and into the future. Staff facilitated seven meetings in February and March 2023, with the White River National Forest, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Department of Transportation, Roaring Fork Conservancy, Healthy Rivers Board, West Elk Scenic and Historic Byway and the Pitkin County engineer. Partner comments are included in full in [Appendix C](#) with highlights summarized in [Section 4.2](#).

Staff engaged the Redstone Community Association (March 7, 2023) and the Crystal Caucus (March 9, 2023) at the beginning of the outreach process. Redstone- and Crystal-area residents were provided a three-question comment card at the meetings, designed to gain insight from area stakeholders. Staff received 11 comments through this outreach.

Public input was collected through an online survey aimed at better understanding the community's interests and use of the parks and open spaces. The survey, conducted from mid-April through mid-May, 2023, was promoted through social media, and print advertisements in the Crystal Echo and Sopris Sun. It generated 123 responses. Complete survey responses are in Appendix A, with highlights summarized in [Section 4.3](#).

Utilizing the existing conditions data, reports, and partner and public input, staff compiled draft management ideas. These ideas were reviewed with community members at a public open house hosted at Redstone Park from 4-7pm on July 12, 2023, a Crystal Caucus meeting on July 13 and a pop-up outreach booth at the Magical Moments concert held at Coke Ovens Open Space on July 15. Overall, approximately 150 individuals were present at these three events. Feedback was captured through write-in comment cards. A total of 18 cards were collected.

A total of 152 individual responses were collected from the public through the community meetings, an online survey and outreach events during Phase 2.



See the updated Filoha Meadows Management Plan here. (To be added)

Phase 3: Draft Plan Development and Public Comment

Management ideas were refined and combined into this draft management plan.

[Placeholder text, to be updated: The draft management plan was presented to the Open Space and Trails Board for comment and direction on August 3, 2023 prior to presenting the plan to the Healthy Rivers Board, Crystal Caucus and Redstone Community Association.

Public comment on the draft management plan was facilitated through an online survey during a one-month period beginning on August 11, 2023. OST advertised the comment period with on-site posters, fliers and online outreach efforts to highlight elements of the plan and encourage the public to provide comments. # of responses were collected to be included.]

Phase 4: Final Plan Revisions and Adoption

To be completed

4.2 PARTNER COMMENTS

Partners were engaged at two points during the Redstone Parks and Open Space plan update process. OST collaborates on projects and planning on a routine basis with partners. Early in the planning process, partners were tapped to identify top constraints, opportunities and opportunities for coordination for the parks and open spaces in and around Redstone, including Filoha Meadows. Partners were then provided the draft plan and asked to submit formal comments.

WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

The unincorporated town of Redstone is surrounded by the White River National Forest. Opportunities for improvement from the perspective of the Forest Service include:

- Install wayfinding signage to assist visitors in finding the informal trail from Redstone Campground to East Creek Trail;
- Install fishing line recycling receptacles; and,
- Coordinate with the Forest Service to install 'no camping signs' within 1/4 mile of the Crystal River and monitor visitor use in the area.

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

OST collaborates on projects and planning in the Crystal River Valley with staff from CPW. Organization concerns and priorities in the Crystal River Valley include:

- Monitoring low water in the Crystal River, which leads to diminished fish habitat and connectivity.
- Monitoring sediment in the Crystal River. Sediment transport is important to maintain functionality of the river.
- Limiting river disturbance from increased public use. Protect areas when fish are spawning. River disturbance for construction activity etc. is only allowed Aug. 15 to Sept. 30.
- Do not increase human presence at Sawmill Hill to protect its use by elk.
- Careful review of any changes in use at Coke Ovens Open Space. This property is adjacent to severe critical winter range for elk; disturbance issues could be created with new uses.
- Increase natural function of Coal Creek.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Hwy. 133 and its right-of-way are managed by CDOT. OST coordinates with CDOT prior to the implementation of projects impacting the highway. OST staff hosted a discussion with CDOT early in the planning process and solicited feedback on the draft plan.

ROARING FORK CONSERVANCY

OST has funded RFC's educational programming for middle-school students at Elk Park and RFC collaborates with OST on projects in the Crystal River

Valley. RFC's priorities in the Crystal River Valley include overall floodplain connectivity and water quality. The conservancy is specifically interested in the condition of the floodplain and sedimentation of Coal Creek.

RFC's interests include:

- Monitoring visitor use and riparian condition at Redstone Beach;
- Turf conversion at Elk Park and riparian improvements at the confluence of Coal Creek and the Crystal River north of Elk Park; and,
- Riparian enhancement on the Crystal River near the Redstone Fire Station.

HEALTHY RIVERS BOARD

Initial comments were solicited from the board at its Feb. 16, 2023 meeting. Board interests include:

- Riparian improvements to the portions of the Crystal River between the fire station and the north entrance to Redstone.
- Exploring options to improve the water quality of Coal Creek; and,
- Exploring options to widen the floodway at the highway bridge over Coal Creek.

Staff presented the draft plan to the Healthy Rivers Board at its [August meeting](#).

WEST ELK SCENIC BYWAY

Hwy. 133 through Redstone is part of the West Elk Scenic and Historic Byway. OST staff attended the Byway's March 2023 meeting solicited feedback on the draft plan.

4.3 PUBLIC OUTREACH

COMMUNITY SURVEY

OST developed the survey to understand resident and visitor general patterns of use at the parks and open space in Redstone (preferred activities, frequency of use, parking areas used, etc.), what attributes of are most valued, and what community members believe is working well or in need of change. Because significant updates have occurred since the 2010 plan, it was timely for staff to understand some of the trends and concerns.

General Use Patterns

Over half of the 123 responses to the online survey

were from Redstone and Crystal Valley residents. About one-quarter of responses came from visitors. About a quarter of the survey respondents visit a park or open space a few times a week and a similar amount visit a few times per year. Fewer than 10 percent of respondents visit once per year.

Top activities enjoyed by survey respondents at all parks and open spaces in the Redstone area include park amenities (66%) and wildlife viewing (64%). Other activities include: attending a community event (50%), wading at Redstone Beach (43%), viewing the historic coke ovens (36%), fishing the Crystal River (28%), ice skating at Redstone Park (28%), and guided horseback riding (23%). Fewer than 20 percent of respondents boulder or ice climb at an open space.

Parking

Area parks and open spaces are accessed by users most often from the parking areas at the Coke Ovens Open Space parking lot, Redstone Park and on Redstone Boulevard. The current level of parking was reported to be satisfactory by 70% of survey respondents. While visitor and recreation use is increasing in the Redstone area, according to observations from OST rangers and the Forest Service, current parking meets typical day-use demand. Overall parking is maxed during community events.

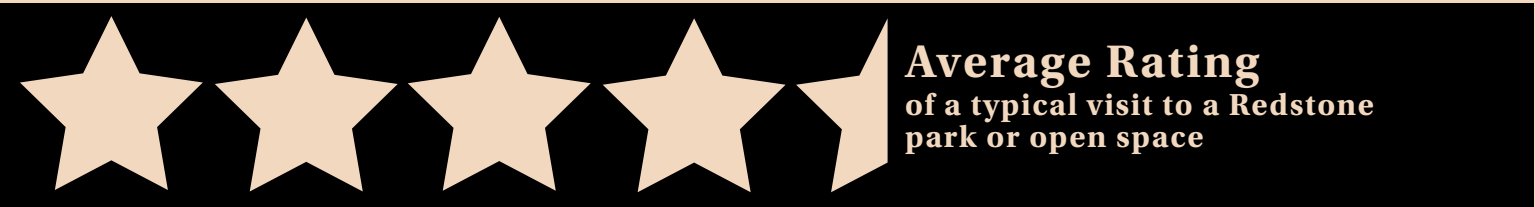
Visitor Experience

Out of a 5-star rating scale, Redstone parks and open spaces received a 4.4- star rating from respondents based on a typical visit. High rates of satisfaction with the quality and condition of parks and open space amenities were reported by survey respondents. How well each amenity meets expectations was rated on a scale of very satisfied, satisfied, neutral, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Over half of respondents reported being very satisfied or satisfied with all but two of the parks and open space amenities included in the survey. Community gathering spaces topped the list of satisfaction. Summer recreation amenities, trails/connections, river access and parking areas all received satisfaction rates of more than 70%. Trash receptacles and dog-waste stations received the fewest reports of satisfaction and the most reports of dissatisfaction.

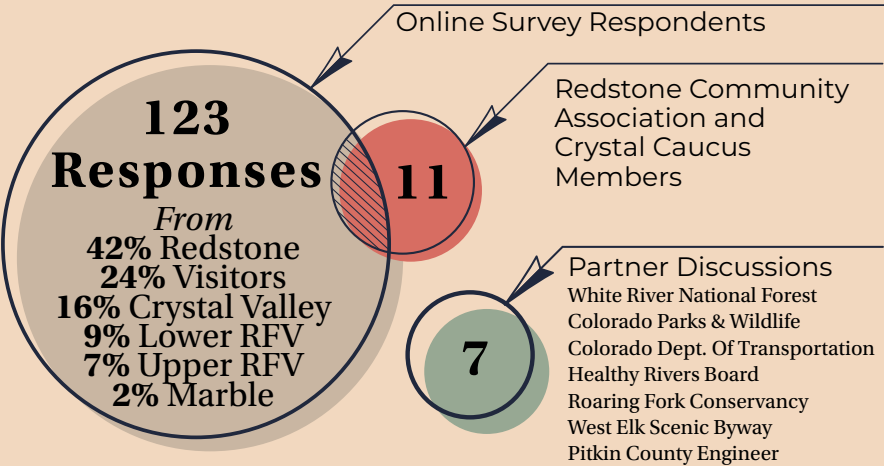
Asked to offer details (things that work well or things

REDSTONE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Community Feedback

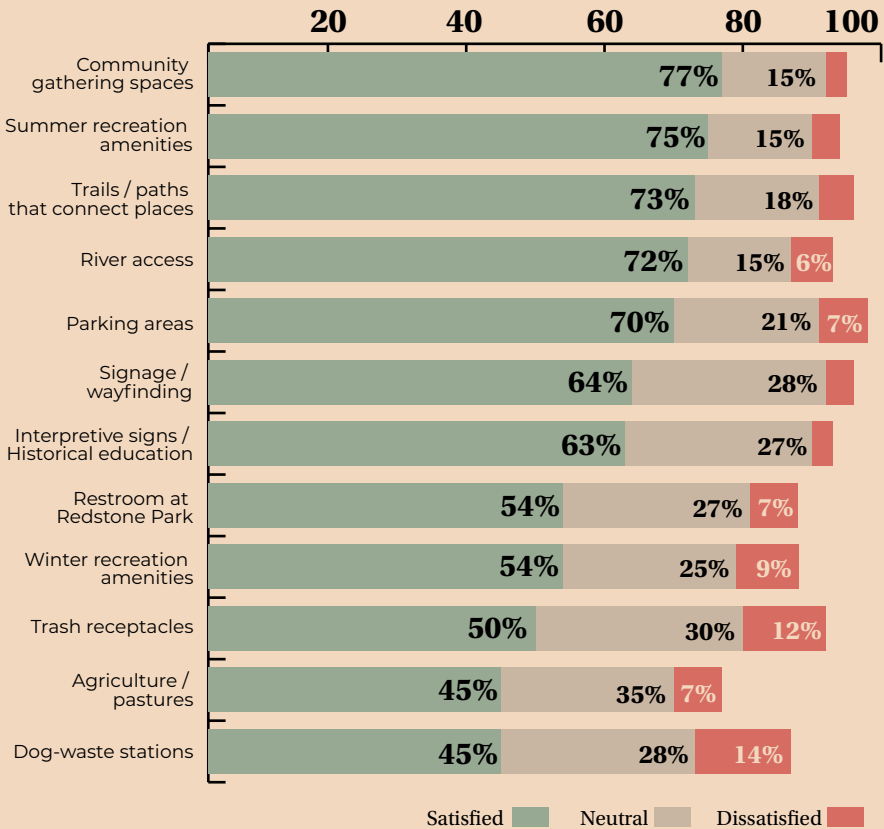


Who we heard from.



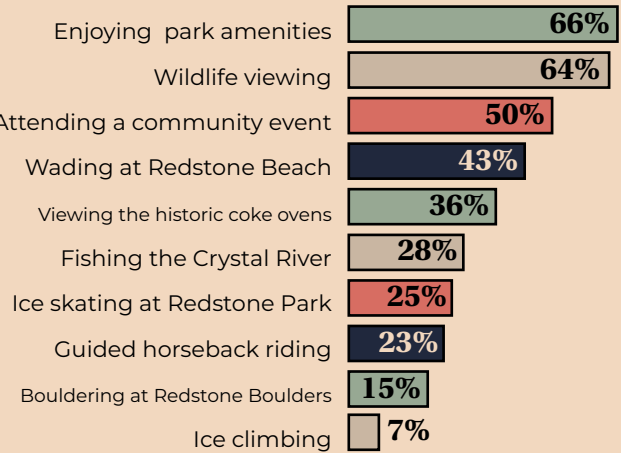
High rates of satisfaction

According to survey respondents



Top activities

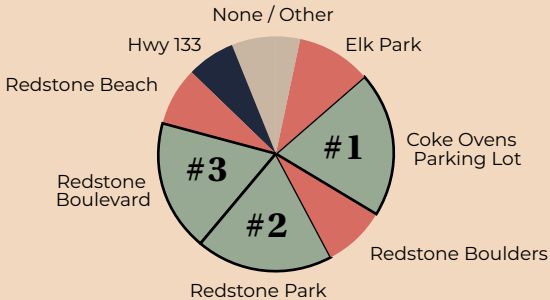
Enjoyed by survey respondents



The current level of event use is acceptable to **nearly 75%** of respondents. The top-cited concern from write-in comments is the impact of events on residents.

Frequented parking areas

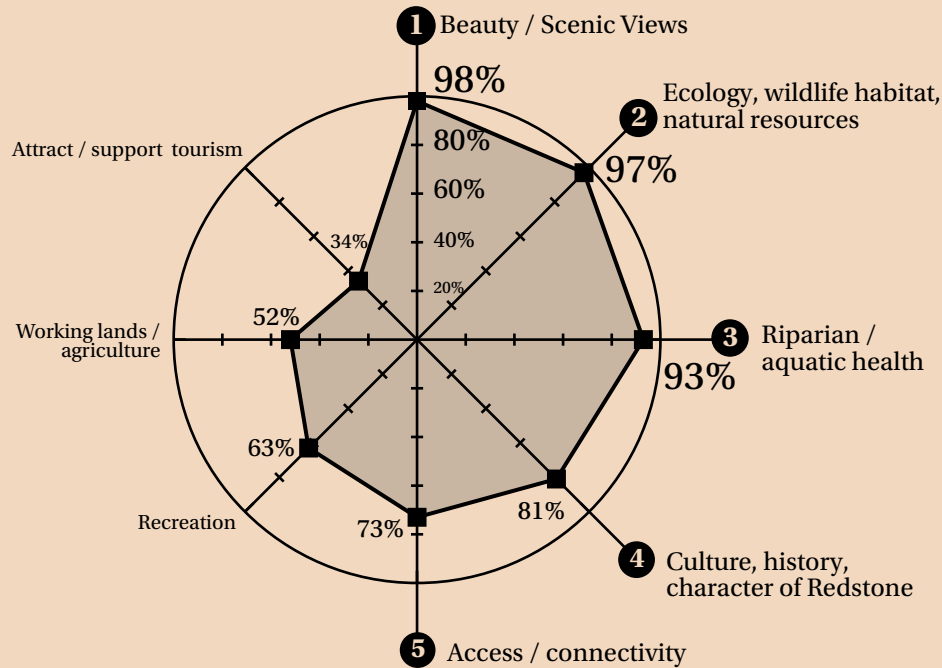
According to survey respondents



Visitor and recreation use is increasing in the Redstone area according to observations from OST Rangers and USFS. Current parking meets typical day use demand but overall parking is maxed during community events.

What is important?

According to survey respondents



The 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Plan included overall goals that were incorporated into the management of each park and open space. Public input solicited on the importance of attributes for the areas parks and open space validated the relevance of the 2010 goals. **Goals have been modified based on survey input.**

Updated goals

Enhance **wildlife habitat** and **natural resources** and improve riparian areas to enrich water quality and **aquatic health**.

Protect the **scenic beauty** of the Historic Town of Redstone and the **scenic views** of the Crystal River Valley.

Maintain the **culture, history, and character** of Redstone to enhance the entire community and protect the historic and community attractions that support the town's economy.

Offer visitors and residents **clear, easy and safe access** to recreation amenities through welcoming and **interconnected** parks and open space.

Provide current and future residents with places to gather and recreate that foster positive **recreation experiences** for residents of all ages.

Coke Ovens Open Space

Feedback

Partners, community members and survey respondents provided write-in details about their vision for the future of Coke Ovens Open Space.

Below are the major themes:

More maintenance and upkeep of the leased portion of Coke Ovens Open Space is needed.

Interest in winter recreation is growing and Nordic skiing is favored at the Coke Ovens.

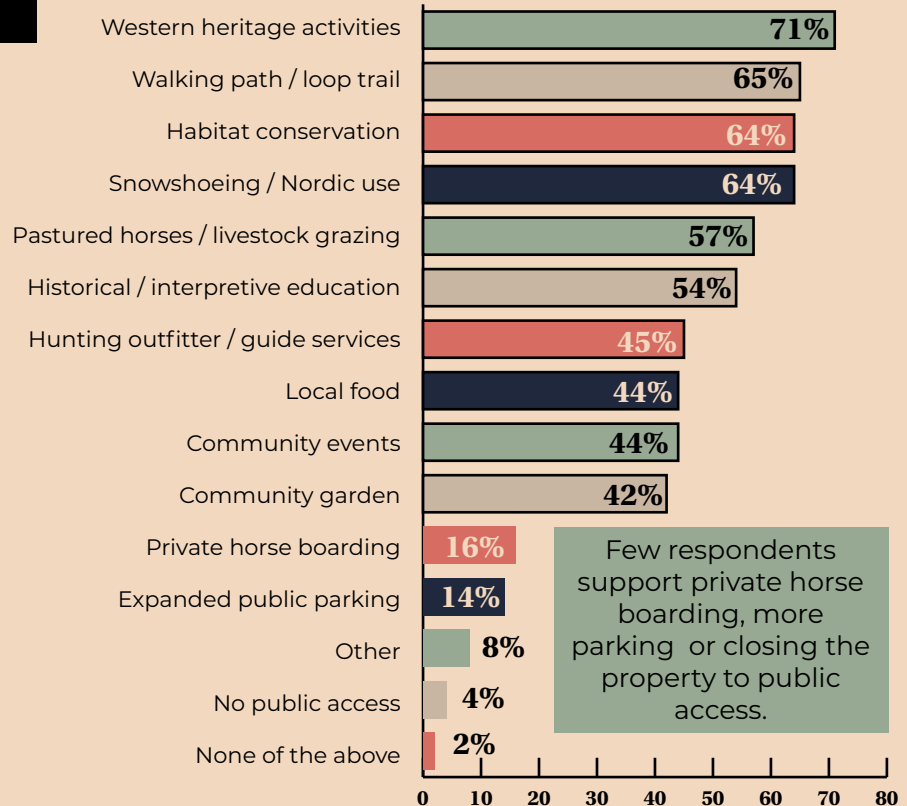
Horseback riding and guided services at the Redstone Stables is appreciated by residents and visitors.

Increase awareness of public access.



Supported uses

on the leased portion of the Open Space according to survey respondents



Few respondents support private horse boarding, more parking or closing the property to public access.

that could be improved) or provide any comments about what they'd like to see in the future for this area, respondents provided 46 write-in comments. All comments were reviewed by staff to identify themes. Most comments pertained to Coke Ovens Open Space, with the following themes emerging (in no particular order):

- More maintenance and upkeep of the leased portion of Coke Ovens Open Space is needed.
- Horseback riding and guided services at Redstone Stables is appreciated by residents and visitors.
- There is growing interest in winter recreation at Coke Ovens Open Space.
- Increase awareness of public access through wayfinding and signage.

Important Qualities

Survey participants were asked to indicate the level of importance of eight attributes of parks and open spaces (identified by staff) on a scale from very important, important, somewhat important to not important.

The natural setting of parks and open spaces ranked high; beauty and protection of scenic views was identified as very important or important to the most respondents (98%); ecology, wildlife habitat and natural resources (97%) and riparian/aquatic health followed close behind.

The character of Redstone and its history was important to 81% of respondents. Community amenities like access/connectivity (73%), recreation (63%) and working lands/agriculture (52%) also ranked high in importance. The least important attribute of parks and open space is their contribution to attracting and supporting tourism (34%).

Special Events

OST permits non-commercial public and private events at Redstone and Elk parks. These include several Redstone Community Association events each year, the Magical Moments concert series, and typically permits three to six private events annually. The parks remain open during private events, which are capped at 75 participants. There is no limit on the number of events. The current level of event use is acceptable to nearly 75% of respondents. The top-cited concern from write-in comments is the impact of events on residents.

Coke Ovens Agricultural Lease

OST has leased a portion of the Coke Ovens Open Space since its purchase in 2016. Continued leasing of this open space is a priority in order to fulfill the land management needs and maintain the property's water rights. Survey respondents were asked to weigh in on the criteria for the selection of future lessees.

The provision of Western heritage activities by a lessee was important to 71% of respondents. This includes activities like horseback riding. Increased public access to the property was of interest to survey respondents; 65% of respondents would like to see a walking path on the property and 64% are interested in winter recreation offerings like snowshoeing and Nordic skiing.

Habitat conservation and continued agricultural uses were also priorities for respondents. There was little support for private horse boarding, more parking or closing the property to public access.

OUTREACH EVENTS

OST staff hosted three outreach events to test management ideas for Redstone parks and open space, with greater attention given to Coke Ovens Open Space because this plan update represents the first management plan for the property. The key ideas for Coke Ovens Open Space presented to the public for feedback include:

- Support new or existing lessees though a long-term lease.
- Limit events on the leased portion of the property.
- Protect portions of high-quality habitat.
- Clarify public access.
- Explore the feasibility of an improved trail and winter recreation offerings.

Feedback on these management ideas was captured through write-in comment cards to validate support or provide an avenue to object. Most comments received were directed at the management ideas for Coke Ovens Open Space. Generally, the comments received, either verbally or in written form, expressed content with the parks and open spaces. The management direction for Coke Ovens Open Space, including changes to events, also received broad support.

DRAFT PLAN COMMENT PERIOD

To be completed



4.4 RELEVANT PLANS AND POLICIES

PITKIN COUNTY

Title 12 of the Pitkin County Code

All properties and trails managed by Pitkin County Open Space and Trails are subject to regulations set forth in Title 12 of the Pitkin County Code. Individual properties may be subject to additional terms established in their respective management plans.

Open Space Board Policies

Protection of Natural Biodiversity and Management of Human Use (adopted in 2016)

This Open Space Board policy requires that human uses on OST properties be managed in a manner that preserves and protects native biodiversity. The OST program seeks to rely on the best available science to guide management decisions, inform specialized habitat management needs and identify opportunities to restore healthy, natural functions in degraded habitats.

Agriculture Policy and Process (adopted in 2022)

Pitkin County Open Space and Trails (OST) has acquired several properties with an active agricultural component, including Coke Ovens Open Space. The purpose of the Agriculture Policy and Process is to guide OST staff in selecting an appropriate tenant, or lessee, to manage OST fee-owned lands in a transparent and consistent manner and develop goals for the agricultural program. This policy and process, including the stated goals, procurement process, lease selection committee and evaluation criteria, apply to Coke Ovens Open Space and its lessee(s).

2014 Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Signage Design Guidelines

The 2014 Signage Design Guidelines are an update to the Trail Design and Management Handbook. The update covers materials, graphics, types, templates, installation and maintenance for signs on Pitkin County Open Space and Trails properties.

2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Management Plan

The 2010 Management Plan provided an important foundational framework for long-term management of Redstone and Elk parks, and Redstone Boulders Open Space.

The vision and planning themes in the 2010 plan addressed recreation, ecological restoration, education and wildlife habitat. Management actions were derived from the vision created by community input. The actions that have been accomplished are the result of community collaboration to provide recreation amenities for the benefit of the public.

2018 Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail Plan [Redstone to McClure Trail]

In 2018, Open Space and Trails completed an engineering and environmental study of potential trail segments within the Crystal Valley that could connect to an existing trail network extending to Crested Butte. The study evaluates the potential alignments and feasibility of connecting the existing Crystal Trail to the top of McClure Pass with a safe, non-motorized path.

Following the Board of County Commissioners' and Open Space and Trails Board's direction, an Environmental Assessment has been undertaken by the Forest Service for the trail connection between Redstone and the top of McClure Pass. A final decision from the Forest Service is forthcoming (as of July 2023). If approved, OST will begin next steps to determine the appropriate trail width and character along this segment, which not only serves the regional trail needs of the Crystal Valley Trail, but also provides local trail connectivity for the neighborhoods south of Redstone and a connection to Hayes Falls. It's possible that portions of the Coke Ovens and Drool open spaces adjacent to Hwy. 133 could be utilized to create more separation between the highway and the potential trail, if plans are approved.

STATE OF COLORADO

2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Every five years, Colorado Parks and Wildlife leads development of a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan to maintain eligibility for funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to inform additional investments from other federal, state, local and private programs. Statewide surveys found that Coloradans would prefer recreation providers prioritize:

- Long-term planning and management
- Operation/maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities
- Local, regional and statewide trails

SCORP priorities reflect the current trends, opportunities and challenges facing Colorado's outdoor recreation resources. High levels of involvement to create this plan were required from outdoor recreation stakeholders. Relevant actions include:

- Sustainable Access and Opportunity – Ensure quality access to Colorado's outdoors for all of the state's communities and visitors.
- Stewardship – Build Colorado's commitment to stewardship of the outdoors, improving recreation infrastructure and promoting responsible use of the environment.
- Land, Water and Wildlife Conservation – Increase a conservation ethic for Colorado's outdoors and promote landscape-scale conservation.

Additional Redstone-Area Plans and Natural Resource Studies

The Redstone area lies within the Crystal River Caucus planning area. This caucus functions in a recommendatory role for all matters directly affecting the caucus area.

Crystal Caucus Master Plan (2016)

Several agencies and organizations conduct natural resource studies within the Crystal River Valley. Below is a non-exhaustive list of some of the reports that have been produced with relevance to this planning area.

Roaring Fork Watershed Biodiversity and Connectivity Study (2022, Watershed Biodiversity Initiative)

Crystal River Stream Management Plan (2016, Roaring Fork Conservancy)

Inventory and Assessment of Wildlife Habitat in the Crystal River Valley (2007, Crystal River Caucus Wildlife Task Force)

Stream Health Index (2007, Emerick et al.)

5. Management

5.1 MANAGEMENT GOALS

The 2010 Redstone Parks and Open Space Plan included overall goals that were incorporated into the management of each park and open space. Public input solicited through the 2023 online survey regarding the importance of attributes for the area's parks and open space informed the goals of this plan:

- Preserve wildlife habitat and natural resources and promote resilient riparian areas to enrich water quality and aquatic health.
- Protect the scenic beauty of the historic Town of Redstone and the scenic views of the Crystal River Valley.
- Maintain the culture, history and character of Redstone to enhance the entire community, and protect the historic and community attractions.
- Offer visitors and residents clear, easy and safe access to recreation amenities through welcoming and interconnected parks and open space.
- Provide current and future residents with places to gather and recreate that foster positive recreation experiences for residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

5.2 REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

Regulations and commercial/special-use policies seek to protect biodiversity and maintain natural resource values, while allowing public access.

TITLE 12

Title 12, Section-04-030 of the Pitkin County code outlines the “Rules Regarding Public Use of Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Program.” These rules apply to all Open Space assets unless otherwise superseded by easement language, management plans or other board direction and include, but are not limited to:

- dogs must be leashed at all times and waste disposed of in a trash receptacle,
- a valid fishing license is required,
- no camping,
- no hunting,
- no campfires,
- no entry into closed areas,
- no discharging of firearms,
- no fireworks,
- no drones,
- no littering, no harassment of wildlife, etc.

Coal Creek as it meanders along the northern property line of Coke Ovens Open Space.





The natural setting of Redstone parks and open space ranked highly.

Beauty and protection of scenic views was identified as the most important attribute of Redstone parks and open space, according to the online survey responses. Wildlife habitat and natural resources were the second most important attribute and riparian/aquatic health followed close behind in third.

MEMORIAL POLICY

All memorials placed on Pitkin County Open Space and Trails (OST) property and trails are covered by Stewardship Policy #8, which allows for individual management plans to determine the memorial policy for individual properties. For the properties included in this plan, new memorials are limited to memorial tree plantings in the Elk Park Commemorative Grove and accompanying plaques within the depot.

SPECIAL AND COMMERCIAL-USE REGULATIONS

The following regulations apply to individual parcels in addition to OST's **general conditions** for all special use of parks and open space. Permit applications are available on the county's Open Space and Trails web page.

Research and Education

Environmental education programs and research are permitted at parks and open space in Redstone, subject to approval by OST. Such uses are not considered commercial.

Redstone and Elk parks

OST allows the use of Redstone and Elk parks for community events that are open to the public, as well as private events. The following regulations apply to Redstone and Elk parks:

Commercial Use

No commercial activity is allowed at Redstone and Elk parks.

Public Events

Redstone Community Association Events (RCA):

Permits from OST are not required for RCA-organized events at Redstone and Elk parks that are free and open to the public. These community events shall be coordinated with OST as soon as dates and times are known. A permit may be required to comply with the Pitkin County Special-Use Permit process.

Other Community Events: Community-organized events that are free and open to the public, such as the current summer concert series, that use Redstone Park or Elks Park are required to obtain a permit from OST. A permit may also be required to comply with the Pitkin County Special-Use Permit process.



Shade Structures: Temporary shade canopies of up to 10-by-10 feet in size may be allowed on a case-by-case basis at Redstone and Elk parks. No anchor stakes, tents or other structures are permitted.

Light and Sound: Electrified lighting or amplified sound may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

Private Events

An OST permit is required for private events involving more than 20 participants in either Redstone Park or Elk Park. Applications are available through the county's website. Guidelines for private use of the parks are as follows:

- Private events are limited to 75 people
- No private events at the parks during Memorial Day weekend, July Fourth or Labor Day weekend.
- Community-organized events have first priority. OST staff will consult with the RCA on the proposed use.
- Tents or other shelters are not allowed.
- Event parking will be at Elk Park.
- All events must end by 9 pm and be cleaned up that night.
- No electrified lighting or amplified sound.
- Catered food, that is not for sale, is permitted, however preparation equipment is not allowed within the parks.

Coke Ovens Open Space

Commercial Use

No commercial use is permitted with the exception of those uses established pursuant to the annual operating plan associated with the agricultural lease area.

Special Uses and Events

Historic Coke Ovens Conservation Easement: A conservation easement held by Aspen Valley Land Trust encumbers a 14-acre portion of Coke Ovens Open Space, including the historic coke ovens and public parking area. The easement allows for community events arranged by RCA or a similar organization, subject to a special-use permit from OST. This easement also allows for commercial access to the stables/leased portion of the property.

Leased Agricultural Area: To ensure that agricultural and ranching activities are the primary focus of Coke Ovens Open Space, events within the boundaries of the lease area will be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to the following parameters:

- Events must be hosted by or coordinated directly with the lessee.
- Any event involving over 15 people is required to obtain a Special Use Permit from Pitkin County OST and comply with Pitkin County's special event regulations.
- Public and private events are limited to those that are consistent with OST's mission.
- Up to six events are allowed annually.
- Considerations for the issuance of permits will include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - » Duration, reoccurrence and seasonal distribution.
 - » Parking capacity (limited to Coke Ovens Open Space and Elk Park).
 - » Agricultural and natural resource impacts.

The Drool Open Space

Commercially guided ice climbing is allowed at the Drool with a permit from OST. No other special or commercial uses are permitted.



Map 12. Coke Ovens Open Space Special and Commercial Use

Redstone Boulders

A restrictive covenant exists on the majority of this open space that limits the amount of use on the property. No special or commercial use is allowed on the property, with the exception of the following:

- Environmental education programs, approved by OST.
- Research on the property, approved by OST.
- Commercial outfitters accessing the East Creek Trail. Details on parking commercial horse trailers shall be coordinated with OST.

Sawmill Hill Open Space

No special or commercial use is allowed on Sawmill Hill.



On a 5-star scale, Redstone parks and open space received a 4.4- star rating.

High rates of satisfaction with the quality and condition of parks and open space amenities were reported by survey respondents.

Over half of respondents reported satisfaction with all but two of the park and open space amenities included in the survey. Trash receptacles and dog-waste stations were subjects of dissatisfaction.

Community gathering spaces topped the list of satisfaction. Summer recreation amenities, trails, river access and parking areas all received satisfaction rates of over 70%.

5.3 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Actions listed in this plan build on those from 2010 and are guided by ecological studies and research, partner comments and public feedback. Management actions and associated projects look to advance multiple benefits to natural resources, recreation, agriculture, historic resources, stewardship and maintenance. In the following pages, management actions are listed with descriptions of the desired outcomes. Where appropriate, the proposed steps or additional details toward progress are stated below each action.

OVERALL

Action 1.

Maintain and promote healthy, resilient forests.

Proposed Steps:

- Fulfill the recommendations from the forthcoming, systemwide forest health assessment and plan, which encompasses a number of OST properties, including Sawmill Hill.

Action 2.

Conduct a coordinated review of Redstone-area parks and open space wayfinding signage.

Desired Outcome: Increase awareness of connectivity of parks and open spaces.

Proposed Steps:

- Review visibility of wayfinding signs from Hwy. 133.
- Replace outdated signs at Redstone Boulders and Elk Park to comply with OST's Sign Design Guidelines.
- Install OST signs at Coke Oven Open Space.
- Address signs that are out of compliance with the easement held by Aspen Valley Land Trust and county sign standards at the historic coke ovens and along Hwy. 133.
- Coordinate wayfinding signs from Redstone Boulevard to Redstone Campground with Forest Service.

Action 3.

Monitor condition and use of all riparian parcels.

Desired Outcome: Monitor changes over time to prevent impacts to the riparian vegetation.

Proposed Steps:

- Identify angling locations and current extent of the area used by the public at Redstone Beach.
- Continue to track parking counts at the Redstone Beach through ranger observations and other sources, as available.
- Monitor impacts of rivers use.
- Ensure angling access to OST riparian properties and easements.

Action 4.

Work with partners to establish a multi-modal trail connection between Redstone and the top of McClure Pass.

Desired Outcome:

Portions of the Drool and/or Coke Ovens properties adjacent to Hwy. 133 and/or on existing platforms may be utilized for the potential Redstone to McClure Pass Trail in order to allow for additional space between potential trail improvements and the highway. If this trail is approved, it would provide safety improvements for multi-modal transportation, connecting Hayes Falls and residential subdivisions south of Redstone to the town's commercial core.

Action 5.

Continue to support education opportunities such as public tours and school programming with Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) or similar groups.

Desired Outcome: Park use among a variety of user groups and age groups is supported. Participation is incentivized by permitting some limited off-trail use at open spaces for educational tours.

Action 6.

Explore opportunities to add dog-waste stations in coordination with the Redstone Community Association.

Action 7.

Control noxious weeds as required by the State of Colorado.

Desired Outcome: State-listed noxious weeds are controlled.

ELK PARK

Management Intent

Elk Park provides public outdoor space and access to the Crystal River. It also serves as a stopping point for interpretive education along the West Elk Scenic and Historic Byway and provides parking for Redstone visitors. Improvements to the park were completed in 2015, per the 2010 management plan.

Maintenance

Routine maintenance of the park amenities are performed by OST. Removal of trash is contracted through the Redstone Community Association.

REDSTONE PARK

Management Intent

Redstone Park provides an essential amenity to the unincorporated community of Redstone. It protects the natural character, provides play spaces, gathering space and year-round restrooms for residents and visitors. Improvements to the park were completed in 2023, per the 2010 management plan.

Maintenance

Routine maintenance of the park is performed by OST. Removal of trash and cleaning of the restrooms is contracted through the Redstone Community Association.

COKE OVENS OPEN SPACE

Management Intent

Coke Ovens Open Space protects significant historic resources, riparian habitat and supports continued agricultural and ranching purposes.

Action 1.

Establish a long-term lease at the Coke Ovens Open Space through the Agricultural Lease Policy.

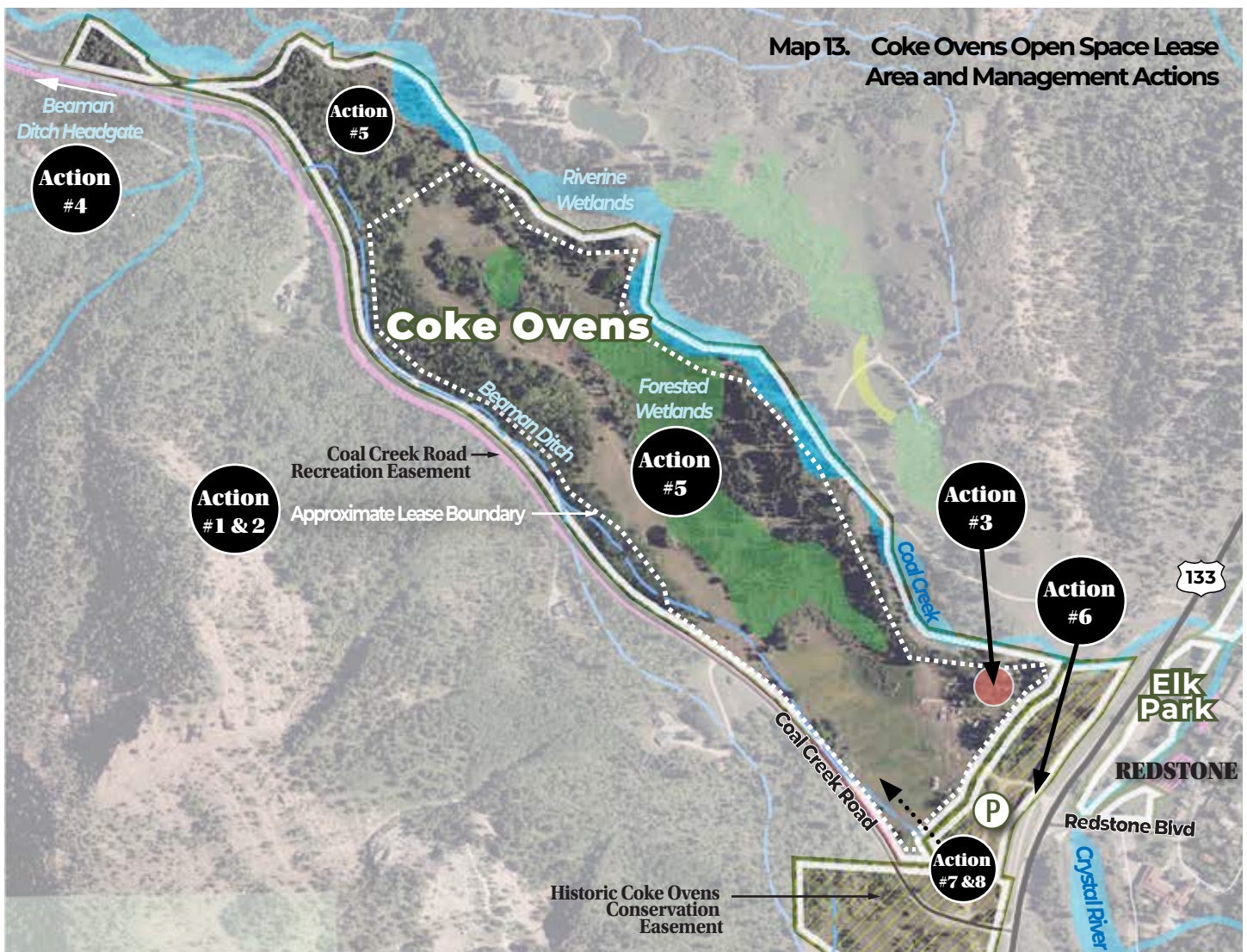
Desired Outcome: Continue responsible use of the pastures for agricultural activities, per the guidelines of OST's Agricultural Policy and Process. Utilize water for beneficial use to maintain water rights.

Lessee selection criteria:

- In addition to the evaluation criteria listed in the Agricultural Policy and Process, priority consideration in the lessee selection process will be given to those that can provide one or more of the following:
 - » General maintenance and upkeep of the property (see Action 2)
 - » Western heritage activities (horseback rides, chuck-wagon dinners, etc.)
 - » Pastured horses and livestock grazing
 - » Outfitter / guide services
 - » Local food production
 - » Year-round presence

Action 2.

Require maintenance of leased portions of Coke Ovens Open Space.



Desired Outcome: Ensure leased portion of Coke Ovens Open Space is maintained in a safe, clean and attractive condition at all times.

Maintenance requirements:

- In addition to property management obligations outlined in the Agricultural Policy and Process, maintenance responsibilities in the lease area will require:
 - » Leased areas shall be kept free of trash, litter, weeds, unused machinery and other such materials or plants.
 - » Maintenance of existing structures.
 - » Cleaning of abutting waterways and landscaped areas lying between open space and the leased portion of the property.
 - » Use of certified weed-free hay.
 - » Maintaining fencing to control livestock and any temporary cross fencing.
 - » Exercise water rights and monitor water usage.
- Failure to maintain the property appearance and landscaping will be a violation and applicable penalties will be imposed.
- OST will be responsible for noxious weeds within 3 feet of either side of a public trail.

Action 3.

Allow for on-site housing to facilitate stewardship of the leased area.

Desired Outcome: Lessee is able to provide self-contained housing for full-time staff.

Requirements:

- Housing for the lessee and/or full-time employees may be permitted on-site through the county's Seasonal Farmworker Housing Policy.
- Self-contained units must be located in the established area identified in the lease agreement.
- Maintenance requirements and upkeep consistent with Action 2.

Action 4.

Improve irrigation ditches and infrastructure.

Desired Outcome: The current ditch and headgate could be improved for more efficient delivery.

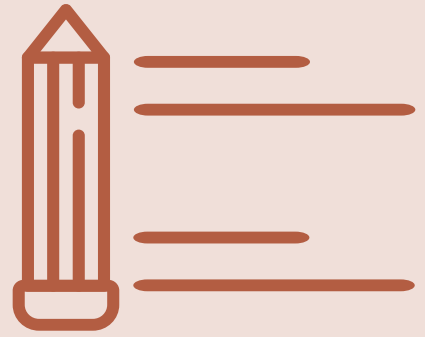
Proposed Steps:

- Evaluate the main ditch and headgate for improvements, including piping and in-stream improvements.
- Concurrently, evaluate appropriate areas of the property to convert current irrigation to more efficient systems, such as overhead or gated pipe.
- Assess and monitor impacts of irrigation changes and adapt as needed.

Action 5.

Maintain and enhance wildlife habitat values and ecological health.

Desired Outcome: Native plants are present, healthy and providing ecosystem services, and there are minimal impacts to wildlife movement within and across the property.



Residents and visitors enjoy the Western heritage activities that Coke Ovens Open Space supports.

Activities like horseback rides and chuck-wagon dinners were appreciated by 71% of survey respondents and over half support pastured horses and livestock grazing.

More maintenance and general upkeep of the leased portion of Coke Ovens Open Space is needed, according to the top-cited concern in the write-in comments to the online survey.

Proposed Steps:

- Evaluate existing fencing and amend as appropriate to minimize impacts to wildlife movement, via fence removal and/or conversion to wildlife-friendly fencing where appropriate.
- Facilitate continued wildlife use of the Coal Creek riparian corridor by establishing recreation and agricultural boundaries and/or habitat enhancements.
- Protect the portions of higher-quality habitat along Coal Creek and the upper end of the property by limiting the agricultural lease area.
- Ensure non-leased or underutilized agricultural pasturelands provide habitat such as forage, cover and access to water via plantings or other ecological restoration activities. Leased agricultural areas may also be considered in collaboration with lessee.

Action 6.

Evaluate potential to direct Coke Ovens vehicular access to Coal Creek Road.

Desired Outcome: Convert public entrance through the middle of the coke ovens to public space to protect and prevent damage to the historic resource and improve safety of access from Hwy. 133.

Align with conservation easement: The easement covering the historic coke ovens encourages reclamation and revegetation of the portion of the property located through the center of the two rows of ovens, currently used for vehicular access to the parking area and the stables. It also supports and authorizes the closure of this access point to vehicular traffic.

Proposed Steps:

- Landscape the disturbed area of the existing entrance and implement a 'no parking' area in front of Coke Ovens.

Action 7.

Formalize a seasonal public, natural-surface walking path/route.

Desired Outcome: Provide an opportunity for the public to experience the open space and offer a beginner/moderate area trail. Concentrate public access in a way that is compatible with agricultural and wildlife use.

Use limitations:

- Avoid high use/critical wildlife areas and timeframes.
- Pedestrian/foot traffic only.
- No dogs.
- Establish an access point that is compatible with agricultural/livestock operations.
- Install regulatory and wayfinding signage.
- Winter recreation is not permitted on the coke ovens property, due to winter habitat needs.

THE DROOL OPEN SPACE

The Drool Open Space protects the scenic character of the area and access to the ice-climbing feature, known as “the Drool.” Informal recreational access to the climbing feature is allowed; steep slopes provide a dramatic visual backdrop and limit the necessity of additional management.

REDSTONE BOULDERS OPEN SPACE

Redstone Boulders Open Space provides a natural corridor between national forest lands east of Redstone to the Crystal River and offers public access to bouldering features and public lands.

Action 1.

Remove unnecessary fencing.

Desired Outcome: Minimize impacts to wildlife movement.

Action 2.

Conduct a baseline inventory of access routes at Redstone Boulders.

Desired Outcome: Determine if resource impacts indicate the need to manage use.

Proposed Steps:

- Monitor user-created routes and visitor-use impacts.

SAWMILL HILL OPEN SPACE

Sawmill Hill protects steep forested slopes and offers seasonal public access to an ice-climbing feature, known as “The Pillar.”

Action 1.

Continue to work with private property owners to clarify/improve winter public access to “the Pillar.”

Desired Outcome: Provide clear and direct access to this recreational opportunity.

Proposed Steps:

- Pursue coordinated access with area landowners.

OST’s overall philosophy and approach to managing natural resources now, and in the future, is to foster resiliency of the natural ecosystem – support the health and function of local ecosystems so that native flora, fauna and natural processes can persist and adapt in a changing world.



6. Implementation

Working together with partners, OST is directed to implement the 2023 management plan efficiently and effectively. Management actions, detailed in **Section 5**, will directly inform OST work plans over time and provide ways of communicating progress to the public, the Open Space and Trails Board and Board of County Commissioners. The following tables provide timing, partners and anticipated costs for the implementation of management and maintenance actions identified in this plan.



KEY	
\$	<\$10,000
\$	\$10,000 - \$75,000
\$	>\$75,000
Short-Term	0-5 years
Long-term	5+ years
Ongoing	Annual / routine

Anticipated costs represent a range of possible expenditures, subject to change over time.

OVERALL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS		TIME FRAME	PARTNERS	BUDGET
OA.1	Maintain and promote healthy, resilient forests.	Long-term	OST, USFS	Associated costs to not known at this time.
OA.2	Conduct a coordinated review of Redstone-area parks and open space wayfinding signage.	Short-term	OST, Pitkin County Community Development, CDOT, Coke Ovens Lessee	\$
OA.3	Monitor condition and use of all riparian parcels.	Ongoing	OST	\$
OA.4	Work with partners to establish a multi-modal trail connection between Redstone and the top of McClure Pass.	Ongoing	OST, USFS, CDOT	Associated costs not known at this time
OA.5	Continue to support education opportunities such as public tours and school programming with Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) or similar groups.	Ongoing	OST, RFC, Others	N/A
OA.6	Explore opportunities to add dog-waste stations in coordination with the Redstone Community Association.	Short-term and ongoing	OST, RCA	Associated costs included in annual contract.
OA.7	Control noxious weeds as required by the State of Colorado.	Ongoing	OST	
Anticipated investment approximately \$40,000 to \$105,000				

ELK PARK MANAGEMENT

INTENT	Provide public outdoor space, parking and access to the Crystal River. Serve as a stopping point for interpretive education along the West Elk Scenic and Historic Byway and provide parking for Redstone-area events.
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REDSTONE PARK MANAGEMENT

INTENT	Provide an essential amenity to the community of Redstone. Protect the natural character, provide play spaces and serve as a gathering space for residents and visitors.
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THE DROOL OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

INTENT	Protect access to the ice climbing feature known as “the Drool” and the scenic character of the area.
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COKE OVENS OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS		TIME FRAME	PARTNERS	BUDGET
INTENT	Protect significant historic resources, riparian habitat and support continued agricultural and ranching purposes.			
CO.1	Establish a long-term lease at Coke Ovens Open Space through the Agricultural Lease Policy.	Short- and long-term	OST, Coke Ovens Lessee	N/A
CO.3	Require maintenance and noxious weed control of leased portions of Coke Ovens Open Space.	Ongoing	Coke Ovens Lessee	N/A
CO.4	Allow self-contained on-site housing needs to facilitate stewardship of the leased area.	Ongoing	Coke Ovens Lessee	N/A
CO.5	Improve irrigation ditches and infrastructure.	Short-term	Coke Ovens Lessee, OST	\$\$
CO.6	Maintain and enhance wildlife habitat values and ecological health.	Ongoing	OST, adjacent land owners	\$ - \$\$
CO.7	Evaluate potential to direct Coke Ovens vehicular access to Coal Creek Road.	Long-term	OST, AVLT, Redstone Historical Society, Coke Ovens Lessee	\$\$\$
CO.8	Formalize a public, natural-surface, walking trail/route.	Short-term	OST	\$
Anticipated investment approximately \$250,000 to \$750,000				

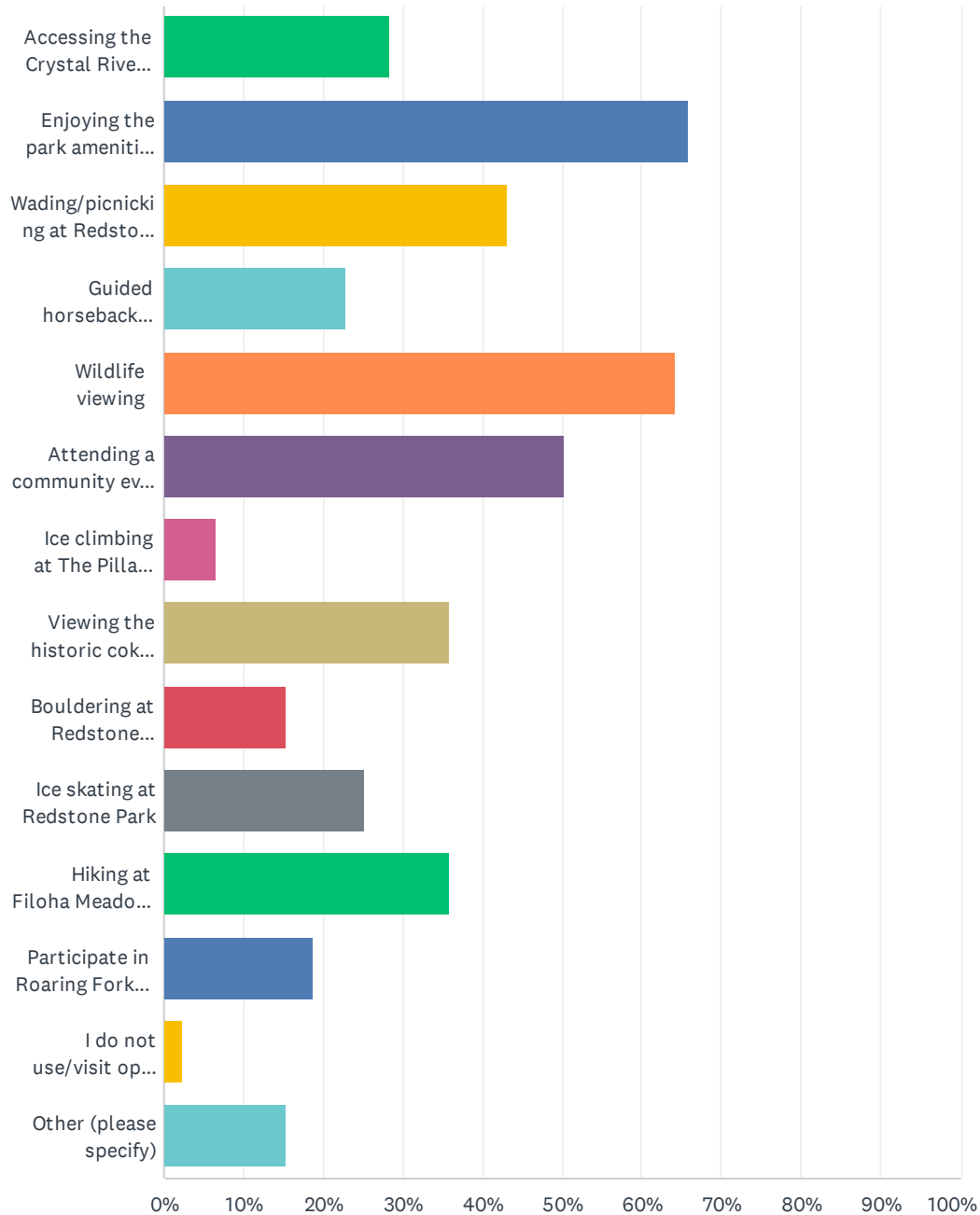
REDSTONE BOULDERS OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS		TIME FRAME	PARTNERS	BUDGET
INTENT	Provide a natural corridor between national forest lands west of Redstone and the Crystal River, and offer public access to bouldering features and public lands.			
RB.1	Remove unnecessary fencing at Redstone Boulders.	Short-term	OST, volunteers	\$
RB.2	Conduct a baseline inventory of bouldering locations and access routes at Redstone Boulders.	Short-term and ongoing	OST, USFS	\$
Anticipated investment approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000				

SAWMILL HILL OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS		TIME FRAME	PARTNERS	BUDGET
INTENT	Protects steep, forested slopes and offers public access to an ice-climbing feature known as “the Pillar.”			
SH.1	Continue to work with private property owners to clarify/improve winter public access to “the Pillar.”	Ongoing	OST, adjacent landowners	Associated costs not known at this time
Anticipated investment N/A				



Q1 What is the way you most frequently experience parks and open space in the Redstone area? Select all that apply.

Answered: 123 Skipped: 0



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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Accessing the Crystal River for fishing	28.46%	35
Enjoying the park amenities at Elk or Redstone Park (playground, walking paths, picnic areas, etc)	65.85%	81
Wading/picnicking at Redstone Beach	43.09%	53
Guided horseback riding at Coke Ovens Open Space	22.76%	28
Wildlife viewing	64.23%	79
Attending a community event in Redstone (Summer concerts, Fourth of July, etc.)	50.41%	62
Ice climbing at The Pillar or The Drool	6.50%	8
Viewing the historic coke ovens at Coke Ovens Open Space	35.77%	44
Bouldering at Redstone Boulders	15.45%	19
Ice skating at Redstone Park	25.20%	31
Hiking at Filoha Meadows Nature Preserve	35.77%	44
Participate in Roaring Fork Conservancy Filoha Meadows Educational Program	18.70%	23
I do not use/visit open spaces or parks in the Redstone area	2.44%	3
Other (please specify)	15.45%	19
Total Respondents: 123		

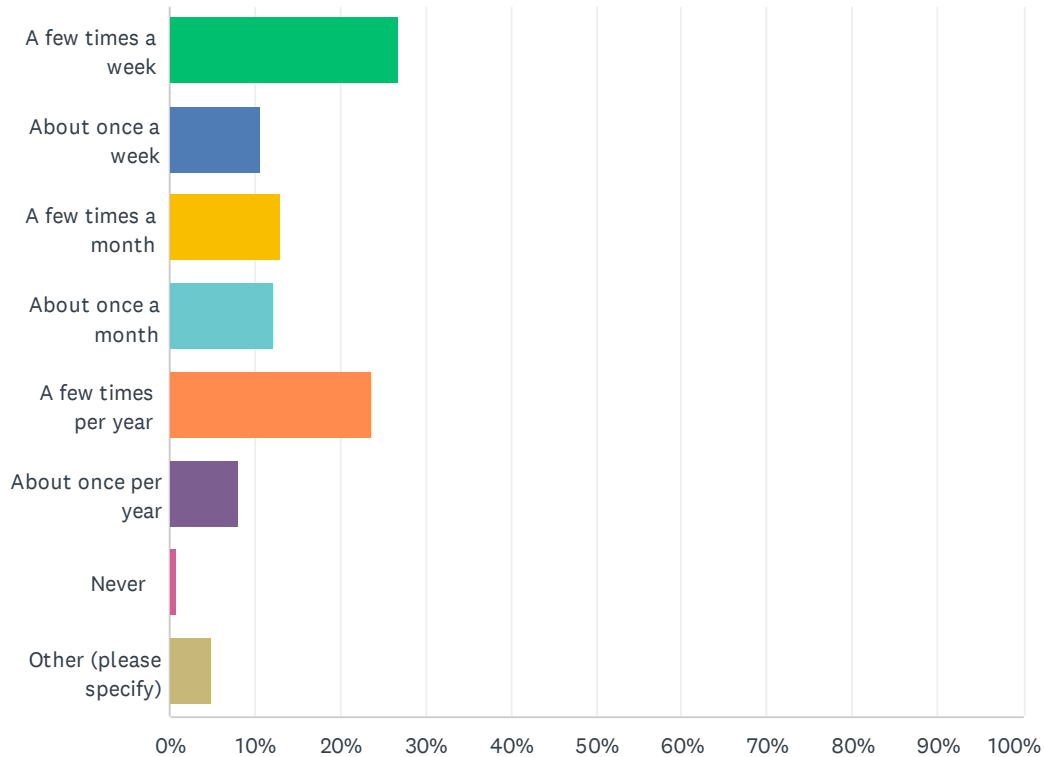
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Connecting numerous OS properties (paths and trails) and county roads/federal lands via trails and roads as a combined network. Moving through OS properties to access other agency lands.	5/15/2023 9:09 PM
2	Hunting!!	5/15/2023 9:04 PM
3	Hiking/recreating in all areas	5/15/2023 8:43 AM
4	I appreciate that we are limiting the human impact on nature in Redstone. I am inspired to protect and conserve the environment everyday in Redstone.	5/14/2023 9:22 PM
5	Guided fall hunting at Coke Ovens Open Space	5/14/2023 6:27 AM
6	Hunting with Avalanche Outfitters	5/12/2023 5:50 PM
7	hiking, Boulders Trails and most of the other trails in our valley.	5/12/2023 4:52 PM
8	Trail riding at avalanche Outfitters	5/12/2023 1:48 PM
9	Fall elk hunting	5/12/2023 12:20 PM
10	Eating at Propaganda Pie	5/12/2023 11:37 AM
11	Horse back riding and hunting out of the stables behind the coke ovens	5/12/2023 11:13 AM
12	Our family has gone to a Filoha Meadows Program. It was great, so we plan to go again	5/11/2023 8:22 AM
13	We actually live in redstone	4/28/2023 3:24 PM
14	personal horseback riding on the trails around the Redstone area	4/22/2023 2:47 PM
15	Biking to Redstone Beach	4/19/2023 9:32 AM
16	I live in Redstone and often take walks and enjoy our local nature in all of these spaces!	4/18/2023 7:44 AM
17	We live directly across the river from Filoha Meadows.	4/18/2023 7:28 AM

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18	Biking (hopefully) on the not so distant into the future bike trail from BRB to McClure pass	4/17/2023 9:02 PM
19	Using Avalanche Outfitters as Guide and their services to access surrounding wilderness and national forest during the hunting seasons	4/17/2023 2:02 PM

Q2 How frequently do you visit a park or open space in the Redstone Area?

Answered: 123 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A few times a week	26.83%	33
About once a week	10.57%	13
A few times a month	13.01%	16
About once a month	12.20%	15
A few times per year	23.58%	29
About once per year	8.13%	10
Never	0.81%	1
Other (please specify)	4.88%	6
TOTAL		123

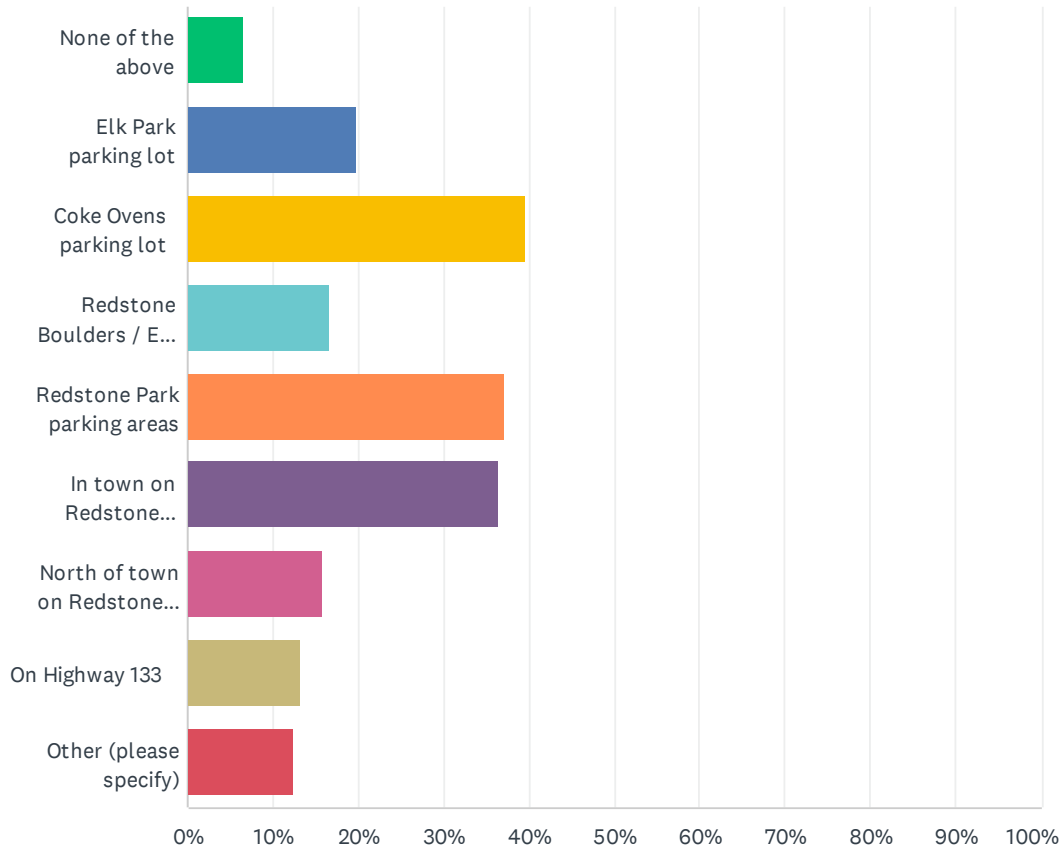
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Everyday. I live in Redstone.	5/14/2023 9:22 PM
2	Daily	5/13/2023 7:53 AM
3	a few times a month, summer only	5/10/2023 12:01 PM

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4	Daily we live there	4/26/2023 9:24 PM
5	daily being I live here on the Blvd.	4/18/2023 11:31 AM
6	5 to 6 months of the year	4/17/2023 2:31 PM

Q3 What parking areas do you most frequently use to access a park or open space in the Redstone Area? Select all that apply.

Answered: 121 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	6.61%	8
Elk Park parking lot	19.83%	24
Coke Ovens parking lot	39.67%	48
Redstone Boulders / East Creek parking area	16.53%	20
Redstone Park parking areas	37.19%	45
In town on Redstone Boulevard	36.36%	44
North of town on Redstone Boulevard, near the Redstone Beach	15.70%	19
On Highway 133	13.22%	16
Other (please specify)	12.40%	15
Total Respondents: 121		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
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1	typically access OST properties by foot or bike; occasionally drive to the beach with visitors or gear	5/15/2023 9:09 PM
2	Carpooled from high school to Filoha Meadows for the field trip	5/14/2023 5:35 PM
3	The Drool openspace	5/14/2023 2:32 PM
4	I am a Redstone Boulevard resident and primarily access the park spaces by foot.	5/13/2023 7:53 AM
5	Home	5/13/2023 4:10 AM
6	By the Inn, bottom of the road on the left of the Inn	5/12/2023 4:52 PM
7	Avalanche Outfitters	5/12/2023 1:48 PM
8	We usually ride bikes down to the park or the concerts	5/11/2023 8:22 AM
9	we have a home and live full time in Redstone, so have own parking	4/28/2023 3:24 PM
10	my driveway	4/28/2023 11:39 AM
11	Walk from residence	4/28/2023 11:02 AM
12	Our home	4/26/2023 9:24 PM
13	My private driveway	4/18/2023 8:34 PM
14	Redstone stables Coke ovens	4/17/2023 2:31 PM
15	I live on Redstone Blvd and walk.	4/17/2023 6:11 AM

Q4 Please rate your experience during your typical visit to a Redstone park or open space.

Answered: 93 Skipped: 30

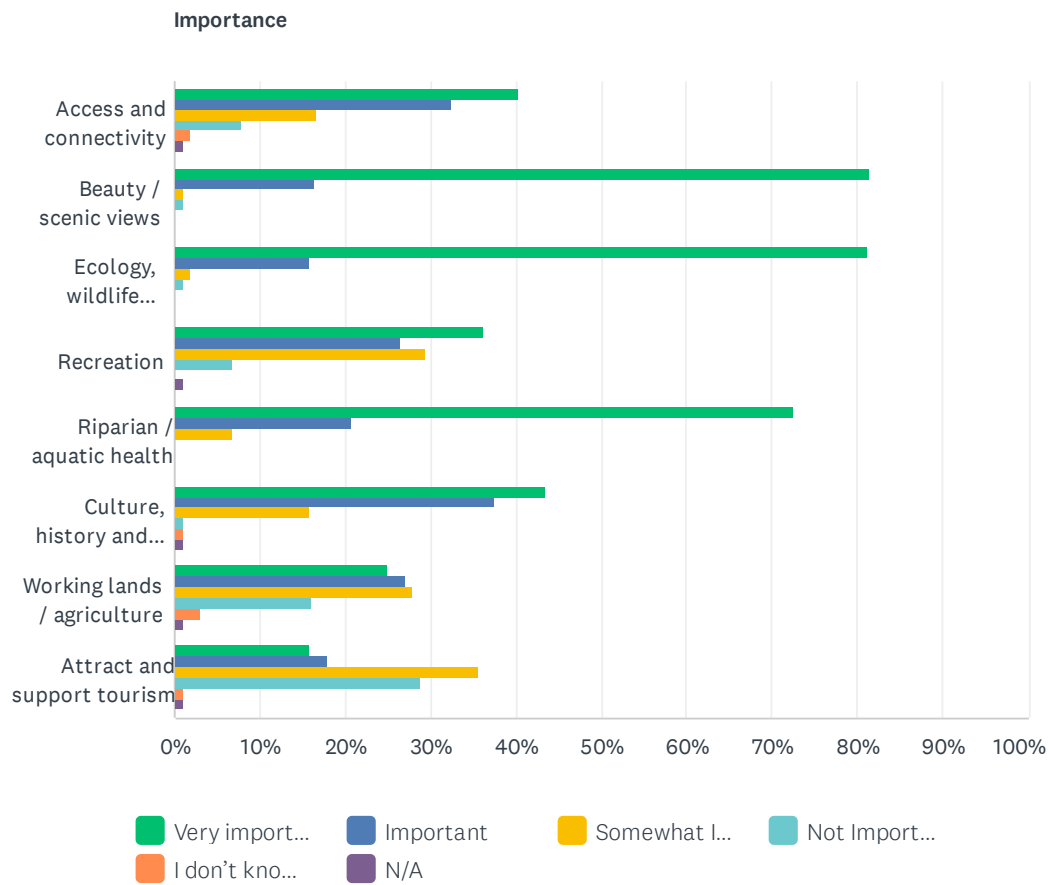
4.4★
average rating



	POOR	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	EXCELLENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10.75% 10	40.86% 38	48.39% 45	93	4.38

Q5 Please indicate how important each of the following attributes of the Redstone parks and open space are to you.

Answered: 103 Skipped: 20



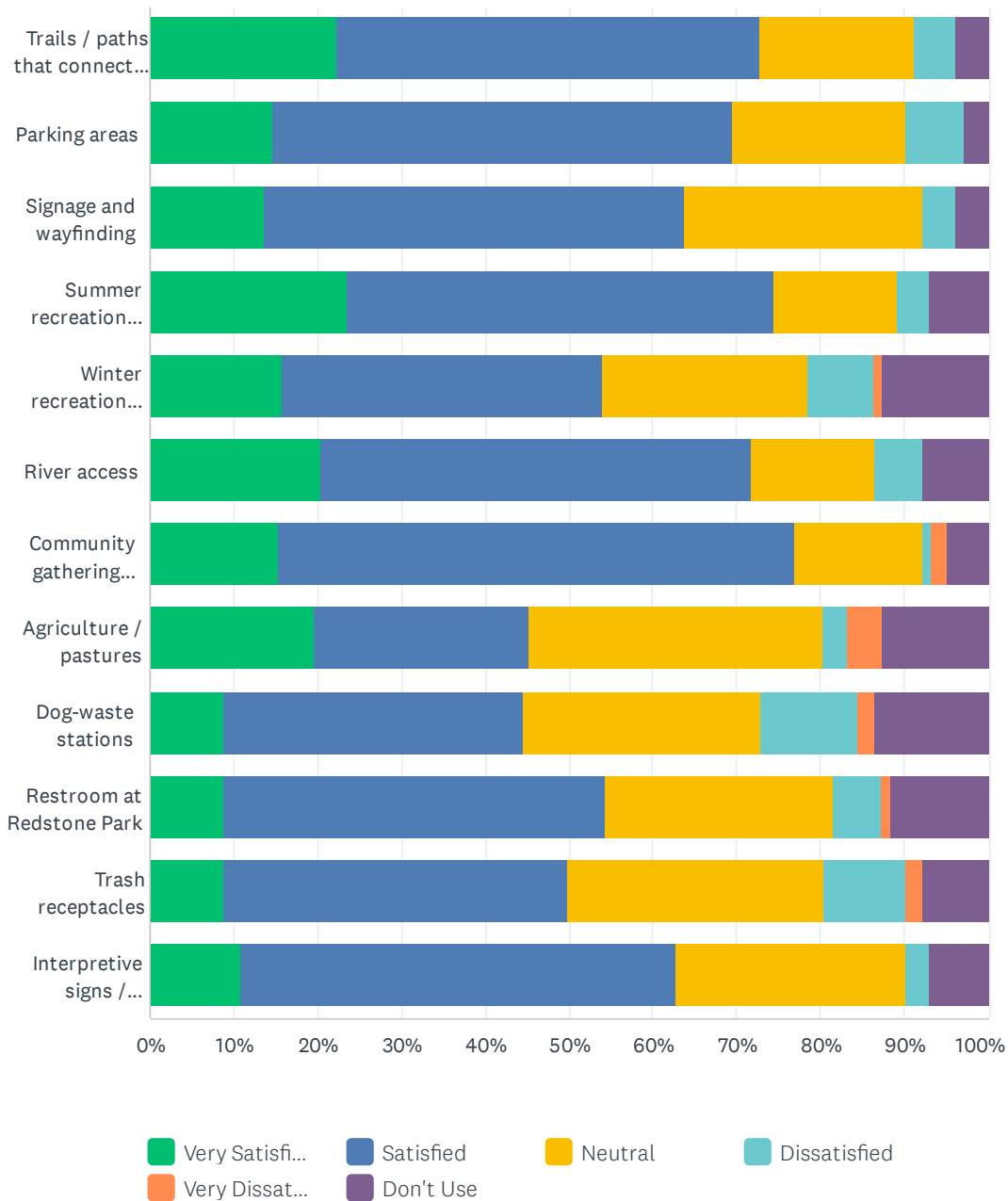
Redstone Area Management Plans – 2023 Update

Importance							
	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	I DON'T KNOW, I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT	N/A	TOTAL
Access and connectivity	40.20% 41	32.35% 33	16.67% 17	7.84% 8	1.96% 2	0.98% 1	102
Beauty / scenic views	81.55% 84	16.50% 17	0.97% 1	0.97% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	103
Ecology, wildlife habitat and natural resources	81.19% 82	15.84% 16	1.98% 2	0.99% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	101
Recreation	36.27% 37	26.47% 27	29.41% 30	6.86% 7	0.00% 0	0.98% 1	102
Riparian / aquatic health	72.55% 74	20.59% 21	6.86% 7	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	102
Culture, history and character of Redstone	43.56% 44	37.62% 38	15.84% 16	0.99% 1	0.99% 1	0.99% 1	101
Working lands / agriculture	25.00% 25	27.00% 27	28.00% 28	16.00% 16	3.00% 3	1.00% 1	100
Attract and support tourism	15.84% 16	17.82% 18	35.64% 36	28.71% 29	0.99% 1	0.99% 1	101

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	We, as residents would like to pasture our horses on the Coke oven property	4/22/2023 2:57 PM
2	Increasing visitation to the area is a big mistake.	5/2/2023 4:42 PM
3	Elk hunting base camp is #1 reason	5/12/2023 9:24 PM
4	Conservation and limit human impact on nature and wildlife is very important to me	5/14/2023 9:24 PM
5	The stables are a cool part of this.	5/15/2023 4:08 PM

Q6 How would you rate your satisfaction with the quality and condition of each of the following Redstone park and open space amenities managed by OST?

Answered: 105 Skipped: 18



Redstone Area Management Plans – 2023 Update

	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NEUTRAL	DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	DON'T USE	TOTAL
Trails / paths that connect places	22.33% 23	50.49% 52	18.45% 19	4.85% 5	0.00% 0	3.88% 4	103
Parking areas	14.71% 15	54.90% 56	20.59% 21	6.86% 7	0.00% 0	2.94% 3	102
Signage and wayfinding	13.73% 14	50.00% 51	28.43% 29	3.92% 4	0.00% 0	3.92% 4	102
Summer recreation amenities	23.53% 24	50.98% 52	14.71% 15	3.92% 4	0.00% 0	6.86% 7	102
Winter recreation amenities	15.69% 16	38.24% 39	24.51% 25	7.84% 8	0.98% 1	12.75% 13	102
River access	20.39% 21	51.46% 53	14.56% 15	5.83% 6	0.00% 0	7.77% 8	103
Community gathering spaces	15.38% 16	61.54% 64	15.38% 16	0.96% 1	1.92% 2	4.81% 5	104
Agriculture / pastures	19.61% 20	25.49% 26	35.29% 36	2.94% 3	3.92% 4	12.75% 13	102
Dog-waste stations	8.74% 9	35.92% 37	28.16% 29	11.65% 12	1.94% 2	13.59% 14	103
Restroom at Redstone Park	8.74% 9	45.63% 47	27.18% 28	5.83% 6	0.97% 1	11.65% 12	103
Trash receptacles	8.82% 9	41.18% 42	30.39% 31	9.80% 10	1.96% 2	7.84% 8	102
Interpretive signs / Historical education	10.78% 11	51.96% 53	27.45% 28	2.94% 3	0.00% 0	6.86% 7	102

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	more signage to manage speed. perhaps cut off the north end of blvd to thru traffic, local only.	4/28/2023 11:45 AM
2	would like to x-country ski in winter on Coke oven property	4/22/2023 2:57 PM
3	Bike Trail to unite our community! Hwy 133 has divided us. Become more bike friendly! One must use a car to go anywhere!	4/17/2023 9:08 PM

Q7 Please provide details about things that work well or things that could be improved and/or tell us what you would like to see in the near and long-term for Redstone parks and open space:

Answered: 46 Skipped: 77

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Beach Maintenance Coke Ovens Maintenance/Upkeep Coke Ovens Outfitter Generally, the various properties are resilient to the current level of use pressure. Although the pandemic "wave" of people has eased, the concentration of visitors and recreators is absolutely increasing. The beach area is hit pretty hard by users all summer long and those impacts are showing. The stables is an overall 'value add' for visitors but does not appear to be actively managed for resource protection when viewed from the road or coke ovens "back" parking. Overall, the access to county-owned public land (and contiguous federal agency lands) within walking or biking distance to the boulevard is extraordinary and a unique privilege for those who live here.	5/15/2023 9:23 PM
2	Coke Ovens Outfitter More parking Parking is a bit of an issue. We usually figure something out. The stables are a must for tourists. We tell everyone to go there.	5/15/2023 4:08 PM
3	Enforcement of Regulations East Creek Train parking on the Boulevard needs to be better patrolled for overnight camping and needs a porto-potty because people are disgusting.	5/15/2023 5:28 AM
4	Wildlife protection The park upgrades are great and should be maintained. The summer concert series are great too and I hope they can continue. I want to limit impact on the environment and limit stressing local wildlife and plants. Protection of habitat is very important to me. It's hard to unbuild things or undo damage to wildlife.	5/14/2023 9:24 PM
5	Filoha Access The Dorais Way road with access to the southern boundary of Filoha Meadows should be open to the public.	5/14/2023 2:42 PM
6	Filoha Access We need Easy well-maintained public access to Filoha Meadows.	5/13/2023 5:18 PM
7	Play features Signage Better signage for trails. Upgrade playground.	5/13/2023 3:51 PM
8	More parking Restroom Parking. Always an issue anytime we try to do something on the boulevard	5/13/2023 2:30 PM
9	More parking The Elk Park parking lot should have been more parking and not have included the info gazebo. I knew it would rarely be utilized, just as the Mt Sopris view point gazebo on Hwy 82 isn't utilized. I rarely see people visiting either. Waste of money.	5/13/2023 8:56 AM
10	Coke Ovens Dog Park Coke Ovens Events Coke Ovens Horse Boarding Coke Ovens Maintenance/Upkeep Coke Ovens Public Access Coke Ovens XC Ski Concerts Coke Ovens More Trails/Connectivity Signage Trash Existing trails are well maintained, but access to more trails is very needed in the Redstone area for use by both locals and visitors (especially ones that don't gain 1,000 feet of elevation per mile) -- there's a great trail that would be widely used on the coke oven parcel, plus it'd be a great, safe space for dogs to run. Trash is a constant problem, especially during the summer months, the existing receptacles fill quickly during high season and either needs to be emptied more often or the number of receptacles increased. General signage for wayfinding for tourism could be better, as well as parking signage both at the Redstone Parks and coke ovens, something that tells people that Redstone can be accessed via the pedestrian bridge if they park at Elk Park would be HUGE. People turn into that parking all the time just to turn around and access Redstone from the south bridge. The Redstone Coke Oven parcel could be drastically improved. Not only is it the trashiest-looking property in town, but during warm summer days, it often reeks. Many people do not know this is their public land, and it is not inviting both by appearance and by the behavior of the tenant. Organic hay is not used once the horses have overgrazed the property. Regular gunshots echo the canyon during the summer and fall -- this is disturbing to both guests and residents (especially resident dogs) -- and the tenant is regularly responsible for an unannounced fireworks display in the fall and sometimes spring, as well as hosting several	5/13/2023 8:27 AM

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unpermitted commercial and private events. The tenant is uninviting to the Magical Moments concert series, often flooding the field prior to a concert; he and his employees have been known to be rather nasty to the organizer and her volunteer crew, the bands, as well as other guests on the property -- if the Redstone Park capacity is 75 people, I would hate to see the concert numbers (200-300 ppl) reduced by returning it to the park, this is detrimental to Redstone's local tourism. Public funds were used to purchase the coke oven land, for which I am grateful OST owns this historic property; however, I feel strongly for public access when public funds are used. This would be a great space for a dog park, an organic community garden, boarding by residents who own horses, or access to summer and winter trail recreational use (or a combination of all of the above).

11	More Trails/Connectivity Ability to move throughout the Redstone area. Lots of wonderful places but not all connected.	5/13/2023 7:33 AM
12	Coke Ovens Outfitter Avalanche outfitters setup at the coke ovens was fantastic. We stayed at the hotel and enjoyed Redstone for a week. Have recommended the area to several groups looking for a good spot in Colorado to visit.	5/12/2023 9:24 PM
13	More Trails/Connectivity walking trails.. can never have enough walking trails.	5/12/2023 6:36 PM
14	Coke Ovens Outfitter We'd like to see horseback riding continue. As well as guided hunts and river access for fishing and recreation. These are very important to the town culture and it provides a vehicle for tourists to see and truly appreciate what one can't see from the road.	5/12/2023 5:58 PM
15	Concerts Redstone Park Move music events back to redstone park. The space behind the coke ovens is unacceptable for these events.	5/12/2023 5:27 PM
16	Coke Ovens Outfitter Love the horse back ride views are amazing. With great people	5/12/2023 11:42 AM
17	Coke Ovens Public Access Keep the parking and access to the stables open	5/12/2023 11:15 AM
18	Beach Maintenance Update the beach area, clean everything up and that's about all it really needs. Everything is overall very good.	5/11/2023 9:06 PM
19	No change Please don't do anything else. Everything is fine the way it is.	5/11/2023 5:22 PM
20	Filoha Access I would like public access to Filoha Meadows to appreciate the trail. I like looking at the wildflowers and big views. I do not like the attitude I have received from neighbors on Dorais Way when accessing legally.	5/11/2023 2:31 PM
21	Coke Ovens Maintenance/Upkeep Coke Ovens Public Access Filoha Access Play features I'd love to see a way for the local kids and community to utilize the open field area in Elk Park for kickball or flag football or free play (no leagues) without fear of losing the ball in the river. Also the Redstone Stables, seems unwelcoming if it's an open space. I hear there are trails back there. As a runner, I would love to access and use those trails respectfully. I frequently run up Coal Basin Road and was able to access Filoha Meadows via Dorais Way after the fight over access was cleared up.	5/11/2023 8:41 AM
22	Coke Ovens Maintenance/Upkeep The Coke oven property is not kept in good condition. Last year during the summer, at least once the pasture was flooded by the leasee just before a concert. Often the grass is exceedingly tall making walking and sitting in it quite uncomfortable. When the pasture is dry and cut the venue is very nice.	5/7/2023 7:15 PM
23	More Trails/Connectivity Definite need for upgrade of trail from Redstone Campground to East Creek Trail.	5/3/2023 7:50 AM
24	Dog Waste Station Safety Parking/bathroom amenities could be safer for pulling into off hwy 133 and signage would help with that, especially Filoha Meadows. No plastic dog bags allowed on trails, just tell people to use a stick to move the dog waste off to the side.	5/3/2023 5:24 AM
25	Less parking Protecting wildlife, the environment, Redstone's history and character, and the beauty of the Redstone area should have the highest priority. Neither the Village of Redstone nor Crystal River valley should be cluttered with unsightly parking lots and structures. Parking accommodations should not be built along Highway 133, in the historical core of the Village or anywhere within a quarter mile or more from the Crystal River.	4/29/2023 6:35 PM
26	More Trails/Connectivity A trail from Redstone to Marble for access for all to enjoy, safety measures for Penny hot springs	4/28/2023 6:54 PM
27	Coke Ovens Maintenance/Upkeep The current lease holder for the "Coke Ovens Open	4/28/2023 3:30 PM

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Space" AKA The Redstone Stables/Avalanche Outfitters (one Josh Wambolt) is not a good steward of the property.

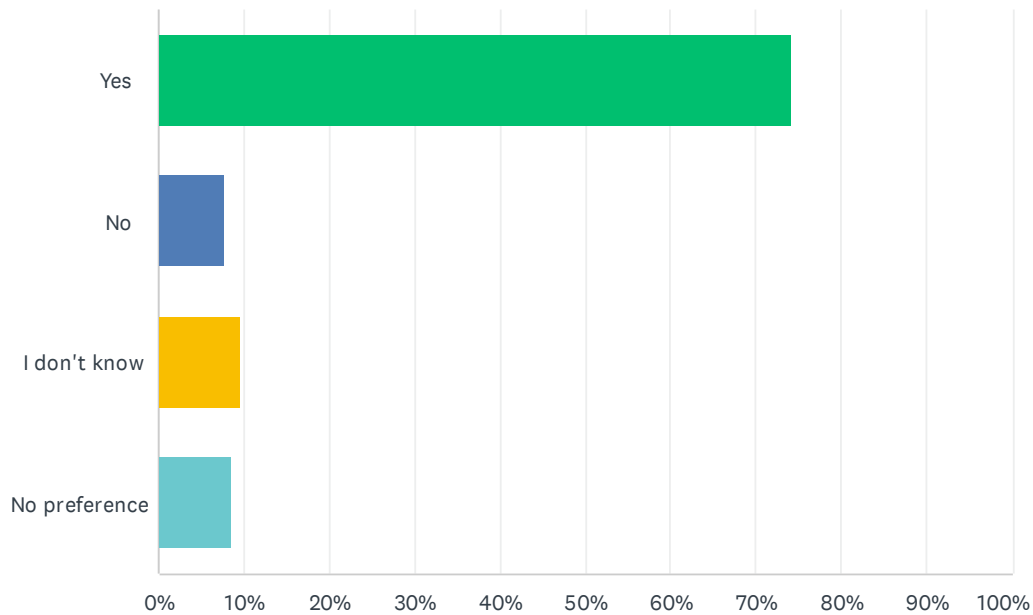
28	More Trails/Connectivity --trail from carbondale to mcclure pass as adopted in Redstone master plan must be prioritized --dorais way should be reopened to continue historic use	4/28/2023 1:28 PM
29	Safety better manage the speed on the blvd. We have more people than ever living and visiting and the speeds on blvd are insane. We mention for years and years and at best get a temp speed radar machine. Better markings on pavement, more radar speed signage, and enforcement. tell people there are a lot of pedestrians and bike riders and pets. too many blind corners at north end not to be warning people. especially new visitors.	4/28/2023 11:45 AM
30	Play features The park equipment is splintery, the tire swing is very high off the ground and there are no swings for small children. The park is simple and doesn't need much as it is set in such a gorgeous location along the river but some other amenities would be really good. A half basket ball court where the ice skating rink is in the winter would be amazing for local kids and tourists alike (a slab of cement would prove VERY beneficial to the community for many reasons, a safe place for small kids to ride their bikes off the busy blvd, play games etc. shoot hoops) also a sand volley ball court would be really nice over near elk park. Things you might see at other parks.	4/26/2023 9:51 PM
31	Play features Include baby swings at the park and you should have poured a concrete slab with basketball hoops that the ice rink could have gone on.	4/26/2023 9:32 PM
32	Coke Ovens Maintenance/Upkeep We would like to see Josh (Avalanche Outfitters) clean up the Coke oven property. It is a mess and uninviting to people who go there. Either that or have someone else lease the property for the resident's horses.	4/22/2023 2:57 PM
33	Coke Ovens Dog Park Coke Ovens XC Ski Concerts Redstone Park Dog Waste Station Redstone Boulders BMX/Bike Park 1) It would be good to have a dog-waste station at the north end of the Blvd. We walk our dog daily to the north bridge and a lot of people bag the waste and leave it laying on the ground because there is no where to put it. 2) I would love to see a BMX track in the recently purchased Gerbaz property for our little ones here in town. We have a serious hazard with traffic on the Blvd. especially during tourist season and we have more and more children riding their bikes on the Blvd. It would be safer if they had a play where they could ride their bikes off the street. Andrew Mann who lives here on the Blvd. and works for Crown Mnt. could design and build it. Don't advertise it or put it in books to bring even more people here but just for our local children. 3) I would like to see a good size dog park behind the coke ovens. The majority of people here have dogs. Another problem is the folks who let their dogs run or walk them not on leash. It would be helpful if we had a place where we could take our dogs to play/socialize w/other dogs off leash. I would also like to see a groomed cross country ski trail behind the coke ovens in the winter months. Back in the old days we use to have a groomed trail back there and it was heaven. No reason not to do that again. 4) I would prefer that the summer concert series be moved back to the park on the Blvd. now that the park is almost done. Having concerts behind the coke ovens is inhospitable for older folks because of the unevenness of the terrain. I appreciate you asking how I would like our tax funded open spaced to be used.	4/19/2023 1:26 PM
34	Coke Ovens Events Allow weddings and small functions at Avalanche Horse Back Riding Stables	4/19/2023 9:27 AM
35	No change Everything is working just fine. You don't need to change anything. Too much in our valley is changing--please leave Redstone as it is.	4/18/2023 8:38 PM
36	More Events There needs to be a place for large community events.	4/18/2023 11:39 AM
37	Filoha Access Access to Filoha Meadows is not clear to me. I live right near it and have never been or accessed it. It's a beautiful space I'd love to use more of. Doesn't seem to open often.	4/18/2023 7:47 AM
38	More Trails/Connectivity Parking improved Sidewalk as people walk down the middle of the road	4/18/2023 7:38 AM
39	No change Keep Filoha Meadows closed to the public, except for the guided nature tours in summer months.	4/18/2023 7:32 AM
40	More Trails/Connectivity Bike trail!	4/17/2023 9:08 PM
41	Less Bike/Trail Please stop adding bike access.	4/17/2023 6:48 PM

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42	History I worked in the coal mines and the historical aspect plays big part of Redstone and being able to take a guided horseback ride around the mine area and the knowledge from the guide is outstanding.	4/17/2023 2:40 PM
43	History Keeping the western and mining history	4/17/2023 2:40 PM
44	Coke Ovens Outfitter The horse back rides by avalanche outfitters, are amazing. Beautiful views, well put together, enjoyable for the whole family!	4/17/2023 2:35 PM
45	Coke Ovens Maintenance/Upkeep Coke Ovens Outfitter Dog Waste Station Play feature s more amenities for children within the parks and open space. the actual park was becoming very outdated, many teenage kids live in redstone now, a basketball court would be great for kids dual purpose could be where the ice rink is as that part of the lot becomes weed infested and ugly in the summer. keeping the horses at the coke ovens has brung in a lot of tourism from Glenwood, Aspen, Eagle, Vail, as well as people from all over the country during hunting season. the person currently leasing the coke ovens is also engaged with the Redstone Community Association Board, and assists with many of their activities/events. elk park parking could be expanded a bit, the coke ovens parking next to the highway is still used and dangerous unfortunately. Dog waste stations at the coke ovens parking is needed for the many people that hike up coal creek road and tend to leave their bags on a rock. more summer maintenance at coke ovens historical parcel.	4/17/2023 2:09 PM
46	Coke Ovens Maintenance/Upkeep The condition of the Coke Oven parcel is an absolute mess, there is trash and equipment spread out everywhere. Also Open Space property should not be used for trailers to house lesee's and their employees. I would like to see this area cleaned up and to have better access for the public use.	4/17/2023 6:26 AM

Q8 OST permits non-commercial public and private events at Redstone and Elk parks. These include several Redstone Community Association community events each year, the Magical Moments Concert series and, typically, three to six private events annually. The parks remain open during private events, which are capped at 75 participants. There is no limit on the number of events. Is this level of event use acceptable?

Answered: 105 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	74.29%	78
No	7.62%	8
I don't know	9.52%	10
No preference	8.57%	9
TOTAL		105

Q9 Please provide any additional thoughts you have regarding special events held on OST properties:

Answered: 23 Skipped: 100

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The special events are an appropriate and valuable use of OST properties, and at current levels are a positive impact to the overall community character and culture of the Redstone area. It's conceivable to believe that there could be summer seasons with a private event permit every weekend, which would be unfortunate. It is also conceivable that there could be an identification of the appropriate 'carrying capacity' of the two parks that exceeds even the high-average use years and provides a cap to protect against over-allocation of the resource.	5/15/2023 9:23 PM
2	Impact resident use Consider limiting the number of events so that these two parks will primarily be fully open to area residents.	5/14/2023 2:42 PM
3	Impact resident use The fourth of July celebration has gotten exorbitantly large, businesses complain that they can't handle the capacity, and it's miserable as a resident. It's unfortunate that I cannot celebrate that holiday in my own home and instead feel it necessary to leave only to return with the Boulevard and my property full of visitor's trash. Is anyone responsible for a cleanup?	5/13/2023 8:27 AM
4	Impact resident use just make sure attendees and renters are aware of the acoustics of Redstone. Random shooting (because they "can do it" are not at all harmonious to the vibe of the mountains we come to seek peace and quiet. Sure, they have "rights" but doesn't everyone else too?	5/13/2023 8:01 AM
5	Connectivity Can we better connect the activities between the parks. Hike and bike from filohoa to redstone with our dogs	5/13/2023 4:16 AM
6	Tourism Allowing more attendees / participants would be good for Redstone. Look at additional parking options if needed.	5/12/2023 5:58 PM
7	Concerts Redstone Park We don't like the music in the park behind the coke ovens, and want it to be moved back to the redstone park.	5/12/2023 5:27 PM
8	Concerts Redstone Park I love the concerts Lisa Wagner has held & will hold in the Redstone Park. & most often I just enjoy walking the trails most often with our dog.	5/12/2023 4:55 PM
9	Events at Coke Ovens The Stables area was available for private events and it was an asset to Redstone. Fond memories of weddings and parties behind the Coke Ovens	5/11/2023 11:19 AM
10	Require permits Permits should be required for all OST use events for groups of people.	5/3/2023 7:50 AM
11	Impact resident use Excessive noise and traffic from the Elk park activities is the only drawback.	4/28/2023 3:30 PM
12	Sustainability Plastic free, minimal impact	4/28/2023 11:45 AM
13	No permits for small groups if neighbors and friends of the community want to gather together in open space they should be allowed to do so without being hassled - for example the chili cook off. This is not an official event (not associated with RCA or any other organization) it is just redstone locals getting together to eat and judge chili they made and carve pumpkins - this should be allowed among residents in a communal spot such as an open space without requirement of paper work. No tickets, food or drink or anything else is sold at events like this. Many gatherings such as this have become difficult because of the Pharisees who can't stand other people having some good old fashion fun without a political agenda behind it. This spirit of meanness has brought morale in our community low more than once. We all turn to each other often in times of need living in such a remote location and there is no reason to spy and tattle on each other for things that should be basic neighbor hood rights. There needs to be some more discernment regarding who these people are calling in to "report" our neighborly events or occurrences (I'd wager that it's usually the same people every time too) - events which 98% of the community supports and participates in.	4/26/2023 9:51 PM

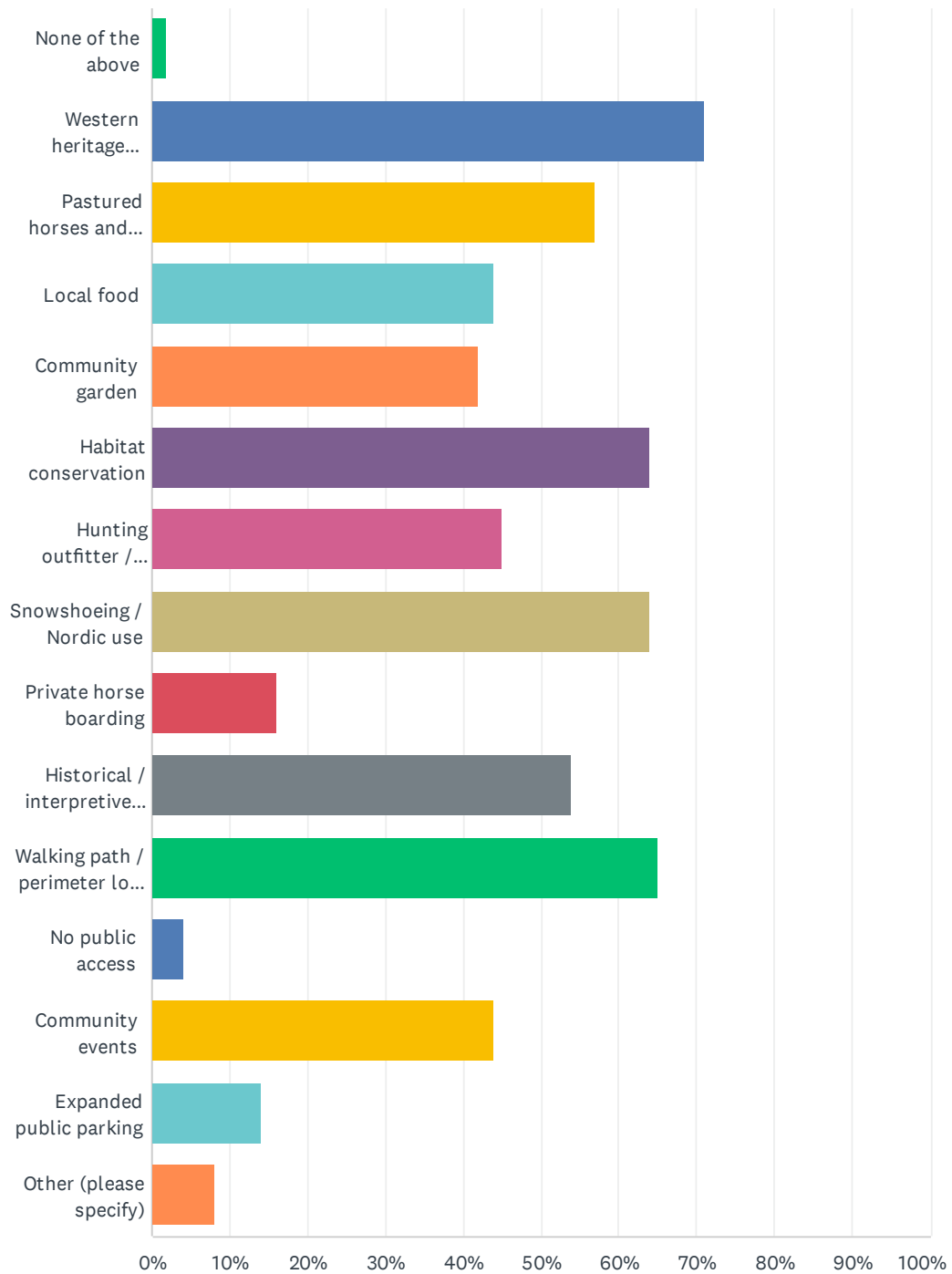
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14	Stop making it so hard to keep the Fourth of July parade going. Let freedom ring!!	4/26/2023 9:32 PM
15	The Art show, concerts and the of July events are wonderful and very worthwhile plus the skating rink in winter. We had Octoberfest and x-country skiing on the Coke Oven property - would like that again...	4/22/2023 2:57 PM
16	Events at Coke Ovens More private events should be allowed at the stable area along Coal Creek where they were historically held for years.	4/19/2023 5:47 PM
17	Less events.	4/18/2023 9:12 PM
18	No permits for small groups The permitting process is getting out of hand. Ever since covid Pitkin County seems to think they need to tell everyone what to do all the time. What ever happened to freedom?	4/18/2023 8:38 PM
19	Impact resident use A curfew maybe?	4/18/2023 5:16 PM
20	Community events and space is needed, maybe a facility built	4/18/2023 11:39 AM
21	Concerts Redstone Park Summer concerts should be more central location. No food or drink provided at coke oven area.	4/17/2023 3:19 PM
22	Concerts Redstone Park With the concerts at the stables now the outfitter is losing pasture and rides. Maybe some compensation should go to the outfitter for providing acoustical space, time and assistance.	4/17/2023 2:40 PM
23	Concerts at Coke Ovens The Magical Moments Concert series is one of the best events happening in Redstone. I love that it was moved to the Coke Oven property as it allows many more attendees and a more open and laid back atmosphere. Also, the Coke Ovens seems like a safer place for kids and families for these events as the parking is closer and the space is more isolated from the river and traffic.	4/17/2023 6:26 AM

Q10 Please select the types of uses that you support at the Coke Ovens. Background: OST has leased a portion of the Coke Ovens Open Space since its purchase in 2016. Continued leasing of this open space is a priority in order to fulfill the land management needs and maintain the property's water rights. Responses to this question will help inform future lessee selection criteria.

Answered: 100 Skipped: 23

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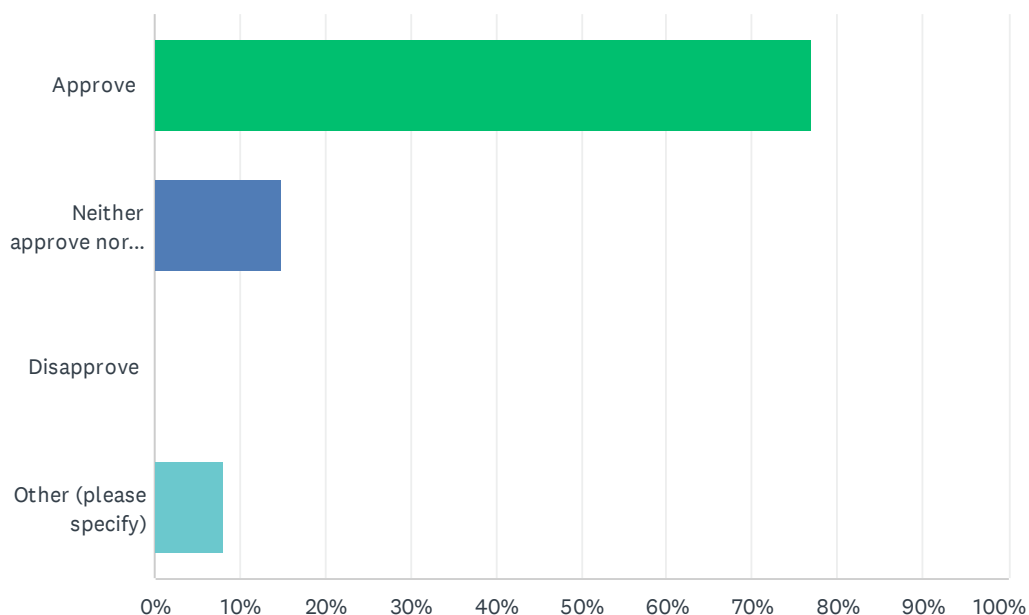
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	2%	2
Western heritage activities (horseback rides, chuckwagon dinners, etc.)	71%	71
Pastured horses and livestock grazing	57%	57
Local food	44%	44
Community garden	42%	42
Habitat conservation	64%	64
Hunting outfitter / guide services	45%	45
Snowshoeing / Nordic use	64%	64
Private horse boarding	16%	16
Historical / interpretive education	54%	54
Walking path / perimeter loop trail	65%	65
No public access	4%	4
Community events	44%	44
Expanded public parking	14%	14
Other (please specify)	8%	8
Total Respondents: 100		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Please create a crusher fine pedestrian path from behind Coke ovens to the western property boundary.	5/14/2023 2:47 PM
2	Summer outfitter/fishing guides	5/14/2023 6:30 AM
3	Need more parking off of Hwy 133. 4th of July in Redstone is scary.	5/13/2023 8:58 AM
4	Dog park!	5/13/2023 8:27 AM
5	Weddings and private parties.	5/11/2023 11:21 AM
6	Support use of this property for and by actual full time residents of Redstone and the Crystal River valley. The present lessee Avalanche Outfitters/Josh Wambolt (not even an actual resident of Pitkin County) treats the property as his own personal horse ranch to the exclusion of actual Valley residents. Open Space has allowed the property to become run down, damaged, and trashy. The current lessee is only on property a maximum of 6 months a year, the Winter is totally closed off to the detriment of Winter sports and activities such as Nordic Skiing and snowshoeing.	4/28/2023 3:38 PM
7	Private events hosted by stables operator.	4/19/2023 5:50 PM
8	Bring back Sled Dog Races!	4/17/2023 9:10 PM

Q11 Filoha Meadows Nature Preserve is managed primarily for the protection of natural resources and biodiversity. Stewardship of this special area includes but is not limited to: Seasonal closure to protect wildlife - September 1st to June 30th Limited public access - foot traffic on the old railroad grade only Provision of guided educational tours via Roaring Fork Conservancy Research and monitoring of wildlife, vegetation and unique resources such as bats, fireflies and orchids Riparian restoration to improve wildlife habitat and ecosystem function - including native riparian tree and shrub plantings to reconnect the riparian canopy and improve plant diversity Scrub-oak thinning treatments to mimic fire disturbance and improve wildlife habitat Vegetation management - noxious weed control and upland plant restoration Please rate your level of support for continuing this conservation approach.

Answered: 100 Skipped: 23



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Approve	77.00%	77
Neither approve nor disapprove	15.00%	15
Disapprove	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	8.00%	8
TOTAL		100

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#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	when open trail should have bike access	5/13/2023 5:21 PM
2	anything that might save what small elk herd is left	5/13/2023 8:04 AM
3	Approve except would like bike access to the Meadows boundary	5/11/2023 11:23 AM
4	Closure for 10 of 12 months seems to be too restrictive.	5/3/2023 7:53 AM
5	Keep people out. Let the natural landscape reestablish.	5/2/2023 4:46 PM
6	--approve of all the above except I recommend allowing access in the early fall, with closure beginning October 15 or November 1 instead of September 1. I do not support prioritizing "protecting wildlife" over human enjoyment during that time.er	4/28/2023 1:38 PM
7	Leave it alone.	4/25/2023 11:16 PM
8	Bike trail with seasonal closure Sept 30 - May 30	4/17/2023 9:13 PM

Q12 Two nearby properties have been acquired since the 2008 Plan that will be incorporated into the Filoha Meadows Management Plan: Wildin (10-acres) and the Larson-Grange Loadout (9-acres). Please provide any comments on management of Filoha Meadows Nature Preserve and/or these two nearby properties.

Answered: 30 Skipped: 93

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	In addition to the noted resource protection, the scenic characteristics (from on- and off-site) of the Filoha Meadows collection of properties are integral to the overall quality of the Crystal Valley.	5/15/2023 9:32 PM
2	I think they should be managed with the same conservation approach. I absolutely support continuing this conservation approach with regards to Filoha Meadows and these two new properties.	5/15/2023 11:18 AM
3	I think the nearby community is exclusionary and very NIMBY. I am also a Redstone resident and would like to see a greater community approach to this area Prather than a locked gate and benefit for a few.	5/15/2023 8:47 AM
4	No more bike paths or bike trails	5/15/2023 5:32 AM
5	Please consider expanding Filoha access to to be open to the public for September & October. Little to no wildlife during these months.	5/14/2023 2:55 PM
6	Better Monitoring of closures and Penny Hot Springs.	5/13/2023 9:40 AM
7	Allow river access from the loadout, and have parking for it. No trailer parking though.	5/13/2023 9:02 AM
8	We would like to see year round connection from Redstone to Filoha Meadows gates for walking, dog walking and biking.	5/13/2023 7:39 AM
9	Provide fishing opportunities	5/13/2023 4:23 AM
10	I think the walking season can be extended -- this may need seasonal adjust depending on snowfall and when wildlife migrate up or downhill.	5/12/2023 4:58 PM
11	Please support the Crystal River Valley Trail and help get it connected through Filoha when the meadow is open and closed when it is closed.	5/11/2023 5:28 PM
12	I love Filoha Meadows and want to continue to see the area protected. I think limited use with the walking path will allow users to enjoy it without doing too much damage.	5/11/2023 2:34 PM
13	I love to run this path. It unfortunate that the HOA in that neighborhood was able to prevent foot traffic on that road for so long. There were multiple threats to community members and even rumors of guns being pulled out to remove people from the road. Is the matter of access via Dorias Way settled for good?	5/11/2023 8:48 AM
14	Keep doing what you are doing. We strongly support the conservation efforts for Filoha Meadows, and continuing to ensure public walking trail access to the Meadows when open. Anything to help the fireflies is a plus!	5/7/2023 11:32 AM
15	This is a tiny and remote portion of Pitkin County. Leave it alone. Concentrate on land where the county population is.	5/2/2023 4:46 PM
16	No hiking trails throughout should be allowed. People don't already respect the hot springs area and there is trash and dog feces and people feces. What makes us think people will respect the filoha meadows and grange load out area?	5/1/2023 6:16 AM
17	A sensible walkway/trail connecting Filoha Meadows to Redstone along or adjacent to Dorais Way should be an urgent priority for OST and Pitkin County. The recent closure of that road by	4/28/2023 1:38 PM

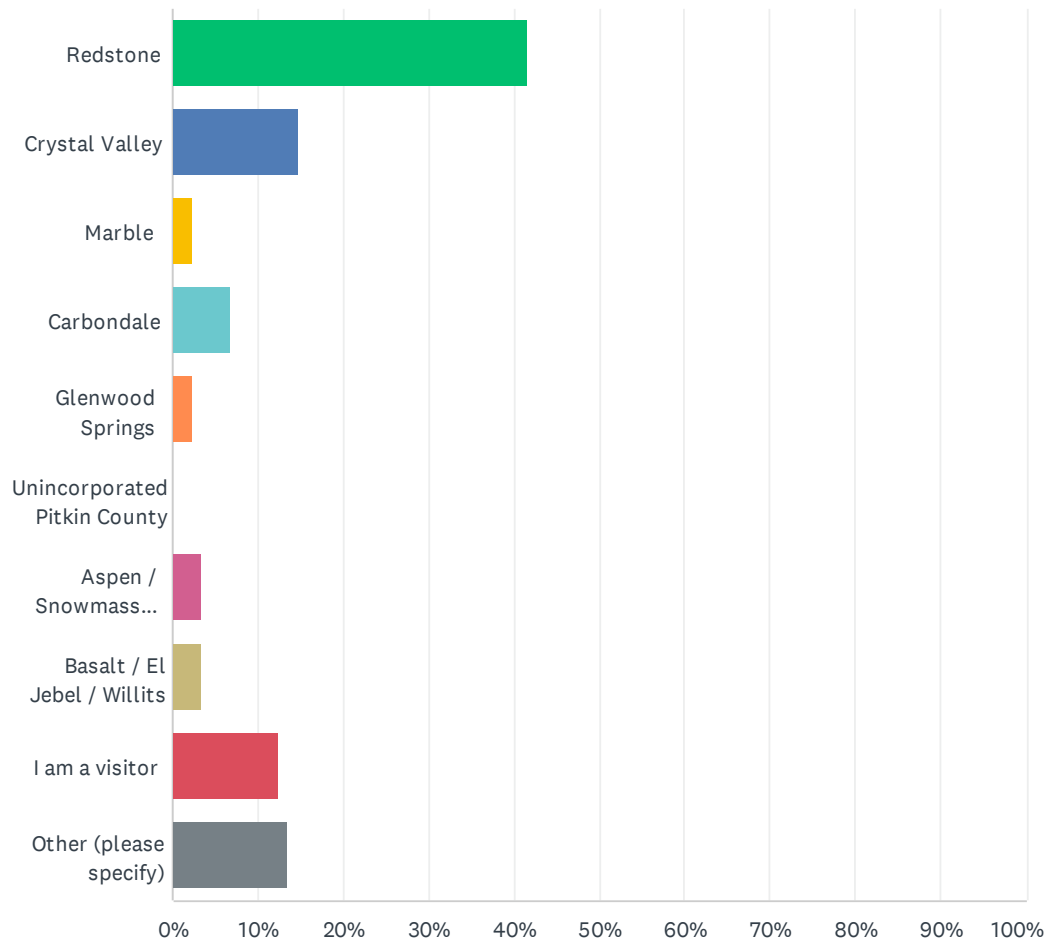
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adjacent landowners is an affront to the longstanding use and enjoyment of the trail from Redstone to Filoha.

18	access from east side of redstone to the penny hot springs make for a great adventure and reduces parking issues at the meadows.	4/28/2023 11:48 AM
19	Public access should be allowed through the Wildin property	4/28/2023 11:08 AM
20	I believe the delicate habitat of the big horn sheep and elk that return yearly to the meadow are of the absolute utmost importance - I have noticed they are much more present in Filoha when no one is at penny hot springs and know that any more use of this land could disrupt them	4/26/2023 9:54 PM
21	Don't overbuild on those properties!!	4/25/2023 11:16 PM
22	Don't know much about it or where the access is....	4/22/2023 3:02 PM
23	limited controlled river access for catch and release fly fishing.	4/19/2023 5:52 PM
24	Signage at Penny Hot Springs is still inadequate and illegal camping and overnight parking could be eliminated, even though Pitco seems to think the job is done. It's not. Vagrants have only been enabled more--and camping within 1/4 mile of the river is supposedly illegal....	4/18/2023 8:41 PM
25	What are these properties used for now???	4/18/2023 11:41 AM
26	These properties should be managed like Filoha Meadows and in conjunction with conservation values.	4/17/2023 9:41 PM
27	No human access.	4/17/2023 9:29 PM
28	This area is sacred and should be preserved at all costs. Limited access or no access	4/17/2023 9:26 PM
29	Bike trail with seasonal closure Sept 30 - May 30	4/17/2023 9:13 PM
30	Excellent work in keeping so much land out of the hands of developers: keep bikers off 133 too.	4/17/2023 6:50 PM

Q13 Where do you live?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 34



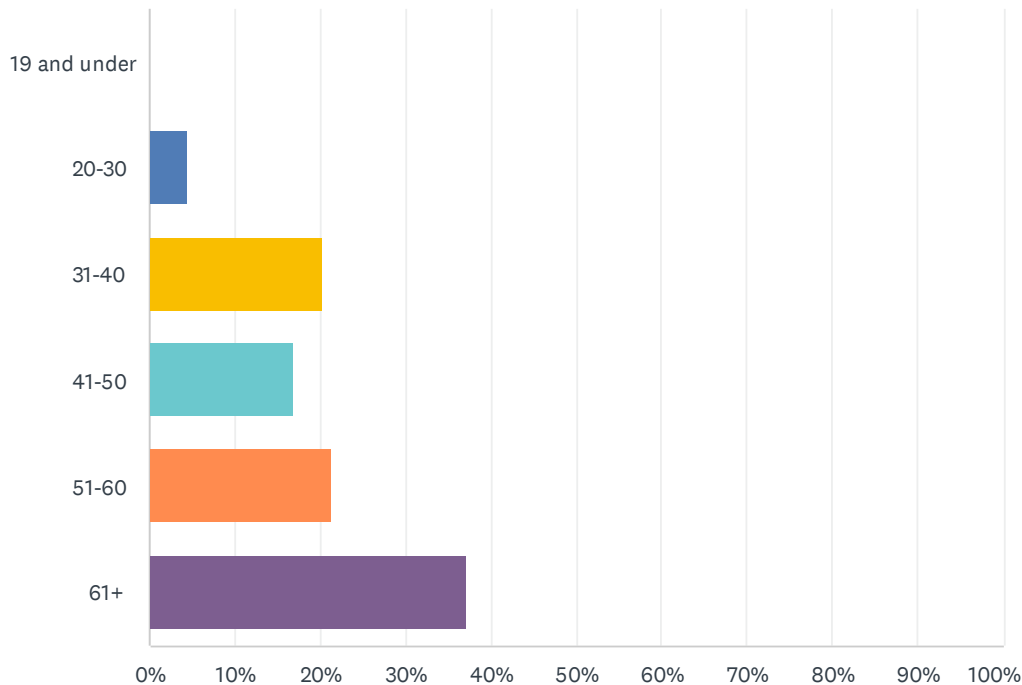
Redstone Area Management Plans – 2023 Update

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Redstone	41.57%	37
Crystal Valley	14.61%	13
Marble	2.25%	2
Carbondale	6.74%	6
Glenwood Springs	2.25%	2
Unincorporated Pitkin County	0.00%	0
Aspen / Snowmass Village	3.37%	3
Basalt / El Jebel / Willits	3.37%	3
I am a visitor	12.36%	11
Other (please specify)	13.48%	12
TOTAL		89

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	newton nh	5/15/2023 12:27 PM
2	Homeowner of vacation rental. Stay at Redstone 1 mo a year	5/14/2023 9:15 AM
3	Highlands Ranch, CO	5/14/2023 6:32 AM
4	Texas	5/12/2023 9:25 PM
5	Gypsum	5/12/2023 8:34 PM
6	I live in Colorado and visit Redstone 3 - 4 times per year.	5/12/2023 6:02 PM
7	I live in Highlands Ranch, but own a home in Redstone that has been in my family for more than 80years.	4/29/2023 6:43 PM
8	Between Redstone and Marble	4/19/2023 7:16 AM
9	Ranch Acres	4/18/2023 5:21 PM
10	Next to Penny hot springs	4/18/2023 7:39 AM
11	Gypsum	4/17/2023 2:44 PM
12	Gypsum, Co	4/17/2023 2:44 PM

Q14 What is your age?

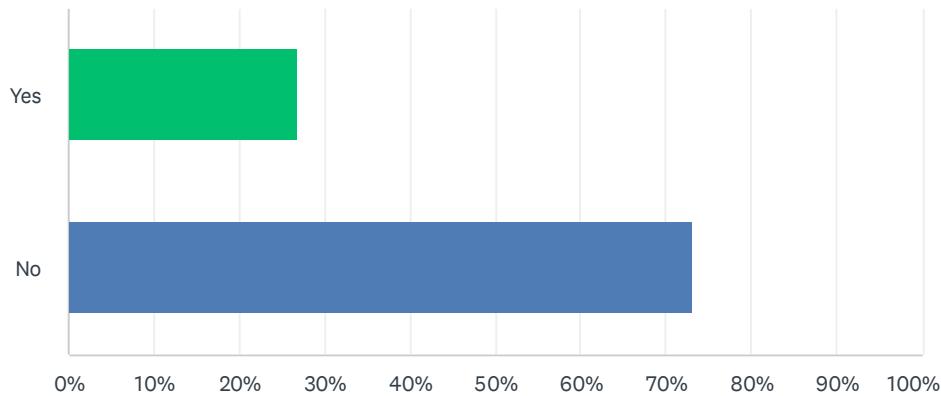
Answered: 89 Skipped: 34



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
19 and under	0.00%	0
20-30	4.49%	4
31-40	20.22%	18
41-50	16.85%	15
51-60	21.35%	19
61+	37.08%	33
TOTAL		89

Q15 Are you a parent or guardian for a child/children aged 17 or younger?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 34



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	26.97%	24
No	73.03%	65
TOTAL		89



FROM: Gary Tennenbaum
SUBJECT: August Monthly Update
DATE: Aug. 3, 2023
CC: Jon Peacock

Below is a summary of the projects Open Space and Trails is working on and what is coming up. As always, please go to www.pitkinostprojects.com to see up-to-the-minute updates on active projects.

Planning and Outreach

Emma Osprey Cam

Three chicks ultimately hatched at the Emma Open Space Osprey nest this year. Two chicks have fledged and the third should do so soon. The camera, installed in 2018, has experienced more than the usual amount of technical difficulties this season.



Community Engagement Shared Position with AVL T hired

OST staff participated in interviews with AVL T for the jointly funded Community Engagement Manager position. Pitkin County Open Space and Trails (OST) and Aspen Valley Land Trust (AVLT) recently filled this new role and welcome Anjanette Garcia. We are excited to support her work building relationships and engaging with communities that have been historically underrepresented in conservation, with a special emphasis on local Latino and Hispanic communities. The position is housed within AVL T but will benefit both organizations as the equity-focused work will help AVL T and OST staff and boards understand the needs of local communities, and then create community-centered conservation programs and engagement opportunities that connect more people to agriculture, nature, recreation and conserved lands. Anjanette will begin in September and we hope to bring her in for introductions shortly thereafter!

Roaring Fork Outdoor Coalition and USU Field Work

Staff has been working with the consultant to refine the engagement plan and scope of work for the outdoor coalition work. USU graduate students have been in the field this month collecting intercept surveys and gps routes at trailheads throughout the county. The Mountain Communities Outdoor Collective (MCOC) met at Sylvan Lake to discuss next steps and preferred approaches to collaborating across the four-county region – part of our commitment to the CPW Co-op Process.

North Star / Wildwood

Staff and our summer intern have been collecting intercept surveys from river users at Wildwood and South Gate. ACES naturalists will be collecting additional surveys in August.

AABC to Brush Creek Park-and-Ride Trail Connection Public Process

Consultants have been leading the public engagement process to gauge community support and complete the cost/benefit analysis for this potential project. A number of pop-up events were held throughout the valley and the second of three Project Interest Group meetings was held.

Natural Resources

Restoration Project Maintenance

Natural Resource staff have been diligently maintaining and troubleshooting the temporary irrigation systems that are in place at restoration sites such as Lazy Glen, Filoha, Sky Mountain Park and the Crystal streambank at Thomas Road. Targeted weed control actions continue at the locations, as well, while the native plants continue to establish.

North Star Vegetation Monitoring

Staff and consultants completed the scheduled vegetation monitoring at North Star, following sampling intervals set out in the 2020 Management Plan to track long-term changes in plant communities by monitoring several permanent vegetation transects throughout the Preserve.

Vegetation Treatments

Noxious weed control and treatment area mapping has occurred at Red Butte Ranch Open Space following our spring vegetation thinning project there (Aspen Daily News reporting in progress on this project). Preparations are being made with contractor, partners and neighboring landowners for implementation of the two bigger vegetation treatments planned for this August and September. [<https://www.pitkinoutside.org/ecofinder/spurring-new-growth-at-sky-mountain-park-filoha-meadows/>] Expected start date for this is mid-August.

Ranger Update

July was a busy month for the ranger program. Rangers made 129 enforcement contacts (education contacts, verbal warnings, written warnings, penalty assessments, parking tickets), including 33 penalty assessments. The majority of the penalty assessments were at North Star Nature Preserve with violations ranging from dogs (9), illegal parking (8), beaching, audible music, commercial use limited, and glass. We also ticketed ebikers on Sky Mountain Park and Hunter Creek, and for dog offenses on the Rio Grande Trail and Hunter Creek Trail.

Rangers also attended 20 hours of educational outreach events, including Roaring Fork Conservancy's explorations of Filoha Meadows featuring orchids and fireflies. Rangers responded to six medical emergency calls, and monitored special events. Ranger Whitney Wickens helped locate and reunite a young child who was separated from their parents for over an hour on the Rio Grande Trail.

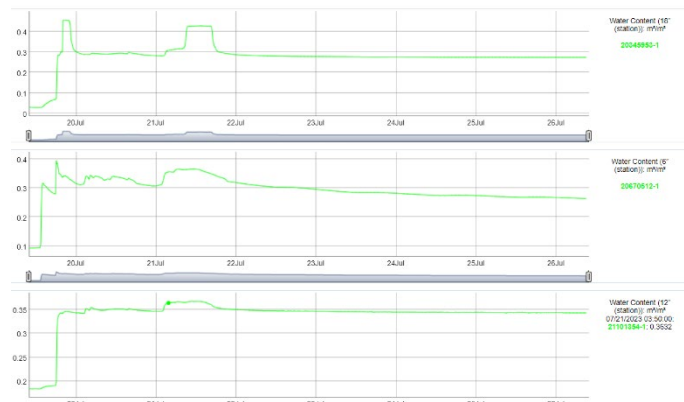
Rangers have seen a busy season at Wildwood and have appreciated the consistent help from the Forest Service FPOs.

Agriculture

Glassier Center Pivot

The first cutting was made on Lease B under the center pivot. About 30 acres of the pasture was cut; sheep are rotating through the remaining pasture. With the ditch levels lower, we have gotten the go-ahead from the Home Supply Ditch Co. to run the pivot day and night and have been operating without any issue to the ditch. This increase in irrigation is needed with the hot, dry and windy conditions we've seen throughout the past month.

Soil moisture sensors are being installed in the field, which will assist irrigation, as well as collect information on watering depths.



Left: Glassier Open Space after first cutting (photo: Alyssa Barsanti).

Right: Soil moisture data being collected from Glassier's Lease B.

Wheatley Irrigation Upgrade

The irrigation installation is scheduled to wrap up in the next few weeks at Wheatley Open Space. The new system will be a long-term improvement on the property and will allow water access on both pastures.

Emma Cramer Ditch Update

The water-flow monitoring devices are in and we are working on getting parts together to install them remotely. While, overall, water seems to have been more accessible this past year, we know that this may change. Continued monitoring of the ditch at headgate, lateral and Emma North will allow for a better understanding of the access issues at the property.

Shippee Research

Roaring Fork Conservancy and Lotic collected their second round of sampling on July 28.

CSU Extension

The hot weather has people contemplating their water usage. This past month has seen an uptick in people interested in transitioning from turf. Glenwood Springs is offering a turf buyback program this year, which will reimburse \$2/sq. ft. (up to 1,000 sq. ft.) for converting turf into a less water-intensive planting. It's part of a larger, state-funded grant program and we're hoping it will be a useful pilot program in the Valley for other municipalities to replicate.

We are in talks with the program manager in Glenwood to possibly use Extension volunteers to help with recommending plantings and planning for folks participating in the program.

Resource, Trails and Maintenance

Redstone Park Update Project

Environmental Excavation has completed the project, and is working with ComDev and OST Staff to close out their permits. OST staff has a couple of small aesthetic change orders that we have asked Environmental Excavation to complete, but other than those couple of tasks, the project is complete and staff has received positive feedback from many community members.

Deer Creek House Renovation

The home renovation portion of this project is complete and the Certificate of Occupancy has been obtained, but there is a punchlist of small, interior finishing tasks left to complete. Hardscaping, landscaping, and fencing is the bulk of what's left to complete for the project.

Pavement Patching on Paved Trails

OST completed crack sealing of Owl Creek Trail, Basalt-Old Snowmass Trail and the Crystal Trail in June. OST staff is working with Frontier Paving to assess patching some of the worst short sections of pavement in our system later in the year.

Nancy's Path to Glassier OS Trail Connection

Staff has began the trail connection project between Nancy's Path and Glassier Open Space. This project was an action item that originated out of the recent Glassier Open Space Management Plan update. The bulk of the project will be completed in-house with OST Trail Specialist Joey Giampaolo roughing in the trail alignment with our mini-excavator. RFOV is bringing in volunteers to do the finish work on the trail; two Tuesday night volunteer efforts are scheduled, with the first on July 25 and the second on Aug. 1. The first Tuesday night effort went well and RFOV had around 20 volunteers show up, including members of the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council and the local running club. A third Tuesday night is reserved in case there is more to be done, but we expect two nights will be enough.



OST Maintenance Crew

The OST maintenance crew is now in summer season mode and has completed the following:

- Paint Holland Hills speed bumps
- East of Aspen Trail maintenance: trimming trailsides and corridor
- Prep Wildin for Filoha RFC events
- Paved-trail corridor cutbacks (on-going)
- Continued weed control, chemical and mechanical. 2nd treatment started along Rio Grande Trail
- Continue East of Aspen boardwalk maintenance and repairs
- Paved trail volcano repairs
- Re-doing our paved trail striping (on-going)
- Trimmed all retaining wall and fences along paved trails
- Continued paved trail sides mowing
- Mowed Northstar paragliding landing zone

- Soft surface repairs on East of Aspen Trail
- Continued work on Elk and Redstone Park – weeding soft surface trails, trimming trees, and repairing irrigation.
- Black Hills Energy gas line abandonment and cap – OST performed digging to expose line for BHE to cap
- Glassier/RGT intersection sight line improvement
- Watered Prince Creek planted trees during dry spell
- Sunnyside Parking Lot erosion repair
- Blocked off informal camping Schoellkopf property

The next months' focus will remain on maintaining trails, assets and planning upcoming projects. In addition to these main focuses, the crew will also be working on:

- Haul off trees felled at Glassier
- Build Grace Shehi parking lot
- Regrade Woody Creek RGT gravel trailhead
- Continue paved trail corridor cut backs
- Remove hazard trees on Owl Creek Trail
- Remove beetle kill/infested trees on Deer Creek Open Space
- Continue East of Aspen boardwalk maintenance and repairs

ARTICLES

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 8, 2023

Newspaper Articles/ Letters to Editor/Public Comment:

Recreation

Survey seeks to better understand trail use

The Aspen Times | July 4, 2023

Natural Resources

Making Red Mountain safer from wildfires

Aspen Daily News | July 28, 2023

Survey seeks to better understand trail use

The Aspen Times | July 4, 2023

Starting this week, some trail users in the upper Roaring Fork Valley will be asked to carry a GPS unit that tracks their route and participate in a survey to assess their experiences in the outdoors.

This is the second year of an effort to collect survey data aimed at helping local land managers better understand visitor experiences and perceptions on various popular trails in Pitkin County.

Throughout this month, doctoral students from Utah State University's Recreation Ecology and Management program will be stationed periodically at 10 trailheads to conduct the survey work, with the goal of connecting with up to 1,000 visitors. The locations provide access to adjacent public lands — either on open space or in the national forest. Last summer, five sites were selected for the survey.

The survey teams will intercept visitors, who will be asked to voluntarily carry a GPS unit that records their route. Upon their return, participants will respond to questions that explore social conditions and their experience during that visit.

The visitor survey data and additional research findings will be compiled into a baseline report that describes existing ecological information, use patterns and visitor expectations and experiences.

Partners that initiated the project include Pitkin County Open Space and Trails, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, City of Aspen, and towns of Snowmass Village and Basalt. The entities have formed the Roaring Fork Outdoor Coalition, which has chosen Design Workshop to facilitate the coalition's goal of setting collaborative priorities for recreation management and natural resource conservation within the upper Roaring Fork Watershed. An online, community survey is also planned this summer and fall.

Making Red Mountain safer from wildfires

Aspen Daily News | July 28, 2023

It's an issue many local governments deal with when preparing their annual budgets: whether it's prudent to add full-time positions during times of economic uncertainty.

And it seems to pop up as frequently during Pitkin County's budget seasons as it does anywhere else, given that it's a pet peeve of at least two of five members of the Board of County Commissioners. Both Patti Clapper and Greg Poschman say they are scrutinizing departmental budgets closely to ensure the county is not growing staff for the sake of growing staff, just because the money appears to be available.

The county's 2023 budget — which currently is estimated to be \$188 million in all areas but faces adjustments that likely will alter the total — will be finalized in early December.

Clapper said Friday that while some of the department requests for additional workers are reasonable, and there are federal and state grants to help pay all or portions of those salaries, the county already has a significant number of open positions that remain unfilled.

“How do we add the new ones when we can't fill the old ones?” she asked. “But for me, any addition of full-time employees is of concern. I just think we need to be very careful in all of the associated costs.”

Clapper said the public health department probably had the most requests, and it's difficult to say “no” in the wake of the COVID pandemic. Some of those requests are associated with, and can be covered by, state and federal funds that are already in place but which the county won't always have when looking down its financial road.

“I've asked to bring those [requests] back close to the time that we run out of money and see if we still need those services,” she said. “[We'll have to discuss] if there's new funding that may be coming forward, or funding we can look for, or if we have to fund them from within the county.”

Clapper said she's taken on the issue of growing the county workforce “because I've always had concerns ... with the county as to, just because we have the money, do we really need more staff? Is it justified? Is it in the best interest of public service and providing public services?”

County Manager Jon Peacock said that overall, the county is looking to add the “full-time equivalent” of 6.2 employees to its workforce, which currently totals 374.4 FTEs. The county measures its workforce by the equivalent, which also includes part-time and seasonal workers. Because of the seasonal nature of many jobs, it's hard to pinpoint how many “bodies” are on staff at any given time.

The county has 40 jobs that are unfilled, he said. County government is dealing with hiring issues related to the workforce and housing shortages, the same as private businesses.

“We're just like everyone else; we are having challenges with recruitment,” Peacock said.

He said commissioners have been “very supportive in areas where we've said we have an immediate need, and they have asked us to come back as some of these other issues mature.”

The commissioners and Peacock acknowledged that many county employees are extremely busy, perhaps even overworked, and certain departments try to add employees to deal with the overload.

“Yes, staff is busy,” Peacock said. “I think if you talk to county staff, you’ll find there are not a lot of folks sitting around with nothing to do, that’s for darn sure.”

The county has a program that allows some employees to cash out their additional leave time because they’ve been too busy in their jobs to take it, he said.

“That indicates that we’re a little stressed but also that we’re not fully staffed, and we have around 40 vacancies that's driving it,” Peacock said.

He provided a list of the new positions to which commissioners have given preliminary approval. However, the situation might change between now and budget adoption.

Two positions within public health and human services are related to mental health. One of the jobs concerns data collection and the other involves case management.

One position is for a telecommunications specialist that would work to keep the county’s mountaintop TV and radio translator sites operational for public safety purposes. Other positions include an open-space-and-trails ranger, a road-and-bridge worker and an administrative specialist to manage affordable housing and infrastructure projects.

Except for the administrative specialist, whose salary would be included within the county’s general fund, the new positions would be covered by special revenue funds that primarily involve state and federal grants that were earmarked for pandemic recovery, officials said.

Poschman said his concern is the logic of adding employees during a time of uncertainty for the local and national economy. Inflation rates remain high — and there still is talk among experts, public officials and news media of a potential recession, he noted. It’s always a difficult process when new employees are brought on board and then laid off a short time later when the economy goes sour, he said.

“I understand that the need for county services is higher and staff is overworked, but if you’re looking at a possible recession, you need to take a cautionary stance,” Poschman said.