

MINUTES
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
October 2, 2025
530 East Main Street
Aspen, CO 81611

OSTB Present:

Graeme Means Dist. 1	Howie Mallory Dist. 2 Not Present	Amy Barrow Dist. 3, Chair	Michael Kinsley Dist. 4	Wayne Ives Dist. 5
-------------------------	---	------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------

Staff Present: Gary Tennenbaum, Kim Arensdorf, Ted O'Brien, Jessie Young, Paul Holsinger, Jami McMannes, Carly O'Connell, Liza Mitchell, Drew Walters, Jeff Werner, Dale Will, Rick Norman, Ryan Mahoney, Richard Neiley

Amy Barrow called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Wayne Ives motioned for the OSTB to approve the 09/07/2025 OSTB Regular and Executive Draft Minutes. Graeme Means seconded. Motion passed (3-0).

Michael Kinsley entered at 9:10 a.m.

Open Space and Trails 2026 Budget

Gary Tennenbaum noted that the OST program has successfully conserved over 30,000 acres, with significant partnerships contributing to this achievement. He explained that the program's financial health is strong, despite a slight forecasted dip in revenue due to property disputes and reassessments.

Tennenbaum stated that OST is looking to hire new staff focused on maintenance and restoration. Michael Kinsley asked how the County reviews staffing requests overall. Ryan Mahoney explained that the BOCC must approve any new hires, and new positions are evaluated based on community needs and the overall budget constraints.

Tennenbaum commented that federal cuts are significantly impacting public land management and associated partners, such as the Forest Service and local conservancies. The county is strategizing on how to address these funding cuts without giving the impression that they can manage all issues independently.

Tennenbaum provided staffing and position changes:

- Transition of the Natural Resource Supervisor position from seasonal to full-time to improve project management and employee retention. estimated to be an additional \$55,000 to \$60,000 annually due to full benefits and extended pay.
- The new seasonal hard surface trail supervisor will focus on both maintenance and planning for future trail usage, including accommodating e-bikes and other mobility needs.
- Two additional Seasonal Maintenance Technicians
 - Technicians will be utilized flexibly across projects based on immediate needs.

Tennenbaum and Ted O'Brien provided details for the Filoha Administrative Site capital improvement project:

- The housing project aims to provide three separate units for employees and a touch down space in the Crystal Valley
 - Potential to serve sheriff's deputies in the future.
 - The cost increase is attributed to unforeseen issues uncovered during planning, including drainage improvements and the need for new septic systems.
 - Importance of meeting current building codes and climate goals with the project, including plans for fire suppression and utility upgrades.

The Board proposed creating a structured policy regarding the acquisition and management of properties with existing structures, similar to the historic structure policy to guide future decisions on property acquisitions and potential sales. Tennenbaum stated that staff can work with the Board to create a policy.

Tennenbaum and O'Brien supplied details on the Redstone to McClure Trail Project:

- The project aims to create a new trail from the bottom of the old McClure Pass Road to the top of McClure Pass.
- The original plan for a power line through the area has been abandoned due to environmental concerns and logistical challenges.
- The proposal is to complete the trail project in one year, potentially extending to two years, with a focus on the McClure section costing approximately \$1.8 million.
- Initial planning has been conducted, and the next phase will involve connecting Redstone to Hayes Falls, with considerations for subdivision access.

Carly O'Connell stated that the Roaring Fork Outdoor Coalition has secured \$250,000 in funding through Colorado Parks and Wildlife for a regional conservation and recreation plan. A decision support toolkit will be released to assist land management partners in prioritizing projects and improving collaboration. A request for \$30,000 from the Open Space and Trails board was made to support early win stewardship and education projects. The coalition is applying for a \$350,000 grant to implement multiple stewardship projects across jurisdictional boundaries. The coalition aims to collaborate on funding and address pressing education and communication needs related to public land and water. Data from a recreation study will guide decisions on where to focus efforts and resources, she said.

O'Connell explained that a request for an additional \$90,000 for Snowmass Falls parking area planning was made to support construction-level design and permitting. The planning will

include various solutions beyond just parking lot expansion, integrating community feedback and survey data.

Jessie Young stated that the Glassier Farmstead Historic Building restoration of historic structures is underway, including tree removal to protect foundations. A phase one grant submission has been made to stabilize the historic barn, with future usability to be evaluated.

O'Brien provided the 2026 resource management projects:

- Three Meadows Ranch fencing: The airport is working on a layout plan that may require moving Owl Creek Road or the Owl Creek Trip next year. A reroute of difficult switchbacks is being considered to coincide with the airport project.
- Owl Creek Trail: The airport is working on a layout plan that may require moving Owl Creek Road or the Owl Creek Trip next year. A reroute of difficult switchbacks is being considered to coincide with the airport project.
- Forest Service Building Maintenance: A mold issue in the Forest Service building needs to be addressed for long-term usability.

Tennenbaum explained that ongoing restoration projects are part of the management plans. The current funding for weed control is deemed adequate, but there is openness to increasing the budget if necessary.

Drew Walters noted that the glacier piping project aims to reduce erosion and improve water management on agricultural properties. The project involves piping a section that has been eroded over the years.

Tennenbaum commented that Staff wages for Nordic ski operations will increase, and a seasonal position will be hired for grooming. Snowmaking is being considered as a potential project for 2028, with further discussions needed.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

Graeme Means expressed regret over previous comments made about the Roaring Fork Safe Passages project, feeling they were misinterpreted and overly negative. Tennenbaum explained that the project team needs to demonstrate feasible funding sources before significant county investment is made. Michael Kinsley highlighted the importance of prioritizing wildlife projects, which affect local initiatives. Tennenbaum stated that future meetings will aim to clarify the best use of the land while considering both transportation and wildlife needs. Ry Neiley stated that conversations regarding the wildlife corridor project have been solution-oriented, focusing on finding ways to make the project viable.

BOARD ACTION

Wayne Ives motioned to recommend the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners approve the Open Space and Trails 2026 Budget. Graeme Means seconded. Motion passed (4-0)

ADJOURN

The OSTB meeting of October 2, 2025 adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approved:

Amy Barrow
Amy Barrow (Jan 11, 2026 23:46:01 MST)
Amy Barrow, Chair
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails Board

Attest:

Kim Arensdorf
Kim Arensdorf, Administrative Specialist
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails

2025.10.02 OSTB Regular Session Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-01-12

Created:	2025-12-29
By:	Kim Arensdorf (kim.Arensdorf@pitkincounty.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA33cqG8I3btFyMLKriNI_AuinIbODnGL

"2025.10.02 OSTB Regular Session Minutes" History

-  Document created by Kim Arensdorf (kim.Arensdorf@pitkincounty.com)
2025-12-29 - 10:15:14 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Amy Barrow (amy@landdesign39.com) for signature
2025-12-29 - 10:15:19 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Amy Barrow (amy@landdesign39.com)
2026-01-12 - 6:39:16 AM GMT
-  New document URL requested by Amy Barrow (amy@landdesign39.com)
2026-01-12 - 6:39:18 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Amy Barrow (amy@landdesign39.com)
Signature Date: 2026-01-12 - 6:46:01 AM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2026-01-12 - 6:46:01 AM GMT