



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

970.453.3414 ph
SummitCountyCO.gov

208 East Lincoln Ave. | PO Box 68
Breckenridge, CO 80424

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION WORK SESSION AGENDA

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Attend in person at:

County Commissioners Meeting Room; Summit County Courthouse 3rd Floor
208 Lincoln Avenue, Breckenridge, Colorado

Attend virtually by registering in advance at:

https://summitcountyco.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9tF6UAmIR8O0EAKv1N5Jcw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with login information.

- 9:30 a.m. Wildfire Council Grant Recommendation**
SCWC Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Community Wildfire Protection Plan Grants
[Wildfire Grant Staff Report.pdf](#)
[Att A - 2025 Grant application Worksheet.pdf](#)
- 9:45 a.m. Camp-Hale Continental Divide National Monument Discussion**
Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument Access Plan and Management Framework
[CHCDNM Access Plan and Management Framework Memo_BOCC May 2025_v2.pdf](#)
[BOCC Presentation_CHCDNM_05-27-2025.pdf](#)
- 10:45 a.m. Recess**
- 10:50 a.m. Public Utilities Commission Information Session on Xcel Energy's Mountain Energy Project Proposal**
Public Utilities Commission Information Session
[Mountain Energy Project PUC Process](#)
- 11:35 a.m. Manager & Commissioner**
- 12:05 p.m. Potential Open Space Acquisitions in the Upper Blue and Snake River Basins
(Recommended Executive Session)**
- 12:20 p.m. Adjourn**

BOCC Meetings



*This agenda is subject to change at any time. Please contact the Manager's Office or visit our website to obtain updates at:
<http://www.summitcountyco.gov>

If you require accessible versions of meeting materials, please contact accessibility@summitcountyco.gov.



SUMMIT COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

970.668.3595 ph | 970.668.4255 f
summitcountyco.gov

0037 Peak One Dr. | PO Box 5660
Frisco, Colorado 80443

Date: 5/27/2025, Work Session
To: Summit County Board of County Commissioners
Through: Steve Greer, Assistant County Manager
From: Summit County Wildfire Council (SCWC)
Dan Schroder, CSU Extension Director
Subject: 2025 SCWC Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) and Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Grant Program Staff Memo

BACKGROUND:

In 2008, voters approved a measure to fund community protection from wildfire initiatives. The HFR program came out of that measure. These monies assist property owners, through a cost share agreement to offset the actual cost of vegetative fuel reduction and defensible space creation.

To date, this program has supported over 200 projects which have treated nearly 3,000 acres in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). All told, the awards total over 4 million. Through our cost share, the County has realized more than 8 million in community protection work.

DISCUSSION:

The charge of the SCWC is to promote wildfire prevention. To encourage action, the SCWC offers cost share grant programs. Awardees are required to pay all up-front costs associated with a project. Upon satisfactory completion of the project, based on the approved scope of work, a percentage portion of the total project cost is eligible for reimbursement.

This staff memorandum is presented to review the 2025 grant requests for funding. Public understanding of this program is evident in that staff communicated with over 30 separate parties, more than any year prior. Once the grant period closed on April 25th, 21 complete applications were received. In addition, staff was able to attract projects located in workforce housing neighborhoods (i.e., Dillon Valley, Treehouse and Villamont) that support our goals to distribute funds equally throughout the community.

On May 7th, a SCWC sub-committee of 6 people met to review each application. Committee recommendations for funding were presented to the SCWC at the quarterly meeting on May 8th. The following summary represents the SCWC recommendations to the BOCC:

- I. Acorn Creek access roadway fuel reduction scope of work states the applicant will remove trees adjacent to portions of roads throughout the subdivision. The request of \$92,943 is not recommended for approval at this time because the request is not consistent with the intent of the grant program.

2. Lake Forest Condominiums, located near the Dam Road in Frisco, needs to revise the scope of work to better identify fuel reduction methods consistent with the program. It is recommended that the applicant work with staff to improve their fuel reduction plan and return in the next grant cycle.
3. The SCWC recommends fully funding the remaining projects on the list.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff and the Summit County Wildfire Council recommend that the BOCC approve funding through the Strong Future Wildfire Fund for the below Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Community Wildfire Protection Plan Grant applicants in the amount of \$492,806.36.

DISCUSSION:

Attachment A: 2025 Grant Application Worksheet

Project Name	Grant Request	Proposed Match	Proposed Project		# of acres
			Total	Intent to Protect	
Acorn Creek - N. of S'Th	\$92,943.00	\$10,327.00	\$103,270.00	18 homes - Egress/Access	16.42
Angler Mountain Ranch - N. of S'Th	\$53,000.00	\$53,000.00	\$106,000.00	243 homes	30
Beetle Kill Tree Guys - countywide	\$77,775.00	\$77,775.00	\$155,550.00	40 homes	30.2
BKTG 2024 encumbered: 3 properties	\$17,445.00	\$17,445.00	\$34,890.00	~	~
Christy Heights - Breckenridge	\$54,600.00	\$54,600.00	\$109,200.00	41 homes	18.2
Columbine Ranch - N. of S'Th	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$25,000.00	8 homes & conservation burn	15
Elk Run Road Cisterns - N. of S'Th	\$144,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$160,000.00	Elk Run & properties N. of S'Th	~
Lake Forest Condos - Frisco	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	6 bldgs.	1.7
Pines Keystone: 2024 encumbered	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00	common land around complex	17
Piney Acres - Dillon Valley	\$8,251.86	\$8,251.87	\$16,503.75	1 property	0.5
Settlers Creek Condos - Keystone	\$9,046.40	\$9,046.40	\$18,092.81	cross boundary connectivity	3.15
Settlers Creek Estates - Keystone	\$2,441.10	\$2,441.10	\$4,882.19	cross boundary connectivity	0.85
Soda Springs	\$7,395.00	\$7,395.00	\$14,790.00	6 bldgs. 20 units	3.1
Spruce Valley Ranch Phase II	\$26,500.00	\$26,500.00	\$53,000.00	SVR common property	8.7
Town of Blue River	\$21,170.00	\$21,170.00	\$42,304.00	6 homes	3.08
Town of Keystone	\$7,149.00	\$7,149.00	\$14,298.00	The Keystone Center municipal bldg.	6
Sts John - Keystone	\$8,340.00	\$8,340.00	\$16,681.00	common land around complex	7
Treehouse Condos - Wilderdest	\$20,823.00	\$20,823.00	\$41,646.00	9 bldgs. 264 units	16.15
Villamont Condos - Wilderdest	\$6,275.00	\$6,275.00	\$12,550.00	24 bldgs. 64 units	14
Watch Hill at Wilderdest	\$2,095.00	\$2,095.00	\$4,190.00	4 bldgs. 51 units	2
Water Dance	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$19,000.00	13 bldgs. 38 townhomes	6.2
Total Requested in 2025	\$492,806.36	\$364,806.37	\$857,577.75		



OPEN SPACE & TRAILS DEPARTMENT

970 668 4060 ph | 970 668 4225 f
summitcountycolorado.gov

0037 Peak One Dr. | PO Box 5660
Frisco, Colorado 80443

TO: Summit County Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Summit County Open Space and Trails Staff
DATE: May 27, 2025 Work Session
RE: Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument Access Plan and Management Framework

Introduction:

In May 2024, Summit County (County) and Town of Breckenridge (Town) Open Space and Trails staff, with partners at the United States Forest Service White River National Forest (Forest Service), engaged the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe) to develop an Access Plan and Management Framework for the southern Tenmile portion of the recently designated Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument (CHCDNM), including the four main trailheads found in the area: Quandary Peak, Blue Lakes, McCullough Gulch, and Spruce Creek. The goal of this multi-jurisdictional effort, which was funded in part by a Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Planning Grant, was to create guiding documents that outline a plan for sustainable visitation, while accommodating the high demand for access in this area. Recommendations will guide a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis for improvements on National Forest lands.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Stakeholder engagement included a project kick-off session, two virtual meetings, and concept development activities with representatives from the County, Town, and Forest Service, along with key regional stakeholders. Discussions focused on infrastructure improvements, trailhead facilities, parking, shuttle services, and jurisdictional coordination. Stakeholder feedback highlighted the need for enhanced visitor management strategies to mitigate congestion, protect natural resources, and ensure long-term site sustainability. The resulting draft concepts included shuttle expansions, reservation-based parking, improved trail connections, and new trailhead facilities. These concepts were vetted with neighbors at two neighborhood meetings and feedback was used to further refine options to be assessed in later stages. Stakeholder engagement continued throughout the process with stakeholder workshops, visitor surveys, and neighborhood surveys (Attachment I).

Data Collection and Analysis:

Volpe conducted site visits, visitor use surveys, traffic analyses, and regulatory reviews to inform planning efforts. Parking surveys using license plate sampling showed high turnover and shorter stays at Blue Lakes and longer stays at Quandary Peak and Spruce Creek. Visitors showed moderate to high willingness to use shuttles depending on the destination, and surveys highlighted the need for sustainable trails, restrooms, and improved signage. Regulatory challenges, particularly Colorado Springs landownership at Blue Lakes, were also key considerations. A stakeholder workshop brought together agency and nonprofit representatives to refine Access Plan concepts, infrastructure recommendations, and management strategies, ensuring the draft plan balanced visitor access with environmental and jurisdictional constraints.

Access Plan:

The CHCDNM Access Plan builds upon the stakeholder engagement and data analysis phases to outline a comprehensive approach for managing high-use recreation areas within the Southern Tenmile Range. The plan provides detailed infrastructure recommendations for each of the four primary trailheads, including parking expansions and reservations, shuttle service improvements, trailhead amenity upgrades, and trail enhancements. A key component is the proposed adaptive management approach, which allows for phased implementation based on environmental impact assessments, visitor trends, and available funding. Additionally, the plan integrates jurisdictional coordination strategies to ensure long-term maintenance and enforcement. By balancing recreation

access with resource protection, the Access Plan establishes a sustainable model for accommodating increasing visitor numbers while preserving the Monument's ecological and historical significance.

Management Framework:

To support the successful implementation of the Access Plan, the CHCDNM Management Framework establishes guiding principles, staffing requirements, funding strategies, and a preferred management structure for long-term site administration. The framework evaluates three potential management models available for National Forest lands: a Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) designation, a concessionaire-managed system, and a Special Use Permit issued to a local government entity. Based on its flexibility, ease of implementation, and ability to retain revenue for reinvestment in the project area, staff recommends pursuing the Special Use Permit option. Additionally, the Management Framework document outlines a mix of grant funding opportunities and revenue strategies, such as reservation-based parking fees, to sustain ongoing operations, maintenance, and enforcement. Through this structured approach, the Management Framework ensures that recreational access remains financially viable and environmentally sustainable.

Next Steps:

The Access Plan and Management Framework have been reviewed and endorsed by the Town of Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission (BOSAC), the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council (OSAC), and the Breckenridge Town Council. Once endorsed by BOCC, the Plan will guide a NEPA process to assess potential impacts on environmental, social, and cultural resources before any changes can be made on National Forest lands. This process will include public scoping, resource impact analysis to evaluate alternative management actions, ensuring that proposed infrastructure and access modifications align with federal environmental protection standards. The County could engage in the NEPA process jointly with the Forest Service, to present the plan holistically with partners at the Forest Service and further vet recommendations on Town/County lands with the public. The current goal is to complete the NEPA process in the remainder of 2025 and spring of 2026 for initial improvements in the summer of 2026, contingent upon available funding and permitting requirements. Improvements on Town and County lands would be vetted through OSAC/BOSAC review and budgeting processes.

Questions for BOCC:

- Does the BOCC support the Access Plan concepts?
- Would the BOCC consider partnering with the White River National Forest in the NEPA process?
- Does the BOCC support exploring issuing a Special Use Permit to Summit County to manage visitor access?

Attachments:

- I. Neighborhood Survey Results

Attachment I – Neighborhood Survey Results

Background:

In January 2025, Summit County, Town of Breckenridge, and US Forest Service staff finalized the draft CHCDNM Access Plan which provides recommendations for trail, trailhead, parking, and shuttle improvements at Quandary Peak, McCullough Gulch, Blue Lakes, and Spruce Creek. Stakeholder engagement was crucial to the development of the Plan which involved stakeholder workshops, visitor use surveys, and public meetings. In February, staff requested additional feedback from neighborhood residents adjacent to these trailheads on the proposed Access Plan concepts via an online survey. Staff sent out 450 postcards with a survey link that was open for public comment from February 21 to March 18, 2025. Staff received 79 responses from 16 different neighborhoods, including residents from McDill, Loma Verde, Crown, and Quandary Village. Below provides a summary of responses for each of the four main trailheads.

Quandary Peak:

- 78% of respondents were very supportive of continuing the shuttle and parking reservation system (68%) at Quandary Peak but would like to ensure locals are considered in these options and requested free/discounted parking or a shuttle stop in Blue River.
- 54% of respondents were supportive of the proposed parking lot expansion, although some respondents thought more people might increase traffic and trash problems.

McCullough Gulch:

- A majority (70%) of respondents supported continuing the shuttle system to McCullough Gulch, improving the McCullough Gulch trail (82%), and creating new trail connections (64%).
- Respondents had mixed feelings about creating a small parking lot with reserved parking, with 50% of respondents supporting the proposal and 27% opposing it. Comments related to wanting easier trail access, needing roadside enforcement, and limiting traffic on McCullough Gulch Road.

Blue Lakes:

- Most people were supportive of the trailhead expansion and parking lot improvements (66%) as well as not implementing a shuttle system (67%).
- There was strong support for developing a more sustainable trail to the waterfall (79%), but there were mixed reviews about constructing a new trail from Quandary Peak to Blue Lakes due to concerns about wildlife habitat and future trail maintenance.

Spruce Creek:

- Out of the four parking lot expansion projects, Spruce Creek was the most supported. 67% of respondents supported the parking lot expansion but had mixed views about parking reservations. Respondents requested free parking passes and unrestricted local access.
- Respondents were very supportive of the trail sustainability (78%) and trailhead infrastructure (67%) improvements.

Southern Tenmile Range of Camp Hale Continental Divide National Monument Access Planning

Summit County Board of County Commissioners – May 2025



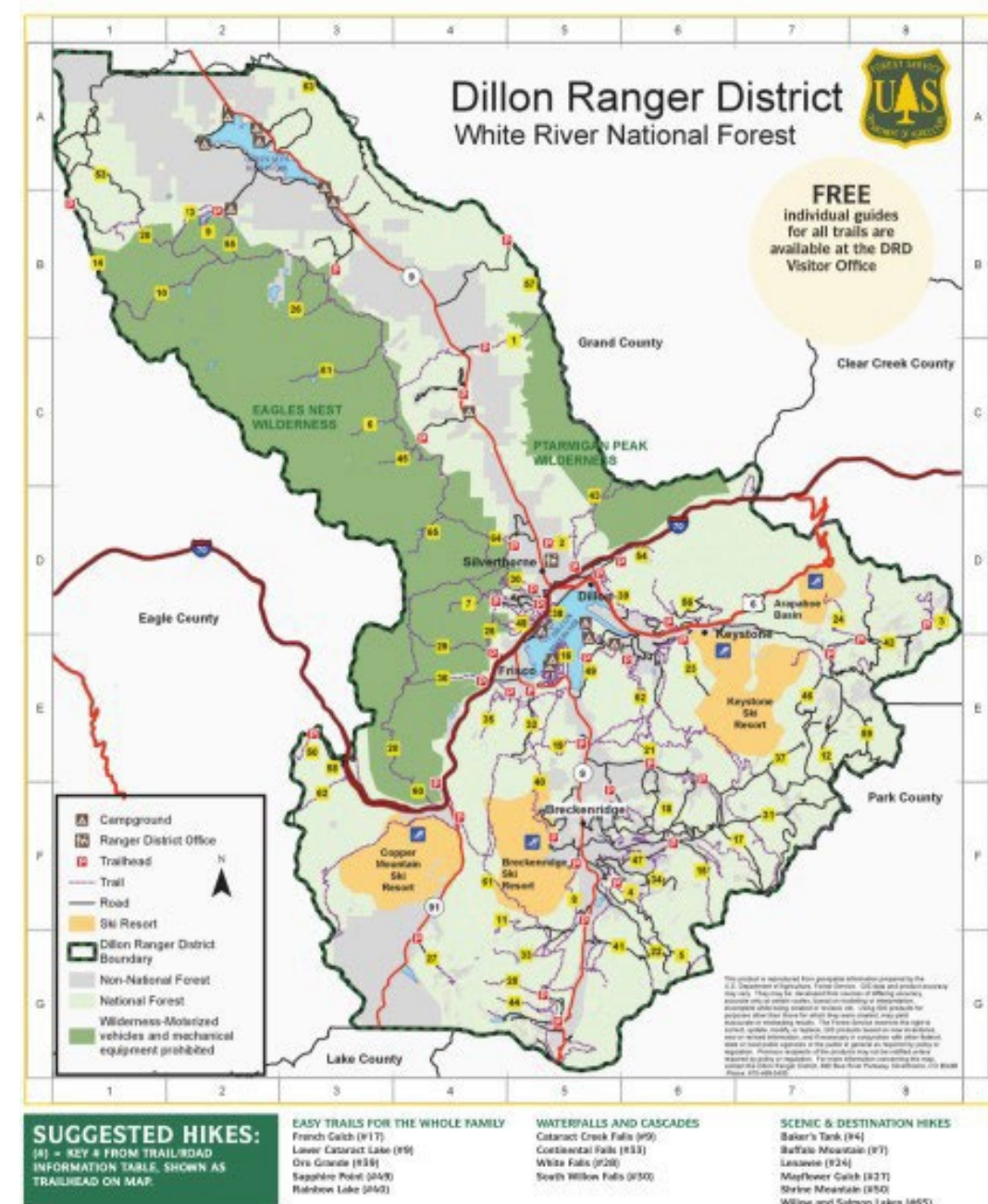
Agenda

- Purpose and Need
- Work Thus Far
- Management Framework
- Next Steps

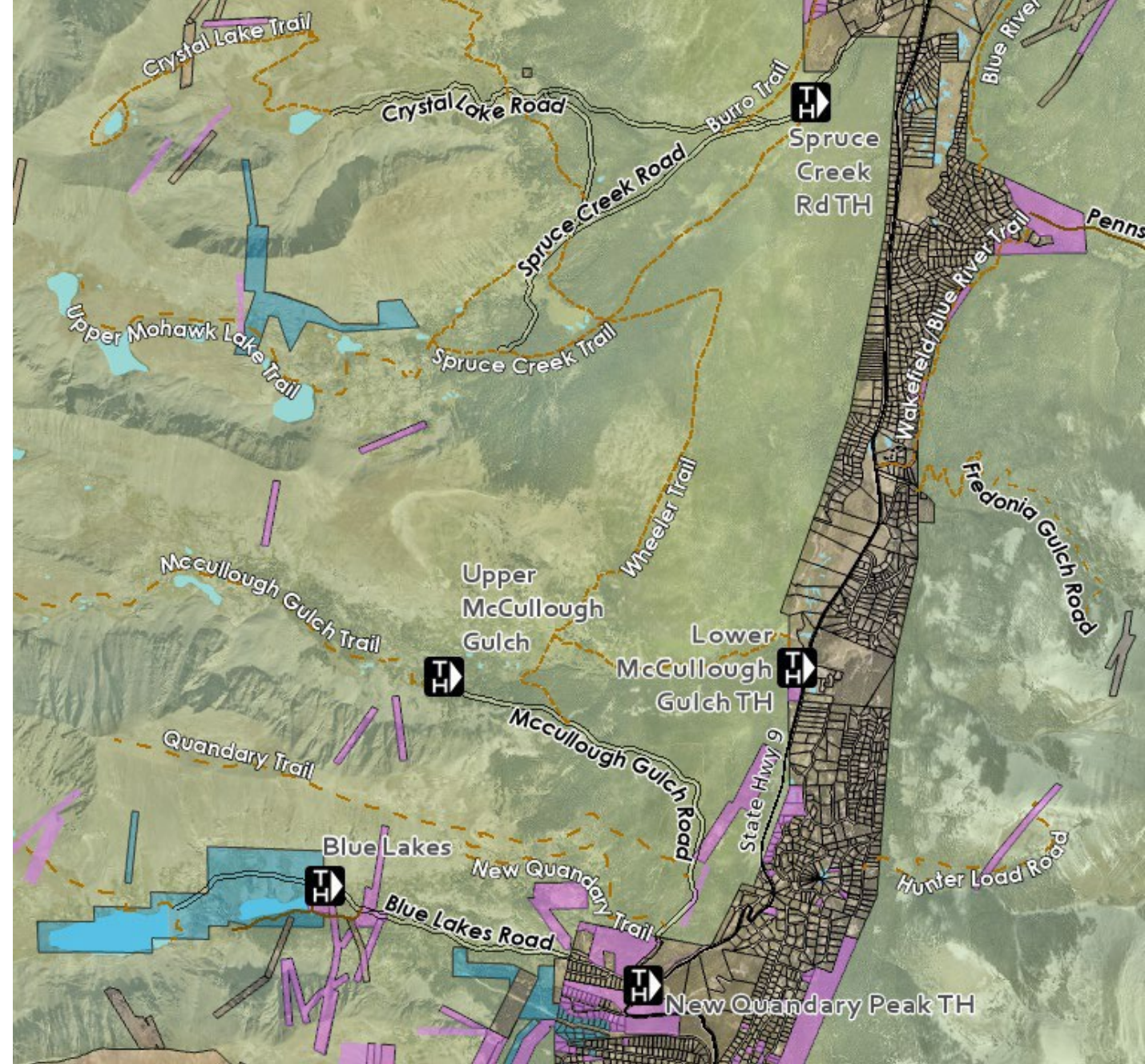


White River National Forest – Dillon Ranger District

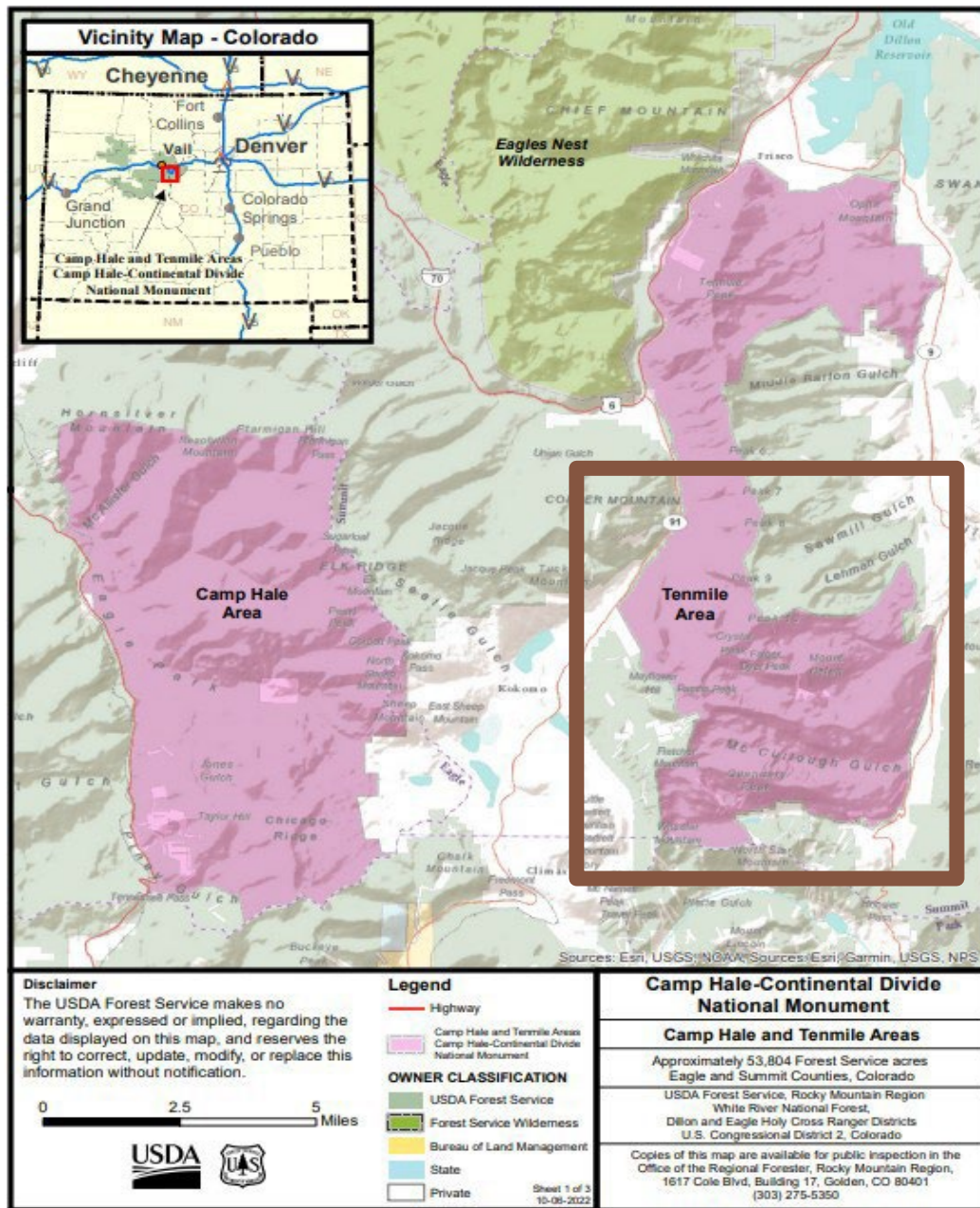
Geography	2022 Annual Visitation
White River National Forest	17,668,015
Dillon Ranger District	8,437,863
Project Area	194,341
Blue Lakes Trailhead	74,369
Spruce Creek Trailhead	53,337
Upper McCullough Gulch Trailhead	26,000
Quandary Peak Trailhead	22,000
Lower McCullough Gulch Trailhead	7,844



Project Area Southern Tenmile Range



Camp Hale Continental Divide National Monument





- 2024 CPW Non-motorized State Trails Planning Grant Award (\$45k)
- \$15k each in matching funds from the County and White River National Forest
- \$5k in matching funds from Town of Breckenridge



As the National Transportation Systems Center, our mission is to help the transportation community navigate its most challenging problems.





Project Objectives

- Reduce traffic and parking impacts on residents.
- Maintain emergency management access.
- Balance high visitation with environmentally and financially sustainable management.
- Create appropriate amenities for current level of visitation.
- Coordinate effectively across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Provide free access options, when possible.
- Ensure clear and consistent messaging.

Work Thus Far



Stakeholder Engagement



You're Invited!

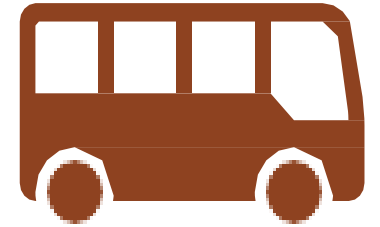


Join us for a neighborhood meeting
to discuss future management of
Spruce Creek and the surrounding
area!

Parking



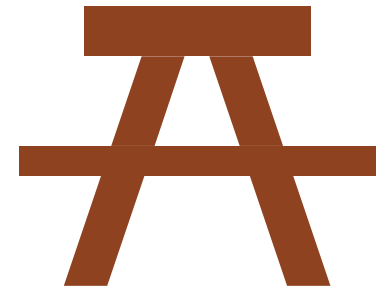
Shuttle



Trail Connections



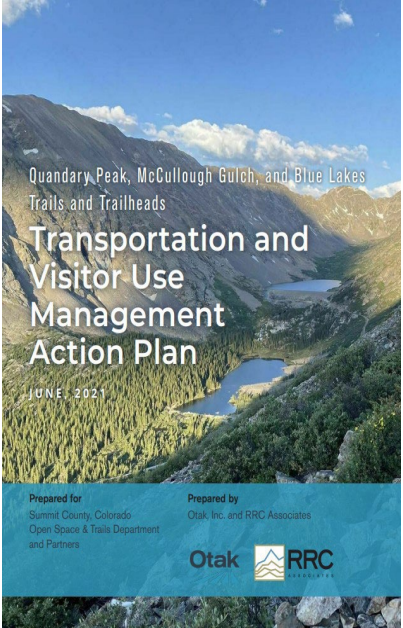
Facilities



Data Collection and Analysis



Site	Category	Alternative	Estimated Level of Construction					Cost Level
			Mobilization/ROW	Structure	Design/Construction	Environmental Mitigation		
Quandary	Parking	Option A: Pave lot, add delineation between spaces	2	2	4	2	955	
Quandary	Parking	Option B: Expanded lot onto Aspen Springs Lot 1	3	3	4	4	955	
Quandary	Parking	Option C: Expanded lot onto Aspen Springs Lot 3	4	4	4	4	955	
Quandary	Trail Connections	Option A: Entrance walkway	1	1	1	1	5	
Quandary	Trail Connections	Option B: Develop trail connection to Quandary Peak TH	2	3	2	2	95	
Quandary	Trail Connections	Option C: Develop trail connection to Blue Lakes	3	3	3	3	955	
Quandary	Facilities	Option A: Add additional restrooms and signage	2	2	3	1	95	
Quandary	Facilities	Option B: Add additional restrooms, signage, picnic tables, and food	2	3	3	2	95	
Blue Lakes	Parking	Option A: Add delineation between existing lot spaces	1	1	2	1	5	
Blue Lakes	Trail Connections	Option A: Improve trail connections to provide direct access to waterfall area	3	3	3	3	955	
Blue Lakes	Shuttle	Option A: New shuttle route from Quandary Peak TH to Blue Lakes TH, w/ midday turnaround point and connector trail	4	1	3	3	955	
Blue Lakes	Shuttle	Option B: New shuttle route from Quandary Peak TH to Blue Lakes TH, w/ turnaround point in Blue Lakes lot	4	4	3	2	955	
Blue Lakes	Facilities	Option A: Add permanent or portable restrooms	2	1	3	2	95	
Upper McC Gulch	Parking	Option A: Establish a new parking lot at the location of the existing shuttle turnaround point and signage to enter the Quandary Peak parking reservation system	3	4	3	2	955	
Upper McC Gulch	Parking	Option C: Create a new parking lot between campsites four and five on McC Gulch Gulch Road. Include parking spaces as part of the existing reservation system	4	3	3	3	955	
Upper McC Gulch	Trail Connections	Option B: Develop new trail connections linking to Quandary lot and west end of Lower McC Trail	2	2	3	2	95	
Upper McC Gulch	Shuttle	Option A: Remove shuttle turnaround point to the Upper McC Gulch TH	2	3	3	2	95	
Upper McC Gulch	Facilities	Option B: Add signage, shuttle shelter, and restrooms	4	2	3	3	95	
Spruce Creek	Parking	Option A: Pave lot, add delineation between spaces	3	2	4	1	955	
Spruce Creek	Parking	Option B: Create new lot or "bikes" below existing TH. These could be used for shuttle turnaround and/or parking	2	4	4	4	955	
Spruce Creek	Parking	Option C: Paved parking, signage across road	2	1	2	1	5	
Spruce Creek	Shuttle	Option B: Establish a shuttle route from Breck to Spruce Creek with drop off point on the west side of Hwy 5. Would require trail extension to stop	3	4	3	3	955	
Spruce Creek	Facilities	Option B: Add better signage, picnic tables, restrooms, picnic shelter, and OHV/ATV informational kiosk	4	2	3	3	95	

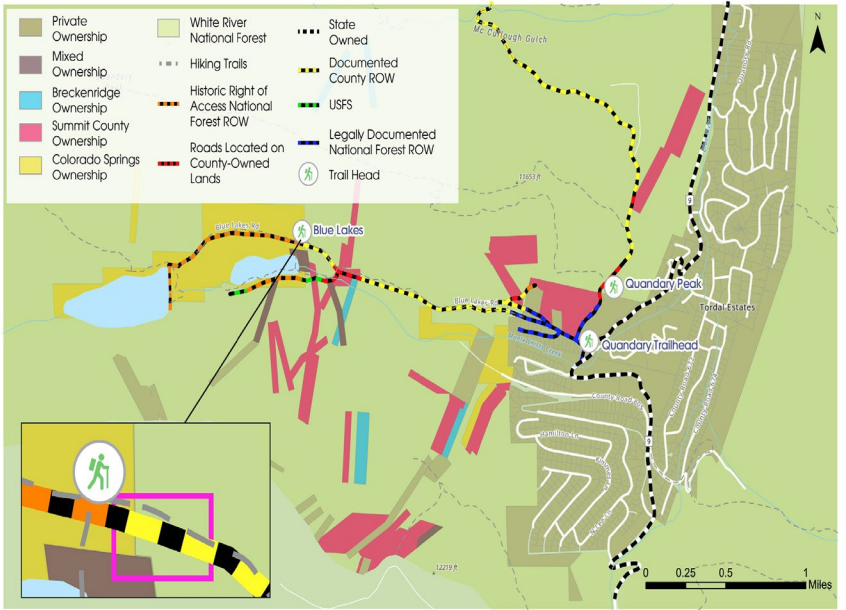


License Plate Observation Sheet

Date: 07/12/2024 Timeframe: 8:00 to 4:00 Location: SPRUCE CREEK TH

Instructions: Walk from the bottom of the parking lot up to the top every 30 minutes and record the last 3 digits of every parked car's license plate. Please use additional sheets as necessary.

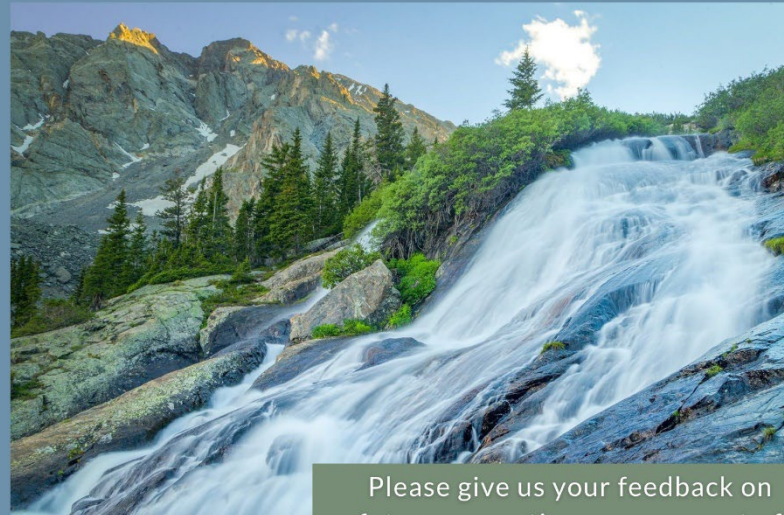
Hr 0.5	Hr 1	Hr 1.5	Hr 2	Hr 2.5	Hr 3	Hr 3.5	Hr 4	Hr 4.5	Hr 5	Hr 5.5	Hr 6	Hr 6.5	Hr 7	Hr 7.5	Hr 8
F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89	F89
W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30	W30
C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74	C74
820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820	820
G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32	G32
G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75	G75
MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX	MJX
UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF	UEF
N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95	N95
362	362	362	362	362	362	362	362	362	362	362	362	362	362	362	362
B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64	B64
VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU	VDU
UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ	UPQ
FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF	FJF
K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48	K48
924	924	924	924	924	924	924	924	924	924	924	924	924	924	924	924
493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493
W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51	W51
TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ	TEQ
742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742
067	067	067	067	067	067	067	067	067	067	067	067	067	067	067	067
57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E	57E



Access Plan Refinement



- Stakeholder Workshop
- Staff review and input
- Previous OSAC and BOSAC Review
- Additional neighborhood survey
- Current Version - Access Plan 4.0



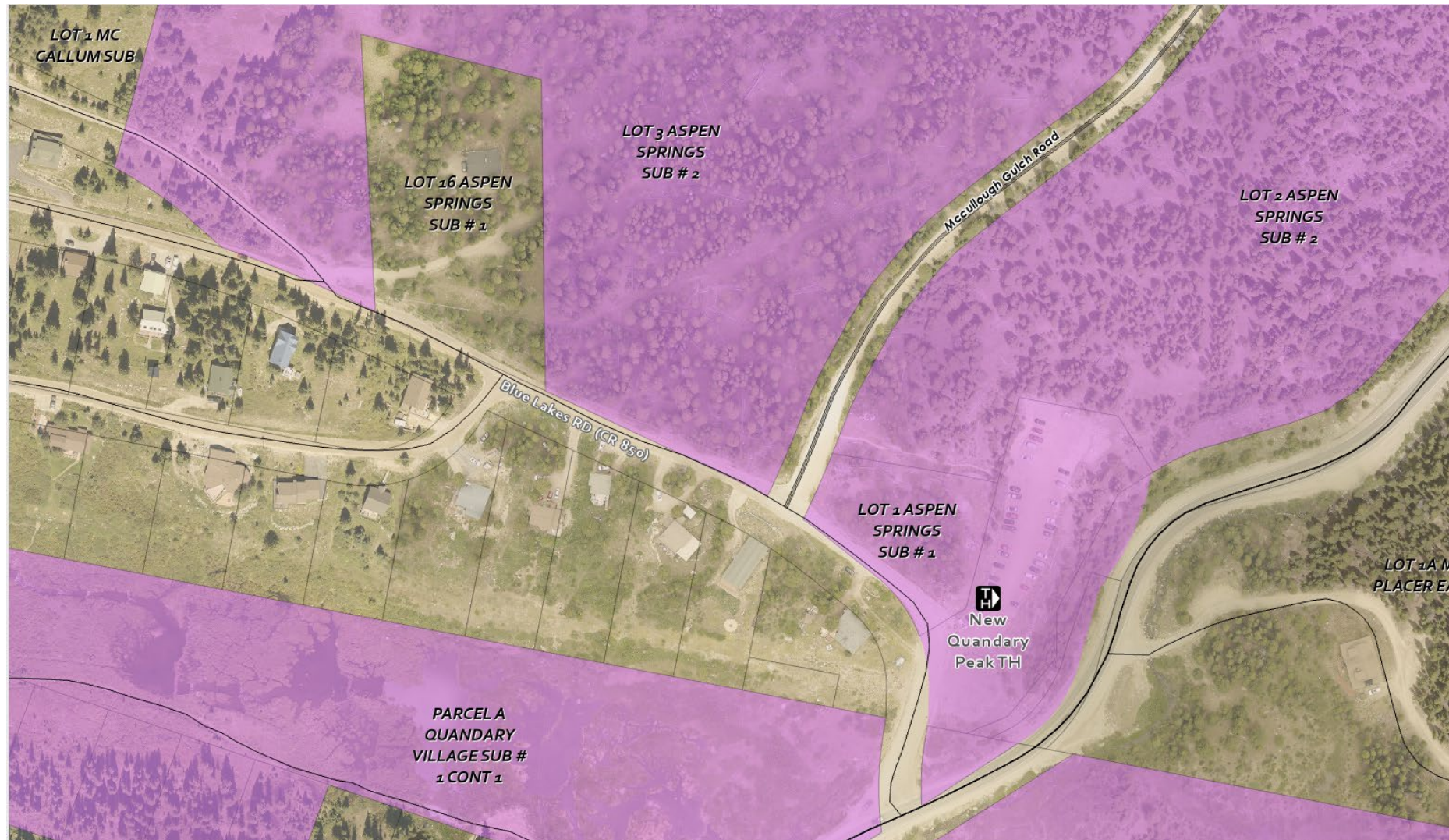
Please give us your feedback on future recreation management of Quandary Peak, Blue Lakes, McCullough Gulch, and Spruce Creek.

Access Plan Recommendations – All Locations

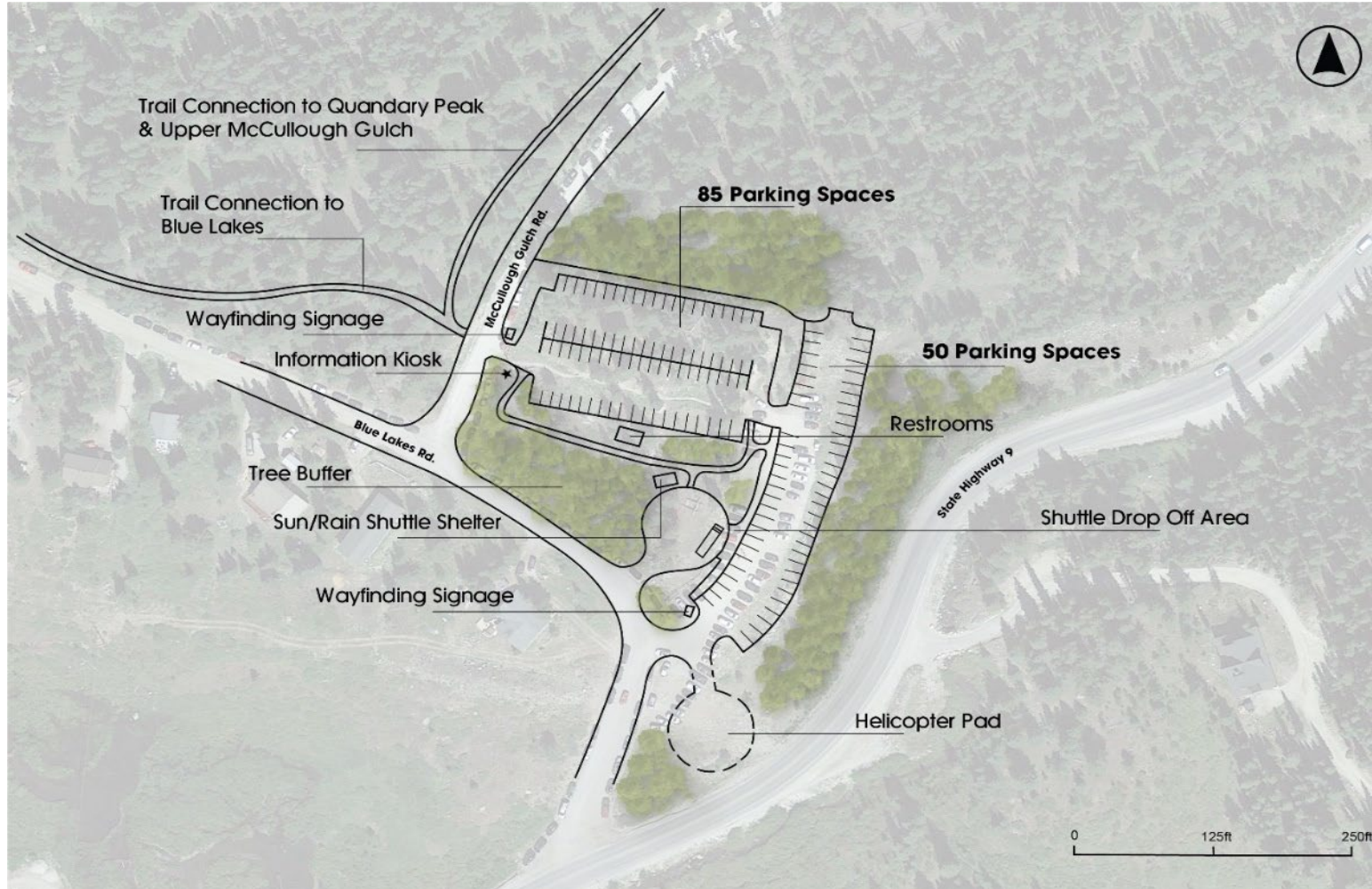
- Improve sustainability of high use trails
- Add permanent restrooms
- Update wayfinding and informational signage, ensure consistency across jurisdictions
- Establish formal parking in conjunction with roadside parking enforcement
- Address dispersed camping

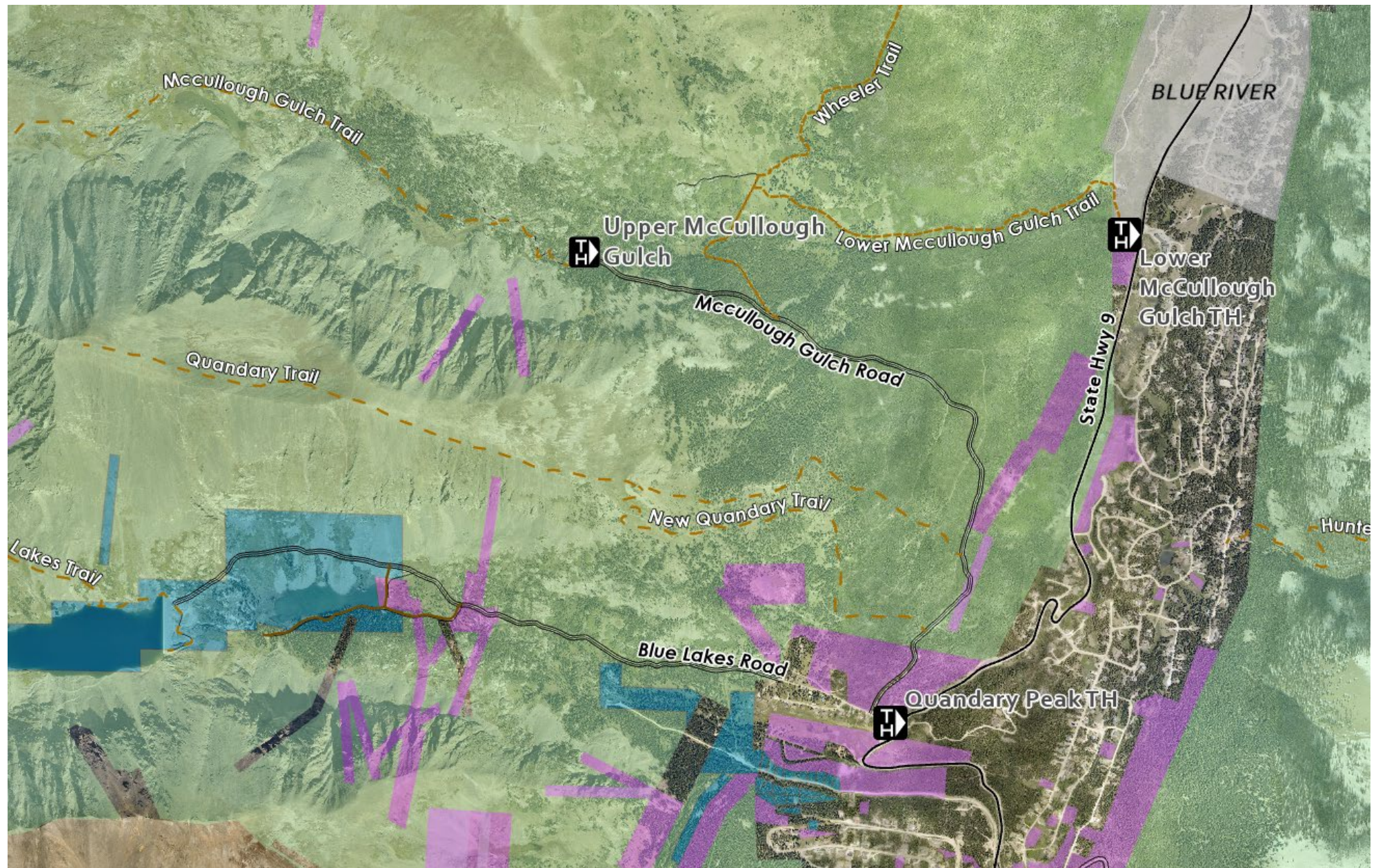


Quandary Peak Trailhead Land Ownership

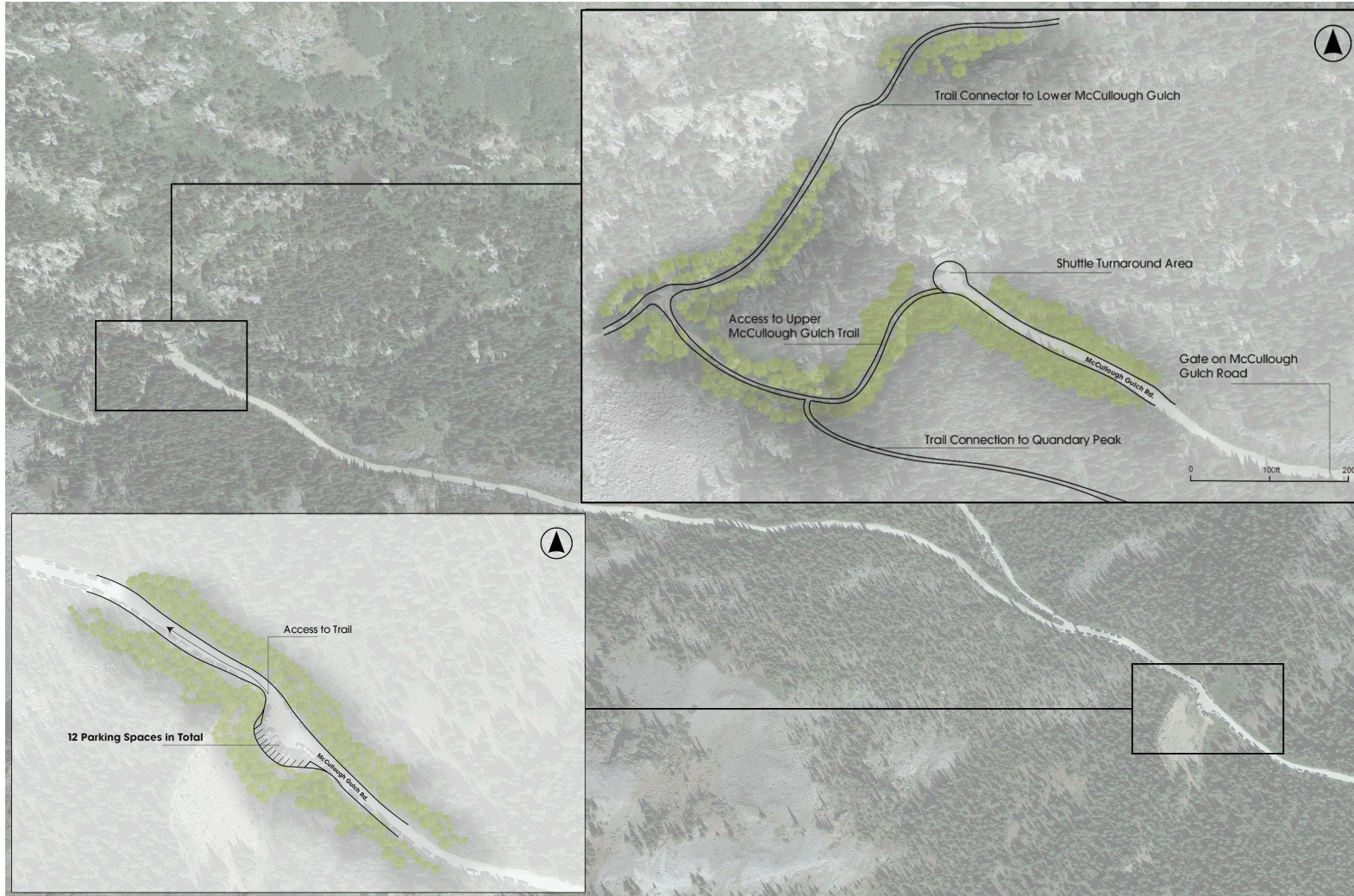


Quandary Peak Trailhead

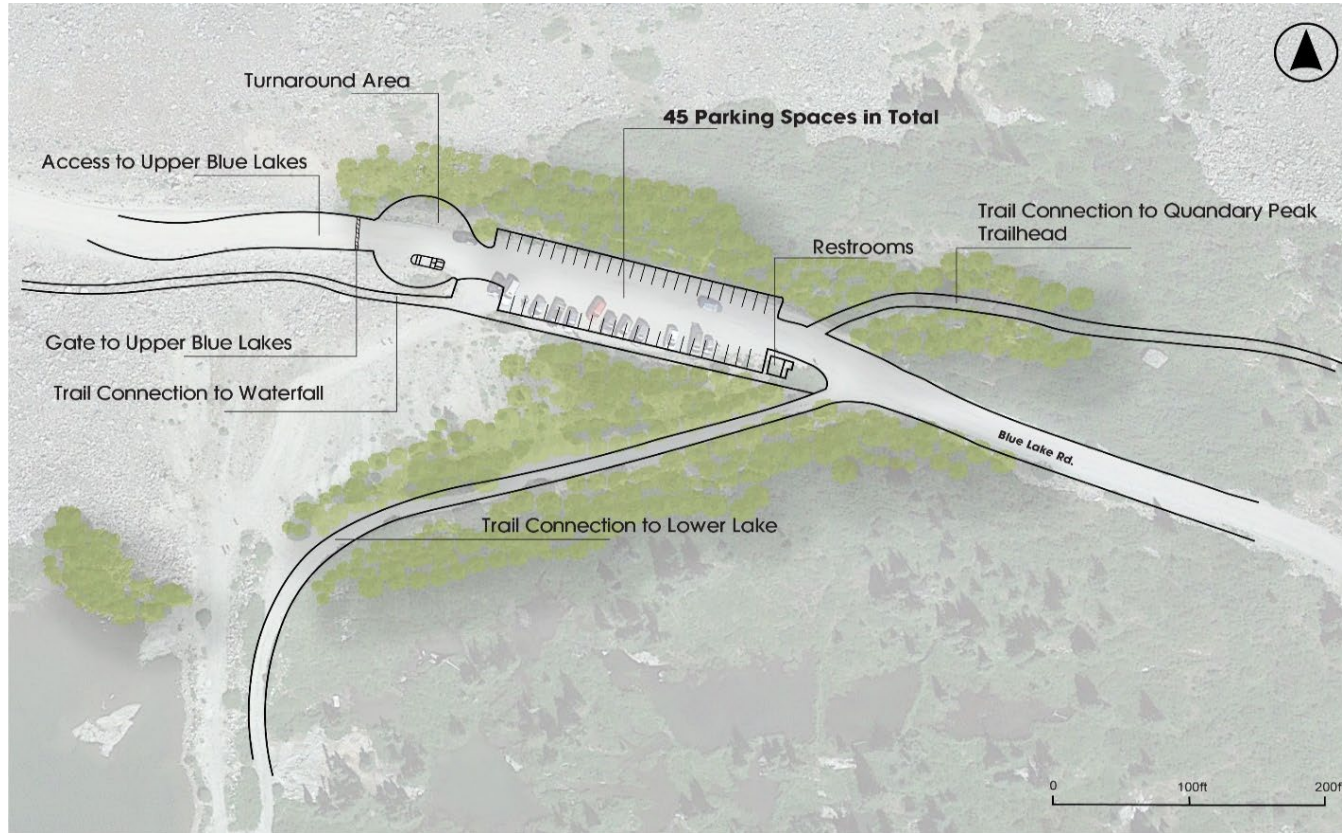




McCullough Gulch Trailhead



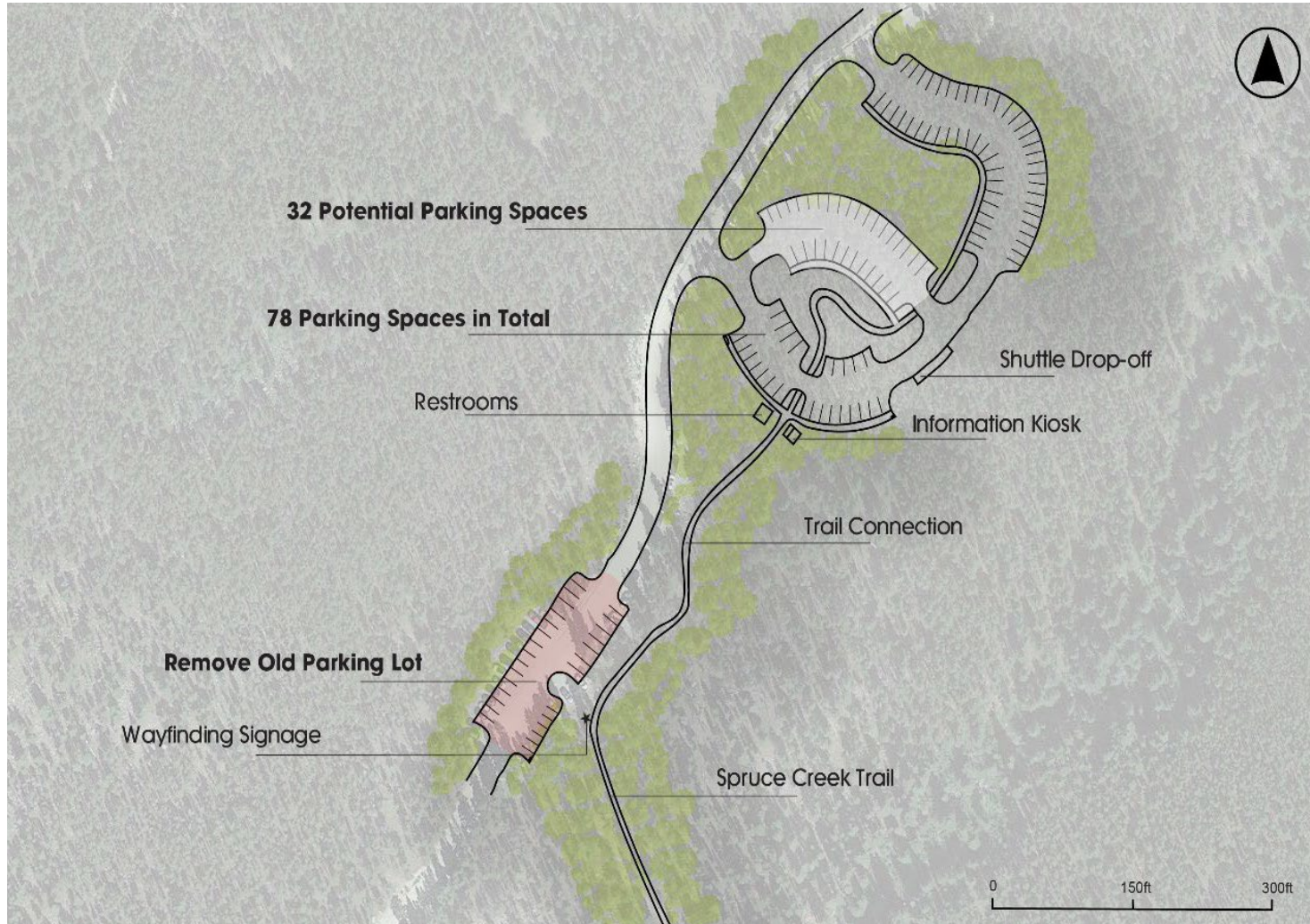
Blue Lakes Trailhead



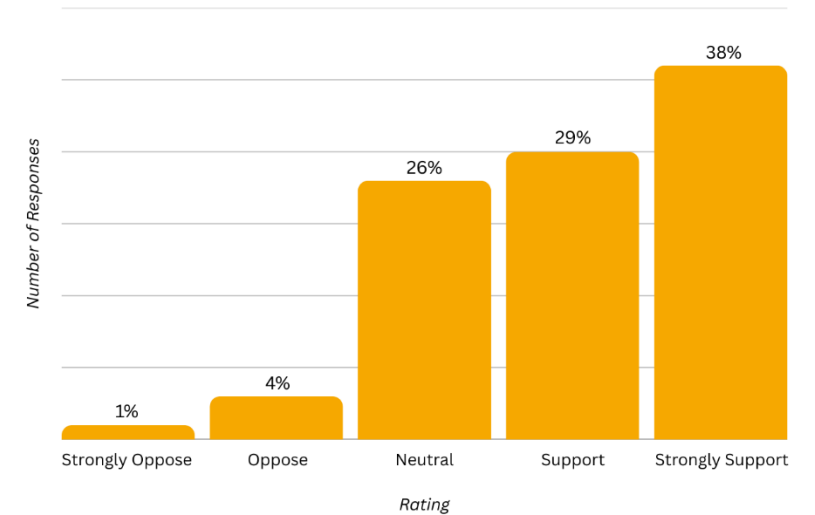
2/3 of survey respondents support or strongly support the proposed trailhead improvements



Spruce Creek Trailhead



Do you support the parking lot expansion and proposed improvements at the Spruce Creek Trailhead?



Management Framework



Guiding Principles

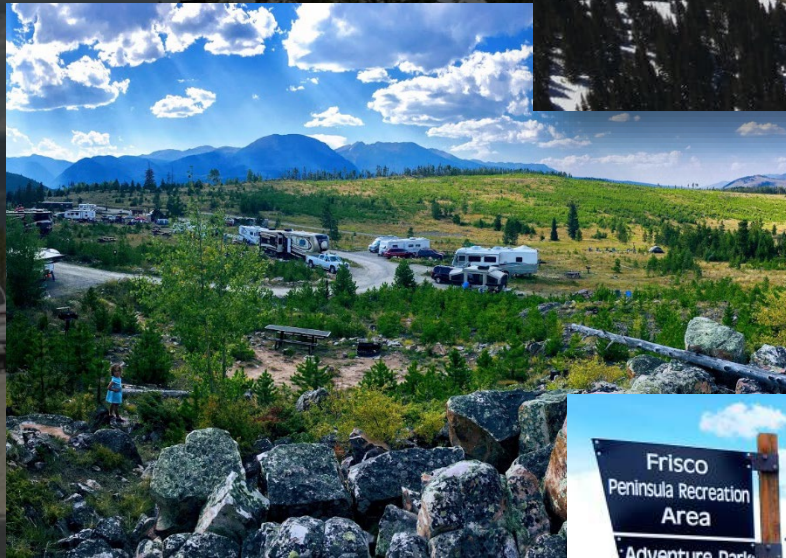
–

Highlights

1. Management shall be adaptive; Actions will be continually evaluated and adjusted.
-
9. The County should lead and maintain current shuttle operations and contracts.
-
11. The system should be self-sustaining in such that revenue from fees should cover the costs of operating a reservation system, public transportation, trailhead facility and trail maintenance, and enforcement.
12. When possible, all fees, parking, and shuttle reservations should be consolidated under one website and operator and managed by one entity.

Management Scenarios

- Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA)
- Private Concessionaire
- Special Use Permit (SUP) issued to local government.



Management Scenarios – Recommendation

- Begin with a SUP issued to the County to manage trailheads in study area
- Seek FLREA for the future to return management to Forest Service

Timeline

- Initiate NEPA Analysis – June 2025
- Collect Public Feedback, field truth and adjust proposed actions – Summer and Fall 2025
- Draft Environmental Assessment – Winter 2025-2026
- 2nd Round of Public Comment – Early Spring 2026
- Revisions and Decision Notice – Late Spring 2026
- Begin Implementation – Summer 2026





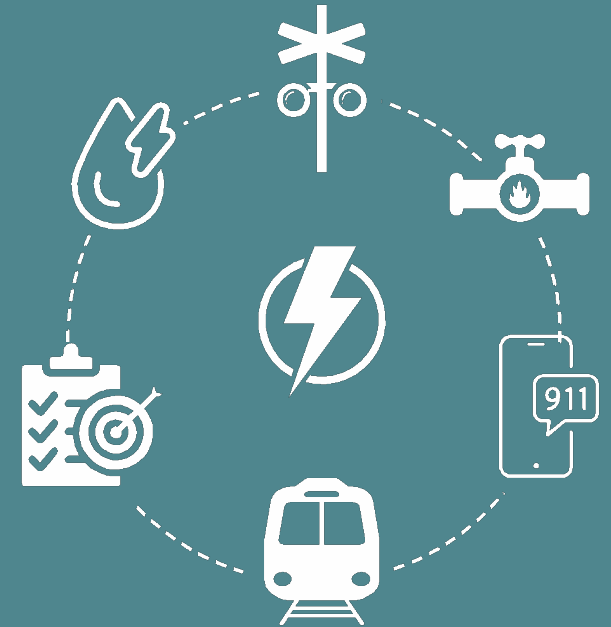
Discussion

- Does the BOCC support the Access Plan concepts?
- Would the BOCC consider partnering with the White River National Forest in the NEPA process?
- Does the BOCC support exploring a Special Use Permit issued to Summit County to manage visitor access?

Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

PUC Information Session on
Xcel Energy's
Mountain Energy Project Proposal



COLORADO
Public Utilities Commission
Department of
Regulatory Agencies

Today's Focus

- Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
 - About the PUC
 - PUC Role
- Xcel Energy Proposal
 - Case Overview
 - Timeline
 - Public Comment Opportunities
- Next Steps

PUC Mission



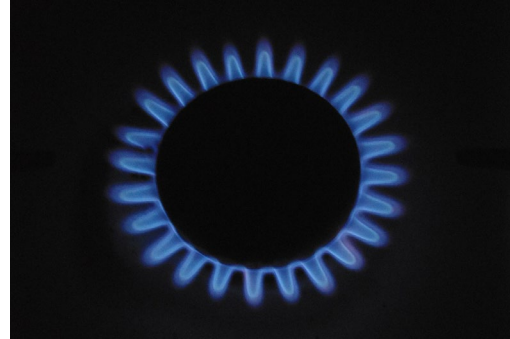
The mission of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission is to serve the public interest by effectively regulating utilities and facilities so that the people of Colorado receive **safe, reliable, and reasonably-priced services consistent with the economic, environmental, and social values of our state.**



Regulated Industries



Electricity



Natural Gas Service



Steam



Water



Transportation/Towing



Telecommunications/911



Rail and Transit



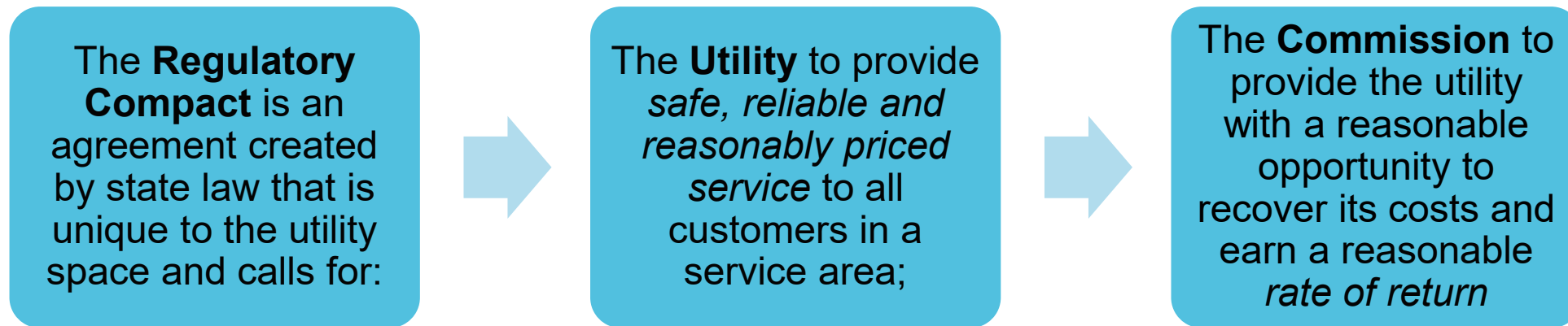
Gas Pipeline Safety

What is the PUC?

- The **Colorado Public Utilities Commission**, referred to as the “**Commission**” or “**PUC**,” is an **independent administrative agency** within the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (referred to as “DORA”)
- The PUC has broad constitutional and legislative authority to “**regulate public utilities in Colorado**” Colo. Const., Article XXV, and Title 40, C.R.S.

Why does the PUC exist? Regulated Monopoly Doctrine

- Investor-owned Utilities are “special” under the law. In competitive industries, customers have many purchasing options, but utilities, which are very capital-intensive industries, are “**natural monopolies.**” Because of “natural monopoly” status, utilities must receive **special oversight** to ensure fair prices and reliable service; this is called the “**regulatory compact**”



Structure of the PUC

COMMISSIONERS

- The PUC has 3 Commissioners that are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by a majority vote of State Senate
- The Commissioners deliberate and issue the ultimate rulings in the PUC's judicial and legislative proceedings
- Commissioners (as the decisionmakers) cannot discuss ongoing proceedings due to *ex parte* laws

DIRECTOR*

- The Director manages the operations of the agency, carries out and implements policies, procedures, and decisions made by the PUC. §40-2-103, C.R.S.
- The Director has power to issue all necessary process, writs, warrants and notices.

**Views and information provided today are those of the Director of the PUC and not necessarily the Commissioners*

Case Structure of the PUC

Two “arms” of the PUC engage in a case

Advisors

Commission advisors (expert engineers, financial analysts, and economists) help prepare the Commissioners behind the scenes to manage their cases and reach their decisions.

Trial Staff

Trial Staff represents the “public interest;” serves as a full party in the proceeding and prepares their own set of testimony and positions based on the expert engineers, accountants, and economists on staff.

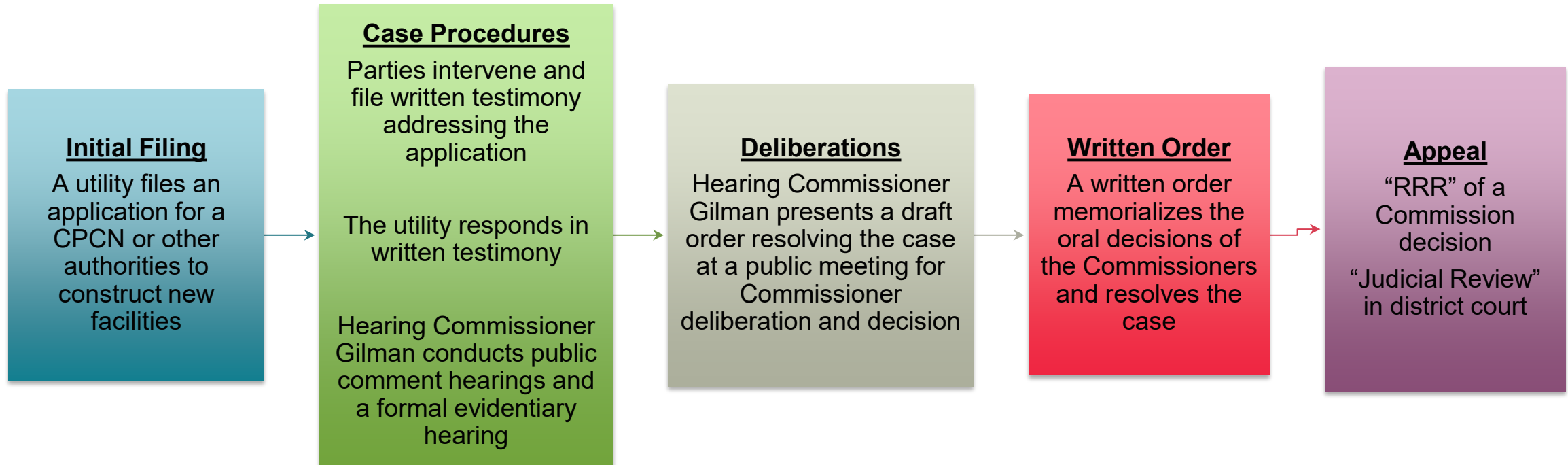
The Role of the PUC in Xcel Energy's Mtn Energy Project

- When a utility seeks to construct large and expensive new facilities, it must come before the PUC for authority to begin construction, through an **Application**.
- The PUC reviews the utility's request for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") and other requested approvals prior to construction.
- The process begins with the utility's filing, which includes testimony to support its requests.

The Role of the PUC in Xcel Energy's Mtn Energy Project

- This case is an “**adjudication**” meaning that the PUC acts like a judge when deciding whether to grant the CPCN or other approvals.
 - Commissioner Megan Gilman has been designated hearing Commissioner for this proceeding.
- Commissioner Gilman, using evidence provided by Xcel Energy, intervenors, and stakeholders, **weighs the utility's proposal and the overall record**, and will draft a decision for the full Commission to consider and adopt at the end of the case.

Xcel Energy Mountain Energy Project Case Process Overview



The PUC has 250 days to “litigate” an application filing. Each proceeding is assigned a detailed procedural schedule that sets forth each stage of the process, including public comment.

*On Jan. 16, 2025 , Xcel Energy filed the Mountain Energy Project application with the PUC(Proceeding No. 25A-0044EG)
Timeline and Process are on next slides*

Xcel Energy Mountain Energy Project Background:

Initial Filing

A utility files an application for a CPCN or other authorities to construct new facilities

- Xcel Energy asks the PUC to “approve and authorize the Company to pursue the Mountain Energy Project.”
- The project is a proposed long-term solution to address utility gas service in Grand Lake, Granby, Winter Park, Dillon, Frisco, Copper Mountain, Breckenridge, and Leadville.
- Project impacts approximately 33,500 Xcel Energy gas customers.
- Project involves: new gas utility facilities, such as compressed natural gas (“CNG”) and liquified natural gas (“LNG”); customer energy efficiency improvements; and alternative electric service and facilities.
- The central purpose of the project is to avoid the construction of traditional gas utility facilities.

Xcel Energy Mountain Energy Project Procedural Schedule & Timeline

By Decision No. R25-0297-I, the PUC established the following schedule:

Application Filed	Jan. 16, 202
Supplemental Direct Testimony	May 25, 2025
Public Comment Hearings: In person: June 25 in Summit County and Virtual: Aug. 4	Ongoing
Answer Testimony	June 5, 2025
Rebuttal & Cross-Answer	July 3, 2025
Stipulations / Settlement Agreements	July 23, 2025
Evidentiary Hearing	Aug. 12-14, 2025
Statements of Position	Sept. 12, 2025
Commission Decision	November 2025

Case Procedures

PUC develops a record of the case.

PUC receives written testimony;

PUC receives oral and written public comment; and

PUC conducts a formal hearing, including cross-examination and commissioner questioning of party witnesses

Xcel Energy Mountain Energy Project Deliberations and Written Order

Deliberations

Hearing Commissioner Gilman presents a draft order resolving the case at a public meeting for Commissioner deliberation and decision

Written Order

A written order memorializes the oral decisions of the Commissioners

Appeal

“RRR”

“Judicial Review” in district court

Deliberations:

- Hearing Commissioner Gilman will draft a written decision reflecting how she thinks the Commission should address Xcel Energy’s request to approve the Mountain Energy Project
- PUC Commissioners will consider Hearing Commissioner Gilman’s draft decision in oral discussions to resolve the case.
- These public deliberation meetings will be part of the Commissioners’ Weekly Meetings (CWMs) held on Wednesday mornings or scheduled as special deliberations meetings (CDMs) with agendas on the PUC’s calendar and website.

Written Decision:

- The PUC will render a final written decision in **November 2025**.

Appeal:

- The utility or other parties can appeal the PUC’s decision internally (“RRR”), or to district court.

Xcel Energy Mountain Energy Project Case Participants

Intervenors

- Participants with a specific interest in the case that can demonstrate the proceeding will affect their interests can request intervention as a party
- Can provide written evidence, can also challenge or support the utility's evidence presented.

Public Commenters

- Part of administrative record
- Valuable information from the public to help the Commissioners evaluate the overall record and can influence what formal parties address issues in testimony
- Comments provide a means for interested persons to encourage the PUC in the exercise of discretion.

Xcel Energy Mountain Energy Project Case Participants

Intervenors

Government Agencies:

Trial Staff of the PUC; The Colorado Energy Office,
The Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA)

Local Governments:

Mountain Community Coalition

Large Customers:

Colorado Energy Consumers

Non-profits, Others:

Sierra Club, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

Public Commenters

Members of the public that file written comments or speak at several upcoming opportunities

- Written public comments are welcome during the entire proceeding, but comments to be considered during the Commission's oral deliberations should be submitted by late October 2025
- Written and oral public comments are weighed the same

Xcel Energy Mountain Energy Project Public Comment Hearings

In-Person Public Comment Hearing:

- Summit County: 5:30 - 7 PM, June 25

Remote/Virtual Public Comment Hearing (Zoom):

- Aug. 4, 11 AM - Noon and 6 - 7 PM
 - Register online at PUC website puc.colorado.gov

Following the Case

Colorado.gov



COLORADO
Department of
Regulatory Agencies
Public Utilities Commission



E-Filings

Choose

- Sign In
- Password Reminder
- Filer Registration
- Non-Filer Registration
- View Agenda
- Naming Conventions
- Search Text (Decisions only)
- Search

[Help](#)

Search Electronic Filings

Use this page to begin a new search. Hint: use * in text fields for wildcard characters.

Search for:	Proceeding Number:	Title:	Industry:
Documents			Choose One
Document Type Choose One			
Filed After:		Filed Before:	
New Save Search			

25A-0044EG

Xcel Energy Mountain Energy Project Public Comment Opportunities

More Opportunities for Comment:

Individuals can also submit written or verbal public comments. Public comments should reference Proceeding Number 25A-0044EG and can be provided by:

- Submitting written comments through the Commission's [Electronic Filing System \(E-Filings\)](#)
- Submitting written comments using the Commission's [online form](#).
- Submitting through email at dora_puc_website@state.co.us.
- Mailing comments to the Commission's offices at: Colorado Public Utilities Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, CO 80202.
- Calling (303) 869-3490 to leave oral comments (English and Spanish options).

PUC Commitment to Improving Public Access & Participation

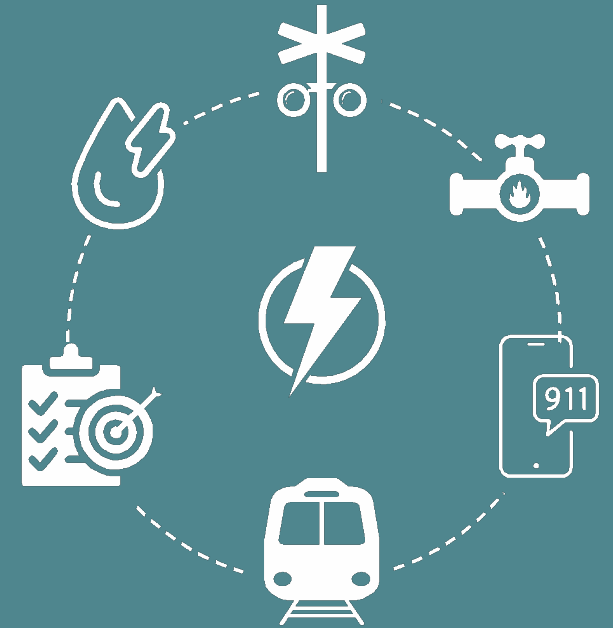
PUC expanding access, information, encouraging participation by:

- Incorporating accessibility, plain language, education, Spanish translation
- Promoting Public Comment opportunities in rulemakings & proceedings
- Updating PUC Website and developing new materials (including videos) to explain what the PUC's regulates and how to file complaints
- Providing interpretation services

QUESTIONS?

Colorado Public Utilities Commission

Visit our website:
PUC.COLORADO.GOV



COLORADO
Public Utilities Commission
Department of
Regulatory Agencies