

OPEN LANDS PLAN UPDATE, COMMUNITY RESPONSES: TRAILS

DECEMBER 28, 2016

PROMPT 1:

The Town has an existing network of paved and “soft-surface” trails throughout the Town that accommodates a variety of users.... from hikers, to walkers, road bikers, mountain bikers, in-line skaters and babies in strollers.

- a. How do you use the Town’s trails and paths?
- b. Do you see trails providing a benefit to the community? If so, how?
- c. What steps could be taken to improve the Town’s existing trail system?

Responses

1. “a.) I utilize the trails for hiking, biking, transportation. b.) They are a critical benefit as they provide separation from roads.”
2. “I rarely use the trails. I ride my bike on the roads to get around.”
3. “a.) Road bike, hiking. b.) Yes, activity centers, visitor amenities. c.) Gore Creek Trail ill-marked where it becomes discontinuous. Signage is key. Exit onto Meadow – ok, but what do you do / where do you go at Vail Road? Where do you go when you’ve taken Vail Road? Need more parking at many trailheads.”
4. “a.) Hike, walk dog, bike. b.) Yes.”
5. “a.) We use the trails for both running-biking. b.) For sure benefit to the community. Allows visitors and residents ability to move from area to area safely and quickly. c.) Add more trails.”
6. No response sheet.
7. “a.) I hike the East Vail trails. I bike all of the bike paths. I enjoy doing that. I love them. b.) Big benefit to the community – that’s what people come for – an outdoor experience in the beautiful Vail Valley.”
8. No response sheet.
9. “a.) I use trails for running/biking. b.) Definitely provide benefit, it’s space for recreation, like those listed. c.) More trails...”
10. No response sheet.
11. No response sheet.

12. No response sheet.
13. No response sheet.
14. No response sheet.
15. No response sheet.
16. No response sheet.
17. No response sheet.
18. “a.) I walk and bicycle the Town’s trails and paths. Also utilize them in the winter. b.) Trails provide a huge benefit to the community. They allow our visitors to enjoy connecting with the outdoor world, encourage and enhance active lifestyles, contribute to overall health and well-being. Also, they provide a huge benefit to families – they reduce “screen” time (iPhone, etc.). c.) The Town’s signage could be improved. What about signs that would give people an approximate time to get from Point A to Point B? Europe has wonderful models we could copy.”
19. “The trails definitely provide a community benefit.”
20. “a.) Walking, hiking, biking. b.) Benefits local lifestyle and transportation along with draw for tourists. c.) More parking at trailheads or public transportation access.”
21. “a.) Biking and hiking. b.) Connecting the many communities of Vail, promoting the healthy mountain lifestyle, economic impact of drawing visitors, incentive to live in Vail and build a community. c.) Add full north/south loop in 1994 Plan. Beginner / Intermediate friendly.”
22. No response sheet.
23. No response sheet.
24. No response sheet.
25. No response sheet.
26. No response sheet.

JANUARY 4, 2017

27. “a.) We walk the trail along Gore Creek to exercise our dog, allow him to swim in Gore Creek. We hike the North Trail often, we hike the Davos Road often. My wife bikes

into Town to ride Vail Mountain and also the North Trail, and some of middle. c.) Extending the North Trail out to East Vail would be very beneficial.”

28. “If you are going to have a trail system, the following will be needed. # Noxious weed program. # Parking for access to trailheads. # Maintenance ongoing: prevent erosion, clean fallen or dead trees, safety construction visible for hikers – bikers, keep paths clear of fallen rocks.”
29. “Leave trails in natural state while maintaining safety – cut snags, falling logs. Great effort by ‘Science School’ to organize outdoor hiking. Open an office in Vail Village for hiking and climbing.”
30. No response.
31. “a.) I use them to commute for work and errands. I also use them for recreation and exercise. b.) I believe they are a huge benefit for the community and visitors to share and recreate. c.) Add connecting and shorter / easier / beginner soft surface trails. Current trails are intermediate / advanced.”
32. “a.) I use trails to commute to work, run, walk, bike for fun, both mountain and road and cruiser. b.) Trails connect communities, provide recreation opportunities, and make healthy active communities tied to nature. c.) The Town’s trails are very disconnected , and riddled with unsustainable social trails that could be made into valuable Town assets. How does a guest know about the Bighorn or Vail Trail? They are unofficial, not cared for. Connectivity would reduce parking problems , and encourage use.”
33. “a.) Morning dog walks, afternoon rides. Using the paths and trails to get from place to place. b.) Trails create community. They allow people to access nature. They also concentrate the impact humans have on nature. c.) More connectivity between neighborhoods. Flatter trails for young and older users.”
34. No response.
35. “a.) Walking, biking. b.) Tremendous benefit to the community. Promotes tourism and healthy Colorado lifestyle.”
36. “a.) I use the trails for casual exercise (walking), mountain biking, and hiking. Also, for the transportation from Avon to Vail (biking) in the summer. c.) I support a system of mixed use trails that loop around the valley on north and south side of highway without much elevation gain. This would be in addition to the paved bike paths that currently exist.”
37. No response.
38. “a.) Hiking, biking. b.) Yes – recreation visitors and locals. c.) ?”

39. "a.) I walk, hike, run and road and mountain bike. b.) The trails offer respite, an opportunity for interaction with nature, exercise and confirmation of why I live in the mountains. c.) We do not need more trails in the Vail Valley. We need more trail maintenance and education so residents and guests feel a sense of ownership and responsibility. This project launched last summer thru the USFS and has been widely acclaimed. Let's keep our momentum and focus in this area."
40. "a.) All of the above, plus jogging. b.) Yes; obvious. c.) Fine as is!"
41. "a.) Hiking, biking. b.) Yes. c.) It is good the way it is..."
42. "a.) I use the paved trails for hiking, biking, and running. Soft surface for hiking, trail running, and winter use (micro-spikes / snowshoes). b.) A benefit for certain by providing alternative activities / lifestyle for guests and residents. c.) The implementation of any new trails, or 'improving' existing trails should be considered only after carefully judging whether they meet the 'needs' of the community, in general, or 'wants' of a small segment of 'stakeholders' (i.e. mountain bikers).
77. "a.) I walk the Buffehr Creek trail before work almost every morning. When I have company in the winter, we ski on the track set on the golf course. The path from the parking garage to the Betty Ford Gardens is also a delight. b.) The trails are a foundation for the forming of our community. They are a place to meet and form connections."

JANUARY 19, 2017

43. No response sheet.
44. No response.
45. "Its an active community. The more options the better."
46. "a.) Yes, I use them for hiking and mountain biking. Also helped with the adopt-a-ranger program this year doing trail work. b.) They are a wonderful asset to the community."
47. "a.) I seldom dare use the trails along the Gore due to bikes. c.) The bare / obvious first step is to require the rental companies to have bells (\approx \$15) on bikes. Then of course signage highlighting: (1) Announce your presence and (2) Use your bell."
48. No response.
49. "c.) Sunburst Road should not be a main bike path. This is dangerous when tourists are all over the place. Too many people speed on this road which makes it dangerous."

50. "a.) I use the paths to walk to work every day. c.) More trails like the north trail system."
51. "a.) I enjoy the bike trails for hiking into town – b.) I only wish – when trails are shared by bikes and walkers, that bikers would have bells or voice warning like we do when skiing – 'on your left – on your right.' It is very startling to have a bike overtake one without warning."
52. "a.) I use the town trail system and appreciate the towns commitment to providing these area. b.) Over the years a lot of the areas. c.) I don't have an opinion on how to improve them but I do think the direction the town has taken is good."
53. "a.) Hiking, walking. b.) Yes, for exercise and be in the open air. c.) Signage of trails showing distance to destination and time allowed and difficulty – benches."
54. "a.) Yes I do walk trails. c.) To improve Town of Vail trails, need sitting and resting places – better signage with distances and time and difficulties."
55. "a.) I se the trails for biking, up and down the valley. I regularly ride from East Vail to the Village in lieu of driving – b.) that's a great benefit. c.) In the summer the East Vail trail gets very crowded with walkers, creating serious conflicts with bikers. Is it possible to revise the trail to separate walkers and bikers?"
56. "a.) I use the trails for hiking, show-shoeing, road biking. b.) Yes, the trails are an important feature – a big part of the reason we live here. c.) I use the Vail Trail and hope that it can be preserved as is, without improvements. Improvements would change its unique nature as a quiet, special place."
57. "a.) I use the network of paved trails on almost a daily basis. I ride my bike to work in the summer from East Vail to Lionshead. Also I walk the bike path year around while fly fishing Gore Creek. I love the path system! c.) The only complaint that I have would be aggressive road bikers. The paths are full of families, babies, dogs and children and some of the road bikers are disrespectful and dangerous."
58. "a.) Normal travel. b.) Providing healthy lifestyle by being available. c.) N/A."
59. No response.
60. "a.) Walking. b.) Another amenity but limits. c.) Teach bike etiquette to address conflicts. Bikers using bikes as transportation should be on the frontage roads' shoulders as designated – not where walkers and casual bikers are. 'Connecting neighborhoods' as is used for the North Trail is not a valid argument. It connects nothing and is a hiking / biking ? trail. Neighborhood trails are on the valley floor or in neighborhoods and do not require a day pack or closing to protect wildlife. No trails on hillsides should be visible cuts especially on south side. Trails should conform to

natural contours – not modify natural landscapes. Trails down valley have longer seasons and more terrain for a multitude of trails – especially for bikers.”

61. “c.) Use trails that are existing, as much as possible. Leave the Vail Trail (the one that goes from Northwoods Condos to the Memorial Park) as it is. Do not widen and make into a mountain bike trail. It has always been a quiet jewel of a trail especially for older hikers and families with young children. Mountain bikers change the aesthetics of this lovely horizontal (easy) trail.”
62. No response sheet.
81. “a.) Walking into Vail. c.) Road bikers should be encouraged to use Frontage Road as number of families, young children and visitors use these trails on daily bases. Thank you to Town of Vail for keeping these areas shoved and well maintained.”

WEB SURVEY RESPONSES

63. “a.) Use: Hiking and walking b.) Benefit: Yes. c.) Added aesthetics and recreation options.
64. “Walk & Bike That why we live here more soft surface flat trails”
65. No response.
66. “I like to mountain bike and road bike pretty evenly so either paved or soft surface trails are equally preferred.”
67. “b.) The bike path is a great. c.) Better signs would be nice. Many people don't pay attention to others that use the path. Watch for bikers, share the path, pay attention. Signs like that could be helpful”
68. No response.
69. “Trails are a good way to increase physical activities in the valley. Keeps us and the environment healthy but basically telling us where to go, and leaving more of nature to itself”
70. “Walking when In town. Was there for go pro games. And was very impressed with the ease with which to get around. Oh I love in Snowmass. Much more people friendly in Vail than aspen”
71. “Yes the trails around help get to destinations quicker as well as a good way for sight seeing”

72. “a.) I run regularly on the North and Vail Trails during the summer. These trails allow locals and visitors alike to experience the natural environment that surrounds the town. c.) I would love to see a continuation of both trails to run the length of town as well as better signage on the North Trail. There are many social trails that branch off and can cause confusion.”
73. “The town's existing trail system is very nice! PLEASE do not change the Vail Trail! There are an ample number of mountain bike trails on Vail Mountain and in the Vail Valley. Please leave ONE (besides Berry Picker) for walkers.”
74. “Walking”
75. “a.) Walking. b.) They are a tremendous benefit to residents and a delightful surprise to visitors. c.)Improvement should be a Town discussion.”
76. “a.) I use them for walking/commuting/biking. b.) They are a huge benefit to the community for commerce, physical/mental well-being.
78. “b.)Trails are a tremendous benefit and should be maintained.”
79. “a.) Hiking, biking, walking with the family. b.) The trails are great, we love them!”
80. “a.) I use Town & USFS trails almost daily. The very popular Buffehr segment of the North Trail is my morning walk when not seriously hiking. I and many others do this early in the morning before work or to avoid collision-risk with mountain bikers who also enjoy this trail. c.) We need an active education campaign to get pet-owners to pick up after their pets, esp in winter.

PROMPT 2:

The 1994 Open Lands Plan envisioned the concept of a trail system between neighborhoods “similar to trails found in the Alps where interconnected trails allow hikers to move around and to mountain villages.”, with trailheads in each neighborhood. Notwithstanding the challenges of implementing such a concept (land ownership, environmental impacts, cost, etc.), what do you think of this idea?

Responses

1. “I think it is a great idea. I utilize the trail from Buffehr Creek to Garmish all the time.”
2. “The Town needs to articulate the purpose of this interconnect. Today it would only serve to bring people into and out of the Village. There is no need to move between neighborhoods due to the lack of community with the high number of part-time residents.”

3. No response.
4. "Good idea."
5. "I like the idea but still need to protect open space and privacy for neighborhoods. Great idea, tough to implement."
6. No response sheet.
7. "Love it! Do it!"
8. No response sheet.
9. "I say YES... especially advantageous for bike travel... wonderful idea. See Copenhagen – they are transitioning currently to a near carless city. It would be amazing to see Vail follow suit."
10. No response sheet.
11. No response sheet.
12. No response sheet.
13. No response sheet.
14. No response sheet.
15. No response sheet.
16. No response sheet.
17. No response sheet.
18. "Fabulous!! Progressive and worthwhile effort. It would showcase Vail. What about some food stops? The trail system in the Alps should be our model. What needs to happen is an education piece that would include the value of connecting man with nature. That culture exists in Europe. Can we recreate it here?"
19. "Think it's a good idea. Can hopefully be accomplished in partnership with USFS without having to buy land."
20. "Love the concept."
21. "Great idea! Build a community."

- 22. No response sheet.
- 23. No response sheet.
- 24. No response sheet.
- 25. No response sheet.
- 26. No response sheet.

JANUARY 4, 2017

- 27. "Many neighborhoods are already connected the next step is to connect down valley neighborhoods via either a paved trail or dirt for the mountain bikers."
- 28. "This is first a town; rather than a trail around the town – which will never be free of I-70 noise – The beauty of hiking is peace and quiet – more trail into the back country 'forestland' developed and improved with the Forest Service would be more beneficial, pleasurable, and meaningful!"
- 29. No response.
- 30. No response.
- 31. "Brilliant! I think this would bring the community together, allow for further bike commuting, and overall increase the happiness and health of residents. It also would provide beginner trails for kids and new hikers / riders. It may reduce parking demand."
- 32. "Exactly! Make them usable for all abilities and kids, bikes, etc. There are plenty of 'hard core' trails up drainages, etc. i.e. Gore Creek, Bighorn, Pitkin. Also, add a 'shuttleable' mountain trail by extending the Two Elk east to Gore Creek campground or into East Vail / Bighorn Park via existing social trail. \$\$\$!!"
- 33. "This is a fantastic vision. People can create their own experience as simple or challenging as they wish."
- 34. "Good."
- 35. "LOVE THE IDEA and it's about there. More trails to backcountry."
- 36. "Fully support this concept, should be a high priority."

37. No response.
38. "Parking in each neighborhood would be a problem."
39. "I have hiked and run there trails in the Alps many times. They valleys are wide and lush – tiny roads and farms. There is very little vehicular traffic, little development and very few geological challenges. We face entirely different challenges here as mentioned above. The concept sounds charming but to me, it is entirely unrealistic. Our valley needs a comprehensive EIS so we have a valid document by which to proceed with any more expansion."
40. "Not necessary here."
41. "Not necessary... our area does not make this an option."
42. No response.
77. "This is an interesting idea. I have not hiked the trails in the Alps but I imagine an interstate highway does not run through it. The North Trail does connect from Davos to Buffehr to Red Sandstone (I love the little library on that side!). The trail from the Village to Intermountain is wonderful for visitors and residents for walks, bird watching, families with strollers, and biking to get to work or for fun."

JANUARY 19, 2017

43. No response sheet.
44. "Can it work."
45. No response.
46. "No necessary. Don't see it being used beyond what already exists."
47. No response.
48. No response.
49. No response.
50. "I highly enjoy the concept."
51. "I question the long term cost of maintenance to control erosion, maintain safe paths (stone rocks, fallen branches and ____) and safety from loose dogs, bears, wildcats, etc."

Aren't there enough trails on Vail Mountain?? In twenty years will mountain biking still be popular?"

52. "I think its a good idea."
53. "It would be a great idea for residents and visitors where people could be active on their own while other friends/family do other activities, skiing, golf, etc."
54. No response.
55. "Have you looked at the traffic in the valley? It is terrible. Trails can help alleviate human movement in the valley."
56. "This is a good idea as long as the environmental impact is taken into consideration. Also I don't think we want it too "Disneyland." Better to preserve the natural beauty. Some trails specific to hikers (not mountain bikes) is important."
57. "I like this idea. The mountain and surrounding areas are for recreation. To much of this are is already private and I think interconnecting trails through town provide more and needed recreation oportunities."
58. "I think this idea could benefit the youth in the town being able to easily transport each other to friends houses. It would get more kids active."
59. No response.
60. "Europeans have a different culture and reality so concept can not be duplicated here. Hiking trails and neighborhood connections are two different things. We pretty much already have trailheads in the appropriate locations."
61. "We have a bike path along the Vail Golf Course already so I would strongly oppose a connecting trail or bike path on the North side of Frontage Road, one that crosses above the Vail Mountain School. That is BIG HORN SHEEP territory year round. On this very day, January 19, 2017, I saw a magnificent ram sitting above the highway. And, I see them (rams and ewes) very often. The ewes like the land just above the Mountain School."
62. No response sheet.
81. "I agree with this concept. Beneficial to all including wildlife. Co-existance is most important."

WEB SURVEY RESPONSES

63. "I like the idea. But such trails should be soft surfaced, and primarily for hikers. NO new mountain bikes.. No new paved trails."

- 64. "Great!"
- 65. No response.
- 66. "Love it"
- 67. "There are enough trails"
- 68. No response.
- 69. "Good idea, basically has already started in areas"
- 70. No response.
- 71. "It works perfectly"
- 72. "I think this is a great idea. Not only would this be a great way to experience Vail, it could also positively affect the parking issues in the summer by supplying visitors and locals with additional ways of moving through town instead of solely relying on single occupancy vehicles."
- 73. "We have that now! Look at the North trail and all of tis trail heads and the course that the Trans Rockies race follows from Vail to Beaver Creek."
- 74. "great idea"
- 75. "Should be under discussion with much weight being given to neighborhood residents."
- 76. "What a great idea. While it may not be popular today, it would be a great idea for a truly forward-thinking community."
- 78. "Yes, a good idea but only if it is studied properly and does not negatively affect wildlife."
- 79. No response.
- 80. "In theory a good idea, but fraught with risk of user conflict unless developed similarly to the East Vail to Village bike trail."

PROMPT 3:

Trails provide both recreational opportunities and the ability for individuals to access and enjoy the Town's open lands and adjoining USFS lands. However, new trails may have the potential to

create adverse site impacts and introducing human activity may impact wildlife habitats. Balancing these factors is important when considering the development of new trails.

- What factors are important to you (and why) when thinking about the potential development of new trails in Vail?

Responses

1. "I think it is critical to consider environmental impacts. I think seasonal closures are a potential solution although I am not sure if people pay attention to them."
2. "The trails must blend into the natural surroundings. There is already enough 'urban' blight in the area. Also, they need to respect people's privacy by not running in proximity to people's living areas."
3. "Human safety. Interaction with animals / especially dogs with animals."
4. "Trails (and potential new trails) are near or adjacent to developed areas – wildlife is plentiful around existing trails, so more trails will not likely cause any more conflicts."
5. "Maintain open space and neighborhood privacy. Not concerned about trails affecting wildlife."
6. No response sheet.
7. "I think the proposed hiking trails look good. More parking at trailheads would be great."
8. No response sheet.
9. "Considering environmental impact is huge, obviously. But also, with sufficient trail/bike path infrastructure is essential and will encourage decreased car usage."
10. No response sheet.
11. No response sheet.
12. No response sheet.
13. No response sheet.
14. No response sheet.
15. No response sheet.
16. No response sheet.

17. No response sheet.
18. "The factors important to me would surround 'how much' impact is involved. If it means disturbing wildlife migration paths, I would not support it, unless we can mitigate. My question would be, 'does this trail contribute to the greater good of the community?' If yes, it's worth considering.
19. "Impact on wildlife habitat is important to me – need to minimize the impact. While the trailheads need to be well-marked, hopefully can be done in a way to minimize site impacts."
20. "Balance."
21. "1. Access, 2. Wildlife, 3. Challenge / Beginner, 4. Multi-Use, 5. Commuting"
22. No response sheet.
23. No response sheet.
24. No response sheet.
25. No response sheet.
26. No response sheet.

JANUARY 4, 2017

27. "I spent a great deal of time on the north side of I-70 before the North Trail was built. I encouraged the North Trail and enjoy it tremendously. As stated earlier, I would like to see it connect to East Vail and, if possible, connect thru to Eagle Vail and Avon on the north side."
28. "See above."
29. "Overdevelopment. Don't do this. Wilderness becomes park like. Trash and flora destruction."
30. No response.
31. "Skill level: beginner, intermediate, advanced; access; multi-use; wildlife impact; trail use-traffic."
32. "Follow USFS recommendations: trail development alongside developed area, and not up drainages, loop systems, etc."

33. "Wildlife impact based upon local studies not using CPW studies performed 20 years ago in rural Montana. Also consider how good trails concentrate use and discourage creation of social trails. Look at the positive changes that occurred on the hillside below North Trail."
34. No response.
35. "I am not knowledgeable enough to answer, but the environment must be protected to a reasonable extent."
36. "Many social trails already exist. Ideally, trail development would follow these, limiting wildlife disruption. Trails should be wide enough to allow mixed use and limit erosion."
37. No response.
38. "Don't think we need new trails in Town of Vail – there are plenty to the west in less populated areas."
39. "I have serious concerns regarding environmental impacts, disturbing wildlife, flora, fauna, private property rights and safety as it pertains to rock slides, avalanche, etc. We have a solid trail network in Vail and we have the mountain. We have expanded lanes on the frontage roads and paved bike paths throughout our valley. The Vail Trail remains a quiet respite, accessible from the Village is ideally suited for walking and/or running. Mountain bikers have a plethora of choices and this quiet gem needs no alteration or extension. The mountain bike community is receiving serious push back in many communities. And the voters of Eagle County indicated their preference for no more trail at the polls in November."
40. "Trails already in existence are sufficient – no new trails needed!"
41. "New trails are not necessary... too many negatives in anymore developing trails."
42. "Stay out of environmentally sensitive areas. Conserve what little wildlife habitats we have left – we've already taken most of the winter range! Focus on land for trails which are not impacted by geologically sensitive areas (snow slides, rockfall, wetlands). Think about trails where folks can just go for a stroll, enjoy nature, 're-create,' without all of the distractions of bikes, skis, motorbikes, etc. or the din from all of the current activities in Vail and at the top of Lionshead."
77. "It is important to me that we care for habitat for wildlife and do not develop new trails in sensitive areas. The peregrine falcon nest is in one area in East Vail that should not have a new trail or increase in use."

43. No response sheet.
44. "Too many trails: all land open?"
45. No response.
46. "I think more diversity of free recreation opportunities would be important over new trails. I would love to see Vail add a disc golf course in town that would bring in people from out of town and provide free recreation to locals. It is a low-impact (on space) sport that just needs some 'open land' and the strong disc golf community here would be very supportive in building and maintaining."
47. No response.
48. No response.
49. "We have already taken over wildlife habitat by being here. A few more trails won't hurt. Stay out of wetlands."
50. "Protecting a natural setting is important."
51. "I'm not sure homeowner whose property backs onto forest land will be happy about the loss of privacy and possible threats by vandalism (as many homeowners are absent a great deal of the year.)"
52. "It has been my experience that in general we have put animal habitat as our second priority when it comes to corporate interest and profits. It is my belief that trail improvements and some expansion of the trail system has very little effect on wildlife habitat in comparison to the inevitable growth and development of our communities."
53. "A study would have to be made as to migration of wildlife so as not to impact humans or animals."
54. "Having lived on top of Potato Patch for over 40 years we have today more wildlife than any time before!!"
55. "1.) Access by bike or foot in lieu of auto's is key. 2.) Wildlife is now secondary to recreation on the valley floor. Human activity has already compromised habitat and trying to 'preserve' habitat at this point is moot."
56. "Preserving the natural habitat is key. Saving our beautiful trees is important. That is one concern I have regarding the Vail Trail."
57. "I worry about the river the most. I think there already has been a large impact and more development would concern me about the impact on Gore Creek."

58. "Wildlife habitats are important. If any trails are added, putting steps in place to protect or more that wildlife safely is a must."
59. No response.
60. "Environmental impacts – land and wildlife. Documented need is missing. Complete mapping of Gore Valley trails has not been done. We are getting carried away with trail concepts that, with few exceptions create scars on the land and negative impacts that outweigh any 'want.' Mapping will give a clearer picture of reality and identify any blanks in the system. My hiker / biker friends say there are plenty of trails for all users in Vail. Expanding trails adds another expense for town which already is reducing standards to cover all of our amenities' maintenance."
61. "Big Horn Sheep habitat should be respected. No bike paths or walking trails should cross (east to west, west to east) where the sheep hang out. The sheep have always been in the area above the Vail Mountain School, either on or above the cliffs and also lower, sometimes by the Frontage Road. Let them have their long-held habitat!"
62. No response sheet.
81. "Wildlife is most important; forest land adjoin some of these areas must remain as so."

WEB SURVEY RESPONSES

63. "New trails should be soft surfaced and primarily for hikers."
64. "Wildlife first"
65. No response.
66. No response.
67. No response.
68. No response.
69. "Not being in the way of hunting grounds and migration areas"
70. No response.
71. "Wildlife habitat"
72. "I think trail impacts to native wildlife and physical environment (e.g., erosion) are important to consider. These become exacerbated with heavy use as well."

73. "Please leave the precious Vail Trail as it is! We don't need mountain bikes on it. There are no pedestrian only paths in Vail except of the Nature Center and Berry Picker on Vail Mountain. Don't disrupt what is already very perfect!"
74. "we need a disc golf course!!!!!!!"
75. "Wildlife habitat and environmental impact are of utmost importance. Experts should be part of open discussions."
76. "Habitat should be protected even if it means the loss of recreational access. Seasonal closures should be a priority. Educate people about the reality of wildlife and hikers vs. wildlife and bikes. Bikers can be less stressful to animals because they are not standing upright (scary to animals) and hikers often have dogs off-leash. However, bikers experience nature much differently (less engaged) than hikers who are moving slowly enough to see and hear wildlife/natural sights much more effectively."
78. "Habitat impact."
79. "One area that I'm particularly interested in is the Katsos plot of land in East Vail. I've heard talk of putting in public disc golf course there, which I think is a great idea. The land is easy to access from the East Vail exit and has a nice variety of features that would be perfect for an 18 hole course. The nice thing about disc golf courses is that their impact on the land is very low. No major construction need. It would be a nice tourist attraction for visitors and give locals access to play for more of the season (not having to wait for snow to melt at Adventure Ridge). I wasn't sure where to put this comment, but I feel adding a course would be amazing!"
80. "Before any additional trail development, the TOV should contract & conduct a bio-diversity study. There are inevitably conflicting values in some trail development which need to be evaluated & balanced. For instance, the concept trail along the north side of I 70 utilizing the berm below the E. Vail cliff also used by Bighorn Sheep as shelter & nursery & occasionally by Mountain Goats would be very harmful to wildlife enjoyed by visitors & residents. Similarly an expanded trail above the Memorial Park would be insensitive, even offensive to residents & visitors. It would also likely drive away the raptors nesting every year on the cliff above the Memorial Park,"
