

2018 Open Lands Plan Update Summary of Refinements

October 16, 2018

Below is a summary of refinements made to the 2018 Open Land Plans Update in response to Town Council discussions during the past five work sessions.

General Refinements throughout the Plan

- Change “affordable housing” to “workforce housing”.
- Change “significant impact” to “adverse impact”, re: trail development and wildlife.
- Change reference to “minimize or mitigate” trail impacts on wildlife to “minimize, mitigate or eliminate” trail impacts to wildlife.
- Change all plan refinements made during PEC review to “green”, all changes made in response to Town Council review to “red”.

Chapter 1 – Intro

- Refined definition of “social trails” (page 5).
- Add reference to Vail being recognized as a “Sustainable Mountain Destination” to the list of things that have changed since the '94 Plan (page 2).

Chapter 2 – Env Sensitive Lands

- Action Item #21/East Vail Pond was deleted from the Action Plan (page 46). Added narrative in Chapter 2 about this parcel being considered as an Action Item, but was determined to not include as Action Item (page 8).
- Action Item #2/parcel above West Vail, description of Action Item in Chapter 5 was modified to add reference to possibility of solar farm, the need to resolve access and to consider wildlife or other impacts (page 47).

Chapter 3 – Town-owned Lands

- Summary of community input on town lands and use of lands – refined summary of comments heard from community and added within a text box the town’s housing policy from Vail Housing 2027 Plan, re: workforce housing being considered infrastructure, similar to roads or utility systems (page 16).
- Middle Bench of Donovan Park - added “currently” to sentence about limitation on land uses as per Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) ordinances (page 18).
- Clarified description of voter’s rejection of conference center in 2005 (page 20).
- Managing lands for Biodiversity – significantly expanded discussion of recommendations for evaluating and then managing Town open space lands for biodiversity. Referenced the need to coordinate this effort with any environmental/wildlife evaluation related to trail development. Added brief explanation of the 1994 inventory done by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (page 22).
- Action Item #23/CDOT parcel in East Vail – clarified that development could be possible on both sides of Bighorn Creek (page 21).
- Action Item #9/Talisa Tennis Courts – add potential use of this site could be low to medium density workforce housing project, importance of sensitivity to Gore Creek (page 21).

Chapter 4 – Trails

- Added Trails Plan from '94 Plan to body of Plan (page 25).
- Wildlife and the Gore Valley – added reference to a summary of the Wildlife Forum has been added to the Appendix of the Plan (31).
- Amended Conceptual Trails Plan by removing the Vail Trail Extension (page 37).
- Wildlife Analysis – Referenced the need to coordinate any environmental/wildlife evaluation related to trail development with biodiversity studies (page 41).
- Potential Collaborations – added potential for new trail development on Vail Mountain via collaboration with Vail Resorts (page 43).

Chapter 5 – Action Plan

- Action Item #7/Old Roost Lodge – add language that the Town supports the existing development approval for a mixed-use housing/hotel project and that acquisition should only be considered if or when it is clear that this approved development or one similar to it is not viable (page 48).
- Action Item #13/VR parcel at International Bridge and Action Item #22/land-locked parcel in East Vail - change Purpose of Action from “Acquire parcel” to “Acquire parcel or work with land owner . . . to eliminate development potential” (to be consistent with other Action Items).
- Action Item #9/Talisa Tennis Courts – add reference to potential use of this site to be small workforce housing project or park expansion (page 48).

Chapter 6 – Implementation Plan

- Management of Lands for Biodiversity – refined to emphasize importance of studying Town open space to establish baseline conditions and to then develop a management plan to enhance biodiversity (page 54).
- Vail Resorts and Vail Mountain Trails – suggest the opportunity to collaborate with Vail Resorts on potential trail development on the Front Side of Vail Mountain (page 56).

Appendix

- Added summary of the January 2018 Wildlife Forum.