



## OSC 2005 Annual Report

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### **BEAVER BROOK WATERSHED:**

The purchase of the remaining 1442 acres of Beaver Brook Watershed was completed in April, 2005, with the help of a \$5.2 million loan/grant from GOCO. It is hoped that the National Forest Service will eventually buy back this parcel. If the Forest Service does not come through with the funds, the loan will revert to a grant. The Friends of Beaver Brook Watershed, a 501(c)3 corporation, has been formed to help with fundraising and the creation of a management plan and a volunteer scheme. An Open Space member is President of this organization. The Rules of Use Regulations for the Watershed has been adopted by OS and the BOCC. A Request for Proposals was publicized for a Planner to help with the creation of a Management Plan. The firm of Hogan-Darrow Design )Partners (HDDP) has been chosen to do the work. A Planning Committee, including members of OS and Friends of Beaver Brook, will work with the Planner to create the Plan. A Baseline Survey is a work in progress. A committee of Open Space members is currently working on Special Use Policy and a permit application for Special Uses in BBW and other OSC properties. As a result of this project, the Clear Creek County Open Space Commission leveraged the taxpayers money for additional grant monies at a ratio of 1:16.



### **GREENWAY PLAN:**

The draft Greenway Plan is available. There were 2 public meetings in November and 2 in April to allow a public discussion of the Greenway Plan, and the Community Technical Team has met with numerous other smaller groups of stakeholders. It is anticipated that the Greenway Plan will be adopted by the Planning Commission in December 2005.

### **WHITEWATER PARK:**

Open Space has been awarded the management of the Whitewater Park parcels. The 404 and 401 permits are ready for the Whitewater Park. Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation has offered \$5,000 for the project. We have also received a lease agreement from CDOT. A hydrology review has been completed. There is a joint use agreement with CDOT. The DOW has stated that they have no problems concerning this project. We applied for a GOCO grant to

construct infrastructure. That grant was not approved because the project is in CDOT right-of-way. We have since applied to CDOT for enhancement dollars. That grant application is pending.

**SHEEP KEEP:**

Open Space has received a letter from the DOW stating that they will help with the management of the 1600 plus acres of the Sheep Keep property and a Statement of Management will be prepared. CDOW will manage the wildlife and OS is responsible for managing the habitat. Management of the Sheep Keep has been supported by the Fall River Homeowner's Association. Management issues involve Off Highway Vehicles trail heads and the North Empire road system.



**GENEVA IRON FENS:**

A gate has been erected to control the main vehicular access directly to the Geneva Iron Fens. This gate will be unlocked for the first year and locked thereafter. Trees have been felled, with Forrest Service permission, to block three more accesses to the fens. Signs have been erected to mark boundaries and inform the public that the fens are a non-motorized use area for the protection of the unique natural resources.

**ELMGREEN:**

An Elmgreen Management Plan is in the creation process. Open Space is still working on trail plans and possible easements through private property adjacent to I-70 for public trail access.

**ARRASTRA:**

An archeological evaluation has been completed with the financial help of a grant from the Colorado State Historical Society. The final report is due December of '05. Sample pit testing and ground penetrating radar reports have been completed.

**MINING CLAIMS:**

Open Space is currently pursuing acquisitions of several mining claims in the Waldorf Basin and Georgetown area. These are privately held patented claims that have open space values and are offered by willing sellers..

**ST. MARY'S GLACIER/JAMES PEAK WILDERNESS AREA:**

The Commission is actively working with the USFS and adjacent property owners to create parking and trail access to St. Mary's Glacier and James Peak Wilderness Area.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

The Clear Creek County Open Space Master Plan has been adopted by the Open Space Commission and presented to the BOCC.

OSC has voted to fund a half time secretary in response to increased administrative work load.

The Open Space Commission received a Starburst Award from GOCO for the preservation of the Beaver Brook Watershed for the best use of lottery funds.

The OSC and CCC were awarded the Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) "Conservation Award" for the long hard work on acquiring the Beaver Brook property.

The Commission has acquired 250 signs and is in the process of purchasing more to mark boundaries and post Rules of Use.

Several members from Open Space attended the annual NEPA conference and the Colorado Conservation Land Trust Conferences which concerned record keeping and conservation easements.

Tables at Earth Day and MALT's Watershed Trails Festival were manned by Open Space members, where information about the CCC Open Space properties and programs were presented and questions were answered.

Open Space had representatives at the "Fall Fling" information event, hosted by the CCC Chamber and Tourism Bureau.