

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Mack Ridge Working Group Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2002

Attendees:

Bob Anthony	Kevin Foote	Chris Pipkin
Gene Arnesen	Tom Lucks	Lovell Sasser
Sue Benjamin	Pat Kennedy	Julie Stotler
Nadja Brozina	Neal McKinstry	Unknown
Tom Collins (?)		

Greetings and Introductions

Kevin Foote opened the meeting and noted some corrections to past minutes:

- April 18: Horsethief Bench will allow horse travel but in a counterclockwise direction only. Mountain bikers and hikers are not restricted to any one direction.
- April 30: The parking lot needing to be chained is not Rustlers, but the parking lot at the Moore Fun Trailhead, and the reason is to keep it small. There was discussion about enlarging the area for parking; however, everyone came to a consensus that this was not a good idea. Also, Kevin would like to see the road gated and used for administrative use only.
- May 16: Only the front trail on Mack Ridge would allow hikers and mountain bikers, and the top of Mack Ridge would allow all uses, i.e., horse, foot, and mountain bike would be allowed.

This is the end of the corrections.

Working Group Discussions

The issue of closing the frontage road was brought to the table. Kevin would like to see this road gated at the Lion's and Mary's Loops Trailheads. This would pull traffic out of the area and provide safety for all users.

Chris Pipkin, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Recreation Technician, suggested that the Working Group have a backup plan in case the county would not consider closing the road. A trail parallel to the frontage road might need to be considered. Kevin agreed to consider that as an option but wanted to push for gating the road. Tom suggested using wheelchair access as a pushing force, and Sue Benjamin suggested an old road on the north side of the frontage road as another possible location.

Kevin also wanted to get rid of the roads that serve no purpose and rehabilitate them.

The Working Group reached agreement in gating and closing the Crow Bottom access road. The gate would allow administrative use only, and if the owner wanted hunters on this land, the gate could allow access for that purpose.

Everyone decided that the road to Sisac's property was already gated, and no further discussion was needed.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding trail designations. Lovell Sasser does not want to see any of the trails, except one area of Mack Ridge, closed off to horses. She is in favor of rating the trails, as well as offering some interpretive signage and education for equestrian use. The Mack Ridge Trail is one trail that Lovell would like to see a reroute on.

Chris also proposed suggesting a reroute, but only specifying a general location for now.

Tom and Pat Kennedy expressed that their intent is not to run the equestrian users out but to preserve a few trails for mountain biking. The horses have both the Wilderness and Pollock Canyon areas.

Sue expressed her concern with monitoring and etiquette enforcement on the trails.

Neal McKinstry expressed disapproval in that denying horseback riders access to the Moore Fun Trail would deny them the beautiful views the trail offers.

The group agreed to develop a multi-use trail, in a loop configuration, coming out of the Mack Ridge parking lot yet avoiding the Mack Ridge access road. Also agreed upon by all was a rerouting of the trail at the Salt Creek Bridge, off the Troy Built Loop to the Kokopelli Trail.

Tom asked about motorized use and voiced concerns over accessibility for the disabled. He wanted to know if there was any consideration in keeping a four-wheel drive road open.

Kevin would like a totally quiet-use area with administrative vehicles only allowed. Everyone appeared to be in consensus with this statement.

Kevin suggested some time off from meeting, but everyone else wanted to continue on. The next meetings are scheduled for July 15 and August 5, at 5:30 p.m. Both meetings will be at the BLM office, unless Jane Ross, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Planning and Environmental Coordinator, sends everyone an e-mail indicating a different location.

The meeting was adjourned.