



TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE & TRAILS

Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission

July 21, 2025

Council Chambers in Town Hall

150 Ski Hill Road, Breckenridge, CO 80424

THE TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE IS HOLDING HYBRID MEETINGS. THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AT BRECKENRIDGE TOWN HALL. ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. IN PERSON ATTENDEES MUST NOT ACCESS THE VIRTUAL MEETING WHILE IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

This meeting will also be broadcast live over Zoom. Log-in information is available in the calendar section of our website: www.townofbreckenridge.com. Questions and comments can be submitted prior to the meeting to websiteopenspace@townofbreckenridge.com.

4:15 pm **Site Visit – McCain Open Space Parcel** (McCain Dr, Breckenridge, CO 80424)

5:30 pm **Call to Order**

5:35 pm **Discussion/Approval of Minutes**
 ▪ June 16th, 2025 Draft BOSAC Meeting Minutes

5:40 pm **Discussion/Approval of Agenda**

5:45 pm **Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items; 3-Minute Limit Please)**

5:50 pm **Staff Summary**

- Field Season Update
- FOBT Update
- Forest Health Update
- Acquisitions Update
- Bioacoustics
- Copper Canyon Survey Results
- McCain Public Engagement
- 51 Carter Drive Easement
- STRAP

6:00 pm **OST Discussion**

- 2024 Town and County Wildlife Camera Monitoring Report
- BOEC Parking
- Aspen Alley Trail Seasonal Use Restrictions

7:20 pm **Other Matters Related to Open Space**

7:25 pm **Council Matters Related to Open Space**

7:30 pm **Executive Session**

7:40 pm **Adjournment**

*Please note that this meeting summary was partially generated using AI transcription technology and has been reviewed by the designated minute taker for accuracy and completeness. *

I) CALL TO ORDER

Nikki LaRochelle called the June 16, 2025 regular meeting of BOSAC to order at 5:32 pm. Other members of BOSAC present were Chris Tennal, Bobbie Zanca, Krysten Joyce, Matt Powers, and Town Council liaison Jay Beckerman. David Rossi attended virtually. Staff members present were Mark Truckey, Chris Kulick, Alex Stach, Tony Overlock, and Duke Barlow. Katherine King, Summit County Open Space Director, was also present. Sam Spicer & Craig Karn from THK Associates were present with Laura Hickey and Melissa Bade from CDR Associates attending virtually. Members of the public who were present: Sarah Watson, virtual attendees: Kelly Ahern and Greg Ruckman.

II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) BOSAC REGULAR MEETING – April 28th, 2025

The minutes were approved as presented.

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

IV) STAFF SUMMARY

A. Field Season Update

B. FOBT Update

C. Forest Health Update

D. Laurium Trailhead Update

Mr. Barlow provided an update on the Laurium Parking Lot, stating that the parking lot relocation & realignment of the road will begin in August and should take 3 to 4 weeks. Ms. Zanca asked that staff leverage Summit Daily as an additional resource to share updates/outreach regarding changes to the Laurium Trailhead.

E. Wildfire Ready Watersheds

Ms. Joyce asked about the funding source for Wildfire Ready Watersheds. Mr. Barlow replied that this round of funding came from the Town's Public Works Department. Mr. Truckey gave some examples of previous funding sources and how Open Space has been involved historically. Ms. Zanca was curious to know about the outreach process for

Wildfire Ready Watershed, to which Mr. Barlow replied that all Summit County post office box holders were supposed to have received an informational postcard.

F. BTO

G. 2025 Quandary Shuttle and Parking Reservation System Update

H. Little Daisy Update

I. Pedal Together

J. Xcel Restoration Update

Mr. Barlow stated that restoration work on the B&B Xcel Site should begin in early July and should take between 3 to 4 weeks to complete. No trail closures are anticipated.

K. Copper Canyon Survey

L. RAMI

Ms. Zanca was curious to know which trails/trailheads we manage that are involved in the RAMI process. Mr. Barlow provided some context on which trailheads are a part of the process and why they were included.

M. Spruce Creek Road Closure

Ms. LaRochelle had a question about the specific location of the construction on Spruce Creek Road and how Spruce Creek Trailhead access is impacted. Mr. Barlow explained how to access the Spruce Creek Trailhead via the detour.

N. CHCDNM Update

V) OPEN SPACE DISCUSSION

McCain Open Space Design and Management Plan (22:20)

Mr. Barlow introduced the McCain Open Space Design and Management Plan project team, led by Craig Kern and Sam Spicer from THK Associates, and joined by their colleagues Laura Hickey and Melissa Bade from CDR Associates.

THK began the meeting with a conversation focused on conservation and development plans for the McCain Parcel in Breckenridge, Colorado. Mr. Kern discussed the importance of addressing conservation in its broader sense, including recreation, stewardship, and cultural values. Both Mr. Spicer and Mr. Kern emphasized the opportunity to make open spaces accessible to people of all abilities and life stages. The group reviewed historical images of the site and explored opportunities for interpretation and signage. THK highlighted the

significance of preserving open vistas/viewsheds and enhancing the landscape through native plants and water management techniques. There was also discussion around trail development and the need to balance access with environmental sensitivity.

Ms. Hickey and Ms. Bade presented their engagement approach for the McCain Open Space parcel, outlining phases of public input and feedback. They emphasized targeted engagement with neighboring residents and Spanish-speaking communities while also planning broader community outreach through surveys, an ArcGIS Story Map, and via the Town's communication channels. Ms. Zanca raised concerns about the lack of general public outreach in the initial plan, prompting Ms. Hickey and Ms. Bade to add to their stakeholder list and clarify their strategy of using existing resources like the Open Space & Trails Master Plan to avoid redundancy and respect community time.

Next, the presenters and BOSAC began to discuss specific programming for a new open space, emphasizing the importance of balancing community input with thoughtful design to create a lasting landmark. THK emphasized their focus on accessibility for all community members, including those with mobility disabilities, while maintaining the site's natural beauty and educational value. The environmental branch of the project team, ERO, has coordinated with Ecological Resource Consultants (ERC), who previously restored the river corridor, and will provide a comprehensive site assessment package in the coming weeks. Mr. Spicer also discussed the need to educate the public about the site's history and the importance of good stewardship to prevent issues like social trails and environmental damage. Ms. Joyce mentioned that there have been conversations about focusing on incorporating historical context and indigenous perspectives at this particular parcel. BOSAC and the project team briefly explored the possibility of renaming the site to better reflect its history, with BESAC and Breck History working on identifying native populations that may have used the area. Mr. Spicer also proposed the potential need for interpretive signage, including bilingual options, to educate visitors about the site's history and significance.

The group discussed the concept of management zones (frontcountry, midcountry, and backcountry) and how a frontcountry trail system would be most appropriate in the new open space, noting high demand for walking and biking, and aiming to balance accessibility for all with environmental stewardship, including restoring wildlife habitats. This would include creating a management plan that considers both human and wildlife needs, connecting to existing trails, and designing the space as a vital community asset. Additionally, conversations were had on improving community engagement for trail planning and emphasizing winter conditions in design.

Open House Review (1:26:55)

BOSAC and OST staff reviewed the success of the recent Open House, while also identifying areas for improvement, like broader outreach, more strategic social media use, and exploring incentives like raffles or smaller group discussions to boost participation.

Signage Workplan Samples and Pilot Program (1:42:15)

Mr. Overlock introduced the upcoming “Signage Pilot Program,” which will be implemented on the trails and trailheads within Illinois Gulch. The group briefly reviewed the new Sign Location Map document and then viewed samples of different sign materials. After some discussion, BOSAC agreed with OST staff regarding sign material and decided to proceed with the die-bond option for its durability and cost-effectiveness.

Future BOSAC Field Trip (2:02:25)

BOSAC and staff discussed plans for a future field trip to learn from other open space & trail programs, potentially visiting locations like Jefferson County or Boulder County, which face many of the challenges the Breckenridge Open Space & Trails program has begun to take on. Mr. Tennial proposed the idea of visiting the new Clear Creek Canyon Rec. Path.

VI) COUNCIL MATTERS RELATED TO OPEN SPACE TOPICS

N/A

VII) OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO OPEN SPACE TOPICS

Mr. Ruckman proposed that BOSAC & OST staff consider adding enforcement of Cucumber Gulch Preserve ordinances to the agenda for the July, 2025, BOSAC meeting.

VIII) ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the BOSAC meeting was made by Ms. LaRochelle, and Ms. Zanca seconded it. The June 16th, 2025, regular meeting of BOSAC ended at 7:31 PM.

The next regular meeting of BOSAC is scheduled for July 21st, 2025.

Nikki LaRochelle, Chair

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission
From: Open Space & Trails Staff
Re: July 21, 2025 Meeting

Staff Summary

A map, with bookmarks for many of the locations referenced in this Staff Summary, can be found [here](#).

Field Season Update

Our Naturalists, Open Space Technicians (OST), and contracted partners have been busy this season with the following projects and tasks:

Naturalists

- Collecting and managing data from wildlife cameras and visitor use counters
- Hosting educational tables focused on local wildlife, flora, fauna, and Leave No Trace (LNT) principles
- Leading guided hikes in Cucumber Gulch Preserve and surrounding trail networks, highlighting wildlife, flora, fauna, and LNT practices

Open Space Technicians (OST)

- Harvesting and constructing buck-and-rail fencing to complete the McCain closure
- Opening Cucumber Gulch Preserve by removing closure gates, fencing, and signage, and performing routine maintenance
- Conducting routine maintenance on the trail system, including tread work, drainage cleaning, and hazardous tree removal

Higher Ground Earthworks (Contractor)

- Completed maintenance on Gold Run Road, including drainage installation and ditch reconstruction from Jessie Mill to the top of Slalom, as well as work near the Prospect Road and Extension Mill intersection
- Restored the Carter Park stairs by improving drainage, importing topsoil, spreading native seed, and installing signage
- Scheduled to begin work next week on the French Creek Trail, which will involve relocating 200 feet of trail to the east, regrading the cut slope to a 3:1 ratio, and revegetating with native seed, shrub mix, and transplanted willows

BreckCreate

- Completed maintenance on Isak Heartstone.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails (FOBT) Update

Staff have been pleased with volunteer turnout this season, especially given that many of our events have focused on trail maintenance rather than new trail construction, which typically draw larger crowds. Despite this, each event has been successful and resulted in meaningful on-the-ground improvements.

- **June 21 – B&B Maintenance Day**
FOBT hosted 20 volunteers who completed maintenance work on the Minnie Mine and V3 trails, constructed buck-and-rail fencing, and made improvements to the All Persons Trail leading to the Keystone Drill site.
- **July 12 – Community-Wide Weed Pull**
In partnership with the Town’s Community-Wide Weed Pull effort, 15 volunteers helped remove invasive weeds along the River Trail and within Cucumber Gulch Preserve.
- **July 19 – Baker’s Tank Maintenance Day**
FOBT is partnering with the Friends of Dillon Ranger District and Summit County Open Space & Trails to complete trail maintenance. Staff will provide a full update to BOSAC at Monday’s meeting.
- **Upcoming Event – August 2**
FOBT will once again work with FDRD on additional maintenance at Baker’s Tank.

For a full list of upcoming events, [click here](#). As a reminder, BOSAC members are expected to participate in at least one FOBT event during the season.

Forest Health Update

The Blue River East Hazardous Fuels Mitigation (HFR) Project was completed on June 16th, 2025. This collaborative effort, led by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), was focused on enhancing forest health and reducing wildfire risk. The project encompassed 82.5 acres across lands owned by the U.S. Forest Service, Summit County Open Space, Town of Breckenridge, Town of Blue River, and private landowners. Dominated by Lodgepole Pine and Spruce-Fir forest types, the project involved a few core objectives:

- To substantially reduce wildfire hazards, providing critical protection for the project area and adjacent communities.
- To foster the healthy regeneration of native tree species, including aspen, lodgepole pine, spruce, and fir.
- To improve the visual aesthetics of the landscape through the removal of standing dead trees.

Acquisitions Update

The Town closed on the Rich Gulch Placer property on July 10, 2025. The sale price was \$2,500,000 and the mineral rights to the property are also being conveyed to the Town as part of the sale. The County contributed \$434,000 (17%) to the purchase. Staff have tentatively scheduled a site visit to the property prior to the August 18, 2025, BOSAC meeting.

Also on July 10, 2025, the Town and the County acquired a .5-acre undeveloped parcel at 243 Carroll Lane in exchange for 1 transferable development right (TDR). The lot is primarily comprised of wetlands, making it a valuable acquisition for conservation purposes. The Town and County split the closing and titling fees for the transaction, amounting to \$319 each.

Bioacoustics

Staff have partnered with the Hagen Family Foundation (HFF) to launch a collaborative 12-month bioacoustics monitoring project in Breckenridge. This project, which began recording on Thursday, June

26th, aims to gather data on both bird species and bat populations within the Cucumber Gulch Nature Preserve.

An avian monitoring consultant for the Town of Breckenridge, Christy Carello, recommended the specific locations for the recording devices. These devices are programmed to capture recordings at sunrise, midday, and sunset, providing a comprehensive acoustic snapshot across various times of day and seasons. Bat recording devices are in transit and will be installed at the same locations as the avian recording devices.

The project is a partnership, with HFF providing the equipment and leading data analysis, while the Town of Breckenridge manages on-the-ground logistics, including monthly device checks and data retrieval. Cornell Ornithology is also involved, serving in an advisory role to ensure best practices in bioacoustics research. Upon project completion, all equipment and intellectual property will be transferred to the Town of Breckenridge, allowing for continued monitoring and conservation work.

Copper Canyon Survey Results

Staff mailed over 400 survey postcards to residents surrounding the proposed Copper Canyon Trail and received more than 106 responses. Of those, 56% were in favor of the trail, 44% were opposed.

The primary concerns raised by residents included:

- Lack of parking
- Steep terrain
- Potential for trespassing

Staff is confident these concerns can be effectively addressed. Our trail system already includes many access points that connect to roads without designated parking, and these have generally functioned well. While the terrain is steep in sections, staff have walked the parcel multiple times and believe a well-designed, multi-use, multi-directional trail can be successfully constructed through Copper Canyon.

Concerns about trespassing can be mitigated by establishing a formal, well-maintained trail paired with clear and informative signage and fencing, an approach that is far more effective than the unmanaged network of social trails currently in place.

Staff intend to present the proposed trail to BOSAC for discussion during their August 18, 2025, meeting, to determine whether the Commission recommends moving forward with the project.

Please use [this link](#) to view the Copper Canyon Survey comments. To see the responses, click on “**VIEW RESPONSES**” under the second question: “Do you have any concerns, questions, or feedback regarding the proposed trail?”

McCain Public Engagement Update

Phase 1 of outreach for the McCain Parcel Public Engagement Process has been completed, including an Open House at Vista Verde on July 1st, 2025. Participants helped to identify key concerns through various channels. Quantitative engagement included 48 pulse survey responses and 54 participants in a McCain-focused surveying question at an OST open house. Qualitative efforts involved 24 community touchpoints at workshops, engaging diverse participants such as Spanish-speaking neighbors, two Town Council (Council) members, USFS, and a local outfitter/guide.

This initial phase also generated approximately 30 project notification sign-ups and led to [this Summit Daily News article](#) highlighting potential features like new trails and public gathering places. Community

interests expressed were wide-ranging, encompassing river access for fishing, open areas for play, walking and biking trails, gathering spaces, nature-based experiences, and bilingual signage. Key concerns identified included wayfinding, increased traffic and parking in Vista Verde due to rec path access, and limited/crowded fishing access. Additionally, comments extended to interest in a dog park and concerns about skier parking impacts.

Phase 2 will focus on gathering feedback on concepts and engaging specific stakeholders with a structured schedule. This includes a BOSAC Meeting on August 18, 2025, followed by a community meeting on the evening of August 20, 2025, at the Breckenridge Recreation Center, which will also launch a concept feedback survey. Further engagement includes a Town Council Meeting on September 9, 2025, and a virtual meeting with United States Forest Service (USFS) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) during the week of August 25-29, 2025, which will include staff.

51 Carter Drive Easement

The Town is finalizing a trail easement through the 51 Carter Drive property. This property is located adjacent to Carter Park, and securing this easement will allow legal public access to the park from the Powder Ridge and Chaparral Condominium units. As part of the easement, the Town will construct and maintain a fence to separate trail use from the residence on the property.

STRAP Update

The Dillon Ranger District of the White River National Forest is preparing a Scoping Notice for proposed improvements on USFS property within the Southern Tenmile portion of Camp Hale National Monument, with August 8, 2025, set as the targeted publication date. Recommendations for programming on neighboring properties, such as those owned jointly by The Town and the County, are also included. The Town and the County are supporting this process through assistance with field work and document-writing, as well as a commitment to host public Open Houses after the Scoping Notice has been published.

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission
From: Open Space & Trails Staff
Re: July 21, 2025 Meeting

Open Space & Trails Discussion

2024 Town and County Wildlife Camera Monitoring Report

Town and County staff collected wildlife camera data from six open space locations in 2024 and the results are attached in the wildlife camera monitoring report. We look forward to discussing the report with BOSAC.

- 1. Does BOSAC have any questions or comments for staff regarding the Town and County 2024 Wildlife Camera Monitoring Report?***

Breckenridge Outdoor Education (BOEC) Parking

As a follow-up to last month's site visit to the BOEC Trailhead parking area to discuss the potential for adding parking spaces, including two designated spots for mobility-impaired users, staff would like to provide an update.

While these mobility-impaired spaces would not be required to meet full ADA standards (as the trail itself does not meet ADA accessibility criteria), they would significantly improve access for individuals with limited mobility.

Open Space staff recently completed a camera monitoring study of the parking area, which confirmed that the lot—currently constructed with 13 spaces—is consistently at or near full capacity between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The study also showed that vehicles are frequently parked in the informal area just beyond the paved lot, precisely where staff is proposing the expansion.

Additionally, staff met with BOEC representatives to discuss the ongoing parking challenges. BOEC has repeatedly experienced issues with vehicles parking in their designated employee spaces and along the roadside, and, in some cases, receiving citations. These concerns have persisted over time and further highlight the need for improved and expanded parking options.

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission
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Open Space & Trails Discussion

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- 1. Does BOSAC have any questions or comments for staff regarding the Town and County 2024 Wildlife Camera Monitoring Report?***

SUMMIT COUNTY AND TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE WILDLIFE CAMERA MONITORING REPORT

2023-2024



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INTRODUCTION

The Summit County and Town of Breckenridge Open Space and Trails (OST) Departments have collected little baseline data on wildlife populations in the Golden Horseshoe. Without baseline data, the departments are unable to track changes to wildlife populations and habitat over time, cannot establish a baseline on species presence, and cannot determine if management actions are affecting wildlife. In addition, the departments cannot use wildlife data to inform management actions or acquisition decisions because no department-specific data exists.

Monitoring wildlife populations can help provide a better understanding of the occurrence, distribution, and status of wildlife. In addition, collecting wildlife data can help the two departments implement management strategies needed to protect wildlife species in the Golden Horseshoe. Having wildlife data can provide qualitative and quantitative support for management actions, create wildlife-based recreational opportunities, provide education to the community and recreational visitors, and minimize human-wildlife conflicts.

One way to monitor wildlife is by utilizing wildlife trail cameras. Trail cameras are a valuable tool that helps document the presence and abundance of terrestrial wildlife in different habitats and track changes in wildlife activity over time. The presence of species can offer insight into habitat health, quality, and connectivity, and determine if human presence and development affect species composition.

Therefore, in June 2023, County and Town OST staff partnered together to begin monitoring wildlife populations on Open Space and Trails properties in the Golden Horseshoe. The objectives of this study were:

- To establish baseline presence-absence data of wildlife species utilizing County and Town-owned properties in the Golden Horseshoe.
- To develop a standardized protocol for long-term monitoring.
- To incorporate into future land use planning and conservation efforts.

METHODS

In June 2023, staff deployed four trail cameras (Browning Patriot cameras) at four properties - Parkville, Swan River, Dry Gulch, and Fourmile. Locations were selected in known migration corridors and/or priority habitats (i.e., production areas, severe winter ranges, etc.) of certain species, properties with current or planned trail or restoration projects, or on recently acquired properties. Staff also made sure that the cameras were easy to access.

Cameras were strapped to trees or posts. Staff then setup the cameras to take photos (trail mode) with a capture delay of 30 seconds with 6-shots per event. Consecutive photo captures (<30 minutes apart) of these same species were considered the same event unless the photo-captured animal could be identified as a different individual (based on age, sex, and/or unique physical characteristics).

Staff downloaded all photos on a monthly basis and then deleted any photos without wildlife species (such as grass blowing in the wind). Then utilizing Microsoft Excel, staff recorded a variety of data including month, day, time, species, number of individuals, sex, behavior, and any important notes.

In 2024, staff bought a new camera to replace a camera that was stolen at Parkville. This camera was installed at the Ranch at Breckenridge property. Staff also removed the Fourmile Bridge camera due to minimal detections and placed this camera at Lincoln Meadows.

The following pages provide results from the six properties that staff monitored in 2023 and 2024.

DRY GULCH

RESULTS

Staff installed the Dry Gulch camera on June 16, 2023, at the Dry Gulch Open Space and is still in location monitoring as of July 2025.

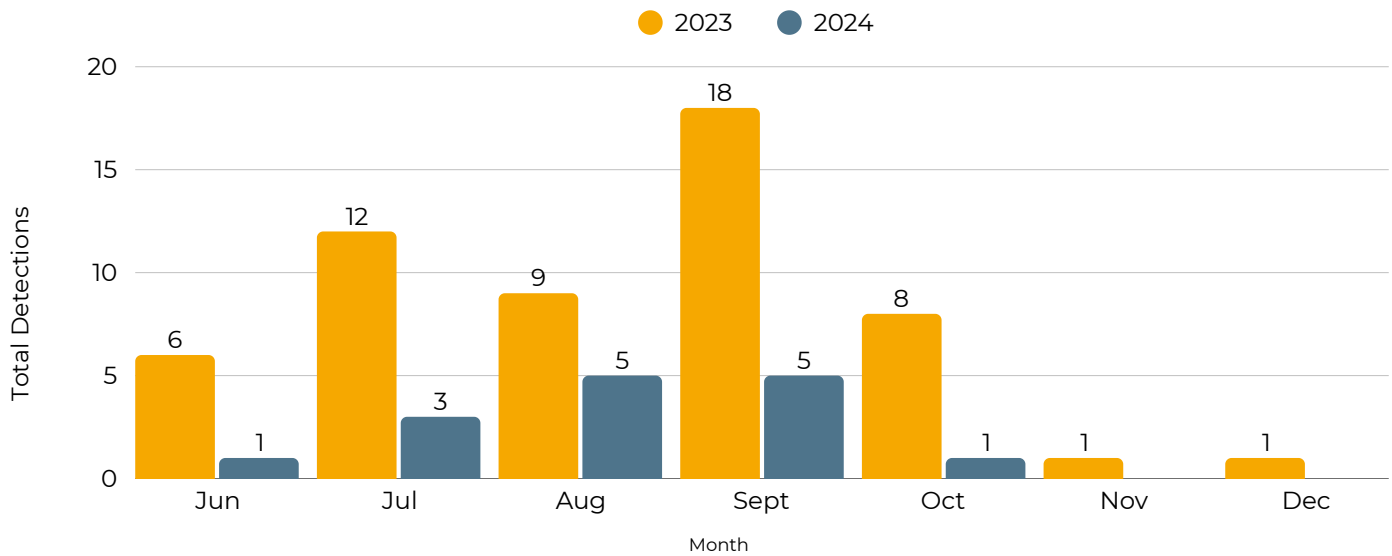
From June 2023 to December 2024, the Dry Gulch camera recorded 71 unique observations of 9 species. Mule deer were the most observed species and accounted for 62% of all observations.

Activity was highest in the month of September, which could be a result of ungulates migrating through the area. Mule deer and elk were the most commonly observed species during the month of September. Surprisingly, no captures were observed in the months of January – May. Partially due to camera malfunctions (dead batteries, snow drifts), but in some of those time frames, there were, in fact, no captures.

Dry Gulch was the second busiest location for elk (behind Rock Island), and one event featured at least 5-6 elk in one observation.



Species	Total Detections	
	2023	2024
American crow	0	2
Common Raven	1	0
Coyote	2	0
Elk	6	3
Moose	0	5
Mountain Bluebird	0	3
Mule Deer	43	1
Unknown bird	2	2
Unknown mustelid	1	0

FIGURE 1: WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS BASED ON MONTH**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A north-to-south natural surface trail connection has been proposed in this area in the past. Staff ultimately decided not to consider this trail after several separate elk observations from the Dry Gulch camera.
- Monitor spring activity closely (once camera issues are resolved) to determine if Dry Gulch serves as a calving area for elk or fawning area for deer.
- Winterization protocols to be established.



A. Acrobatic gray jay **B.** Unknown mustelid **C.** Five elk grazing and resting just in front of the Dry Gulch camera **D.** Mule deer alert to a capture flash

FOURMILE

RESULTS

Staff installed the Fourmile Bridge camera on November 30, 2023 at the Fourmile Open Space, where it was stationed until August 7, 2024.

From November 30, 2023 to December 2024, the Fourmile Bridge camera recorded 31 unique observations of 5 species. Red fox were the most observed species and accounted for 81% of all observations.

Activity was highest in the month of December, which is one of the least busy months at other camera locations. With the Fourmile Bridge in the frame, the resident fox may have been using the structure as shelter, as we captured what we think was the same individual passing under the bridge every few days.

In August 2024, staff made the decision to move the Fourmile Bridge camera to Lincoln Meadows due to low detection numbers and no ungulate presence or underpass movement recorded.

Species	Total Detections
Coyote	3
Mallard	1
Mountain Bluebird	1
Racoon	1
Red Fox	25

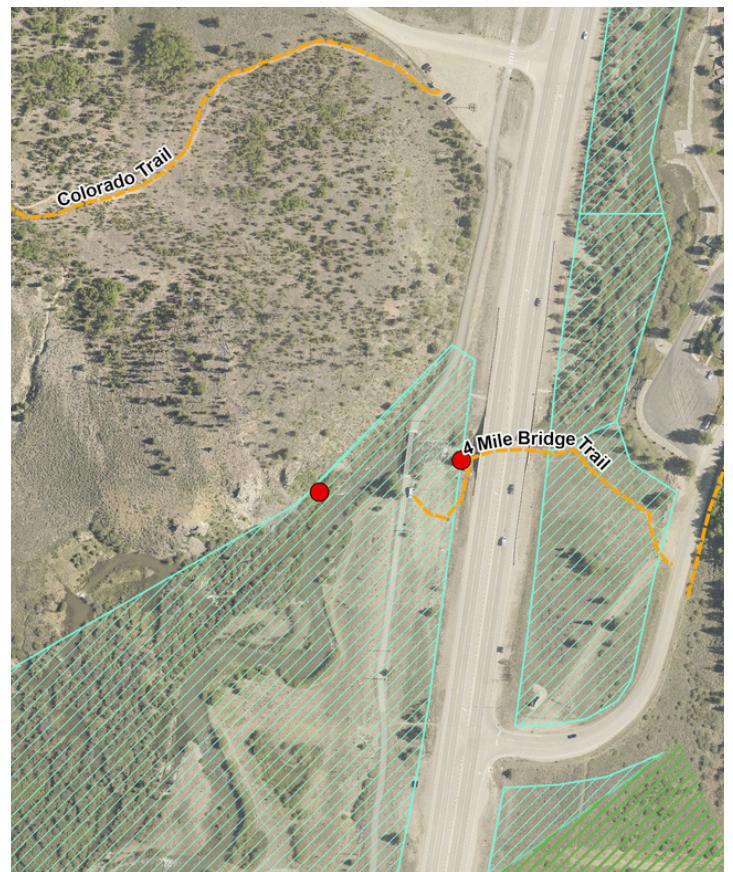
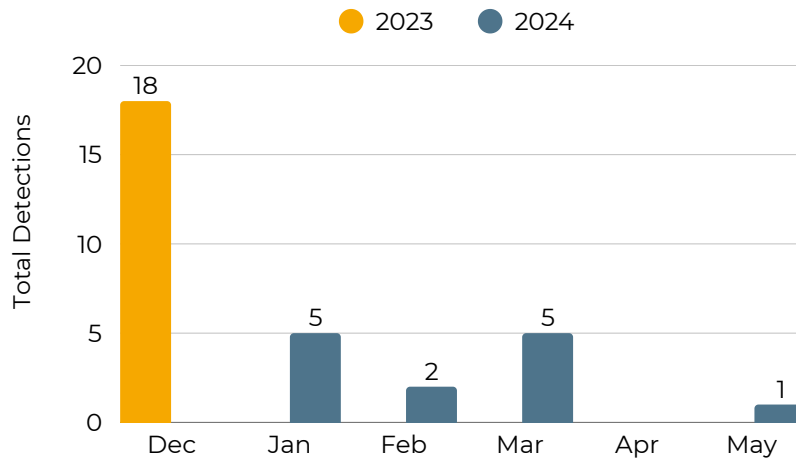
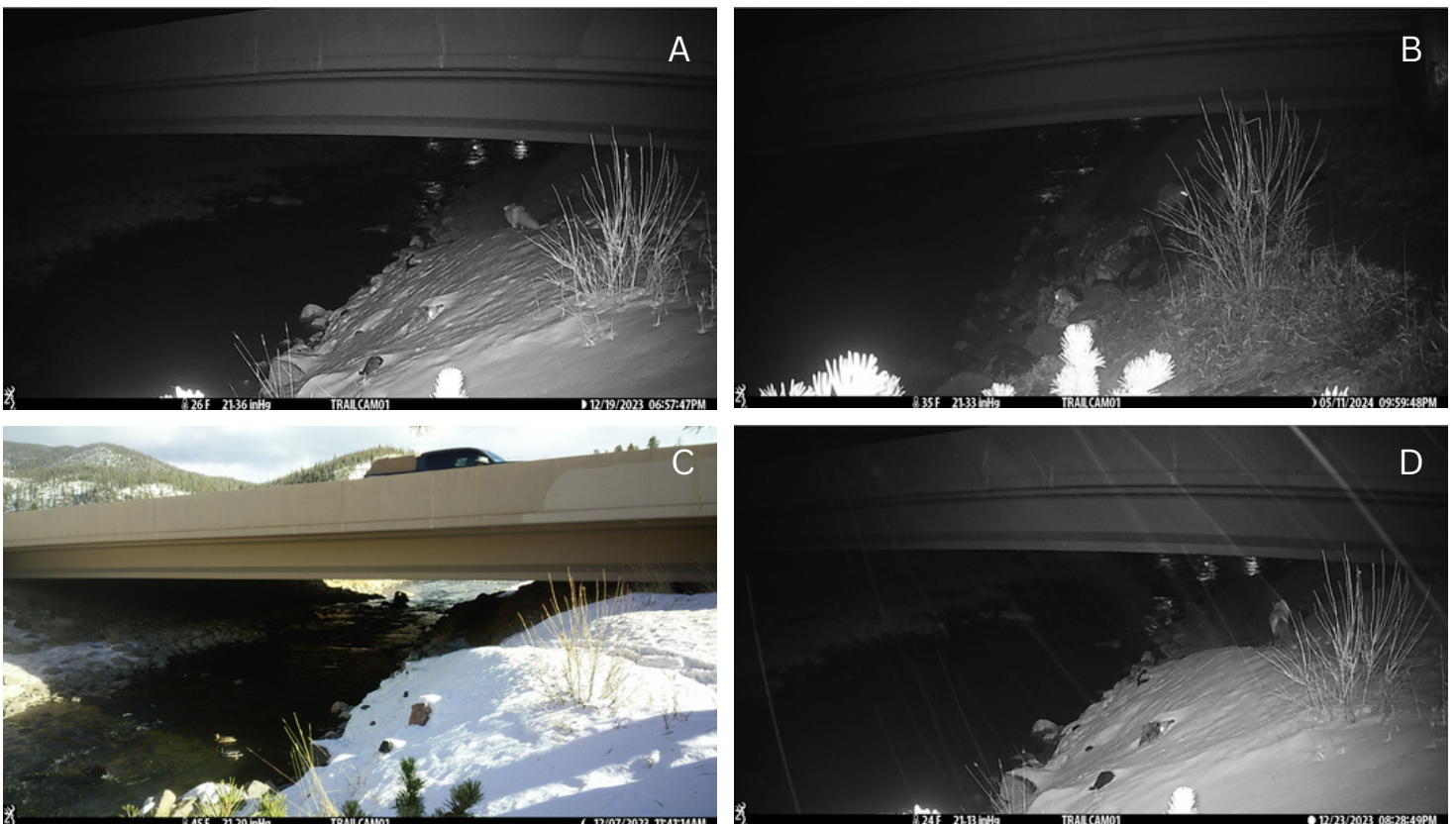


FIGURE 2: WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS BASED ON MONTH**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Determine ungulate movement corridors. With no observations of the bridge being used as an underpass, the primary question becomes: How and where are ungulates currently crossing or attempting to cross Hwy 9 from the Fourmile Open Space?
- A new monitoring effort is underway at Fourmile, with a SpyPoint camera just west of the bridge, facing the open space as opposed to the underpass, to establish baseline data on species in this particular area.



A. Resident fox moving west to east under Fourmile Bridge **B.** Unknown mammal **C.** High number of vehicle and snow/wind triggered captures **D.** Fox was the most detected species at Fourmile Bridge

LINCOLN MEADOWS

RESULTS

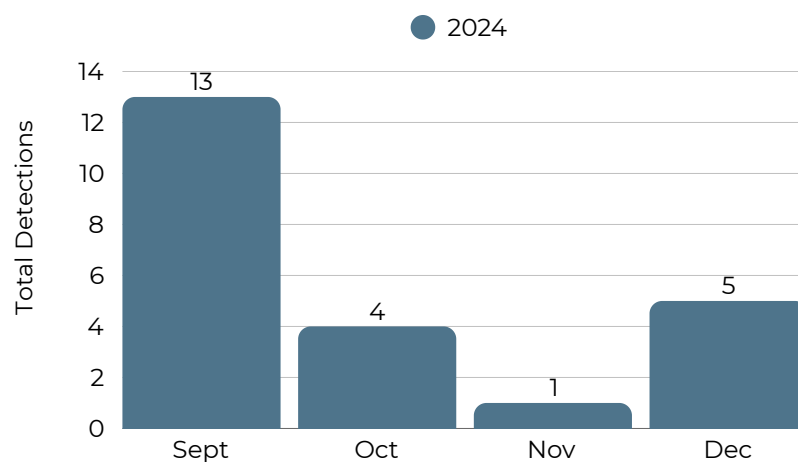
Staff installed the Lincoln Meadows camera on September 19, 2024 and have continued to monitor it in 2025 (note: this analysis is for 2024 only). The camera is located on the southwest corner of a meadow that is dominated by willows. Staff selected this property as it is in the center of the Golden Horseshoe surrounded by motorized trails, and staff wanted to understand how motorized recreation might affect wildlife populations. In particular, staff were interested in understanding if wildlife were avoiding Lincoln Meadows or if activity was high in this area.

In 2024, the camera recorded 23 unique observations of 5 individual species. Moose were the most detected species and accounted for 57% of the total observations. September was the most active month, with 13 unique detections of 4 species, followed by December, which had 5 different detections. Most species were either grazing or travelling. It is believed that there were four individual moose captured - three males and one female.

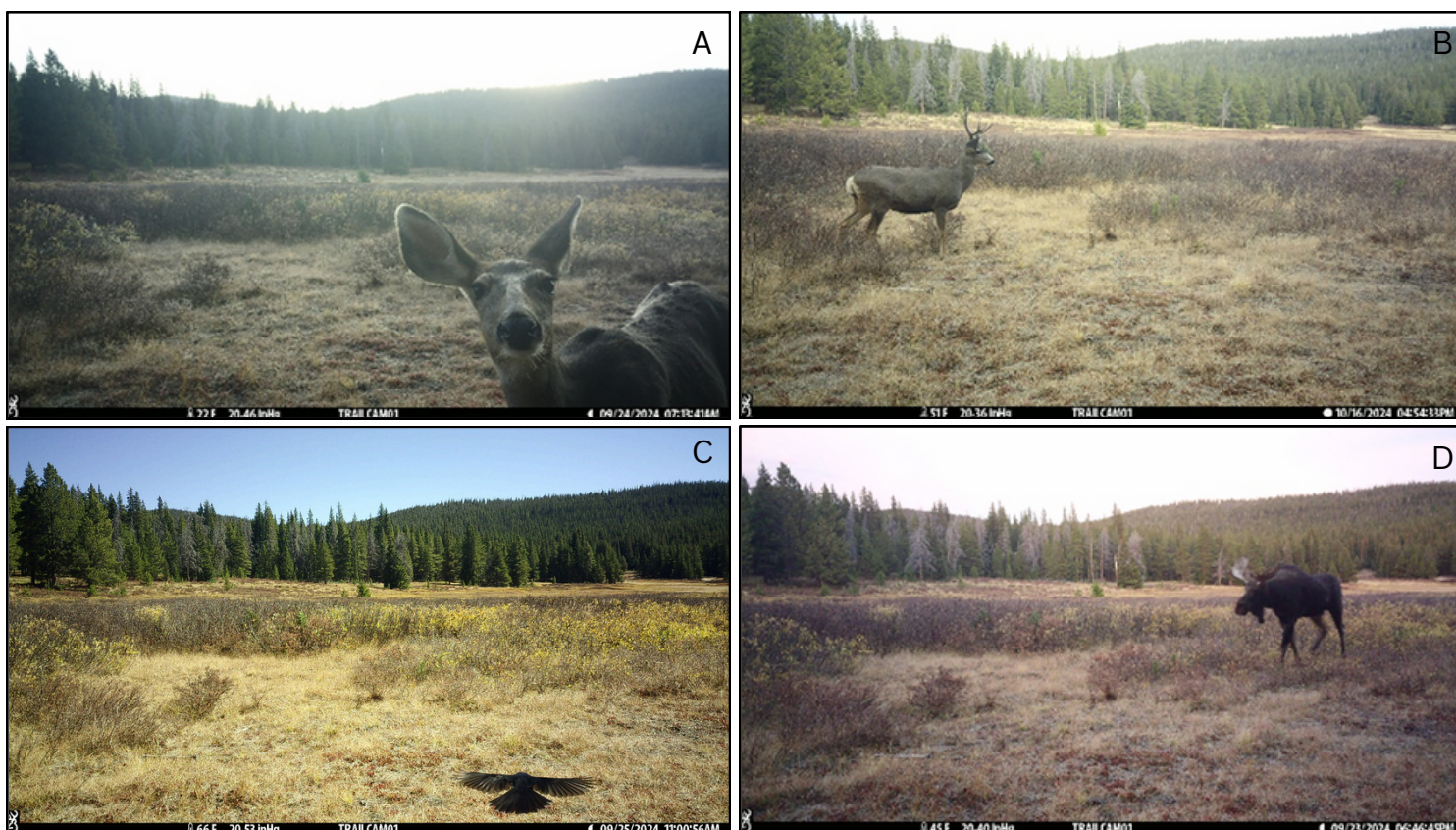
Due to the close proximity of willow bushes to the camera, the camera took over 23,000 photos in September and October which caused the card to be full before staff could download it. Therefore, the camera did not take any photos from October 17 to October 25.



Species	Total Detections
Canada jay	5
Elk	1
Moose	13
Mule deer	2
Red fox	2

FIGURE 3: WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS BASED ON MONTH**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Staff should consider monitoring this property year-round to understand how motorized use affects wildlife.



A. Female mule deer sniffing camera **B.** Male mule deer wanders through meadow **C.** Staff believe gray jays have a territory near the camera **D.** Moose were these most detected species at Lincoln Meadows

PARKVILLE

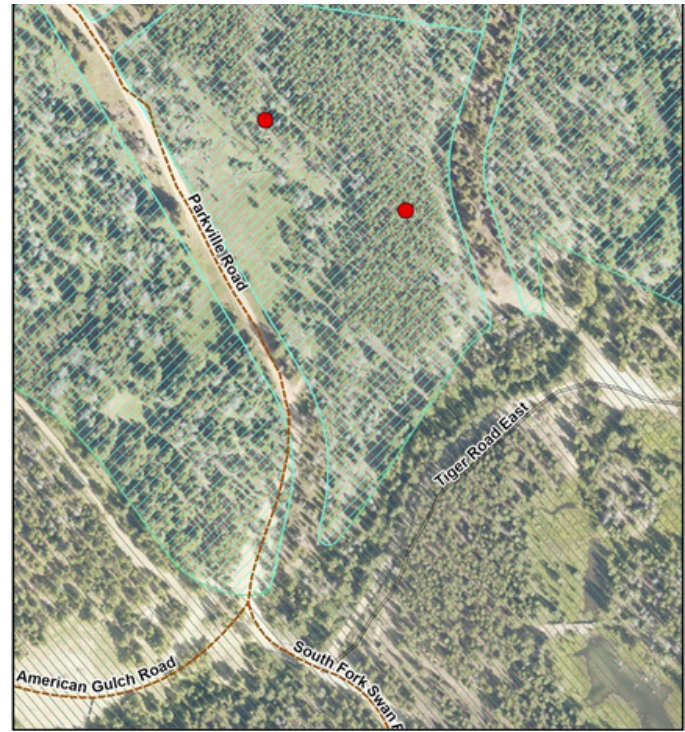
RESULTS

Staff wanted to monitor wildlife presence at a remote, yet easily accessible location in the Golden Horseshoe. Therefore, staff installed a camera on June 16, 2023 at the Parkville Open Space and monitored it until November 30, 2023. It was unfortunately stolen so no data was collected after the last download in November.

From June 16 to November 30, 2023, the camera recorded 74 unique observations of 6 species. Mule deer were the most observed species and accounted for 81% of all observations.

Activity was highest in September, which could be a result of staff moving the camera from the lodgepole pine forest where it was first installed to a gully where there was an establish movement corridor. November was the least active month, with only three recorded observations. Most species were observed grazing, resting, or traveling.

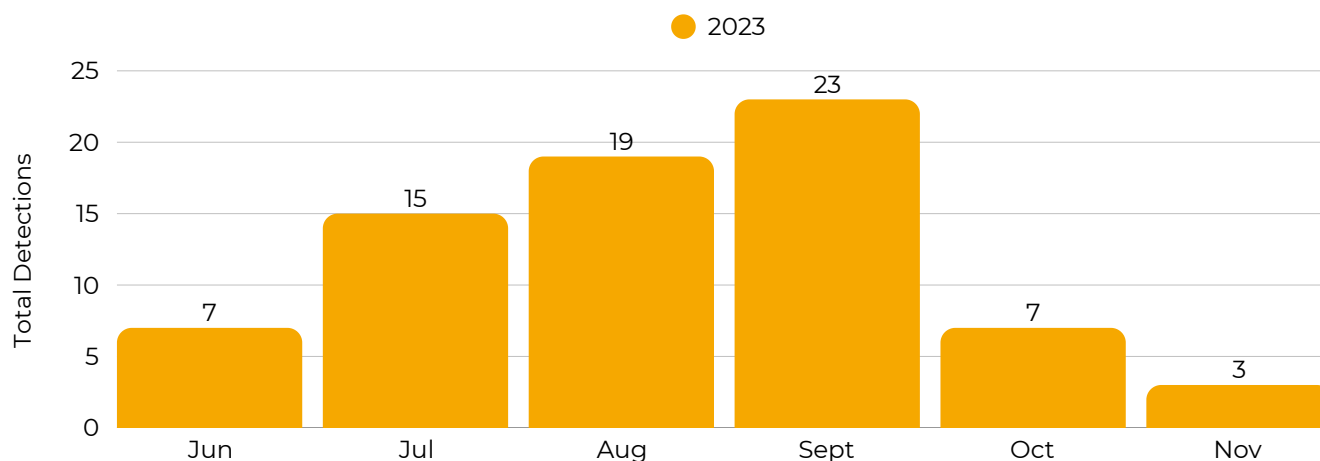
Mule deer were detected in every month but November. The most deer recorded at one time was five individuals, although most mule deer were either observed by themselves or in pairs. One fawn, still with spots, was detected throughout the summer.



Species	Total Detections
American crow	1
Moose	4
Mule deer	60
Pine marten	1
Pine squirrel	2
Red fox	4
Unknown species	2



A fawn was observed nursing on August 17, 2023.

FIGURE 4: WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS BASED ON MONTH**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Staff should continue to use lock boxes to ensure the cameras are not tampered with or stolen.
- In December 2023, staff observed numerous snowmobile tracks in the small meadow south of the camera and down the gully. Staff should consider working with snowmobile rental companies to encourage visitors to stay on the main routes to minimize disturbance in areas with less activity.
- The lodgepole pine forest is very dense and has numerous downed trees. Staff might consider this area for fuel treatments or thinning projects to reduce wildfire risks and improve movement corridors.



A. Mule deer about to jump over fallen log **B.** Three mule deer traveling together **C.** Mule deer resting **D.** Moose running quickly

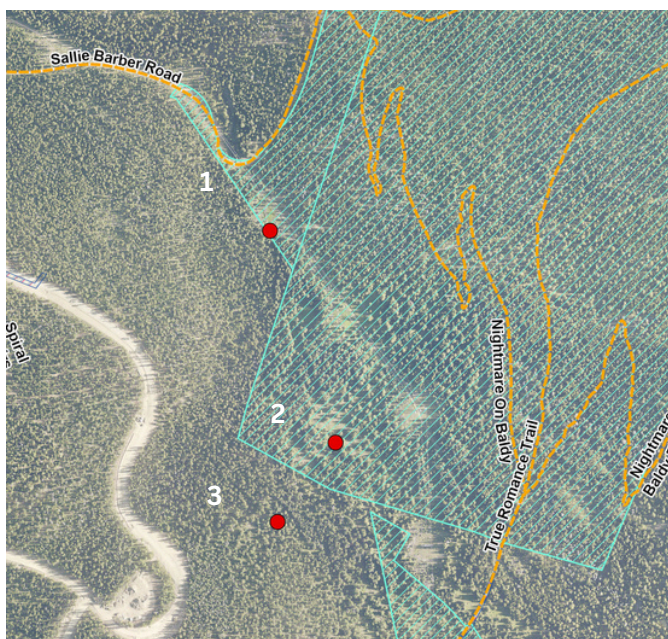
RANCH AT BRECKENRIDGE

RESULTS

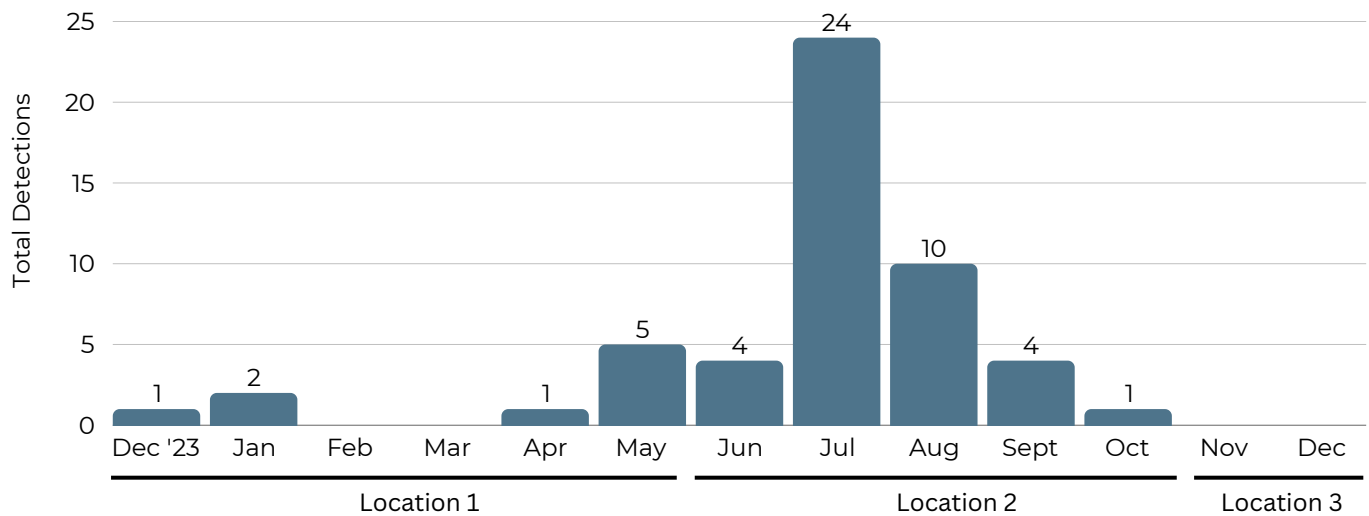
With a proposed trail project occurring in 2025, staff wanted to collect baseline data prior to the new trail being built and to ensure the trail was not in a key corridor. Staff installed the Ranch at Breckenridge camera on December 21, 2023 and removed it on January 9, 2025. Initially, the camera was placed near the first pole of the powerline and was in this location from December 21, 2023 to May 20, 2024. As a result of deep snow pack, noise from the powerline, or bad placement of the camera, only nine detections were recorded in the five months. Therefore, staff moved it farther away from the powerline to a small meadow. At this location, the camera recorded 42 detections from May 20, 2024 to October 28, 2024. Staff then moved it to a third location along the new proposed trail alignment for the remainder of the year but no detections were recorded.

In 2024, the camera recorded a total of 51 unique observations of 7 individual species. Mule deer were the most detected species and accounted for 75% of the total observations. In the first camera location, red fox, pine squirrels, and snowshoe hares were the only species observed. In the second camera location, two bull elk were observed in June and one moose was detected in September. Otherwise, the only other species detected besides mule deer was one gray jay.

July was the most active month, with 24 unique detections, followed by August, which had 10 observations. Most species were either grazing or travelling. No species were recorded in February, March, November, and December.

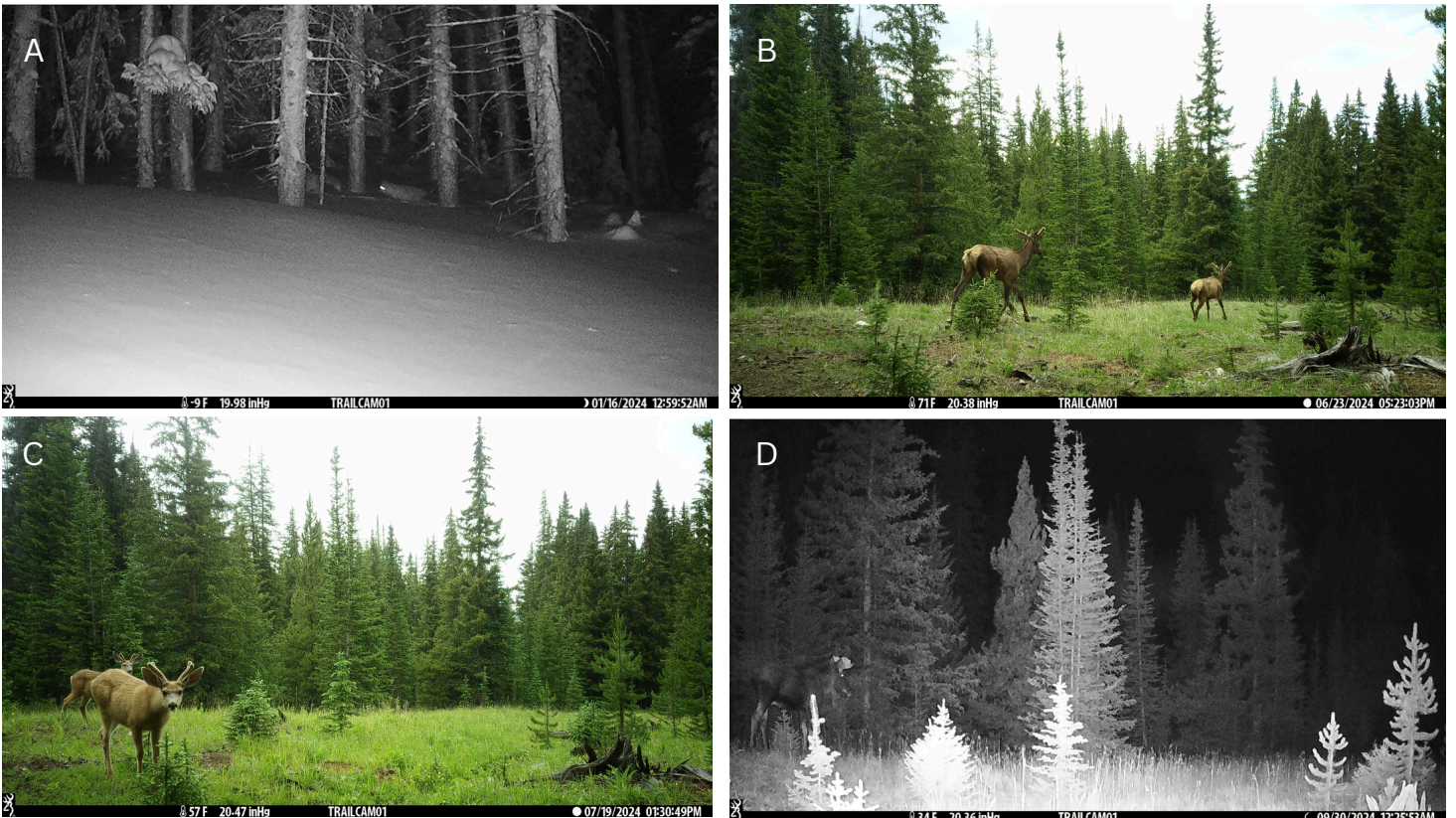


Species	Total Detections
Elk	1
Gray jay	1
Moose	1
Mule deer	38
Pine squirrel	5
Red fox	2
Snowshoe hare	1
Unknown bird	2

FIGURE 5: WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS BASED ON MONTH

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- This area provide important habitat for mule deer and other species. With the new proposed trail, staff should avoid constructing the trail through the small meadow where the highest activity was recorded.
- Staff should continue monitoring this area, especially in the summer and fall, to collect baseline data prior to the trail project.



A. Two red fox were observed together **B.** Two bull elk were traveling together **C.** Mule deer were often observed grazing in front of the camera **D.** One moose was detected in September

ROCK ISLAND ROAD

RESULTS

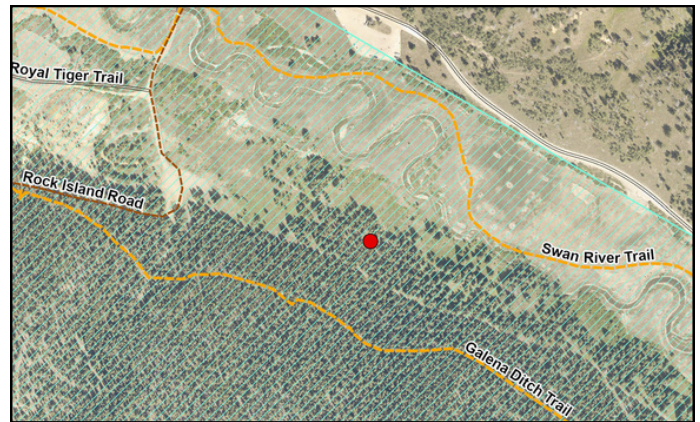
Staff installed a camera on June 16, 2023 at the Swan River Restoration site and are continuing to monitor it in 2025. The camera is located on the south side of Reach B in the mixed coniferous forest. Tiger Road, Rock Island Road, and the Galena Ditch Trail are all in close proximity to the camera.

2023

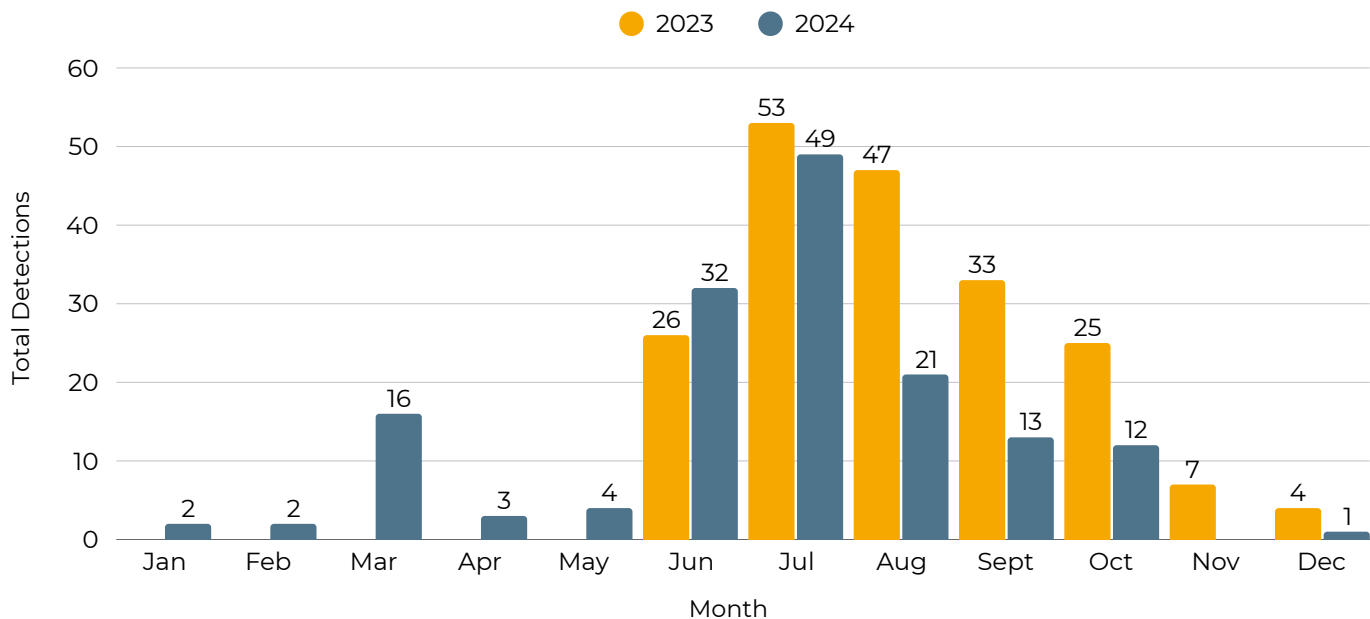
From June 16 to December 31, 2023, the camera recorded 195 unique observations of 17 species. Mule deer were the most observed species in 2023 and accounted for 64% of all observations. Activity was highest in July and August, with an average of 50 detections per month, and then slowly decreased throughout the year. December was the least active month, with only four recorded observations. Elk, moose, and mule deer were only observed in the summer and fall.

2024

In 2024, the camera recorded 155 unique observations of 14 species. Similar to 2023, mule deer were the most detected species in 2024 and accounted for 64% of all observations. Pine squirrels and red fox were the second and third most observed species in 2024. Activity was highest in June and July, with 32 – 49 detections per month. Of these detections, 89% were of mule deer. Fall was also an active time of year, with an average of 12 detections per month. Red fox and pine squirrel fox were most active in the winter and spring months, whereas elk and mule deer were only observed in June to October. This is pattern is similar to 2023.



Species	Total Detections	
	2023	2024
American crow	1	1
American robin	3	1
Black bear	2	0
Broad-tailed hummingbird	1	0
Coyote	1	2
Dark-eyed junco	0	1
Elk	5	9
Gray jay	5	1
Moose	10	9
Mountain chickadee	1	0
Mountain lion	2	1
Mule deer	124	99
Northern flicker	1	0
Pine marten	2	1
Pine squirrel	11	16
Red fox	17	11
Snowshoe hare	2	1
Steller's jay	1	1
Unknown bird	2	1

FIGURE 6: WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS BASED ON MONTH

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Snowmobile and ATV use was documented on the historical road north of the Galena Ditch Trail in 2024. Staff should consider installing a 'no motorized use' sign at the intersection of Rock Island Road and this road to deter use.
- Staff should continue to monitor the camera in the same location that can help detect trends in the future.



A. Mule deer were the most detected species **B.** One moose calf was observed in 2023 **C.** While rare, mountain lion were observed in 2023 and 2024 **D.** Elk used this area in summer and fall

Breckenridge Outdoor Education (BOEC) Parking

As a follow-up to last month's site visit to the BOEC Trailhead parking area to discuss the potential for adding parking spaces, including two designated ADA spots for mobility-impaired users, staff would like to provide an update.

Open Space staff recently completed a camera monitoring study of the parking area, which confirmed that the lot—currently constructed with 13 spaces—is consistently at or near full capacity between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The study also showed that vehicles are frequently parked in the informal area just beyond the paved lot, precisely where staff is proposing the expansion. Additionally, staff met with BOEC representatives to discuss the ongoing parking challenges. BOEC has repeatedly experienced issues with vehicles parking in their designated employee spaces and along the roadside, and, in some cases, receiving citations. These concerns have persisted over time and further highlight the need for improved and expanded parking options.

Staff recommend expanding the area to include two mobility-impaired spaces and two general spaces. This approach would offer greater benefit with limited additional impact. It's also worth noting that BOEC has plans to expand its existing zipline course, which could limit the feasibility of further parking expansion in this area, something to consider in the long term.

- 1. Does BOSAC have any additional questions or feedback regarding BOEC Trailhead parking?***
- 2. Does BOSAC support staff's recommendation to expand the parking area to include two mobility-impaired spaces and two general parking spaces?***

BOEC PARKING AREA



- 2 Mobility Impaired, 2 general spaces**
- 2 Mobility Impaired paces**
- Proposed Zip Line boundary**

Aspen Alley Trail Seasonal Use Restrictions

Annually, each fall, the USFS, County, and Town staff receive an increase in complaints relating to user experience and user safety on the Aspen Alley Trail. Staff recently learned that the Town, in coordination with the County, has the ability to institute use restrictions on the Aspen Alley Trail through a short-term amendment to the 2019 Golden Horseshoe Special Use Authorization (SUA). This approach would be a seasonal restriction permitted by the USFS to address known public safety concerns on Aspen Alley when use increases significantly due to fall foliage. The short-term amendment would be effective for one year and would require re-application should any restrictions be sought in the future. In the event of a request for a long-term amendment to the SUA, a more exhaustive review process would be required.

While available data is limited, web traffic on All-Trails indicates a significant spike in Aspen Alley user activity from mid-September through early October annually (Figures 1-3). Additionally, public surveys at the Open Space Open House and online through the OST Facebook page indicate an openness to the idea of seasonal use restrictions on the trail (Figures 4-6).

Guidance from the [2023 OST Master Plan](#), on the implementation of use restrictions, consists of this section on page 46, addressing high-use areas: “Stewardship is particularly challenged in high-use areas. The OST program will minimize the impacts of these areas through dispersed use strategies, trailhead amenities, restoration techniques, and communication strategies.

The County’s [2022 OST Master Plan](#) has the following outdoor recreation goal (7.2): “Enhance user experiences, minimize conflicts, and reduce safety concerns with trail design practices and/or applying alternative management strategies such as directional trails and separating uses, when and where appropriate”.

In an effort to achieve a long-term solution addressing the increasing user conflict on Aspen Alley, staff have enlisted the assistance of the SE Group, a consulting firm specializing in recreational planning with a long, successful history of working with the USFS, to expedite the NEPA analysis review for an alternative, uphill route. Although this application is expected to be submitted to the USFS for review before the end of 2025, it isn’t guaranteed approval, nor is there a stated timeline for their review.

Given the known public safety issue coupled with the inability to construct an alternative uphill route prior to fall 2025, staff would like BOSAC to consider three options to recommend to the Town Council for discussion during their August 12, 2025, Work Session. OSAC will have a similar discussion during their August meeting.

- **Option 1-** Continued data collection on peak use times, days, and types/ directions of use. From September 13- October 5, 2025, increased staff presence at the bottom and top of the Aspen Alley trail, comprised of Town, County, USFS, and (possibly) FDRD staff members, and increased signage and messaging intended to decrease user conflict through the recommendation of alternative trails with similar fall foliage experiences and additional emphasis on respectful and safe trail etiquette. The Town, County, and USFS would partner with their respective communications teams to communicate this messaging as broadly and effectively as possible.

Examples would include Breckenridge Tourism Office’s “B Like Breck” app, trail navigation apps, official websites and social media channels, roadside VMS boards, and additional on-trail etiquette signage. Trail counter data collection initiated this spring for hikers and bikers would be collected throughout the rest of 2025.

- **Option 2-** The institution of alternating day use restriction on Aspen Alley from September 13-October 5, 2025. This would entail a hiking-only restriction on odd days of the calendar and biking-only on even days. Whether uphill biking on the trail would be allowed on biking-only days would also need to be determined. Alternatively, uphill biking traffic could be routed on Boreas Pass and Illinois Gulch Roads to further reduce conflict.
- **Option 3-** Aspen Alley to be closed to biking from 10:00am- 6:00pm daily from September 13-October 5, 2025. Mixed non-motorized use would be allowed outside the restricted hours.
 - * The increased staffing and messaging outlined in Option 1 would also be applied to Options 2 and 3.

** The indicated time period of September 13-October 5, 2025 represents a three-week window within which staff would have the ability to implement recommended use restrictions. The actual duration of these restrictions could be decreased based on variables such as weather, staffing availability, and public feedback.

Each option presents significant pros and cons. Below is a table listing notable considerations for each.

	Pros	Cons
Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Requires no scheduling adjustment for users ● Allows opportunity to gather additional data prior to restricting use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continued safety concerns and potential for conflicts and incidents.
Option 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Separates user groups, increasing public safety. ● Simple use separation- easier to communicate to public. ● Lessons learned from this use restriction experiment can inform future management decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Requires scheduling adjustment for users. ● Difficult to enforce restrictions. ● Messaging to non-local users may be challenging. ● Concentrating hiking use to half the days could potentially exacerbate parking issues.
Option 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Separates user groups, increasing public safety. ● Lessons learned from this use restriction experiment can inform future management decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Requires scheduling adjustment for users. ● Preferential treatment to one specific user group. ● Difficult to enforce restrictions. ● Specific hours restriction adds layer of complexity that’s difficult to effectively manage and message, particularly for non-local users.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for increase in risk during designated mixed-use hours, due to concentration of allowed bike use hours.
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1. Does BOSAC have a recommendation for Council regarding instituting a seasonal use restriction on the Aspen Alley Trail for fall 2025?

Figure 1

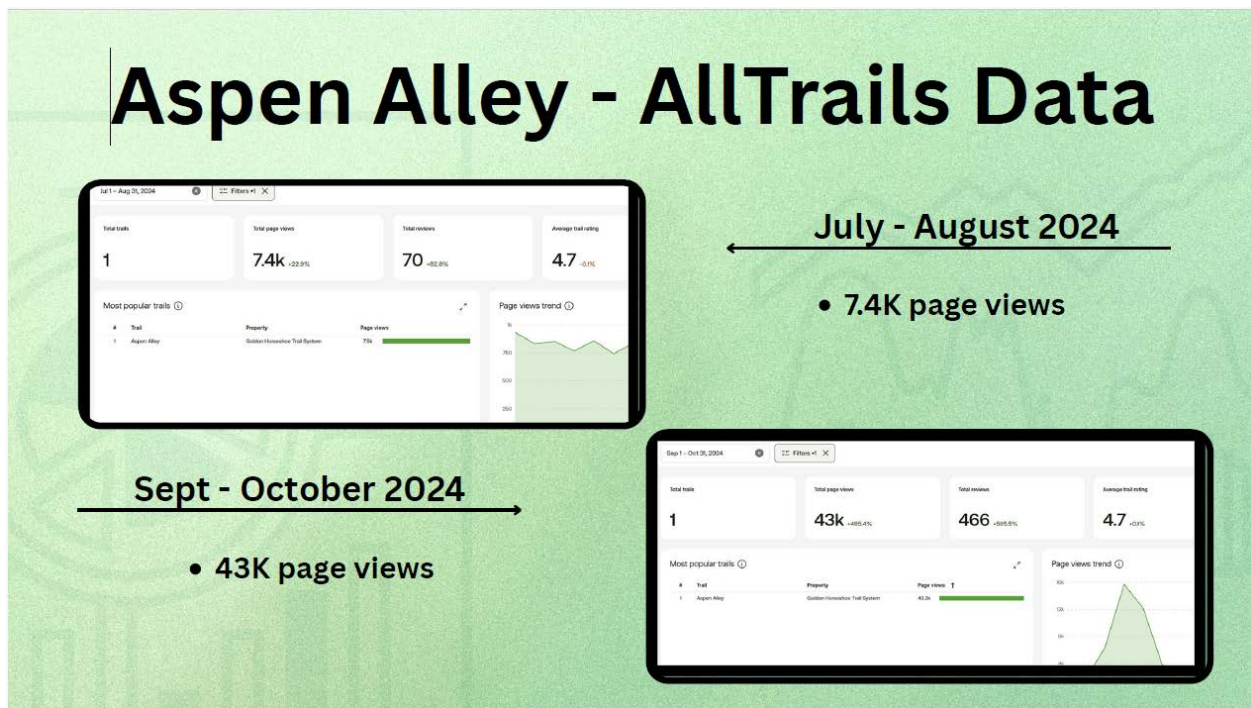


Figure 2

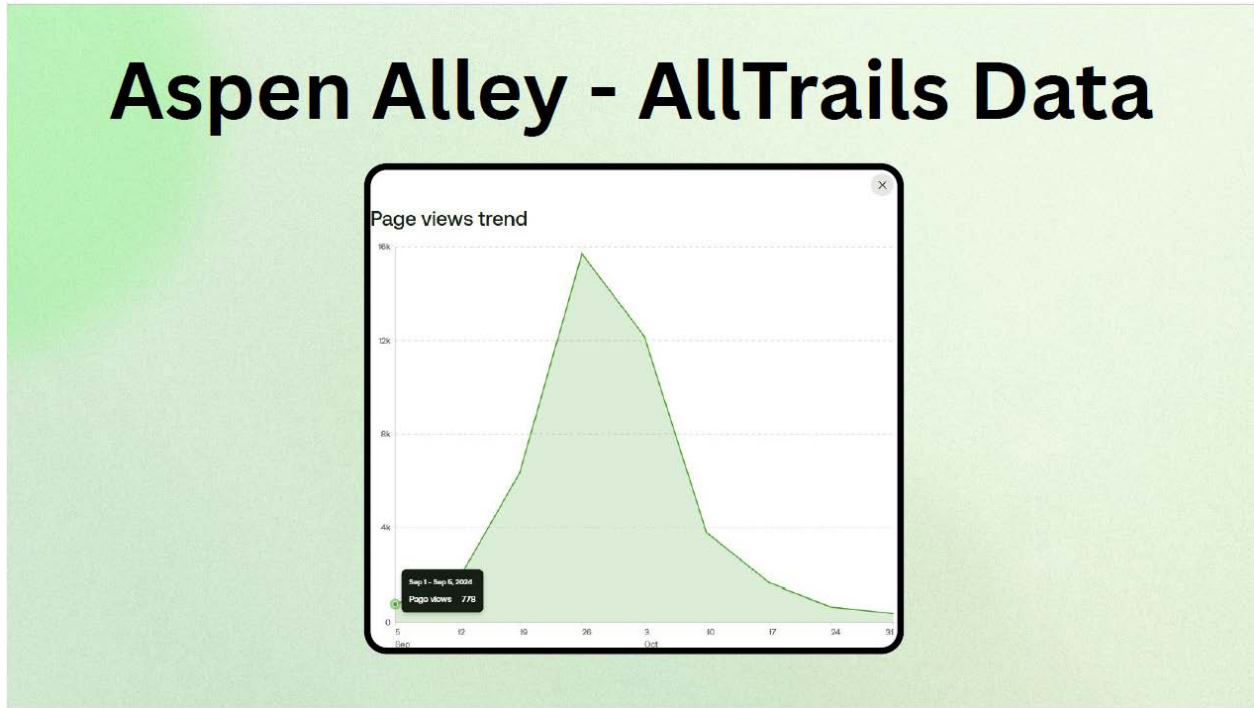


Figure 3

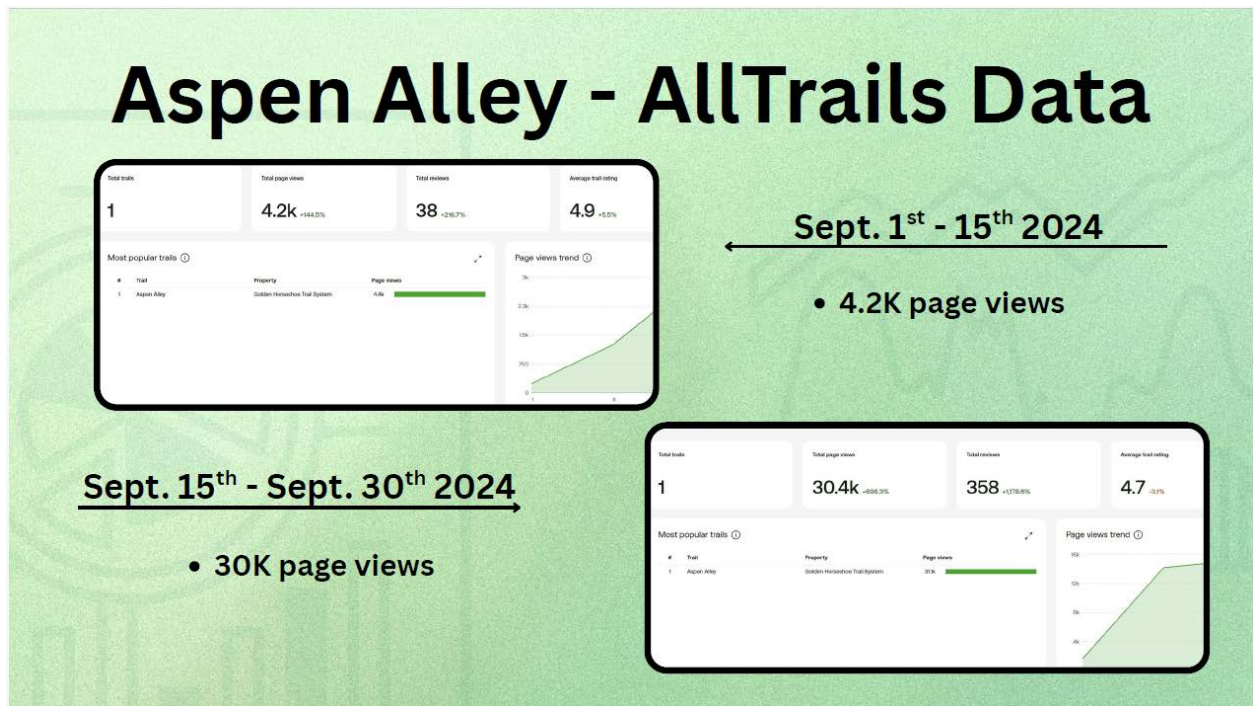


Figure 4

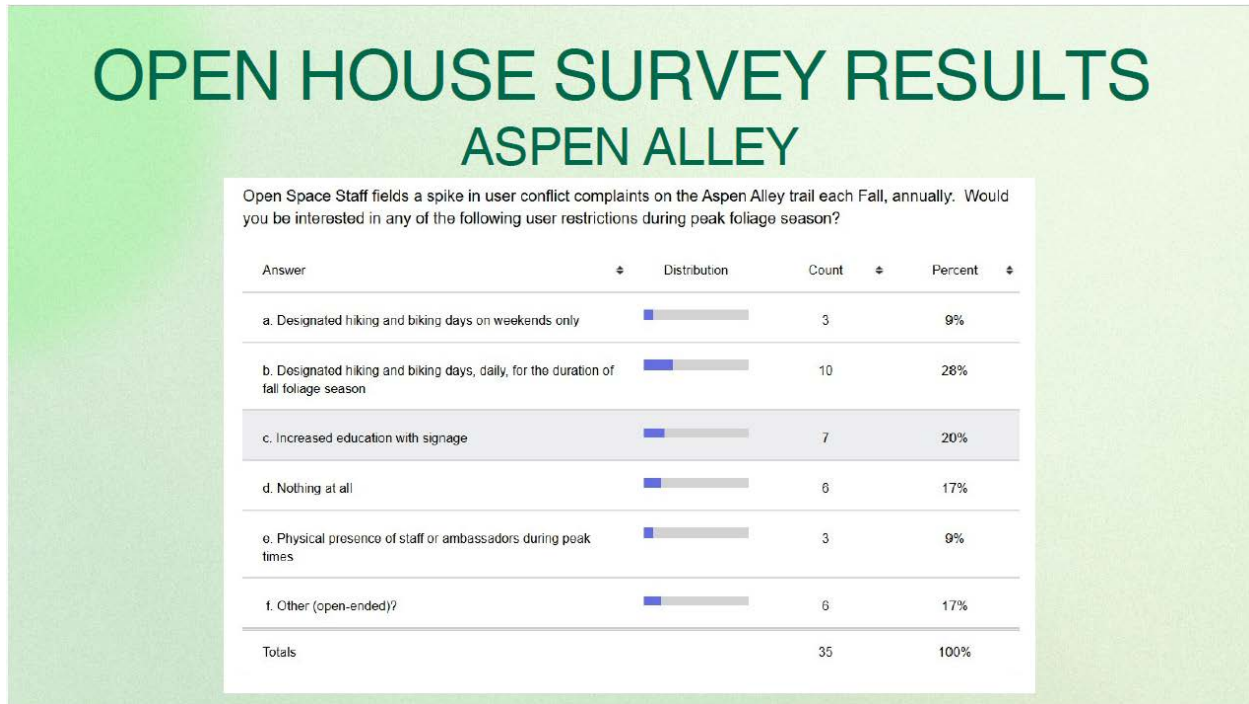


Figure 5

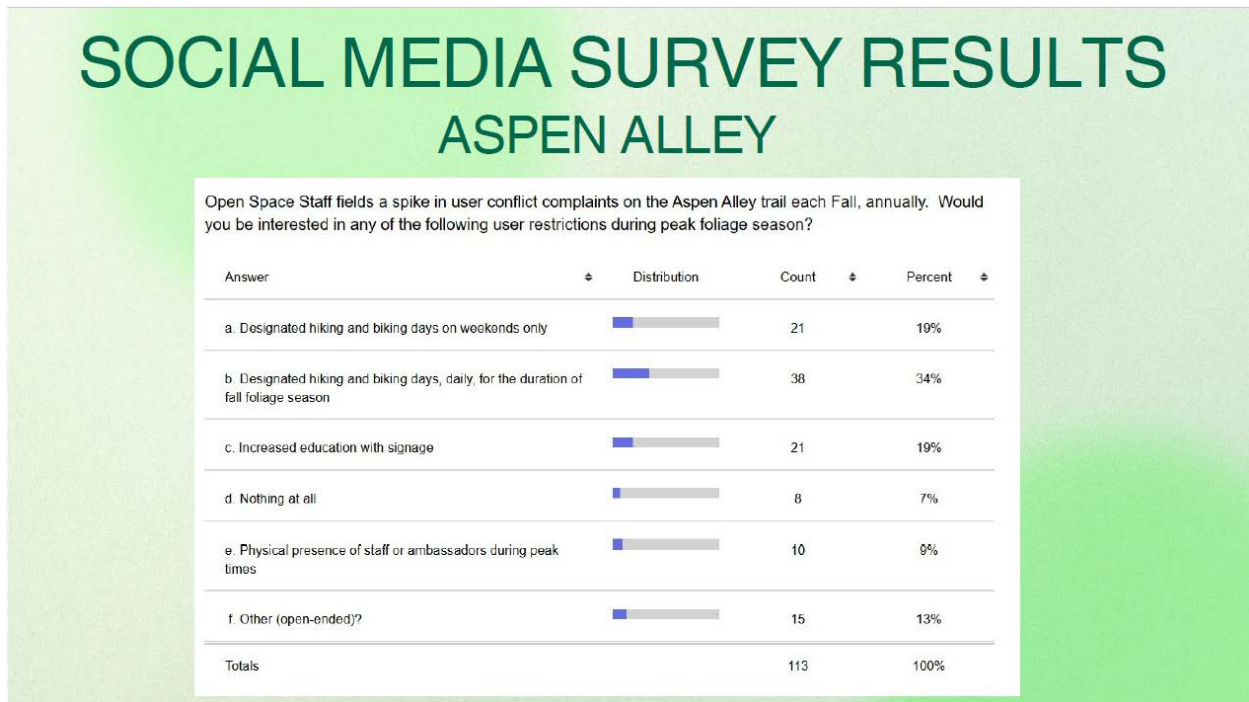


Figure 6

Aspen Alley: Facebook Comments



Ellen Hollinshead
Does the possible uphill route have good fall colors?
6w Like Reply Hide

Mike Zobbe
As an option for an uphill/foot traffic you could resurrect the old toxic forest trail and hook into little corporal.
5w Like Reply Hide Edited

Daniel Dunn
Good call Zobbe
5w Like Reply Hide

Nick Wilson
Designated and directional days
6w Like Reply Hide

Tim Faust
Designated days such as odd days for hikers and even for bikers might be good.
More importantly, if there are bike only times, it should be directional downhill.
Along those lines, uphill bike traffic is probably less of an issue than downhill.
6w Like Reply Hide

Kristi Stanford
Even a one directional rule won't save walkers from being plowed down by the bikers. Maybe designate alternating days as bike only or walk only, with the last two weeks in September being walk only. The bikers refuse to yield right of way as it disrupts their flow. It would be like asking a skier to stop every time they cone across someone walking down the mountain on a very narrow trail. I'm not sure visiting bike riders even know they're supposed to yield to walkers.
6w Like Reply Hide

Daniel Dunn
Kristi Stanford Usually true (mostly Front Rangers) but not always. I yield always. Period.
5w Like Reply Hide

Kristi Stanford
Daniel Dunn You're one of the very few.
5w Like Reply Hide

Rosie Raffa-Boren
There are a lot of us, Aspen Alley does have some blind corners though.
5w Like Reply Hide