



TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE & TRAILS

Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission

September 15, 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.

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|----------------|---|
| 5:30 pm | Call to Order |
| 5:35 pm | Discussion/Approval of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ September 15, 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field Season Update• BOSAC Field Trip• Aspen Alley Peak Season Use Summary• 2026 Open Space Fund Pro Forma• Forest Stewardship Plan• Barney Ford Exclosure• Breckenridge History Update• STRAP update• 2026 BOSAC Schedule |
| 6:00 pm | OST Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breck Create International Festival of Arts• McCain Open Space Final Design Proposal• 2026 Open Space Grant Review• Summit Huts Parking Request |
| 7:40 pm | Other Matters Related to Open Space |
| 7:45 pm | Council Matters Related to Open Space |

7:50 pm

Adjournment

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission
From: Open Space & Trails Staff
Re: October 20, 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

This month, our Naturalists, Open Space Technicians (OST), and contracted partners have been hard at work completing the following projects and tasks:

Naturalists

- Conducted a variety of educational tours.
- Collected and managed data from wildlife cameras and visitor use counters.
- Hosted educational outreach tables focused on local wildlife and Leave No Trace principles.

Open Space Technicians

- Constructed a trail connecting the new Laurium Trailhead to the Laurium Trail and installed a kiosk and additional parking signage.
- Harvested materials for buck-and-rail fencing.
- Seasonal closure signage and fencing for Cucumber Gulch Preserve will be installed by October 31, 2025.

Contractors

- The Ranch at Breckenridge Trail final alignment was flagged and construction is expected to begin in late fall or early summer.
- A contractor is scheduled to begin work on the Copper Canyon Trail next spring.
- Columbine Construction is expected to complete the BOEC parking lot expansion project by late October.
- Summit Public Radio is coordinating with a local contractor to address erosion issues along Laurium Road. The work will help protect buried infrastructure, ensure long-term road stability, and allow the project to finalize its permit with Summit County Open Space (County). This work is expected to be completed by the end of this field season.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails (FOBT)

On September 27, in celebration of National Public Lands Day, Friends of Breckenridge Trails (FOBT) partnered with Friends of Dillon Ranger District (FDRD). Volunteers carried materials to the Mountain Pride Trail, which will be used to construct turnpikes in summer 2026.

At their end-of-season celebration on October 2, 2025, FDRD awarded the Town of Breckenridge Open Space Department their Partner of the Year Award in recognition of our ongoing collaboration.

On October 9, 2025, FOBT hosted their end-of-season volunteer celebration at Molly Jack's, featuring drinks, food, and raffle prizes. This marked a successful season in which FOBT partnered with multiple agencies and municipalities across the County. Staff will present volunteer highlights in December as part of their seasonal report.

BOSAC Field Trip

On October 22nd, members of BOSAC, along with Town and County staff, will visit the Jefferson County Open Space program. The visit will include a tour of their Peaks to Plains project and provide an opportunity to collaborate with their staff and advisory board, gaining valuable insights on topics such as open space management, management plans, visitor use management, and related issues.

Aspen Alley Peak Season Use Summary

This fall, Town and County staff took a more proactive approach to managing peak season visitor use at the Aspen Alley trail, focusing on communication and education. Working with the Town of Breckenridge's Police and Public Works departments, OST staff deployed numerous strategies for increased messaging, including Variable Message Signs, physical sandwich boards on trails, increased app-based outreach, and additional staff and volunteer presence. On weekends during peak foliage, staff and volunteers from the Town and County's OST departments, the United States Forest Service, and FDRD were present at the top and bottom of the trail to promote Leave No Trace and trail etiquette principles. This group of staff and volunteers manually tallied hiker and biker totals on the Aspen Alley trail during their shifts on Fridays through Sundays, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, between September 19, 2025, through October 4, 2025. Despite heavy use (Table 1), there were no major etiquette incidents, but parking overflow was significant. Future efforts will focus on implementing seasonal trailhead micro transit and better communicating the recommended hiking route from the Stephen C. West Ice Arena parking lot to the Wakefield Sawmill trailhead.

Table 1

Row Labels	Average of Hikers/Hour	Average of Bikers/Hour	Average of Users/Hour
Boreas Pass	136.1	8.3	144
Wakefield	206.3	9.1	215.4
Grand Total	171.0	8.7	179.5
Row Labels	Max of Hikers/Hour	Max of Bikers/Hour	Max of Users/Hour
Boreas Pass	230.0	11.0	241
Wakefield	445.0	13.8	454
Grand Total	445.0	13.8	454.0

2026 Open Space Fund Pro Forma

The [2026 Open Space Fund Pro Forma](#) was reviewed and approved by Town Council (Council) during their October 14, 2025, work session. Noteworthy details include a projected flattening of sales tax revenues, a reduction in budgeted land acquisition expenses from \$4M in 2025 to \$3M in 2026, and a budgeted expense of \$933,000 for services from hired contractors and consultants.

With the increased size of the Town's trail and open space inventory, staff lack the capacity to complete many management projects internally- an indication that the OST program has transitioned from its

development phase to its stewardship phase. Examples of projects scheduled to be completed by outside contractors in 2026 include the implementation of the McCain open space Master Plan, the creation of a Forest Stewardship Plan, hazard fuels reduction projects, wetlands, wildlife, and plant monitoring in Cucumber Gulch Preserve, new trail construction at the Reliance Dredge, Copper Canyon, Ranch at Breckenridge, the Stables Neighborhood, and Aspen Alley, and road maintenance in the Golden Horseshoe.

Forest Stewardship Plan

The Town and County are working with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) to create an Upper Blue Forest Stewardship Plan, which aims to critically analyze the forest health needs of Town and County open space properties in the Upper Blue River Basin and provide treatment recommendations for each. Staff is in the process of selecting the priority management objectives for each identified parcel, choosing between forest health, aesthetics, and recreation. Once established, CSFS staff will perform a digital analysis of the properties, utilizing the shared ArcGIS repository and advanced GIS tools to assess forest conditions, fuels loading, and wildfire risk. During summer and fall 2026, CSFS will conduct fieldwork to gather the data necessary to create a management plan which recommends specific treatments, priority projects, and timelines for completion. The plan is expected to be completed by spring 2027.

Barney Ford Exclosure

The experiment of cultivating aspen seedlings in the Barney Ford clearcut, within a fenced area to offer protection from browse pressure, has been successful in that the seedling survival rate has been high but seedling growth has been slow, leaving difficult decisions regarding whether- and when- the fence should be removed. More details on the project can be found in [this newsletter](#) and staff are scheduled to meet with Catherine Schloegel, Program Manager from The Nature Conservancy, at the end of October 2025, to discuss next steps.

Breckenridge History Update

Based on feedback from BOSAC and their board of directors, Breckenridge History (BH) has withdrawn their proposed project to organize, inventory, and protect the historical materials at the Minnie Mine machine shop site from their 2026 open space workplan.

OSAC discussed the amended Breckenridge History 2026 proposed open space workplan during their October 1, 2025, meeting, supporting all other projects and recommending that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) contribute \$23,000 (10% of the estimated workplan expenses) from County open space funds to BH's 2026 open space workplan. OSAC also recommended public access to the interior of the Mountain Pride and One Step Over cabins be considered a component of their respective restoration projects.

BH has contracted Columbine Construction to remove the flat rack bridge at the Jessie Mill. Crane removal is scheduled for October 18, 2025. Columbine Construction will also complete the necessary restoration work the following week. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will be monitoring the restoration work to ensure their requirements are satisfied.

The Wellington Ore bin was recently damaged by graffiti vandalism to the interior and exterior of the base of the structure, detailed in [this Summit Daily News article](#). BH, with contracted support from Alpha Construction, has repaired the damage, removed trash, and sealed the structure to prevent additional public access to the interior.

Alpha Construction, on behalf of BH, is also working to stabilize the Reiling punt. The bottom of the punt was in better shape than anticipated and it was, therefore, able to be moved onto a new dirt platform without needing a rebuilt base.

STRAP Update

The Southern Tenmile Recreation Access Plan comment period ended on September 15, 2025. Key themes included free unrestricted local access and Wheeler trail reroutes. Town, County, and United States Forest Service (USFS) staff are investigating these concerns, and potential solutions aimed at addressing them, although progress continues to be affected by the current federal government shutdown.

2026 BOSAC Schedule

Below are proposed dates for BOSAC's 2026 meetings. These adhere to the established standard of meeting the third Monday of each month, with the exception of proposed changes to accommodate Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January and the Summit School District's spring break in April. Please advise staff of any concerns regarding this proposed schedule:

- January 12, 2026
- February 16, 2026
- March 16, 2026
- April 13, 2026
- May 18, 2026
- June 15, 2026
- July 20, 2026
- August 17, 2026
- September 21, 2026
- October 19, 2026
- November 16, 2026
- December 21, 2026

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission

From: Open Space & Trails Staff

Re: October 20, 2025, Meeting

Open Space & Trails Discussion

Breck Create Breckenridge International Festival of Arts

Breck Create will be presenting a short PowerPoint with images of the completed projects and overall feedback on 2025 TrailMix installations, aiming to address any specific concerns BOSAC may have. BreckCreate will also discuss the possibility of making Joe Scolari's Ciugaboc installation more permanent, including ideas to improve marble access and signage. Finally, Breck Create is exploring the idea of expanding the Trollstigen Trail into a fun, family-friendly sculpture park.

- 1. Does BOSAC have any questions for Breck Create related to 2025 TrailMix installations?***
- 2. Does BOSAC support making Joe Scolari's Ciugaboc installation more permanent?***

McCain Open Space Final Design Proposal

THK Associates will be in attendance to present their final design proposal for the McCain Open Space property for discussion with BOSAC. Notable changes to this updated version include a RecPath alignment that avoids bisecting the open space and both existing crossings at McCain Road and the Fairview Boulevard roundabout, and an ADA trail accessing the Blue River. THK and staff seek BOSAC feedback on this proposal before presenting to the public at a final McCain open house on October 23, 2025, to the Town's Planning Commission on November 4, 2025, and to Town Council on November 11, 2025.

THK will incorporate feedback from each of these discussions, as well as from additional staff input, into their Final McCain Open Space Design Plan, due December 31, 2025. Staff will then work to begin implementing components of the plan in spring 2026, with public access scheduled for spring 2027.

- 1. Does BOSAC have questions or comments for THK regarding the final design proposal for the McCain Open Space property?***

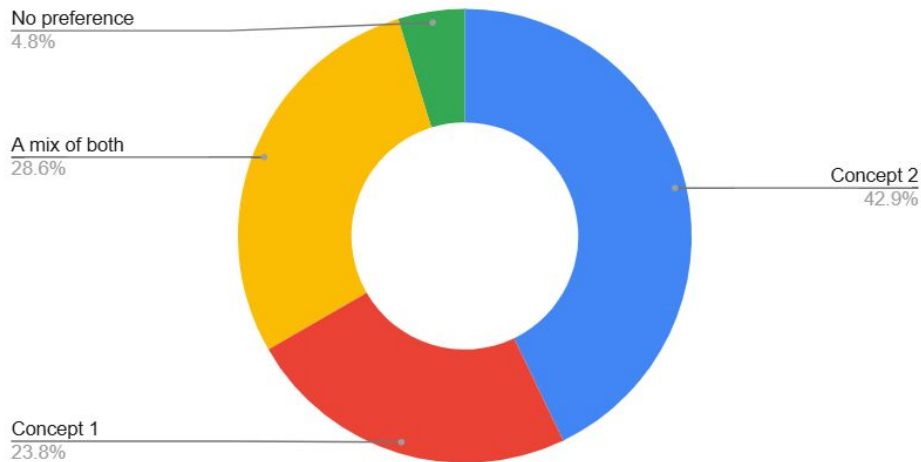
Phase 2 Engagement: Design Concept Feedback



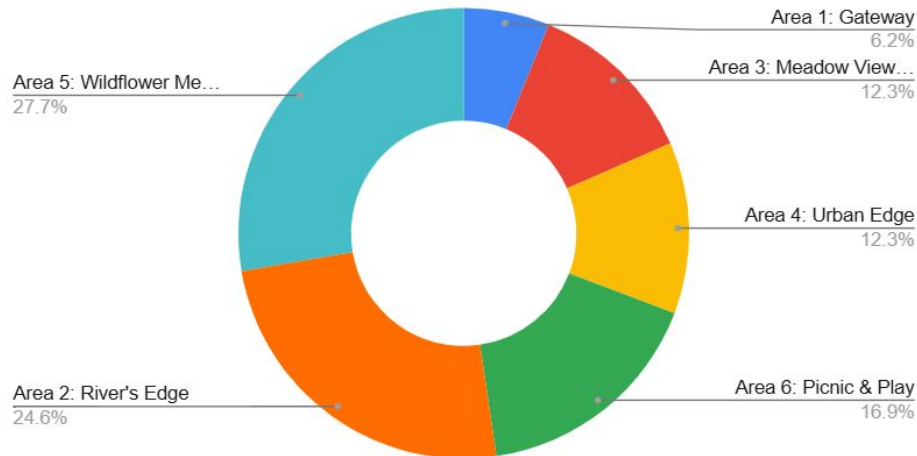
- August 18: BOSAC Presentation
- August 20: Community Meeting @ Rec Center
- September 4: Community Meeting @ Vista Verde
- September 9: Town Council Presentation
- StoryMap: 721 views
- Concept Feedback Survey: 25 responses
- Coordination Meetings (BSEAC, USFS, CPW, Breck Create, Breck History, BOEC, Public Works)

Phase 2 Engagement: Design Concept Feedback

McCain Open Space Community Design Concept Preferences



McCain Open Space Community Feature Area Preferences



Up Next: Phase 3 Engagement



- October 20: BOSAC Presentation
- October 23: Community Meeting @ Rec Center
- November 4: Planning Commission
- November 11: Town Council Presentation
- StoryMap (Will update with community meeting presentation)
- Question and Comment Form (Ongoing)



McCain Open Space

Breckenridge Colorado

Final Report & Management Plan Outline

I. Introduction

- Consultant Team Introduction
 - Other contributors/organizations
- Breckenridge Open Space & Trails - Strategic Goals
 - 4 Strategic Goals
 - Interplay & Approach
- Master Plan Objectives
- Definitions

II. Environmental Assessment

- Existing Environmental Conditions
 - Environmental Site Assessment
- Resource Management Plans
- Natural Resource Restoration

III. Planning and Design Process

- Site Analysis
 - Site Access & Context Map
 - Site Grading & Drainage Map
 - Visual Analysis Map
 - Viewsheds
 - Opportunities Map
- Community Engagement Process (*Laura providing more info*)
 - Engagement Phases
 - Story Map
 - Community Meetings
 - Surveys
- Concept Development
 - Precedents
 - Concept 1
 - Concept 2

IV. Final Design Concept

- Final Concept Plan
- Feature Areas

V. Open Space Management Recommendations

- Maintenance
- Implementation/Cost Estimate
- Other Considerations (Winter Sports, Art Show)
- Public Works/Stakeholders
- Stewardship program
 - Involve citizens & volunteer organizations

2026 Open Space Grant Review

Enclosed in the packet are two 2026 Open Space Fund grant requests and supporting documentation for BOSAC's consideration. A table below the request descriptions (Table 1) shows the history of recently awarded grants:

Friends of Dillon Ranger District (FDRD) seeks \$20,000.00 for a "Trail, Youth, and Forests" request, focused on maintaining public lands in and around Breckenridge, including trail maintenance in areas like Spruce Creek/Wheeler Lakes, Baker's Tank, and the Colorado Trail at Gold Hill, alongside year-round youth educational programs and litter removal efforts.

Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) seeks \$10,000.00 for continued work on Quandary Peak. In 2025, CFI staff led volunteer trail maintenance projects on the Blue Lakes trail, including constructing a rock staircase and installing timber and rock structures to stabilize the tread surface through the most delicate parts of the trail. This grant application represents a request to continue this work on the Blue Lakes trail, with a stated goal of restoring 0.85 miles of the trail. The request also includes funding for trail use monitoring via infrared counters.

	Requested 2020	Awarded 2020	Requested 2021	Awarded 2021	Requested 2022	Awarded 2022	Requested 2023	Awarded 2023	Requested 2024	Awarded 2024	Requested 2025	Awarded 2025	Requested 2026
FDRD	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$20,000.00
CFI	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

- 1. Does BOSAC have any questions regarding these grant applications?**
- 2. Does BOSAC support awarding these grants, using Open Space funds, as requested?**
- 3. Does BOSAC have feedback for either of the grant applicants?**

I certify that I have read and understand the Outline and Guidelines provided on the Grants Program.
I do not certify

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST:*

Breckenridge 2025 - Trail, Youth, and Forests

Indicate the date you will submit your Final Project Report for this 2026 Grant:

10/15/2026

Goal of Request:*

A goal is a broad statement that reflects how you will achieve the mission.

Example: Increase public awareness for the importance of early childhood issues.

With any funds awarded to us, we'd place special emphasis on helping maintain the public lands in and around the Town of Breckenridge. FDRD is proud to offer numerous trail projects, forest health projects, and experiential educational learning opportunities to engage the youth in Breckenridge. Our youth education team has worked closely with the Summit County School District to aid in the afterschool programs that remain a crucial issue in our community.

Our field staff will work closely with the trails manager for the US Forest Service to prioritize projects in areas like Spruce Creek/Wheeler Lakes, Quandary Peak, Baker's Tank as well as our adopted section of the Colorado Trail at Gold Hill.

Finally, ongoing programs will help remove trash and unwanted fishing lines from our trails, trailheads, and waterways at numerous locations around the Town of Breckenridge to maintain the aesthetic beauty we all enjoy and help keep our forests healthy for generations to come.

Grant Request Strategy to Address Goal:*

Strategies outline the major methods for achieving a goal.

Example: Establish a speaker's bureau that provides monthly presentations to community groups on key early childhood issues.

Over the past two decades, FDRD has offered hundreds of volunteer projects to our community to address the areas of greatest needs on our National Forest. This model continues to be massively successful thanks to our dedicated community and dozens of partners that believe in maintaining our public lands. Ongoing, year-long programs have been installed to help with litter removal from critical waterways and at our dozens of trailheads around the county--Town of Breckenridge included. Our staff will continue to lean on the partnerships with all of the youth-based organizations in the county to align our curriculum with that of the school district. Not only are we addressing needs through after school care but we've been able to add to the overall environmental knowledge to hundreds of local youth through these partnerships.

Activities to Achieve Strategy:*

Definition: What major steps or actions need to occur to achieve the strategy?

Examples: Create a presentation outline, Write a speakers bureau volunteer description, Recruit volunteers, Train volunteers on how to use template

We will employ numerous strategies to achieve our goals:

- Continue to meet and brainstorm with all of our 50+ community partners to address areas of greatest needs
- Debrief past season's offerings to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency with which we offer our projects and programs
- Expand outreach to engage as much of our English and Spanish-speaking populations as possible
- Diversify our programs to incorporate the varied interests that we have among our local and regional population
- Track all accomplishments to understand where our limited resources are being allocated and ensuring that we are placing emphasis on the right projects and programs to maximize our results
- Meet regularly with the USFS Trail & Recreation staff to address the areas of greatest need and impact through our dozens of annual projects
- Meet regularly with our Town and County partners to understand the areas of greatest needs and determine the best ways for FDRD to assist with these issues
- Seek further funding to facilitate transportation to regional youth groups who want to experience our beautiful mountain landscape here in Summit County
- Work directly with the leadership of the US Forest Service to determine other ways we can assist with land management in light of their shortfalls in funding and personnel
- Actively pursue new partners to engage even more of our community in our trails, our forests, and our youth to improve the overall quality of life for all living things in Summit County

Quantifiable Results of Strategy:*

Definition: What results can you count and track as a result of the strategy being successfully implemented?

Example: 100 community members to attend 12 one hour presentations

Our talented field staff track all of the accomplishments completed through our project work on a daily basis. With an average of three trail or forest health projects every week, the metrics add up throughout the season. While each season presents different priorities, we are proud of what we are able to accomplish each year through our dozens of partners and hundreds of volunteers. Metrics like # of linear bridge built, bags of trash removed, # trees planted, # of linear feet of trail improved, # of linear of linear feet of trail built are just a few of many accomplishments that are recorded on a daily basis.

We are lucky to employ extremely dedicated staff members who are constantly researching the best ways, and topics, to engage our youth in Summit County through experiential outdoor learning. Because of this, we can gauge our effectiveness through the number of youth (defined as under the age of 18) participating in our programs and the number of partners with whom we work. Our staff attends the Youth Advisory Council and continues to be active in addressing all the needs of our youth in our community -- not just the ones that relate to our mission. As a community-based organization, we are committed to helping address whatever needs befall our local population.

Qualitative Results of Strategy:*

Definition: What change will occur in the knowledge or behavior of the targeted audience as a result of the strategy?

Example: Attendees will report gaining new knowledge about key issues

We feel we are able to utilize a qualitative strategy to help us convey our quantitative results. Our organization relies on partnerships around the county to maximize what we are able to do in our busy summer season when snow is not covering our forest and trails. The "off season" is our time to meet with our 50+ partners to discuss what was missing, what could be altered, what could be done better and what should be considered for the future. These partners include land manager personnel from the Towns, from the County, for our wildlife and watersheds, and most-importantly for FDRD, the US Forest Service.

Often times, these discussions will lead to new programs that allow us to address issues on our public lands that can blur the invisible boundary lines of the US Forest Service land. While our mission clearly states our purpose of supporting the National Forest, we also feel that we are able to help beyond these borders as our forests, and trails, are all interconnected. We have installed programs that have proven to be successful over the past two decades but are always open to understanding how improvements can be made. Qualitative results can be reviewed through the eyes of stakeholders, donors, residents, partners, and other organizations doing similar work. We pride ourselves in these partnerships and believe we can make our programs even more impactful with their feedback.

Timeline:*

Definition: When will the activities/strategy be completed?

Examples: April 2026, May 2026, July 2026, Sept 2026

Early October 2026 - though the Youth Programs are year-round

Responsible Party:*

Definition: Who is responsible for completing the activities?

Examples: Program Director, Admin Staff

Program Manager, Education and Youth Program Manager, Project Coordinators x 2

Cash Request questions

AMOUNT OF REQUEST:*

\$20,000.00

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST*

Continued maintenance of our extensive trail networks, projects and programs to promote overall forest health, and programs to engage our local youth in environmental learning

Describe the project/program(s) to be funded*

Fund awarded to FDRD in 2026 will be put towards the general support of projects and programs taking place in and around the Town of Breckenridge in three different categories:

1. Trails - While we don't anticipate any new trail construction, there is always a need for maintenance. Preliminarily, we will focus on work on the Lower Peaks trail, Spruce Creek/Wheeler Lakes, Baker's Tank, Gold Hill, and Quandary Peak trail systems. The maintenance tactics employed will vary upon the issue with each trail and will be done in conjunction with the Town of Breckenridge trail crew (Tony O.) or the US Forest Service trails specialist.
2. Youth - Our youth staff will continue to emphasize experiences over production with our youth. While some of our programs have a service component, it's most important that we work with our 15+ area youth partners to provide a positive experience in our unique but fragile ecosystem
3. Forests - Programs like Adopt a Bin, Adopt a Trail head among others will help maintain our pristine waterways that many living thing rely upon for survival. As well as keeping our trailheads and corridors clear for our locals and visitors alike. Other programs like wildlife habitat rehabilitation, invasive weed removal, general naturalization and tree planting will all be included in the forest health work to be done in 2026 -- dependent on need by the land managers.

Total number served by the program request*

Please provide the number of unique individuals impacted, do not include duplicates.

15000

What impact will this program make in the community and how will you measure that impact*

Not only do our programs have a positive impact on all of the hundreds of volunteers and youth participants that we engage, but our community and public lands see the benefits, as well. We believe that all of our volunteers see these benefits by participating in what we offer through physical exercise, social engagement, and outdoor mental well-being.

Through these general areas of interest, thousands of people will find a more positive and safer trail experience through any number of our trail maintenance techniques. Smoother treads, clearer sight-lines, erosion mitigation are just a few of the ways that we can enjoy a better trail experience through our annual project calendar.

Most everyone who visits or lives in Summit County does so because of our beautiful mountains and forests. Our forest health projects address our: waterways, our plants, our wildlife, and our diverse forest stands. Each summer, we'll work with the US Forest Service specialists to determine where our forest has been most negatively affected by humans and we'll coordinate projects and programs to address these issues.

Finally, the youth are our future. Anytime we can assist in this education, we feel they are resources well spent. Our youth programs are designed to align with the curriculum within the school district while educating on why we live in such a special place. We encourage all of our youth to get involved in the active care of our forests to help preserve it on a long-term basis.

Please list any Sustainability Efforts and Accomplishments achieved, if applicable.

In essence, all of what we do revolves around "sustainable efforts". Whether that be literally building sustainable trails to limit the amount of future maintenance or providing sustainable lessons to elementary-aged youth, there are numerous ways in which FDRD employs sustainable practices. Our forest health projects promote a sustainable, healthy forest. While the word "sustainable" has been loosely used in all facets in life, it really encompasses most of our project and program work.

With limited resources from our primary partner, the US Forest Service, we have been developing projects and programs that will help fill whatever holes they have in their management plan or personnel. We maintain a very close relationship with all the specialists supporting the Dillon Ranger District (Summit County borders) and are able to adjust our scheduling and resources accordingly to ensure the sustainability of our forest, and the recreation that accompanies it, are stable and secure for the foreseeable future.

Please list any Equity Efforts & Accomplishments, if applicable.

Please include steps taken to serve the marginalized communities in the Upper Blue.

Over the past few seasons, we have worked with the US Forest Service - Dillon Ranger District to produce interpretive signage at numerous trailheads around our community in both English and Spanish. With a big percentage of our local population speaking Spanish first, we feel it's important to include this language on all of our signage to include as many people as possible in forest-related recreation and messaging.

Each year, FDRD produces a Recreation Guide that are present at local hotels, visitors centers, and locations across the county where the Summit Daily News are disseminated. This past year, we went through an arduous task of translating these into Spanish to allow even more residents to safely and responsibly recreate on our National Forest.

Finally, we work hard to partner with other entities that have a better understanding of sub-populations present in Summit County. Our staff continues to work on understanding the needs of ALL of our residents as best as possible. However, there are times where simply partnering with other entities that represent these populations is more effective. We'll continue to work with these groups to provide even more programs that will directly serve some less prevalent populations in our community.

2025 Project Work Details: Town of Breckenridge Grant Report

Spruce Creek Trail- We partnered with Breckenridge Grand Vacations volunteers on this heavy use trail system. One project we installed a culvert to divert water off the trail to protect another structure. Another project we backfilled low spots on the trail to eliminate muddy spots to keep trail users on trail.

Adopt-a-Trailhead –This program had another successful summer. 25+ volunteers adopt trailheads throughout the county to pick up trash and report any significant findings back to the land managers independently. Town of Breckenridge and Summit County Open Space and Trails were both partners in this program. In total 75+ bags of trash were removed from the Breckenridge area at the following trailheads: B&B, Tiger Road, Illinois Gulch, Boreas Pass, Bald Mountain, Burro Trail, Gold Hill, The Dredge (Horseshoe Gulch), Quandary Peak, Peaks Trail, Sallie Barber, Spruce Creek.

Gold Hill (Colorado Trail) – As this is part of FDRD’s “adopted” section of the Colorado Trail, we coordinate projects in this area on an annual basis. The trail was poorly laid out initially so much of our efforts have been building drainage dips to encourage water to exit the trail tread. In larger areas where drainage is not possible due to the slope of the landscape, turnpikes (or elevated trail tread) made from all natural materials are installed. This year we hosted two volunteers project on our adopted section, focusing on drainage improvements. We also constructed a new 16 ft plank bridge. We also continue to scout our adopted section every summer to plan for future work.

North Fork Swan River-We partnered with the USFS Fisheries crew to do a fish survey on the North Fork of the Swan River. The methodology we used was fish shocking with a crew of 6 volunteers. We were monitoring the cutthroat populations as we caught, collected data and released over 60 fish.

In addition to the adult volunteers in this area, we again partnered with the USFS Fisheries crew to do a second fish survey with our high school age group- the Youth Forest Stewards. We had local students, aged from 14-17 years old, join the fisheries crew to fish shock the area for more data to be analyzed by the aquatic experts with the US Forest Service.

Quandary Peak/Blue Lakes- FDRD was thrilled to work with long-time partner, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI), at Quandary Peak zone again in 2025. We focused on improving the route from Blue Lakes Trailhead by installing rock check steps.

Trail Hosting Day-On our annual Trail Hosting Day over 4th of July Holiday weekend, we had our volunteer Ranger Patrollers at popular trailheads on the Dillon Ranger District. Volunteers greet trail users at the trailhead and educate users on Leave No Trace, trail information, wildlife and more. 30+ FDRD and Eagles Summit Wilderness Alliance (ESWA) volunteers were at 6 trailheads in Breckenridge (Gold Hill, Dredge, Peaks, and Spruce Creek). Thousands of trail users were contacted and reminded of appropriate recreation habits while on our busy mountain trails.

Bakers Tank Trail- We're always happy to partner with Town of Breckenridge Open Space to repair fences, close social trails, and re build over 50 feet of turnpike and are hopeful to continue these efforts in the future.

Siberian Trailhead/Lower Peaks Trail- FDRD volunteers assisted with trailhead and signage improvements at these popular locations. More tasks included some corridor clearing and bridge improvements to emphasize safety for a user groups.

Aspen Alley Volunteer Oversight- We were glad to assist with the user conflict program at Aspen Alley by working with Town of Breckenridge Open Space to help with the oversight. In total, five shifts were contributed by FDRD volunteers to help with educating and guiding the public.

As of October 6th:

Total volunteers: 115

Total Volunteer Hours: 531

Total Volunteer value: \$16,785

The community will see positive benefits through cleaner trails and trailheads, improved walking/riding trail tread, analyzed data to determine the health of our watersheds, visitor control and user conflict resolution, as well as some simple structures that make our public lands safer and more easily accessed for all who recreate in our mountain community. We will continue to work with the land managers to determine the most worthwhile and highest priority projects to maximize the impact we can have through this funding.

We are grateful for the ongoing partnership with the Town of Breckenridge and believe we have utilized the 2025 wisely. While field efforts take place year round in and around the Town of Breckenridge, the above figures highlight the value that we were able to bring to the Breckenridge community this past season. We welcome any feedback on how we can better use these resources and hope to continue our strong partnership with the Open Space and Trails team. Thank you for your continued support and please let us know how we can work with you all more effectively and efficiently.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST:*

CFI will maintain Quandary Peak's Blue Lakes route, monitor hiking on the East Ridge, and be engaged in unfolding trailhead and trail improvements.

Indicate the date you will submit your Final Project Report for this 2026 Grant:

08/13/2026

Goal of Request:*

A goal is a broad statement that reflects how you will achieve the mission.

Example: Increase public awareness for the importance of early childhood issues.

CFI has three goals for 2026 with regard to Quandary Peak, a fourteener just outside of Breckenridge that sees roughly 26,500 climbers annually.

Goal 1: In 2025, CFI trail crews began work on the Blue Lakes trail that leads to Quandary's West Ridge route. The route garnered a C- rating on CFI's 2019 report card. In '26, we plan to continue that project, which will restore 0.85 miles of trail that winds through a riparian zone by installing timber and rock structures to stabilize the tread surface and reduce braiding.

Goal 2: CFI has been involved in trailhead stakeholder discussions since 2019 and anticipates helping implement whatever recommendations are approved for 2026.

Goal 3: If staffing allows, CFI hopes to place a second trail counter on Quandary on the West Ridge Route, which was placed here during the 2018-2019 seasons—but not since then.

Goal 4: Perform re-inventory of the Blue Lakes trail once maintenance and reconstruction work has been completed.

Grant Request Strategy to Address Goal:*

Strategies outline the major methods for achieving a goal.

Example: Establish a speaker's bureau that provides monthly presentations to community groups on key early childhood issues.

Goal 1: Much like in 2025, CFI would schedule approximately 16 trail work days—staffed by professional trail-builders and supported by volunteers—for summer 2026 on Quandary's Blue Lakes trail/West Ridge route.

Goal 2: Details and timeline are unclear, but CFI is anxious to be involved in efforts that could include re-doing the trailhead kiosk, rerouting the low portion of the main Quandary trail, and any other pending recommendations.

Goal 3: CFI staff would expend time and effort to place an infrared trail counter on Quandary's standard East Ridge route to continue to monitor what has become one of the most-trafficked fourteeners in the state. If staffing allows, CFI would place the West Ridge counter to see whether trail improvements are affecting hiking use on this more challenging route.

Goal 4: Staff will conduct foot-by-foot inventory on Blue Lakes trail to assess how significant trail work in 2025-2026 has addressed deferred maintenance and changed the trail's grade.

Activities to Achieve Strategy:*

Definition: What major steps or actions need to occur to achieve the strategy?

Examples: Create a presentation outline, Write a speakers bureau volunteer description, Recruit volunteers, Train volunteers on how to use template

For 15 years, CFI monitored trail conditions through its Sustainable Trails program and its 14er Report Card to understand which fourteeners routes need upkeep. Armed with that info, CFI's core staff meets each fall to plan projects for the following summer season. Then, we hire and train the appropriate seasonal staff and mobilize and train enough volunteers to get those jobs done in an excruciatingly short window of time. For the Blue Lakes trail, which received a C- in our 2019 14er Report Card and will likely require between \$75,000 and \$149,000 of total investment to reach an ideal, sustainable condition (not including ongoing maintenance), that meant earmarking at least two summers' worth of work on a small section of trail that runs through a sensitive riparian area. The work we plan to do in 2026 will be an extension of the project the nonprofit commenced in June 2025.

Placing, retrieving, and analyzing the information from the counters requires advanced planning to make sure the devices are optimally located as well as placed and retrieved at favorable times of the year so that they capture the most useful information. During our planning phase, CFI staffers with trail counter experience—and a set of microspikes!—already mark off days on their calendars to drive to and climb more than 25 fourteeners routes, including Quandary's East Ridge. We will simply mark off another couple of days to make certain we can accommodate Blue Lakes trail and the West Ridge route in 2026.

Quantifiable Results of Strategy:*

Definition: What results can you count and track as a result of the strategy being successfully implemented?

Example: 100 community members to attend 12 one hour presentations

At the conclusion of the 2025 field season, CFI staff will analyze the progress crews made on the 0.85 miles of trail it was scheduled to restore over two seasons. With that analysis in hand, detailed plans for what will need to happen on Blue Lakes trail in summer 2026 will be laid out. Typically, CFI relies heavily on estimated numbers—35 timber check steps installed, 300 feet of linear rock wall built, 500 pounds of dirt removed—to quantify exactly what needs to be done on a section of trail and ultimately what did get accomplished on a section of trail. While we can't know yet what those numbers will need to look like for Blue Lakes trail in 2026, CFI staff will undoubtedly know them—and aim to hit them—during the 2026 field season.

Qualitative Results of Strategy:*

Definition: What change will occur in the knowledge or behavior of the targeted audience as a result of the strategy?

Example: Attendees will report gaining new knowledge about key issues

CFI's targeted audience is, not surprisingly, fourteeners enthusiasts, who hear these peaks' siren songs luring them to their summits. At CFI, it is our belief that recreationists should be able to enjoy the grandeur of Colorado's highest peaks, so long as they have a way to do so sustainably. When hikers see our trail crews or encounter our Peak Stewards or simply experience a purpose-built, sustainable trail, they learn the reasons

for and the importance of staying on that trail and deploying Leave No Trace principles. These encounters can't help but change—in a positive manner—the way peak-baggers experience the alpine ecosystem. If you don't know that only a handful of errant footfalls can irreparably damage alpine tundra, then you aren't as careful where your boots tread. If you don't have a well-defined trail to follow, you likely make your own way, trampling anything and everything along the way. But once someone hears about or sees the results of a sustainable trail, they never unhear it—and it changes how a person moves through nature.

Timeline:*

Definition: When will the activities/strategy be completed?

Examples: April 2026, May 2026, July 2026, Sept 2026

June 2026 to September 2026

Responsible Party:*

Definition: Who is responsible for completing the activities?

Examples: Program Director, Admin Staff

CFI's executive director as well as its two field programs managers

Cash Request questions

AMOUNT OF REQUEST:*

\$10,000.00

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST*

CFI seeks help funding an ongoing maintenance project on Quandary Peak's Blue Lakes trail as well as funding for trail use monitoring systems on the mountain and potential trailhead renovation-related improvements.

Describe the project/program(s) to be funded*

In 2025, CFI trail crews began work on the Blue Lakes trail that leads to Quandary's West Ridge route. The route garnered a C- rating on CFI's 2019 report card, which suggested that the trail would ultimately require between \$75,000 and \$149,000 to reach an ideal, sustainable condition (not including ongoing maintenance). In 2026, we plan to continue working on the Blue Lakes project, which will restore 0.85 miles of trail that winds through a riparian zone by installing timber and rock structures to stabilize the tread surface and reduce braiding in the most delicate sections of the path.

CFI will place a hiking-use counter on Quandary Peak's East Ridge standard route. The data collected helps CFI determine the need for future maintenance projects and assists in establishing the peak's economic

impact on adjacent towns/municipalities. A second trail counter placed along the West Ridge route (last deployed in 2019) will gain an updated snapshot of use on this less-traveled route accessed by the Blue Lakes trail.

Total number served by the program request*

Please provide the number of unique individuals impacted, do not include duplicates.

28500

What impact will this program make in the community and how will you measure that impact*

All of CFI's trail projects, including the one on Quandary's Blue Lakes/West Ridge route, help preserve the natural beauty and critical ecosystems of the communities in which they're found. They also engage community members in hands-on stewardship that gives people a sense of responsibility for keeping the surrounding lands as pristine as possible. The US Forest Service has experienced both prolonged and, very recently, acute cuts to both budgets and staffing—and those cuts mean the agency lacks the capacity to build or maintain sustainable hiking trails, leaving nonprofit organizations to perform the lion's share of trail work in Colorado. The trailheads in and near Quandary have been undergoing study for several years to lessen impacts on adjacent neighbors and improve logistics for hikers. Likely changes will increase survey responses for both groups in terms of satisfaction. If done properly, the trailhead will more effectively serve hikers/neighbors, increase economic impacts from fourteeners hiking, and reduce parking/road congestion impacts on the surrounding community. An estimated 28,500 hikers (combined) ply the East and West ridge routes of Quandary each year; those recreationists undoubtedly spend time and dollars in towns like Breckenridge. Maintaining and expanding data collection regarding hiking use on Quandary and the state of trail condition allows for improved management of this vulnerable community resource and attraction.

Please list any Sustainability Efforts and Accomplishments achieved, if applicable.

CFI has a long-standing commitment to sustainability, reflected in our trail construction, maintenance practices, and organizational operations. Some key sustainability efforts and accomplishments include:

Sustainable Trail Construction: CFI employs sustainable trail building techniques designed to minimize environmental impact, reduce erosion, and protect the fragile alpine ecosystems of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks. Our work has led to the construction of more than 40 sustainable trails, ensuring that these areas are preserved for future generations.

Volunteer Stewardship: We engage hundreds of volunteers annually in trail maintenance and restoration projects, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for Colorado's natural resources.

Education and Outreach: CFI educates hikers on Leave No Trace principles and responsible recreation, promoting behaviors that reduce the environmental footprint of outdoor activities. Our educational efforts are integrated into all volunteer projects and outreach campaigns. Video resources share the story of the unique fourteeners resources—plants and animals—and explain sustainable behaviors to a global audience.

Data-Driven Conservation: Our hiking use and impact studies, including the use of infrared trail counters, provide valuable data that informs sustainable land management practices. This evidence-based approach ensures that our conservation efforts are both effective and adaptable to changing environmental conditions.

Please list any Equity Efforts & Accomplishments, if applicable.

Please include steps taken to serve the marginalized communities in the Upper Blue.

For more than 30 years, the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative has worked to protect and preserve the natural integrity of Colorado's fourteeners through active stewardship and public education. Expanding recreational use is threatening the rare and fragile alpine ecosystems that make these peaks so unique. We believe these peaks are treasures that need to be protected for future generations to enjoy. However, we recognize the need and opportunity to expand our impact and engage more of Colorado's increasingly diverse population in our work. CFI is committed to actively taking steps to learn, adapt, and lead in our ongoing outreach and engagement with diverse communities. We strive to create an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome and valued, regardless of their background or identity.

To date, CFI has undertaken multiple initiatives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. These include:

1. Implementing equitable hiring practices to ensure a diverse workforce that reflects the communities we serve.
2. Partnering with Indigenous groups to honor and incorporate their knowledge and perspectives into our stewardship efforts.
3. Expanding educational outreach—specifically our popular YouTube videos—to feature more diverse voices and stories, ensuring that our programs resonate with a broader audience.
4. Participating in community roundtables that investigate ways to make the outdoors more accessible to those who have historically felt unwelcome in natural spaces.

Ms. Peyton Rogers,

Thank you so much for the generous \$10,000 grant the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative received from the Town of Breckenridge in support of our 2025 efforts on Quandary Peak. Although our summer field season is still in progress, with plans to continue through the last weekend in September, I'm thrilled to provide an update on how the town's funds have been used so far this year. A quick note, though: I wanted to remind those who might review this report that the Town of Breckenridge asked CFI to submit a revised grant request, which this final report addresses.

Nomad Crews: CFI's Nomad Crews have, so far, completed 12 workdays on Quandary Peak, contributing more than 48 staff days of effort. During the first four-day hitch in early June (*pictured*), the crews focused on technical rock work, began building a rock staircase, and prepared for a slew of then-upcoming volunteer projects. During the subsequent eight-day hitch in late July, CFI hosted five single-day volunteer trail maintenance projects on the Blue Lakes trail that leads to Quandary Peak's West Ridge route. Corporate volunteer groups—from Plante Moran, S&P Global, and Emerson—joined Friends of the Dillon Ranger District as well as a bevy of individual volunteers to continue working on the staircase and to install timber and rock structures to stabilize the tread surface and reduce braiding through the most delicate parts of the trail. Farther up the trail, crews and volunteers will better delineate the trail, where it has nearly disappeared through a talus field, by laying down a crushed bed surface. These five projects—two more than initially projected—have collectively contributed approximately 70 volunteer days of stewardship on this lesser used but environmentally sensitive route on Quandary Peak, that to our knowledge has never been properly delineated or maintained.

CFI's Nomad Crews will return to the Blue Lakes trail on Quandary Peak for another four-day hitch in late September this year.



Final metrics for mileage maintained, square footage of structures built, and check steps installed will be available once our team reviews and tallies our work journals in October, but it is safe to say that CFI is on track to meet or exceed the goals it outlined in its grant request.

Hiker Education: So far in 2025, eight volunteer Peak Steward days have been recorded on Quandary Peak with a total of 1,205 hikers contacted about using Leave No Trace practices to minimize their recreational impacts on the fragile alpine tundra landscape.

Sustainable Trails Hiker Counts: For the 12th consecutive season, CFI placed an infrared trail counter on Quandary Peak's East Ridge to monitor hiking activity during the snow-free summer season. On May 30, 2025, CFI staff visited to download its data and replace the batteries in preparation for the busy summer hiking season. The data collected was included in our 2024 Hiker Use report, which showed that 25,992 hikers were counted on the trail during the snow-free periods. (When snow-covered, hikers take a slightly different route that does not pass by the counter.) With additions to incorporate climbing use on the West Ridge route and a week of early season use, the estimated total count was 26,500. During the May visit to the counter, snow was shoveled on a problematic area of the trail that tends to direct hikers off the trail. Not only do they then bypass the counter, but they also trample sensitive vegetation in soils that are super-saturated and contribute to excessive damage.

CFI recently released the 2024 edition of its annual Hiking Use report, which estimates the number of people climbing Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks. Quandary Peak remained in the top two slots in the state, with an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 annual hiker days. That 26,500 estimated hiker days represented a decrease of approximately 500 hikers compared to 2023.

Putting hiker use numbers into context is, of course, the point of collecting them. The level of recreational use on Quandary suggests a statewide economic impact of more than \$71 million, based on past fourteener-related expenditure studies conducted by Colorado State University economists John Loomis and Catherine Keske. Their 2009 study found that climbers of Quandary Peak near Breckenridge spent an average of \$271.17 per day on gasoline, food, lodging, equipment, and other retail purchases. Given that this economic data is more than 15 years old, CFI hopes to secure funding in the coming year(s) to conduct an updated survey and gather more accurate data on fourteener hikers' spending habits. Still, our findings indicate that 26,500 people visited Quandary Peak in 2024. From this data, we estimate that hikers recreating on this peak generated more than \$7.2 million for nearby trailhead communities like the town of Breckenridge. The report underscores the importance of protecting these natural resources, which provide a significant economic benefit to local communities.

I hope this report gives you some idea of the work CFI has already accomplished this summer—as well as what work is still to come—all of which can only happen with the support of the Town of Breckenridge.

Best,
Lindsey B. King
Deputy Director
Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

Town of Breck,

So far in 2025, CFI teams have spent 12 days on the Blue Lakes trail/West Ridge route of Quandary Peak, the closest fourteener to the town of Breckenridge. The crews—along with a host of volunteers—have focused on technical rock work, building a staircase, installing timber and rock structures, and delineating trail. Although there is still much work to be done this year as well as in 2026, seeing the work in progress is impressive, and we thought it might be worth Town of Breckenridge grantors seeing some of the ongoing efforts. Enjoy!



Summit Huts Parking Request

Greg Guevara, Executive Director of Summit Huts, presented to BOSAC during their September 15, 2025, meeting requesting the dedication of two parking spaces at the Laurium trailhead to summer and fall guests of the Atlantic Lode Cabin from summer 2026 through fall 2030. Maintenance of the parking signage would be the responsibility of Summit Huts and the recommended access route to the cabin would be the Laurium Road, Mountain Pride Trail, Baker's Tank Trail, Boreas Pass Road. Motorized access to the cabin would be discouraged, as it is to all cabins within the Summit Huts system.

- 1. Does BOSAC have additional questions for staff regarding this parking request?***
- 2. Does BOSAC support dedicating two parking spaces at the Laurium trailhead to summer and fall guests of the Atlantic Lode Cabin through 2030?***



SUMMIT HUTS

Laurium Parking

BOSAC Sept 15th, 2025

2

- Summit Huts was the recipient of a cabin/land donation
- Located about 4.5 miles up Boreas Pass Rd.
- We will be submitting a CUP application with the County soon
- We are working to figure out parking

Atlantic Lode Cabin

- We currently use Boreas Pass Trailhead for winter parking for Section House/Ken's
- We are requesting two additional winter spaces at Boreas Pass Trailhead
- We are requesting two summer/fall parking spaces at Laurium Trailhead

Atlantic Lode Cabin

Cabin Location



Proposed Summer Route

