



Parks and Open Space

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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE AND LOCATION: Thursday, October 22, 2009, 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Hearing Room, 3rd floor Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Findings of a County-wide Biodiversity Survey Completed by the CSU Natural Heritage Program

PRESENTER: Ron West, Planner

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

Staff will summarize a four-year process to inventory rare species and community types in the county. Field work, data tracking and document preparation were primarily completed by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) at Colorado State University. CNHP uses a nationally-standardized, inventory and ranking methodology adopted by the 50-state Natural Heritage Network. CNHP has a unique 30-year history in Colorado, working with all major federal and state agencies, as well as dozens of Colorado counties. CNHP maintains the statewide database, or “library,” of rare species’ localities and conditions.

Staff will present background, techniques and results via slides and maps. The following timeline presents key milestones in the project.

2005

- The need for new/updated information identified
- October – applied for \$75,000 GOCO planning grant; unsuccessful
- December -- Project split into 2 parts – wetlands and uplands

2006

- Applied for \$40,000 GOCO grant for uplands; unsuccessful
- Applied for \$82,000 EPA grant for wetlands; successful
- City of Boulder Open Space/Mountain Parks contributes \$20,000
- County Land Use Department contributes \$20,000
- POS contributes balance, cash and in-kind, for total budget of \$217,000

2007

- CSU Natural Heritage Program awarded contract(s)
- “Targeted Inventory Areas” (TIA’s) identified and prioritized
- First of two field seasons

2008

- TIAs refined and re-prioritized

- Second field season
- “Potential Conservation Areas” (PCA’s) identified

2009

- February – 400-page document published: “Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Boulder County, Colorado, 2007-2008”
- PCA data transfer to POS
- October – “Element Occurrence Records” (EOR’s) data transfer to POS

2010

- Data to be used for Comprehensive Plan updates, and as an additional element in POS acquisition strategies