

## Visitor Use Impact and Decision Framework

Name of Project: Short Loop Interpretive Trail at Reservoir Ridge

June 2019 See attached map for trail considerations

<b>Visitor Use Impact and Decision Framework (IDF) Summary Table</b>		
<b>Project or Use: Short loop interpretive trail at Reservoir Ridge</b>		
<b>Reason for proposal: Staff suggestion based on demographics from intercept survey</b>		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rating Alignments 1-3</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<b>A. What is the scale of Ecological Impacts?</b>	1 - Moderate 2 -Low 3 -Moderate	Alignments 1 and 3 resulted in a moderate ecological impact due to the proximity to a raptor nest and grassland bird habitat. Alignment 2 resulted in a low impact even though it was within the raptor nest buffer due to users moving away from the nesting area vs. towards.
<b>B. What is the scale of Cultural Resource impacts?</b>	1 through 3 - Unknown	All three alignments were of unknown cultural resource impacts. If an alignment were chosen, the area to be disturbed would be surveyed for cultural resources.
<b>C. Are there generally favorable Social considerations?</b>	Maybe	Social considerations were mixed due to the lukewarm response from both the non-statically valid survey from the open house and the non-visitor outreach (50% selected they might use the feature). Other short loop interpretive trails exist within the natural areas system and anecdotally, have low use by the targeted demographic. More research is needed. Since there are no crowding, conflict or satisfaction issues at Reservoir Ridge (Vaske, 2018), a new loop trail would have very little positive impact on these indicators.
<b>D. Does this generally align with Administrative Considerations?</b>	Yes	The proposal aligns with code, NAD ability to maintain, and there are no enforcement concerns.

## Staff Recommendation

Staff is **not recommending the short loop interpretive trail** for the three proposed alignments within the Foothills. Staff originally proposed the short loop interpretive trail as an option because of the demographic findings from the statically valid [intercept survey](#). Demographics of Foothills visitors are narrow and do not match demographics of the City. It was unclear why the vast majority of users recreated in ones and twos, were predominately white, and respondents at all four locations were highly educated (for example, over threequarters (77%) of the respondents at Coyote Ridge had completed a bachelor's degree (47%) or masters / Ph.D. (30%)). To understand more, staff proposed the short loop interpretive trail as a potential draw to those experiencing disabilities, families, lower incomes, and people of color. However, the response was lukewarm at best, and it became evident that a larger diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy was needed. Staff did not support the "build it and they will come" method because other short loop interpretive trails within the system appear to be underutilized. In summary:

- It is unclear if a short loop interpretive trail would draw a broader demographic to the Foothills.
- There was a lukewarm reception to the idea from both the non-statically valid survey from the open house and the non-visitor outreach.
- Other short loop interpretive trails exist within the natural areas system and anecdotally, have low use by the targeted demographic.

Further findings and rationale are included in the full Visitor Use Impact and Decision Framework.

## Best Management Practices

- Build a system-wide strategy for natural areas to ensure all demographics of our community are connecting to nature in ways they affiliate with.
  - Work with an external team, representing a broader demographic, to understand needs. Ensure people of color, those experiencing disabilities, Latin and Latin X, low income, and families are represented.
- Advertise the availability of other short loop interpretive trails within the system.

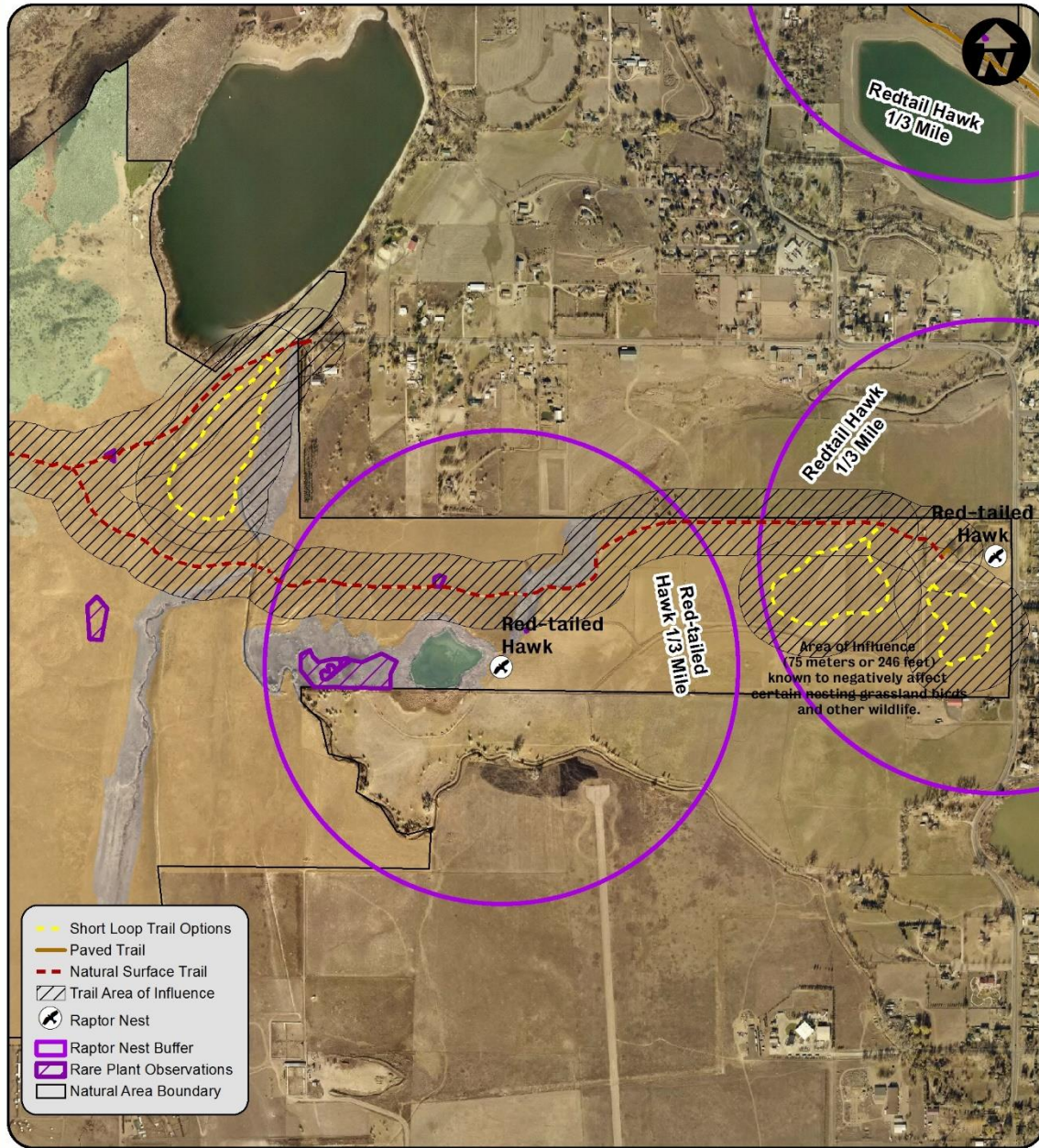
## Core Management Team Decision

- Confirmed staff recommendation at 6/20/2019 meeting. **Decision is to hold on the idea of a new short loop interpretive trail until a larger diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy is formed.**

For the full IDF please email [hwagner@fcgov.com](mailto:hwagner@fcgov.com)

# Short Trail Loop Proposal

## Reservoir Ridge Natural Area



- Short Loop Trail Options
- Paved Trail
- Natural Surface Trail
- Trail Area of Influence
- Raptor Nest
- Raptor Nest Buffer
- Rare Plant Observations
- Natural Area Boundary

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



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