

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
2022 WORK PLAN/GOALS

Mission Statement: The San Miguel County Open Space Commission seeks to protect, conserve and enhance lands important for open space, recreation, natural habitat, agriculture and scenic beauty throughout San Miguel County for this and future generations.

<u>Goals/Programs</u>	<u>Accomplished</u> <u>2021</u>	<u>Action Items</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2022</u>
<p><u>San Miguel Land Heritage Program</u> - The Open Space Commission (OSC) will continue to facilitate the preservation of important lands in San Miguel County (SMC) by contributing funds for transaction costs associated with viable conservation easements being closed by certified land trusts.</p>	<p>c. 9K+ acre LCE application approved by the OSC and the BOCC for \$65K in funding.</p>	<p>a. Overview the properties in the County's Land Heritage Program (LHP) and pursue potential LCE's.</p> <p>b. Participate and review the LHP on an as-needed basis.</p> <p>c. A 9K+ LCE's was considered and approved for \$65K in funding for the purchase of development rights. Closing costs – potential LCE acquisition and match. Closing anticipated 2nd quarter of 2022.</p> <p>d. Due diligence for LCE's, appraisals, environmental assessments, etc.</p> <p>e. Routine advertising.</p>	<p>c. \$65K (Confirmed LCE) c. \$100K (Potential Future LCE's)</p> <p>d. \$4K</p> <p>e. \$750.</p>
<p><u>Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)</u> - Assist in development and implementation of PES programs that enhance land health, watershed health, soils health, forest health, and/or provide protection or enhancement of habitat for species of concern to the County.</p>	<p>a., b. - Pollinators planted at the Down Valley Park (DVP) in 2021 (ongoing). The Pollinator Garden was initially planted in 2017.</p>	<p>Identify County Open Space PES project priorities annually.</p> <p><u>PES PROJECTS:</u></p> <p>a. Continue to develop Pollinator Corridors, Strips and Projects – Mill Creek Park.</p> <p>b. Pollinator Garden seasonal hire.</p> <p>c. Develop a Pollinator Garden Plant Germination Program. Buy a greenhouse?</p> <p>d. Continue to monitor Soil Health Program (7th year) and PES projects - study and development.</p> <p>e. Keep apprised of Regenerative Ag Recovery Program. County is a participant.</p>	<p>a. \$20K</p> <p>b. \$6K</p> <p>c. \$2K</p>

		<p>f. Support Ag Lands Carbon Sequestration Green House Gas Study.</p> <p>g. O.A. Greager property – monitor and Develop a Use Mgmt. Plan w/CPW. GuSG Zeedyk (11) structures exist on site.</p> <p>h. Work w/San Miguel Watershed Coalition for potential PES projects, their Forest Health Monitoring, Beaver Dam Analog initiatives and projects, etc.</p> <p>i. CWCB Grant to enhance County’s existing PES program. SMC matching funds - The total grant is \$69,293. Hope for 6 landowner commitments for 2022. Get updates from The Terra Firm. Moved to a separate Grant Fund budget item.</p> <p>j. Consider LCE properties for PES projects.</p> <p>k. County rep. to attend the Quivira Coalition conference. Update the OSC.</p> <p>l. Community Support Education – Work with the ToT OSC to purchase/apply Doug Fir pheromone packets.</p> <p>m. FEN Study (Comm. Support Funding).</p>	<p>h. \$7853. (Forest Health – Community Support Funding)</p> <p>i. \$24K</p> <p>k. \$2K</p> <p>l. \$3K</p> <p>m. \$2K</p>
<p><u>Annual Work Plan Development & Implementation</u> -The OSC will develop an annual work plan and companion budget requests in time for presentation to the BOCC so it can inform the development of the following year’s budget during the County’s budget process. The OSC will make semi-annual presentations to the BOCC to provide updates to progress being made on each year’s work plan.</p>	<p>a. Developed a 2021 Work Plan with action items related to each program and goal.</p> <p>b. Determined priorities, timelines and related budget needs for action items. Once adopted the OSC’s Work Plan is posted on the County website.</p>	<p>a. Compile input from OSC/POS Dir./Staff/BOCC and refine the Work Plan to coincide with the County’s budget process.</p> <p>b. Report work plan to the BOCC to inform the development of the following year’s budget. The POS Dir./OSC Chair will provide updates of progress being made on each year’s Work Plan to the BOCC.</p> <p>c. The OSC’s Work Plan is an active working document.</p>	
<p><u>Education/Outreach</u> - The OSC will help keep the public aware and informed and will facilitate public outreach and education on relevant topics, including, but not limited to, updates on activities and progress of the OSC on its annual Work Plan, using a variety of media and strategies such as social</p>	<p>- Newspaper articles/press releases/County website announcements: - OSC 2021 Year-End Wrap-Up (3/22); - Publish PES Brochure (1/22); - GOCO/NFWF GuSG Restore Grant (3/21); - New Ilium deck park area (8/20); - E-Bike Pilot Program (7/20); - Trail Signage Policy established (7/20);</p>	<p>a. Produce/publish POS Annual Report (POS Director prepares this document).</p> <p>b. Provide updates of success - achieving action items on goals/programs: Press/radio releases, attend community meetings and present information.</p>	

<p>media platforms, press releases, radio interviews, guest columns, forums, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 CDOT Multi-Model Options Fund grants awarded to the County – Down Valley Connector Trail Feasibility Study and a bridge for the Bridal Veil Creek Trail (3/20); - Elk Springs Ranch LCE (1/20); - New Bridal Veil Creek Trail (12/19); - CWCB Grant/PES Projects (6/19); - “Celebrating Open Space (4/19); - New Bridal Veil Trail (11/18); - New Remine Creek Trail (9/18); -Acquired Society Turn Climbing Wall(6/18); - Pollinator Garden established (5/17); - Campbell LCE (12/16); - Washburn LCE (11/16). 	<p>c. Determine what is worth raising awareness of related to the OSC’s goals/accomplishments.</p> <p>d. Support community education – Gunnison Sage Grouse (GuSG), PES/Soil Health projects, Noxious Weed Management, trail etiquette, etc.</p> <p>e. County OSC accomplishments and the Annual Work Plan are posted on the County website.</p>	<p>d. \$3K (listed under PES)</p>
<p><u>Mining, Oil and Gas, and Development</u> - The OSC will monitor oil and gas leasing, mining and development proposals (or that may affect SMC Open Space parcels) and activity within SMC.</p> <p>This is a crossover item with the County’s department of Natural Resources & Special Projects (NR/SP).</p>	<p>- OSC Member Roger Wickham followed the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) and attended their meetings via Zoom. Updates and reports were provided to the OSC.</p>	<p>a. Review reports from POS Director/County liaison and staff on such development proposals relevant to the OSC.</p> <p>b. Review status map showing current mining activity, active leases, pending leases.</p> <p>c. Acquire an updated report from the COGCC/NR/SP on their rulemaking.</p> <p>d. Square with PES/GuSG efforts & other OSC goals.</p> <p>e. Discuss/review water health as it relates to Oil & Gas and to Open Space projects, properties and goals.</p>	
<p><u>Gunnison Sage Grouse</u> - The OSC will continue to work to protect, preserve and enhance GuSG habitat and to monitor efforts of agencies and other stakeholders working on this effort.</p> <p>Beginning in mid-2021, the County’s GuSG efforts are now managed by the department of Natural Resources & Special Projects. However, funding is still provided through the OSC’s 2022 annual budget.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GuSG Site Assessment Field Visits with CPW and NFWF – Miramonte area and Dry Creek Basin (ongoing by NR/SP). - County worked with Montezuma Land Conservancy – Obtained a GOCO/NFWF Restore Grant (\$277K) to enhance GuSG habitat in both San Miguel and Dolores Counties (5/21). - Restore Grant Initiatives (2 years) – Tamarisk Removal, Dry Creek, Zeedyk Structures, Miramonte Meadows, Iron Springs, etc. (2022/2023). 	<p>a. Continue to support GuSG Working Group and fund GuSG Coordinator Salary.</p> <p>b. Habitat restoration projects. NR/SP to investigate sites where Bill Zeedyk erosion control/riparian restoration structures would assist the GuSG population.</p> <p>c. NR/SP to identify partners and/or stakeholders.</p> <p>d. Consider potential LHP/LCE properties within mapped GuSG areas.</p> <p>e. NR/SP to identify/prioritize projects to support GuSG. OSC PES overlap (i.e., O.A. Greager).</p>	<p>a. \$9500. (Coordinator Salary)</p> <p>b. \$5K (Zeedyk Structures) (\$14,500. total will be used as matching funds for the Restore Grant. Community Support Funding).</p>

<p>Planning Dept. Referral Process – Work with County staff to review summary referrals of development and planning applications to the County Planning Department having a nexus to or component that would affect open space, parks, trails, public access, GuSG or County roads (such as a road vacation application). The OSC intends to provide timely recommendations or input on such applications as they pertain to the OSC's goals or mission.</p>	<p>All - Ongoing</p>	<p>a. POS Dir./staff will communicate/inform OSC to apprise of issues affecting SMC Parks and Open Space.</p> <p>b. POS Director/Staff will email or schedule timely OSC review for recommendations.</p> <p>c. SMC High-Country Area (HCA) Zoning District. Review the value system.</p> <p>d. Monitor potential open space parcels for acquisition.</p>	
<p>Enhancing Recreational Opportunities and Trails - Partner with existing groups and entities working on the regional trail master plan, to determine County priorities for retaining and enhancing access to public lands. Assist in working on opportunities to accomplish securing rights-of-way for trail connectors, and retaining, enhancing and protecting access to public lands.</p>	<p>a. Ongoing</p> <p>b. Defined and implemented a County Trail Signage Policy. BOCC adopted the OSC's recommendations 7/20.</p> <p>c. Define/determine the use of E-bikes on County trails. Allow Class 1 E-bikes on 2 County trails – the M59 River Trail and the Whiskey Charlie 62 trail. BOCC adopted the OSC's recommendations 7/20</p> <p>d. Remine Creek Trail – updated signage for cyclist and hiker etiquette and yielding. TMTc assisted. Installed 9/20. Installed a culvert crossing the lower stream for cyclists. Bridge remains for pedestrians and hikers only. SMVC shared the cost with SMC (spring 2021).</p> <p>e. DVCT - SMC, with the assistance of the TMTc, applied for a CDOT MMOF Planning Grant for a feasibility study of the Down Valley Connector Trail project.</p> <p>f. BVCT Bridge - SMC, with assistance of the TMTc, applied for a CDOT MMOF Grant for the BVCT bridge. Grant awarded 3/20. BOCC approved resolution and CDOT IGA 11/20. Project/funding was transferred from CDOT to CPW. Bridge installed 10/21.</p>	<p>a. Continue to work with partners on regional trails (USFS, ToT, WETA, Regional Trails Groups, Telluride Mountain Club, Tres Rios Travel Mgmt. Plan) to develop new County trails.</p> <p>b. Continue to assess County trail/park signage needs and the potential for design guidelines to be established.</p> <p>c. Continue to monitor E-bike issues on County trails.</p> <p>d. POS staff continue to monitor usage of hiker and cyclist interaction of the Remine Creek Trail.</p> <p>e. Continue the process with CDOT to plan the DVCT. RFP to be advertised and awarded early winter of 2022.</p>	<p>- Funding set aside for seasonal positions to assist with maintenance of all trails within the County system.</p> <p>f. \$30K County match (total grant \$120K - \$30K match from the TMTc). Separate grant fund budget – not with the OSC budget.</p>

	<p>g. Dave Foley conducted a partial survey in 2019. Survey to be completed in 2022. OSC site walks to determine which direction to proceed. Attempts to obtain permission with Idarado and USFS have begun.</p> <p>i. SMC POS conducted a community survey to gather input. Survey completed summer 2020. OSC reviewed survey results.</p> <p>j. Discussed with the BOCC 7/20. Ongoing enforcement issue. County Attorney and County Planning dept. involved.</p> <p>k. Site walk visit conducted 8/20. Ongoing.</p> <p>l. Ilium Deck – Respite area for hikers/cyclists by the river adjacent to the Church Camp. New County park area. Completed 8/20.</p>	<p>g. Perimeter Trail – Perform and complete survey alignment. Working on acquiring permission from the USFS, Idarado and the ToT for recreational trail easements. USFS will require NEPA. Telluride Open Space as funding partner? Site walk visit with Idarado et al spring 2022.</p> <p>h. Ilium Flume Trail – County Historical Commission involved – need to ground truth potential alignment with the USFS and TMTc spring 2022.</p> <p>i. Mill Creek Park – Using survey results, determine plan for the 1.09 acre site and plan to break ground spring 2022. Issue an RFP early winter 2022.</p> <p>j. Keystone Gorge Loop Trail – no dogs or bikes allowed. Too many ignoring signage. Monitor plan of action for enforcement of County trails.</p> <p>k. Galloping Goose Trail – monitor Black Hills Energy re-veg. efforts with the USFS. Develop re-veg. fee schedule/bonding requirement with County Planning and R&B depts. Work with County VC&M dept.</p> <p>m. Gather input for assessment of Down Valley connector trail holes and goals. Prioritize DV connector pieces needed.</p> <p>n. Establish DV connector trails considering Scenic Byways, Federal funding and SMART objectives.</p> <p>o. Determine lands needed to acquire as OS or LCE to create connector trails, (i.e., Sawpit San Miguel River trail connector).</p> <p>p. Discuss future plans for the uses of O.A. Greager. Possible PES projects.</p> <p>q. Complete Upper Bridal Veil Trail alignment connector to Bridal Veil Falls to top switchback at Black Bear Road (finish spring 2022).</p>	<p>g. \$15K</p>
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	<p>r. Discussed to determine needs/funding for education on trail etiquette. Requested the TMTc to proceed with trail etiquette campaign. Met to discuss and determine need for language inclusion on signage. POS added a QR code for link to County website with details in Spanish for translation purposes. Implemented spring 2021.</p> <p>t. OSC assisted with development of a new Regional Trails Map – posted to County website and other social media.</p>	<p>r. Determine needs/funding for education on trail etiquette and enforcement on all County trails.</p> <p>s. Busted Arm Draw and Beaver Park Trails Planning Project (10/21). Handled by the SE Group for the USFS. OSC continue to monitor public comments and feedback.</p> <p>t. Promote Regional Trails Map effort – work with regional interested stakeholders. Next steps? Distribution?</p> <p>u. Consider management plans and conservation easement values for LCE's.</p>	<p>u. \$1K</p>
<p><u>Collaboration with Town of Telluride Open Space Commission</u> - The SMC OSC will have 1 member who has dual membership on both the Town and County OSC's in order to facilitate a working relationship between the two groups.</p>	<p>a. Crossover reports were emailed or presented as part of the SMC OSC meeting agendas.</p>	<p>a. Crossover rep. to determine most important aspects of TOT and SMC OSC meetings to briefly summarize in a Crossover report to members. Crossover rep. to communicate between both OSC and suggest/share cooperative/complimentary projects.</p>	
<p><u>Scenic Resource Protection</u> - The OSC will work with County Staff and other partners such as Land Trusts, landowners and public agencies to identify critical views for potential protection through easements. The OSC will also coordinate with CDOT on their projects for impact to the Scenic Byways traversing our County - San Juan Skyway and Unawweep/Tabeguache Byway.</p>	<p>All - Ongoing</p> <p>e. OSC Member Angela Dye was appointed as the County liaison on the San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway Committee.</p>	<p>a. Be proactive in advocating for better management practices with CDOT.</p> <p>b. Review need for LCE to protect scenic corridors along 2 Skyways traversing SMC.</p> <p>c. Identify critical viewpoints and move towards protection.</p> <p>d. Identify nexus with habitat/recreation use.</p> <p>e. Attend 2022 annual SJSSBC conference. Dye to report back to OSC with updates.</p> <p>f. Research funds for Scenic Byway designation/improvements – pull-out areas, signage panels, CDOT, etc. Get tribal nations involved?</p> <p>g. Provide input to the Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plan Update.</p> <p>h. Consider upgrades OSC might want to ensure are maintained/safe on our Byways.</p>	<p>e. \$250.</p>

GLOSSARY FOR ACRONYMS:

- BOCC – Board of County Commissioners
- BVCT – Bridal Veil Creek Trail
- CDOT – CO Dept. of Transportation
- COGCC – CO Oil Gas Conservation Comm.
- CPW – Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- CWCB – CO Water Conservation Board
- DVCT – Down Valley Connector Trail
- DVP – Down Valley Park
- GOCO – Great Outdoors Colorado
- GuSG – Gunnison Sage Grouse
- HCA – High Country Area Zoning District
- IGA – Intergovernmental Agreement
- LCE – Land Conservation Easement
- LHP – Land Heritage Program
- MLC – Montezuma Land Conservancy
- MMOF – Multi-Model Options Fund
- NFWF – National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- NR/SP – Natural Resources/Special Projects
- OS – Open Space
- OSC – Open Space Commission
- PES – Payment for Ecosystem Services
- POS – Parks & Open Space
- RFQ – Request for Qualifications
- SJSBC – San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway Committee
- SMART – San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation
- SMC – San Miguel County
- SMVC – San Miguel Valley Corps.
- TMTc – Telluride Mountain Club
- ToT – Town of Telluride
- UBVT – Upper Bridal Veil Trail
- USFS – United States Forest Service
- VC&M – Vegetation Control & Mgmt.
- WETA – West End Trails Alliance