



# High Visitation & COVID-19 Compliance Team

Open Space and Mountain Parks  
2020 Year End Summary Report

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# INTRODUCTION

Since March of 2020, OSMP has largely operated in a new unfamiliar landscape due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, OSMP convened the High Visitation and COVID-19 Compliance (HV&CC) team including representatives from various workgroups across the department. In coordination with other OSMP teams and external agencies, this team recommended and implemented actions for dealing with the unusually high and changing visitation patterns on OSMP that staff was observing while managing public safety and resource protection adaptively during the emerging COVID pandemic. This summary captures the team's approach, OSMP's emergency response actions and adaptive management actions to the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant changing visitation patterns from March through December 2020.

The HV&CC team's main focus was on coordinating strategies and actions to address emerging scenarios that required OSMP to provide an emergency or immediate response. To accomplish this, the team coordinated with numerous OSMP staff teams and the public to gather and share information to better understand what was happening on the system:

- COVID Outreach staff provided daily logs and weekly summary reports on visitor behavior and patterns at trailheads.
- Ranger staff created a COVID daily log that provided constant live feedback on what they were observing across the system, especially during peaks on weekends.
- Human Dimensions completed field studies at three fixed points to assess compliance with COVID-19 social distance public health orders and at six points to assess face cover presence along trails as well as providing live visitor data from the 11 on-going and long-term visitor counters on the system.
- Staff from all work groups working on the front line provided observations every other week and then monthly for compilation into a summary of field notes.
- The community sent in CRM's that advised the HV&CC team of conditions on the ground or made suggestions for responding to the pandemic that were evaluated by the team.
- City Council provided feedback on OSMP's response and made suggestions for responding that were evaluated by the HV&CC team.
- HV&CC team members met with regional partners including BCPOS, Jeff Co, Larimer County, USFS to share ideas and collaborate on actions in response to COVID.
- HV&CC team members met with city departments including Parks and Recreation, Transportation and Community Vitality to share ideas and collaborate on actions in response to COVID.

# INTRODUCTION

This information was invaluable in identifying changing patterns and considering actions to be taken by the HV&CC team in coordination with the Signs and Messaging Team. In addition, this information was used to provide COVID Field Notes (Attachment A), which was initially a weekly update to all staff that also informed the Director in preparation for weekly council meetings on the City's emerging response to COVID. The COVID Field Notes became a biweekly report to the department's Management Team and the weekly reporting from the Ranger, COVID Outreach, Volunteers, and HD team helped to inform Director level updates to the City Manager and Council.

OSMP's Signs and Messaging Team (SMT) with representation across the work groups and cross-representation on HV&CC was formed to help coordinate communication in alignment with City Communications and county partners. The goals of the team were to coordinate signs and messaging on OSMP lands tied to county and state public health guidelines and communicate how those guidelines affected open space visitation. The SMT coordinated closely with the HV&CC team and in turn when a messaging item emerged as a result of a HV&CC team action, the SMT was asked to develop associated messaging for the action. As the HV&CC team gathered greater knowledge about new visitor patterns emerging due to COVID and the level of COVID compliance, action plans were developed as the tool to develop and implement a response. The responses included numerous types of actions such as communications and education via signs and messaging in coordination with the Signs and Messaging Team, City and County communications, staff actions taken by Rangers, the COVID Outreach Team, Volunteer Ambassadors, closures of facilities, reduced parking capacity, responses to increased trespassing, as well as managing recreation activities such as dog leashing at trailheads, directional travel, suggested trail routes, and trailhead closures. Some of these actions took place at a Systemwide level while others took place at specific Areas/Corridors/Sites throughout the system, as needed.

The HV&CC team reviewed a total of approximately 200-300 ideas (not all ideas were documented in the initial response to COVID) that led to the development of over 51 actions on-the-ground that responded to and improved conditions for visitor safety,

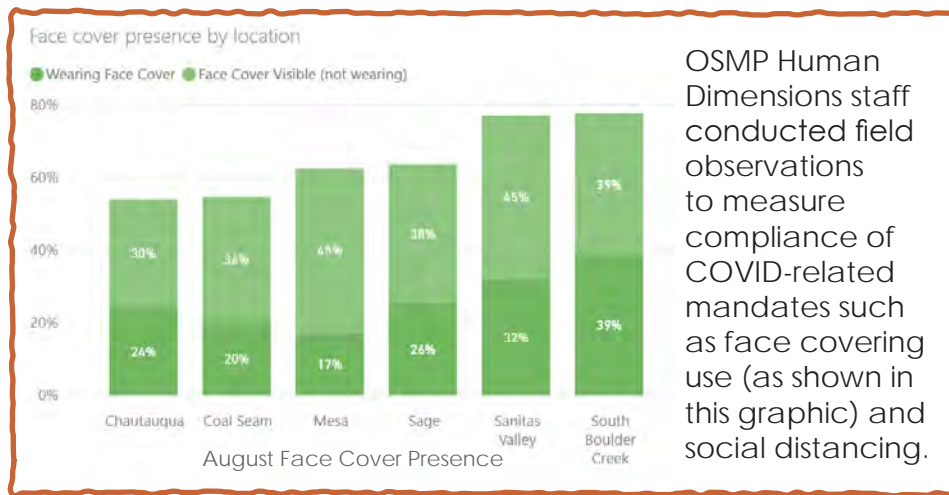


OSMP ranger Maria Mayer setting an early example in the field by wearing a face covering

# INTRODUCTION

resource protection and COVID Compliance. These on-the-ground actions continue to be reviewed and adapted. This report summarizes all of the major actions taken over the last year organized by Systemwide and Area/Corridor/Site-specific actions as well as recommendations on which actions should be continued, ended, or are still to be implemented. The HV&CC team will continue to implement some major actions into 2021 and will continue to develop actions in response to High Visitation and COVID Compliance as needed.

Credit goes to all of the staff on the team who demonstrated the highest levels of expertise in their field; an innovative, yet practical approach; and a can do spirit that was engendered by their willingness to create a collaborative environment and keep cool heads when this emergency was in full swing and information about the pandemic was changing. These staff deserve the highest accolades for their dedication to public service in what were and are uncertain and dangerous times. This was a major undertaking by staff in an emergency and the hope is that this report serves as a record of that decision making and can support future emergency responses.

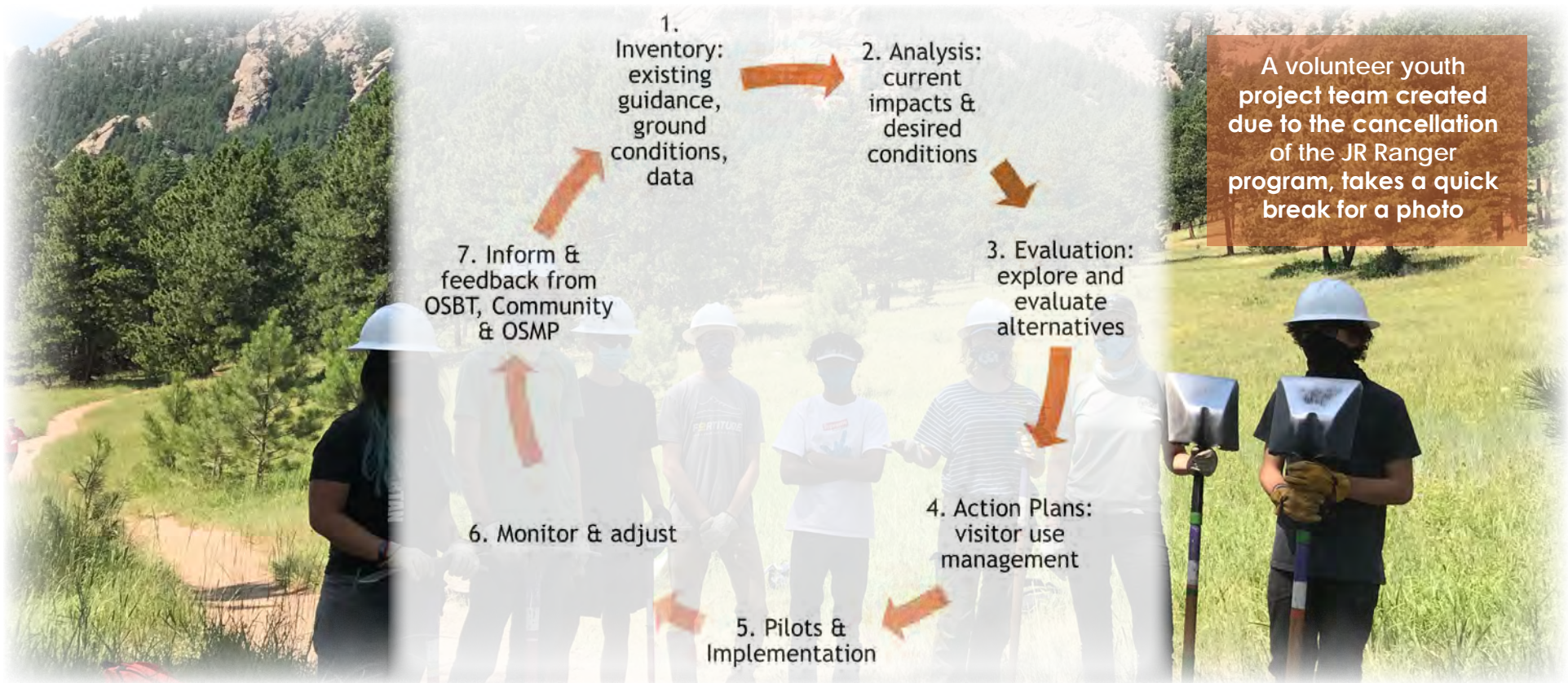


An OSMP visitor gets up to date information from a COVID Bulletin Board at Chautauqua in both Spanish and English



# ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT DECISION MAKING

To effectively manage the department through these times, staff have utilized an adaptive management approach, creating a set of multidisciplinary teams to consolidate, evaluate, prioritize and implement action plans to respond to COVID-19 and concentrated visitation in areas of the system. The Master Plan gives guidance around adaptive management, “planning for all charter purposes should also involve an adaptive management process that encourages responsive, information-driven land management practices. This type of approach is critical to meet short-term needs and still provide a long-term vision that guides on-the-ground decisions” (Page 229). Below is the adaptive management approach used for HV&CC decision making.



# ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT DECISION MAKING

In responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the HV&CC team developed action plans that have included a wide breadth of ideas from citizens, board members, staff and other outlets that have been vetted and balanced against pandemic constrained resources, keeping staff and community members safe, being mindful of equity and diversity considerations and providing the best service possible. The subset of teams created includes the development of both the HV&CC team in March and the COVID-19 Signs and Messaging Team in April and also the Stabilization and Recovery Team (START) later on. Ideas from all avenues were welcomed and encouraged and those that have been implemented have been re-evaluated to determine whether they should be considered for continuation or ended and as new ideas continue to emerge whether they should be implemented.

The department has relied on these teams to consider possible management actions, recommend priorities and assist in guiding implementation. When considering possible management actions in reviewing a wide breadth of ideas, some general themes have emerged that are beneficial to emphasize in order to better understand why some projects have been moved forward and others despite being considered may have had implications or unintended consequences that prevented them from being implemented:

**Large Benefit:** Given limited/constrained resources, teams looked for larger benefits or improvements rather than small gains.

**Working with our Partners:** Teams shared ideas with our partner land management agencies and they in turn shared their ideas, saving time and resources while also providing a more consistent approach to public land management across the Front Range. City Communications and OSMP messaging partnerships with other regional open space agencies has set the foundation for extensive collaboration in 2021 and beyond.

**Safety and Education:** Ideas were only considered for implementation if they could be implemented in a safe manner for the public and staff and did not create significant unintended consequences.



OSMP signs staff getting sandwich board signs with COVID information ready to install

# ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT DECISION MAKING

**Equity Focused:** Ideas were evaluated using the Rapid Response Racial Equity Assessment Tool to ensure equity is a focus for all decisions regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and ability in order to minimize harmful impacts as much as possible.

**Impacts to the System:** Ideas and actions that mitigate natural resource impacts are prioritized through an adaptive management approach using existing policy guidance in already approved plans. Any response weighs existing long-term stewardship programs against the need to react in the short-term to issues directly emerging during the pandemic.

**Compliance and Conflict:** Ideas were more likely prioritized for implementation if they did not create additional visitor conflict, did not create conflict between staff and the public and were enforceable without putting staff or the public at more risk than necessary.

**Simple and Clear to Understand:** Especially with signage and messaging, ideas had to be consistent with state and county health guidelines and were given more weight if they were simple, easy to understand and easy to follow.

**Dilution of Messaging:** Suggestions to continually make COVID-19 related signs and messaging louder, bigger and more prominent were considered with reservation given COVID-19 signs and messaging was already the most important information to convey to the public and as such the graphics, font sizes and timing placement took priority over normal OSMP messaging.



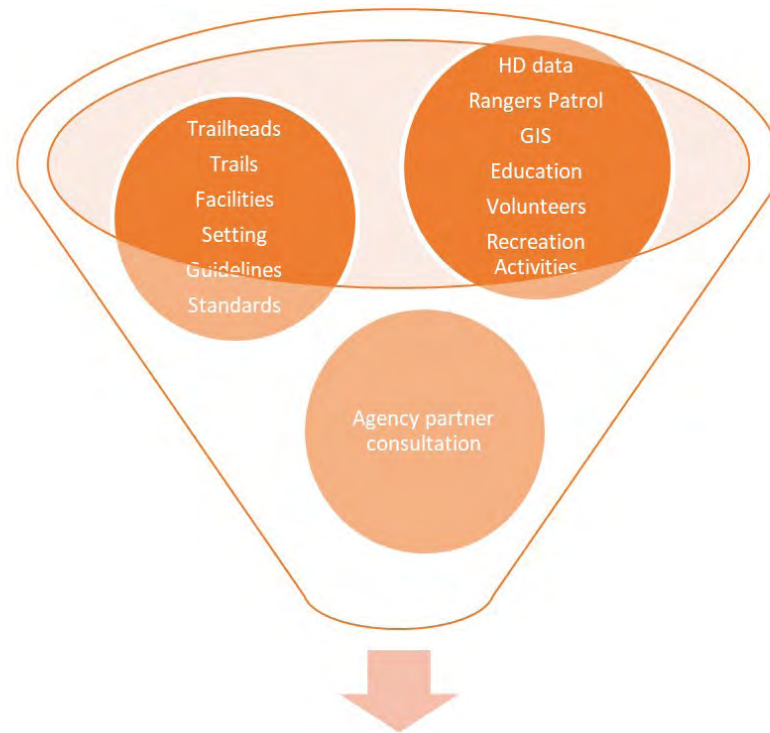
Precautionary clothing to ensure safety for restroom cleaning

# HIGH VISITATION AND COVID RELATED ACTIONS

Over the last ten months the HV&CC team and the COVID-19 Signs and Messaging team have solicited and received project ideas that have gone through an initial vetting phase. If the process indicated that benefits outweighed detriments, initial ideas were moved into an action planning stage where an adaptive management approach informed whether the plans moved forward to implementation. The HV&CC team developed and implemented action plans for Systemwide Actions and Area/Corridor/Site-Specific Actions to address needs in each of these categories which are now being recommended to either continue, to end, or that are still to be implemented.



Outdoor, socially-distant site visit with OSMP staff and County Highway staff to solve parking issues and trespass into HCA's

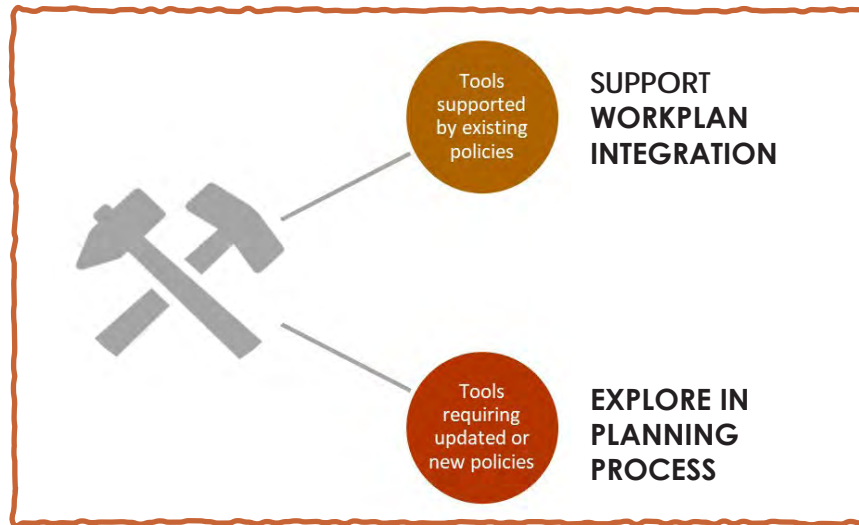


AREAS / CORRIDORS / SITE SPECIFIC + SYSTEMWIDE NEEDS



# HIGH VISITATION AND COVID RELATED ACTIONS

During the development of action plans for Area/Corridor/Site-specific actions, staff took a Toolkit Approach, using both tools already supported by existing policies as well as exploring the use of new tools that require updated or new policies for continued use into the future.



Staff continue to review ideas and improve our current actions. As OSMP continues to transition more fully into recovery, the HV&CC team recognize the need to consider adapting our current approach and have categorized actions that should be continued, ended or are still in the process of being implemented (See Attachment B). Within the Continue category staff has recommended:

- Actions that should continue and are within current existing policy,
- Actions that should continue but will require new policy in order to continue because they are currently “out of policy”
- Actions that should continue but will need to be re-evaluated in the future.



# HIGH VISITATION AND COVID RELATED ACTIONS

Within the End category staff has recommended:



- Actions that should end even though they were effective and worked well in this situation; and
- Actions that should end because they were ineffective or not worth the resources.

Finally, there are some actions that have been vetted, but are still in the process of being implemented.

The HV&CC team will continue to re-evaluate actions being taken as we respond to COVID-19, the changing orders and guidelines which inform the actions OSMP takes, and in coordination with the START team to aid in our recovery.

## SYSTEMWIDE ACTIONS

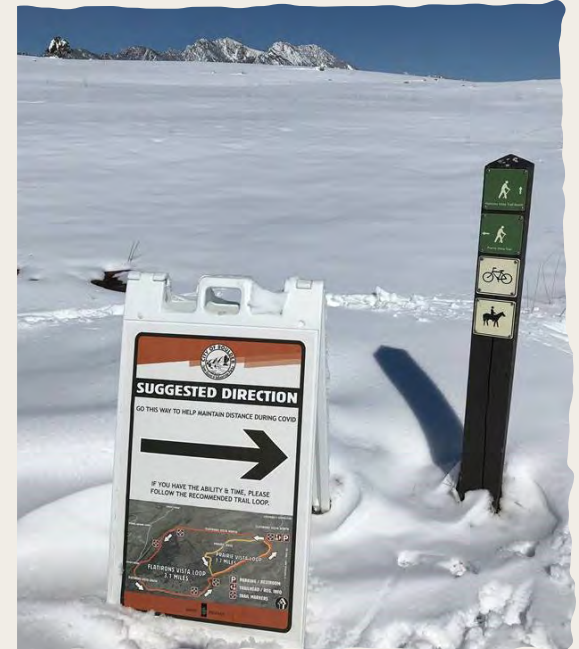
The following systemwide actions are recommended to continue:



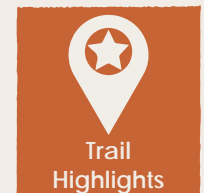
- Partnering with City of Boulder Community Vitality and Transportation departments, City Communications, Boulder County and other Front Range partners to coordinate parking and visitor use management needs in support of COVID compliance.
- Studying available parking data and, using the multimodal transportation toolkit developed during the master plan, evaluate which transportation tools that are within existing policy may help address hotspots.
- Following improved Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) based on best practices, communication and coordination with other agencies and continuing to update these SOPs as circumstances change.
- Coordination with other agencies to determine best practices, learn what's working for other agencies and ensure OSMP's actions are in alignment with and not in conflict with what neighboring partners are doing.

## ACTION SUCCESS STORY

### DIRECTIONAL TRAVEL



Social Distance



Trail Highlights

Suggested directional loops were an early action by OSMP to address changing visitation patterns during COVID. These loops aimed to reduce the number of interactions between trail visitors and protect sensitive trailside resources.



# HIGH VISITATION AND COVID RELATED ACTIONS

- Coordination with the Signs and Messaging team, City Communications and Parks and Recreation department to share current guidelines, regulations and restrictions in English and Spanish via signage including A-frames, trailhead signs, variable messaging signs, COVID panel bulletin boards, COVID placards outside building entrances, and more.
- Coordination with the Signs and Messaging team and City Communications to evaluate and coordinate with other agencies' signs and messaging and share our signs for use by surrounding agencies (Boulder County, Jefferson County)
- Messaging via OSMP's website and other channels of communication such as email, TV, radio and social media to share pre-trip planning information and trail information to encourage and support social distancing in English and Spanish.
- Education & Outreach (E&O) staff helping with critical education and how to recreate safely and responsibly. This will occur on the trails and at trailheads throughout the system, with a focus at Chautauqua on weekends.
- Required online training for visitors signing up for programs, to educate the public and provide a safe environment for staff who work in the field.
- Staff/volunteers handing out facial coverings to help visitors comply with state, county and local public health orders and guidelines. This includes working with CAMP in the summer months.
- Rangers prioritizing education of public health orders; however, they will issue citations for behavior that endangers the public.
- Increased restroom cleanings and servicing at trailheads and hand washing and sanitizer signs at select Trailheads.
- Monitoring of COVID visitation data and trends.
- Face covering study and national social distancing study will continue in a scaled back form in 2021.

The following systemwide actions are recommended to end:

- Signage recommending dogs on leash systemwide.
- Group gatherings/permits and facilities: Closures of picnic tables and shelters enacted then a phased re-opening as compliant with state and city regulations.

## ACTION SUCCESS STORY STAFF COVID OUTREACH



The OSMP E&O workgroup created a new COVID Outreach staff team in response to the pandemic. Connecting with and educating visitors about both COVID safety and information about the system, trails, and natural resources.

# HIGH VISITATION AND COVID RELATED ACTIONS

## AREA/CORRIDOR/SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIONS

The following area/corridor/site-specific actions are recommended to continue:

### Chautauqua

- The Ranger Cottage will remain closed until further notice.
- Trailhead circulation improvements will continue to be made including wayfinding A-frame signs with easy, moderate, and difficult maps that include notation of elevation gain, distance, and difficulty ratings.
- E&O staff will continue welcoming visitors at trailheads and on trails, sharing COVID safety messaging as well as other messages such as trail recommendations, weather concerns, hiker preparedness and resource issues. They will also continue to work to reduce crowding at the trailhead.
- Trail Characteristics and Use Patterns Matrix. This informative sheet was put together to cross reference visitor use patterns and trail characteristics. It continues to be provided upon request to individuals seeking historically lower use locations and times of day.
- Volunteer Visitor Ambassadors will continue to assist with welcoming and COVID messaging.
- Focused ranger patrols.
- CAMP Park to Park shuttle and paid parking from May 23-Labor Day. CAMP Shuttle Ambassadors will be trained in COVID protocols and de-escalation techniques and will work closely with outreach staff.
- Working with partners to explore installing a temporary, accessible ramp that would improve social distancing for those experiencing mobility impairments.

### Flagstaff Corridor

- Boulder Star will remain closed.
- Flagstaff Nature Center will remain closed.
- Focused ranger patrols and monitoring, particularly on weekends including nighttime.

## ACTION SUCCESS STORY FLAGSTAFF VISITOR MANAGEMENT



The Flagstaff area saw high-visitation throughout much of the year. This presented an opportunity for Ranger staff to develop better management practices including strategic closing of trailheads to ensure safety, improve compliance and reduce trespass into sensitive natural resource areas.



# HIGH VISITATION AND COVID RELATED ACTIONS



- COVID outreach staff assisting with COVID messaging.
- Volunteers to help pick up litter on Flagstaff.
- Monitoring using parking cameras, vehicle counter, mobile trail counters and mobile phone study.
- Partnering with Boulder County Sheriff's Office, Transportation, and Parks and Open Space to coordinate parking management.

## Sanitas, Shanahan, South Mesa, and Boulder Valley Ranch



- Increased ranger patrols at Sanitas, Shanahan, South Mesa and Boulder Valley Ranch to help with high visitation and compliance with COVID regulations.
- Working with Community Vitality and Transportation to address neighborhood concerns with overflow parking in the Shanahan neighborhood.
- Study a few overflow parking hotspots such as along 170, Flagstaff and near Sanitas to understand opportunities and constraints.

## Flatirons Vista North to Flatirons Vista South/Prairie Vista clockwise and BVR



- Suggested Directional Travel trail loops indicated by signs. Consistent, suggested directional loops at various locations on the system

## 4th of July Trailhead



- Re-opening of 4th of July TH and Campground with seasonal ranger patrol, COVID messaging/signs, and bear education and trash management stickers on trash cans outside restrooms.

## ACTION SUCCESS STORY SUGGESTED ROUTES SIGNAGE



Difficulty Rating



Easy to Understand


Suggested route signage was developed by OSMP staff and installed at Chautauqua to manage common bottleneck points near trailheads. The simple, clear design was well received by visitors who photographed the signs for later reference.




# HIGH VISITATION AND COVID RELATED ACTIONS

The following area/corridor/site-specific actions are recommended to end or not be implemented:

## Flagstaff Corridor

- 
- Temporary reduced parking capacity and supporting signage to help with social distancing at locations such as Halfway House, Lost Gulch and Cathedral.
  - Temporary closure and subsequent re-opening of (and supporting signage) Lost Gulch, Cathedral Park, and Summit.
  - Full weekend area closure proposal for certain areas on Flagstaff.
  - Weekend road and parking restrictions that only allow resident access along Flagstaff Road.
  - Messaging and signs, including variable messaging signs along road at Flagstaff.
  - Temporary closure of Flagstaff Road on the 4th of July and supporting signage. This action is an annual occurrence to address an increase in visitation due to the 4th of July holiday rather than an adaptive management response to COVID-19.

## Bobolink, Boy Scout Trail and Springbrook Loop

- 
- Do not implement directional travel for Boy Scout Trail or change dog management regulations for directional travel on Springbrook Loop. Discontinue directional loops on Bobolink and Springbrook.

# HIGH VISITATION AND COVID RELATED ACTIONS

The following area/corridor/site-specific actions are recommended to still be implemented:

## SH 170



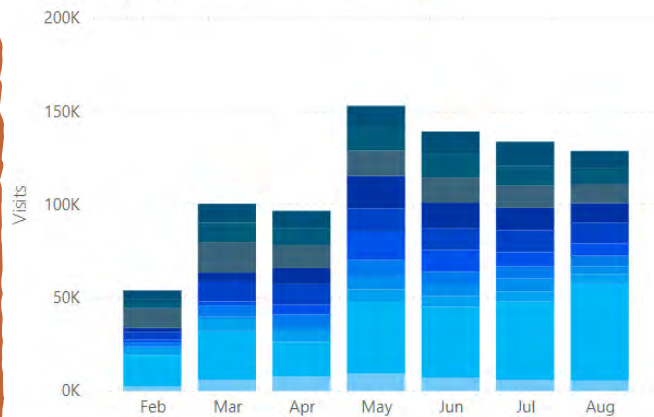
- Coordinate with partners along SH 170 to offset high visitation, support COVID compliance and address overflow, roadside parking.
- Focus on trailhead improvements at Douby Draw and South Mesa Trailhead that cover ongoing needs and HV&CC.

## Flagstaff



- Boulder Star Closure is supported with installation of temporary fencing (November 2020).
- Working with Boulder County Transportation to install “no parking” signs and carsonite posts to reduce roadside parking where safety issues and trespass into Habitat Conservation Areas are primary concerns.
- Green Mountain Summit trailhead improvements per County parking/crosswalk changes.
- Long Canyon trailhead improvements per County parking changes.

Total monthly visits for monitored locations ①



OSMP monitored visitation numbers at 11 different sites with trail counters. COVID-related closures and mandates made for changing visitation patterns that created challenges throughout 2020.



OSMP staff responded to a major fire season while still maintaining our response to COVID compliance on the system

# ATTACHMENT A

## COVID Field Notes Report Example

### COVID Field Notes June 22 - July 5

#### Context

##### Findings + Updates Across the Open Space and Mountain Parks System

- Visitation for the weeks of June 22 and 29 at monitored locations was on par with the first few weeks of June.
- Picnic areas and shelters will be opening July 10th.
- Rangers are reporting that HCA and wildlife closure violation are still creating problems. Visitors who are contacted are reporting they are in the closed areas to stay away from people.
- The signs crew is working with Rangers, Planning, and the County to address parking issues along Flagstaff Road due to increased visitation.
- Rangers continue to report that some OSMP neighbors continue to be upset and asking rangers for solutions to overflow parking negatively affecting their neighborhoods.
- Education and outreach staff found that visitors were very receptive to the new maps highlighting hiking loop recommendations at Chautauqua. It has been a great tool for the outreach staff. Team Leads collected feedback on these new signs and shared it with the Signs Team.
- Some locations are showing a slight uptick in mask presence for this period. Sage, Sanitas Valley and South Boulder Creek averaged between 60 and 70 percent with some individual observation sessions for Sage and Sanitas Valley approaching the 70 to 80 percent range.
- The Trailhead crew has observed an increase in fence damage, possibly due to lack of parking availability at trailheads.
- Volunteer Naturalists will begin offering small scale programs in July.

7.4  
average  
new daily  
cases

1453

cumulative total  
of Boulder County  
Residents who have  
tested positive for  
COVID 19

2 WEEKS AGO = 1272



Boulder County Public Health - updated on July 6th at 3:08 pm



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### COVID Field Notes June 22 - July 5

#### Ranger Notes

##### Current Ranger Findings Across the Open Space and Mountain Parks System

- Social Distancing continues to be poor in places.
- Mask wearing is dependent on location and proximity to trailhead.
- Flagstaff face covering and social distancing continue to be poor.
- Ongoing system-wide parking problems with overflow.
- A 14-year-old was assaulted along Bobolink Trail for not properly wearing a mask.
- HCA and wildlife closure violation are still creating problems. Visitors who are contacted are reporting they are in the closed areas to stay away from people.
- Visitors yelling at each other over one not wearing a mask on Sanitas Valley Trail
- OSMP neighbors continue to be upset and asking rangers for solutions to overflow parking negatively affecting their neighborhoods.

##### Graffiti



Graffiti continues to show up in areas across the system

##### Ranger Patrol Observations

Observations are collected throughout the week and reflect variability across days/locations

"I would estimate that only 25% of visitors were wearing masks"

"People continue to ignore the barriers at the amphitheater on Flagstaff"

"Bears on trails"

"LOTS of trash at Flagstaff"

"Fox at Flagstaff begging and coming close to visitors"

146

Total Number of  
Calls OSMP Rangers  
Responded to

144  
calls  
in  
previous  
2 weeks



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# ATTACHMENT A

## COVID Field Notes Report Example

COVID Field Notes  
June 22 - July 5

### Trails + Facilities Notes

#### Trails & Facilities Observations

- Buckingham TH seeing increased use, popular water access spot when it's hot. All trash cans were full, and all toilet paper gone from the outhouses by Sunday.
- The Trailhead crew has observed an increase in fence damage, possibly due to lack of parking availability at trailheads.
- Lots of trash, both in cans and litter, at Settler's Park TH after the holiday weekend.
- Increase in wasps being noticed and reported.
- The staff has noticed a low use of face coverings by the public in and around trailheads.
- Parking availability is becoming an issue at some trailheads due to increased use, causing the public to park "creatively".
- The signs crew is working with Rangers, Planning, and the County to address parking issues along Flagstaff Road due to increased visitation.
- Signs crew installed Phase 1 "suggested hikes" signs at Chautauqua to help with physical distancing, especially at our kiosks and trail access points.
- Signs crew installed COVID related signs on all restrooms and outhouses.



On-site Staff Social Distancing



Chautauqua Suggested Hikes Sign



Parking Bollard Damage



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COVID Field Notes  
June 22 - July 5

### Education & Outreach Notes

*From Monday 6/22 through Sunday 7/5, the COVID Outreach Team worked 143.5 staff hours and made 4,115 contacts with individuals across OSMP.*

#### Primary Locations for Outreach staff

Chautauqua	Gunbarrel / Teller
Red Rocks	Sawhill Ponds
South Mesa	Wonderland Lake
Flagstaff	Mesa Trail
NCAR	

#### Overall Strategy:

Messaging over the past two weeks focused on...

- COVID related messaging includes asking visitors to please wear a face covering to protect others if within 6 feet. We are offering bandannas to visitors while supplies last. E&O staff are also focused on standard outreach and roaming interpretation. Common topics include trail recommendations and directions; hiking preparedness; lightning safety; rattle snakes; V&S regulations; and for those who have a little more time, interesting information on the local natural history.



Outreach table at Chautauqua



BVCB outreach at Chautauqua

#### Significant Observations:

- Volunteer Visitor Ambassadors are in the field! Staff, volunteers and visitors are responding positively to this program. Staff are collecting feedback to assess next steps.
- Steve Meritz developed an SOP for distributing face coverings to visitors. People have been appreciative of this effort, both those with face coverings, and those without.
- Outreach Team Leads have discussed and determined that the safest place to set up an outreach table is between the cottage and the rocks, facing the trailhead. This is a less visible location than right at the trailhead, but it is designed for physical distancing and is in the shade. Mounts and other interpretive items draw people in.
- Visitors were very receptive to the new maps highlighting hiking loop recommendations at Chautauqua. It has been a great tool for the outreach staff. Team Leads collected feedback on these new signs and shared it with the Signs Team.
- Most questions from visitors are about trail recommendations and directions.
- Outreach staff and BVCB are in good communication. They are getting many trail questions, so outreach staff check in and model how we respond to these requests. They have asked for one of the new loop signs, and the signs team is already on it.
- The pre-highlighted laminated maps with hike recommendations continue to be popular.

The Education Team has been busy planning for roving interpretation on the land and the upcoming, new normal, school year.

- Working with Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) for relevant learning opportunities via the E Movement. This will include a virtual application of the wildlife education program, expanding reach from 8 schools to potentially all 37 elementary schools in BVSD!
- Working with BVSD, Growing Up Boulder (GUB), and Boulder Youth Nature Initiative (BYNI) partners on outdoor classroom ideas. Participating in the National Pilot Schools Working group.
- On the ground program planning documented in an E&O Program Action Plan.



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# ATTACHMENT A

## COVID Field Notes Report Example

### COVID Field Notes June 22 - July 5

#### Visitation Notes

##### Visitation

Visitation for the weeks of June 22 and 29 at monitored locations was on par with the first few weeks of June. June visits for monitored locations was slightly lower compared to May. Furthermore, while we saw a distinct bump in visitation on Memorial Day (compared to shoulder weeks) we did not see the same bump over the July 4th weekend. July 3 - 5 were busier than preceding weekdays but both June 7th (Sunday) and 20th (Saturday) saw higher recorded visits.

##### Counter Locations



#### Average Daily Visitation At Monitored Locations

Average daily visits for the week of:

Location	Jun 15	Jun 22	Jun 29	Jul 6
Boulder Valley Ranch Trailhead	230	238	216	183
Chautauqua Trail	1,131	1,243	1,265	1,171
Dakota Ridge	189	182	184	211
Doudy Draw Trailhead	219	195	223	225
Eagle Trailhead	222	225	210	178
Flatirons Vista	339	370	326	187
Foothills South (Fournile Trailhead)	430	350	481	316
Marshall Mesa Trailhead	416	465	446	354
Sanitas Valley Trail	427	493	408	419
South Boulder Creek (Bobolink)	379	417	384	371
South Mesa Trail	373	379	420	

##### Social Distancing/Face Cover Compliance

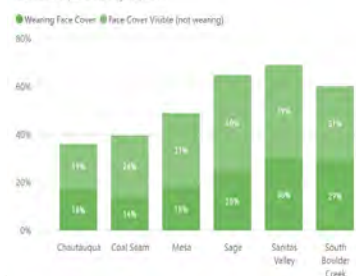
Observations from the weeks of June 8 and 15 for face covering compliance when groups pass within 6 feet of another group continue to be low (below 1/3 compliance) despite a recent uptick in face cover presence at many locations (see face cover presence graph at right). Sanitas remains stable, and still has greatest compliance with social distancing (74%), Marshall Mesa and Chautauqua continue to have fairly stable and similar compliance with social distance interactions (mid-forties percentile).



##### Face Covering Presence

For the weeks of June 22 and 29, we conducted 25 observation sessions and observed a total of 2,023 visitors. For the previous period, many locations were hovering around the 40 to 50 percent mark but it appears that many locations are showing a slight uptick in mask presence for this period. Sage, Sanitas Valley and South Boulder Creek averaged between 60 and 70 percent with some individual observation sessions for Sage and Sanitas Valley approaching the 70 to 80 percent range.

##### Face cover presence by location



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### COVID Field Notes June 22 - July 5

#### Volunteer Notes

##### Volunteer Highlights

- Volunteer Visitor Ambassadors continue to assist staff at key locations.
- Cultural Resource Site Stewards, 2020/Update Training 6/27. Will begin monitoring in July.
- Resource Restoration/Weed Wrangler Volunteers are providing mechanical mitigation support (hand pulling) at Joder and BCH/Boulder Creek sites for key invasive species.
- Adaptive Recreation volunteers will be supporting access to rides and adaptive recreation education over the summer.
- Volunteer Naturalists will begin offering small scale programs in July.



Volunteer ambassador at Chautauqua

##### Volunteer COVID Observations from Boulder Mountain Bike Patrol Volunteers

June 22 - July 5

Patrol Hours: 49

Total Visitors (not contacts): 1427

Dogs Leashed: 72

Dogs Unleashed: 58

Overall COVID compliance: Moderate

##### Observations:

- Overall, social distancing compliance good, mask wearing averaging 45%
- Some congregating at gates making social distancing difficult



##### Volunteer Roles

Volunteer Visitor Ambassadors started in the field on Sunday, June 21. They are going to focus on Chautauqua, Sanitas, South Mesa and other priority outreach locations.



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# ATTACHMENT B

## High Visitation Action List

Systemwide Actions to Continue		
Type of Action	Action	Next Steps
Staff	Partnering with City of Boulder Community Vitality and Transportation departments, Boulder County and other Front Range partners to coordinate parking and visitor use management needs in support of COVID compliance.	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Toolkit Implementation	Studying available parking data and, using the multimodal transportation toolkit developed during the master plan, evaluate which transportation tools that are within existing policy may help address hotspots	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Procedure	Following improved Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) based on best practices, communication and coordination with other agencies and continuing to update these SOPs as circumstances change.	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Coordination	Coordination with other agencies to determine best practices, learn what's working for other agencies and ensure OSMP's actions are in alignment with and not in conflict with what neighboring partners are doing.	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Messaging: Signs	Coordination with Signs and Messaging team to share current guidelines, regulations and restrictions in English and Spanish via signage including A-frames, trailhead signs, variable messaging signs, COVID panel bulletin boards, COVID placards outside building entrances, and more.	Continue- within policy
Messaging: Signs	Coordination with the Signs and Messaging team to evaluate and coordinate with other agencies' signs and messaging and share our signs for use by surrounding agencies (Boulder County, Jefferson County)	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Messaging	Messaging via OSMP's website and other channels of communication such as email and social media to share pre-trip planning information and trail information to encourage and support social distancing in English and Spanish.	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Staff	Education & Outreach (E&O) staff helping with critical COVID messaging including how to recreate safely. This will occur on the trails and at trailheads throughout the system, with a focus at Chautauqua on weekends.	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Staff	Required online training for visitors signing up for programs, to educate the public and provide a safe environment for staff who work in the field.	Continue-reevaluate in 2021

Systemwide Actions to Continue		
Masks/Facial Coverings	Staff/volunteers handing out facial coverings to help visitors comply with state, county and local regulations and guidelines. This includes working with CAMP in the summer months.	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Staff	Rangers prioritize education of public health orders; however, they will issue citations for behavior that endangers the public.	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Staff	Increased restroom cleanings and servicing at trailheads and hand washing and sanitizer signs at select Trailheads.	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Monitoring	Monitoring of COVID visitation data and trends	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Studies	Face covering study and national social distancing study	Continue-reevaluate in 2021

Systemwide Actions to Enri		
Type of Action	Action	Next Steps
Signage: Dog Management	Signage recommending dogs on leash systemwide	End for now- worked well in this situation, consider re-evaluating or expanding to other areas in the future
Closure	Group gatherings/permits and facilities: Closures of picnic tables and shelters enacted, then a phased re-opening as compliant with state and city regulations.	End for now- worked well in this situation, consider re-evaluating or expanding to other areas in the future

No Systemwide Actions still need to be implemented.

# ATTACHMENT B

## High Visitation Action List

Area/Corridor/Site-Specific Actions to Continue			
Type of Action	Action	Location	Next Steps
Closure	Ranger Cottage Closed	Chautauqua; Ranger Cottage	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Trailhead	Trailhead circulation improvements will continue to be made including wayfinding A-frame signs with easy, moderate, and difficult maps that include notation of elevation gain, distance, and difficulty ratings.	Chautauqua	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Staff	E&O staff will continue welcoming visitors at trailheads and on trails, sharing COVID safety messaging as well as other messages such as trail recommendations, weather concerns, hiker preparedness and resource issues. They will also continue to work to reduce crowding at the trailhead.	Chautauqua, Flagstaff, Shanahan, and other hot spot Trailheads	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Trail Characteristics and Use Patterns Matrix	This informative sheet was put together to cross reference visitor use patterns and trail characteristics. It continues to be provided upon request to individuals seeking historically lower use locations and times of day.	Chautauqua	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Staff	Volunteer Visitor Ambassadors will continue to assist with welcoming and COVID messaging.	Chautauqua TH	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Parking	CAMP Park to Park. Paid parking May 23-Labor Day	Chautauqua	Continue- within policy
Staff	CAMP shuttle ambassadors: Training, collaboration with volunteers, online trainings: What to do in case of an emergency and De-escalation. Weekly check-ins with BVCB staff.	CAMP shuttle bus to Chautauqua	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Staff	Ranger patrols have been focused in Chautauqua and Flagstaff areas to deal with issues arising from high visitation and COVID compliance (HV&CC)	Chautauqua, Flagstaff	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Facilities	Working with partners to explore installing a temporary, accessible ramp that would improve social distancing for those experiencing mobility impairments.	Chautauqua	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Review	Continue reviewing actions for Chautauqua to offset high visitation and support COVID compliance	Focus on Chautauqua, Flagstaff, Shanahan, Hwy 170, Sanitas and Wonderland	Continue- within policy

Area/Corridor/Site-Specific Actions to Continue			
Closure	Boulder Star Closure	Flagstaff; Boulder Star	Continue- within policy
Closure	Flagstaff Nature Center Closure	Flagstaff; Nature Center	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Staff	COVID outreach staff assisting with COVID messaging	Flagstaff	Continue-reevaluate in
Staff	Volunteers to help pick up litter on Flagstaff	Flagstaff	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Staff	Ranger patrols and monitoring, focused on weekends including nighttime	Flagstaff	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Monitoring	Monitoring using parking cameras, vehicle counter, mobile trail counters and mobile phone study	Flagstaff	Continue- within policy
Parking	Continue partnering with Boulder County Sheriff's Office, Boulder County Transportation, Community Vitality and City Transportation to coordinate parking management	Flagstaff, Shanahan and Hwy 170	Continue- within policy
Parking	Weekend Road and Parking Restrictions that allow resident access	Flagstaff Summit (event parking capacity) and Hwy 170 working with Sheriff's department	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Staff	Ranger patrols are higher in these areas due to HV&CC: Sanitas, Shanahan, South Mesa, and Boulder Valley Ranch.	Sanitas, Shanahan, South Mesa, and Boulder Valley Ranch	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Overflow parking	Working with Community Vitality and Transportation to address neighborhood concerns with overflow parking	Shanahan	Continue- within policy
Overflow Parking	Study a few overflow parking hotspots such as along 170, Flagstaff and near Sanitas to understand opportunities and constraints.	Sanitas, Shanahan, South Mesa, and Boulder Valley Ranch	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Suggested Directional Travel	Suggested Directional Travel trail loops indicated by signs. Consistent, suggested directional loops at various locations on the system.	Flatirons Vista North to Flatirons Vista clockwise and BVR	Continue-reevaluate in 2021
Closure: TH	Re-opening of 4th of July TH and Campground with seasonal ranger patrol, COVID messaging and signs. Bear education and trash management stickers on trash cans outside restrooms.	4 <sup>th</sup> of July TH	Continue-reevaluate in 2021

# ATTACHMENT B

## High Visitation Action List

Area/Corridor/Site-Specific Actions to End			
Type of Action	Action	Location	Next Steps
Closure: TH/Area	Temporary reduced parking capacity and supporting signage to help with social distancing at locations such as Halfway House, Lost Gulch and Cathedral	Halfway House, Lost Gulch and Cathedral	End for now- worked well in this situation, consider re-evaluating or expanding to other areas in the future
Closure: TH	Temporary closure and subsequent re-opening of (and supporting signage) Lost Gulch, Cathedral Park, and Summit	Lost Gulch, Cathedral Park, and Summit	End for now- worked well in this situation, consider re-evaluating or expanding to other areas in the future
Closure: Facility	Flagstaff Nature Center closed	Flagstaff Nature Center	End for now- worked well in this situation, consider re-evaluating or expanding to other areas in the future
Closure: Area	Full weekend area closure proposal for certain areas	Flagstaff Summit and Road	End for now- worked well in this situation, consider re-evaluating or expanding to other areas in the future
Parking	Temporary closure of Flagstaff Road on the 4 <sup>th</sup> of July and supporting signage. This action is an annual occurrence to address an increase in visitation due to the 4 <sup>th</sup> of July holiday rather than an adaptive management response to COVID-19.	Flagstaff Road	End for now- worked well in this situation, consider re-evaluating or expanding to other areas in the future
Messaging: Signs	Messaging and signs, including variable messaging signs along road at Flagstaff	Flagstaff	End for now- worked well in this situation, consider re-evaluating or expanding to other areas in the future
Suggested Directional Travel	Considered directional travel for Boy Scout Trail and considered dog management regs for directional travel on Springbrook Loop	Boy Scout Trail, Bobolink Trail and Springbrook Loop	End for now- did not work well in this situation or not worth the resources, unlikely to implement again in the future, though could be considered

Area/Corridor/Site-Specific Actions Still to be Implemented	
Type of Action	Action
Assessment	Coordinate with partners along SH 170 to offset high visitation, support COVID compliance and address overflow, roadside parking  Focus on trailhead improvements at Doudy Draw and South Mesa Trailhead that cover ongoing needs and HV&CC
Closure: Area	Boulder Star Closure is supported with installation of temporary fencing (November 2020).
Closure: Area	Working with Boulder County Transportation to install "no parking" signs and carsonite posts to reduce roadside parking where safety issues and trespass into Habitat Conservation Areas are primary concerns
Trailhead Improvements	Green Mountain Summit trailhead improvements per County parking/crosswalk changes.
Trailhead Improvements	Long Canyon trailhead improvements per County parking changes

## ATTACHMENT C

### HV&CC Team Members

Alison Ecklund, *Community Relations Coordinator*  
Alycia Alexander, *Business Analyst*  
Bill Wildenberg, *Sign and Graphics Coordinator*  
Burton Stoner, *Ranger Services Supervisor*  
Deryn Wagner, *Planning and Design Services Supervisor*  
Frances Boulding, *Recreation and Cultural Stewardship Supervisor*  
Jarret Roberts, *Visitor Infrastructure Supervisor*  
Juliet Bonnell, *Planner I*  
Kendrick Wyman, *Planning and Design Specialist*  
Lisa Dierauf, *Education & Outreach Supervisor*  
Lisa Goncalo, *Recreation Coordinator*  
Mark Davison, *Community Connections & Partnerships Manager*  
Steve Armstead, *Deputy Director*  
*All OSMP workgroups and staff (especially on the front-line)*

