



LEAD KING LOOP MANAGEMENT

Public Listening Session

April 28th, 2022

LKL STAKEHOLDER GROUP PURPOSE

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the collaborative process are to

- a) In a collaborative space, create a shared vision for the management of the Lead King Loop area.
- b) Explore stakeholder perspectives regarding recreation use and options to manage recreation use in the interim and long-term.
- c) Provide consensus-based recommendations for managers and government partners that have high potential to provide exceptional recreation opportunities while mitigating impacts to the community and environment.

OUTCOMES: The Stakeholder Group will assess the situation and conditions for controversy and make recommendations for measurable actions that meet the appropriate balance for all interests with both near- and long-term strategies.



Q-Sort Survey Results

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Q-Sort

- Q-methodology is the systematic study of participant viewpoints
- Q-methodology is used to investigate the perspectives of participants who represent different stances on an issue, by having participants rank and sort a series of statements.

Q-Sort

			Emergency access	Cultural heritage	Permits			
		Infrastructure	Trailer parking	Soils	Parking	Water quality		
	Education	Enforcement of rules	Space for all users	Wildfire prevention	Displacement	Tranquility	Local's priority	
Economic sustainability	Transparent governance	Road and trail maintenance	Respect	Public access	Wildlife habitat	Volume of users	Disproportionate impact	Value & Quality of Life
-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Least important				Neutral				Most important

Factor Analysis

Factor analysis boils down a large number of variables into a handful of comprehensible underlying factors which results in easy-to-understand, actionable data.

5 Factor Q-Sort



Priority 1: Community Impact

- Represents 22% of responses
- Themes: Value and Quality of Life, Cultural Heritage, Volume of Users, Displacement, Disproportionate Impact




Priority 2: Environmental Impact

- Represents 15% of responses
- Themes: Water Quality, Soils, Wildlife Habitat, Displacement, Road and Trail Maintenance



Priority 3: Management

- Represents 12% of responses
- Themes: Respect, Enforcement of Rules, Education, Infrastructure, Permits, Road and Trail Maintenance



Priority 4: Planning and Preparedness

- Represents 8% of responses
- Themes: Wildfire Prevention, Parking, Trailer Parking, Emergency Access, Road and Trail Maintenance



Priority 5: Social Coexistence

- Represents 7% of responses
- Themes: Respect, Tranquility, Space for All Users, Public Access, Transparent Governance

Priorities



Community Impact



Environmental Impact



Management



Planning and Preparedness



Social Coexistence



MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES: LEAD KING LOOP

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PARKING

- At many times during the summer, the demand for parking in Marble exceeds the number of designated parking sites.
- Trailers are a particular burden for parking due to their larger size.
- A parking lot could be built outside of town to accommodate vehicles and trailers, replacing truck and trailer parking in town.
- The parking lot would also serve as a gathering point and location to provide trail information, check vehicle decibel levels, provide safety education, install bathrooms, etc.
- Parking could be paired with a fee and/or reservation system to limit numbers.
- A parking lot built on forest service land would be subject to environmental review according to NEPA.



RESERVATIONS

- A permitting or reservation system could be used to balance visitation across the week and season.
- There are significant barriers to implementing a reservation or permitting system for recreational use of the road.
- Reservations or permits could be implemented through other means, i.e. reserved parking, permits to visit the Crystal Mill.
- Permits can be issued on site, in person (i.e., at a business), or online.
- Fees could be associated with a reservation or permitting system.
- Permit/reservation systems could be managed by a range of entities (government, nonprofit, private).
- Reservations would likely apply to locals and visitors alike.
- Reservations and permits can make access to recreation more difficult for some users and potential users, with implications for diversity and inclusivity.



EDUCATION

- There is broad support for increasing education about road conditions, Leave No Trace, responsible recreation, and more.
- Kiosk installations and map creation are underway.
- Stay the Trail is an organization promoting responsible recreation through a range of educational materials and signs.
- Education efforts could accompany parking management, reservation systems, enforcement, etc.



NOISE ORDINANCE

Marble residents' values around tranquility and quality of life are threatened by frequent, loud traffic disruptions.

A noise ordinance has potential to reduce impacts brought by vehicles of all sorts.

The Town of Marble or Gunnison County could implement a noise ordinance to set vehicle decibel limits.

The limits could be set based on time of day/night.

Affordable devices can be purchased to measure sound at the vehicle's tailpipe for education or enforcement.

Noise ordinances would be established through municipal regulations and enforced as any law.

OHV RESTRICTIONS

- OHV use on County Road 3 is permitted by Gunnison County through a special exemption.
- Gunnison BOCC could rescind that exemption.
- There can be no exceptions for local OHV use. Locals and visitors would need to comply with any prohibition.





ENFORCEMENT

- Concerns over enforcement of regulations have been prominent.
- An increased Forest Service and County Sherriff presence on the Lead King Loop was achieved last year with positive effects.
- Enforcement requires staffing and funding.



ROAD CONDITIONS

- Most road traffic comes from visitation to Crystal Mill.
- The road could be improved to allow passenger vehicle travel to the Crystal.
- The road could be downgraded to make it more difficult to drive.
- An obstruction (gatekeeper) could be created at the start of the road to discourage further travel.
- A trail could be built to separate foot traffic from the road.

Priorities



Community Impact



Environmental Impact



Management



Planning and Preparedness



Social Coexistence