

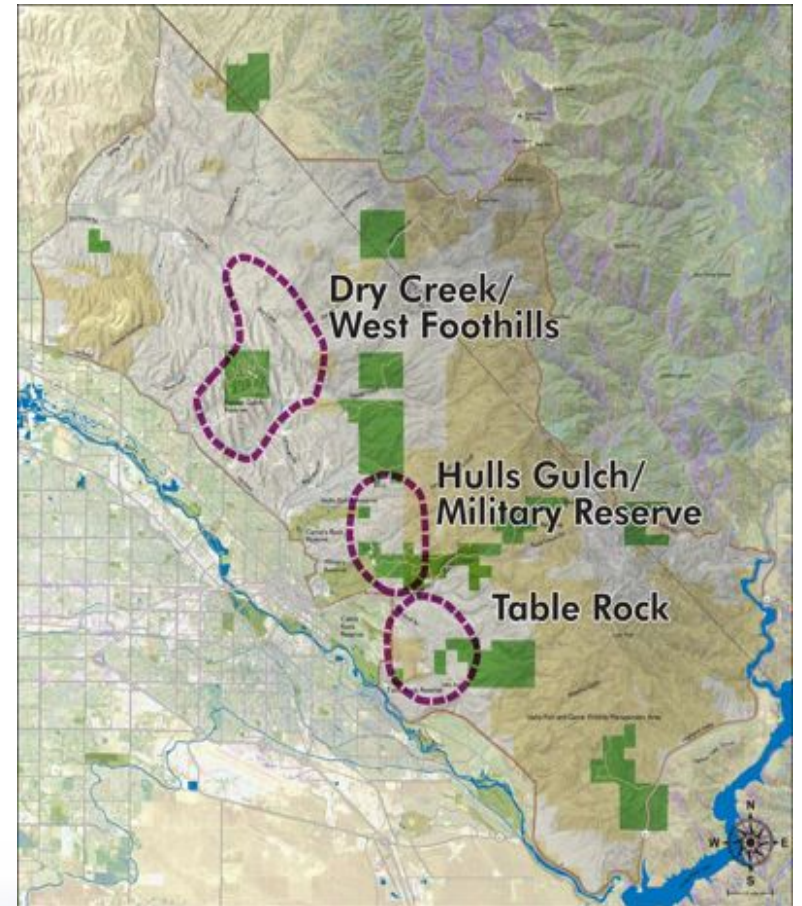
Dogs Gone Wild: Managing Dogs in Open Space Reserves

Julia Kertz Grant, City of Boise
National Trails Symposium 2008



Boise Foothills Program

- Passed in May 2001
- A property tax in 2002 and 2003 raised \$10 million for foothills land conservation efforts
- \$6 million spent
- Protecting 8,200 acres of land through acquisition, donation, conservation easement and land exchange



Ridge to Rivers Trail System

- **Partnership of government agencies and private landowners dedicated to providing recreational trail access in the Boise Foothills since 1992**
 - Ada County
 - City of Boise
 - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - United States Forest Service (USFS)
 - Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)
- **Currently 125 miles of trails with more to come**
- **Management across ownership**



Goals for Foothills Conservation

- **Outlined in 2000 Foothills Open Space Management Plan**
- **Priority on protection of natural resources**
 - Rare plants
 - Wildlife habitat and corridors
 - Scenic values
- **Seek compatible recreational use**
 - Use is a privilege not a right
 - Use changes over time



Status Quo

- **5% of Ridge to Rivers Trail System is on-leash**
- **95% is controlled off-leash**
- **No enforcement**
- **Generally 30% compliance**
- **30% of users have dogs**
- **Population growth in Boise**
 - **250,000 currently (metro area 500,000)**
 - **480,000 by 2025**



Domestic dog related challenges

- Dog waste left along trails
- Vegetation trampling and trail braiding
- Lack of compliance with leash restrictions
- Poor control of dogs by owner causing user conflicts
- Chasing of wildlife



Foothills Dog Policy Working Group

- **2001-2002 process and pilot program**
- **11 volunteer members**
 - **5/11 agency representatives**
 - **6/11 users**
 - **8/11 dog owners**
- **Chosen because concerned about issues and interest in consensus**
- **Professional facilitator**



Process

2/7/08 – 4/9/08	Working Group Meetings
2/20/08	Public Open House
2/20/08 – 4/5/08	Public Comment Period
April 08	Recommendation to FCAC
5/3/08	FCAC monthly meeting
Summer 08	Implementation



Public input

- 50 people at public meeting
- 420 completed comment forms (2/3 dog owners)
- Transparency - Postings on Ridge to Rivers to Rivers

The scoop on Foothills poop: Users can have a say

Got other related issues on the trails? Then attend a meeting of a dog-policy working group.

BY KATHLEEN KIRLIN
kirklin@statestater.com

Got something to say about dog poop on Foothills trails?

A working group reviewing policies for the Ridge to Rivers trail system wants ideas from the public during a special open house Wednesday.

Organizers say all Foothills users are welcome, not just Boise residents.

"Many dog owners like to use the Ridge to Rivers trails in the Foothills —

ATTEND THE OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday
WHERE: Third Floor, Boise City Hall
150 N. Capitol Blvd.

and dogs are welcome on the trails," said Julia Kerri Grant, Boise's Foothills and open space manager. "But the impacts of the rapidly growing numbers of dogs are increasingly apparent. The largest number of complaints we receive concern dog waste on trails and user conflicts arising from dog owners not complying with leash regulations or controlling their pets."

Besides the waste and conflicts between dog owners and others, uncontrolled dogs are trampling vegetation around trails, creating multiple paths next to official trails and chasing wildlife, officials said.

The 11-member Foothills Dog Policy Working Group is composed of Foothills managers and citizen users. The group will hold several meetings through early April, and propose solutions to the Foothills Conservation Advisory Committee and then to the Boise City Council by this spring.

126 MILES
of trails wind through the Foothills.

95 PERCENT
of the trails require dog owners to have a leash in hand and the dog in voice control and within 30 feet of its owner.

30 PERCENT
of dog owners comply with that, Foothills volunteers estimate.

350 POUNDS
of dog poop accumulate on Ridge to Rivers trails each week.

Kathleen Kirlin: 374-6468



Community Solutions

- **City of Boulder, CO**
 - 143 miles of trails
 - 10 miles have no dogs
 - On-leash exception off-leash permit
- **Jefferson County, CO**
 - 194 miles of trail and all on-leash
- **Portland, OR**
 - 100 miles of trails on-leash
 - No dogs in natural areas
 - Dogs for the Environment Group
- **Marin County, CA**
 - 6 foot leash requirement
 - Off-leash on “fire protection roads”
 - 3 dog max per person
- **Mid-Peninsula Open Space District, CA**
 - 20% of trails allow dogs on-leash
 - One area off-leash and the rest no dogs
- **Salt Lake City, UT**
 - No dogs in canyons
- **Sonoma County, CA**
 - No dogs



Recommendations

- 60% of trails on-leash
- Create a strong enforcement component
- Create more dog parks
- Educate
- Designate no-dog areas
- Create off-leash permits
- Standard leash length
- Maximum # of dogs



Who let the Dogs out?



[Home](#) » [Blogs](#) » [Into the Outdoors](#)

Petition circulating against on-leash-only policy for Boise Foothills

Submitted by Zimo on Tue, 04/29/2008 - 3:19pm.

Outdoors

C'mon dog owners, clean up or lose access

POSTED ON MAY 7, 2008:

The (Dog) Shit Hits the Fan

Public demands say in Foothills dog plan

May 07, 2008

Dog owners may get a reprieve from Foothills leash law

Amid a public furor, the city may opt for trying to enforce rules that already are in place.



DOG OWNERS, STOP THIS INSANITY FROM BECOMING A LAW!!!
PLEASE ACT NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!!

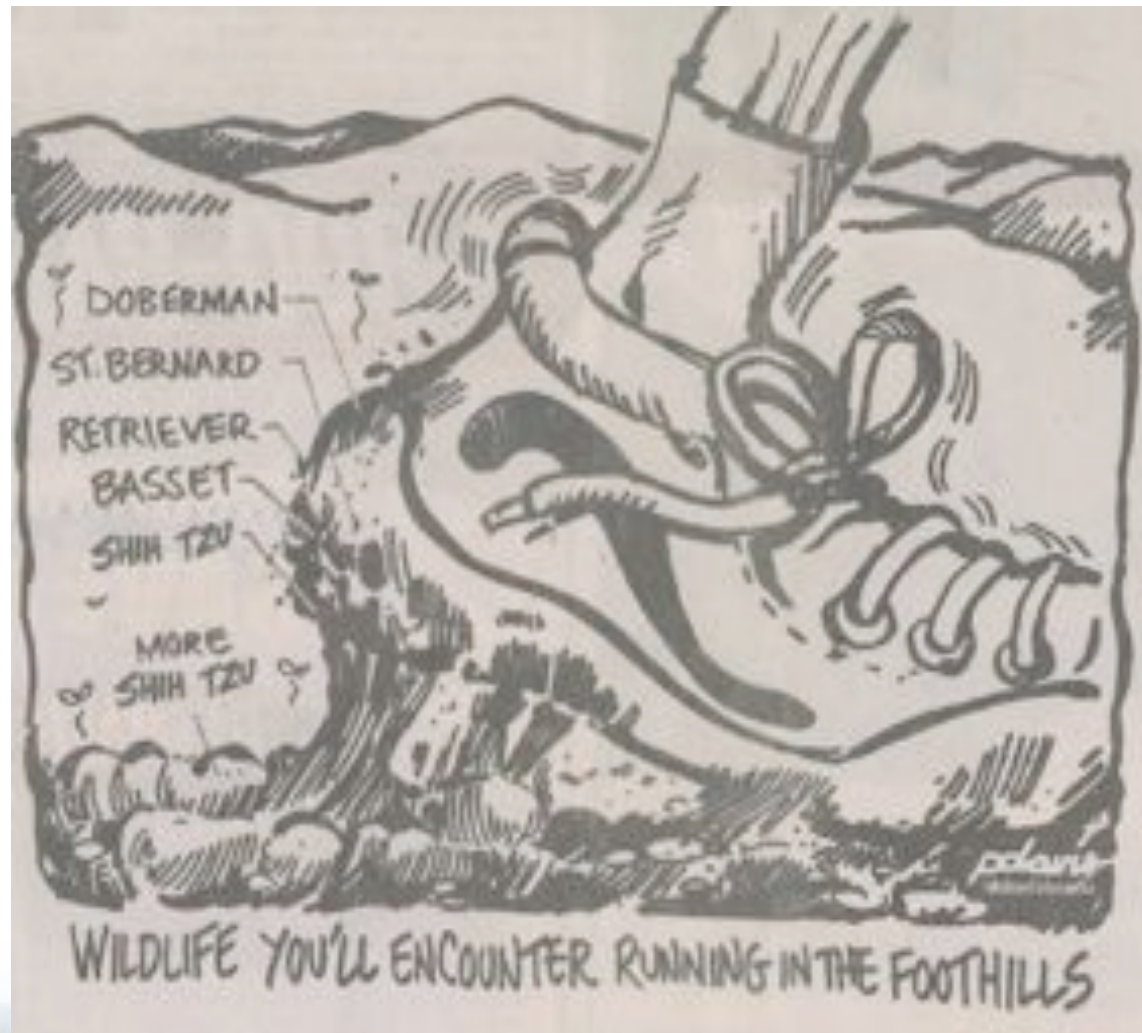
City Council is meeting May 7th at 7 am
CALL THE MAYOR BITTER'S OFFICE NOW!
Mayor Bitter's Office Number 384-4404

Call the City Council Office 384-4410

VOICE YOUR CONCERNS NOW!!!



Gotta have humor



Positive Outcomes So Far

- **Boise Trail Dog (BTD) Created**
- **Increase in etiquette by all users**
- **Enforcement implemented**
- **Increase in compliance**
- **BTD blog and outreach (BTD starts outreach: adopt-a-trail, lend-a-leash, trail etiquette posters, table at local events, quarterly poop-scoop)**
- **Tallying user and resource information**



Ben Wilson



Where we are

- **Public testimony at 11/08 FCAC meeting**
- **Recommendations at 12/08 FCAC meeting**
- **Onto City Council**
- **Implementation Spring 09**



Other domestic animal concerns

- **Commercial dog walkers**
- **Feral dogs impact on large animal populations**
- **Free-roaming cats impact on native small mammals and bird populations**
- **Non-native abandoned pets impact on native plant and animal populations**



Community Solutions

- **Marin County, CA**
 - Commercial use permits
 - High fines for violators
- **Boulder County, CO**
 - Pet-free or cat-free developments next to open space reserves
- **Nationwide**
 - Educational efforts by Humane Society and Audubon Society of impact of free-roaming cats
- **Most locations still struggling with these issues**
 - No funds for feral animal control in federal or state budgets
 - Pet stores able to sell exotic pets
 - More abandoned pets during current economic times



Thank You

Julia Kertz Grant

Foothills and Open Space Manager

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