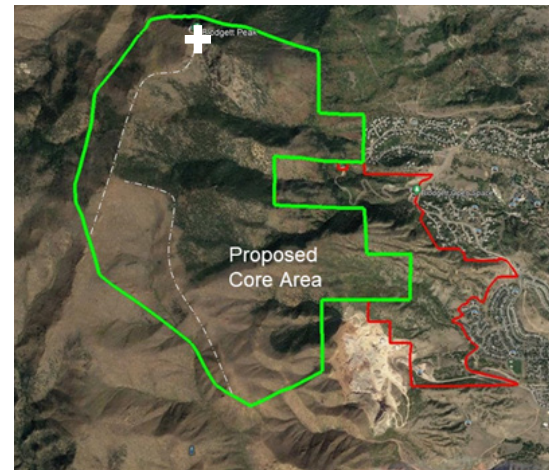


USDA US Forest Service Pikes Peak Ranger District

USFS Givens

General

- The USFS has agreed to participate in this effort to work with the City of Colorado Springs for the single purpose of receiving public input on a potential sustainable route to the summit of Blodgett Peak. All other public input not directly associated with this is outside the scope of what the the Forest Service (FS) will consider. The USFS has not agreed to implementing such a route. NEPA analysis and further planning would be required in the future for a proposed potential route.
- The FS will need to conduct NEPA, Section 106, Fish & Wildlife Service Consultation for Threatened and Endangered Species, and any other required compliance required by law on National Forest System Lands.
- The FS cannot commit resources to performing the above stated compliance within the City's Blodgett Open Space Master and Management timeframe.
- The Blodgett Peak FS Trail project is a low priority compared to the Wildfire Crisis Strategy and other higher priority work for at least the next five years, from 2023 through 2028.



Recreation Use Impacts

- Initiate more discussion regarding accessing potential FS trails via City of Colorado Springs (CS) lands (those that are only open sunrise to sunset). There are already several well-defined, non-system user-created routes extending from City of CS lands to the ridgeline and summit of Blodgett Peak. In addition, well-defined non-system routes extend from the summit of Blodgett Peak to Ormes Peak and FSR 302 and return to the more southern areas of City of CS lands.
- Establish a geographically defined “core” area for discussion.
- Bighorn Sheep habitat was of highest concern for protection, in consultation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- The FS can only commit to trailheads on National Forest Service lands.
- Proposed trails should avoid riparian areas, limit stream crossings, and minimize soil erosion.
- After eventual trail implementation, non-system routes should be decommissioned.

