



Frisco Nordic Center Trails

April 2020-May 2023

Colorado the Beautiful Grant





Frisco is surrounded by Lake Dillon and National Forest

Peninsula Recreation Area (PRA)

500 Acres of Town of Frisco and National Forest co-managed land



2011, 90%
trees cut
due to pine
beetle kill



Who's out there?

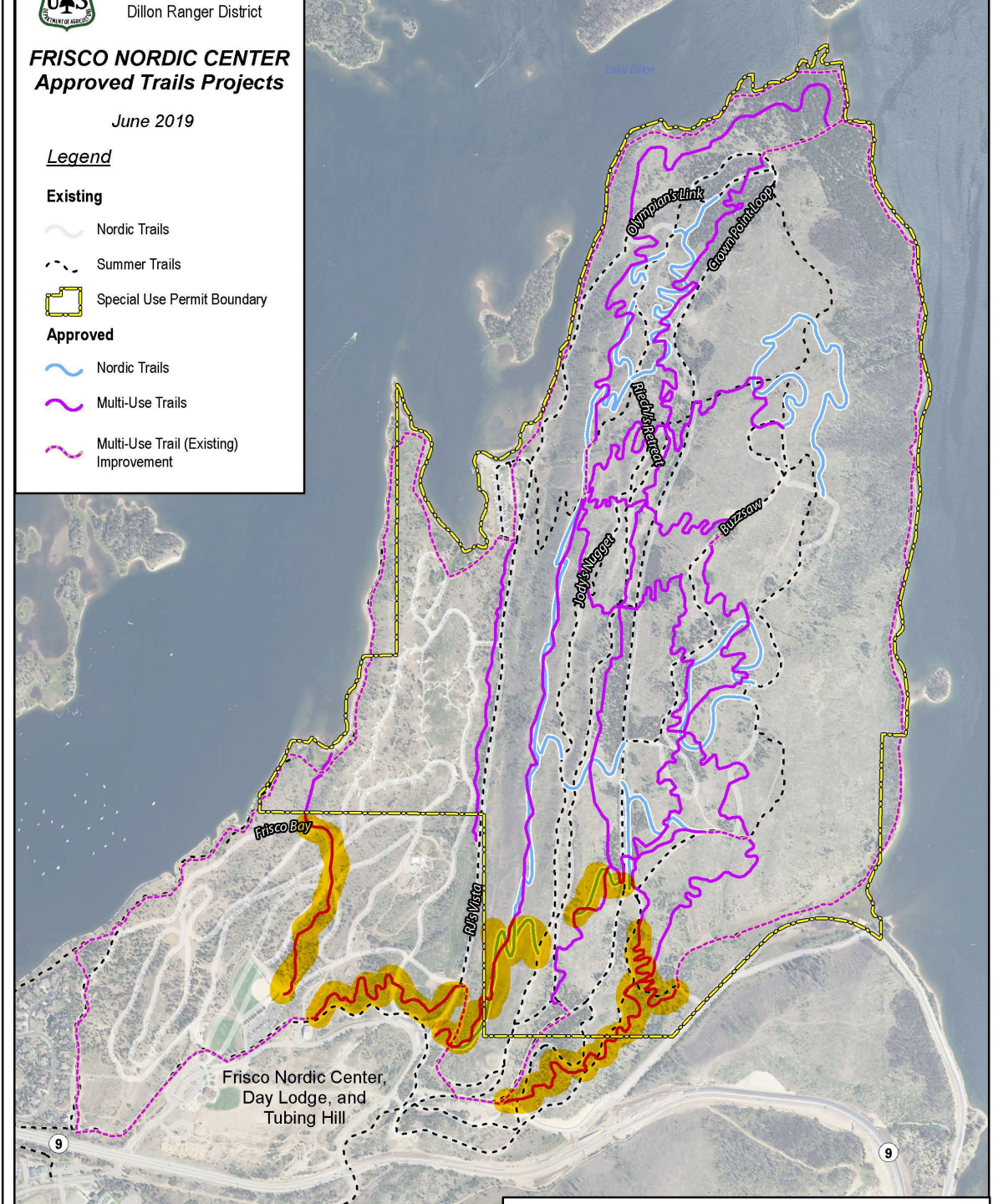
PRA User Groups – 2019 survey

- Average summer daily trail use count 303: 167 visitors/136 residents
- 70% mtb, 20% trail run, 10% hike
- Largest organized user groups
 - Frisco Day camp: kids hiking ages 6-10
 - Frisco bike camp: kids ages 6-10
 - Masters Cycling group: ages 65+
 - Summit Nordic Ski Club: dryland ages 7-18
 - Summit Endurance Academy: ages 7-18
 - Summit Middle School xc practice: ages 12-15
 - Summit HS MTB practice: ages 15-18
 - Cycle Effect MTB women ages 12-17

Project Timeline

- June 2019 Forest Service accepts Town of Frisco Masterplan for PRA improvements
- Town Council tasks Recreation Department to seek grant funding
- April 2020 TOF receives GOCO grant
 - GOCO \$168,390
 - Town of Frisco match \$50,515
 - Town of Frisco in-kind \$38,191

- 15 miles of trail construction and improvements on the Peninsula Recreation Area (PRA)
- 3.75 miles of 16 ft. wide Nordic trail
- 8 miles of new singletrack: summer-only 24" tread, 36" tread for multi-use (groomed for winter fat bike use)
- 3.75 miles of existing trail improvements: rock removal/re-alignment/drainage/camber grading and re-vegetation



PRA from 2019 to 2023

- 2019 Town Trails Department: manager, two seasonal employees
 - Poor connectivity and no planned network
 - Existing trails not designed for recreational use, no sight-lines
 - Most-used Perimeter Trail - unsustainable
 - Not family-friendly, few signs
 - Town begins phase one of FS-approved trails (CE #1)
- 2023 Town Trails Department: manager, lead, two year-round and two seasonal employees
 - Visitor and local response to trail construction and improvements in 2020 is overwhelming. Town Council allocates funding for expanded staffing and continued construction post-grant and into phase two (CE #2)

Old singletrack was “single-
doubletrack”







How did we get there?

- Year-to-year increased use of mechanization
 - Canycom is a must-have
 - Mulcher was most efficient for clearing new growth
- Targeted use of contractors
 - Directional downhill MTB trail contracted out
- Two grant budget revisions to shift dollars to equipment rental











Construction

- Sustainability drives technique
- Ultimately it all becomes maintenance!
- Re-vegetation plans need to constantly evolve for terrain and past successes and failures
- A 24” tread becomes a 12” tread in a year
- PRA singletrack is machine-built with mini-excavator with 36”+ tread
 - Becomes 24” tread in a season
 - Hand-built is a “feel-good” but it’s more expensive labor, longer build time, less sustainable, requires more hours of maintenance









Lessons learned

- GOCO regional program officer is critical resource when starting grant process
- If you work with the Forest Service – great partner
 - Build trust with multiple field visits
 - FS seeks partners with funding, resources and accountability
- Rental equipment may not be available when reserved
- Contractors are efficient. 100-150 feet a day isn't much in a seasonal building season

THANK YOU GOCO !