

Corral Bluffs Motorcycle Proposal Moves “Ahead” to Public Meetings

Meetings to Be Held April 1, 15, and 29

Jim Lockhart, Conservation Chair

More than four months after El Paso County Commissioners approved the purchase of land for a motorcycles-only play area at Corral Bluffs, County Parks officials have finally announced an abbreviated series of meetings to allow the general public to speak on the issue.

Three public meetings are currently scheduled for 7 p.m. on April 1, April 15, and April 29 at the County Office Building, 27 E. Vermijo (third floor). Current plans call for these to be 1-1/2 hour meetings, at which County officials would give a presentation and allow discussion of ecological, archeological, and sound abatement issues. Major issues, such as whether Corral Bluffs would be more suitable to other public uses such as open space, the impact of a motorcycle facility on neighboring land values — even basic questions regarding the financial and practical viability of the proposal — are not on the agenda. Even as the April meetings are ongoing, the County intends to proceed concurrently with design work, and to make initial motorcycle trail layout decisions in early May.

We urge Sierra Club members to come to these public meetings. We urge you to speak out in favor of preserving Corral Bluffs as open space for the general public, rather than turning it into an exclusive, county-owned facility for motorcycles only. However, we also urge you to press public officials for a fairer and more open decision-making process, which allows dissent to the county proposal, rather than trying suppress it completely. Our message should be clear:


Save Corral Bluffs -- Stop the Dirt Bike Facility
Say Yes to Open Space -- Say No to Bad Government

For further information about these and other meetings and events, and to learn how you can help, please contact Jim Lockhart at jlock@datawest.net or check the Pikes Peak Group website at www.rmc.sierraclub.org/ppg. Our website also contains a more detailed description of the Corral Bluffs controversy. For further information, visit the Corral Bluffs Association website at www.savecorralbluffs.com and the Trails and Open Space Coalition at www.trailsandopenspaces.org/.

The Bureau of Reclamation has released a draft environmental impact statement and scheduled two meetings in Colorado Springs for public comment on the Southern Delivery System proposal to bring water to Colorado Springs from Pueblo Reservoir. If you want to learn more about this matter, important to the future of Colorado Springs, come to Fountain-Fort Carson High School, 900 Jimmy Camp Rd, Fountain, CO 80817, on April 8, 2008, 6-9 p.m.; or Leon Young Service Center, 1521 Hancock Expressway, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, on April 9, 6-9 p.m.

**Wilderness First Aid (WFA) and
Wilderness First Responder (WFR)
Recertification Course Offered May 3-4,
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

Pikes Peak Sierra Club Group and Bear Creek Nature Center are cosponsoring this 2-day, 16-hour course for persons interested obtaining a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certificate or recertifying for Wilderness First Responder (WFR). This fast-paced, hands-on course is taught by Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI), a part of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and covers a wide range of wilderness medicine situations and skills. WMI's curriculum is unique and includes advanced topics other programs leave out, such as dislocation reduction, focused spinal assessment, and epinephrine administration. Participants will gain knowledge and skills to help make sound decisions in emergency situations. Ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts, and individuals who travel to remote locations. \$150, limit 30 participants. For details or to sign up, contact Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045 or jlock@datawest.net.



Chair's Corner by Jane Ard-Smith, PPG Chair

As I write this Chair's corner, the sun is slowly melting the snow and ice that accumulated in our yard over this past winter. Only a few vestiges remain in the protected shadow of the house - soon it will be time to get outdoors and till the herb garden. A few overlooked weeds have even begun to sprout. Spring is almost here!

The arrival of spring always makes me rethink my commitment to environmental protection and conservation. As I watch dormant plants revive themselves, it seems the ideal time to reflect on what I can do to lessen my impact on our fragile earth. This year, my attention is turned to energy conservation — how can I further reduce my family's energy consumption? What's the next step?

I'm hoping to learn about those next steps at the third annual Pikes Peak Earth Day on April 26th at Palmer High School (see the announcement on page 1). The theme couldn't be more appropriate — “Take the Next Step.” I hope you'll join me at the event and learn what others in our community are already doing to take the next step in protecting our planet.

For more on Earth Day, please visit <http://www.pikespeakearthday.org>.