

Backcountry Planning Areas Advisory Committee Charter

The Backcountry Wilderness Area of Highlands Ranch is an 8,200 acre conservation area owned by the Highlands Ranch Community Association (HRCA) that includes over 20 miles of natural surface trails and a large wildlife sanctuary area accessible only through guided HRCA activities and programs. The Backcountry also consists of several pre-determined "Planning Areas" that are subject to specific types of development as outlined in the 2000 Open Space Conservation Area (OSCA) Plan.

The Planning Areas are specified Planning Areas A-J. The HRCA owns Planning Areas B, D, E, F, and G. Planning Areas A, C, H, I, and J are not owned by the HRCA and are not a consideration of this committee, except as an advisory role concerning Planning Area C, the future Douglas County Wildcat Regional Park. The total acreage for the Planning Areas owned by HRCA is 499.

In 2010 and 2011 the ad hoc Backcountry Planning Areas Committee developed a Community Involvement Process (CIP) to ensure the Highlands Ranch Community will have notification of and input on any development projects within the Planning Areas. This new committee will be a standing committee and extend the work of the former committee to help ensure community involvement, participation, and guidance in any Planning Area development projects.

The Committee shall consist of five to seven members to be appointed by the Board of Directors of HRCA after completing the process outlined in the Committee Appointment Policy.

Committee members shall thoroughly understand the existing documents governing the use and development of the Backcountry and the Subject Planning Areas, including but not limited to:

- Highlands Ranch Development Plan (1979, as amended)
- Open Space Conservation Agreement (1988)
- Wildcat Regional Park Agreement (1996)
- Board of Directors Resolution regarding use and/or conveyance of property (1998)
- Open Space Conservation Area Plan (2000)
- Special Meeting of the Delegates Resolution regarding Planning Area A (August 21, 2001)
- Highlands Ranch Open Space Conservation Area Management Implementation Plan (2002)

The Committee should tour the Backcountry with HRCA staff and become familiar with all of the planning areas in the Backcountry, with the 499 acres that comprise the Subject Planning Areas, with the preserve areas in the Backcountry, and with the trails and related systems in the Backcountry.

The Chair of the Backcountry Planning Areas Advisory Committee will meet with the Board on a monthly basis or as needed during the Board Working Session to update the Board on the progress of the committee and to receive direction from the Board as necessary.

The Committee should:

- act as an advisory body to the Board of Directors on projects related to the Backcountry Planning Areas;
- act as a communication resource to the community regarding Backcountry Planning Areas and, when the Douglas County Wildcat Regional Park development process is established, work with HRCA staff to provide a committee representative to attend planning meetings;
- become familiar with the Community Involvement Process (CIP) established by the Planning Areas Committee and adopted by the HRCA Board of Directors and assist the Board of Directors with the implementation of and continuation of this process once a proposal is submitted for development;
- assist the Board of Directors with other tasks as they may be assigned. Such tasks may include:
 - participating in the development of questions pertaining to the Backcountry Planning Areas for a community survey;
 - presenting survey results to the community;
 - making recommendations to the Board of Directors for dates of future surveys;
 - researching grant opportunities and assist staff in grant writing;
 - exploring potential uses for the Backcountry Planning Areas.