



**Trustee Report**

**To: Board of Trustees**

**From: Trustee Randy Lee**

**Date: April 9, 2014**

PROSAB: PROSAB held its regular monthly meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from the USFS briefed members on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion by Eldora Mountain Resort and on current regional fuels treatment projects. The board discussed briefly the draft Sustainability Action Plan, then tabled it until the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, where Conor Merrigan is expected to present the plan, then discussed current PROSAB projects.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, PROSAB held a special meeting to consider a response to the EMR DEIS. Jim Spenst from EMR and Bill Ikler, representing the Sierra Club, offered their respective perspectives on the proposed expansion. A majority agreed upon the response attached, and this has been submitted.

Saws & Slaws: Nederland Saws and Slaws presently functions nominally as a PROSAB committee. This will change, after the current season, if S&S follows through with plans to incorporate and seek 501(c)(3) status. A chainsaw safety class will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center (cost is \$40). Additional one-on-one instruction will be available the following day at the first Nederland event of the season at the Town water plant (\$20). Sawyer training is open to anyone, but is required for anyone planning to cut at Saws and Slaws events.

IMA: I was unable to attend the March IMA meeting, due to a scheduling conflict. April's meeting will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> at a location TBD.

EDTF: The Economic Development Task Force membership list is provided in the BOT packet. Task force meetings will get underway shortly.



## Memorandum



Date: April 2, 2014  
From: Parks, Recreation & Open Space Advisory Board  
To: Paul Alford, Project Team Leader, BRD  
Re: EMR DEIS

Re Eldora Mountain Resort Ski Area Projects Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

The Town of Nederland Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board (PROSAB), met on April 2nd to receive input regarding the DEIS for the proposed Eldora Mountain Resort expansion and to formulate a position for submittal to the USFS. PROSAB considered the proposed expansion in light of the DEIS, the Town's approved vision statement, *Nederland Vision 2020*, and the *Nederland Area Parks, Recreation, Open Space And Trails (PROST) Master Plan*. PROSAB has the following observations and recommendations to offer to the USFS and the Responsible Official.

***Nederland Vision 2020*** – The following two vision statements are particularly relevant:

- *In 2020, Nederland is a town recognized for its trails, natural areas and unwavering commitment to the environment. Open spaces are abundant and balanced with active recreation areas and opportunities. Nederland's surrounding wilderness area and other sensitive natural areas are restored, protected and preserved.*
- *In 2020, Nederland continues to focus planning and economic development activities on efforts that address:*
  - o *Alternative energy sources to fossil fuels for transportation*
  - o *Alternatives for building and the use of sustainable materials*
  - o *Non-motorized travel in town*
  - o *Clean air, clean water and water conservation in and around Nederland*
  - o *Connections to the outdoor environment providing healthy, active lifestyles for people of all ages*
  - o *Minimal/reduced light and noise pollution*

***Nederland Area Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan*** – Below are pertinent goals from the PROST master plan:

- *Nederland's parks, recreational opportunities, open space, and trail system together fulfill the needs of residents of the greater Nederland area for local facilities, programs, and natural areas that support their well-being, their active lifestyles and their needs for indoor and outdoor recreation, their cultural and educational interests, and their desire to interact with the natural environment and with each other, while supporting the environmental, social, and economic sustainability goals of the community.*
- *Nederland-area recreational activities and programs address the expressed recreational needs and preferences of the Nederland-area community and promote healthy, active, and culturally-rich lifestyles in an environmentally sensitive manner.*

### PROSAB Findings

1. PROSAB recognizes the value of EMR in providing a venue for active recreation in the Nederland area, in keeping with the goals of *Nederland Vision 2020* and the PROST plan, and supports efforts by EMR

to remain competitive and improve the recreational experience for its visitors. (61% of area respondents to a statistically-valid PROST survey conducted in 2012 reported that they were users of EMR, so the resort is important to a majority of community members). We also recognize that EMR is located adjacent to wilderness and other areas with high dispersed recreation, watershed and habitat values. It is important that the critical balance between active recreation areas and wilderness, referenced in the first *Nederland Vision 2020* vision statement, be maintained, as well as the water quality in Middle Boulder Creek, which provides drinking water for the Town of Nederland and the City of Boulder. With this in mind, PROSAB urges the Responsible Official to reject the proposed EMR expansion north to Middle Boulder Creek, as presented in *Alternative 2* of the DEIS. We support the expansion to the south, as presented in *Alternative 3*, as having less of a negative environmental impact on the critical Middle Boulder Creek riparian area, reduced viewshed impacts from the Eldora community and the Hessie trailhead and for avoiding possible traffic increases on CR 130 through Eldora, while addressing the stated needs from the EMR Master Plan.

2. PROSAB applauds the thoroughness of the DEIS in addressing runoff and erosion issues, forest health and noxious weeds.
3. We find the *Sustainability* section of Table 2.3 to be weak and suggest the addition of quantifiable sustainability goals.
4. The impact of EMR traffic within the Town of Nederland is inadequately treated. Reliance upon CDOT criteria for highway carrying capacity ignores the very real gridlock created during afternoon peak hour EMR traffic within the town. Motorists needing to cross or enter the east-bound lane of traffic can wait for minutes for an opportunity to do so. Some means of effectively mitigating the negative impacts of resort traffic within the Town should be required in the PDC.

In summary, PROSAB appreciates the comprehensiveness and thoroughness of the USFS analysis in the EMR DEIS and welcomes the opportunity to provide a Nederland perspective. We encourage the Responsible Official to accept *Alternative 3*, from the DEIS, to strengthen the sustainability requirements of the PDC and to address the negative impact of increased resort traffic within the Town of Nederland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Lee', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Randy Lee, Town of Nederland Trustee and PROSAB Chair on behalf of the Nederland PROSAB