Bringing People to the Water:

Clear Creek Canyon Park’s Big Easy Recreation Area
Presentation Team:

- **Scot Grossman**
  Projects Team Supervisor
  Jefferson County Open Space
  Jefferson County, Colorado

- **Moneka Worah**
  Principal and Biologist
  ERO Resources
  Lakewood, Colorado

- **Paul Thomas**
  Principal and Landscape Architect
  Stream Landscape Architecture and Planning
  Denver, Colorado
Project Team:

• Jefferson County Open Space
• CEI Construction
• Muller Engineering
• Yeh and Associates
• ERO Resources
• Stream Landscape Architecture
• 105 West Survey
• Zozo Public Relations
• Summit Engineering
Introduction

Presentation Agenda

1. The Big Picture: The Big Easy and the P2P Trail Project
2. Moving a Highway
3. Prebles! Working Through a T&E Species Finding
4. Designing to Bring People to the Water
Peaks to Plains Trail

Denver to Loveland Pass

Peaks to Plains Trail (16.5 Mile Clear Creek Canyon Segment)
Great Outdoors Colorado River Corridors Initiative

Peaks to Plains Trail:
Clear Creek Canyon Phase

March 2012
Clear Creek and Jefferson Counties Joint Application
Option #1
Balancing Recreation with the Environment
Environmental Permitting

- Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit
- Colorado Department of Transportation Access Permit
- Biological Assessment/Biological Opinion
What is a Preble’s Jumping Mouse?

- Found in 1899 in Colorado by Edward Preble
- Endemic to riparian habitats of CO and WY
- Found nowhere else in the world
Environmental Constraints and Opportunities

Preble’s Preferred Habitats

- Riparian areas with upland grasslands adjacent
- Dense, herbaceous or woody vegetation near ground level
- Foraging and hibernation areas
- Open water during the active season
- Refugia from flooding
Environmental Constraints and Opportunities

Permitting Process
Environmental Constraints and Opportunities

Estimating Impacts

- Conservative approach to impacts
  - Assume worst case
  - Make wide limits of disturbance
Proposed Mitigation

- Proposed combination of on-site and off-site habitat
  - On-site limited to canyon setting
  - Coal Creek and Ralston Creek reviewed for off-site mitigation
Environmental Constraints and Opportunities

Big Easy Habitat
Habitat Protection
Habitat Enhancement
Environmental Constraints and Opportunities

Habitat Creation
Protect, Enhance, Create
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Project Objectives

• Trailhead and parking lot for P2P Trail
• A destination recreation area
• Enhanced natural resource
Key Challenges

- Limited space (1.5 acre)
- Busy adjacent highway
- Wild river
- Seriously degraded site
- Mitigation for Preble’s Mouse
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**Design Objectives**

- Enhance the resource—mitigate previous impacts

**Placer Mining**
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Design Approaches

• Enhance the resource—mitigate previous impacts
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Design Approaches

• Enhance the resource—mitigate previous impacts
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Design Approaches

- Enhance the resource—minimize new impacts

Water Access Points

Social Trails
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Design Approaches

- Enhance the resource by protecting valuable habitat
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Design Approaches

- Siting the P2P Trail
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Design Approaches

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Design Approaches

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Design Approaches

- Siting the P2P Trail
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Design Approaches

• Siting the P2P Trail
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Design Approaches

• Siting the P2P Trail
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Design Approaches

- Siting the P2P Trail
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Design Approaches

• Creating a destination recreation area
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Design Approaches

- Trails, boardwalks and overlooks
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Design Approaches

- Trails, boardwalks and overlooks
Bringing People to the Water

Design Approaches

• Trails, boardwalks and overlooks
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Design Approaches

• Water access
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Design Approaches

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Design Approaches
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• Water access
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Design Approaches

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Design Approaches

- Water access
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Design Approaches

• Mitigate highway
Bringing People to the Water

Design Approaches

• Mitigate highway
Bringing People to the Water
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Design Approaches

• Amenities--Shelters
Bringing People to the Water

Design Approaches

• Amenities--Shelters
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Design Approaches

- ADA Accessibility
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Design Approaches

• Amenities—Geology Garden
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Design Approaches

• Amenities—Geology Garden
Design Approaches

- Amenities—Geology Garden
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Multi-Purpose Recreation Area
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Multi-Purpose Recreation Area
Thank you.