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First name: Richard

Last name: Brooks

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for your help getting me the correct proposal to review. Following are some comments on The Camp Hale Project. They are not as organized as they should be. Some may seem obvious or repetitious. There are several ideas of various scope, but the over all theme is don't just cut the floodplain and wetlands and preserve the existing planar grid grading right up to these new incisions. Blend and naturalize more of the grid layout that is not within the identified historic preservation areas.

I am in strong support with your goal to restore most of the historic flood plain and stream channel and wetlands as well as modifying the travel system, terrestrial vegetation enhancement , historic preservation, recreation infrastructure improvements and long term wetland protection. This is a huge project which will need to be done in phases for many reasons. Inventory, analysis and mapping should be done for the entire site as part of the EIS. While the bulk of the demolition and excavation are driven by the road and floodplain work, re-vegetation and fill disposal areas will be just as important to the final aesthetics and viability of the valley. Re-vegetation in these areas should encourage quality wildlife habitat.

The big ditch and grid layout was designed to remove water as efficiently as possible and with minimal impact to man made roads, buildings, fields. Except for specifically designated and defined historic preservation sites, proposed roads and facilities the grid layout should not be preserved as the drainage system or topography.

The site should be topographically mapped and inventoried. The existing concrete and asphalt pavement, footings and drainage system should be included. Concrete and pavement should be broken up and re-graded into the site or removed to specific sites depending on the volumes inventoried. The roads which are to remain could use some of this material to be raised so that a low spot on a road doesn't determine the overall drainage of the site.

There should be another prescription or Proposed action in the plan that is a buffer or upland where new wetland and floodplain blends into existing grid drainage as well as the area provides work space for equipment and grading work adjacent to new wetlands streams and removed roads. Existing culverts and ditches for should not be maintained where old roads and footings and not of historically or functional significance. This will obviously be done where the main road along the ditch are eliminated and in the new/ historic floodplain and wetlands.

If a section of the ditch is to remain the main entrance is not the best location. The main entrance should have the best restoration efforts. Some work should be done on both sides of the entry road. Remove the road and the ditch and the leave the field house area for historic preservation. Some small parking could be a part of the field house- 4 vehicles. Collecting loose nails on the concrete would not impact the historic significance of the site. A main ditch segment location would be upstream of existing Resolution Creek, Eagle River. Resolution Creek could even run in it for a short section. Another alternative location would be alongside a section of the road to the campground south of the fishing ponds.

Fill disposal areas 12 and 14 should not be delineated by abandoned roads and should be more organically and naturally defined to minimize the grid aesthetics.

More variation in terrain should be developed in some areas to create diversity in wind exposure and water dispersal and collection to slow runoff. Small topographic features of less than 2 ft. are enough. This will enhance success and diversity in the re-vegetation. Wetland, mesic and xeric plant communities should be developed. The re-vegetation should continue after the initial effort, propagules of some desired species are not available every year. The dominating sagebrush have spread overmuch of the area but aggregations of

other forbs, shrubs and trees and plant communities would provide better wildlife habitat and a more interesting landscape. A variety of seed mixes should be developed for different areas and soil moistures. Natural plant succession should be allowed and encouraged. Vegetation and topography should be used to screen some portions of the remaining roads and some new developed parking areas. As well new parking areas should minimize new disturbance when nearby areas are available which are already graded flat.

Re-vegetation for at least some areas should strive to resemble the variety of the Homestake valley. Native plant communities have evolved in place since the end of the last ice age. Man made reproductions without a long range vision and efforts will always come up short.

I fully support you efforts even though I might want do more. I look forward to seeing some alternatives developed from the comments you receive. I would volunteer if I can be of any assistance please contact me.

Sincerely,Dick Brooks