



## **Results for the Hidden Springs Open Space and Trail Network Survey 2016**

# Survey conducted March 1 - 14, 2016

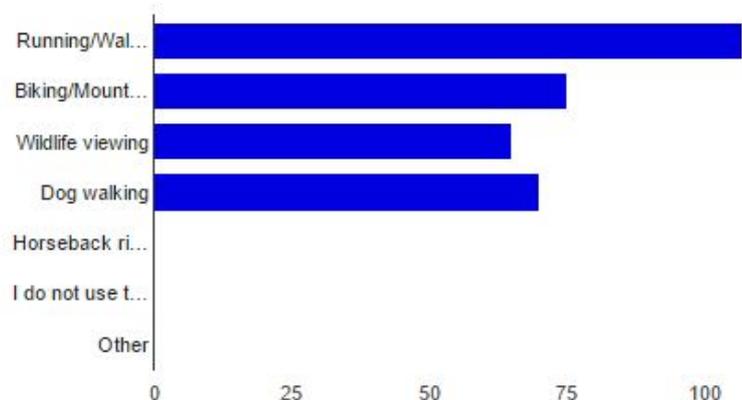
The purpose of the survey was to collect feedback from Hidden Springs residents for future planning and project ideas for the community's Open Space areas and trail network.

As part of the terms of the Hidden Springs Planned Community Ordinance, no less than 810 acres of Hidden Springs' property - designated as the "Open Space Area"- are to remain open and free from development other than wildlife habitat improvement, trails and other recreational improvements, agriculture and agricultural operations and outbuildings. Approximately 988 acres in Hidden Springs are designated as natural open space and are subject to the terms of a Conservation Easement (CE) held by Ada County. An additional 59 acres of natural open space off Cartwright Road are not held in the CE. The plan divides the CE lands into five areas:

- Wetlands
- Dry Creek Corridor
- Currant Creek Corridor
- Uplands
- Farm and Orchard

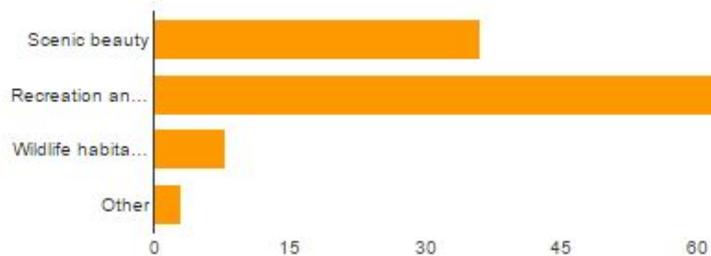
GENERAL

## 1. I use Hidden Springs Open Space and trails for:



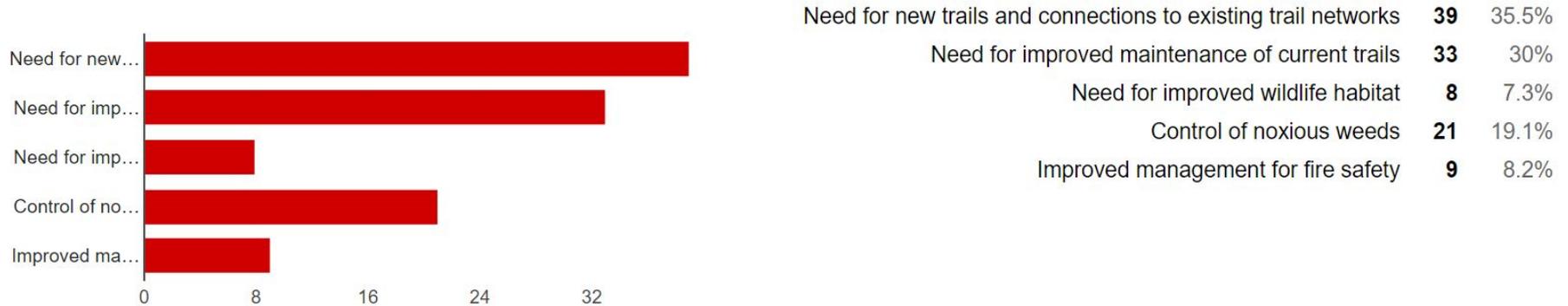
Running/Walking/Hiking	107	95.5%
Biking/Mountain biking	75	67%
Wildlife viewing	65	58%
Dog walking	70	62.5%
Horseback riding	0	0%
I do not use the trails	0	0%
Other	0	0%

## 2. My favorite aspect of the Hidden Springs Open Space and trail network is:

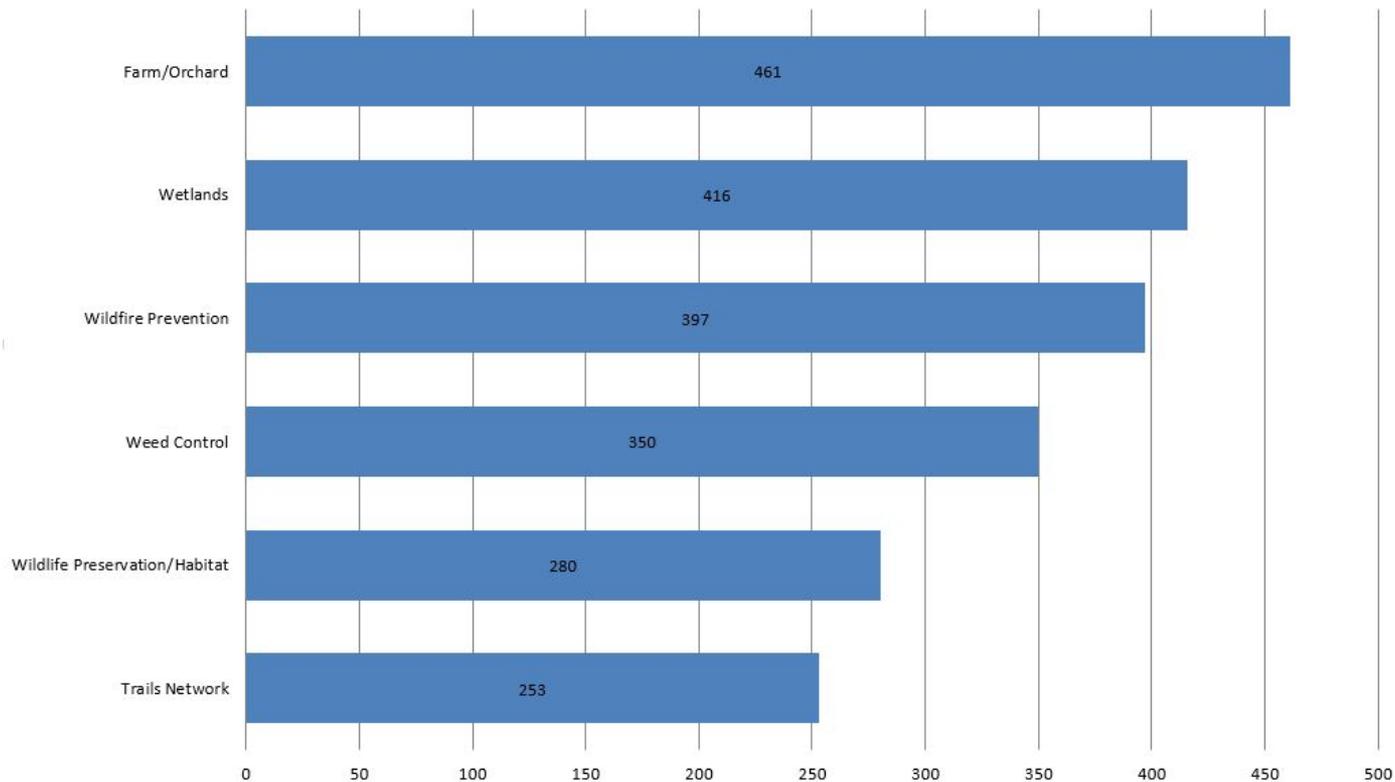


Scenic beauty	36	32.1%
Recreation and exercise opportunities	65	58%
Wildlife habitat and viewing	8	7.1%
Other	3	2.7%

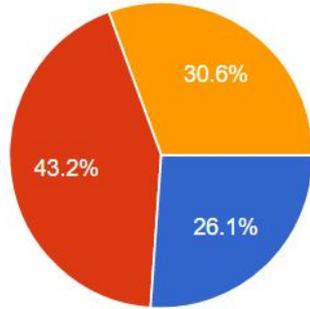
### 3. The most important issue affecting Hidden Springs Open Space is:



**4. Overall, the HSTA and Committees should invest more time, resources and money into the following Open Space areas: (lower number is higher priority)**



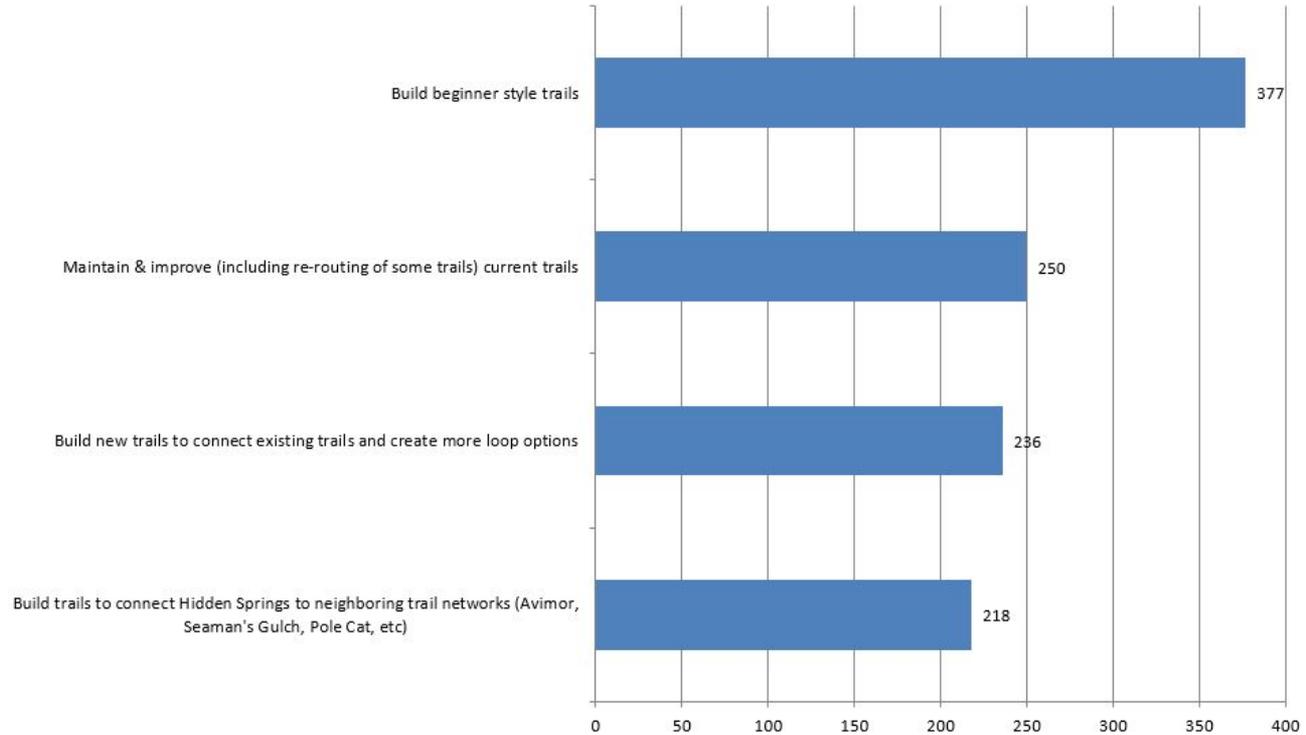
**5. Do you typically volunteer for and participate in the Dry Creek Clean Up and Trail Maintenance Day event?**



Yes	<b>29</b>	26.1%
No	<b>48</b>	43.2%
New to the community and plan to volunteer	<b>34</b>	30.6%

TRAILS

**6. Priority for new trail projects should be:  
(lower number is higher priority)**



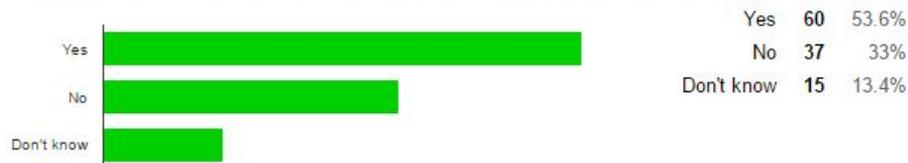
### 7. Should HSTA trails remain "All On Leash" or change to a mixture of "On and Controlled Off Leash?"



### 8. Regarding multi-use trails (all user types sharing one trail), I support the concept of building new trails designated for specific user groups- bikes-only, hiking-only, etc



### 9. I support the concept of a bike-specific downhill or "flow" style trail



WILDLIFE

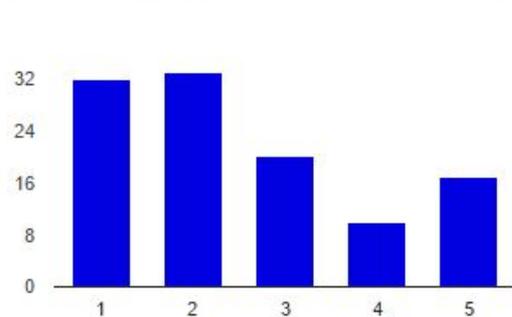
**10. The quality of wildlife habitat on HSTA open space is**



Very good	35	31.3%
Good	71	63.4%
Not good	6	5.4%

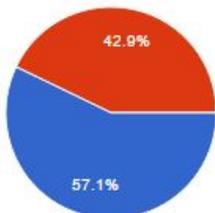
# FIREWISE/WILDFIRE SAFETY

**11. How well do you understand the Firewize Wildfire Safety guidelines and the importance of maintaining your landscape in a Firewize manner?**



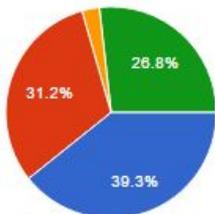
I fully understand:	1	32	28.6%
	2	33	29.5%
	3	20	17.9%
	4	10	8.9%
I do not know what the guidelines are:	5	17	15.2%

**12. I would like more education for wildfire safety and how I and other homeowners can help with prevention.**



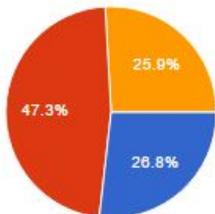
Yes	64	57.1%
No	48	42.9%

**13. How prepared is your property in the event a wildfire occurs in your area of the community?**



My property meets Firewise guidelines	44	39.3%
My property partially meets most Firewise guidelines	35	31.3%
My Property does not meet Firewise guidelines	3	2.7%
I don't know	30	26.8%

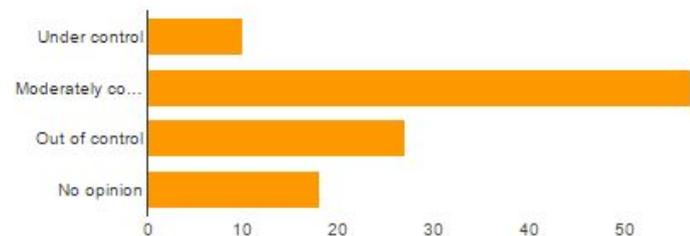
**14. Would you be interested in having your property evaluated for its conformance**



Yes	30	26.8%
No	53	47.3%
I'm not sure	29	25.9%

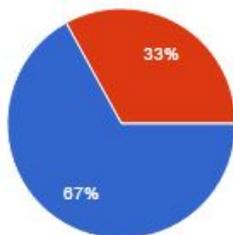
# NOXIOUS WEEDS

**15. I believe noxious weed growth on HSTA Open Space is**



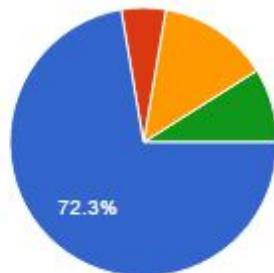
Under control	10	8.9%
Moderately controlled	57	50.9%
Out of control	27	24.1%
No opinion	18	16.1%

**16. Does the HSTA need to do more to control noxious weeds including allocating more resources (labor and money)**



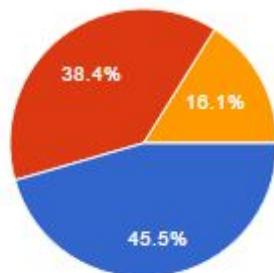
Yes	75	67%
No	37	33%

**17. I believe the goat grazing program is an effective program for weed control in the community**



Yes	81	72.3%
No	6	5.4%
Need more information	15	13.4%
Other	10	8.9%

**18. I'd like more education and knowledge on how to prevent noxious weeds at my home and in our open space**



Yes	51	45.5%
No	43	38.4%
No opinion	18	16.1%

Question #17. I believe the goat grazing program is an effective program for weed control in the community. Answer response options included:

YES

NO

NEED MORE INFORMATION

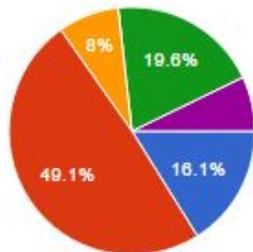
OTHER and space to add comment

## OTHER - COMMENT RESPONSES

- Longitudinal data needed
- It helps in spots, but there are other areas that have been totally ignored (Currant Cr. and up by the Water Treatment facility come to mind)
- Goats and reseeding
- extremely effective
- LOVE the goat program!
- I say yes; however, that is a rather uneducated opinion. I do not have enough formal data to support a definitive statement. However, I do not mind the goat grazing program - I do mind the dogs that freak me out any time I have to ride or run by one of the grazing areas.
- The goats cannot be left to stagnate! It destroys the land. They need to keep moving.
- I've heard they eat native plants which is not good.
- Need more goat time
- how evaluated?

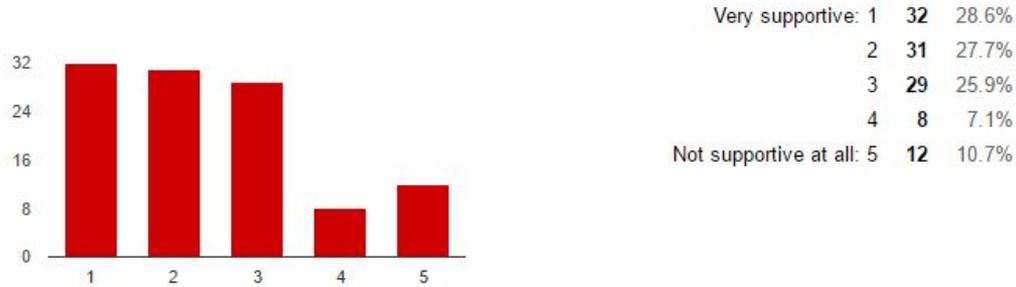
# WETLANDS

**19. The wetlands in Hidden Springs are:**



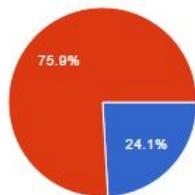
Well managed	18	16.1%
Adequately	55	49.1%
Poorly managed	9	8%
No opinion	22	19.6%
Other	8	7.1%

**20. The wetlands have grown tremendously over the last ten years. In some areas they are now encroaching on residents yards and community drainage. Do you support management and maintenance efforts to control the spread of the cattails in some areas of the wetlands?**



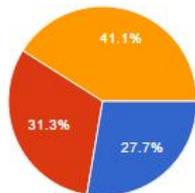
FARM FIELDS / ORCHARD

21. Would you be interested in an individual garden "area" or "patch" for your family or group to grow your own plants/flowers knowing that this would involve 6 or more hours per week?



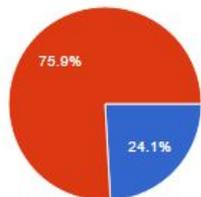
Yes	27	24.1%
No	85	75.9%

22. I would be interested in working in a community sharing program for the farm and/or orchard



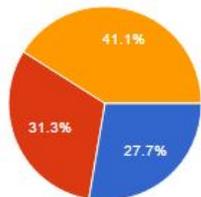
Yes	31	27.7%
No	35	31.3%
Maybe	46	41.1%

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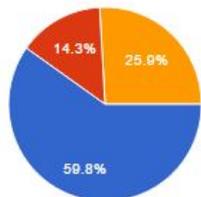
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No	85	75.9%

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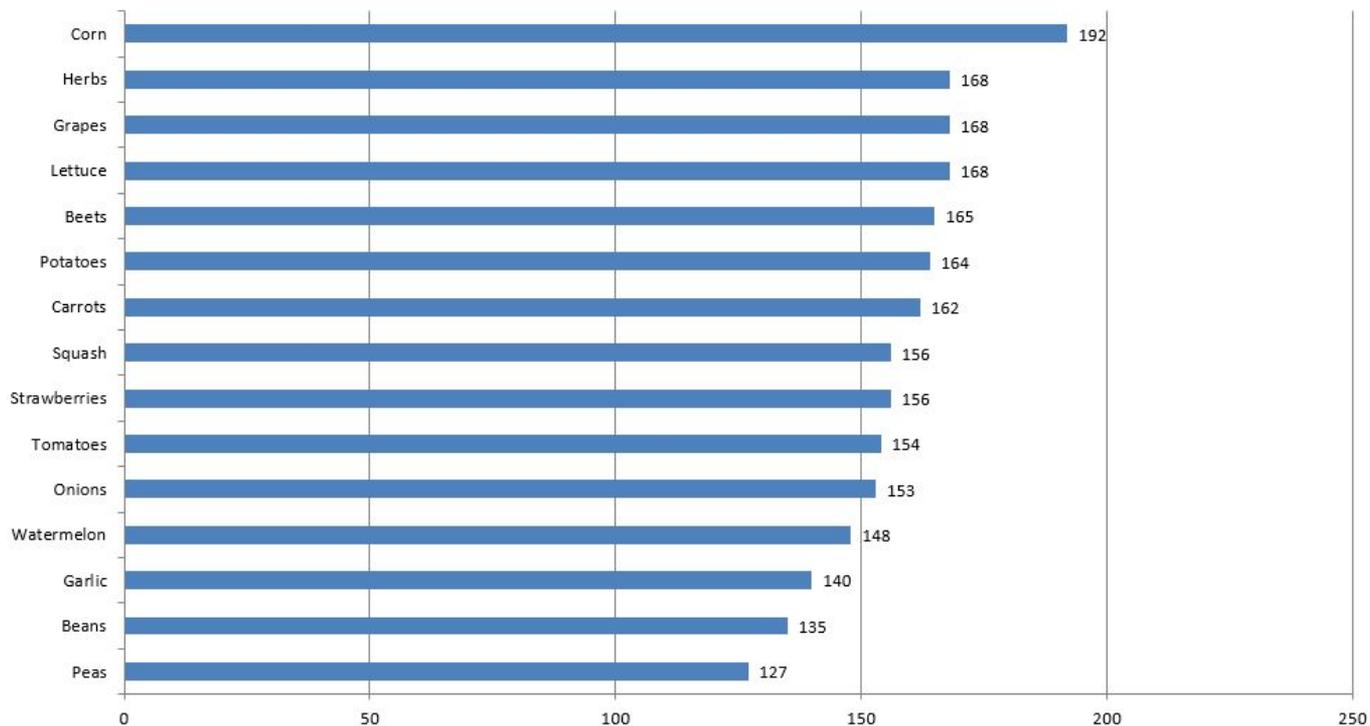
Yes	31	27.7%
No	35	31.3%
Maybe	46	41.1%

23. I would be interested in paying for "You Pick" produce at the farm and/or volunteering in exchange for produce



Yes	67	59.8%
No	16	14.3%
Maybe	29	25.9%

**24. What are you most interested in having the farm group grow if we were limited to 4-5 crops: (Higher number is Higher Priority\*\*)**



# COMMENTS

- Raspberries would be easy.
- Trails should be treated for goat heads in areas where they currently thrive.
- So excited about the coming bike area! Really think it will be an awesome amenity for the community and a great way for the neighborhood kids to spend their time!
- It would be nice to see an adequate trail circumvent the properties at the very top of Town Ridge Road and connect down to the watertower trail (road to orchard and retention ponds). Additionally, it would be nice to see improved trails near the watertower, and connecting to Seaman's Gulch. Also, be sure to create family friendly work/trail maintenance parties so the kids can see for themselves what a difference their contributions make.
- I wouldn't be opposed to trail closures and signage when the conditions call for it to protect the trails. Horses leave enormous postholes that are difficult to navigate and destroy the trails even more than a bike or foot traffic. Closing upper Currant Creek might be necessary.
- We are in support of a kids pump track/bike park. Our kids have volunteered hours helping to build and maintain the Eagle Bike Park and having one here would be an invaluable asset to our own community. The kids could help design, and build and maintain the area, and take pride in their work.
- It would be great seeing a new trail loop from the summit of Redtail back down to Current Creek, as well as building a connection off Redtail to Avimor.
- The goat heads on the trails leading into the Community Farm are out of control, especially along the service road. When Colton Tippetts was the Town Manager he would have someone come out and till the service road.
- I use the trails a lot (anywhere from 5-25 miles per week running/biking). They are without a doubt my favorite thing about living in this community. My wish is for the open spaces that are intended for wildlife to have natural borders that dissuade usage and then to largely leave them alone unless absolutely necessary to comply with fire codes and/or to remove noxious weeds.
- I was thinking the other day that a large part of the entire hillside to the N. of Dry Creek Rd. looks terrible. It's obviously burned at some point (probably multiple times) and sagebrush has never has reclaimed it -- probably in large part due to noxious weeds. I'd like to see the neighborhood put some money towards restoring that hillside so it looks more like the one to the East of Cartwright where Chukar Butte Tr is.
- It would be nice to see the neighborhood donate the space to build a reasonable parking spot for people using the Chukar Butte trail. I hope that's in the works.
- I hope there are already plans in the works to connect with the new construction going on to the East. I haven't seen their master plan, but it seems like it should/would be a natural extension of the trail systems and probably would support their open space plans as well.
- Thank you for putting this survey together and for your time and effort with the Open Space Committee!
- THUMBS UP FOR A FLOW TRAIL!!!!
- I would exercise some caution in building too many new trails. Weatherproofing some key stretches for wet conditions, like putting rock down on the short trail section between Deer Path and Sage Creek, would be nice provided the cost is not too much. Perhaps the HSTA buys the rock and gets it delivered and residents could spread it on the trail? Other trail spots that hold moisture longer could perhaps be identified and improved with either a shovel or the addition of some sand or pebble/rock.

- I think that the open space directly behind and between the deer path homes and sage creek homes is ugly. It would be nice for the weeds to be controlled on a regular basis and for some grass add wildflowers to be planted.
- Can you please give an update on the parking lot for the new trail? Previously there was a meeting where we learned about the proposed locations. The new trail is in and people are just parking on the side of the road because there isn't a parking lot for them to use.
- I would only be interested in the garden IF it were continued to be farmed in adherence to ORGANIC principles.
- The concept of all trails being on leash is ridiculous people with dog issues should not be allowed to dictate policy negatively impacting the majority of the people. Educating people what can not share trails should be a priority. In addition individuals should not dictate development or lack of development of trails that they do not agree with because they impact their homes. The decision should be based on the community needs while regarding the individual's position on the topic.
- I only support a single use trail for a downhill flow bike trail for safety reasons.
- Wanted to clarify I'd be interested in farm/orchard only if kept pesticide-free.
- Regarding the community garden the information in the past seems to be a secret. I never fully understood the garden even after living here four years. Would love to see more community garden in action and what about local farmer's market? Another idea would be using the local produce at the Merc, if they wanted to purchase or help in the garden.
- Bicyclists fly down the trails and come around the corners way too quickly
- Please keep the open space OPEN. No unsupervised children. Dogs on leashes at all times.
- I would LOVE to see the HS Farm brought back to life. However, I would first like to hear how the soil issues will be remedied. I would also like to know if this will continue to be an organic field (not necessarily certified organic, but maintained organically) And if so, what will the water source be? I would not be interested in eating produce from crops watered with re-claimed water.
- No one follows the leash rules. I've been bit twice. And told " oh my dog has never done that before". I didn't have a hotdog in my pocket and the next dog that bits me is going to have problems.
- We need to maintain open space including protecting privacy and wildlife. We are hikers, but adding new trails could impact privacy, open space and wildlife. Hiking opportunities exist already nearby and in HS. A consideration is also property values. Keep new trails away from properties especially those that would lose privacy and open views. A comprehensive plan should be considered or devised to avoid short term pitfalls.
- Can't wait to see the new bike area! What a great thing for the neighborhood!
- Great job on the trails. My concern is with all of the green grass. Is it really necessary to irrigate all of these areas or could other less water intensive options be found.
- Please keep everything as natural as possible and allow dogs off leash
- Having trail work day on same day (Sunday) at same time means we'll never make it. I know it's hard to find a day amenable to everyone, but wanted you to know we'd love to help out but cannot on Sundays midday.

- We are new to HS and don't really have much to offer yet than encouragement!
- The open space, both the HSTA and Ridge to Rivers trails, have been an essential and unique quality to our planned community and are a key reason we chose to live here. There ongoing maintenance and taking opportunities to add or improve them are important to the character of the community. I primarily use them for hiking with my dog and mountain biking. The recent addition of the R to R Chukar Butte and Peggy's trails etc have been a phenomenal way of linking our trails with other areas expanding options for riding & hiking without having to drive somewhere! I strongly support the idea of creating other linkages to areas such as Avimor (which you can ride to via some roads) and the Seaman's Gulch area. I also support keeping the trails non-motorized and multi use and do not support creating specific trails for hiking, biking, etc. Overall I think folks are polite and get along even if doing different activities. I think the wetlands are critical for many reasons including habitat for wildlife and water quality. Last summer our landscaping company completely mowed down an area along dry creek and I wasn't sure if this was intentional or a mistake but I do not support it. I would support VERY SELECTIVE cutback of cat tails if they are creating issues for homeowners or water flow issues but personally I have not noted this issue. Although I don't personally have interest in the farming areas I support the farm ideas if they are done organically and no pesticides are used since I wouldn't want those being used within the community. We live in the neighborhood and so wildfire at our location per se is not likely but I recognize the risk for those who have homes in the hills. I believe it is their responsibility to have built properly with fire wise guidelines in place but do support community education regarding the issue. Managing noxious weeds and encouraging native plants will help with wildfire risk as well as improving habitat for wildlife and I support doing what we can, such as having the goats, to address this issue.
- The biggest threat I see to the open space are irresponsible dog owners allowing pets to roam off-leash. I hike, walk and run the trails with my dog, on leash, and we have regular (about 1-2 times a week) encounters with uncontrolled dogs. Just yesterday, a golden retriever came sprinting toward us; he turned out to be playful, but I shouldn't have to worry about how I'm going to protect myself and my dog from a potentially aggressive, unleashed dog. The owner caught up to the dog (eventually) but had no control over the animal. It was not a case of an escaped dog, they were on a "walk".
- The amount of dog waste along the trails is also a concern. It's everywhere and I even see waste bags that owners have used, then discarded in the bushes.
- This is an exciting topic to be bringing back to the table and an important aspect of the original vision of our wonderful community. I think, for us, it is just the significant paradigm shift required to change habits and routines to truly support and grow these programs.
- There needs to be a comprehensive plan developed for parking to access the HSTA and Ridge to Rivers trails including designating actual parking areas and discouraging access to parking (signs or other deterrents) where it is not desired. Especially, the Chukar Butte trail where folks are parking on the shoulder of N Cartwright and sometimes down below on Dry Creek. There had been talk of a parking lot at the junction of Dry Creek and N Cartwright. Perhaps this should now be considered?
- Not sure if the goats will prove effective. We'll have to see if the plants don't just simply root sprout in the spring. Also, the Medusa head should be grazed early before it goes to seed if we have any chance of getting ahead of it. I hate chemicals but we might have to use some initially to get ahead of the weeds....

- Would like to see weed trimming by goats or crews before they go to seed in the late spring. Need trimming between wetlands and homes on lower Schick's Ridge, North of Humphries.
- The farmhouse deserves more attention and HS money
- Managing the farm land and open space is very labor intensive and we appreciate everything the Open Space and HSTA has done to keep it up. Our answers to the survey questions are not meant in any way to be critical as we know there is only so much time and financial resources available. We would like to see lavender planted heavily and perhaps an annual lavender festival; as well as a lady bug day. My husband and I have spent thousands of hours volunteering in community for about 8 years serving on the Open Space Committee for many years; getting our community certified as a National Wildlife Habitat community; as well as being heavily involved in the Farm. We haven't been volunteering now as we feel we've given our time and perhaps it's a good time for the younger, newer folks to step in. We appreciate everything you all are doing.
- Is anyone checking the trees along the creek to make sure they don't topple over or drop giant limbs on our heads? I hope so.
- Could the pond be made bigger? Fishable? That would be nice.
- Is erosion a problem on the south side of the HS wetlands? It looks like it.
- Should we start our own nursery for native plants to improve open spaces? I love sagebrush and it seems like there could be more.
- I have heard that new trailheads in Rolling hills along sage creek are proposed but i would not support it. There is enough car traffic with the existing trailheads and access is sufficient. I would support more signage to remind residents not to mountain bike when the trails are wet as that seems to cause most of the erosion along with the horse marks
- Haven't really lived here long enough to have a strong opinion on some of these questions.
- Regarding the Dry Creek riparian area: Too much plowing recently which will result in decreased vole and mice numbers and ground-cover loss for game-birds. Kestrels, Owls, Hawks, fox, weasel and coyotes rely on them!! Hopefully the ground is being restored with beneficial plants?
- Please manage the corn field, wherever it may be, so as the corn remains on the ground through mid-April. It is well appreciated by the ducks, geese and deer.
- Please do not close off trail access to the creek area except for horses perhaps but rather maintain it in its natural state as is..... downfall cleared so trails are not re-routed by users, no gravel or benches. Clean up and discourage fort-building (except perhaps in a designated area?). Address the "gang" of teenagers with bb-guns currently roaming along the creek (7 kids seen Saturday with 5 rifles). In addition, there is a lot of plastic-pellet gun use and the pellets that litter the area.
- A lot of trees were cut by ID Power last year to clear power lines providing power to the Farm house. Long-term how about considering underground utilities and removing the unsightly poles and tree-cutting they require?
- The foothills along Dry Creek rd. has had off-road jeep use during the spring mud-season several times in the past. Let's block off and discourage their entry. The tracks climbing to the hilltops are very unsightly and linger for years.

- Community trail like Meadow Trail are well-used but need a more sustainable surfacing.
- Thank you for your efforts.. it is a a large part of why we live here!
- Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I think residents are very courteous when it comes to their dogs, keeping them on leash and out of their neighbor's yards. It would be nice if, during some of the email communications, you could tell all residents that the Idaho Humane Society recommends that all cats be kept strictly indoors at all times. Not only is this healthier for the cats (average lifespan of indoor vs outdoor is about 15 vs 5 years) but cats kill billions of birds and mammals each year, even well-fed house cats. And here, we have ground-nesting birds such as quail, ducks, and blackbirds. Plus, cats dig up flower beds and poo in them. People who would never think of letting their dog into their neighbor's yard don't realize that when they let their cat out, the cat goes anywhere, including in neighbor's yards. Legally, the cat is trespassing. Legally, a pet cat, pet mouse, or pet horse are all the same. Would you let your horse into your neighbor's yard? No, of course not, and because cats climb fences, the only way to keep a cat secure is to keep it indoors. This comes from a cat lover whose indoor cat lived to be 19 years old. (And whose childhood cats were all let out by her parents and were all eaten by coyotes or run over by cars). Thanks!