

SAVE THE BACKCOUNTRY WILDERNESS!

right idea, wrong location

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Did you know??

The Douglas County Commissioners have proposed to develop part of the **HRCA BackCountry Wilderness Area** into a “Regional Park”?? Recently, an application was put in to fund a **\$250,000 (\$1,250 per acre) feasibility study** for this location with no information to support it. We find that the short and long term implications to both the community and to the wildlife are completely unacceptable! Therefore, we are charging an effort and demanding the commissioners to **vote NO** to funding this study and wasting taxpayer dollars. Alternatively, we would like to see the County use that money to find another, more suitable location for a development of this scale.

Why is this a problem?

- Historically, the residents of Highlands Ranch have shown that they want this land to **remain as open space** and at most developed for passive recreation.. (HRCA Survey 2011, 2016)
- This proposal is for a **regional park** that by many standards resembles a **sports complex**. The inclusion of large indoor facilities such an Olympic size swimming pool, batting cages, and state of the art training facilities, along with paved roads, parking lots, and lit sports fields pushes this beyond the needs of a regional park and beyond the needs of this community.
- This land has a huge environmental impact on both wildlife and the land with zero consideration for the **protected Golden Eagles** nesting nearby. Other wildlife include a herd of elk, deer, cattle and other birds of prey.
- There are **other parcels** of land available for development within Douglas County. The commissioners chose land with the **highest environmental impact**.
- This park is to be funded and managed by **private partnerships**, yet Douglas County is asking the **taxpayers** to fund the study for these for-profit private entities.
- This parcel is surrounded by 1000’s of acres of the HRCA Backcountry Wilderness and Daniel’s Park. Any development beyond passive recreation will affect the surrounding wildlife with air, light and noise pollution.
- There are two other similar parks breaking ground in the next 2 years in **Lone Tree** and **Sterling Ranch** that will adequately serve the Highlands Ranch area.
- There will be an increase in **traffic and potential for crime** in our community. The majority of athletes will not be local to our area and this influx will put a strain on our emergency resources, as well as potentially putting our **children at risk**.
- This park is intended to attract national and regional tournaments. There are no amenities, hotels, VRBO’s in the area and no room to build more or to add new infrastructure.

How can you help?

GO to our website and follow these steps: 1. Write emails of opposition to the commissioners NOW, then frequently and often. 2. Call the commissioners’ office telling them that you **DO NOT** want your taxpayer money funding private organizations! 3. Sign our petition of opposition. 4. Follow our FB page for more information! 5. Donate to our Go Fund me! 6. Voice your opinion at a Town Hall Meeting. 7. Get involved as a volunteer.

