

Memo

To: Ken-Caryl Ranch Open Space Committee

CC: Chris Pacetti, Community Manager

From: Sean Warren, Open Space Manager

Date: 7/10/2015

Re: Assessment of rare plant occurrences along the proposed upper Cougar Trail alignment

Gary Norton (GN) and Sean Warren (SW) visited the proposed, alternative alignment for upper Cougar Trail on two separate dates (6/21/15 and 6/3/15 respectively) to survey for rare plant occurrences. GN was able to survey the entire alignment and SW focused on sections in the upper part of the alignment.

Rare plant surveys were also conducted along the initial proposed alignment on May 19, 2014 and July 8, 2014 by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program which found occurrences of Red-stemmed Spring Beauty (*Claytonia rubra*, Clru). This is the main plant species of concern in this area. Despite the fact that Clru was found in the area in 2014 and that Cougar Design Team member, Dan Mullins, stated seeing occurrences of Clru while performing design work during the spring of 2015, staff did not find any occurrences of Clru along the alternative alignment during this June, 2015 rare plant survey.

In addition, SW looked for habitual raptor perches in snags and rock outcrops along the upper alignment and the north-south running ridge forming the eastern side of the hidden valley but none were found.

This assessment is simply a report of staff observations regarding rare plants and raptor use in the project area and should not be interpreted as a recommendation for, or against implementing the project.