

Miranda Benson2

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**From:** Ryan Howser  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 7, 2024 11:29 AM  
**To:** Miranda Benson2  
**Subject:** FW: request to El Paso CO Planning Commission for Black Forest trails protection and planning

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**From:** johnrtrcka@gmail.com <johnrtrcka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:35 AM  
**To:** Ryan Howser <RyanHowser@elpasoco.com>  
**Subject:** RE: request to El Paso CO Planning Commission for Black Forest trails protection and planning

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Hey Sir, thanks for your quick reply!

I support owner/developer rights as long as they preserve the large lot precedent in the area. I do ask for planning commission support toward incorporating legal rights-of-way in developments to preserve access to historical trails and to provision connecting trails for access to public open space.

I don't know all the details regarding the application you referenced below, but from my cursory review it looks like something I would support. Tho, I have to say I'm disappointed to learn that access to my sons' trails in this vicinity is currently blocked.

I like the Black Forest Trails Association (BFTA) plan for trails in this area.

Thanks for your consideration and support in this area,  
John

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**From:** Ryan Howser <[RyanHowser@elpasoco.com](mailto:RyanHowser@elpasoco.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:13 AM  
**To:** [johnrtrcka@gmail.com](mailto:johnrtrcka@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** RE: request to El Paso CO Planning Commission for Black Forest trails protection and planning

John,

Thanks for your email. I would like to make sure your comments are acknowledged. Is this in reference to today's hearing regarding case no. MS206 for the subdivision plat for Forest Heights Estates? Are you wishing to express opposition or support for this application?

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**From:** [johnrtrcka@gmail.com](mailto:johnrtrcka@gmail.com) <[johnrtrcka@gmail.com](mailto:johnrtrcka@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:10 AM  
**To:** Ryan Howser <[RyanHowser@elpasoco.com](mailto:RyanHowser@elpasoco.com)>  
**Subject:** request to El Paso CO Planning Commission for Black Forest trails protection and planning

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Mr. Howser and members of our El Paso County Planning Commission,

I'd like to respectfully submit my request to the El Paso County Planning Commission to ensure natural areas are protected. As an almost 20-year resident of the Black Forest area of Colorado Springs, I am convinced that what makes our region and county so great for its current and future residents is its natural beauty and the access we all have to the land and viewsheds that realize the enjoyment of that beauty. I feel connected to the land. It inclines me to imagine those who've gone before shaping the history we are invited explore and learn from. Such reality amplifies my appreciation for our existing open spaces and my desire to seek protecting and caring for them.

Two of my three Eagle Scout sons built access trails in the Black Forest near Forest Heights Circle and Meadow Glen Lane. This service enabled my boys and their troopmates to give back to our land and neighbors, internalizing their appreciation for the trails and open spaces we have, and our need to preserve them. These trails served dual purpose: 1) facilitate community access to open spaces and 2) improve emergency ingress/egress to areas with limited access.

I'm afraid that there are forces in our community solely driven by profit (often time in-excess), and that those voices end up as the only ones heard by government officials such as yourselves. Please know that there is a silent majority here in El Paso County that needs leaders who stand up and fight to preserve the precious open spaces we have, being a champion for less when it comes to development. As we all know, people are more important than dollars.

Very Respectfully,

John Trcka  
4970 Sierra Ridge Trail  
Black Forest, Colorado Springs, CO 80908  
719-502-1094