

Dear Pitkin County Commissioners and Pitkin OST,



Glassier Management Plan is being updated by the public for comment – (August 3rd – August 31st)

The Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council is appreciative of the “Glassier Equestrian Trail” with excellent truck and trailer parking.

Thank You!

For the NEW PLAN being released by Pitkin OST for FINAL comment in October, please consider the comments and suggestions in this document to make the Glassier Open Space even better. We want to insure that the Glassier Equestrian Trail remains for horseback riders and hikers only. Recently bikers expressed an interest in making our Equestrian Trail an uphill bike route. Don't let this happen! Please stay true to your commitment for one of the only horseback and hiker trails in the valley.

Earlier this week a story in the Aspen Times further explains the situation.

<https://www.aspentimes.com/news/pitkin-county-explores-whats-next-with-key-midvalley-open-space/>

Glassier Equestrian Trail – For Horseback Riders and Hikers only

Pitkin County acquired the Glassier Open Space in 2014 and completed a plan for the property in 2015. **Equestrian Parking** at Hooks Spur Lane was completed in 2016, with a **soft track equestrian trail along the Rio Grande Trail** and leading to the “**Glassier Equestrian Trail.**” The gates on the lower Glassier Open Space property are horseback rider friendly with easy open and close latches. We thank Pitkin County OST for our equestrian parking and for constructing this excellent, well maintained switchback, horse and hiker only trail. The trail footing is very good. The width and incline of the trail is measured and enjoyable.



Intersection of Rio Grande Trail & Glassier Trail



Horses & Hollyhocks on Glassier Open Space Land



Through the open gate onto Glassier from the Rio Grande.

When we ride across our open space lands and venture on horseback into our surrounding high country, we continue the Western Heritage traditions; for it was on the backs of mules and horses that this West was settled. Thank you for continuing to protect some special places for horseback riders, hikers and our fragile declining wildlife to have respite.



Glassier Equestrian Parking



Soft track for horses & hikers
next to Rio Grande Trail



Trail on Glassier OST



Multi use trail crossing
Glassier OST to the Glassier
Equestrian hiker horseback
only trail



Your voice is important –
Please thank Pitkin County OST &
Commissioners.



Trail Head - Ready to ride



Excellent footing on the trail



Sharing the trail with like minded
Recreation Lovers.



Entering BLM –
Crown Jewel Horse Trail
from Glassier Equerstrian Trail

Here is a photograph of Glassier:

GLASSIER OPEN SPACE Management Plan Highlights

AGRICULTURAL LEASES

6 agricultural lease areas were established, covering a total of 163 acres of historically productive irrigated land. This land has been leased to local farmers and ranchers for crop production and/or small animal husbandry.

TRAILS AND RECREATIONAL ACCESS TO THE CROWN

Glassier Open Space offers hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian access to the federally managed lands of the Crown. Two distinct trails have been created to keep mountain bikers and equestrians separate. Hikers may use both the mountain bike and equestrian trails.

No motorized uses are allowed.

Dogs are not allowed anywhere on Glassier Open Space or Trails.

A seasonal closure is in effect from December 1 to May 15 to protect wildlife.

GLASSIER FISHING ACCESS

Fishing access is allowed from on Glassier Open Space from May 16 to Nov. 31. Boat launching and commercially guided fishing are not allowed.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION & AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES

There are a number of agricultural structures on the Glassier property including the historic brick Glassier ranch house, a barn, livestock sheds, and storage buildings. The Glassier house has been stabilized since OST's purchase of the property to stem further damage, yet significant work and investment would be needed to restore the building to a useable state given years of deferred maintenance.

Horse friendly gate latches make the trail riding experience even better. The BLM/Glassier gates pictured here require two hands free from the reins in order to unlatch and re-latch them. Horses must be trained to stand still for rider's two handed maneuvers. These latches are also too low for most size horses. Recommended are the Super Latches, seen later in this document.



Recommended Improvements:

Horseback friendly latches would improve the two new BLM gates that divide Pitkin County Glassier Open Space, leading onto the BLM “Crown Jewel Horse Trail.”

Horseback riders wishing to dismount can easily open and close these soft close latches.



Horseback rider friendly latches – No need to dismount!
Thank you, Pitkin County OST.

Noxious weeds such as Thistle, Common Tansy, Hounds Tongue, Sticky Gumweed and others are growing on Glassier Ranch property. Hand digging in spring and bagging seed heads in the fall will help mitigate the problem, while supporting a healthy bee population. No chemicals are recommended.



Thistle



Common Tansy



Sticky Gumweed

Original ranch **barb wire is restricting old growth cottonwood tree trunks along the irrigation ditch**. Wire is wrapped around and growing in the trunks of these grand old trees and some trees are beginning to die at their tops. This wire should gently be removed and the trees properly pruned for better life.



Old growth Cottonwood trees compromised by old ranch barb wire

Pitkin/Glassier Parking lot has **four blue spruce trees** that were planted by Pitkin OST and **are infected with pine tip weevil**. Early spring, before the female weevils plant their eggs is the optimal time to administer a systemic treatment along with fertilizer. Thank you Pitkin County for this excellent equestrian parking area.



Pitkin OST Glassier Equestrian Parking lot has ample room for trucks & trailers.

A **Western Heritage Museum** is needed in the Roaring Fork Valley. The old brick Victorian Glassier house would make an excellent site to honor our Western Colorado Ranching traditions. A fresh farm market could be combined for the agricultural part of the old ranch. All Homestead Ranches had vegetable gardens to survive. Current growing practices of Glassier farmers would make a Living Western Heritage Museum come to life. Ranching and Farming are compatible and complement each other. We ask Pitkin County to consider making Glassier House a Western Heritage Museum.

The RFVHC is a proud partner with Pitkin County OST and the BLM, creating more agricultural open space land with access for horseback riders and hikers to enjoy a peaceful, predictable recreational experience.

The RFVHC supports the Glassier Open Space property, so that we can continue to enjoy our own back yard! In the future we look forward to an additional loop access to the Cerise Ditch Trail for connection to Nancy's Trail and the Glassier Equestrian Trail.



Farm equipment heading on Hooks Spur Lane to Glassier Open space

Respectfully Submitted,
RFVHC Board of Directors

Thanks to the RFVHC Trails Committee & Photographer "Louisa Davidson"
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