

## Converse County Park (Box Elder Canyon) trail plan

### Public open house meeting #2 - Douglas - (Oct. 7)

#### **TABLE 1:**

##### \* Priorities

- \* - Low hanging fruit – phased approach to parts of project
  - \* - Recreation, community use, ecotourism – bike events
  - \* - Trails w/diff levels of difficulty
  - \* - single track; e-bikes (pedal assist) on motorized; 20 mph limit – [no other motorized vehicles]
  - \* - hiking, biking, fishing
  - \* - Obtain access at north + south end of canyons
  - \* - traks for bike + running on top
  - \* - primitive campsites w/designated locations – no dispersed camping
  - Natural bridge caretakers
  - \* - toilets at trailhead
  - trail from top to Boxelder Creek
  - \* - Rim trails on top + connect to Duncan trailhead
- Partners – OECC; CWTA; 307 Running; CUTRS; Fat Fish Racing
- Winter use – snowshoeing

Good trails – Glendo, Duncan, CPR Mountain, Bearcat trail; Curt Gowdy  
Laramie Peak – views; variety of difficulty

Ease of trail access

Signage – trails; location; maps

#### **TABLE 2:**

Good trail systems to compare to: - Glendo (mixed ability levels) – Bridal trail + those on Muddy Mtn.

No designated camping areas for now – see how trail system goes first.

Could be used as a “Team Building” location – roughing it in a safer manner

Just like Natural Bridge – very underutilized – it is a hidden gem/best kept secret

Would be great to connect to the Duncan Ranch trails

County Park Ideas: - Benefits = Recreation – hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, camping  
Community Use – Not sure? Not for “organized” gatherings. Could create something easier plus more difficult  
Econ. Dev – Definitely! This would also help Glenrock. Tourism dollars for the County.  
Would draw hard-core kayakers, Fishermen, etc. – pull tourism from other states

Need a trail along the top – this could allow folks w/physical limitations the ability to enjoy the park

Should be a trail that goes all the way down

**TABLE 3:**

Cell service ( <i>circled</i> )	Zip lines - yes!
Develop Parking lot	Geo-cache
Develop Trailhead ( <i>circled</i> )	Hunting - limited - Draw system
Info kiosk	- hunters only between x-dates
Restroom	- archery only? -
Signage map of park & trail systems	- restricted area
Trash receptacles	
Winter use	Horse trails
Rated Trail	Suspension Bridge Platforms on both sides – places to take pictures
QR code @kiosk	Converse County Tourism – places to get picture
Composting restroom + good parking area	Good Directional Signage
ADA accessible system	Become tourism mecca for Outdoor Experiences
Downloadable maps	Ice climbing
Compare: Laramie Peak Friend Park	Future
Connect to Duncan	Lookout Bar Watering hole – when usage gets high enough ( <i>circled</i> )
Iconic Photo Spot (e.g. Teton Barn)	Winter Use
Winter Experience	Good mapping + good marketing Econ Dev. So people can understand level of difficulty of trails
- ice climbing	
- snow shoe	
- cross-country ski	
County Wide Trail System	Online disclaimer?
work/partner with Douglas, Glenrock and Tourism and Converse County Outdoor Enthusiasts	Competitive type area: Like the Cowboy tough event? (Points system)
Mountain bike element	Dogs should be allowed

**TABLE 4:**

All in favor of a trail (*circled*)

Outdoor toilet at Duncan Ranch (*circled*)

More accessibility

\* Have proper signage for trailheads on Boxelder Rd.

\*\* High priority – fishing access

\* Trails that go by the areas with the best views of the canyon

\* Coordinating hunters and hiking recreationists during hunting season should be considered

\* Would like to see a parking area & vaulted toilets

\* Formal trail head area with a toilet and information sign – with what rules there should be

\* Maybe check what the Duncan Ranch rules are, and have them be the same for

Converse County park – for horses, motorized vehicles, etc

Be aware of existing campsites avoid as much as possible

Backcountry hikes and anglers for funding source

Add to/tie to Duncan ranch

Formalize the rules on the county land. Post rules in for Duncan Ranch and a map

Talk to Amy with State Parks

People want to see the view

Outdoor toilets

Trailhead with a map (large) toilet(s)

Part of trail accessible to disabilities put on top of the ridge so can see view At least

one trail accessible to bottom to trail

Have park boundaries clearly marked

A bridge across at southern part of park.?? Possible Make it accessible for horses

Some economic development mostly community recreation

Safer trachin ever wan hotlla bridge (*child's handwriting*)

**TABLE 5:**

Table notes from facilitator (*concerns and issues expressed*):

- Wildlife, impacts. Closed in the winter to minimize contact.
- Condition of county road. Pavement needs updated
- Organized trail system to help with trash/damage, etc.
- What kind of #'s are there?
- Any expansion of Duncan Ranch trails?
- Maintenance of facilities; who will provide maintenance? Local or outside?
- Limit the amount of access; like the wildness of the area.
- Too much development
- time of year openings and closings. Seasonal stuff.

I would like to see the County Park remain Pristine, as it is. There are so few places that you can escape into God's Country, just out your back door. The untouched beauty and seclusion of Boxelder canyon cannot be duplicated or created by man. We are losing the truly natural land to so many things. If a push for trails is what the majority of the community wants, I would like to see little disturbance as possible with seasonal closures, to retain hunting access.

I would rather the landscape stay as its natural beauty for my kids and further generations. The wild challenge that is county park is what makes it what it is. My boys love the challenge. The open mountain land gets smaller and smaller that is untouched.

Important to keep wild areas near our Wyoming towns. Maybe one hiking trail on the west side from the north end to the south – one way, not a loop. Local young people talk about climbing through the canyon to hunt & bring the kill back through the canyon – what a great experience that keeps Wyoming being Wyoming -- Wyoming people being Wyoming people. But just being able to go to the top of the canyon as you can now; sit to admire and enjoy it, is wonderful. Try not to disturb that. Add a good trash bucket and keep Box Elder Canyon/Converse County Park the way it is. At most, a walking trail above the canyon on the west side. I'm a regular visitor to the park, from Natrona County, I bring visitors there, we stop to eat in Douglas. I'd like to see it stay pretty much the way it is.

No mountain bike trails. Trail system much better pushed to Duncan Ranch.