



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMO

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTED BY	DATE
Administration	Christy Doon - City Administrator	October 14, 2024

AGENDA ITEM

Tenderfoot Mountain Discussion

BACKGROUND

The City of Salida owns property north of the river, including Tenderfoot Mountain. In 2023, the City did not unlock the Mountain Heritage Parking Lot gate to Spiral Drive for the summer. Prior to last summer City staff unlocked the gate in the morning (public works) and locked it at night (police). For the last two years, the gate has remained locked to the public, primarily due to the degrading infrastructure located beyond the gate, as well as the heavy foot and bike traffic. This area has seen a substantial increase in usage over the last few years, with more single track and hiking trails, the dedication of Mountain Heritage Park and the inclusion of several utilities (broadband, cell phone, etc) at the top of road.

There are 5 distinct, but connected issues on Tenderfoot Mountain:

The Road – conditions and access

Internet Fiber Conduit (Verizon and Visionary are taking care with concrete and loose rock – standard for the area)

Electrical – boxes, panels, exposed conduit and conditions

Concrete work – Stairs and “S”

Lights – Heart, “S”, Christmas Mountain

Staff have voiced concerns that the narrow road, limited sightlines and increased non-motorized uses could cause issues for passenger vehicles. Additionally, much of the road is not wide enough for passing. CIRSA, our insurance provider, has noted that the road should conform to MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) standards, which addresses signs and traffic control devices.

Options for future operations:

1. Keep the gate unlocked
2. Lock the gate and night and consider the staffing impacts (20 minute round trip with delays in team related projects given how the PW staff approaches the work plans each day)
3. Consider opening a few days a year or on special events or requests

The City has received an assessment of the electrical service from Telemountain Engineering performed an electrical assessment, which noted that the most degraded electrical infrastructure is city-owned and used to light Christmas Mountain. It is estimated to cost approximately \$75,000 - \$100,000 to address these safety issues. In 2022, the City budgeted \$75,000 to address electrical issues. After multiple attempts, the City was unsuccessful in finding a contractor to do the work.

The concrete work is estimated to cost approximately \$75,000 to address the foundation erosion on the steps leading to the observatory and the “S”. These funds were removed from the 2025 budget due to competing priorities.



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The City has been informed by the current volunteers that, as of January 1, 2025, they will no longer be managing Christmas Mountain, including the “S” and the Heart. Staff have been working on this transition for a couple of years. There are four legitimate options moving forward –

1. Recruit and train more volunteers
2. Pay a service to put up the Tree (\$10,000)
3. Leave the tree up all year long
4. Permanently remove the tree

REQUESTED DIRECTION FROM COUNCIL

Staff are requesting direction from the Council regarding the status of the road. If Council would like the road open to vehicular traffic, are there certain times of the day, days of the week or special occasions during the year you would prefer? Should vehicle size be limited due to the nature of the road?



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Current Road Conditions





Electrical Conditions







Fiber Conditions





Concrete Conditions

