

**GEORGETOWN SILVER PLUME
HISTORIC DISTRICT PUBLIC
LANDS COMMISSION
c/o Clear Creek County
Administration**

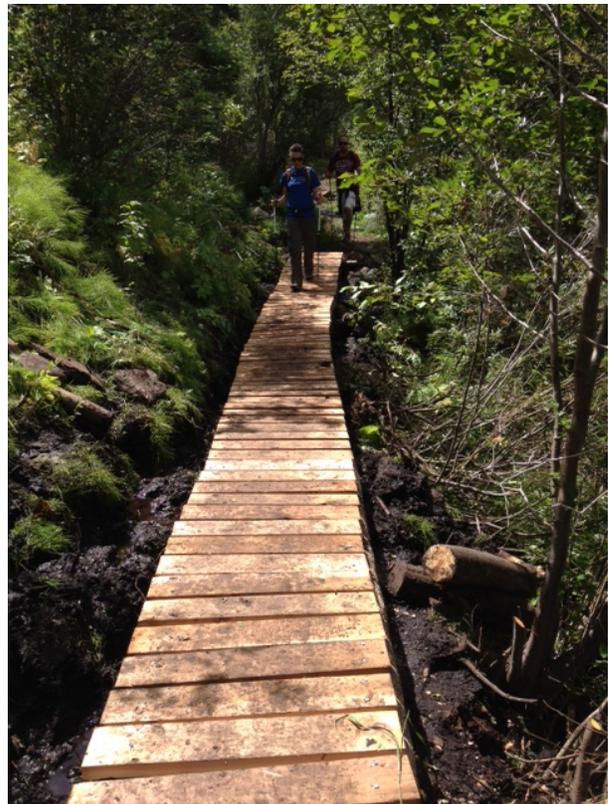
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Clear Creek County, Clear Creek Ranger
District USFS, Colorado Division of Wildlife,
Colorado Historical Society, Town of
Georgetown, Town of Silver Plume, Historic
Georgetown Inc.

**Historic District Public Lands
Commission Annual Report
2015**

The Historic Public Lands Commission held five regular meetings and summer work sessions in 2015. The major focus of the Commission was improvements on the Rutherford Trail connecting Georgetown and Silver Dale, the Santiago Mill, and future planning for low impact recreation throughout the District and the Heritage Area.

The Rutherford Trail has become a favorite hike by the creek and away from the noise of Interstate 70! The central section of the trail was quite difficult however, especially in the spring time, as it crossed an extensive bog. Thankfully, the Clear Creek County Open Space Commission was willing to sponsor a Volunteer for Outdoors Colorado two-day work project that built “puncheons”, sections of wooden walkway, to bridge difficult sections. The VOC crews, 40 strong on Saturday and 50 on Sunday, coordinated by OSC member Smoky Anderson, hauled the logs for the stringers and completed 275 feet of walkway in the two days.! What a pleasure to walk, both summer and winter. At the same time, the Town of Georgetown with funding assistance from the OSC, was negotiating with private landowners and Xcel Energy to acquire the space at the head of 3rd Street for a trailhead. Mission accomplished and trail complete.



The future recreational planning at the base of the Waldorf Road in the area known as “Upper Silver Dale” received a setback when GOCO turned down the OSC application for planning dollars. Not to be daunted the HDPLC, in cooperation with OSC, has entered into discussions about self-funding a limited planning effort to assist member agencies, Town of Georgetown, Historic Georgetown, Clear Creek County and History Colorado, in developing a coordinated approach to the growing camping and recreational uses on their lands in the area. This project will be a key area of focus in 2016. The discussions clarified the position of the two major landholders in Lower Silver Dale, Georgetown and Historic Georgetown, that camping should not be permitted along the trails in that area.

The year was difficult for the Santiago Mill in the Waldorf Basin. The USFS, owners of the Mill, completed a mineral survey of the site which indicated detectable levels of arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, manganese, silver, and zinc causing the Forest Service to place an administrative closure on the property. To make matters worse, on the field trip in June to discuss the mitigation process for the site, it was discovered that the asphalt roofing that had been placed in the fall had blown off. The new underlayment was intact but clearly a new roof surface was needed as soon as possible and certainly before the next snow fall. The Santiago Mill Stewards spent the summer assisting with the administrative closure by informing visitors of the dangers and the process that is planned to mitigate the hazard without damaging the mill. It was a tough season. Many thanks goes to those volunteers. At the same time, the Georgetown Trust applied to the State Historical Fund and received an emergency grant to replace the roof with weathered steel. The grant match was supplied by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. Silver Plume Home Services headed up the mountain in October and 120 of 125 steel panels were placed on the roof before snow drove them out. Whew! Hazard mitigation is scheduled for summer 2016. Hopefully, the Stewards will bear through another summer.

In general functions, the HDPLC was pleased to receive a copy of the recently completed Landmark District Documentation Survey which documents not only the structures and sites in the town limits of Georgetown and Silver Plume but also the major mining sites that dot our hillsides. Member organizations have a copy of this valuable document which could not have been completed without the tremendous assistance of Christine Bradley, Clear Creek County Archivist. As usual, a major function of the HDPLC is the exchange of ideas and information between members. The Commission is an unfunded independent Commission created by Public Law 103- 235, the transfer of BLM lands to member agencies. Thank you for your continued participation.

