

GEORGETOWN SILVER PLUME HISTORIC DISTRICT PUBLIC LANDS COMMISSION

c/o Clear Creek County Administration
Box 2000 Georgetown, CO 80444
Tel: 303 679 2309

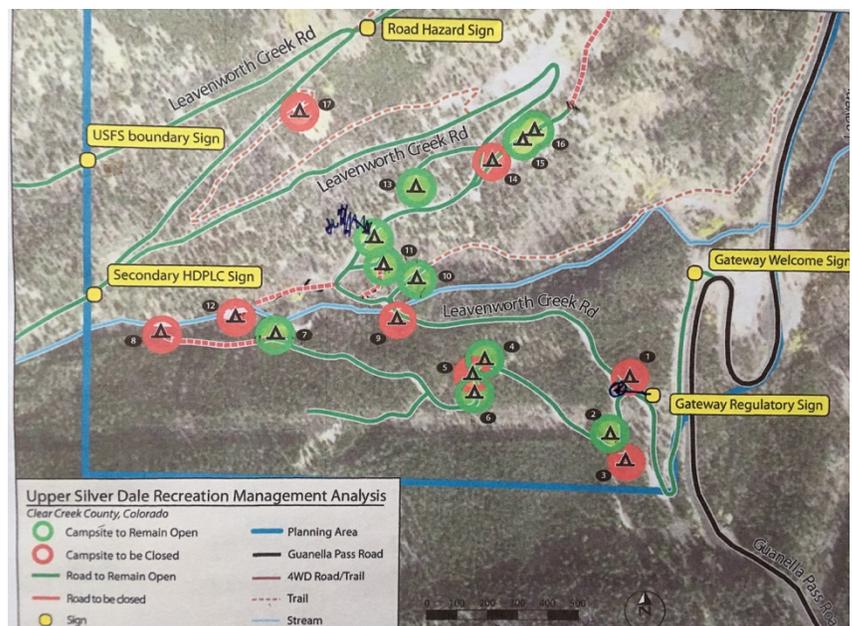
Clear Creek County, Clear Creek Ranger District USFS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, History Colorado,
Town of Georgetown, Town of Silver Plume, Historic Georgetown Inc.

Georgetown Silver Plume National Historic Landmark District Public Lands Commission Annual Report 2017

Another active year for the HDPLC! And greatly assisted by Clear Creek County Open Space Commission and the County Trails Crew. Regular meetings of the HDPLC were held on the third Wednesdays of January, March, May, September and November with field trips by members to Upper Silver Dale and the Waldorf Basin and two workdays in July with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.

Upper Silver Dale: Upper Silver Dale lies to the west of the Guanella Pass Road at the Waldorf turnoff. Member lands (CCC, HGI and History Colorado) extend through the first switchbacks of the Waldorf/Leavenworth Rd until the road meets the Argentine Central railbed from Silver Plume. This area is heavily used for social camping and will experience increased pressure as the USFS closes dispersed camping along the Guanella Pass Road. The Upper Silver Dale Management Analysis, sponsored by CCC Open Space was completed by Bill Mangle of ERO Resources and presented to the HDPLC. The report identified 22 campsites that have been in use including those at Pavilion Point.

It was recommended that 8 sites be closed because of proximity to the creek or, in the case of Pavilion Point, environmental damage. The other 14 should be signed for camping and 5 sites be built south of Pavilion Point. Signage at the entrance of the Waldorf Road and fire rings should be established. With great thanks to James Kovaly and the CCC Trail Crew, the campsites recommended for closure have been signed and closed and social access roads eliminated. The HDPLC plans to have signage and fire rings ready for the 2018 season.



Lower Silver Dale Non Motorized Recreation Area. This area, established in 1996 has grown more and more popular for general walking in the woods. Sanitation needs and location confusions became evident. The Town of Georgetown agreed to provide a year around sanolet at the parking lot. The County donated the closure materials from a site at Lawson Bridge. The CCC trail crew built it in place and it is working well!

The myriad of trails were organized into walking loops to be identified by color and names. The HDPLC has ordered a replacement for the interpretive sign to guide visitors on the trails. Many thanks to Matt Taylor of the County GIS department for creating the new map and attaching Silver Dale to the Avenza Trail Map app.



A new trail called the Anna was opened along the mountainside at the eastern edge of the recreation area. It proceeds from the Anna Claim off the Chicago Road to the northeast at a considerable distance above the valley and connects with the Sporting Times Road to create the walking loop. The trail, once accessed, is a flat walk but the approaches are steep! Trail construction was not easy and could not have been accomplished without the assistance over two days in July of the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado sponsored by the Open Space Commission. Over 60 volunteers worked the project and camped at the Silver Dale parking lot. The construction was supervised and assisted by James Kovaly, the County Trail Crew, and Frank Young and Smoky Anderson of the Open Space Commission (and HDPLC). Directional arrows and trail signs funded by the County Trails Crew guide our visitors.

Interpretive Signs: Silver Dale was not the only focus of new signage. The Georgetown Overlook sign was replaced in keeping with the Guanella Pass sign plan. Interpretive sign panels were placed by the County on HDPLC trails: Rutherford, Silver Creek and the 7:30 Road in Silver Plume. The 7:30 Road leads through an unparalleled 19th century mining landscape which is described to the visitor using QR codes leading to photographs and historical information compiled by County Archivist Christine Bradley.



Santiago Mill: Although the Santiago Mill is out of the parameters of the National Historic Landmark District, it is definitely a key State Register site in the larger Silver Heritage Area. The roof on the ore chute portion of the Mill once again came off in the winter winds of 2016/17. With funding from the USFS through the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety and the sponsorship of the Georgetown Trust, the roof was once again

rebuilt. This time it is not only held down to the top frame with hurricane clips, it is also secured to the wall studs and cabled down through the entire building. It was a cold job. Thanks to Silver Plume Home Services! By June we will know what the winter has wrought.

Future Activities: The HDPLC continues to participate in the County led Scenic Byway Committee which is charged with updating the management plans for both Mt Evans and Guanella Pass Scenic Byways. With the assistance of the County trail crew, the Commission looks forward to another year of upgrading trails in the District. Meetings are held at 9:00 am at the Georgetown Town Hall on the third Wednesdays of January, March, May, September and November. The public is welcome.