

Los Alamos Open Space Survey Data Summary **(A Report to the Los Alamos County Parks and Recreation Board)**

The Open Space Working Group (OSWG) was established by the Parks and Recreation Board (the Board) in its 2024 Work Plan to gather public input and advise the Board on policy issues relating to Los Alamos County-owned open space and trails.

The Board assigned four tasks to OSWG for FY24. OSWG developed and distributed this open space survey to address two of those tasks:

- Seek public input for the Open Space and Trails Management Plan update.
- Keep the public informed on open space and trails issues to ease public concerns, to gather public input for open space and trails issues, including specific Community Services Department (CSD) projects, and to otherwise serve as a conduit of communication between the public and the Board.

In collaboration with the non-profit organization Places & Spaces Los Alamos, OSWG conducted this Los Alamos Open Space Survey to gather public input on the importance of open space in Los Alamos County, with particular emphasis on passive open space. The survey was distributed through various channels, including community groups, online forums, and word-of-mouth. Ninety-one responses were received from neighborhoods throughout the county. Fifty-six percent of respondents resided on a property or lived in a neighborhood that borders open space.

Survey data are summarized below, with the intent of augmenting — or reinforcing — public input already received by the County for the update of its Open Space and Trails Management Plan.

Key Themes

- **Open Space Users as Multi-users**
 - Survey respondents provided perspectives of multiple user groups.
 - Nearly all respondents were hikers (95%). Only 5 did not indicate hiking as a use.
 - There was no clear-cut distinction between user groups; nearly every respondent considered themselves to be a multi-user. On average, respondents identified three interests in open space: hiker (95%), residing near open space (56%), conservationist (49%), birder/naturalist (44%), mountain biker (34%), trail runner (25%), and equestrian (9%).
 - Only 3 of the 91 respondents marked a single category of use.
- **High Value Placed on Open Space (Questions 1 and 3)**
 - 94% rated passive open spaces as “important” or “very important” to the quality of life in Los Alamos.
 - 94% agreed that open spaces are a reason they choose to live in Los Alamos.
 - 98% agreed that open spaces are important to the community's quality of life, even if people do not use them directly or frequently.
 - 98% emphasized the importance of open space to the community's health and well-being.

- **Uncertainty about Open Space Definitions and Concerns about Zoning (Questions 5, 7, 8)**
 - Many respondents found the definitions of open space categories in the County’s Development Code to be confusing or inadequate, particularly the distinction between "active" and "passive" open space.
 - Most respondents either believed that some passive open space parcels were improperly zoned for other uses (42%) or that this was a possibility (41%). They provided several examples of specific open space parcels that they felt were improperly zoned.
 - Respondents expressed concerns about development encroaching on open spaces and called for stronger protections, making it more difficult to rezone passive open space for other uses.
 - 76% felt that it should be difficult or very difficult for the County to rezone passive open space for other uses. 7% felt that it should be easy or very easy for the County to do so. 16% were neutral.
 - 67% agreed with the statement in the County’s Affordable Housing Plan, that “the County should balance community preferences for low-density residential and open space with the preference for more housing at affordable rates.” 13% disagreed with this statement. 19% were neutral or had no opinion.

- **County Management of Open Space (Questions 2, 6, 9)**
 - 44% supported the current Open Space Management Plan, 15% felt that it needed revision, and 31% were neutral or had no opinion. 10% had never heard of this plan.
 - About half of the respondents (51%) felt that the County is doing a “good” to “excellent” job in managing and protecting open space. 20% felt it "needs some or much improvement." 29% were neutral.
 - 24% felt that the County has been effective in implementing the current Open Space Management Plan. 33% felt that it has not been effective, 43% were neutral or had no opinion.

- **Support for Conservation and Restoration Efforts (Question 4)**
 - Respondents assigned highest priorities to erosion mitigation and control (93% rated it high or very high), and the health and diversity of natural wildlife and habitats (91%).
 - Other top priorities included forest thinning for wildfire protection (83% high or very high), proactive, integrated management of open space and trails with adjacent land managers (81%) and allocation of additional resources to open space management and restoration (81%).
 - 77% considered invasive species management to be a high or very high priority.

- **Communication and Public Input (Question 9)**
 - 24% felt that the County considers their input in making decisions about open space management. 39% felt that the County does not do so. 38% were neutral or had no opinion.
 - Similarly, 23% felt that the County’s public participation process for updating the Open Space and Trails Management Plan has been effective in collecting input from all user groups. 28% felt that it had not been successful, and 49% were neutral or had no opinion.
 - 11% felt that the County has done a good job of monitoring and reporting its performance on implementing its Open Space and Trails Management Plan. 43% felt that it had not done a good job. 42% were neutral or had no opinion.

Background about This Survey

Survey purpose

In February 2024, the County hired a contractor, Sites Southwest, to update the County's Open Space and Trails Management Plans (Plan Update). The Open Space Working Group (OSWG) became concerned that the primary emphasis in the contractor's listening sessions was on trails and amenities, with comparatively little attention given to the County's open space resources. Consequently, OSWG worked with the non-profit organization Places & Spaces Los Alamos to draft a survey specifically addressing open space.

The survey was made publicly available to collect the views of County residents about the County's management of its open space properties. Although this survey focused on Passive Open Space, it also included questions about Active Open Space, definitions of open space in the County's Development Code, and the effectiveness of the County's communication and public input processes.

Survey distribution

OSWG sought to ensure that input for the Plan Update was as representative as possible of the broader user community. The survey was advertised through Pajarito Trails Roundtable, lac-conservation, Los Alamos Trails Facebook page, League of Women Voters of Los Alamos (LWVLA), representatives of local hiking groups, and by word-of-mouth. It was posted on the Places and Spaces Los Alamos website at <https://forms.gle/LnR9iNBvSGbcWbLDA>.

Survey responses

The bulk of the responses (76) were collected from September 16 – 19, 2024. These preliminary survey results were submitted to Sites Southwest in time to meet its September 20, 2024, deadline for public comment prior to its preparation of the draft Plan Update.

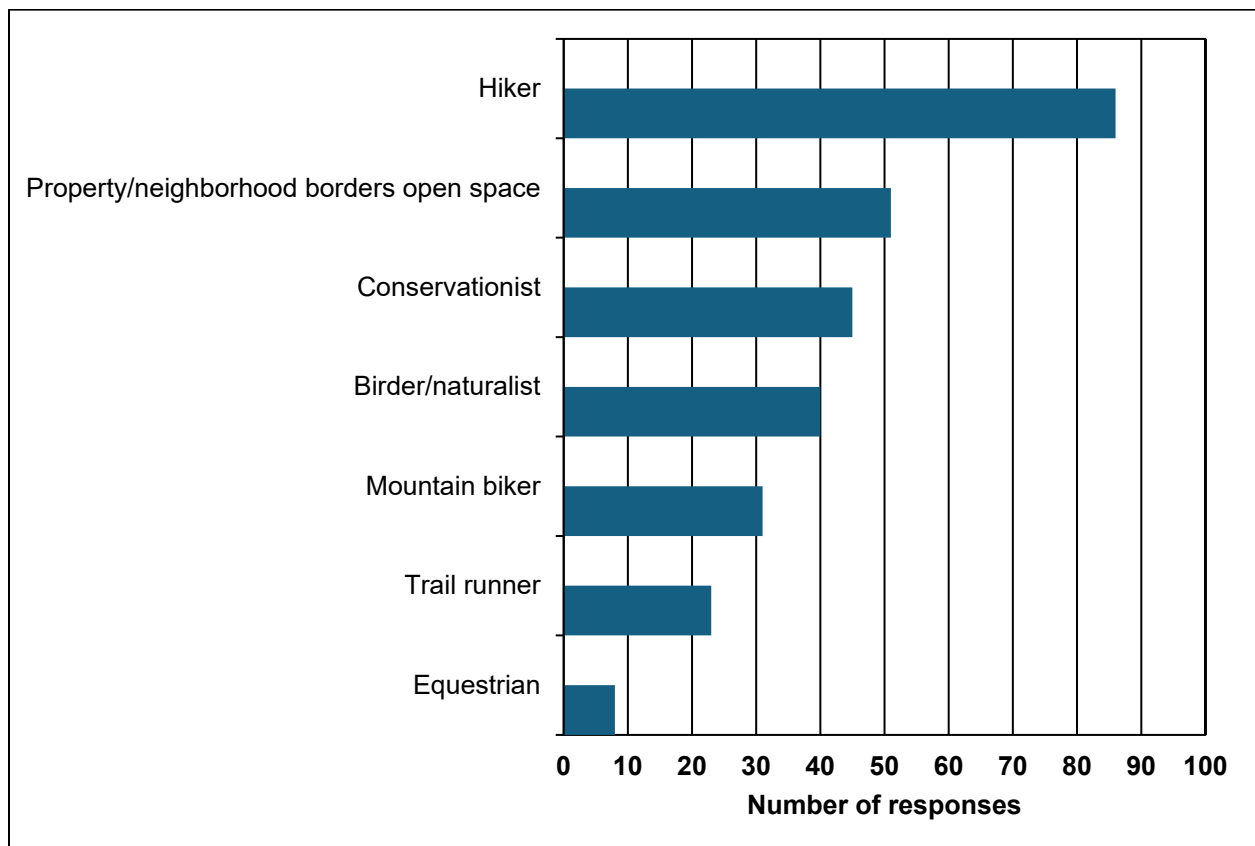
The survey link was kept open after September 19, and others were encouraged to take the survey to provide wider and more representative input to share with the Board. As of October 24, 2024, 91 residents had participated in the survey.

This final data summary report encompasses all responses and provides additional public input for consideration in the Plan Update.

Submitted by OSWG members Craig Martin, June Fabryka-Martin, Kevin Holsapple, Celeste Raffin, Janet Griego and Lise Brackbill.

Participant characteristics: What are your interests in trails and open space?
(Check all that apply)

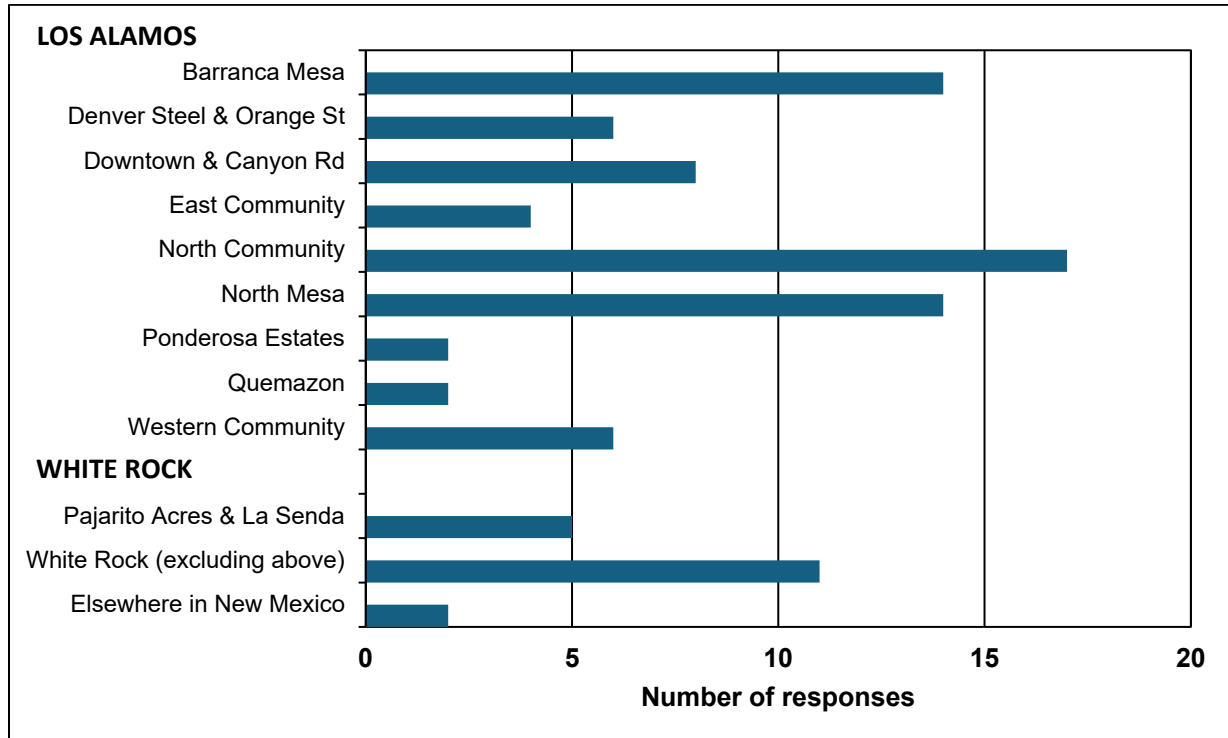
Interest in open space	Number of responses (N = 91)	% of responses
Hiker	86	95 %
Property/neighborhood borders open space	51	56 %
Conservationist	45	49 %
Birder/naturalist	40	44 %
Mountain biker	31	34 %
Trail runner	23	25 %
Equestrian	8	9 %



Participant characteristics: Which best describes where you live?

Town	Number of responses (N = 91)	% of responses
Los Alamos	73	80 %
White Rock	16	18 %
Elsewhere in NM	2	2 %

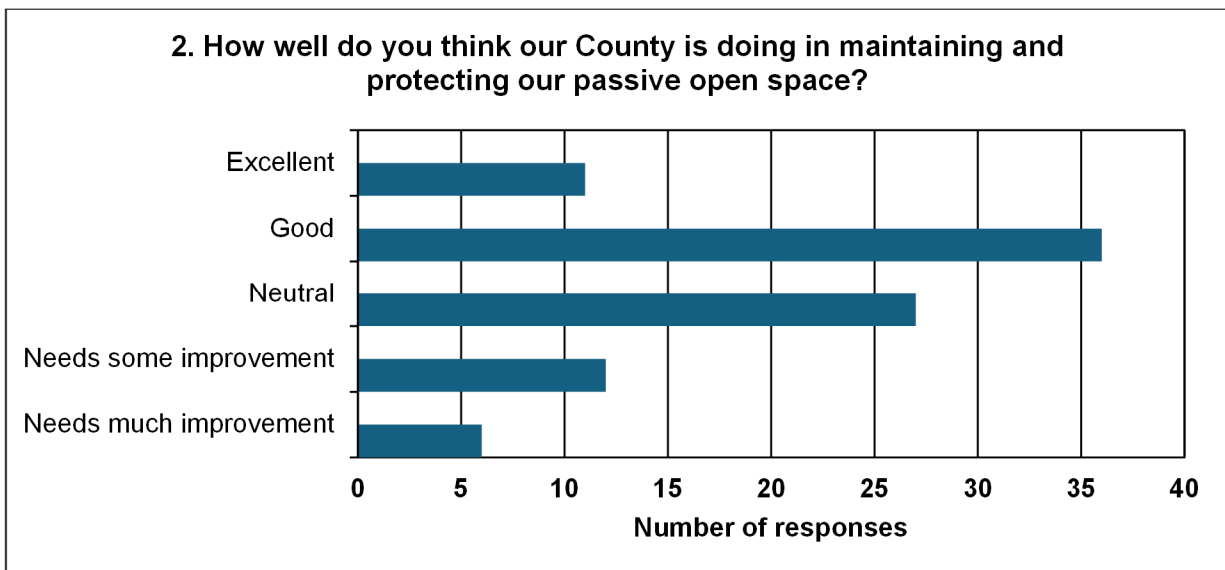
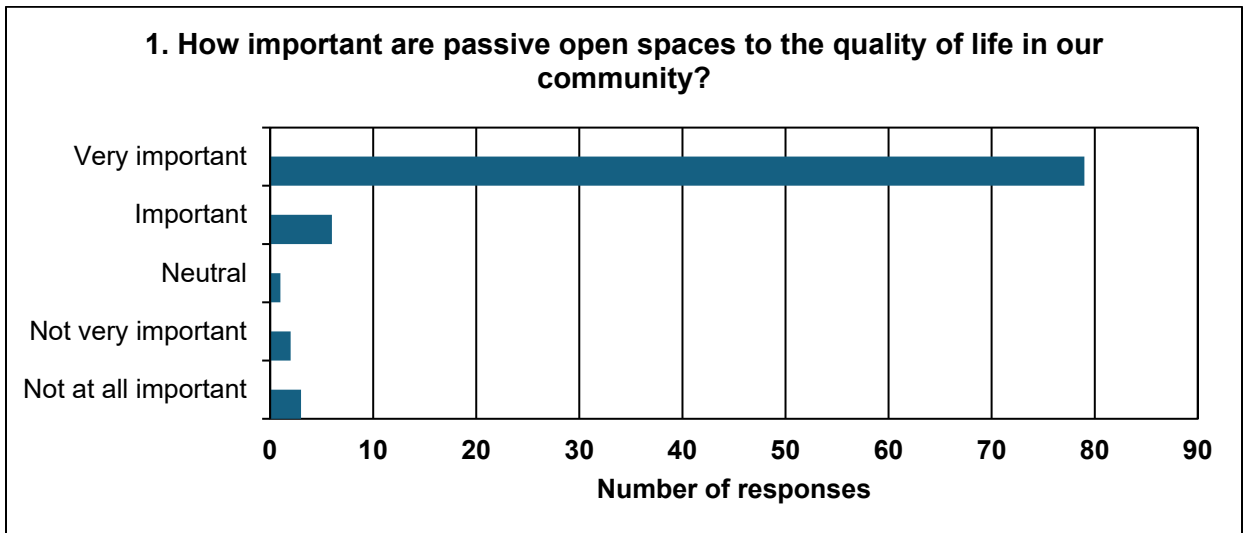
Neighborhood	Number of responses	% of responses
Barranca Mesa	14	15 %
Denver Steel & Orange St	6	7 %
Downtown & Canyon Rd	8	9 %
East Community	4	4 %
North Community	17	19 %
North Mesa	14	15 %
Ponderosa Estates	2	2 %
Quemazon	2	2 %
Western Community	6	7 %
Pajarito Acres & La Senda	5	5 %
White Rock (excluding above)	11	12 %
Elsewhere in New Mexico	2	2 %



Survey Questions

1. How important are "passive open spaces" to the quality of life in our community? (N = 91)		
Choice	Number	Percent
Very important	79	87 %
Somewhat important	6	7 %
Neutral	1	1 %
Not very important	2	2 %
Not at all important	3	3 %

2. How well do you think our County is doing in maintaining and protecting our passive open space? (N = 91)		
Choice	Number	Percent
Excellent	11	12 %
Good	36	39 %
Neutral	27	29 %
Needs some improvement	12	13 %
Needs much improvement	6	7 %



2a. Comment on your interest in trails and open spaces (*optional*)

Of the 91 respondents, 47 entered comments. Attachment 1 lists all of the responses. Most comments concerned trails but comments most relevant to open space include those listed below. *Note:* The first column is the unique ID assigned to the survey respondent.

- P05 Want open spaces to remain as open as possible in our county. To be used responsibly and conservatively.
- P07 Especially the existence of important wild plants
- P13 Open space, not high LANL salaries, is what creates the unmatched quality of life that is Los Alamos.
- P23 The undeveloped open spaces in town are the primary reason that we stayed here after retirement. Having lived in 5 houses in town in the last 65+ years, I appreciate that the proximity of undeveloped open space to nearly every place in town is utterly unique.
- P31 Adequate maintenance of existing trails and opportunities with maximum preservation of open space against further development is my interest.
- P54 It isn't just the view, though that is very important, open space is necessary to health and safety of all who live here.
- P57 Our greatest asset for residents and respectful visitors
- P60 Keeping our open spaces wild and as close to natural as possible
- P64 Ever notice how popular Ashley Pond is? People love green space and water, which we don't have lots of. However, I enjoy the golf course even though I don't golf, and the parks, and every bit of greenery I can find. Many of our trails have shade and wildflowers. These are important to many of us.
- P69 I am primarily interested in preserving our surrounding natural environments for passive use. ... Our natural environments, including both the plant and animal life, are sensitive to physical abuse and erosion, and consequent encroachment of non-native invasive plant species. The county needs to develop a clear understanding of the differences between natural environments and 'open space' as recreational units. They are not the same and should not be lumped into a single management strategy.
- P73 It is one of the most attractive aspects of living in this community.
- P77 They are the jewels of Los Alamos.
- P82 These barrier and corridor areas are vital to the health of the community, both human and non-human.

Comment 2b. What do you think are the biggest challenges facing our passive open space? (optional)

Of the 91 respondents, 61 entered comments. Attachment 2 lists all responses. The following are representative of those relevant to passive open space challenges. *Note:* The first column is the unique ID assigned to the survey respondent.

- P03 Encroaching development; community sprawl; lack of understanding of the purpose of passive open space by County decisionmakers; I am concerned that the County staff tends to view passive open space as "surplus land" for whatever they propose to do with it rather than important element of what makes our community a desirable place to live and visit.
- P06 Pressure to develop additional housing, and maintenance of integrity and health of natural spaces as population and open space use increases.
- P19 Pressure from folks who want to "develop" it into more active recreation (mountain bikes) and residential housing.
- P32 Educating the public. The specific example that I think of is the proliferation of engravings/graffiti/"artwork" that has been occurring on rocks in the White Rock Canyon archaeological zone (e.g., the Red Dot Trail), which "is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the only canyon in the United States to enjoy such a designation" (quote from the 2015 Open Space Management Plan). ... The County has a nationally significant cultural resource on the lands they manage and, as far as I can tell, are doing nothing to protect them.
- P43 Improper zoning. e.g. forested areas south of golf course should be open space passive as well as other canyon areas currently incorrectly zoned, e.g. Bayo Canyon
- P47 Encroachment or loss due to increased need for housing. Destruction of current open spaces due to lack of resources and personnel to establish and maintain trails.
- P69 My impression is that county personnel are more interested in developing our local natural areas into parks and locations to host recreational events, akin to 'paving paradise to put up a parking lot.' I don't think they are particularly knowledgeable about our local environment or the value it brings to our community.
- P72 The constant need for more development for housing & businesses can result in community sprawl. County decision makers don't seem to understand the importance of open space. Instead, they seem to view it as land available for development. Open space is valued by most members of the community as improving quality of life and making this a desirable place to live and to visit. We probably need to increase the density of residential areas to preserve our open space.
- P75 Lack of County advocate on senior management team, declining quality of habitat, unchecked spread of invasive species (e.g., non-native thistles, cheat grass along trailside), erosion, proliferation of trails, development at trailheads with associated trash, overuse & trampling.
- P76 The desire by the county government and others to "develop" the open space for economic benefits from tourism.
- P78 Pressure to develop as housing. Infrastructure maintenance projects that disturb soils in passive open space areas (e.g. digging up water and sewer breaks) and lack of requirements to reduce impacts during construction/maintenance, or to restore impacts after ground disturbance. ... Deer overpopulation. Stormwater runoff causing excess erosion and downcutting in vegetated drainages.

Comment 2b. (continued)

Invasive plant species. Lack of personnel resources to maintain existing open spaces, that are arguably our most valuable and irreplaceable county asset.

P88 (a) Development: Los Alamos has a housing crisis; there simply is no affordable housing, forcing more and more people off the Hill. Unfortunately, open space seems to always be the first go-to solution for housing.

(b) Climate Change: Our weather patterns are changing. Drought, fire, changes in our patterns of precipitation, increasing temperatures, are all affecting ecological zones in Los Alamos.

(c) Education: I think that there are many Los Alamosians who really have no idea about types of open space, how open space is maintained, options for different categories of open space, or importance of passive open space.

(d) LANL: Obviously "the lab" is the employer of the town. As a one-industry town, we are at the mercy of whatever the lab decides it wants to do. And yet the lab solution to issues largely created by the lab is "just deal with it." There needs to be a much better partnership between the county and the lab.

3. Indicate your agreement with the following statements about the importance of passive open spaces to our community:

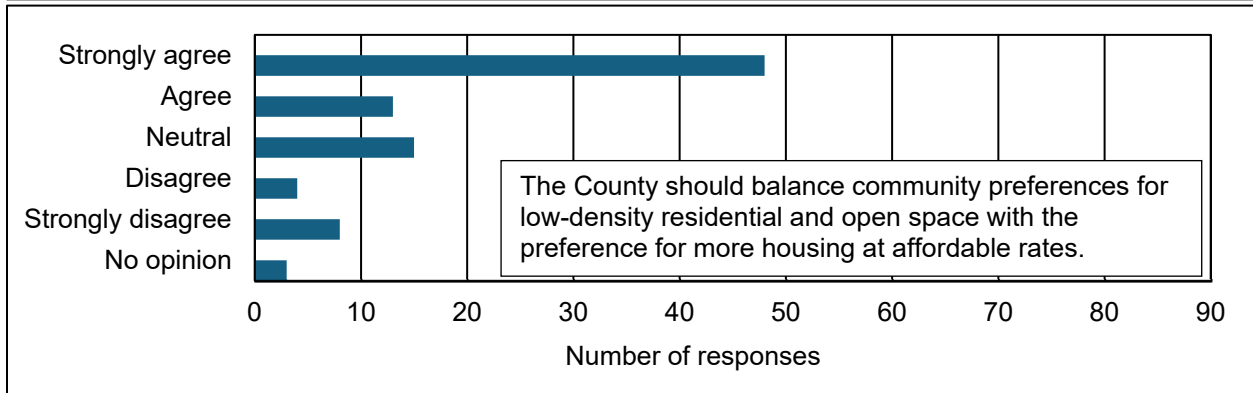
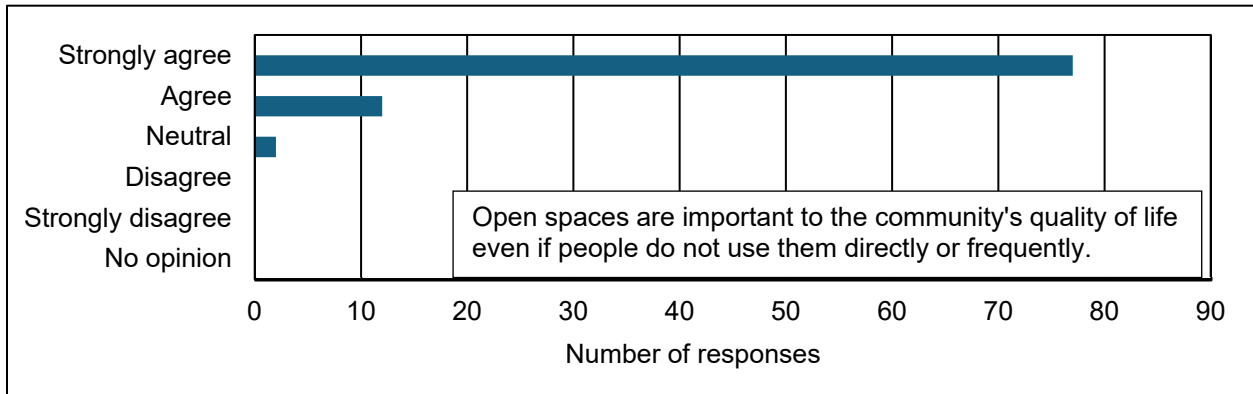
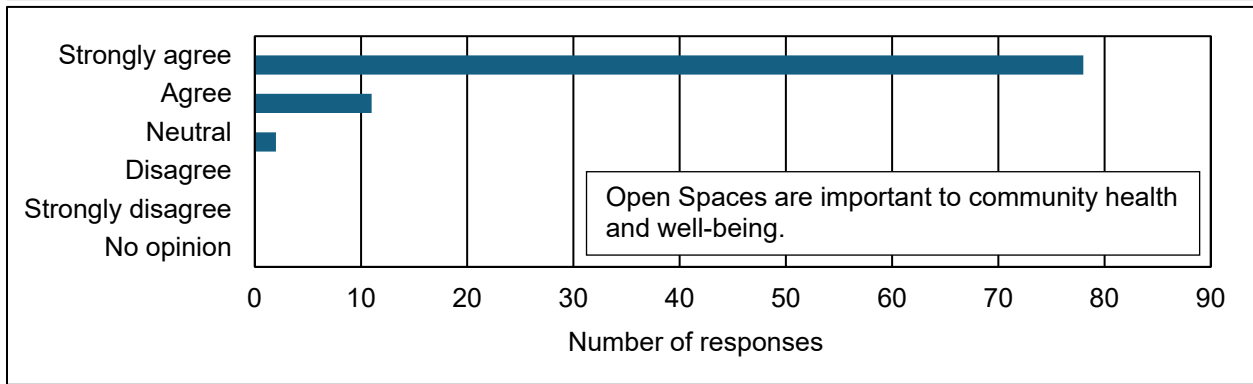
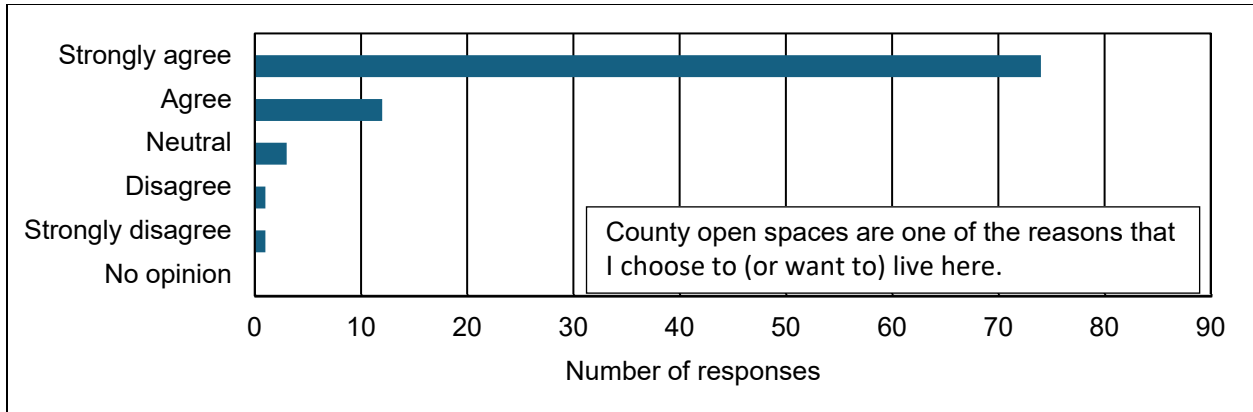
Statement	Number of Responses (N = 91)					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
(a) County open spaces are one of the reasons that I choose to (or want to) live here.	74	12	3	1	1	0
(b) Open Spaces are important to community health and well-being.	78	11	2	0	0	0
(c) Open spaces are important to the community's quality of life even if people do not use them directly or frequently.	77	12	2	0	0	0
(d) The County should balance community preferences for low-density residential and open space with the preference for more housing at affordable rates.*	48	13	15	4	8	3

*Statement taken from the Affordable Housing Plan.

Statement	Percent of Responses (N = 91)					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
(a) County open spaces are one of the reasons that I choose to (or want to) live here.	81%	13%	3%	1%	1%	0%
(b) Open Spaces are important to community health and well-being.	86%	12%	2%	0%	0%	0%
(c) Open spaces are important to the community's quality of life even if people do not use them directly or frequently.	85%	13%	2%	0%	0%	0%
(d) The County should balance community preferences for low-density residential and open space with the preference for more housing at affordable rates.*	53%	14%	16%	4%	9%	3%

*Statement taken from the Affordable Housing Plan.

3. (continued)

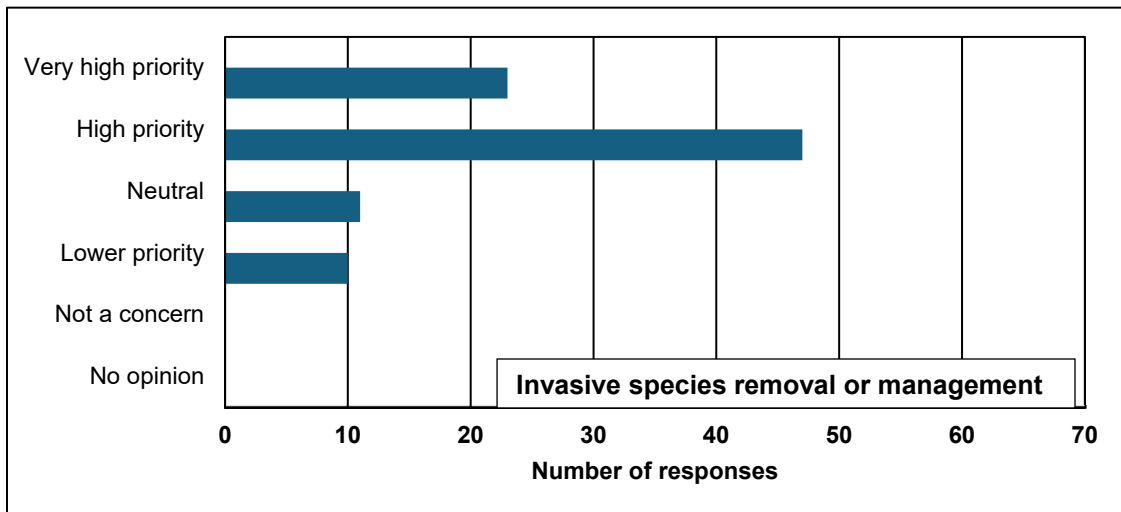
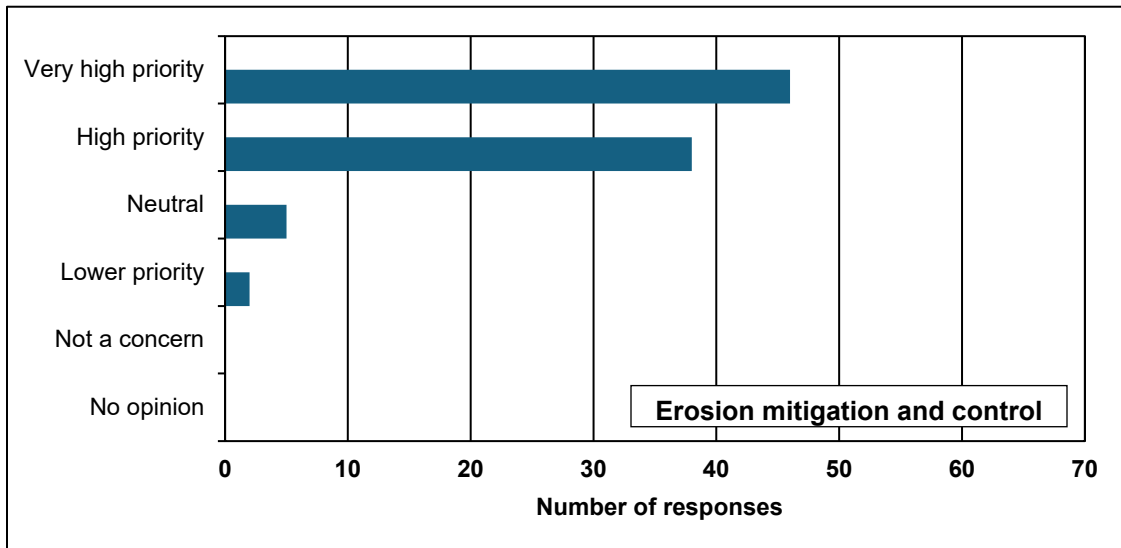
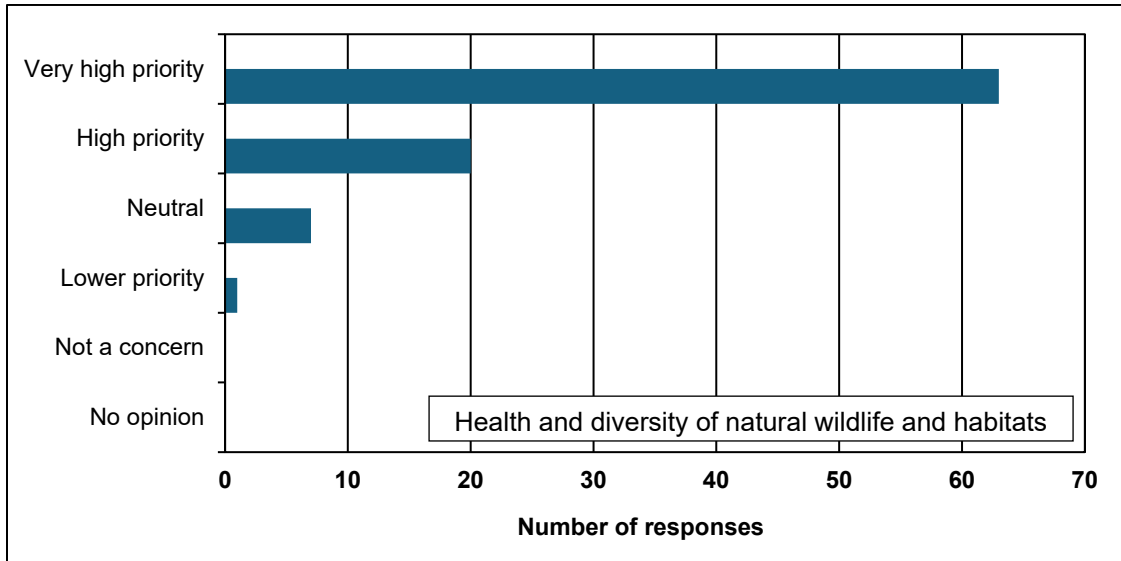


4. Please indicate your priorities for the following:

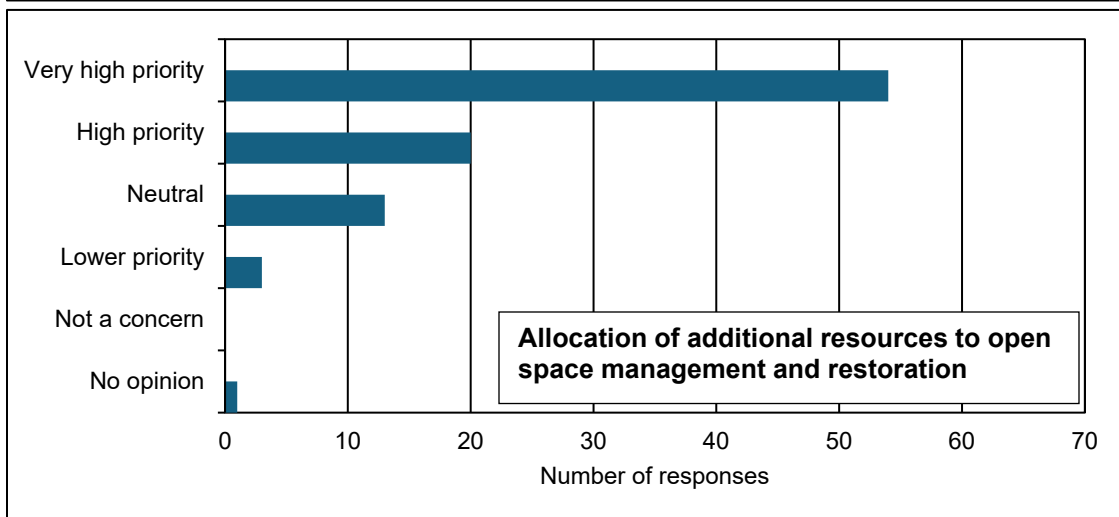
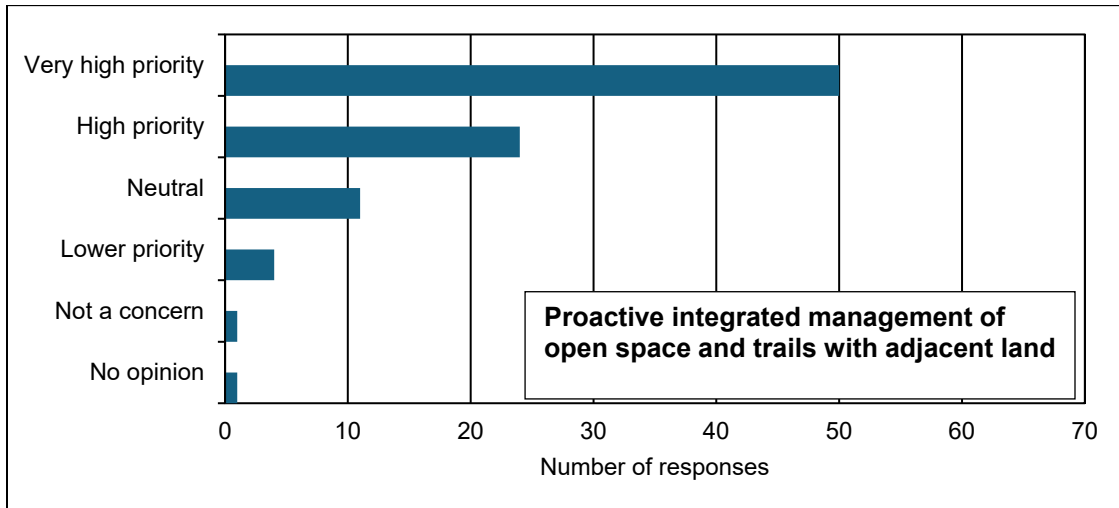
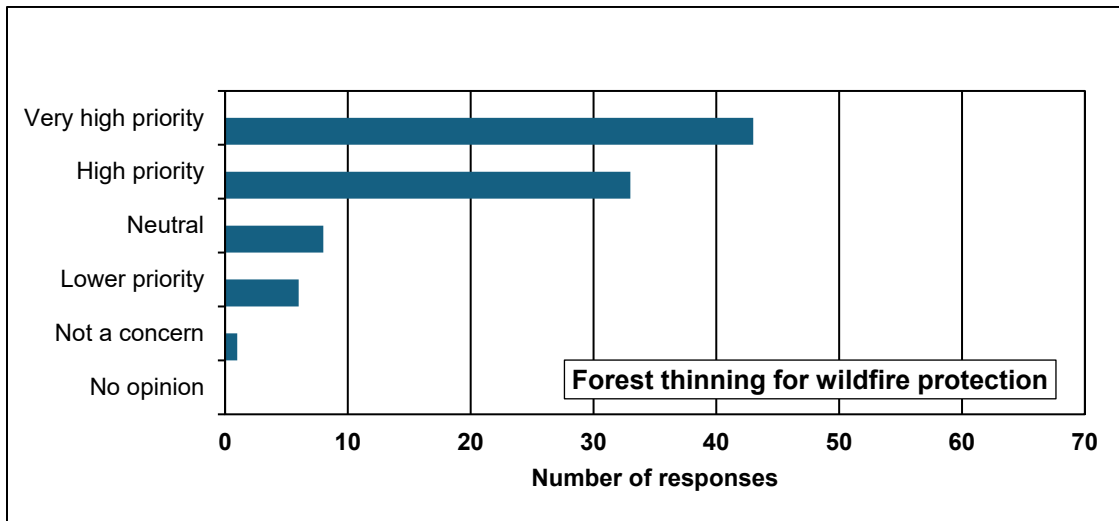
Issue	Number of Responses (N = 91)					
	Very high priority	High priority	Neutral	Lower priority	Not a concern	No opinion
(a) Health and diversity of natural wildlife and habitats	63	20	7	1	0	0
(b) Erosion mitigation and control	46	38	5	2	0	0
(c) Invasive species removal or management	23	47	11	10	0	0
(d) Forest thinning for wildfire protection	43	33	8	6	1	0
(e) Proactive integrated management of open space and trails with adjacent land managers (US Forest Service, DOE, Pueblos, National Park Service)	50	24	11	4	1	1
(f) Allocation of additional resources to open space management and restoration	54	20	13	3	0	1

Issue	Percent of Responses (N = 91)					
	Very high priority	High priority	Neutral	Lower priority	Not a concern	No opinion
(a) Health and diversity of natural wildlife and habitats	69%	22%	8%	1%	0%	0%
(b) Erosion mitigation and control	51%	42%	5%	2%	0%	0%
(c) Invasive species removal or management	25%	52%	12%	11%	0%	0%
(d) Forest thinning for wildfire protection	47%	36%	9%	7%	1%	0%
(e) Proactive integrated management of open space and trails with adjacent land managers (US Forest Service, DOE, Pueblos, National Park Service)	55%	26%	12%	4%	1%	0%
(f) Allocation of additional resources to open space management and restoration	59%	22%	14%	3%	0%	1%

4. (continued)



4. (continued)



5. Do you agree with the County's official definitions of open space zones?

Please provide comment indicating your support or recommendations for improvement.

(optional)

Excerpt from *County Development Code*

Open Space means land and water areas retained for use as active or passive recreation areas or for resource protection in an essentially undeveloped state. Los Alamos County has created several designations for different kinds of open space

- Active Open Space (OS-AO or POS-AO) means open space that may be improved and set aside, dedicated, designated, or reserved for active recreational uses and limited development.
- Passive Open Space (OS-PO or POS-PO) means open space that is essentially unimproved and set aside, dedicated, designated, or reserved for public or private use or for the use and enjoyment of owners or occupants intended for passive recreational uses.
- Park or playground (OS-PP or POS-PP) means public open space that is designed to serve public needs for recreation, and areas that serve to satisfy public needs for visual and/or psychologically pleasing spaces.
- Recreational Open space (OS-RO or POS-RO) means privately or publicly owned recreational open space, such as the Pajarito Mountain Ski Area and Camp May, designated for more active recreational use with limited recreation and tourism development.

Note: The definition of open space in the survey was taken from the definition section of the *Development Code*, not from the section defining zoning categories as was the intent. At the time that this survey was prepared, that section had mistakenly been omitted from the official *Code of Ordinances* published online.

Results: Of the 91 survey respondents, 42 entered comments. Attachment 3 lists all responses. Fifteen people (36%) agreed with the definitions. The following are representative of those who provided commentary on their response, particularly reasons for disagreeing with the definitions. *Note:* The first column is the unique ID assigned to the survey respondent.

P03 The County definitions muddle the distinct difference between conservation lands and recreational land uses like parks, tot lots, ball fields, horse stables, etc. The idea of passive open space gets watered down by calling developed recreation areas open space.

P15 No. I do not like the definition of passive open space cited above. I like this one: The Passive Open Space sub-zone is intended to protect the natural and scenic character of the County's wilderness areas for passive public recreation and public use, and enjoyment that has minimal effect on the land.

P21 Definitions need to be less broad and more defined.

P23 I think they are unclear. Active vs passive recreation? And Park implies more development and landscaping; the idea isn't captured by the designation as worded. The designations seem to overlap or have fuzzy boundaries.

P24 AO is in some instances and in some plans is antithetical to my concept of "Open Space." Ditch AO and call it what it is – PP.

P36 I would include community gardens and dog parks as part of the active open spaces. They both need improvements in town and people use them a bunch.

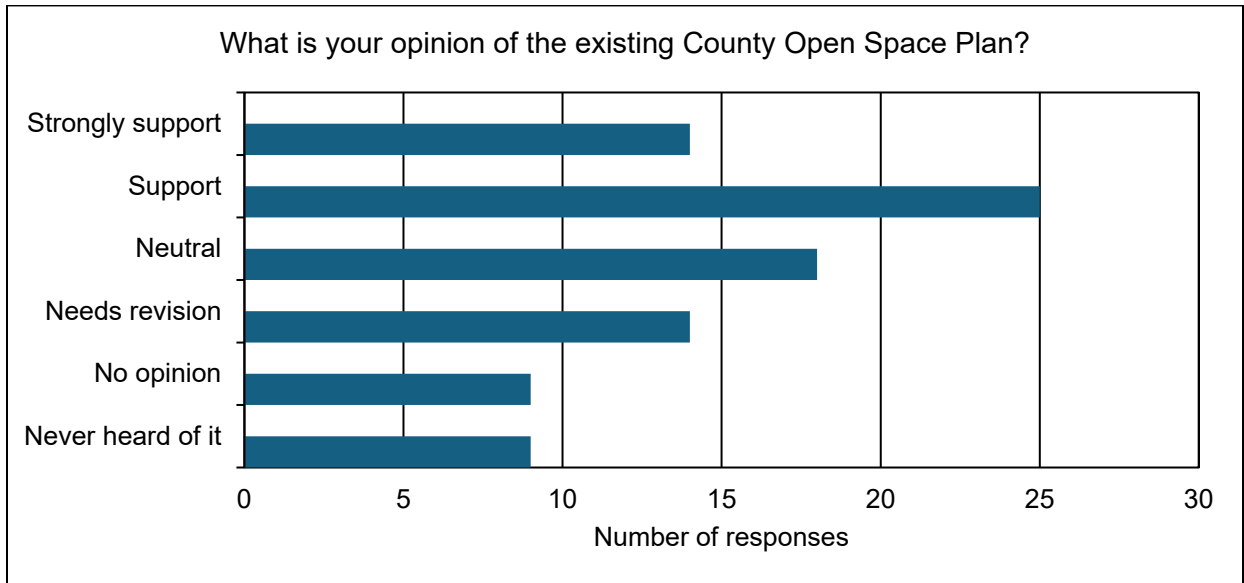
P41 Definitions given in this survey are vague. Some examples, please. Are trails active or passive?

5. (continued)

- P42 Open space needs to include trail management for off road vehicles too. ...
- P43 Definition is OK as long as the County obeys it.
- P44 Difficult to understand differences in definitions of AO and PO open space that are given. More background or examples are needed. In particular, difference in designation between western, eastern, and Gonzales Road portions of Bayo Canyon is difficult to understand.
- P51 OS-AO seems like just a sneaky way to designate open space for development.
- P57 This needs to be discussed in open forums to clarify what "terms" mean to various entities. The LA Public Schools need to be added to list for management of lands.
- P61 It seems that there is too much wiggle room in the definitions allowing for development.
- P69 Natural lands that need to be conserved should be in a separate management category from parks and other recreational 'open space' lands.
- P71 The definition of passive open spaces is unclear!!! If it's private land then the public has no say in what happens to it. So are passive open spaces for all, or just those who can afford to own the property???
- P72 I have heard that the definitions of open space in this survey - particularly between active and passive open space - are incorrect. Developed recreation areas are not passive open space. The County needs to clarify difference between conservation lands and recreational land uses like parks, tot lots, ball fields, horse stables, etc. The idea of passive open space gets watered down by calling developed recreation areas open space.
- P75 Absolutely not. They completely fail to capture the values of open space for the community and are inadequately protective of its key characteristics.
- P76 Not if I understand them correctly. The active open space designation seems to be a holding bin for future development. That means the citizens using that open space don't know when it will be taken away. I think it needs to be more specific about what development can take place in a parcel and when that plan will be reviewed since future development may not be needed as was forecasted. Areas should be allowed to be re-zoned for less development, but not allowed to be rezoned for more development.
- P78 I find the open space definitions confusing, and I have studied up on the definitions. Consider clarifying language that indicates whether it can be built upon in the future or not.

6. What is your opinion of the existing County Open Space Plan?
(space for comments is provided at the end of the survey)

Choice	Number (N = 91)	Percent
Strongly support	14	15 %
Support	26	29 %
Neutral	18	20 %
Needs revision	14	15 %
No opinion	10	11 %
Never heard of it	9	10 %



7. Do you think that there are lands that you consider to be "Passive Open Space" that are currently zoned for other purposes?

View current designations on interactive map.

Note: The link for the interactive map sent the user to the County's Future Land Use Map. Unfortunately, the map's legend did not define the zoning categories.

Choice	Number (N = 91)	Percent
Yes	38	42 %
No	16	18 %
Maybe	37	41 %

7a. Comments or suggestions for "Passive Open Space" designations (optional)

Of the 91 respondents, 30 entered comments. Attachment 2 lists all responses. The following are representative of those addressing passive open space zoning. Note: The first column is the unique ID assigned to the survey respondent.

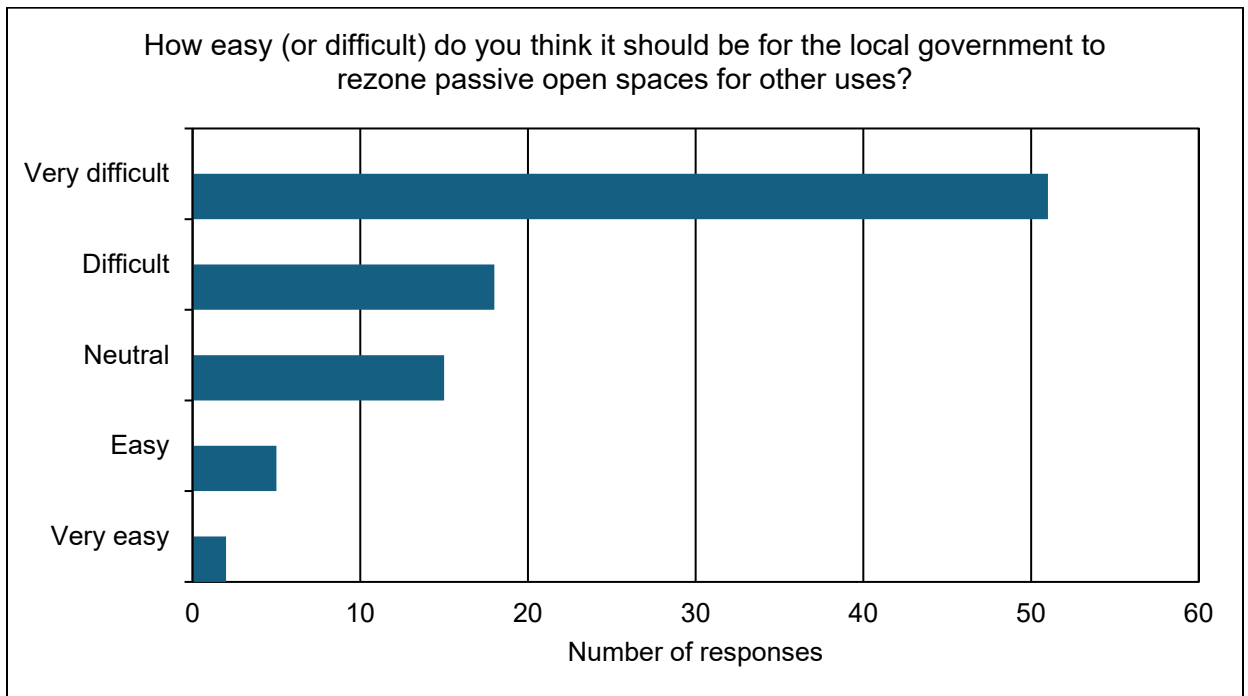
- P03 Forested areas around golf course should be Passive Open Space; all of Bayo Canyon should be Passive Open Space.
- P12 The lands between the Canyon Rim Trail and Highway 502 (Main Hill Road) should be designated as open space - and not be considered (or zoned) for industrial development. Pinon Park (WR) should be zoned as a park and not as WR Town Center.
- P13 The map is a bit confusing. All canyons should be protected. New development should be surrounded by open space and (not passive but) paths leading through neighborhoods as they do in Western area.
- P15 Lower Bayo Canyon should be zoned Passive, not Active Open Space. The parcels around the Golf Course should also be re-zoned Passive Open Space.
- P17 The space that has the greatest impact on me is the eastern end of Mesa Meadow (also called Western Area Park) because my house is located on it. I consider it passive open space although it is labeled "park." My husband and I feel strongly that that space should have no more development than it currently has (four tennis courts and Mesa Meadow Pool, which is privately owned). In fact, we bought our house in large part because we appreciated what we perceived as undeveloped space.
- P23 Perhaps more by Overlook should be passive. I don't understand making the golf course north of Diamond Passive. Unless they are re-aligning the golf course.
- P24 I'm concerned that the entire area between Barranca & North Mesas is AO.
- P35 The segment of Perimeter Trail that passes through the undeveloped portion of Guaje Pines should be protected to preserve trail continuity.
- P41 Some big swaths are designated active open space, but I really need to know what "active" might mean in those areas to have an opinion.

7a. (continued)

- P43 Since the interactive map didn't explain the various zoning codes, it is hard to tell whether I agree with them. The canyons and existing forested areas (e.g. south of the golf course) should all be passive open space -- no development or structural recreational facilities (e.g. bicycle skills parks).
- P46 White Rock Canyon is P-L, seems like it should be POS. Same for Bayo and Barrancas Canyons.
- P50 Much Bayo canyon is currently zoned as active but I consider it passive.
- P65 The parcel of land on 35th Street south of Villa where the old sewer pump house was is not on your map. It has been listed and not listed on various versions. It should be included. It is an important drainage and wildlife corridor.
- P69 The natural (or near natural) lands in the canyons and their peripheries should be maintained as such and not further developed for parks, golf course amenities, or housing.
- P70 Passive open space should be left in its natural state and not developed in any way.
- P72 Forested areas around golf course should be Passive Open Space. All of Bayo Canyon should be Passive Open Space.
- P75 Several parcels, of which the County is already well aware (not so sure about P& Z Commission)
- P78 The areas south of the golf course currently zoned Open Space - Active Open Space should be re-zoned as passive open space, or a designation that more clearly identifies that these areas will not be developed for housing or county infrastructure. This area contains an important trail connector. Development in this area would severely impact trail connections and the character of this trail if a trail were maintained along with development. Bayo Canyon should also be protected passive open space, as well as all areas along the Canyon Rim Trail between highway and DP Canyon. Clarify the ownership/designation of the land surrounding the Research Park.
- P81 There are parcels of SFR, MFR-M and MRF-H abutting land designated passive open space that project out beyond a mesa rim and over a very steep canyon. Already many of these parcels have residential structures built out over the canyons. County-owned open spaces downslope of these parcels need extra attention to prevent or remove encroachments such as fences, sheds, water features and play structures, and trespasses such as construction debris, yard trimmings, outdoor storage of household appliances, and trash. This is necessary not only to preserve the open spaces themselves but also to mitigate wildfire and earth movement hazards.
- P82 LANL Land transfer tracts are not properly accounted for in the mapped data. Pueblo Canyon and areas around TA-21 are incorrectly identified as federal lands owned by LANL.

8. How easy (or difficult) do you think it should be for the local government to rezone passive open spaces for other uses?
(space for comments is provided at the end of the survey)

Choice	Number (N = 91)	Percent
1. Very difficult	51	56%
2. Difficult	18	20%
3. Neutral	15	16%
4. Easy	5	5%
5. Very easy	2	2%

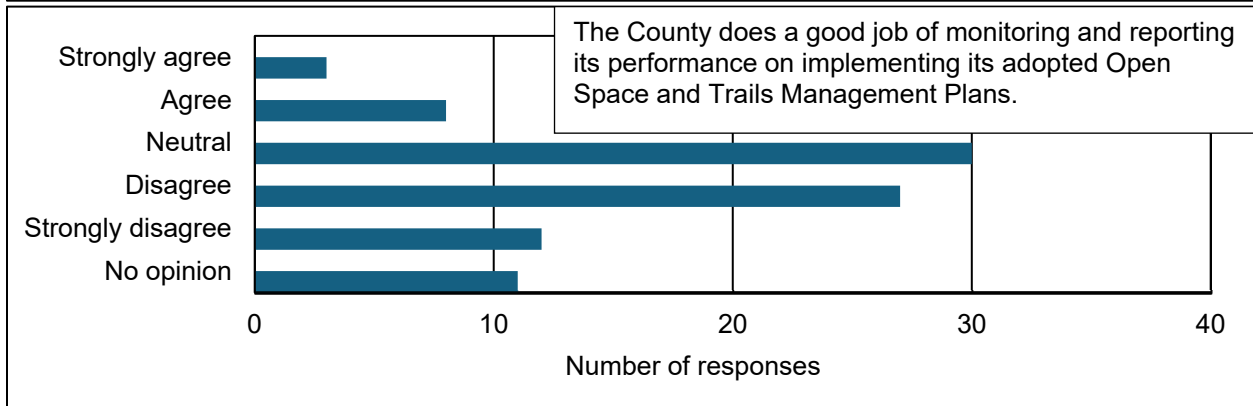
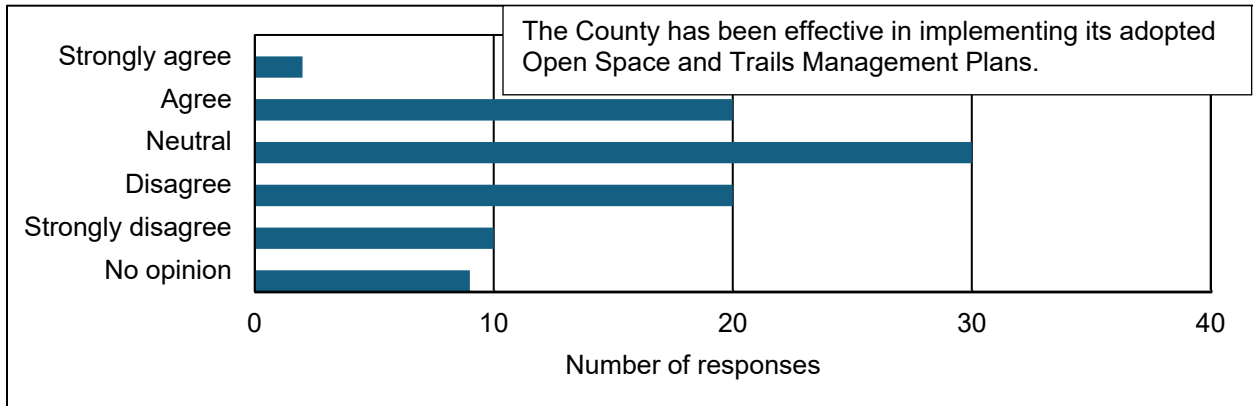
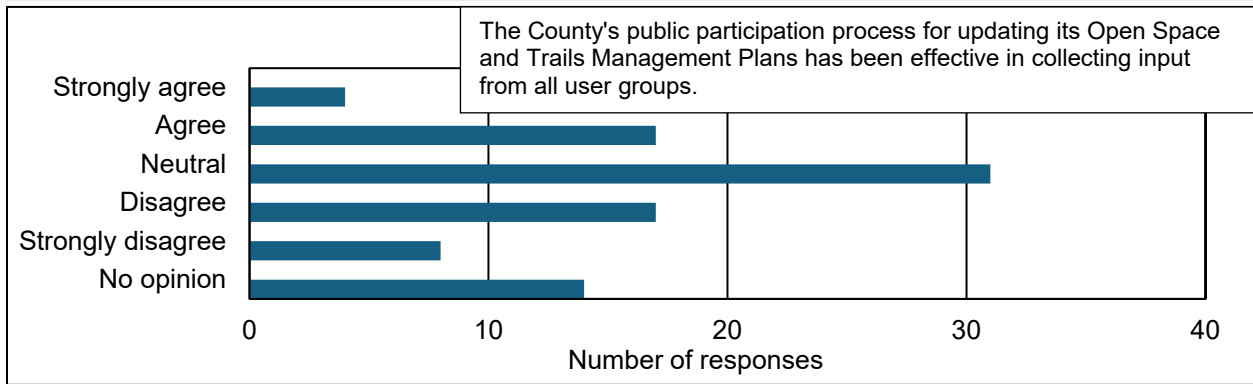
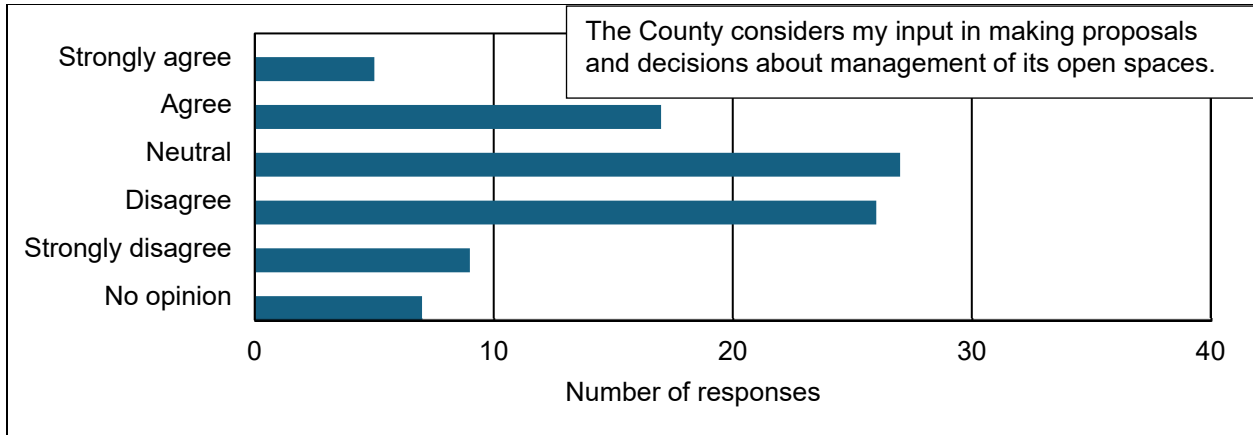


9. How would you rate the following statements about County government approaches to identifying issues and making decisions concerning open space?
(space for comments is provided at the end of the survey)

Statement	Number of Responses (N = 91)					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
(a) The County considers my input in making proposals and decisions about management of its open spaces.	5	17	27	26	9	7
(b) The County's public participation process for updating its Open Space and Trails Management Plans has been effective in collecting input from all user groups.	4	17	31	17	8	14
(c) The County has been effective in implementing its adopted Open Space and Trails Management Plans.	2	20	30	20	10	9
(d) The County does a good job of monitoring and reporting its performance on implementing its adopted Open Space and Trails Management Plans.	3	8	30	27	12	11

Statement	Percent of Responses (N = 91)					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
(a) The County considers my input in making proposals and decisions about management of its open spaces.	5%	19%	30%	29%	10%	8%
(b) The County's public participation process for updating its Open Space and Trails Management Plans has been effective in collecting input from all user groups.	4%	19%	34%	19%	9%	15%
(c) The County has been effective in implementing its adopted Open Space and Trails Management Plans.	2%	22%	33%	22%	11%	10%
(d) The County does a good job of monitoring and reporting its performance on implementing its adopted Open Space and Trails Management Plans.	3%	9%	33%	30%	13%	12%

9. (continued)



10. Do you have any other suggestions, comments or concerns regarding open space in our community? *(optional)*

Of the 91 respondents, 34 entered comments. All are shown below. *Note:* The first column is the unique ID assigned to the survey respondent.

- P03 Passive Open space should be akin to a preservation status that is very difficult to change. The County should concentrate on basic open space and trail maintenance rather than on developing new amenities within open space or at trailheads. I am opposed to giving priority to new projects that would develop new trails or connectors or require construction at trailheads -- the priority should be on care and maintenance suggested by the existing plans. I feel like the County and their consultants take my input and ignore it unless they can use it to justify new projects and expenditures dreamed up by the staff. Forested areas around the golf course should be rezoned as Passive Open Space. All of Bayo Canyon should be zoned as Passive Open Space. Proposed amenities such as bike skills park, BMX track, disc golf, etc. should be proposed to be located in land already zoned for active recreation or park use - for instance land near Loma Linda, North Mesa Picnic Park, North Mesa Park, and Overlook Park. The County does way too much hiring of consultants and recreating plans they already have in the name of updating and consolidation -- they need to implement the perfectly good plans already on the shelf.
- P05 LA is a wonderful place to live in large part due to its open spaces and natural environs. Please do everything to maintain and responsibly manage what is a most desirable reason to live here.
- P06 I very much appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on my opinions re: Open space through this survey. I have watched and attended meetings/workshops regarding the revision of the Open Space and Trails Management Plan, and been very disappointed in the almost complete lack of emphasis on "open space." Lots about trails, almost nothing about open space! Since this is how the process has gone so far (and we've paid a contractor to do a bunch of trails-related planning etc.), I would support calling the present effort a "Trails Management Plan" and would like to see a separate update of the 2015 Open Space Management Plan. Thanks!
- P07 The County Council seems to communicate with the public, but the Parks and Open Space division doesn't pay attention and I have a sense that it doesn't want public input, but rather just to do what's most expedient.
- P15 I have been waiting nearly two years for the County to move forward on considering the re-zoning requests made by the public during the update of the Development Code. I would like to see some action!
- P17 I wish it were easier to stay informed of proposed changes to current passive open spaces. In fact, two of the three times we have weighed in on the discussion of a proposed addition of four more tennis courts plus lights to the Western Area Park, it was because someone from a specific group informed us that an addition was being proposed. If there is an established way to monitor these proposals, I would very much like to know about it.
- P22 Decisions about open spaces should be made by the professional(s) hired to manage and care for open spaces.
- P23 I fear the development of our wild areas for housing. They must be protected.
- P25 It should be almost impossible for short-term council members or lab directors to make changes without voter approval.

10. (continued)

- P29 I have been frustrated in the past by working to preserve certain open spaces, I have signed petitions and attended many meetings to make my (and others) voice heard. I felt like perhaps this helped but, in a couple of scenarios, the topic I thought we had made decisions on, re-appeared and I feel like the county brought the same scenarios back into play. For example, consolidating all the tennis courts all to the Western Area open space. We fought to have this not happen because we wanted to avoid further light pollution and we wanted to preserve the natural open space. It seemed like the court expansion was "voted" down. Then, not long after this, the tennis court expansion idea came back around! Similar situation with the expansion of the golf course.
- P32 The County has a major problem with feral cattle on County open space in White Rock Canyon. They are proliferating and causing significant damage to the ecosystem. This was recognized in the 2015 Open Space Management Plan, and as far as I can tell absolutely nothing has been done to address this problem since that plan was adopted. The County has addressed the feral cattle problem in Pueblo Canyon and elsewhere on the Pajarito Plateau by hiring wranglers and rounding them up. As I was told by a County Councilor, they were told by the wranglers that this would not be feasible in WRC. Likely true. Bandelier National Monument tried this in White Rock Canyon and it didn't work. Instead, BNM decided to just shoot them. This conclusion was also reached by the Gila National Forest to deal with feral cattle in the Gila Wilderness north of Silver City, NM. That proposal did receive opposition from ranchers in that area (who tend to oppose anything the Federal government proposes, except subsidies that benefit them), but courts upheld the decision of the Forest Service. They dealt with their problem in the only feasible way. I urge Los Alamos County to do the same. Hire appropriate personnel to hike into White Rock Canyon and shoot the feral cattle on the land they manage. Just do it. Otherwise, the resource damage will just continue as the feral cattle continue to breed uninhibited.
- P35 All trail user groups (looking at you, equestrians) should be encouraged to participate in volunteer trail maintenance. The burden seems to be presently carried primarily by the county, mountain bikers, and trail runners/hikers.
- P36 I live in a crappy house only because I love the location near to a bunch of open spaces that we use every single day. I feel that part of the high prices of houses in town are because of the good life quality, highly related to having open spaces. It should be, in consequence, very hard for the county to rezone them as we are paying a bunch for stuff that, otherwise, can be easily removed.
- P40 It would help if citizen input was actually considered.
- P42 Keep the plan under the existing county funding. There is no need for these extensive enhancements on county land or taking over state and federal management regulations. Keep county expenditures for county land only. Do not cut trees on my private land as was completed last year.
- P44 My response to this survey is influenced by the definitions of active and passive open space, which appears to be rather nuanced and difficult to understand from the written definitions—but active open space appears to allow "development"—whatever that means. Comparing current use of Pueblo and Bayo Canyons, it is difficult to understand why eastern Bayo is designated "active," while Pueblo is designated "passive"—both are currently used in a similar fashion for hiking, running, and mountain biking. What sorts of "development" are envisioned for eastern Bayo?

10. (continued)

- P47 Create an on-going Trails Committee composed of local trail users from ALL user groups to provide input on Open Space and Trails planning versus hiring a contractor from outside the community unfamiliar with the trails and residents' trails and open space use. Include residents in the decision-making process. I could find no reference (admit, I may not have read all documents as carefully as I should have) in any plan document about managing trail user conflicts due to increased usage by multiple user groups and improved signage for the enhancement of all users' safety. All previous efforts have felt like an 'exercise.' Los Alamos County appears to request input while proceeding with predetermined plans - regardless of public input. Also, residents are often uninformed with respect to the impact of Los Alamos County plans for Open Space.
- P48 Can't see that comments matter; seen multiple 'Plans' developed by the county but never any action on implementation. County management just wants to appear that they listen and care, but nix any meaningful development projects due to concerns about not hiring more staff and trying to pay for retirement of current employees.
- P50 I feel like the equestrian user group gets far more attention and special treatment than other groups despite the relatively small user group.
- P51 The county should just stop permitting low-density housing. It is not a good use of land, i.e., the balance question is over-constrained. POS is not a good name for the zoning because it also stands for "piece of s***." In general, I recommend consulting Urban Dictionary before naming anything.
- P57 Add Los Alamos Public Schools/School Board to the list of invitees.
- P60 My hope is that the preservation of nature and wildlife are always a first priority for any/all decisions regarding open spaces and that we keep our wild places wild and as untouched as possible.
- P63 County management spends too much money on consultants and surveys. The \$ would be better spent on upkeep and maintenance. We had an existing Open Space plan, why wasn't it utilized?
- P65 Question 6 is difficult to fully answer in a 5-10 minute survey when it refers to a 101 page report that I have not read. I did skim it to answer questions.
- P66 As an avid user of open spaces in the community, it's concerning to me that I have not heard of efforts to update and take community input for the open space plans. I follow the county Instagram pages so this tells me that perhaps the younger demographic in the community is not being reached.
- P68 The community role is to represent 'greater good.'
- P70 I do not think open space should be encroached on by the County. We need natural beauty in this world as more and more concrete is being laid down in the name of progress. This plateau is in danger of becoming a Vail or Aspen with all of the Big City people coming in and bringing their Big City driving and expectations to this tiny jewel in the mountains. The wild is where I get back into balance. Leave it Be!
- P72 It should be very difficult to change areas zoned Passive Open space should be akin to a preservation status that is very difficult to change; Maintenance first - take care of what we already have. Then, if time and money allow, develop new trails or connectors and improvements at trailheads. Locate proposed amenities such as bike skills park, BMX track, disc golf, etc. on land already zoned for active recreation or park use. Existing plans need to be consulted and

10. (continued)

- updated. Is it really necessary to start over each time, hiring consultants who don't know the area? Use what we already have and improve on it.
- P75 Protection of open space and its values to the community requires active monitoring by a County-recognized citizen group.
- P77 Maintain what we currently have. Use the plan that Craig Martin prepared before he retired. Stop catering to special interest groups. Don't sacrifice any more open space to development.
- P78 (a) Our existing trail system is excellent, it just needs maintenance. Our monsoon rainfall patterns are getting more extreme (heavier rainfalls in shorter amounts of time), which leads to erosion. With additional staff, this can be addressed easily at a fraction of the cost of new facilities (e.g. trailhead restrooms) that are not necessary.
- (b) Work with neighboring land management agencies (and DOE) to do collaborative land management in open space areas. This means forest thinning, prescribed burning, invasive species management, and erosion control. I wholeheartedly support the efforts to restore hanging wetlands in Los Alamos - this will improve habitat, make our forests more resilient to climate change, and mitigate stormwater runoff using natural infrastructure.
- (c) Deer over population is a safety issue from driver safety, to increasing mountain lion presence in proximity to families and pets, from a disease perspective (I recently saw a diseased deer with an eyeball hanging out of the socket), and a nuisance to landscapers and gardeners.
- (d) The existing Open Space Plan is very good. It is a land management plan, and that's what's needed with the natural resources we are fortunate enough to have. It was written with thought to monitoring and maintaining ecosystem health - this is important to maintain and expand upon in any revision. I'm concerned that a landscape architecture firm does not have the local knowledge and ecological expertise to do this well.
- (e) We are lucky that user conflicts are not a huge problem in the county - yet. Recommend reviewing and updating motorized use, and e-bike use plans now before they become a problem.
- P82 Most passive open space is not developable, but probably needs some form of management to keep "natural" and these barrier areas and connecting corridors should most definitely be protected. There are exceptions, like Kwage Mesa, which could potentially be developed. While I don't love the idea of every square inch of developable land being developed, I also understand the need for more housing. Similarly, while I love Rendija Canyon as a great access to open space, the land should be considered for additional county uses (after transfer), but not housing in any form. A good balance would be to consider Rendija as the counties rodeo, fairgrounds, and stables with plenty of access to trails. Then the current location for stables and fairgrounds, along with greater portions of Kwage Mesa could be developed for additional housing. So, while I do not want the county to be able to rezone however they want, I do see areas that could potentially be rezoned. In regards to input on plans and communication, I have not paid that close attention, so can't really comment. However, sometimes too much input, and consideration of too many viewpoints, simply yields zero results.
- P88 I sincerely hope that this will be the time that the county will actually adopt an open space plan, so we do not have to live through any more revisions, rewriting, adopting and readopting etc. Our county faces huge challenges in the coming years regarding housing, pressure for tourist development, improving opportunities for small businesses to start up and be successful, improve traffic flow, and entice our youth to stay and continue the legacy of the town. Our beautiful

10. (continued)

surroundings and open space always has, is now, and always should be one of our most valued assets. I do not believe that we need to sacrifice open space, ever. But we do need to learn to change our thinking, think outside the box, and learn how to achieve our goals without compromising open space.

P89 Open space was a high priority for my family moving from the East coast to New Mexico.

Attachment 1

Responses to Question 2a: “Comment on your interest in trails and open spaces”

Note: The first column is the unique ID assigned to the survey respondent.

- P02 Trails and open spaces are high value Los Alamos assets for me. I use the trails on almost daily basis.
- P05 Want open spaces to remain as open as possible in our county. To be used responsibly and conservatively.
- P06 Member of LAC Environmental Sustainability Board and Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance. Our natural and developed Open Spaces are CRITICAL to our sustainability as a community, for many reasons. I also own a home that backs to Pueblo Canyon, and have been a daily trail and open space user for 28 yrs.
- P07 Especially the existence of important wild plants
- P13 Open space, not high LANL salaries, is what creates the unmatched quality of life that is Los Alamos.
- P14 I enjoy the trails as a hiker and runner in and around Los Alamos, and I want more of them.
- P15 I like to hike and enjoy the flowers, birds and trees. I ski on the trails in the winter and harvest fruit and mushrooms in the summer.
- P17 I hike local trails often -- 2-3 times a week at a minimum. In addition, my property lies on the perimeter of Western Area park. The rationale outlined in the current open space plan speaks to many of the reasons I value the quality of life that we have in Los Alamos. I am invested in preserving that quality of life. Some particular issues of interest to me are preserving our access to outdoor recreation, solitude, and health. Later in the survey I will discuss my opposition to any further development in the eastern part of Western Area Park. I am also interested in preserving access to our wonderful trail system, and I worry about the explosion of wildlife in town, especially deer. In regards to that last issue, I have come to accept that it is up to my husband and me to protect our yard from deer (we have fenced off our backyard, but it's not possible to do so in the front), but I am also concerned that at some point health will be an issue. The deer are clearly hungry and occasionally a mountain lion will kill a deer in town, but in their weakened condition they are more susceptible to disease which may at some point pass to humans.
- P18 Enjoy local hiking
- P19 Quiet low impact use. Hiking, birding
- P21 Our trails and open space is critical to community satisfaction.
- P23 The undeveloped open spaces in town are the primary reason that we stayed here after retirement. Having lived in 5 houses in town in the last 65+ years, I appreciate that the proximity of undeveloped open space to nearly every place in town is utterly unique.
- P24 One of the two or three most important aspects of Los Alamos County
- P30 I love our trails into the canyons around Pajarito Acres!

Attachment 1. (continued)

- P31 Adequate maintenance of existing trails and opportunities with maximum preservation of open space against further development is my interest.
- P35 Access to great trails is one of my favorite parts about living here.
- P37 I like to hike the trails and look at the wildflowers and enjoy nature.
- P38 Maintain existing trails, refrain from building new trails.
- P41 I would like to see a broad set of trails and other uses that accommodates all users. It is OK if some trails are restricted to certain users, like equestrian.
- P43 Hike (or bike) the LA trails nearly every day
- P46 Member of LWV Los Alamos which has advocated regarding preservation of open space
- P47 Maintaining multi-use trail network for safe use by all Los Alamos County residents
- P48 We use them daily.
- P50 Rock climbing
- P54 It isn't just the view, though that is very important, open space is necessary to health and safety of all who live here.
- P57 Our greatest asset for residents and respectful visitors
- P60 Keeping our open spaces wild and as close to natural as possible
- P62 One of the best things about Los Alamos is the open space.
- P63 Member OWSG
- P64 Ever notice how popular Ashley Pond is? People love green space and water, which we don't have lots of. However, I enjoy the golf course even though I don't golf, and the parks, and every bit of greenery I can find. Many of our trails have shade and wildflowers. These are important to many of us.
- P65 LA County should be marbled with trails and open space for quality of life, recreational activities, to support wildlife and flora, and to support mental health.
- P66 Environmental Sustainability Board
- P68 Have yet to walk any
- P69 I am primarily interested in preserving our surrounding natural environments for passive use. The local trails have been hard-it, over-used and abused, especially in the past 5-7 years, due to the increase in mountain bike traffic and the cyclists' tendency to make additional, unnecessary trails that parallel the existing paths. Our natural environments, including both the plant and animal life, are sensitive to physical abuse and erosion, and consequent encroachment of non-native invasive plant species. The county needs to develop a clear understanding of the differences between natural environments and 'open space' as recreational units. They are not the same and should not be lumped into a single management strategy.

Attachment 1. (continued)

- P70 The reason I have lived in this town for many decades is its natural beauty.
- P72 It is important to preserve our existing open space and maintain our trails.
- P73 It is one of the most attractive aspects of living in this community.
- P75 Representative of Open Space Working Group
- P77 They are the jewels of Los Alamos.
- P78 These comments reflect my personal opinions as a county resident. I also lead the LANL Forest Health Program and co-lead the LANL Trails Management Program.
- P79 Hiking
- P80 Frequent user
- P82 These barrier and corridor areas are vital to the health of the community, both human and non-human.
- P85 Equestrian and Livestock Working Group
- P86 I ride the horse-accessible trails in Los Alamos and across the region.
- P87 Open space is important for our health and quality of life.
- P88 Member of Open Space Working Group, native Los Alamosian, have been avid user of open space here since I was very little.

Attachment 2.

Responses to Question 2b: “What do you think are the biggest challenges facing our passive open space?”

Note: The first column is the unique ID assigned to the survey respondent.

- P02 High level of erosion which is degrading the quality and safety of the trail network
- P03 Encroaching development; community sprawl; lack of understanding of the purpose of passive open space by County decisionmakers; I am concerned that the County Staff tends to view passive open space as "surplus land" for whatever they propose to do with it rather than important element of what makes our community a desirable place to live and visit.
- P05 Non agreement on how to use or retain open space
- P06 Pressure to develop additional housing, and maintenance of integrity and health of natural spaces as population and open space use increases.
- P12 The drive for the community to build housing on passive open space is a huge challenge!
- P13 The need for LANL housing
- P14 Maintenance and expansion
- P15 Some members of the County staff do not appreciate the value of passive open space. Many residents are not aware of what is and is not permitted on the designated open space.
- P17 Balancing the need for housing and developed recreation with the need for undeveloped open space
- P18 Threats from developers and e.g. golf course
- P19 Pressure from folks who want to "develop" it into more active recreation (mountain bikes) and residential housing
- P21 Desire for housing
- P22 People depositing trash
- P23 Pressure to release them for development
- P24 1. Determination by some to convert PO to AO to serve small groups. 2. Development (mostly residential, but some commercial)
- P25 Dead trees and dry wood laying around everywhere
- P29 Preserving the existence of, and maintaining access to, POS
- P30 Parking at access points
- P31 1. Development rather than protection of passive open spaces. 2. Basic trail maintenance is always an ongoing challenge. Eric Peterson and Jess are doing great and need our continued support.

Attachment 2. (continued)

- P32 Educating the public. The specific example that I think of is the proliferation of engravings/graffiti/"artwork" that has been occurring on rocks in the White Rock Canyon archaeological zone (e.g., the Red Dot Trail), which "is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the only canyon in the United States to enjoy such a designation" (quote from the 2015 Open Space Management Plan). As far as I can tell, the County has expended zero effort in publicizing the cultural significance of the petroglyphs there and trying to discourage individuals from adding their own contributions to those of Ancestral Puebloans from >600 years ago. This is sad. The County has a nationally significant cultural resource on the lands they manage and, as far as I can tell, are doing nothing to protect them. My recommendations are, at a minimum, to place signs at the trailheads informing the public of this National Register designation and discouraging additional defacement of rocks in White Rock Canyon, and as additional measures to instigate a public information campaign to discourage such defacement and pass a County ordinance making it illegal (a symbolic gesture, perhaps, but some small measure of the County's recognition of their stewardship duties).
- P33 Uncontrolled and unneeded development rather than maintenance of existing options
- P34 Possibly people dumping trash/furniture? Also wayfinding because it is easy to get lost in the open spaces.
- P35 Trail erosion, conflicts between user groups over permissible uses
- P36 I imagine resisting the pressure for building houses. I sometimes miss more weeding along trails.
- P37 People tromping around making multiple trails. Dogs off leash.
- P38 Illegal trail building
- P40 Maintenance safety use
- P41 Attempts to develop things like mountain bike trails end up paralyzed by objections from some minority of residents that have other preferences.
- P42 Desire to add housing, funds to maintain trails
- P43 Improper zoning. e.g. forested areas south of golf course should be open space passive as well as other canyon areas currently incorrectly zoned e.g. Bayo Canyon.
- P44 Protecting against development
- P46 County staff and Council grabbing open space to use for housing or other development
- P47 Encroachment or loss due to increased need for housing. Destruction of current open spaces due to lack of resources and personnel to establish and maintain trails.
- P48 Erosion, mostly by hikers and bikers using when wet or destroying water bars
- P49 Erosion
- P51 Cluelessness on the part of county leadership, both elected and staff

Attachment 2. (continued)

- P54 Commercialization of our way of life
- P53 Tree thinning for fire prevention
- P57 Being used as storage for construction debris; viewed by county government and staff possible development areas
- P60 The unfortunate human desire to over-develop our natural and beautiful spaces
- P61 Our passive open space is not seen as not open to any type of development.
- P63 Rezoning by LA County
- P65 They seem to be largely ignored. That may be ok.
- P68 When landlocked - compromises may need to happen.
- P69 My impression is that county personnel are more interested in developing our local natural areas into parks and locations to host recreational events, akin to 'paving paradise to put up a parking lot.' I don't think they are particularly knowledgeable about our local environment or the value it brings to our community.
- P70 Development
- P71 I'm not sure what passive open spaces the County is maintaining or protecting!!! I tried to use the interactive map but it wasn't clear to me what the acronyms meant!!!
- P72 The constant need for more development for housing & businesses can result in community sprawl. County decision makers don't seem to understand the importance of open space. Instead, they seem to view it as land available for development. Open space is valued by most members of the community as improving quality of life and making this a desirable place to live and to visit. We probably need to increase the density of residential areas to preserve our open space.
- P73 Staying on trails to preserve the natural landscape
- P75 Lack of County advocate on senior management team, declining quality of habitat, unchecked spread of invasive species (e.g., non-native thistle, cheat grass along trail sides), erosion, proliferation of trails, development at trailheads with associated trash, overuse & trampling
- P76 The desire by the county government and others to "develop" the open space for economic benefits from tourism
- P77 Land development is the biggest threat, followed by special interest groups wanting to dominate certain areas. Lastly, not maintaining what we have.
- P78 Pressure to develop as housing. Infrastructure maintenance projects that disturb soils in passive open space areas (e.g. digging up water and sewer breaks) and lack of requirements to reduce impacts during construction/maintenance, or to restore impacts after ground disturbance. (Suggestion #4 in the current open space plan - ensure a process for Open Space and trails review of projects. Is it being implemented?). Deer overpopulation. Stormwater runoff causing excess erosion and downcutting in vegetated drainages. Invasive plant species. Lack of personnel resources to maintain existing open spaces, that are arguably our most valuable and irreplaceable county asset.

Attachment 2. (continued)

- P81 For-profit development, and tragedy of the commons. At least we no longer dump large amounts of toxic waste into the canyons.
- P84 Development—housing and potential development of open spaces for more organized recreational programs and facilities.
- P85 Not developing the passive open space
- P86 Development encroachment, wildfire, climate change
- P87 Lack of housing
- P88 (a) Development: Los Alamos has a housing crisis; there simply is no affordable housing, forcing more and more people off the hill. Unfortunately, open space seems to always be the first go-to solution for housing.
- (b) Climate Change: Our weather patterns are changing. Drought, fire, changes in our patterns of precipitation, increasing temperatures, are all affecting ecological zones in Los Alamos.
- (c) Education: I think that there are many Los Alamosians who really have no idea about types of open space, how open space is maintained, options for different categories of open space, or importance of passive open space.
- (d) LANL: Obviously "the lab" is the employer of the town. As a one-industry town, we are at the mercy of whatever the lab decides it wants to do. And yet the lab solution to issues largely created by the lab is "just deal with it." There needs to be a much better partnership between the county and the lab.
- P89 Pressure from development
- P91 Development

Attachment 3

Responses to Question 5: “Do you agree with the County's official definitions of open space zones? Please provide comment indicating your support or recommendations for improvement.”

Note: The first column is the unique ID assigned to each survey respondent.

- P03 The County definitions muddle the distinct difference between conservation lands and recreational land uses like parks, tot lots, ball fields, horse stables, etc. The idea of passive open space gets watered down by calling developed recreation areas open space.
- P05 Not sure what their definition is
- P06 I think the definitions are adequate; however, there are some natural areas that are currently not zoned as "open space" that should be (e.g., area south of golf course, etc.).
- P12 They are reasonable categories - as long as the main concept of open space is maintained in future land use decisions.
- P13 The definitions are a bit non-intuitive, but I THINK I agree with the definitions.
- P15 No. I do not like the definition of passive open space cited above. I like this one: “The Passive Open Space sub-zone is intended to protect the natural and scenic character of the County's wilderness areas for passive public recreation and public use, and enjoyment that has minimal effect on the land.”
- P18 Yes
- P19 Yes
- P21 Definitions need to be less broad and more defined.
- P22 Agree
- P23 I think they are unclear. Active vs passive recreation? And Park implies more development and landscaping; the idea isn't captured by the designation as worded. The designations seem to overlap or have fuzzy boundaries.
- P24 AO is in some instances and in some plans is antithetical to my concept of "Open Space." Ditch AO and call it what it is – PP.
- P31 This is too complicated an issue for a "sound bite" answer.
- P34 Yes
- P36 I would include community gardens and dog parks as part of the active open spaces. They both need improvements in town and people use them a bunch.
- P40 No
- P41 Definitions given in this survey are vague. Some examples, please. Are trails active or passive?
- P42 Open space needs to include trail management for off road vehicles too. This new plan is taking away the Rendija Canyon access. I disagree.

Attachment 3. (continued)

- P43 Definition is OK as long as the County obeys it.
- P44 Difficult to understand differences in definitions of AO and PO open space that are given. More background or examples are needed. In particular, difference in designation between western, eastern, and Gonzales Road portions of Bayo Canyon is difficult to understand.
- P45 Yes
- P46 No: In the Chapter 16 rewrite, several open space parcels were re-zoned incorrectly, the worst example being Pinon Park rezoned to WRTC.
- P47 Basically, I agree. However, I also note that our trail system is being included as an aspect of area transportation.
- P51 OS-AO seems like just a sneaky way to designate open space for development.
- P53 Yes
- P57 This needs to be discussed in open forums to clarify what "terms" mean to various entities. The LA Public Schools need to be added to list for management of lands.
- P61 It seems that there is too much wiggle room in the definitions allowing for development.
- P65 Based on p. 14, I would say yes.
- P67 Not so much. If I'm interpreting the map correctly, especially don't get PO and AO both in Bayo Canyon east of roundabout. Probably others, but small areas I'm not taking time to try to see and study.
- P68 Evaluate and get creative.
- P69 Natural lands that need to be conserved should be in a separate management category from parks and other recreational 'open space' lands.
- P71 The definition of passive open spaces is unclear!!! If it's private land then the public has no say in what happens to it. So, are passive open spaces for all or just those who can afford to own the property???
- P72 I have heard that the definitions of open space in this survey—particularly between active and passive open space—are incorrect. Developed recreation areas are not passive open space. The County needs to clarify difference between conservation lands and recreational land uses like parks, tot lots, ball fields, horse stables, etc. The idea of passive open space gets watered down by calling developed recreation areas open space.
- P75 Absolutely not. They completely fail to capture the values of open space for the community and are inadequately protective of its key characteristics.
- P76 Not if I understand them correctly. The active open space designation seems to be a holding bin for future development. That means the citizens using that open space don't know when it will be taken away. I think it needs to be more specific about what development can take place in a parcel and when that plan will be reviewed since future development may not be needed as was forecasted. Areas should be allowed to be rezoned for less development, but not allowed to be rezoned for more development.

Attachment 3. (continued)

- P78 I find the open space definitions confusing, and I have studied up on the definitions. Consider clarifying language that indicates whether it can be built upon in the future or not.
- P81 Yes, for the most part. Where I do not agree concerns Pajarito Mountain Ski Area; there I think the County is over-reaching.
- P83 Yes
- P84 No. There should be public input on the remaining spaces in the county. Once it is gone, it is gone.
- P85 Active Open Space - not necessary. Open space should not be developed.
- P88 Yes, I think that there should be several types of open space.
- P89 Yes

Attachment 4

Responses to Question 7: “Comments or suggestions for ‘Passive Open Space’ designations”

Note: The first column is the unique ID assigned to the survey respondent.

- P03 Forested areas around golf course should be Passive Open Space; All of Bayo Canyon should be Passive Open Space.
- P05 Keep them open.
- P06 See above. There are other areas as well, but I need to spend more time than I currently have to review the zoning map!
- P12 The lands between the Canyon Rim Trail and Highway 502 (Main Hill Road) should be designated as open space - and not be considered (or zoned) for industrial development. Pinon Park (WR) should be zoned as a park and not as WR Town Center.
- P13 The map is a bit confusing. All canyons should be protected. New development should be surrounded by open space and (not passive but) paths leading through neighborhoods as they do in Western area.
- P15 Lower Bayo Canyon should be zoned Passive, not Active Open Space. The parcels around the Golf Course should also be re-zoned Passive Open Space.
- P17 The space that has the greatest impact on me is the eastern end of Mesa Meadow (also called Western Area Park) because my house is located on it. I consider it passive open space although it is labeled "park." My husband and I feel strongly that that space should have no more development than it currently has (four tennis courts and Mesa Meadow Pool, which is privately owned). In fact, we bought our house in large part because we appreciated what we perceived as undeveloped space.
- P23 Perhaps more by Overlook should be passive. I don't understand making the golf course north of Diamond Passive. Unless they are re-aligning the golf course.
- P24 I'm concerned that the entire area between Barranca & North Mesas is AO.
- P35 The segment of Perimeter Trail that passes through the undeveloped portion of Guaje Pines should be protected to preserve trail continuity.
- P41 Some big swaths are designated active open space, but I really need to know what "active" might mean in those areas to have an opinion.
- P42 Zoning the golf course as POS eliminates the golfing. It is not listed as an activity under your definition. Keep the focus on keeping the trails suitable for use by people.
- P43 Since the interactive map didn't explain the various zoning codes, it is hard to tell whether I agree with them. The canyons and existing forested areas (e.g. south of the golf course) should all be passive open space -- no development or structural recreational facilities (e.g. bicycle skills parks)
- P44 Eastern portion of Bayo Canyon

Attachment 4. (continued)

- P46 White Rock Canyon is P-L, seems like it should be POS. Same for Bayo and Barrancas Canyons.
- P47 "View current designations on interactive map." The map does not include an interpretive key. As a result, I have no idea what the current designations mean.
- P50 Much Bayo canyon is currently zoned as active, but I consider it passive.
- P51 OS-AO near golf course should be OS-PO.
- P63 Open space near the golf course should be POS-PO, not POS-AO.
- P65 The parcel of land on 35th Street south of Villa where the old sewer pump house was is not on your map. It has been listed and not listed on various versions. It should be included. It is an important drainage and wildlife corridor.
- P69 The natural (or near natural) lands in the canyons and their peripheries should be maintained as such and not further developed for parks, golf course amenities, or housing.
- P70 Passive open space should be left in its natural state and not developed in any way.
- P71 As I said before, I cannot decipher the map or what it means!!!
- P72 Forested areas around golf course should be Passive Open Space; All of Bayo Canyon should be Passive Open Space.
- P74 Bayo Canyon
- P75 Several parcels, of which the County is already well aware (not so sure about P& Z Commission)
- P78 The areas south of the golf course currently zoned Open Space - Active Open Space should be re-zoned as passive open space, or a designation that more clearly identifies that these areas will not be developed for housing or county infrastructure. This area contains an important trail connector. Development in this area would severely impact trail connections and the character of this trail if a trail were maintained along with development. Bayo Canyon should also be protected passive open space, as well as all areas along the Canyon Rim rail between highway and DP Canyon. Clarify the ownership/designation of the land surrounding the Research Park.
- P81 There are parcels of SFR, MFR-M and MRF-H abutting land designated passive open space that project out beyond a mesa rim and over a very steep canyon. Already many of these parcels have residential structures built out over the canyons. County-owned open spaces downslope of these parcels need extra attention to prevent or remove encroachments such as fences, sheds, water features and play structures, and trespasses such as construction debris, yard trimmings, outdoor storage of household appliances, and trash. This is necessary not only to preserve the open spaces themselves but also to mitigate wildfire and earth movement hazards.
- P82 LANL Land transfer tracts are not properly accounted for in the mapped data. Pueblo Canyon and areas around TA-21 are incorrectly identified as federal lands owned by LANL.
- P87 We need to preserve what we have before it's gone. Don't want to look like Albuquerque.