

**Orchard Adjacent Landowners Meeting**  
**10/17/23 5:30pm**  
**Thompson Falls Elementary**

Hosted by: Kaniksu Land Trust, Sanders County Community Development, US Forest Service

Underlined = repeated

**Bold and Underlined** = repeated many times

1. What makes the Orchard special? What might others not already know about the Orchard?

- **Quiet, peaceful, relaxing, solitude**
- History, seed orchard, heli-pad, mules for Forest Service, fire staging
- **All natural**, regeneration beginning
- **Animal habitats (bear, elk, coyotes)**
- Proximity allows for education opportunities, close in
- Buffer between town and mountains
- Easy accessibility
- Low maintenance
- Illegal activity occurring (motorized use)
- Previous activities in Mule Pasture were unsuccessful
- Non-motorized area
- Available walking trails
- **Undeveloped, empty area in town to experience nature**
- **Not busy, no tourists, less people**
- Clean
- Photography down rows of trees
- Hide and seek
- Meander
- Not great for rec (hot, dry, open)
- **It needs rehab (weeds, open field, trees)**

2. Why do you enjoy living/owning property near the Orchard?

- **Quiet, peaceful, safe, uncrowded area**
- Able to get out on all-natural setting
- **Provides environment/habitat for animals that have been pushed out (moose calving, elk migration, deer, bears)**
- (same as #1)
- We enjoy that there is no traffic
- We don't want all the areas in town developed
- **Being out of town, but in town (wilderness, no development, buffer)**
- Open space
- Ponderosa, wild apple and plum trees
- Kids enjoy it (bone collection)
- Beauty

3. As a landowner, what ideas related to the future of the Orchard are circling in your head?

- Why does every space need to be labeled with a use?
- So many people moving in (influx)
- **Preserves open/natural/undeveloped area**
- What next? When does human development stop overtaking open space?
- **Want Thompson to remain small, quiet, peaceful, natural**

- Why this area? There are other developed areas available (River trail, Ainsworth, Rose Garden)
- **Leave it the way it is**
- Worry that this is a gateway project that will result in more construction and permanent development
- Who will maintain bathrooms, area, trash in case of development?
- **A rural housing development in this area is not wanted**
- We do not want to sacrifice this chunk of land, which is an enrichment to all in our community
- Skate park, disc golf park
- **Needs to be cleaned up (bears dragging garbage, trees trimmed, fix fence, old sharp metal)**
- Worry about making it more public because people think it's public and you can hunt (onX issue)
- Bear proof cans?
- How do we police it?
- Where would you park everyone?
- Anything for youth is really important
- Get out to walk everyday with camera
- Low impact, trying to contain with respect to adjacent folks (sound, smells, lights)
- Don't want kids running stuff - supervision
- Kids to take pride (feels like yours)
- Picnic shelter ok
- Community garden
- Place for riding bicycles (Ainsworth = littles), need safer spot for older kids
- No to skateboarding
- XC skiing in winter, bmx in summer - same course, no gravel
- Like to see not too busy in future
- Varied accessibility opportunities

4. When you think about the future, what would you like to see happen on the Orchard property?

- **Keep it the way it is**
- Fire prevention
- Keep uniqueness, other places don't have a place like this
- **No housing**
- You can't make more land
- It has a cool history
- Extend trail system from Mule Pasture
- Nothing, except maybe a few trails, maybe a bench, like the East side, access okay
- **Restoration to natural forest (clean-up diseased trees, thin orchard, more native species, less weeds)**
- Or put in something for the kids
- Nothing too permanent
- Archery range would be good - international sport opportunity for kids
- Anything that happens should be ADA accessible
- Open to anyone at no cost
- Weed pulling days
- Adopt-a-something for maintenance
- **Not maintaining Mule Pasture is concern to future Orchard**
- Day use only
- Helicopter area has potential
- No noise pollution, don't want to create distraction
- Porta Potties (kids there all the time?)
- Pack it in, pack it out

**Themes (Groups gathered their overall thoughts to present to the larger group, the notes below represent new thoughts or ideas that are not already represented above**

- Access for all abilities
- Kids education
- “Why does everything need a defined use?”
- “Why change what you have when you can’t get it back?”
- Exploratory area, **not developed**
- Creative play
- **Need to manage better by USFS (maintenance)**
- FS request - What does “leave it alone” really mean? And what management is wanted?
- Improved Outreach/Community Engagement Ideas
  - Postcards
  - Newspapers
  - Door-to-door
  - Post often to Sanders County 411 (3 weeks ahead)
  - Website
  - Partners, City, SCCD