



MANITOU SPRINGS OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

All upcoming OSAC meetings are scheduled to be remote, via Zoom. A link is provided on the City's Official Website at

<https://www.manitouspringsgov.com/544/All-Boards-and-Commissions>

August 25, 2025

6:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS

1. There are three openings for alternate members.
2. Application from Marion Cerruzi.
3. Application from Cassandra Bresnahan.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft minutes of OSAC May 28, 2025 meeting

C. AGENDA REVIEW and PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

D. PRESENTATION

1. Colorado Sunshine Law Presentation/Open Records Law & Process Presentation (City Clerk, 20 minutes)

E. REPORTS

1. PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (PARAB) UPDATE
 - a. Approved Minutes for PARAB 06-02-2025 meeting
2. Director's Comments (Gillian Rossi, 5 minutes)

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on *Ring the Peak*. (Denise Howell and Mark Shay from Colorado Springs Utilities, 15 minutes)
2. Creek Walk 4 Segment: update on scope of work, timing, and use of OSAC funds per 2025 budget. (Denise Howell and Karen Rowe, 10 minutes)
3. Biesel Parcels; update on property visit. (David Conley, 10 minutes)
4. 2026 Budget: preliminary budget outline per July 23 work session. (David Conley, 10 minutes)

5. September OSAC Meeting; proposal to move meeting date to Monday, September 29th. (David Conley, All, 5 minutes)

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bill Bauer Open Space:
 - a. Review bid(s) for conducting survey, recommend contract approval. (Gillian Rossi, 5 minutes)
 - b. Receipt of resolution from Mobility and Parking Board recommending construction of multi-use trail with "all haste". (All, 5 minutes)
2. Black Canyon Open Space:
 - a. Fire Mitigation Scope of Work and quotes. (Gillian Rossi, 5 minutes)
 - b. Kimley-Horn contract proposal to manage process with CDOT and City of Colorado Springs for walkway, access, and bridge. (Gillian Rossi and David Conley, 10 minutes)
3. Iron Mountain Trail Repair: review bids (Paul Arlinghaus, David Conley, 10 minutes)

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. 2026 Budget: review final draft for recommendation to City Council
2. Trail Mapping: reprint for Visitor's Center, status of online map on City web site and other apps.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Members:

David Conley, Chair (03/31/2028)
Paul Arlinghaus, Vice Chair (03/21/2029)
Judy Carnick, Committee Member (03/31/2029)
Sheryl Cline, Committee Member (03/31/2026)
Robin Kovats, Committee Member (3/31/2026)
Anthony "TJ" Maltese, Committee Member (03/31/2029)
Andrea Sutela, Committee Member (03/31/2028)

Staff and Liaisons:

Judith Chandler, Council Liaison
Gillian Rossi, Parks & Recreation Director

3 alternate positions available

The City of Manitou Springs does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission to, access to, or operations of programs, services or activities. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to ensure equal access to all. Individuals who would like to request auxiliary aids or services should contact the ADA Coordinator at (719) 685-5481 or jfryer@manitouspringsco.gov. You may also contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov or (719) 685-2554. Please provide a minimum of 3-5 days advance notice.

Interested citizens are invited to serve on any of the City's Boards or Commissions. Please contact the City Clerk's Office for more information or visit our website at: www.manitouspringsgov.com.



City of Manitou Springs

Application for Board/Commission Membership

Please complete the following to express interest in board or commission membership.

[Click here for a list of all board and commission vacancies!](#)

Which Board are you Applying For? Open Space Advisory Committee

Membership Requested • Alternate

Full Name Marion Ceruzzi

Street Address 33 Crystal Park Road

City Manitou Springs

State CO

Zip Code 80829

Phone 9084485646

Email marion.ceruzzi@gmail.com

Do you have any special interests? If so, please briefly provide details below: Interested in preserving as much open space as possible. The maintenance of native plants and elimination of invasive species.

Per City Charter 9.3: The Council shall not appoint to any Board or Commission any member of the immediate family of any Council Member. Immediate family shall be defined as spouse, parents, brothers, sisters, and children.

(Amendment No. 8, adopted and approved January 14, 1975)

Do you have an immediate family member on City Council? No

Please attach a resume: marionceruzziCV2025.docx

MARION CERUZZI, Ph.D.

Ethidium Services LLC
33 Crystal Park Road
Manitou Springs, CO 80829
marion.ceruzzi@gmail.com
(908) 448-5646 (cell)

HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

Pharmaceutical Industry

Over 25 years of experience in regulatory affairs with background in multiple therapeutic areas and all phases of development for both biologics as well as synthetic drugs.

Over the past 10 years, my focus has been early development for oncology indications.

Past experience included: primary liaison and direct interface with the FDA and the Global Regulatory oncology therapeutic lead for various core project teams; provided the US regulatory strategy for development of INDs, NDAs, BLAs, and major clinical supplements, labeling changes, REMS, Health Authority meeting requests/briefing books as well as coordination and review of Multiple Myeloma regulatory activities worldwide, review of such dossiers to EU, Japan, China and response to HA questions. Presented Global Regulatory strategies to Senior Management and Key Opinion Leaders.

Management and mentoring of Regulatory professionals.

Presentations to Senior Management including CEO's

Past company representative for various professional organizations, e.g. LD-KIT PhRMA, BIO.

Teaching

Adjunct assistant professor at Community College level courses in General Biology I & II, Biology Lab, Microbiology, Nutrition (online)

Volunteer Work

Past work: Mentoring Native American student Elementary-High School (Navajo); Kiwimbi-Board member, Literacy Volunteers of America, Open Space Committee Long Hill Township; Girl Scout Co Leader, VA Hospital- Meal Mate in Dementia Unit and Hospice Unit, Raptor Trust-Receptionist/Data Entry/Gift Shop Clerk, Master Gardener NJ, Pillar (adult learner) presenter, American Red Cross Caseworker, VP Manitou Springs Garden Club, Manitou Springs Mansions Community Garden-Gardening coordinator, coordinator So. District Garden Club Annual Meeting

Current volunteer work Master Gardener El Paso County CO, Manitou Springs Garden Club member; Indivisible Colorado Springs-Healthcare Action Team Lead

Computer Skills: MS Windows, MS Word, PowerPoint, Some Excel, also familiar with MAC platform

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy-Biological Chemistry
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.
Biological Chemistry Research Internship

Bachelor of Arts-Chemistry- Magna cum Laude
Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut.
Awards
Chesbrough-Ponds Chemistry Award
Connecticut State Scholarship

Post-doctoral Research Work in Virology/Molecular Biology

Roche Institute and NJ Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine

OTHER EDUCATION

Horticulture Therapy Certificate (Credit via Colorado State University) 2018

Master Gardener NJ-Horticultural Training

Master Gardener CO-Horticultural Training

Red Cross Caseworker Training

Coursera-John Hopkins Certificate in Contact Tracing

<https://www.coursera.org/account/accomplishments/verify/8LA3VQBJA6N>

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE

Ethidium Services, LLC, Owner

Feb 2017- present **Regulatory**

Affairs Consultant Oncology

Contract work for Projects in

Early and Later Development for

the following companies:

- **Heidelberg Pharma-2023-**
*presently assisting German
based biotech company
with oncology drug
development*
- **Advysom-April 2021-May**
*2022t sub-contractor-
assisted companies
assigned by Advysom based
in France, China, Scotland
as US Agent in oncology
drug development-*

submitted INDs, liaison work with FDA, provided strategic input for Briefing Books, End of Phase II meeting, Advice on Pediatric Plans, outline T of C for NDA

- **Merck KGaA/EMD Serono** (4 years, in April 2021 projects moved to internal employees)-
 - *Acted as US/Global Regulatory Lead providing regulatory guidance on project teams for several early oncology projects in Solid Tumors, Breast Cancer and Renal Cancer*
 - *Review and comment on key regulatory documents*
 - *FDA Liaison work e.g., coordinated responses to FDA queries on development plan and clinical protocols.*
 - *Submitted IND, protocol amendments, IB's, DSURs, etc. for company*

- **Enterome** (4 months)
 - *Reviewed/Edited BB*
 - *Coordinated and led discussion with FDA pre-IND meeting for potential cancer vaccine*
 - *Acted as US Agent for French Company.*

Celgene Corporation Summit, NJ

2012- Jan. 2016 (Retired) **Senior Director, Global Regulatory Affairs**

- Developed US Regulatory Strategies and operational plans for identified investigational and/or marketed products
- Worked with regional staff to execute global regulatory plans for identified projects/products
- Provided leadership to the larger regulatory team that supports assigned projects
 - Mentored/managed assigned regulatory staff
- Regulatory representative on various cross-functional teams.
 - Responsible for Global submission work for filings -e.g. sNDAs, INDs, Variations, FDA Meetings, Briefing Books, HA Meetings (US, EU, Japan, China), answering questions from Health Authorities in US, Japan, EU, Australia, Switzerland, China, US Pediatric Requests, etc.
 - REMS assessment reports, updates; REMS submission for new NDA

2009- 2012 - **Director, Global Regulatory Affairs,**

- Responsible for global Multiple Myeloma and MDS filing strategies for Revlimid,
- US FDA liaison activities; REMS submissions, labeling negotiations,
- Review and providing input on various Health Authority queries while assuring consistency across regions;
- Managing several staff members

Merck & Co., (formally Schering-Plough)

2002, 2005-2009- **Global Regulatory Affairs Lead**

- Global Strategic and US FDA Liaison activities for Marketed Oncology, Anti-inflammatory and Anti-Infective Products
- Development of regulatory strategy for products in Early Development in anti-inflammatory and oncology indications.
- NDA filing for new formulation for Temodar.
- IND filing, Co-lead for CTA & IMPD filings in EU

Sanofi-Aventis Pharma *(formerly Aventis and Hoechst Marion Roussel)*

1994-2002 **Assistant Director, Director**

Various US and Global regulatory roles throughout mergers including Global Regulatory Strategic Liaison Oncology,

Develop global regulatory strategies (for compliance with Japanese, U.S. and European Health Agency rules and regulations) and risk assessments for a variety of new drug projects in Oncology Franchise.

- Coordinated and reviewed key regulatory documents for scientific rigor and compliance with various health authorities' rules and regulations
- Hired and Managed Drug Regulatory Affairs professionals in Oncology Franchise after merger with RPR.
- Coordination and Direction of project team for Oncology Advisory Meeting

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Raritan Valley Community College

2003- 2005 Adjunct Assistant Professor,
General Biology I, II (lecture and lab for science majors), Introductory Microbiology

Sussex County Community College

2003-2005 Adjunct Assistant Professor,
Introduction to Nutrition, Telecourse/online

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2019- present El Paso County, CO Master Gardener- Zoom presentations to Gardeners as part of Speakers Bureau, Help Desk-Answering gardening queries, Social Media posts

2021-2025-VP Manitou Garden club, coordinator of Mansions Community Garden

2020-2023 Red Cross Case Worker Southeastern Colorado-Providing assistance to clients in recovery from disasters

2017-2019 Morris County, NJ Rutgers Extension Master Gardener

Assisting elderly residents in horticulture projects, Frelinghuysen Arboretum Plant Sale, Morris County Hotline, Speakers Bureau, Writing Articles for Newsletter, Morris County Representative to NJMGA

2017-2019 Board Trustee Kiwimbi International-Non-Profit that provides educational assistance to children in Western Kenya. Fundraising related activities.

2016-2019 Raptor Trust, Millington, NJ -Receptionist: Greet those who bring in injured birds and preliminary intake assessment, database entries, Gift Shop checkout clerk

Feb 2016 – June 2017 VA Hospital Lyons, NJ-Feeding Veterans with Dementia, Feeding Veterans in Hospice, providing company to veterans

2016-2017 Morristown Medical Center-Assisting elderly patients to try to avoid/delay/mitigate delirium, feeding assistance

2015- 2016 Home for Good Dog Rescue Walking, Bathing and Cleaning Rescued Dogs, Administrative work

2008- 2015 Education of Native American (the former Futures for Children Program)

2003-2005 Literacy Volunteers of America, English Tutor

Public Presentations

Pillar Institute 2019-present: Science Presentations via Zoom, “How did Life Get Started on Planet Earth”, “The Fascinating Story of Evolution, Heredity and DNA”

Women in Biotechnology Seminar, "Women working in Research and Regulatory Affairs using Biotechnology", Raritan Valley Community College, 2005

De Vry Industry Advisory Board Meeting Consultant, Oct. 2003

Raising Awareness of Life Sciences Career *Day*, Raritan Valley Community College Fall 2003, 2004
Science Seminar, "How Drugs are approved in the United States", Raritan Valley Community College Fall 2004

Social Media

Routine postings on gardening topics on CO Master Gardener El Paso County Facebook Page; Lunch and Learn Gardening Presentations; Presentations at Manitou Springs Garden Club

Publications

Papers:

Ceruzzi, M.A.F., Bektesh, S.L. and Richardson, J.P.: Interaction of Rho factor with bacteriophage lambda era transcripts. *J. Bioi. Chem.* 260, 9412-9418, 1985.

Ceruzzi, M. and Richardson, J.P.: Interaction of Rho protein with lambda era and T7D11 early gene transcripts. In "Sequence Specificity in Transcription and Translation" UCLA Symposia on Molecular Biology (Calendar, R. and Gold, L., eds.) Vol. 30, Alan R. Liss, Inc., New York, pp. 161-170, 1985. Ceruzzi, M. and Shatkin, A.J.: Expression of reovirus p14 in bacteria and identification in the

Cytoplasm of infected mouse L-cells. *Virology* 153, 35-45, 1986.

Ceruzzi, M. and Draper, K.: The intracellular and extra cellular fate of oligodeoxyribonucleotides in tissue culture systems. *Nucleosides and Nucleotides*, §, 815-818, 1989.

Draper, K.G., Ceruzzi, M., Kmetz, M.E. and Sturzenbecker, L.: Complementary oligonucleotide sequence inhibits both Vmw65 gene expression and replication of herpes simplex virus. *Antiviral Research*, 13, 151-164, 1990.

Ceruzzi, M., Draper, K. and Schwartz, J.: Natural and phosphorothioate-modified oligodeoxyribonucleotides exhibit a nonrandom cellular distribution. *Nucleosides and Nucleotides*, 679-695, 1990.

Kmetz, M.E., Ceruzzi, M. and Schwartz, J: Vmw65 Phosphorothioate Oligonucleotides Inhibit HSV KOS Replication and Vmw65 Protein Synthesis. *Antiviral Research*, 16,173-184, 1991.

Abstracts:

Ceruzzi, M. and Shatkin, A.J.: Expression of reovirus polypeptide p14 in bacteria and in infected mouse L-cells. Annual ASV Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA, 1986.

Ceruzzi, M. and Shatkin, A.J.: Expression of reovirus type 3 polypeptide in E. coli. Double-stranded RNA Virus Meeting, Oxford, England, 1986.

Shatkin, A.J., Benavente, J., Ceruzzi, M. and Fajardo, E.: mRNA capping and initiation of translation:

Expression of reovirus genes. *Inti. Symp. Of Gene Expression*, Japan, 1986.

Ceruzzi, M. and Draper, K.G.: The intracellular and extra cellular fate of oligodeoxyribonucleotides in tissue culture systems. Eighth Annual Nucleoside and Nucleotide Round Table Meeting, Alabama, 1988.

Draper, K.G., Ceruzzi, M. Kmetz, M., Sturzenbecker, L: Inhibition of herpes virus replication with complementary oligonucleotides. Annual Meeting NJ ASM, 1989.

REFERENCES

Available upon Request



City of Manitou Springs

Application for Board/Commission Membership

Please complete the following to express interest in board or commission membership.

[Click here for a list of all board and commission vacancies!](#)

Which Board are you Applying For? OSAC

Membership Requested • Alternate

Full Name Cassandra Bresnahan

Street Address 80 Waltham Avenue

City Manitou Springs

State CO

Zip Code 80829-1613

Phone 7202615146

Email cbresna@gmail.com

Do you have any special interests? If so, please briefly provide details below: I believe recreation in outdoor space is critical for mental and physical wellness. I am a physician and am also very active in the schools. I help coach high school cross country and track. I direct the Manitou 5K race fundraiser. I am outside everyday hiking, biking or running in our town. Spending time outdoors did not start during Covid, it has been a lifetime goal!

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(Amendment No. 8, adopted and approved January 14, 1975)

Do you have an immediate family member on City Council? No

Please attach a resume:



CV-Cassandra Bresnahan.pages.zip

Date

08/05/2025

Cassandra Maria Bresnahan, MD

80 Waltham Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829
720-261-5146
cbresna@gmail.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Board Certification Internal Medicine*
 - Recertification Internal Medicine 9/2016
 - Internal Medicine 9/10/2006
- Colorado State Medical License*
 - License number: 43762
 - Expiration date: 4/30/2025
- DEA Practitioner License*
 - License number: FB1374696
 - Expiration date: 7/31/2027

EDUCATION:

- ACLS Provider*
 - ACLS Expiration date: 4/2027
- University of Toledo School of Medicine*
 - Toledo, OH
1999-2003
Doctor of Medicine
- University of Virginia*
 - Charlottesville, VA
1995-1999
Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs

POST GRADUATE TRAINING:

- University of Colorado Health Sciences Center*
 - Denver, CO
2003-2006
Internal Medicine Residency

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE:

- Red Mountain Internal Medicine*
 - Hospitalist at St Thomas More Hospital
4/2021-present
 - Hospitalist at Sterling Regional Medical Center
9/2010-2021
- United States Air Force*
 - Staff Internist at Internal Medicine Clinic
United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs
2006-2010
- Military Deployment*
 - Internist and Critical Care Physician
Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar
3/2007-9/2007
 - Internist and Critical Care Physician
Travis Air Force Base
9/2008-1/2009

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

- Rural Physicians Group*
 - Regional Medical Director 2018-2023
 - Chief Hospitalist, Sterling Regional Medical Center 2015-2018
 - Teaching physician, FP residency Sterling Medical Center, 2018-2021
- United States Air Force*
 - Medical Education Program Director, 2006-2010
 - Infusion Clinic Director, 2007-2010
- University of Toledo School of Medicine*
 - At-Large Representative to Administrative Board of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), 2003
 - Class Representative, Medical Student Council, 2003

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Sterling Regional Medical Center*
 - Physician of the Year, 2017
- University of Colorado Health Sciences Center*
 - Chief Resident, selected, 2006

VOLUNTEERING:

- University of Virginia*
 - Ironwoman, female winner of tri-service triathlon, Spring, 1997 - 1999
- Manitou Springs, CO, local involvement*
 - Assistant Coach High School Cross Country & Track, 2023-present
 - Coach Landsharks Running Club, K-6th grade, 2017-2023

LANGUAGES:

Fluent in Spanish



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Hybrid Meeting
In Person at 513 Manitou Avenue
and Remote via Zoom
May 28, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS

Chair Conley called the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

1. Announcement of Paul Arlinghaus and regular member, approved by Council May 20, 2025

Chair Conley confirmed that Paul Arlinghaus was appointed as a regular member of OSAC by the City Council on May 20, 2025.

2. There are two openings for alternate members

Chair Conley confirmed that there were two alternate positions open on OSAC.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair David Conley
Committee Member Paul Arlinghaus
Committee Member Judy Carnick
Committee Member Sheryl Cline (via Zoom)
Committee Member Robin Kovats
Committee Member Anthony Maltese

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Committee Member Andrea Sutela (Arrived at 6:19 PM)
Alternate Committee Member Nancy Wilson (Excused)

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. None available at this time.

No minutes were reviewed or discussed.

C. AGENDA REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

D. REPORTS

1. Parks & Rec Advisory Board (PARAB) Update

- a. No available approved Minutes at this time

No minutes were reviewed or discussed.

2. Director's Comments

Parks and Recreation Director Gillian Rossi shared information about Open Space and Park Liability, including premises liability, governmental immunity, and third-party liability.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bill Bauer Survey: update on Council request for Work Session, survey postponed

Director Rossi reported that the City Council will hold a work session on the proposed citizen survey on June 10, 2025.

Committee Members Arlinghaus and Sutela noted that they would try to attend the meeting in person.

2. Intemann Re-Route: status of RMFI trail work near Red Mt. trail intersection and Volunteer Day on May 24 near High School

Chair Conley stated that the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) completed the re-route near the Red Mountain Trailhead. He added that he had biked the re-route and reported that it was in fine shape.

Committee Member Arlinghaus shared some photos of the new trail.

Chair Conley and Committee Member Arlinghaus reported that they participated in a volunteer work day conducted by RMFI on May 24, 2025. This effort reworked drains above the High School on lower Intemann Trail.

Director Rossi requested suggestions on how RMFI should fill the remainder of their workdays. Suggestions were made to clear drainages along the Intemann and Red Mountain Trails, conduct corridor clearing, and repair the steps leading to the Iron Mountain Trailhead from Crystal Park Road.

3. Fire Mitigation update: input from MSFD on identifying parcels and obtaining bids

Director Rossi reported that Fire Lieutenant Mike Willie is working on a plan and trying to identify funding for mitigation on Black Canyon Open Space and other locations.

4. Field Park, 0 Becker Lane: explanation from Rossi on Council requirements for limited development and future OSAC requirements, if any

Director Rossi reported that in April the City Council had pulled the parcel from the rezoning package that would have rezoned the open space parcel as park. At this point, no further action is needed from OSAC. She shared that the chain link fence was removed from the property, the trees were pruned to remove hazards and deadwood, and a trash cleanup took place.

Director Rossi suggested the idea of a joint meeting between OSAC and PARAB. If both groups would like to continue to pursue park zoning for the property, a conceptual plan needs to be in place first that includes cost, staffing needs, and other details.

5. Signage update on Intemann Trail access points

Director Rossi reported that the signs were ordered but had not yet arrived for installation.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Potential revision of POST: Andrea on this suggestion.

Committee Member Sutela suggested that the committee schedule time to re-visit the Parks, Open Space, & Trails (POST) Master Plan as it was adopted in 2016 and is almost ten years old.

Council Liaison Judith Chandler recommended that OSAC form a subcommittee to pursue revisions of the plan.

2. Iron Mountain repair proposal: Paul Arlinghaus and Dave Conley on suggestion for mechanized work, requirements for bids or RFP depending on value of work

Committee Member Arlinghaus and Chair Conley reviewed their suggestion for mechanical work on a portion of Iron Mountain Trail where the original road was balded to retain water. The route needs to be re-worked with equipment to allow water to flow off the trail.

Director Rossi stated that she would identify contractors and prepare a bid package.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Confirm next meeting date

Chair Conley confirmed that the next meeting date will be Monday, June 23, 2025.

Council Liaison Chandler recommended adding a discussion about the 2025 Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) Conference to the June agenda. She shared that registration starts in July and that the conference takes places October 6, 2025 through October 8, 2025.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

If you need this document in an alternative format, such as large print, accessible PDF, or Braille, please contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov or (719) 685-2554.



Colorado Sunshine Law

Informs the methods by which public meetings are conducted.

C.R.S. §§ 24-6-101 — 24-6-502

Open Meetings Law

C.R.S. §§ 24-6-401 – 24-6-402



All meetings of 3 or more members of any local public body where any public business is discussed must be open to the public.

A Local Public Body



Board

Committee

Commission

Policy-making or rule-making
advisory

Formally Constituted Body of a
Political Subdivision

Any Public or Private Entity
That Has Been Delegated Any
“Governmental Decision-
making Function”.

What is a Meeting?

Defined broadly by the statute as “any kind of gathering, convened to discuss public business, in person, by telephone, electronically or by other means of communication.”





Four Types of Meetings

- Open Meetings
- Meetings Requiring Notice
- Meetings Requiring Minutes
- Executive Sessions

Open Meetings

Meetings with 3 or more members of any local public body, or a quorum, whichever is less, at which any public business is discussed or at which any formal action is to be taken.

Meetings Requiring Notice



A minimum of 24 hours public notice,
with specific agenda information where
possible, is required for meetings...

- In which the adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action occurs
- OR at which majority or quorum of the body is in attendance or expected to be in attendance.

Meetings Requiring Minutes

Minutes are required at meetings in which the adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action occurs or could occur shall be taken.

Executive Sessions

- An executive session is a closed portion of a regular or special meeting held to discuss a limited number matters.
- No adoption of proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation or formal action can occur at a session not open to the public.
- Prior to the session the specific provision authorizing the executive session as well as the topic to be discussed, in as much detail possible, must be announced to the public.

Topics for Executive Session

Property Transactions

Attorney Conferences

Negotiations

Personnel Matters

Confidential Matters Under State Or Federal Law

(Governing body must announce specific statute that requires confidentiality.)

Documents Protected Under C.O.R.A.

(For example, work product, personnel files, medical files, and more.)

Best Practices



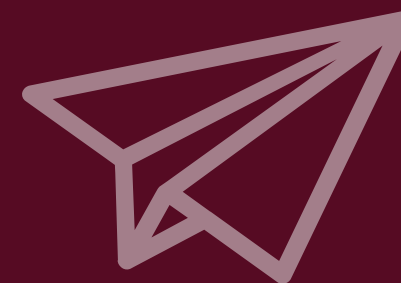
- Save questions, comments & discussions about public business for official meetings. Even discussions between two board members that do not equate to a quorum can be seen as not being transparent.
- When communicating about public business to city staff, applicants, City Council, Board Members or anyone else, consider that the public may hear or see what has been said, when and to whom.



A Note About C.O.R.A

C.R.S. §§ 24-72-201 — 24-72-206

Emails concerning public duties or funds are, for the most part, public records under The Colorado Open Records Act.



Emailing Best Practices



BCC – blind carbon copy allows a member to send information out to multiple members, so that recipients cannot see who received the email, limiting the possibility for discussion between three or more members.



Include labels in your email like “One-way Email” and/or “Do Not Reply” when sending out information, to prevent discussion that could trigger the Open Meetings Law.



Emails not included in the Open Meetings Law

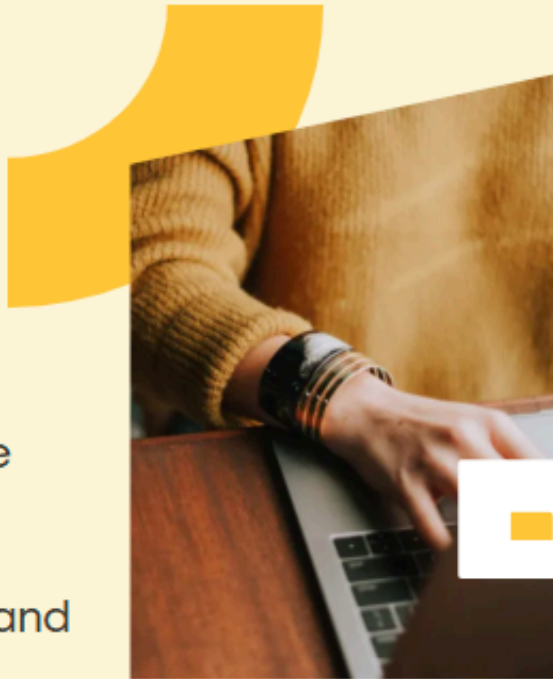


Email communications among elected officials or appointed members “that does not relate to the merits or substance of pending legislations or other public business” shall not be considered a meeting.

- Emails about scheduling and availability
- Emails for the purpose of forwarding information

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or



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LET THE SUNSHINE IN!





OPEN RECORDS LAW & PROCESSES

COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT

C.O.R.A.

C.R.S. §24-72-201 ET. SEQ.



C.O.R.A.

All public records shall be open for inspection by any person at reasonable times.



Under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA), all messages sent to or from this e-mail account may be subject to public disclosure. This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this email. Please notify the sender immediately if you have received this email by mistake and delete this email from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. City of Manitou Springs, 606 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Public Records

All writings made, maintained, or kept by the state, any agency, institution, a nonprofit corporation incorporated pursuant to section 23-5-121 (2), C.R.S., or political subdivision of the state, or that are described in section 29-1-902, C.R.S., and held by any local-government-financed entity for use in the exercise of functions required or authorized by law or administrative rule or involving the receipt or expenditure of public funds.

Includes the correspondence of elected officials and appointed members...



Correspondence Not Included in Public Records:



Work product



Correspondence without demonstrable connection to the exercise of functions required or authorized by law or administrative rule, or that does not involve public funds.



Communication from a constituent that is clearly of a personal nature and that the constituent expects is confidential, or that is communicated for the purpose of requesting assistance or information relating to a private manner not publicly known.

Public Records does not include:

- ❑ Criminal justice records
- ❑ Personnel Files
- ❑ Medical, Psychological, Sociological, and Scholastic Achievement Data
- ❑ Materials received, made or kept by a crime victim compensation board or attorney that are confidential
- ❑ Certain information security documents
- ❑ Unsubstantiated complaints of harassment or discrimination

REDACTED INFORMATION:

- ❖ Personal identifiable information
- ❖ Correspondence not related to public business or public funds.



Who is the custodian?

City Clerk
(& Deputy City Clerk on
behalf of the City Clerk)

The official custodian of any public records may make such rules with reference to the inspection of such records as are reasonably necessary for the protection of such records and the prevention of unnecessary interference with the regular discharge of the duties of the custodian or the custodian's office.

C.R.S. §24-72-203 (1)(a)



CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY

Purpose:

To assure prompt and equitable service to citizens requesting access to public records, in accordance with the requirements of C.R.S 24-72-201 et. seq.

Policy:

To make all records available for public inspection unless such records are protected from disclosure by state or federal law, by court order, or unless disclosure of such records would be contrary to the public interest.



Making a records request

Must be submitted in writing on the form provided by the city, (via the city website, email, US mail, or hand delivery)..

Must be made with sufficient specificity.

REQUEST FOR RECORDS

This form is to be utilized to request copies or review documents in the possession of the City of Manitou Springs, subject to the provisions and restrictions of the Open Records Act (C.R.S. Article 72).

Return completed forms to the City Clerk's office at: 606 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs, CO 80829 or via email to cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov

Requestor's Name: _____ Date of Request: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Company (if applicable): _____

Case # (if applicable): _____

INSTRUCTIONS
Indicate the information you desire and/or list each requested document. Please be as specific as possible. Allow three (3) working days to search the records. Per the State of Colorado Open Records Act (C.R.S. 24-72-203) if the request is substantially large or is maintained off-site, an extension of seven (7) working days is permitted. You will be notified within three (3) days of any extension and all estimated costs.

Please select the format in which you would like to receive materials:

View Only-No copies requested (appropriate staff member will accompany you): ____

Hard Copies/Print outs: ____

Email: ____

USB Drive: ____

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above Colorado Revised State Statutes. I am not requesting official actions or criminal justice records for the purpose of solicitation of business or for pecuniary gain.

Requestor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Records Request Response

The City Clerk's Office will respond within 3 business days. If more time is required, the requester will be notified with an estimated time frame, not more than 7 additional working days.

If it is not feasible to provide copies and/or the copies are not requested, then the city may reach out to set up a time for the requester to come in and inspect the requested records.

Effective July, 2024 the hourly Research & Retrieval Fee is \$41.37. The first hour is free. If a deposit is required, the request is not considered received until the deposit is paid.

If the city attempts to contact the requester for clarification, and/or to provide a cost estimate, and there is no response from the requester within 10 business days then the request will be closed.

If the request is denied, reasons for denial would be provided to the requester in writing.



Boards & Commissions and C.O.R.A.

Your email and text message correspondence relating to public functions of your appointed position or involving public funds can be requested under the Colorado Open Records Act.

Transparency and openness of public business for the benefit of the community is important to keep in mind in your communications.

Also see the Colorado Sunshine Law. C.R.S. §24-6-101 et. seq.



Questions



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**
Regular Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting via Zoom
June 2, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Fatt called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair Danu Fatt
Board Member David Crawford
Board Member Anthony Lane
Board Member Rebecca Wood
Alternate Board Member Candace Craig

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Vice Chair Tim Bresnahan (Excused)
Board Member Christina Grow (Excused)
Board Member Colin McAllister (Not Excused)
Alternate Board Member Jan Johnson (Excused)

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Member Wood made a motion to approve the agenda with an amendment to include a discussion of the funding of new art in Fields Park to be placed under Section G, Old Business. The motion was seconded by Board Member Crawford. The motion was carried (4-0).

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft Minutes from PARAB May 5, 2025

Board Member Crawford moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Lane. The motion was carried (4-0).

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA

(Please limit your comments to 3 minutes)

Executive Director Audrey Gray of Creative Alliance Manitou Springs (CRANE) reported that the Manizoo tile repairs have been progressing slowly due to rain.

E. REPORTS (5 minutes)

1. Arborist Report

As the Manitou Springs Parks Department still has not secured a permanent arborist, Parks and Recreation Director Gillian Rossi provided the arborist report. She stated that the neighborhood chipping project will begin on June 3, 2025.

2. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB)

a. Pickleball / Tennis Court (Alternate Board Member Johnson)

Since Alternate Board Member Johnson was not in attendance, PARAB did not discuss this item.

Chair Fatt asked whether the interim arborist, Aaron Reynard, had any trees that could be used for memorial trees. Director Rossi agreed to investigate.

Chair Fatt reported that the turf in Soda Springs Park is yellow and inquired about the possibility of reseeding or revitalizing it. Director Rossi reported that Timberline Landscaping is aware of the problem and agreed to send Chair Fatt an update.

3. Council Liaison

Council Liaison Johnson was not in attendance, so there was no discussion.

4. Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)

There were no approved minutes from OSAC.

F. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. Director's Report

Director Rossi reported that the fence for Soda Springs Park, is now informally scheduled for delivery on June 13, 2025.

The Hiawatha Gardens group requested to present at PARAB's next meeting in July. However, that is the day of PARAB's budget meeting. Director Rossi stated that she would check with the group to see if they would agree to present in August, instead.

Director Rossi inquired whether PARAB is interested in taking the failed 0 Beckers Lane rezoning back to the Council for reconsideration. Director Rossi explained that rezoning the property as a "park" would mean that it could be repurposed for such things as a playground or a paved recreational court. Keeping the property designated as "open space" would still allow it to be cleaned up, provided with bench seating, and sprinkled with artwork. Attending PARAB members expressed satisfaction in leaving it as open space for now, provided that the space is eventually cleaned up and formalized for human enjoyment.

Chair Fatt relayed the idea from Alternate Board Member Johnson of having cigarette dispensers attached to the garbage receptacles in the park, as stray butts have been

sighted. Director Rossi reiterated that there is no smoking allowed in any of Manitou's parks. The topic is not necessarily closed; however, she expressed concern that installing dispensers might send a message that conflicts with the official park rules and cater to rule-breakers.

There was a discussion about adding pickleball lines on the remaining tennis court. Board Members Lane, Wood, and Alternate Craig were all opposed to the hybridized court because tennis players would likely feel pressure from pickleball players to vacate their court early. Board Member Crawford and Chair Fatt did not have strong opinions. At the request of Board Member Wood, Director Rossi agreed to bring cost information to the next regular meeting.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Memorial Tree proposed planting at Soda Springs Park Update

Chair Fatt reported speaking with Mia Requesens, Landscape Architect at Hord Coplan Macht, concerning the placement of the memorial tree and decided on Soda Springs Park. If the city arborist has no more available trees, then Chair Fatt suggested an Early Glow Ohio Buckeye tree. The location for the proposed memorial tree is number 5 on the map of Soda Springs Park in the agenda packet, page 7. All members of PARAB were satisfied with the proposed location.

2. Letter of Support for Building New Trail Along Open Space/Bill Bauers Park Access

Board Member Grow wrote the support letter on behalf of PARAB, included in the agenda packet, pages 8 to 9. The board expressed its satisfaction with the letter and the consensus was to have Board Member Grow submit it to Council. Director Rossi shared that the City Council will conduct a work session concerning this new trail on June 10 and suggested that a representative from PARAB attend this session. Chair Fatt offered to ask Board Member Grow to represent PARAB at the session.

3. Request for Funding of Art Displays in Fields Park

Executive Director Gray reported that CRANE will cover the costs of replacing the front sides of the Fields Park art displays that were vandalized. She requested \$1,958 to pay for the artwork on the reverse sides of six double-sided displays. The request was not limited to the artwork that was vandalized.

Board Member Crawford made a motion to allocate \$1,958 for the printing of artwork on the reverse sides of the displays. The motion was seconded by Board Member Lane. The motion carried (4-0).

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Install New Plaque for Raul Maynez at The Fountain of Youth / Mansions Park

In 2001, Raul Maynez (now deceased), who worked for Manitou Springs, dedicated a Fountain of Youth in honor of Colorado children who lost their lives. The original dedication plaque has long since disappeared. In 2015, his daughter requested a replacement; however, this was never accomplished. Chair Fatt advocated replacing the plaque and posed a question for Executive Director Gray of CRANE about remaking and securing it more permanently. She replied that it would not be expensive to remake the plaque. Chair Fatt and Executive Director Gray agreed to meet to discuss the matter further.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

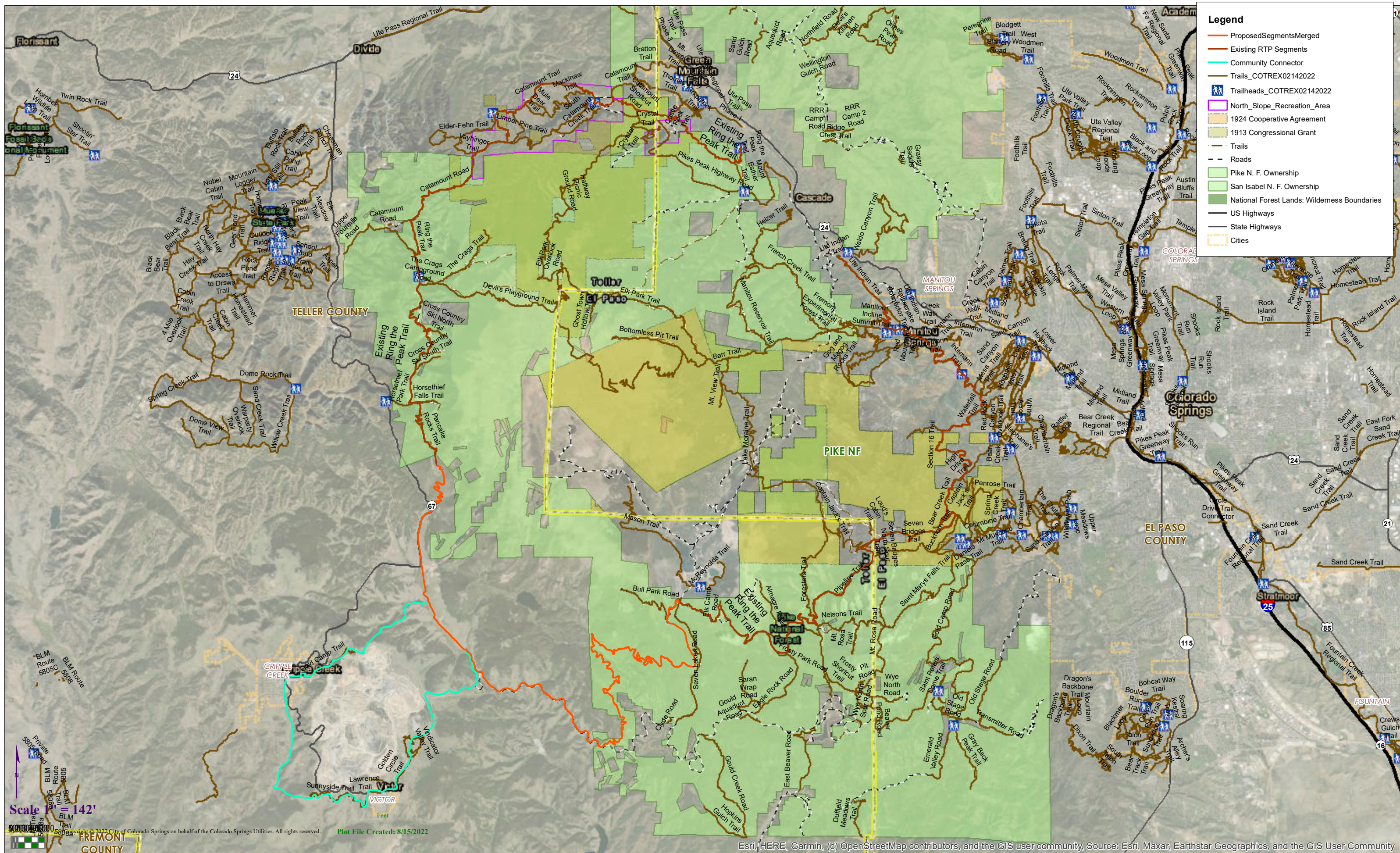
1. Schedule Special July Budget Session

Chair Fatt proposed to hold the budget meeting on July 7, 2025. Those PARAB members in attendance agreed to this date and a start time of 5:30 PM.

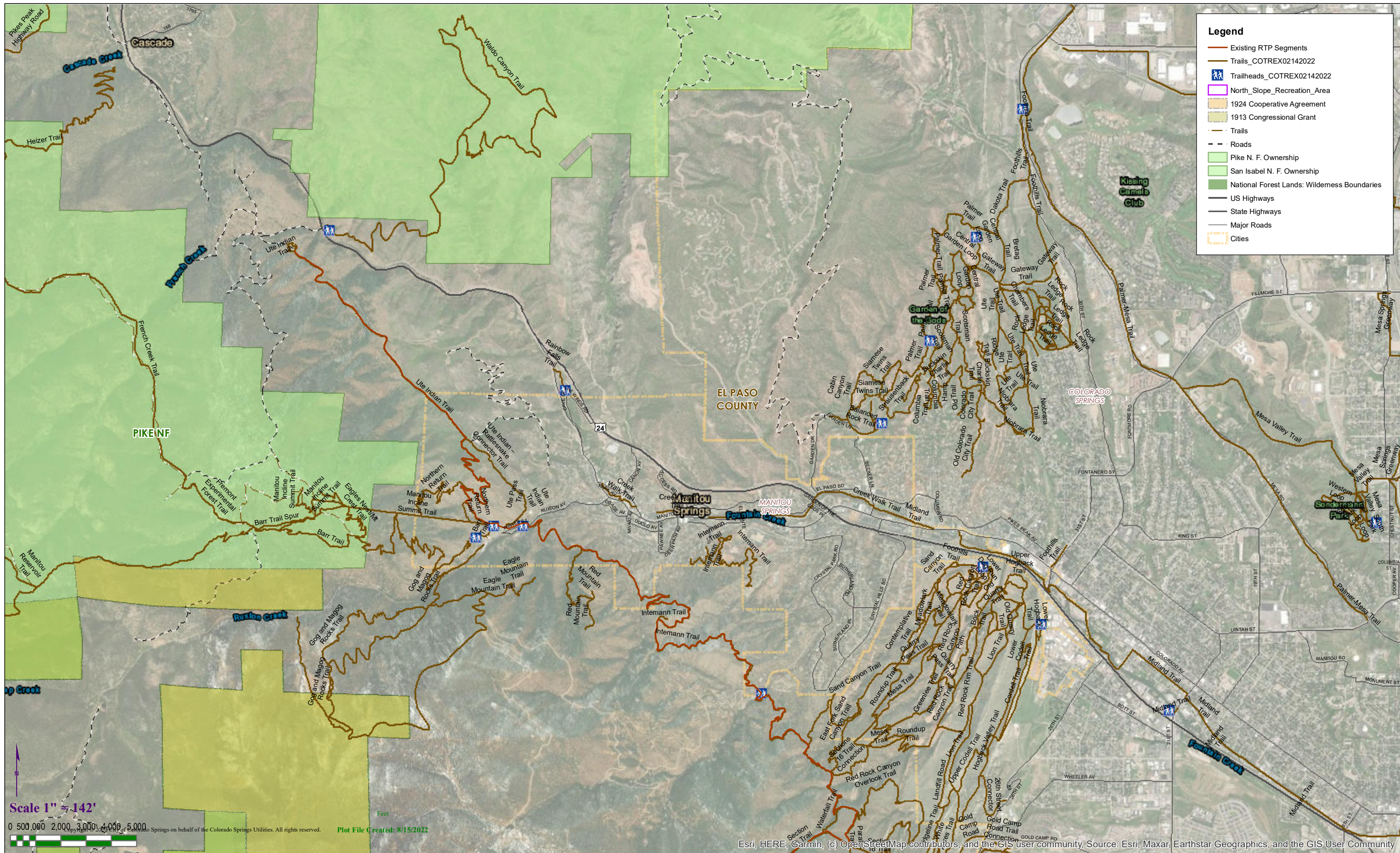
J. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fatt moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Lane. The motion was carried (4-0).
The meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

If you need this document in an alternative format, such as large print, accessible PDF, or Braille, please contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov or (719) 685-2554.



Ring the Peak Existing Route - Proposed Segments and Community Connector (Cripple Creek)



Legend

- Existing RTP Segments
- Trails_COTREX02142022
- Trailheads_COTREX02142022
- North_Slope_Recreation_Area
- 1924 Cooperative Agreement
- 1913 Congressional Grant
- Trails
- Roads
- Pike N. F. Ownership
- San Isabel N. F. Ownership
- National Forest Lands: Wilderness Boundaries
- US Highways
- State Highways
- Major Roads
- Cities

Scale 1" = 142'

0 500.000 2.000 3.000 4.000 5.000

Feet

Plot File Created: 8/15/2022

Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community, Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Ring the Peak Existing Route - Manitou Springs



RING THE PEAK MASTER PLAN

CLOSING THE GAP

TELLER COUNTY

EL PASO COUNTY

CRIPPLE CREEK

VICTOR



Trails and
Open Space
Coalition



Friends of The Peak



parks · recreation · cultural services



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& EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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SECTION 01

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
& EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

PROJECT TEAM

TRAILS & OPEN SPACE COALITION

- SUSAN DAVIES - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 - MIKE RIGNEY - PROJECT MANAGER
 - LARRY LARSEN -ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEMBER
 - DEBBIE BIBB - FORMER BOARD MEMBER
 - GLENN CARLSON -BOARD OF DIRECTORS
-

FRIENDS OF THE PEAK

- CAROL BECKMAN - PAST PRESIDENT
-

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

- KAREN PALUS - DIRECTOR
 - TILAH LARSON - SENIOR GRANT ANALYST
-

GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

- MATT BRADY - GRANTS OFFICER
-

The Ring the Peak trail (Ring) is part of the Colorado 16 initiative to fulfill the Governor's Colorado the Beautiful vision and create the connections that link us to the natural splendor that sets Colorado apart. This designation is the catalyst that set in motion the planning efforts to create the Ring the Peak Master Plan (Plan). On behalf of the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), Friends of the Peak (FOTP) and the City of Colorado Springs, the Plan was prepared by the N.E.S. Inc. led Consultant Team. This Plan will guide the completion, future use, development and management of this unique trail that will circumnavigate Pikes Peak. The Plan is the product of a collaborative effort between the Project Team, Consultant Team, key stakeholders, private land owners and local residents.

The Plan process has created the opportunity for state and federal agencies, the cities of Victor and Cripple Creek, Teller County, community organizations, and residents to meet, share information, provide input, and shape the future of the Ring. The Plan was made possible by a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), a City of Colorado Springs administered grant. It has created opportunities to develop, connect and promote valuable natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources throughout the Pikes Peak region.



CONSULTANT TEAM

The City of Cripple Creek and the City of Victor have been active partners in the planning process for the Ring and in creating the Plan. These communities identified and prioritized potential trails and recreation projects. They provided extensive staff time to the Ring planning process and meeting space. Their support was invaluable in defining preferred trail corridors for the Ring.

The success of this Plan is the result of significant time, effort and energy dedicated by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and United States Forest Service (USFS). Their expertise and active participation through the planning process contributed to the development of practical implementation strategies for completing the Ring that are environmentally responsible.

The Consultant Team acknowledges and thanks the community residents who contributed their insights, ideas, dreams and many hours to help create the Plan. The Plan is much more likely to endure and yield positive action as a result of their collective contributions.



PROJECT LEAD, PLANNING & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- Chris Lieber
- Tamara Baxter
- Bryn Iten
- Andrea Kuruda



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Lisa Bachman
- Allison Towe



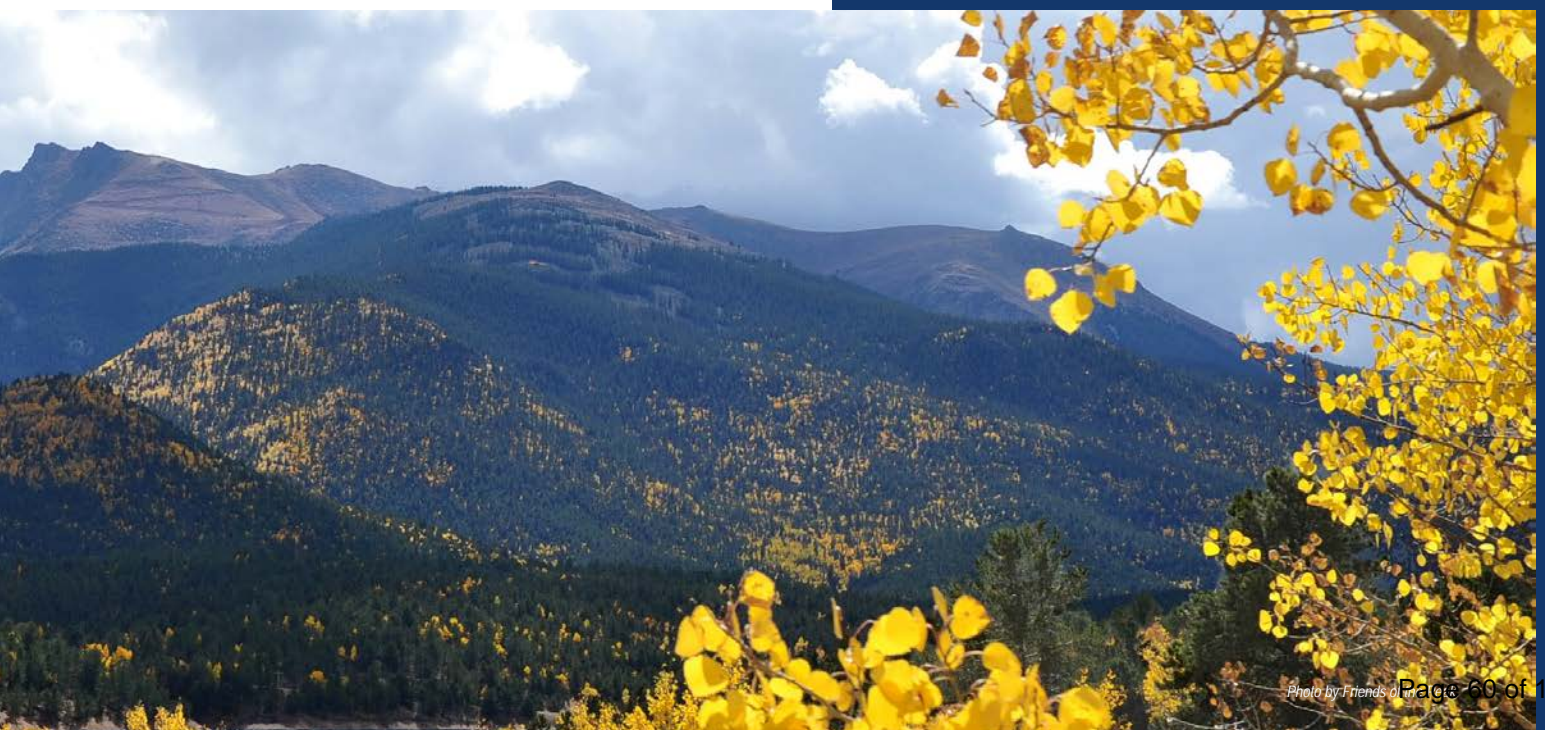
NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCE PLANNING

- Bill Mangle



TRAIL DESIGN

- Priscilla Marbaker





STAKEHOLDERS

The Project Team and Consultant Team recognize the following local, state and federal agencies and stakeholders for their significant commitment of time and energy towards this effort. The success of this Plan is a result of this commitment.



Bureau of Land Management - BLM

(Keith Berger & Kalem Lenard)

City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

(Tilah Larson & Karen Palus)

City of Cripple Creek

(Connie Dodrill, Bill Gray & Steve Kitzman)

City of Manitou Springs

(Wade Burkholder)

City of Victor

(Debra Downs & Becky Frank)

City of Woodland Park

(Cindy Keating)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife - CPW

(Nick Dellaca, Brian Dreher, Tim Kroening, Frank McGee, Robert Seel & Julie Stiver)

Colorado Springs Utilities - CSU

(Kim Gortz & Mark Shea)

El Paso County

(Jason Meyer, Stan VanderWerf & Tim Wolken)

El Pomar Heritage Series

(Walt Hecox)

Great Outdoors Colorado - GOCO

(Matt Brady, Emily Orbanek, Drew Stoll)

Newmont Goldcorp

(Arthur Iverson, Brad Poulson, Penny Riley, Penny Roberts & Lorna Shaw)

Palmer Land Trust

(Rebecca Jewett & Amber Shanklin)

Pikes Peak America's Mountain

(Sandy Elliott & Jack Glavan)

Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance - PPORA

(Becky Leinweber & David Leinweber)

Rocky Mountain Field Institute - RMFI

(Joe Lavorini)

Southern Teller County Focus Group

(Mark Perdew & Ruth Zalewski)

State of Colorado

(Luis Benitez & Alex Dean)

Teller County

(Sheryl Decker)

United States Forest Service - USFS

(Colleen Bergmanis, Jeff Hovermale & Oscar Martinez)



Colorado Springs Utilities
It's how we're all connected



INTRODUCTION

Completing the Ring around Pikes Peak has been actively pursued by trail advocates, FOTP and public land management organizations for decades and a community goal for many years. When completed, the Ring will be a magnet for adventure seekers and become an economic driver for the region. The Plan process included:

- Develop a Plan to close the physical gap on the southwest side of the Ring
- Develop a Plan for long-term management, operations and sustainability of the entire Ring

The strategically chosen path to accomplishing these goals was defined by a balanced scope of services that target three primary focus areas, each carefully planned, scheduled and coordinated to bring collective results.

- Focus on closing the **community engagement gap**. Build excitement in the community for the Ring and define user expectations for success. Engage the community in a shared vision for the Ring.
- Focus on closing the **southwest gap**. Explore and evaluate trail corridor alternatives and define a preferred trail alignment to complete the Ring.
- Focus on closing the **management gap**. Engage stakeholders in planning a sustainable future for the Ring.



Photo by N.E.S. Inc.

AUTHORITY

The Ring was nominated by TOSC and FOTP to be part of Governor Hickenlooper's Connect Colorado's 16 trail initiative. Subsequently, the Ring was selected to be a Colorado's 16 trail, officially recognizing that the completion of the Ring trail creates:

- A better connected network of trails statewide
- Improved links to expanded outdoor recreational opportunities
- Economic development opportunities for adjacent communities

TOSC, FOTP and the City of Colorado Springs were awarded a GOCO Connect Initiative Colorado's 16 Grant to hire a consultant team who would create a Master Plan to complete the Ring. The Ring traverses many jurisdictions and land ownerships (federal, state, county, local governments and private land). Each entity has authority over the Ring as it passes through their respective property. To maintain the continuity of the Ring requires the communication, consensus and commitment of many individuals and organizations.

APPROVAL

Approval of the Plan should be vested with TOSC and FOTP, the sponsors and grant recipients, upon receipt of recommendations from the Plan's Task Force (private land owners, local residents and the plan governmental, agency and organizational stakeholders). Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services has an obligation to ensure that the Plan meets grant requirements, they are not an approving entity for purposes of the Plan's recommendations or implementation

Upon adoption, amendments to the Plan shall be approved by the Ring non-profit after recommendation of the Project Manager and the Task Force. It is important to note that the Plan Process cannot substitute for the USFS's formal planning and environmental process. Instead, the Plan will inform future decisions and actions by the USFS. Any new improvements in the future not described in the Plan will require an amendment to the current Plan.

ORIGIN OF THE RING

Beginning in 1997, a multi-agency group was formed by Colorado Springs Utilities to develop a comprehensive regional planning effort to strike a “balance between preservation of critical water and other natural resources and the desires for recreational access.” The process succeeded in engaging unprecedented public participation through a Citizen’s Advisory Group and a Technical Advisory Group to deal with complex resource and planning issues.

After two years of meetings, field work and research, a final plan was developed and adopted by public agencies and a number of non-profit organizations. The plan, titled The Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan, Colorado Springs to Cripple Creek, became a guiding document for resource agencies and partner organizations. The final plan’s regional vision designated a Perimeter Loop Trail consisting of a system of multi-use non-motorized trails that circle Pikes Peak. This system envisioned using existing roads and trails to complete the loop. This Perimeter Loop Trail provides the backbone for the existing Ring. This single concept, though large in scale, organizes the region’s recreational elements more than any other concept expressed. The Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan was originally funded by GOCO, Colorado Spring Utilities and the USFS. Once established as a concept, the execution of the

project was passed from the USFS to FOTP who continues to dedicate countless hours to fulfilling the goals and vision of the Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan for the Ring. FOTP has worked with Pike National Forest staff and other organizations to build and maintain those portions of the trail designated as official segments of the Ring. Although these segments make up most of the loop envisioned in the Multi-Use Plan, a gap remains on the southwest flank of the Peak in the vicinity of the cities of Cripple Creek and Victor. Through a public participation process, this Plan proposes a trail corridor and management and implementation strategies to complete the Ring.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan, Colorado Springs to Cripple Creek, September, 1999, Colorado Springs Utilities
- Plan for Recreational Use on Municipal Watershed Lands, August 6, 2010, Colorado Springs Utilities
- City of Cripple Creek Community Master Plan, June, 2009, City of Cripple Creek
- Teller County Growth Management Plan, April, 1990 Teller County and Woodland Park Planning Departments
- Teller County Parks, Trails & Open Space Plan, November, 1997, Teller County Division of Parks
- Southeast Teller County Regional Plan, November, 2004, Teller County Planning Department



Photo by Friends of the Peak

PURPOSE

The Plan is intended to serve as a long-term guiding document for trail advocates, government organizations, land managers, non-profit organizations and volunteers to close the southwest gap in the Ring and identify goals for the overall Ring. The Plan establishes the preferred trail corridor to close the southwest gap in the Ring. The Plan is also intended as a resource document and guide for land management agencies that reflects common interests and goals for the Ring.

VISION

Over the years, the non-profit advocacy by FOTP has served as the catalyst and community voice for the Ring implementation. In 2016, TOSC added their voice of advocacy to the project and joined efforts with FOTP to pursue funding through GOCO to develop a master plan for the southwest gap, effectively becoming the champions for completing the Ring. While the U.S. Forest Service Pikes Peak Ranger District and Colorado Springs Utilities are expressly identified as the champions of the overall vision for the Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan, TOSC should be the keeper of the vision for completing the southwest gap in the Ring and champions for implementation, long-term management and sustainability of the entire Ring.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Currently, existing trails and roads around Pikes Peak have been utilized where feasible for the Ring with the expectation that trail gaps will be connected over time. Approximately 50 miles of the Ring is completed. Four new sections were built by the local volunteer group, FOTP. Two critical gaps remain for completing the Ring; a gap on the northeast side of Pikes Peak and a gap on the southwest side of Pikes Peak.

The northeast gap is being addressed by El Paso County Parks through the approved Master Plan for the Ute Pass Regional Trail. This Plan was created to address the southwest gap.

This gap on the southwest side of Pikes Peak is located amidst rugged terrain, with public ownership by the cities of Cripple Creek and Victor, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), USFS and BLM, plus an estimated 10 to 15 private property owners. In addition, Cripple Creek and Victor have critical reservoirs currently off limits to public use. CPW manages a Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep habitat in the area of the

southwest gap and has designated a significant portion of the area where the trail corridor might be located as lands for big game animal winter habitat.

The main objective of the Plan is to develop a strategy and recommendations to complete the Ring by closing the southwest gap from Pancake Rocks on the west side of Pikes Peak (north of Gillett, Colorado on HWY 67), to USFS Road 376 on the south side of Pikes Peak (northeast of Victor, Colorado at the entrance to the Colorado Springs Utilities South Slope watershed).

The establishment and implementation of management and maintenance strategies for the entire length of the Ring are an important goal of this Plan. To protect and preserve the Ring this Plan will act as a guide for trail maintenance decisions affecting the Ring and user experience along the Ring. This Plan also seeks to provide a holistic approach to trail management along the diverse ownership and situations spanning the length of the Ring including specific recommendations for economic development, education and promotion, special events and permitting, and funding and financial sustainability.



MASTER PLAN GOALS

The goal of the Plan is to develop a strategy and recommendations to complete the Ring. The southwest gap, as depicted in Exhibit 1.1, is from Pancake Rocks on the west side of Pikes Peak to USFS Road 376 on the south side of Pikes Peak at the entrance to the Colorado Springs Utilities South Slope.

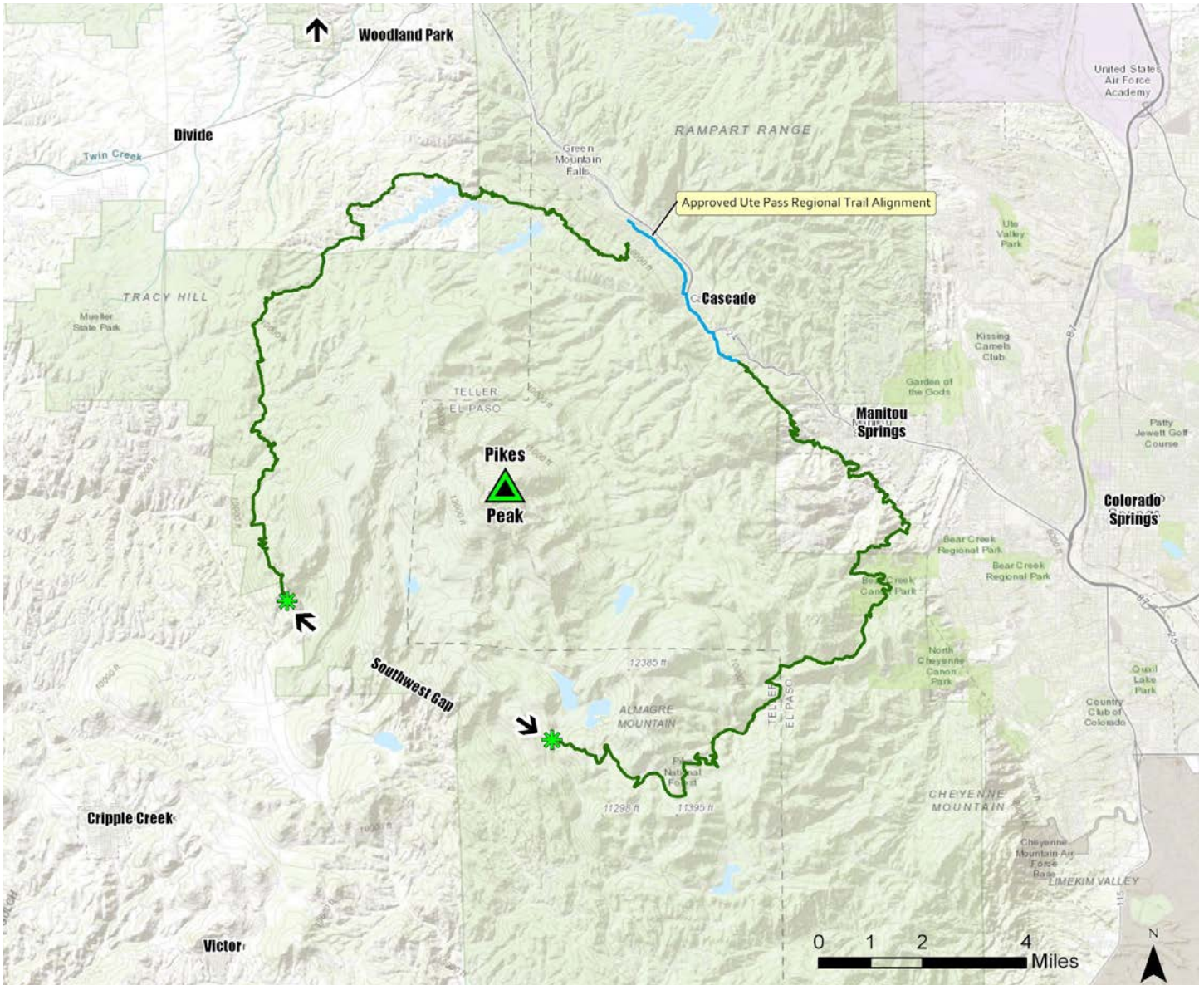
The recommendations of this Plan build upon the 1999 Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan recommendations, including management strategies for the overall Ring and specific strategies that are necessary for closing the southwest gap. Consistent with the 1999 Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan, each governmental agency will be responsible to implement the Ring within their respective jurisdiction. Annual trail maintenance will be critical to sustaining the Ring. Maintenance of the Ring

will be accomplished through the joint effort of many volunteer, local, state and federal agencies. While maintenance of the Ring trail is the responsibility of each respective jurisdiction, maintenance will largely be carried out by volunteer groups and supported by land managing agencies when possible. In addition, the Plan outlines a clear leadership role for non-profit partners including:

- Vision
- Leadership
- Fundraising
- Trail construction and trail maintenance

The Plan seeks to leverage the energy and strengths of existing agencies and organizations in the Pikes Peak Region that value the Ring.

Exhibit 1.1



PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

ENGAGEMENT

- Consistently engage the public and trail users for feedback on the Ring
- Prioritize recommended improvements for recreation sites, trailheads and trails
- Secure funding and implement recommended improvements
- Formally establish partnerships for ongoing maintenance and improvements to the Ring
- Develop trail maintenance volunteers that have completed basic trail construction and maintenance training
- Establish an Adopt-A-Trail program to ensure that trails are monitored and documented on an annual basis
- Utilize and coordinate with volunteers and user groups to accomplish relevant tasks

MANAGEMENT

- Accomplish uniformity of administration and management through cooperation
- Conform management and maintenance needs to the requirements of the specific land manager
- Prepare written policies and procedures to guide the maintenance efforts of volunteers, land managers, government agencies and community groups
- Establish a team to provide oversight and coordination on tasks performed by local governments and volunteer groups
- Coordinate outreach efforts to gather information on trail needs
- Protect private property through signage, fencing and enforcement
- Maintain, promote and enhance relationships and communications between land managers, government agencies, trail users and surrounding communities
- Coordinate efforts to secure approvals needed from government agencies and private property owners and to construct needed trail.
- Coordinate regular inspections and maintenance of trails to identify and correct existing or potential issues
- Provide trail and trailhead signs and other wayfinding information
- Provide and update trail maps, trail descriptions, directions to trailheads, GPS tracks and other basic trail information on a website or otherwise

MAINTENANCE

- Repair trails to be as sustainable as possible while maintaining aesthetic, natural and cultural resource values
- Assess annual maintenance needs and determine the best course of action
- Leave trails and trail connections open as much as possible during maintenance activities
- Provide ways to designate locations along a trail for maintenance and EMS
- Prioritize correcting deficiencies in trails as opposed to providing continued maintenance

MARKETING & FUNDING

- Build community support for outdoor recreation tourism and emphasizing the economic benefits
- Provide marketing information, photos, press releases, and social media kits to magazines, media outlets, tourism bureaus, etc.
- Track the positive impact of the Ring tourism in the surrounding community to garner and maintain local support
- Create a marketing toolkit for local businesses to promote the Ring and increase user traffic in their business
- Connect to “beyond the trail” opportunities and become a “destination” trail people are willing to travel a considerable distance to use
- Create and develop a strong social media and internet presence so users may find opportunities searching the internet and social media
- Seek support from tourism and recreation taxes and fees
- Apply for allocations from municipal governments and grants from non-profit foundations, state and federal agencies
- Seek and secure funding for trail property and easement acquisition and for trail construction and maintenance



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SECTION 02

THE PLANNING PROCESS &
CLOSING THE COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT GAP





PLAN ORGANIZATION

Following the Acknowledgments and Executive Summary this Plan contains sections on:

- Planning Process and the community engagement gap
- The southwest gap
- The management gap.

The following paragraphs summarize the contents of each section. Exhibit 2.1 describes the major steps in the development and adoption of the Plan.

The Planning Process and the community engagement gap section of the Plan describes:

- The public participation plan and time-line
- Outdoor recreation forum
- Public meetings
- Stakeholder meetings
- Community input

These processes and outcomes of various public outreach events achieved the maximum engagement possible with the extensive number of individuals, communities, agencies and stakeholders that helped shape the Plan and its recommendations. This section also plans for fostering healthy community input and feedback for the future of the Ring.

The southwest gap section focuses on closing the existing physical gap in the Ring. This section presents:

- Technical analysis
- Land use studies
- Trail suitability
- Trail context and ownership and right-of-way analysis
- Proposed trail corridor

This desktop and field analysis shaped the proposed trail corridor to complete the Ring. The proposed trail corridor is presented in a holistic and segment-by-segment approach to best provide an understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist in completing the Ring.

The management gap section covers:

- Management and operational strategies
- Management direction for the total length of the trail
- Maintenance of the Ring
- A review of existing and potential resources for staffing, marketing, funding and operations
- Trail design standards for the Ring

MASTER PLAN PROCESS

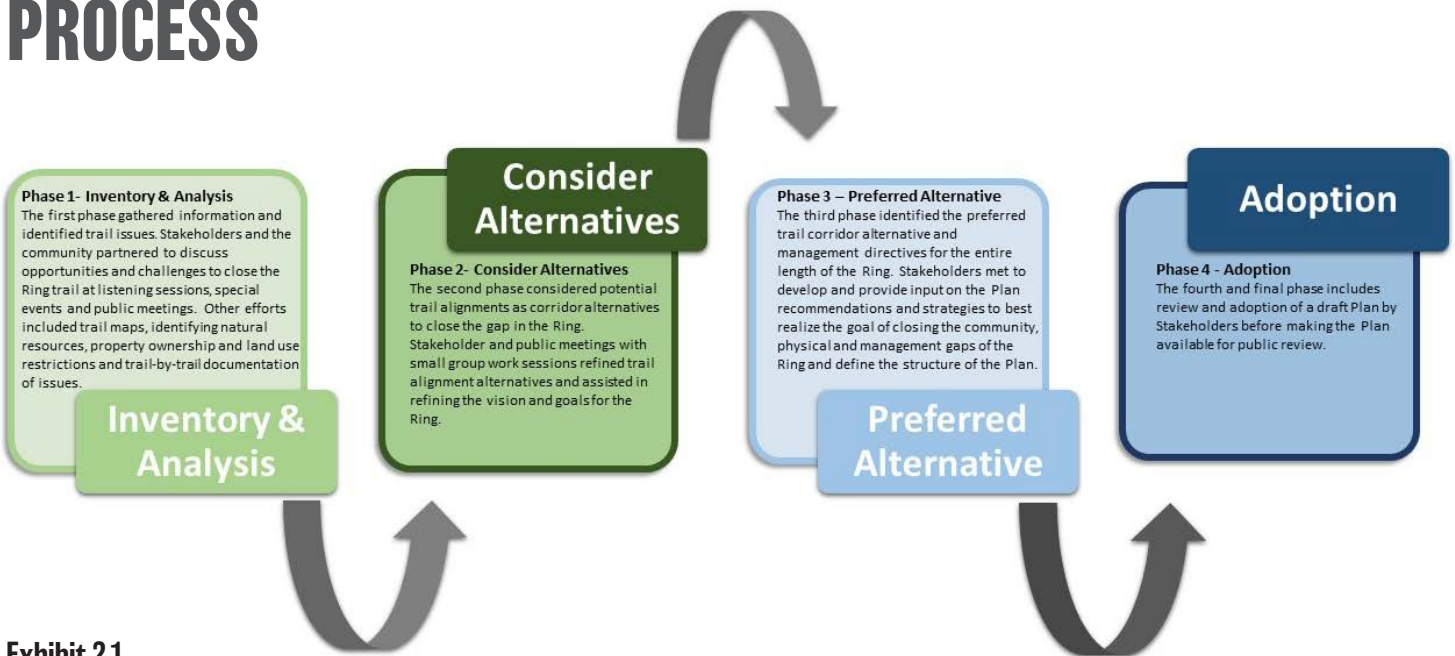


Exhibit 2.1

PLAN PROCESS COMPONENTS



Completion

Develop a Master Plan addressing future construction phases on the non-motorized, multi-modal trail alignment of the southwest portion of the Ring between Pancake Rocks and USFS Road 376 at the entrance of the Colorado Springs Utilities South Slope watershed.



Identification of Alignment

Identify a potential trail corridor that is scenic and provides opportunities for camping, hiking, trail running, mountain biking and equestrian use. The trail corridor alignment should consider construction, maintenance and long-term sustainability.



Participation

Engage municipalities, property owners, government agencies including State, USFS, BLM, CPW and interested citizens in a public planning process that promotes open dialogue and collaboration.



Implementation

In conjunction with the Plan, develop a separate implementation plan and associated cost estimates for program implementation and project phasing.



Sustainable Design

Identify long-term sustainability strategies that cover funding, management, maintenance and operations for the total length of the Ring.

PLAN PROCESS

The Plan process was conducted in an open and transparent manner to the maximum extent possible. The process included a tiered level of engagement for review and input as materials were developed. The public engagement process included a wide range of stakeholders, community-at-large meetings and discussions with private property owners.

PROJECT TEAM

The primary role of the Project Team was to guide the overall planning process and be deeply engaged in decisions regarding process steps and outcomes. The Project Team also served in leadership roles and assisted in leading and coordinating two unique, value-added community outreach and engagement efforts: The Outdoor Recreation Forum and the Discovery Tour. The Project Team consisted of:

- Susan Davies - Executive Director (TOSC)
- Mike Rigney - Project Manager (TOSC)
- Larry Larsen - Advocacy Committee Member (TOSC)
- Debbie Bibb - Former Board Member (TOSC)
- Glenn Carlson - Board of Directors (TOSC)
- Carol Beckman - Past President (FOTP)

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

The Stakeholder Committee was engaged in key decision points and milestones throughout the Plan process. The Stakeholder Committee represented a wide group with interest in both the trail for the southwest gap and the regional nature of the project representing Teller and El Paso counties. This broad perspective encouraged a robust conversation about the vision for the Ring, guided discussions related to management and operations and helped establish overall design standards of the trail.

The City of Cripple Creek and the City of Victor have been active partners in this project and worked to identify potential trails and recreation projects and priorities. Both cities provided extensive staff time to the planning process and meeting space for gatherings. Their support of the planning process has been invaluable in defining the preferred trail corridor to close the southwest gap in the Ring.

CPW and USFS provided expertise and actively participated in the planning process contributing to the overall trail alignment to close the southwest gap and develop practical implementation strategies.



Photo by Bachman PR

STAKEHOLDERS

The Project Team and Consultant Team recognize the following local, state and federal agencies and stakeholders for their significant commitment of time and energy towards this effort. The success of this plan is a result of this commitment.



Bureau of Land Management - BLM

(Keith Berger & Kalem Lenard)

City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

(Tilah Larson & Karen Palus)

City of Cripple Creek

(Connie Dodrill, Bill Gray & Steve Kitzman)

City of Manitou Springs

(Wade Burkholder)

City of Victor

(Debra Downs & Becky Frank)

City of Woodland Park

(Cindy Keating)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife - CPW

(Nick Dellaca, Brian Dreher, Tim Kroening, Frank McGee, Robert Seel & Julie Stiver)

Colorado Springs Utilities - CSU

(Kim Gortz & Mark Shea)

El Paso County

(Jason Meyer & Tim Wolken)

El Pomar Heritage Series

(Walt Hecox)

Great Outdoors Colorado - GOCO

(Drew Stoll)

Newmont Goldcorp

(Arthur Iverson, Brad Poulson, Penny Riley, Penny Roberts & Lorna Shaw)

Palmer Land Trust

(Rebecca Jewett & Amber Shanklin)

Pikes Peak America's Mountain

(Sandy Elliott & Jack Glavan)

Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance - PPORA

(Becky Leinweber & David Leinweber)

Rocky Mountain Field Institute - RMFI

(Joe Lavorini)

Southern Teller County Focus Group

(Mark Perdew & Ruth Zalewski)

State of Colorado

(Luis Benitez & Alex Dean)

Teller County

(Sheryl Decker)

United States Forest Service - USFS

(Jeff Hovermale & Oscar Martinez)



Colorado Springs Utilities
It's how we're all connected





CONSULTANT TEAM

The Consultant Team was selected by TOSC to develop this Plan to close the southwest gap in the Ring. The Consultant Team provided expertise in land planning, leadership, public involvement, natural and cultural resources, trail design and corridor alignment. The Members of the Consulting Team included:

- N.E.S. Inc. - Project lead, Planning and Landscape Architecture
- Bachman PR - Community Engagement
- ERO Natural Resources - Natural and Cultural Resource Specialists
- TAPIS Associates. - Trail Design

COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Community meetings were conducted to engage the broad community and all interested stakeholders. Meeting notification methods included email notification, media press releases, personal invitations, and word-of-mouth notices. Community meetings were conducted at milestones during

the Plan process to facilitate citizen input and vision. These processes helped shape the Plan and its recommendations

KEY PRIVATE PROPERTY & OUTDOOR BUSINESS OWNERS

Newmont Goldcorp and other private property owners along the trail corridor were engaged for input on preferred trail alignments and project proposals. The business community was engaged in public meetings and stakeholder meetings to provide input on the economic impacts of trail corridor alternatives and leveraging tourism opportunities. The feedback received from the business community identified opportunities for the proposed trail corridor to enhance and revitalize the outdoor recreation tourism in the areas surrounding the southwest gap in the Ring.

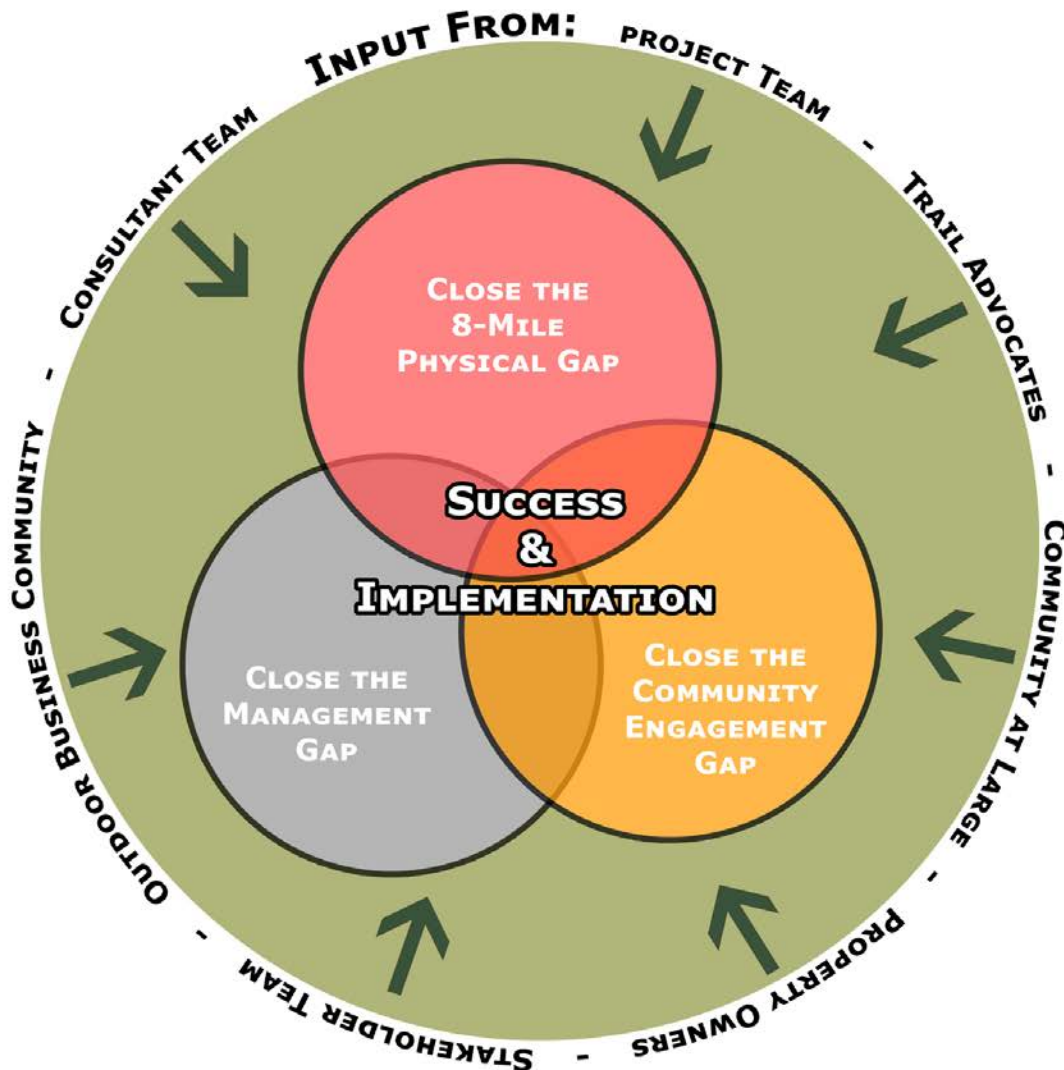


Exhibit 2.2

PROJECT APPROACH

THE SOUTHWEST GAP

Technical analysis of the identified alternative trail corridors to close the southwest gap in the Ring provided an in-depth understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with each corridor. This analysis included three primary areas of focus: natural and cultural resources, trail sustainability and context, and property ownership and land use restrictions. Through technical analysis, trail corridors and corridor combinations were explored. The information gleaned through the technical analysis phase was valuable and shared as part of the community engagement efforts. This information was compiled and mapped as an important tool for critical decision making. Technical analysis, land use studies, trail suitability, trail context, ownership and rights-of-way analysis all shaped the alignment of the proposed trail corridor to close the southwest gap in the Ring.

The proposed trail corridor is presented in a holistic and segment-by-segment approach to best provide an understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist in closing the southwest gap. Potential corridors were assessed for their environmental and cultural impacts. Discussion with governmental agencies including the cities of Cripple Creek and Victor, Teller County, BLM, USFS, CPW and Colorado Springs Utilities identified locations for trail amenities, trailheads, parking, wayfinding signage and proposed site furnishings to include benches and trash receptacles. Consideration and comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of these corridors provided a range of possibilities for the proposed trail corridor.

The natural resource analysis identified significant “red flag” issues for implementation and development. This information was used to inform the trail alignment refinement and decision-making process. The Consultant Team compiled and summarized existing documentation on wildlife issues within the project area through desktop analysis identifying any significant issues for the opportunities and constraints analysis. Data collection was based on existing plans and documents, readily available resource information, database and mapping information. Planning-level maps of wildlife habitat were created through the process.

The conservation of wildlife habitat is an important component of the Ring planning process. The Consultant

and Project teams coordinated with CPW staff and bighorn sheep experts to understand and document the issues and sensitivity of different areas to potential trail impacts. An evaluation of unpublished technical data (e.g., telemetry data or population studies) as well as scientific literature related to bighorn sheep and recreation impacts was conducted to understand the scientific basis for the issues and to find opportunities for trail corridors or management programs that either avoid or minimize impacts to the bighorn sheep population.

Watershed protection is important to the planning process to complete the southwest gap. The cities of Victor and Cripple Creek rely on water sources within the area of the southwest gap which include part of the West Beaver Creek drainage on the western flank of Pikes Peak. Through mapping, analysis and consultation with the Cities of Victor and Cripple Creek, critical resource areas were avoided to minimize impacts to the Victor and Cripple Creek watersheds.

Available mapping and county records were used to evaluate property owners and rights-of-way opportunities along the alternative trail corridors. A key component of the analysis included individual meetings with key property owners to gauge their desire to entertain the trail corridor traveling through their property. Information from these meetings and from the trail suitability analysis was mapped and used in facilitated discussions with stakeholders and in the community engagement process and also formed the basis for the trail design recommendations.

THE MANAGEMENT GAP

Long-term sustainability of the Ring requires a management plan. The Ring poses unique challenges crossing multiple political and organizational jurisdictions and property ownership scenarios. The Consultant Team evaluated six management programs with similar attributes to the Ring. A review of benchmark management programs, discussed in detail in the management gap section of this Plan, provided a point of reference for the Ring. Analysis of these management programs provided an understanding of why they worked and how to apply their traits to the unique characteristics of the Ring.

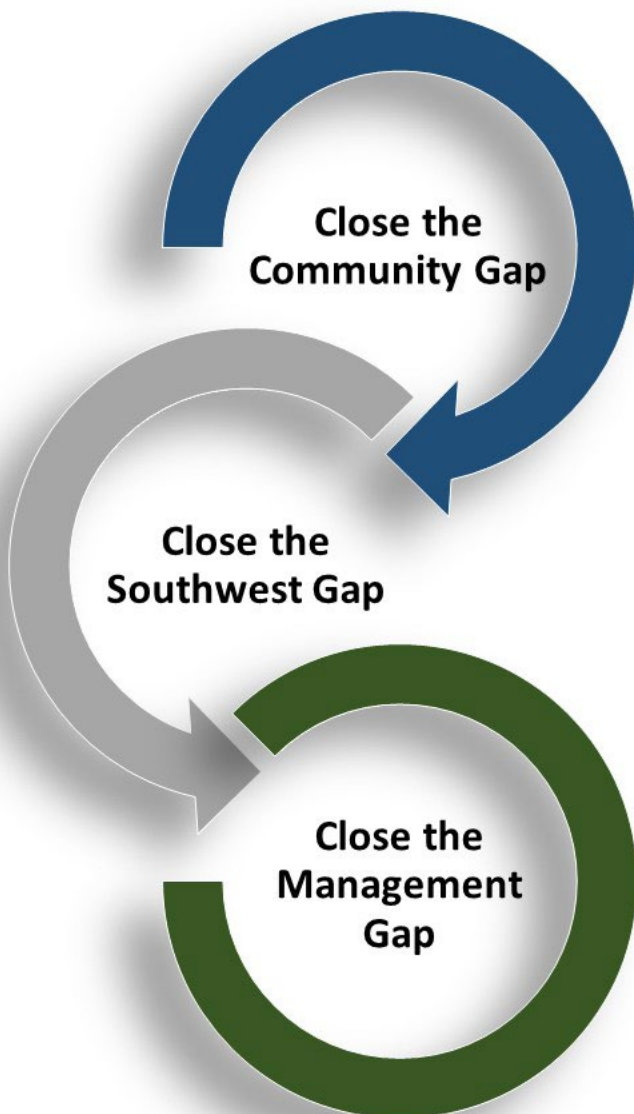
THE COMMUNITY GAP

The Project Team developed a webpage on the TOSC website and provided social media presence as part of the Public Outreach Plan to inform the public about the Ring project. The webpage provided a platform to post updates, meeting agendas and notes to inform the public on the progress of the Master Plan efforts. Public meetings were conducted to take input, inform the public about the plan and future implementation strategies and to maintain transparency. These meetings provided opportunities for the public to comment on the goals and processes for the Plan and sought input on the alignment of the Ring.

One of the most effective ways for building enthusiasm for the project with the public was by telling the story of the current trail experience and demonstrating the potential awaiting future adventurers choosing the Ring. A traditional website platform, e-newsletters, emails and personal outreach to property owners and stakeholders built and encouraged participation in the Master Plan process. Specific tasks and deliverables accomplished included:

- Website maintained with ongoing updates
- E-newsletters
- Posters, flyers, signs, and stickers
- Personal outreach to key stakeholders and property owners
- Support to TOSC and FOTP

PROJECT APPROACH



Several direct and creative venues for community participation were provided, given the large geographic distances and the need for efficiencies, including:

- Stakeholder meetings
- Two community meetings
- Meetings in the Victor and Cripple Creek area focused on opportunities and issues specific to their communities for completing the southwest gap
- Small listening sessions
- A community symposium with representatives from the Colorado Tourism Office, PPORA and multiple front range community governments and economic development offices

Utilizing established professional relationships with political leaders, business owners and property owners within Teller County, City of Victor, City of Cripple Creek and the area along the trail corridor allowed the Plan to develop in harmony with the surrounding political landscape. Small group and individual listening sessions provided opportunities to share information about the Ring and planning process. One-on-one meetings provided opportunities for understanding private property issues and concerns. These informal visits focused on relationship building and provided groundwork for building trust for future land acquisition or easement acquisition efforts.



Photo by Get Outdoors Colorado

COMMUNITY INPUT

A Public Outreach Plan included public engagement methods designed to increase the public’s awareness of and participation in the overall project and the planning process for creating the Plan. Public participation was solicited at all stages of plan development. (Exhibits 2.4 & 2.5)

The public participation process for the Plan was systematic and inclusive. Representatives from various jurisdictions came together and met collaboratively over several months to arrive at a Plan that all could support. Through meeting discussions, stakeholders agreed the vision expressed in the 1999 Multi-Use Plan was still relevant and solidly on target today. They further expanded those initiatives by adding consideration for wildlife resources and reiterating the need for watershed protection.

Stakeholders worked to find balance between economic development opportunities for the communities and stewardship of the land. A general consensus was reached that more energy and funding will be going to the Ring effort given the governor’s designation, GOCO grant, outdoor recreation industry growth, economic development and the spectrum of the Ring from an international destination to a local wilderness experience.

The public process solicited input that informed the potential trail corridors and recommendations of this Plan. Input and feedback gathered through the public meetings, workshops and stakeholder interviews also helped shape and inform the final recommendations of the Plan. Multiple public and stakeholder meetings and other events facilitated a consensus on priority management and operation issues to consider throughout the Plan.



Exhibit 2.4

OBJECTIVES

- +** Communicate accurate and consistent messages about the Plan process to stakeholders and the public using a variety of communication methods and tools
- +** Increase public awareness, promote public participation in the process and collect public input/feedback
- +** Ensure public meetings were easily accessible to the public to encourage broad participation and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- +** Ensure citizens were informed and had timely notification and access to meetings encouraging participation and feedback

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



June 2017

Website and social media
Online presence for Ring the
Peak planning process
established



Sept. 2 2017

The Discovery Tour Bike Race
 Garner feedback on the appeal of
the Ring as a destination trail for
long distance enthusiasts



Sept. 8 2017

The Discovery Tour Sunrise Hike
Build enthusiasm for the Ring and
tell the story of the experience
that awaits future trail explorers



Sept. 13 2017

Stakeholder Meeting #1
Discuss the relevancy of 1999
Plan and refine vision,
challenges and opportunities
for the Ring



Sept. 16 2017

The Discovery Tour Mountain Bike
Day
Explore the opportunities available
to cyclists of all abilities along the
Ring. Receive feedback on the
wants and needs of cyclists.



Sept. 30 2017

The Discovery Tour Fall Colors Hike
Raise the public's awareness of
what the Ring trail system is and
why closing the gap is important



Oct. 11 2017

Stakeholder Meeting #2
Review management options
and technical data



Nov. 18 2017

Envision the Outdoors Forum &
Public Meeting #1
Provide an opportunity for the
public to contribute to the vision
of the Ring. Panel discussion of
the Ring and presentations from
community leaders



Jan. 23 2018

Stakeholder Meeting #3
Narrow alignments based on
technical data and ownership.
Recommendations on management



Feb. 13 2018

Public Meeting #2
Review of Master Plan public
input and process to date.
Discussion of key issues to the
Ring success. Presented the site
inventory and analysis and
updates to the Plan moving
forward



DISCOVERY TOUR

The month of September 2017 was designated to get people outdoors and explore the various opportunities of the Ring. Biking, hiking and equestrian events were scheduled each weekend in September to engage and familiarize people with available outdoor activities on the existing Ring. Connecting with individual user groups assisted in identifying a big-picture vision for the Ring that considers the experience of each user group. The Discovery Tour was an opportunity to receive feedback on strategies for maintaining a balance between economic benefits for small business and preservation of wildlife habitat and natural resources.

The Discovery Tour introduced local opportunities for smaller communities surrounding the Ring. The program and results of Discovery Tour events are described on the following page. People from all walks of life explored a variety of existing segments of the Ring Trail and most participants discovered new recreational opportunities through the events.

The equestrian event for the Discovery Tour was unfortunately cancelled due to weather. However, the equestrian community provided valuable input and active participation throughout the development of this Plan.



Photo by NES INC.

THE RING THE PEAK BIKE RACE

The Ring the Peak Mountain Bike Race is approximately 100 kilometers with single track and road sections. This annual informal race event is part of the Southwest Endurance Series and rewarded competitors with massive views of Pikes Peak, riding along Catamount Reservoir to lesser-known trails linking to the far side of Pikes Peak. The race rewarded every climb with an amazing descent.



THE RING SUNRISE HIKE

The Ring Sunrise Hike took participants towards the top of Iron Mountain in Manitou Springs. The group hiked the Intemann Trail heading east toward the Iron Mountain Trail with a turn-around at Pawnee. The group hike built enthusiasm for the Ring while telling the story of the experience awaiting future trail explorers.

MOUNTAIN BIKE DAY

The Discovery Tour Bike Ride took riders over a variety of fun and challenging trails. The ride started in Teller County's Catamount Ranch Open Space at Edlowe Road and quickly entered the North Slope Recreation Area on the Limber Pine Trail. It followed an old Jeep road and a trail connecting to Horsethief Park. Once back in North Slope, the group explored opportunities to bike on other North Slope trails before returning to the Edlowe Road trailhead.



THE RING FALL COLORS HIKE

The Ring the Peak Discovery Tour ended the month with two Fall Colors hikes over beautiful trails in Teller County. These Fall Colors hikes explored trails in the Catamount Ranch Open Space, the North Slope Recreation Area and Horsethief Park. The publicity from social media and FOX21 Morning News covering these Fall Colors Hikes led to the high participation rates and informed recreationists who were previously unaware of the Ring's existence.

FORUM & PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two public meetings and a public forum were conducted at the Heritage Center in Cripple Creek. The meetings and forum encouraged participants to provide input on a variety of topics associated with the Ring such as potential trail corridors and recommendations for this Plan.

OUTDOOR RECREATION FORUM

The Outdoor Recreation Forum (Forum) held on November 18, 2017 involved two different panels addressing how communities develop successful outdoor recreation strategies leveraging tourism and then envisioning what success looks like for the state, region, and the Ring. The Forum focused on demonstrating economic development benefits from tourist communities through a panel discussion of the proposed Plan. The Forum presented panels of representatives from the Colorado Tourism Office, subject matter experts and economic development and funding specialists.

The Forum gave stakeholders and the public an opportunity to learn about the State's objectives in the outdoor recreation industry as well as to encourage discussion on alternatives. The first panel comprised representatives from communities that embrace and explore potential links between outdoor recreation and economic development. The second panel comprised a diverse group of experts offering a broad range of perspectives. Each panelist relayed their opinions on the vast opportunities and future challenges related to outdoor recreation and envisioned what success could potentially look like for Colorado, the Pikes Peak region and the Ring.

PUBLIC MEETING #1

The first public meeting was held in conjunction with the Forum. The Project Team presented the Master Plan process and time-line, reviewed existing conditions, provided project givens (those aspects of the project that cannot be changed) and solicited public input to help inform the Plan. The meeting included a small-group workshop that asked participants to consider the larger vision for the Ring through the southwest gap and throughout the entire trail. The task was to identify the routes and share their vision for the master plan. The results of the Forum and first public meeting are presented on the following pages.



Photo by Bachman PR

Outdoor Forum Results



Opportunities & Constraints

Sensitive resources may require specialized management of users, such as watershed and water protection planning ● Vegetation treatment for forest health and sheep habitat should be considered ● Planning should follow a broad landscape approach ● Limited cell phone coverage and emergency services ● Natural resources are important to route and access ● Fire mitigation and preventative wildfire solutions should be throughout the entire area ● Bring together existing programs for operation and management



Priorities & Needs

Utilize non-traditional funding options through a combination of private business, state and local organizations ● A team effort is necessary, because one group cannot do it alone ● There are funding opportunities for trail development and renewed interest at state level in outdoor recreation industry ● The Ring could be an international attraction or a simple wilderness experience for locals. State emphasis is on Destination Tourism ● The Ring needs to connect to communities to realize economic benefits, communities should be portals to access trail ● Consider outfitters, guides, shuttles, yurts, B&B's, campgrounds, restaurants and hotels ● The Ring has a complex approval process



User Experience

Provide multiple access points for hunting and mountain bikes ● Variety of users and uses currently exist ● Consider the Ring as a backpacking wilderness experience ● Consider OHV use ● Family friendly ● Maintain characteristics of the area ● Provide historic interpretation ● Connect to communities and existing trail systems



Management & Operations

Address fire, illegal camping, trespass and trash issues ● Consider seasonal access ● The Ring will need a management entity and law enforcement ● Consider a permit or fee to pay for management and compliance with rules ● Consider outfitter guides and commercial use for management role ● Identify responsibility for easement acquisition, management and fundraising ● Consider private property expectations Watershed protection is a key local concern ● Include educational and interpretive opportunities, way-finding and signage ● Establish a single organization for marketing

Small Group Workshop on Route & Alignment

November 18, 2017



"Plan for a variety of mixed user groups"

"Make it a true multi-use experience with loops and spurs"

"Consider a hut system and parking lots for revenue"

"Rest stops with picnic tables parallel to Lazy S Ranch"

"Consider shuttle service and other parking revenue opportunities"

"Investigate horse and bike rentals"

"The trail should go west by Lazy S Ranch"

"The trail should be off the road, but not too far"

"Keep in mind that with an upper route, Dome Rock is closed half the year"

"Ensure multiple connection points, such as a stop at the Hwy 81 turnoff area"

"Reservation system for huts and hiking and a permits system"



"Lazy S Ranch and its plateau could be a drainage issue"

"Consider places for motorized and equestrian use"

"Build a welcome center using the existing KOA at Gillette Flats"

"There are hazards along Gold Camp, Old Stage and Lower Gold Camp Rd"

"Define what constitutes a wilderness experience, it does not have to be over done"

"Consider that Teller County no longer allows septic tanks. The Mine has its own holding tanks for septic."

"Use existing roads and find both an upper and lower route to get around closures"

"Create a true wilderness (backcountry) experience"



Small Group Workshop on Route & Alignment

November 18, 2017

"Route(s) that accomplish all goals"

"Creating an environment to experience nature in pristine conditions"

"Legacy resource management"

"Way-finding and good signage"



Photo by Bachman PR



Photo by Bachman PR

"The trail needs to generate revenue and be self-sustaining"

"Address concerns over effective trail management and a system of enforcement"

"Promote a 'Get it Done' attitude"

"Consider amenities like trash, RVs and an education building"

"Include wilderness education programs"

"Make it both a back-country and family-friendly experience"

"Contribute to the economic health of Victor & Cripple Creek"



Photo by Bachman PR

"Tax breaks for property owners who grant trail easements"

"Adopt-a-Trail revenue should be designated to specific trail sections"

"Find a route around Bison Reservoir"



Photo by Bachman PR



PUBLIC MEETING #2

The second public meeting for the Ring was held on February 13, 2018. A presentation began the meeting covering topics related to the project schedule, the results of previous community outreach events and meetings, input from stakeholder groups, the Plan process, inventory analysis and important considerations for closing the southwest gap in the Ring. The project overview looked at the various aspects of user experience, property ownership, natural resources, economic development and management and operations. The current political landscape was another consideration as the state is marketing outdoor recreation and offers funding to build trails. The opportunities, challenges and partnerships possible for the potential trail corridors of the Ring were brought to the forefront as stakeholders shared their vision identifying a family friendly varied user experience from a backcountry to OHV, that protects natural resources, watersheds and reservoirs as well as forest management and encourages economic development. After identifying and describing these givens, the Project Team produced a concept identifying with broad lines, four different potential routes to close the southwest gap in the Ring.

At this point in the meeting, the audience broke out into small groups. The participants were asked to indicate on maps of the potential routes, their feedback on the vision, goals, and resources, indicating positives and negatives about the Plan, and offer further suggestions on alignment and user experience (Exhibit 2.6).

LISTENING SESSIONS

Throughout the Plan process, listening sessions were held with property owners, CPW, USFS, BLM, Colorado Springs Utilities, local, state and federal government agencies and interested citizens and residents. These one-to-one and small group listening meetings were conducted to gather input on issues and recommendations for improvements that also helped shape the Plan.

STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders collaborated on the Ring project during three large group meetings at the Heritage Center in Cripple Creek. Each meeting examined and explored different components of the Ring with an emphasis on strategies for closing the community, southwest and management gaps.



The Top Strengths of the Overall Trail System

- "Good for bikes around Victor/Cripple Creek"*
- "The low route is a great trail"*
- "Includes OHV"*
- "Good connection trail between Victor & Cripple Creek"*
- "Bring trails down to the cities to act as portals and gateways for economic development"*
- "A winner for multi-use because of the many routes and family, ADA opportunities near towns"*
- "The low route is especially good for multi-use"*
- "Victor/Cripple Creek will need to benefit for this to benefit Teller County residents"*
- "It incorporates the local communities as portals to the trail system"*



The Top Weaknesses of the Overall Trail System

- "Beetle kill trees abound in the area"*
- "Trail is next to the road"*
- "Horse and sheep interaction could be a problem around Gold Camp Road"*
- "Seasonal route is not good for bikes and is above treeline"*
- "Not enough enforcement for illegal camping on Gold Camp Road"*
- "Refine high route to stay below treeline and sheep view"*
- "The seasonal route crosses into critical sheep habitat"*

Exhibit 2.6

MEETING #1

The first stakeholder meeting was conducted September 13, 2017. Stakeholders came together to identify the vision, opportunities and challenges of the Ring and to review the 1999 Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan for relevancy and guidance in the development of the Plan. While examining the 1999 Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan, there was consensus among stakeholders that watershed protection will remain important and forest health is at the forefront of the discussion with emphasis on the impacts of watershed protection. Wildlife habitat and economic development were included as important facets of the Ring, though they are not mentioned in the 1999 Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan.

Stakeholders identified issues and opportunities related to user experience, natural resources, the political landscape, economic development and management and petitions for the Ring in relation to the 1999 Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan.

MEETING #2

The second stakeholder meeting was conducted October 11, 2017. Results of the first stakeholder meeting were reviewed including issues and opportunities for the project, a management report and the updated vision for the Ring. The stakeholders agreed the Ring project should be addressed in three distinct gaps: the southwest gap, the operations and management gap and the community engagement gap. The meeting addressed management and technical data from desktop and field analysis of the Ring.

The stakeholders reviewed responses from a survey distributed to organizations throughout the country that successfully manage trails similar to the Ring and identified key takeaways from each organization. Stakeholders discussed the value of having an organization take on the Ring in its entirety. They suggested that the Ring needs to be marketed and managed from a global perspective and as an entire trail entity to provide more efficiencies. Stakeholders agreed the Ring needs a sustainable model and the proposed trail corridor will influence what is needed.

Victor and Cripple Creek stakeholders desired the creation of a spur trail to serve as a community connector. The stakeholders agreed the management plan for a community connector trail through these communities would be different from the Plan for the overall Ring and closing the southwest

gap. Stakeholders agreed that typical trail users generally prefer to be below tree line; a strategy that makes it possible to meet the needs of both bighorn sheep and trail users. During this meeting CPW, USFS and the cities of Cripple Creek and Victor expressed their support for the Ring.

MEETING #3

The third stakeholder meeting was conducted January 23, 2018. Stakeholders reviewed feedback and responses from the various public engagement events that occurred previously in connection with the Ring. This information, in addition to technical analysis and stakeholder discussion, guided the refinement of the Ring trail corridor through the southwest gap with the agreement that the community connector trail with Victor and Cripple Creek as portals should be separate from the Plan. Various routes required travel along roads and through private property. Stakeholders agreed rights-of-way is a challenge in spots, as is travel along roads such as HWY 67, CR 81 and Gold Camp Road. There are viewshed and open space possibilities, but they will require partnerships with Newmont Goldcorp, private property owners and multiple jurisdictions. Stakeholders worked together to develop a phased approach to closing the southwest gap in the Ring. Stakeholders agreed there would be phases to implementing the Plan, although many aspects could happen concurrently, such as a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process for federal lands and pursuing private property acquisitions.



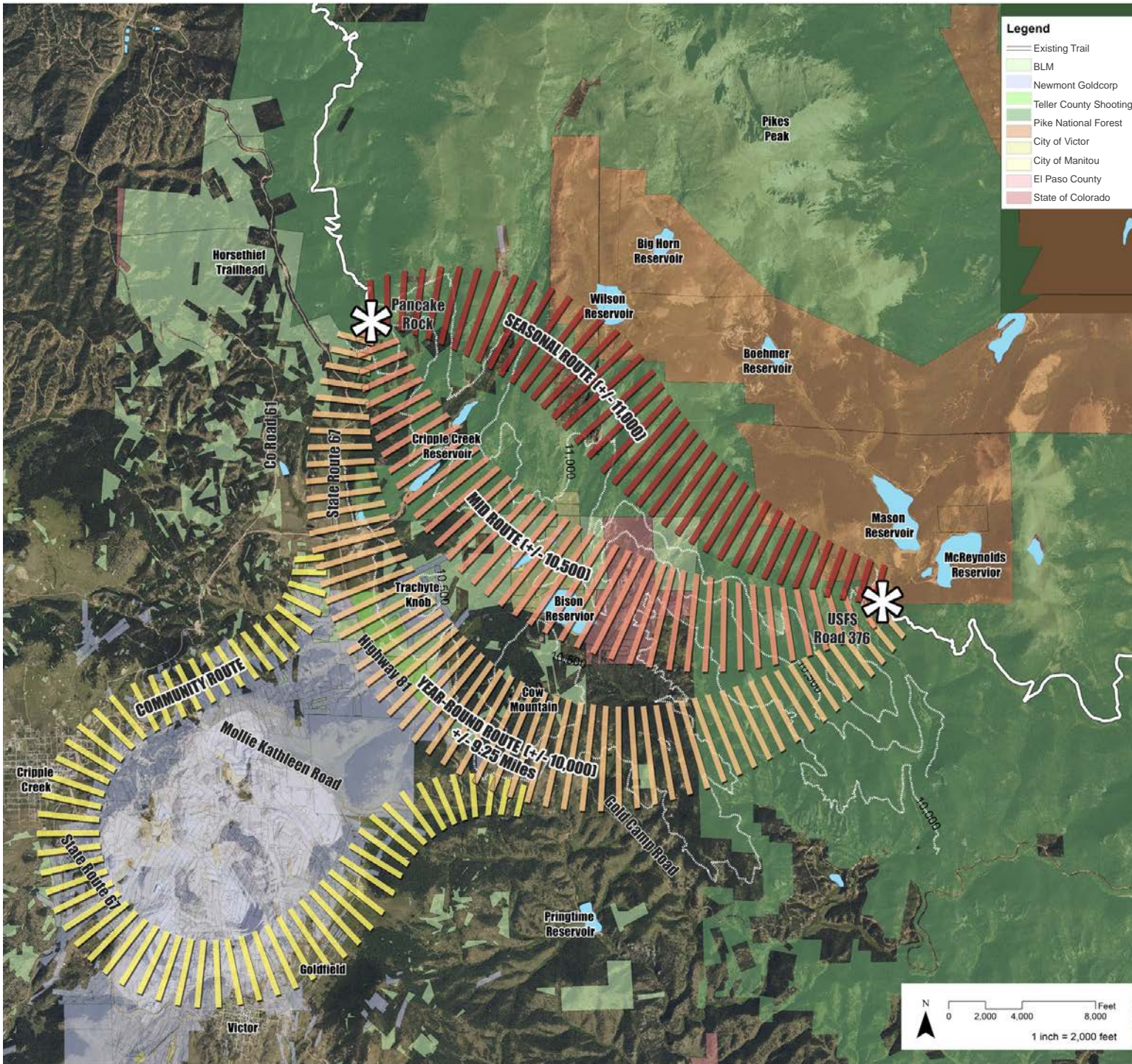
ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

As part of the public input process and in garnering feedback from stakeholders, the Consultant Team identified four potential trail corridors to close the southwest gap. The goal was to develop a trail corridor that would best satisfy wants and needs expressed by the community, public and private entities and stakeholders to close the southwest gap in the Ring. Therefore, all four trail corridors (Exhibit 2.7) were studied, analyzed and discussed in detail.

The four trail corridor alternatives include:

- A High Seasonal Corridor near treeline
- A Middle Corridor through the reservoirs in the gap
- A Year-Round Corridor that follows the existing road alignment
- A Community Connector through Victor and Cripple Creek

Exhibit 2.7



YEAR-ROUND CORRIDOR

The Year-round Corridor (Exhibit 2.8) had several potential configurations involving new trail corridor development and construction to the east and west, while following the Gold Camp Road corridor and a former railroad grade on the Newmont Goldcorp Mine property. The trail would be within easements along Gold Camp Road and would require acquiring private property or trail easements. This alignment offers excellent viewshed and open space possibilities. It will require partnerships with the Newmont Goldcorp Mine, private property owners, and multiple jurisdictions.

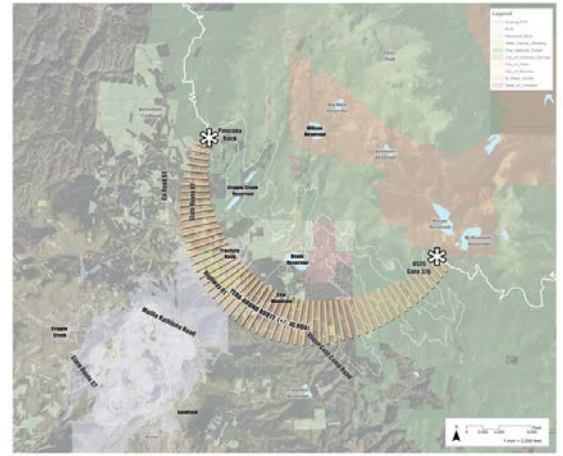


Exhibit 2.8

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

The Community Connector (Exhibit 2.9) through Victor and Cripple Creek would create links to an existing extensive trail system. Victor and Cripple Creek would function as community connector portals allowing for economic development. This would provide year-round trail access to the communities and expand the selection of trails for off-highway vehicle use in the area. This trail corridor would go through downtown Cripple Creek along a planned trail and connect with a trailhead near the Gillett site at the junction of HWY 67 and CR 81. Locating the Community Connector through the Newmont Goldcorp Mine property would require an access easement/agreement.

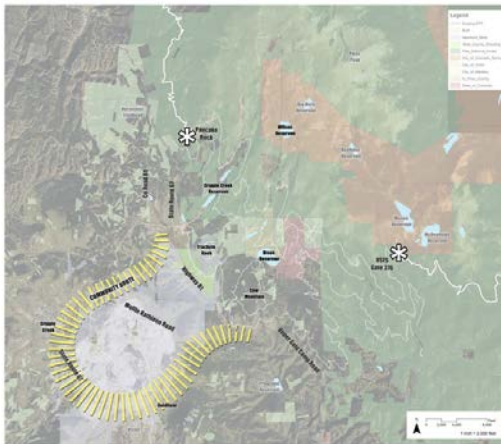


Exhibit 2.9

MIDDLE CORRIDOR

The Middle Corridor (Exhibit 2.10) was proposed to pass near the Cripple Creek and Bison Reservoirs and an extensive number of private properties. To protect and limit disturbance, such as social trails, to watersheds, wildlife and reservoirs as expressed in the Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan and through feedback from public comment, in addition to the large number of private properties that would require acquisition of access easements, the Middle Corridor was eventually eliminated from consideration.

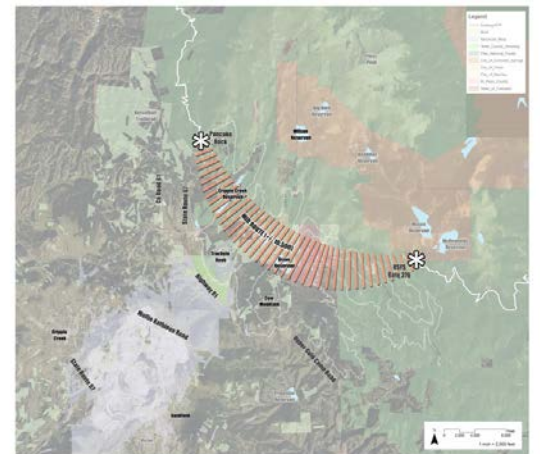


Exhibit 2.10

SEASONAL HIGH CORRIDOR

The Seasonal High Corridor (Exhibit 2.11) would traverse the alpine ecosystem near tree line. This Corridor would be open on a limited seasonal basis and closed for bighorn sheep lambing and winter habitat from December to July. Stakeholders expressed concerns that managing a seasonal closure would present challenges for trail closure enforcement and the prevention of social trail formation that could affect wildlife habitat, trail erosion and native vegetation. Construction of the seasonal corridor and trail use would bisect critical habitats for bighorn sheep and reduce available habitat, negatively impacting the population. Due to the seasonal nature of the trail, the potential for social trails and possible impacts to wildlife the Seasonal High Corridor was eventually eliminated from consideration.

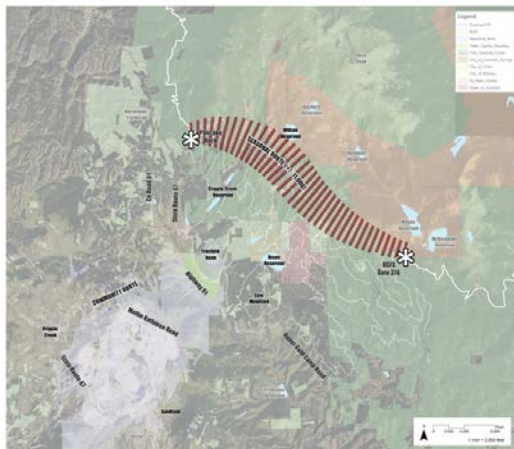


Exhibit 2.11

Planning Steps Completed to Close the Community Gap



Maintain a website to inform and educate the public on the Plan process, events and participation opportunities.



Publish and distribute e-newsletters to build relationships with the community through regular communication of high-value information.



Maintain ongoing personal outreach to stakeholders and property owners to build relationships integral to closing the southwest gap and success of the Plan. Conduct small group meetings and individual interviews.



Support TOSC and FOTP in the Ring “Discovery Tour”.



Host a community symposium and forum in partnership with the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance.



Conduct public meetings and workshops to inform the public of the goals and processes and receive input on trail alignment.



Post meeting summaries from the symposium, forum and the public meetings on the project website and distribute via e-newsletters.



Present to town councils and commissioners offering information about the Ring process and seek feedback.



Provide written reports of key findings and issues from each meeting.



Provide an evaluation of the key findings and issues to inform the selection of a proposed trail corridor to close the southwest gap in the Ring.



SECTION 03

CLOSING THE SOUTHWEST GAP

INTRODUCTION

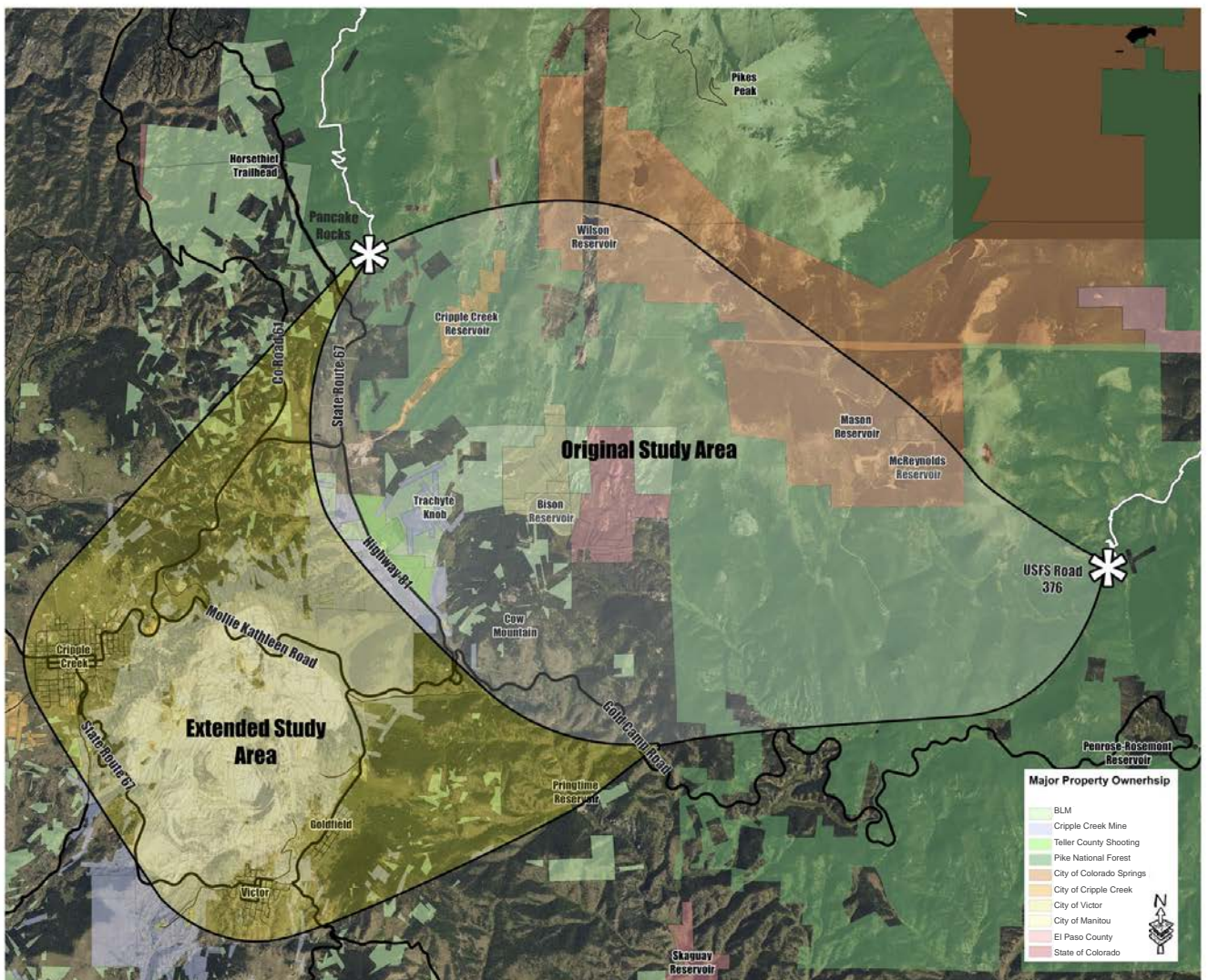
Located between Pancake Rocks and the gate to the South Slope, the southwest gap is composed of multiple jurisdictions, sensitive wildlife habitat, protected natural resources, critical watersheds, challenging terrain and numerous private properties. To navigate the trail corridor alignment obstacles of this gap in the Ring, a comprehensive effort was undertaken to understand the environmental, cultural and political landscapes present in the study area identified in Exhibit 3.1. The findings from analysis and study in tandem with the desires and concerns expressed by the community and stakeholders guided the design and evolution of the proposed trail corridor from broad sweeping strokes to the refined proposed trail corridor alignment presented in this Plan.

STUDY AREA

The overall study area for potential trail corridors to close the southwest gap in the Ring, as illustrated in Exhibit 3.1, includes the south and southwest slopes of Pikes Peak, from the forested foothills near Cripple Creek and Victor to the alpine tundra near the Peak's summit. Elevations range from about 8,800 feet to about 12,000 feet. The terrain is rugged characterized by steep cirque valleys and dramatic rock outcrops up high transitioning to forested foothills and open meadows in the lower elevations. Above treeline at about 11,500 feet a broad expanse of alpine tundra, undulating through valleys and ridges extends to the 14,115-foot summit of the Peak. Streams in the study area drain to the southwest and southeast through a series of lakes and reservoirs that store municipal water supplies for Cripple Creek, Victor, and Colorado Springs. With more than 3,000 feet of elevation relief on the slopes of Pikes Peak, the study area contains a broad spectrum of vegetation communities and ecological life zones.



Exhibit 3.1



KEY ISSUES & CONSIDERATIONS



Wildlife Habitat & Sensitive Ecosystems

New impacts to undisturbed areas along the proposed trail corridor are carefully evaluated. A broad range of wildlife species common to the Rocky Mountains are present. Trail development in certain locations may have disproportionate impacts to sensitive species that occur in those areas.



Watershed Protection

Streams in the study area drain to the southwest and southeast, through a series of lakes and reservoirs that store municipal water supplies for Cripple Creek, Victor, and Colorado Springs. The protection of watersheds is a priority for this master plan in accordance with the 1999 Multi-Use Plan and is a common theme from public and stakeholder feedback.



Topography

The study area is characterized by steep cirque valleys and dramatic rock outcrops up high, transitioning to forested foothills and open meadows in the lower elevations. Undulating contours through valleys and ridges extend to the summit of Pikes Peak.



Geopolitical Advocacy

The study area crosses many political and organizational jurisdictions and property ownership scenarios. Federal, state, local, Newmont Goldcorp and private properties create a diverse challenge to establish relationships and advocate for the closure of the southwest gap.



Trail User Experience

There are multiple points of view to trail design and etiquette. It is important that the many users reach a compromise on how to respect and work with the various trail user groups. Compromise, outreach and education will be key to successful user experiences along the proposed trail corridor.



Economic Development

Victor and Cripple Creek want to establish new avenues for outdoor recreation tourism. It will be important to identify access points and other opportunities along the trail corridor that act as a magnet for adventure seekers and become an economic driver for the region.

NATURAL RESOURCE ANALYSIS

The study area is a diverse mosaic of forest and shrub land communities. In disturbed meadow areas high quality under-story grasses are present often dominated by introduced grasses. Upper elevation forests contain patches of high quality under-story grasses. The noxious A list weed myrtle spurge occurs sparingly; there are no other significant infestations. Thoughtful trail planning and social trail restoration can improve the existing native vegetation. Ongoing forest and weed management is important. New impacts to undisturbed areas should be carefully evaluated. New trail development and recreational use may have impacts to site-specific environmental resources. Construction of the physical trail-tread may have localized impacts on soils and vegetation, while the introduction of recreational use to previously undisturbed habitats may have broader impacts to wildlife. More specifically, trail development in certain locations may have disproportionate impacts to sensitive species that occur in those areas.

Most of the upper elevations of the study area are included in Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs), as designated by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. These are areas that include an assemblage of rare or sensitive species and are important in conserving biological diversity. They are not a regulatory designation. The PCAs identified in the study area are described below.

- Pikes Peak PCA – (B1: Outstanding Biodiversity Significance). This designation is based on the occurrences of several rare or imperiled plant species, natural communities and bird species. Sensitive natural communities include timberline forests, alpine meadows, alpine fellfields, and subalpine riparian willow carr, while rare plant species include Pikes Peak spring parsley, James’ teleonix, Rocky Mountain columbine, arctic draba and alpine bluebells. Sensitive bird species in the area include brown-capped rosy-finch and white-tailed ptarmigan.
- Sheep Mountain at Bison Reservoir PCA – (B3: High Biodiversity Significance). This designation includes a small site on a tributary of Bison Creek and is based on an occurrence of riparian shrubland community dominated by Bebb’s willow and wolf willow.

- East Fork West Beaver Creek PCA – (B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance). This designation is based on an alpine willow scrub community and associated habitat in a high-elevation subalpine valley.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

The ecosystems of the study area provide habitat for a broad range of wildlife species that are common to the Rocky Mountains. Lower elevation forests and meadows are home to large mammals such as elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep, various carnivores, including mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, red fox, skunk and weasel, and small mammals, including squirrels, voles and pika. A variety of bird species occupy the area ranging from small passerines to raptors and accipiters. Because habitat fragmentation is particularly difficult to repair, planning and management of the proposed trail corridor should be designed to maintain habitat connectivity, which is crucial to minimizing fragmentation. Golden eagles have been observed in the study area, which provides suitable nesting habitat among the cliffs and crags. A nest was formerly documented along Oil Creek, but that nest is no longer active. However, continued observations of golden eagle in the area indicate an alternate nest location is present in the vicinity. Other sensitive species believed to occur in the alpine habitats of the study area include brown-capped rosy finch, white-tail ptarmigan and pika.



Photo by Haley Allen

BIGHORN SHEEP & ELK

Bighorn sheep is the primary wildlife conservation concern in the study area. Pikes Peak is home to a native population of bighorn sheep considered to be a Tier 1 priority herd within the state. The estimated population of the Pikes Peak/Dome Rock herd is currently about 155 sheep, which is significantly down from where it was about 15 years ago and from CPW's population objective for this herd of 240 sheep. This rapid reduction in the population was likely the result of pneumonia outbreaks and subsequently low lamb survival, which can be exacerbated by human recreation disturbances in the relatively limited overall habitat that is available for this herd. Based on CPW's published Species Area Mapping and additional data developed specifically for this project, as shown in Exhibit 3.2, the study area includes the following sensitive habitat areas for bighorn: Priority Bighorn Sheep Area, Winter Range, Winter Concentration Area, Production Area (lambing habitat) and Severe Winter Range. These areas all generally include the portions of the study area above about 10,500 feet in elevation and are used year-round by bighorn. Severe Winter Range is more concentrated around the cliffs and ramparts above Bison Reservoir. The Priority Bighorn Sheep Area mapping was based on actual bighorn

movement and use (telemetry locations from 2007-2013). The extent and overlap of these data layers underscore the importance of the high-elevation habitats within the study area to bighorn and the sensitivity of these areas to new human disturbances.

The elk population in the study area is relatively small, but is found year-round. In general, elk utilize higher elevation habitats on Pikes Peak in the spring, summer and early fall before transitioning to lower-elevation ranges in the winter. Winter Ranges include the lower hills and meadows that include Bison Reservoir, Cow Mountain, and Gillett Flats. Calving habitat for elk has been documented in drainages to the north of the study area. This calving area would be the primary management and conservation concern for elk.

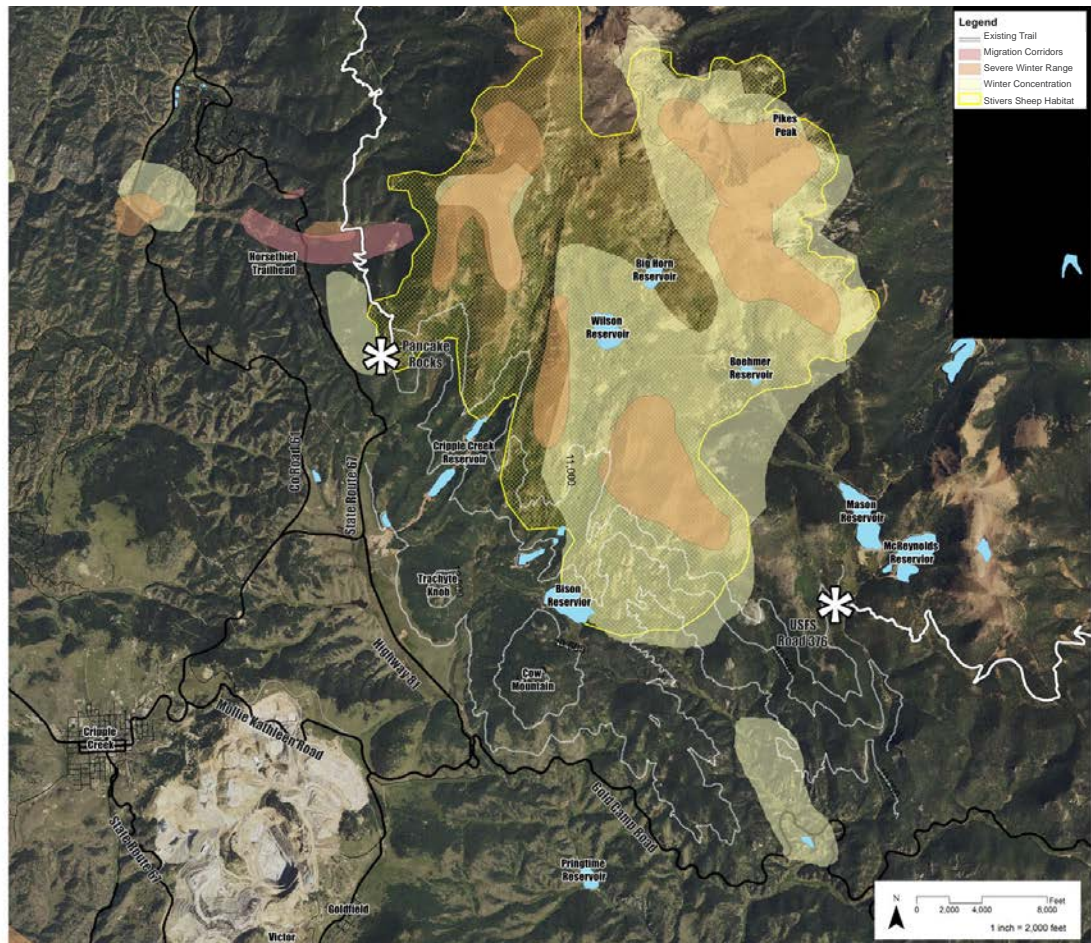
Most of the corridor is located along existing disturbances that would minimize impacts. New trail development – where it occurs - may result in localized impacts to vegetation with increased potential for erosion. Considering the proximity to the Newmont Goldcorp Mine, Cripple Creek, Victor, county roads and other disturbances, new impacts to wildlife would be minimal.

RING THE PEAK TRAIL

Bighorn Sheep Habitat Exhibit 3.2

Colorado Parks & Wildlife

NES



ADJACENT LAND USES

The study area includes lands managed by numerous public agencies and private individuals as illustrated in Exhibit 3.3. It is important that the proposed trail corridor complements and integrates with the adjacent diverse land uses through the study area. The Ring will foster a sense of connection and community amongst the many entities involved and affected by the closure of the southwest gap.

USER EXPERIENCE

On a multi-use trail like the Ring, it is important that the many users reach a compromise to respect and work with each other. People are here to protect, promote or preserve some aspect of the project. Having thousands of people visiting might not be considered a benefit to everyone. Compromise is key.

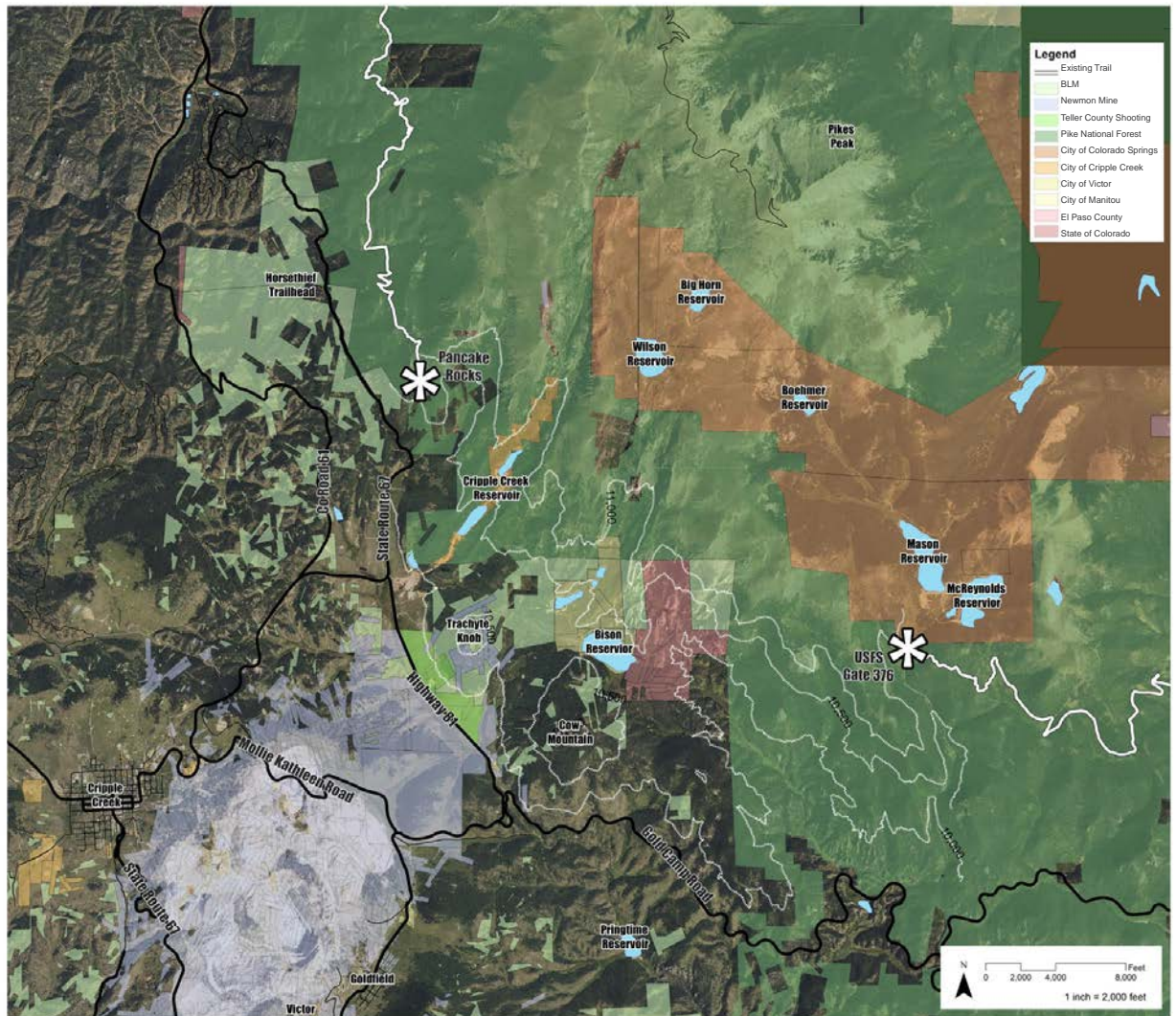
Within the existing Ring, 100% is open to travel by foot, 98% is open to mountain biking, 80% is open to horseback riding, 30% is open to motorized uses and 24% is open for various off-highway vehicle (OHV) use with approximately half of the mileage open to OHV use limited to motorcycles only.

These calculations do not include proposed trails to complete the Ring or the proposed Community Connector. Uses will be permitted in accordance with the desires and policies of the managing authority responsible for each property. Uses other than hiking will be permitted only where the activity can be safely accommodated and the trail is designed and constructed according to accepted standards for that activity.



Ownership Exhibit 3.3

El Paso & Teller County Assessors







PROPOSED TRAIL CORRIDOR

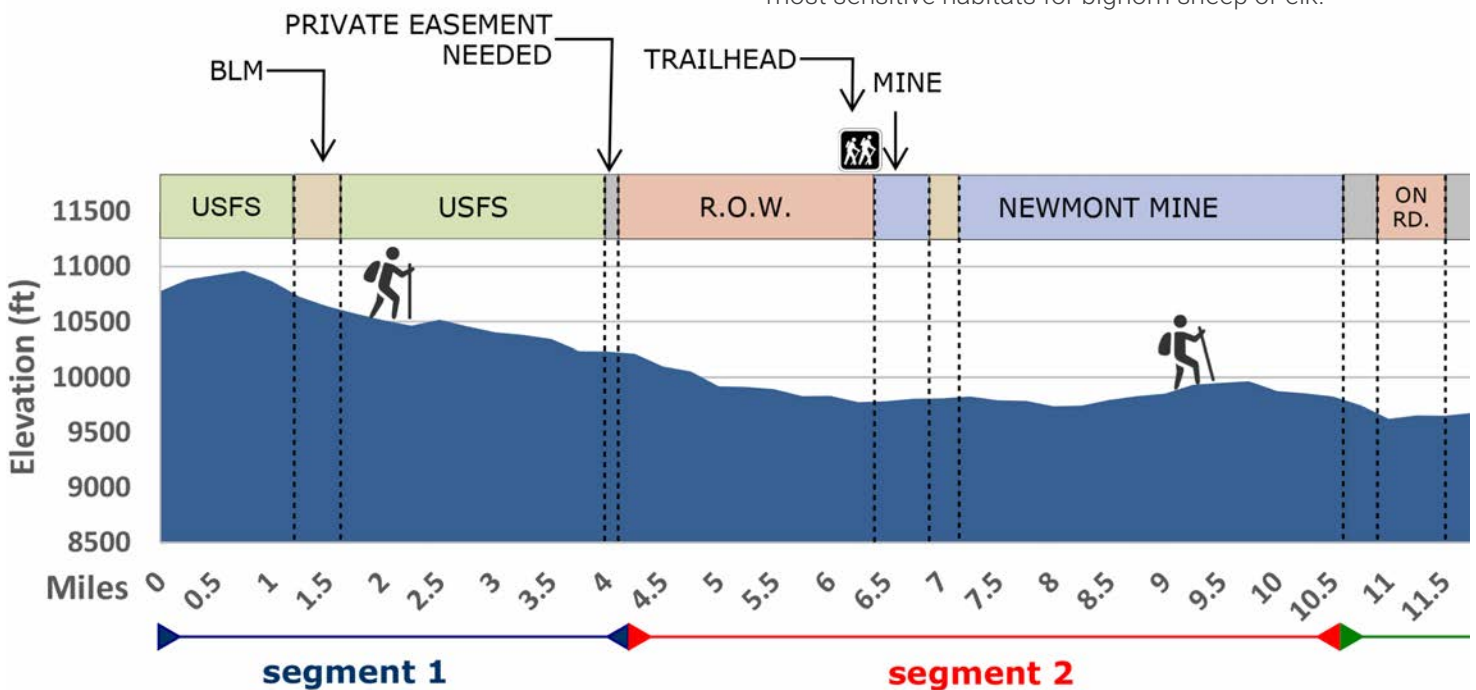
OVERVIEW

To identify the preferred alignment for the proposed trail corridor, the three potential corridors, seasonal high, middle and year-round, described in the previous section were examined with the goals and concerns of stakeholders and the public in addition to desktop and field analysis. The high seasonal and middle corridors, in earlier discussions and presentations, were eliminated from consideration due to concerns over watersheds, reservoirs, wildlife, private property, enforcement and seasonal accessibility for short durations at different times of the year. The year-round corridor was selected for the proposed trail corridor because of the following characteristics:

- Greatest chance for success and approval
- Purposeful connections
- Year-round access
- Potential for timely implementation
- Phasing options for trail construction

Planning the overall alignment of the trail corridor to close the southwest gap in the Ring required careful planning with consideration and attention to trail safety, sustainability, construction cost, structural integrity and maintenance.

Exhibit 3.4



The trail corridor planning process incorporated the concept of conscientious trail experience and sought to create a destination trail. The proposed trail corridor is designed in response to:

- Community dialogue
- Stakeholder and Project Team input
- Desktop and field analysis

The planning of the proposed trail corridor sought to incorporate the following:

- Be fun and rejuvenating
- Provide passageway not simply a transportation route
- Provide compatibility for various trail user types: hikers, cyclists, horses, runners, day users and full Ring travelers
- Integrate with the land, vegetation and wildlife
- Interact with the environment
- Stimulate inquisitiveness

The proposed trail corridor includes new trail development and construction and follows sections of Gold Camp Road and the former Midland Railroad grade. New impacts to natural resources and wildlife where the proposed trail corridor is along Gold Camp Road and through the Gillett Flats area would be minimal due to relatively high levels of existing human use and disturbance. Trail construction would result in localized impacts to vegetation and soils along the trail corridor. Where the proposed trail crosses streams and riparian habitat, there is potential for localized impacts to wetlands. This proposed trail corridor does not impact the most sensitive habitats for bighorn sheep or elk.

The proposed trail corridor alignment presented in this Plan traverses through lands with a variety of owners from private to federal. This trail corridor was created with the understanding that partnership with private landowners and trail easements would be critical to the trail corridor's success. Of the proposed trail corridor, approximately 4.5 miles will require trail easements with private property owners, 1 mile will require a trail easement from Teller County and 2.4 miles will require an access agreement with the Newmont Goldcorp Mine.

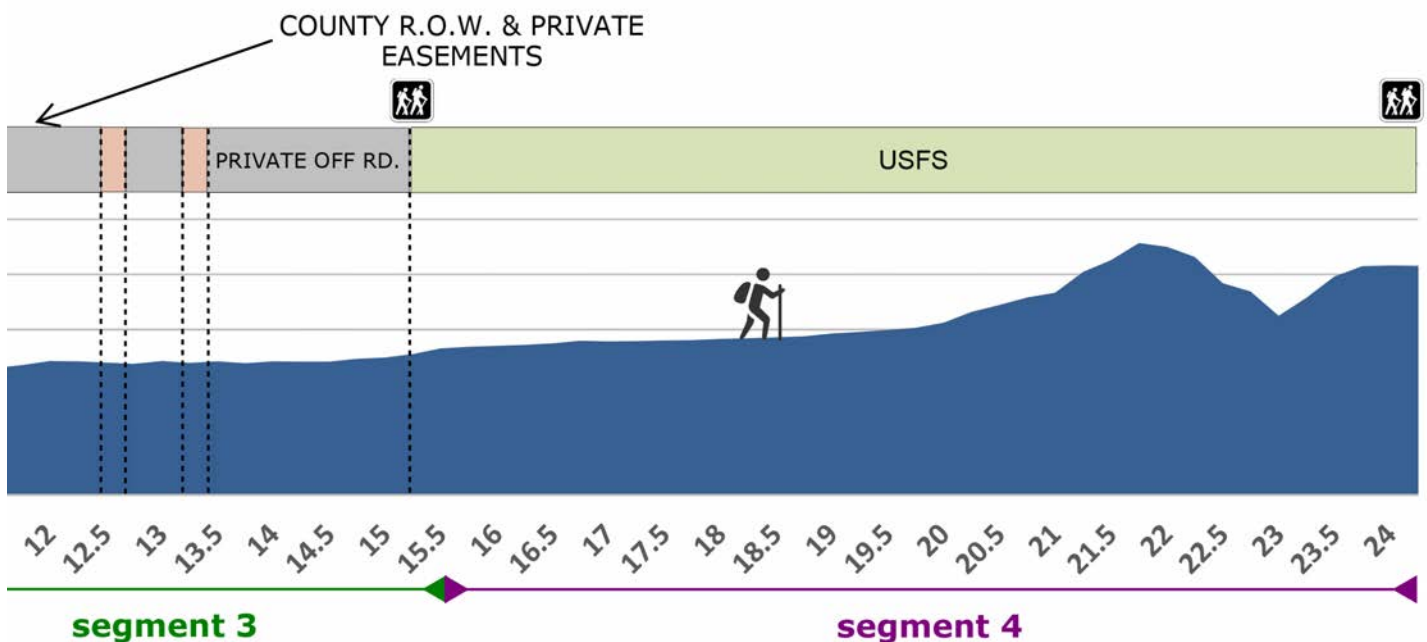
The proposed trail corridor is divided into segments to create a phased system approach to closing the southwest gap in the Ring that is more manageable for implementation, strengthening partnerships and attractive for grant funding. The trail corridor segments were delineated with the following rationales:

- Logical and usable trail segments with recognizable control points at beginning and end
- Distribution of feasible projects along the trail corridor segment that can be implemented from a financial, right-of-way and trail easement acquisition standpoint
- Location of strategic projects along the trail corridor that bring maximum benefit from limited resources
- Distribution of potential trail corridor opportunities to showcase the natural resources of the Pikes Peak region and promote the ultimate completion of the entire Ring

The proposed trail corridor is divided into four segments, between 4.4 to 9 miles in length. In addition, the Community Connector trail, 15.1 miles in length, is proposed to connect the City of Cripple Creek and the City of Victor to the Ring. After the map of the overall proposed trail corridor on the next page of this Plan, a map, general description, key findings and action items for each section of the proposed trail corridor follows.

The proposed trail corridor presented on the following page is the next step in fulfilling the Colorado 16 initiative and the culmination of countless hours of dedication and effort on the part of the Project Team, stakeholders, community and Consultant Team. This proposed trail corridor accomplishes the following:

- Provides a tangible approach to implement trail construction and close the southwest gap in the Ring
- Acts as a reference for working with landowners on trail easement acquisition
- Creates the blueprint to guide trail construction
- Serves as an economic development tool for adjacent communities
- Increases fundraising and grant opportunities to support trail construction and future maintenance





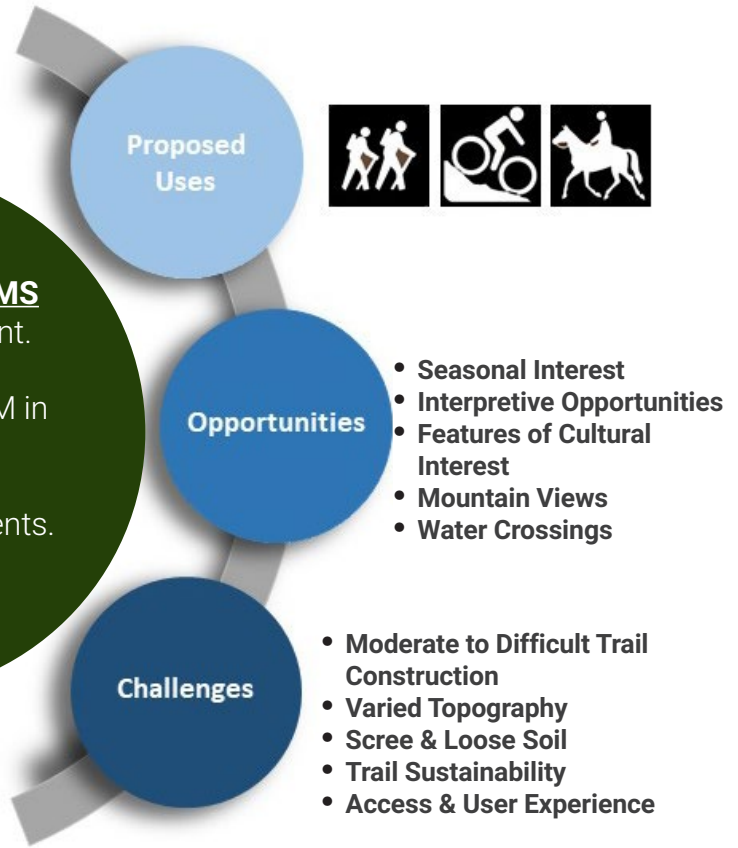
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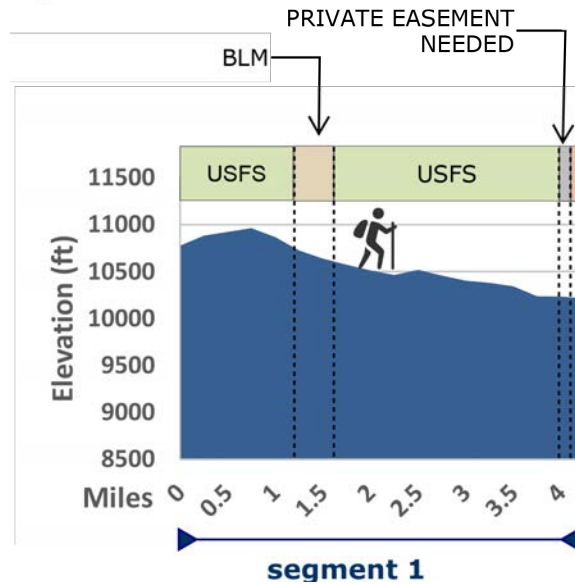
EARLY ACTION ITEMS

1. **Refine** trail alignment.
2. **Engage** USFS & BLM in NEPA process.
3. **Secure** trail easements.

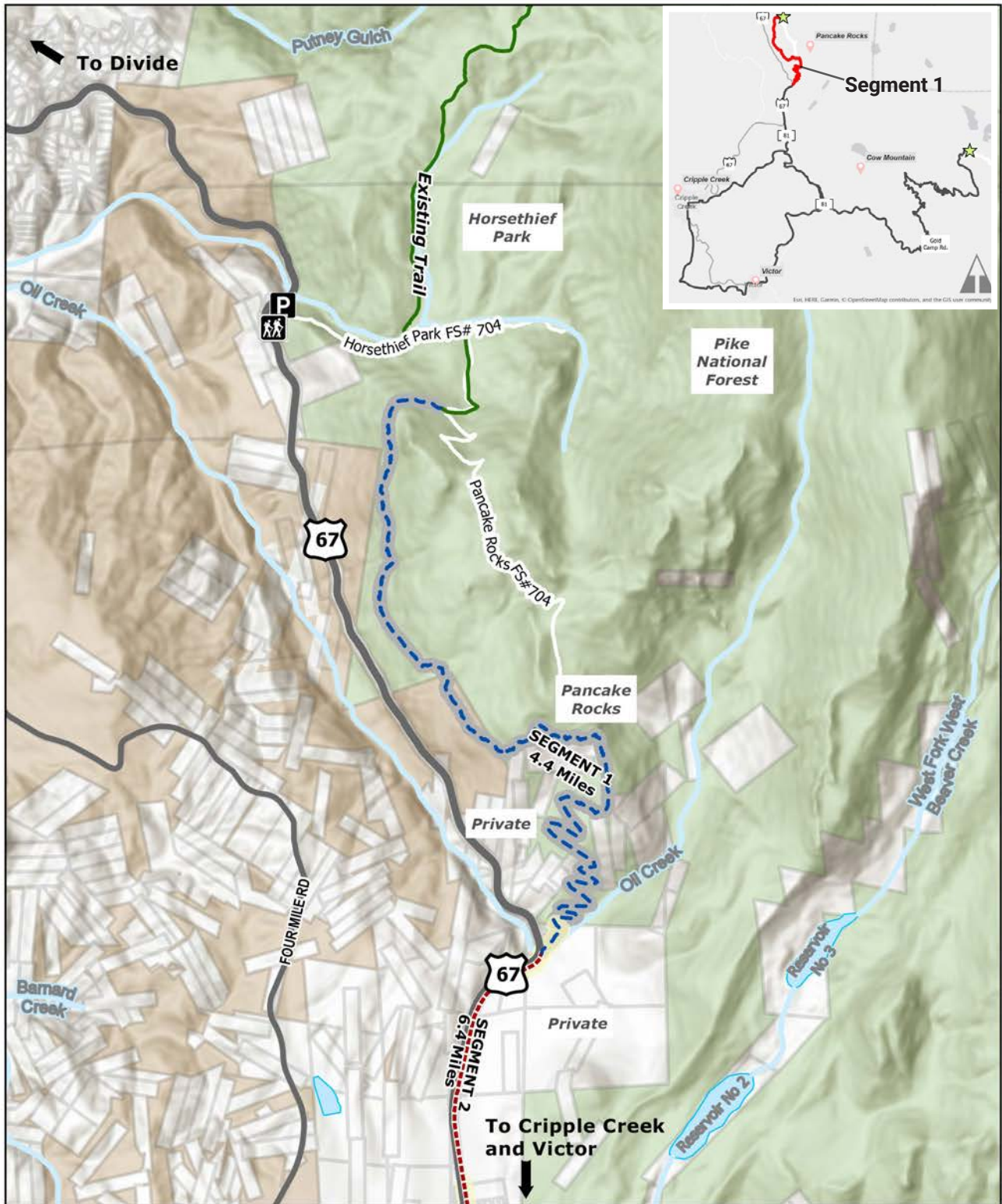


SEGMENT 1

Segment 1 is approximately 4.4 miles in length. This segment branches off the existing trail to Pancake Rocks at the base of the switchbacks and connects to the HWY 67 right-of-way at Oil Creek. This segment of the Ring trail will offer trail users stunning fall colors as they travel through mature aspen groves and views of Pikes Peak and the surrounding countryside. Features of cultural importance and interest include glory holes dug by prospecting miners and felled tree stumps still bearing the mark of pioneer axes. The majority of Segment 1 is proposed on National Forest Service System Lands with a brief passage through BLM property. Near the southern end of the proposed corridor the trail passes through private property for approximately 0.2 miles to safely descend onto the right-of-way of HWY 67, which will require a trail easement. Switchbacks are proposed to address steep slopes in several areas and allow for sustainable and safe passage. Segment 1 connects to Segment 2 at the intersection of Oil Creek and HWY 67.



SEGMENT 1 OF THE RING



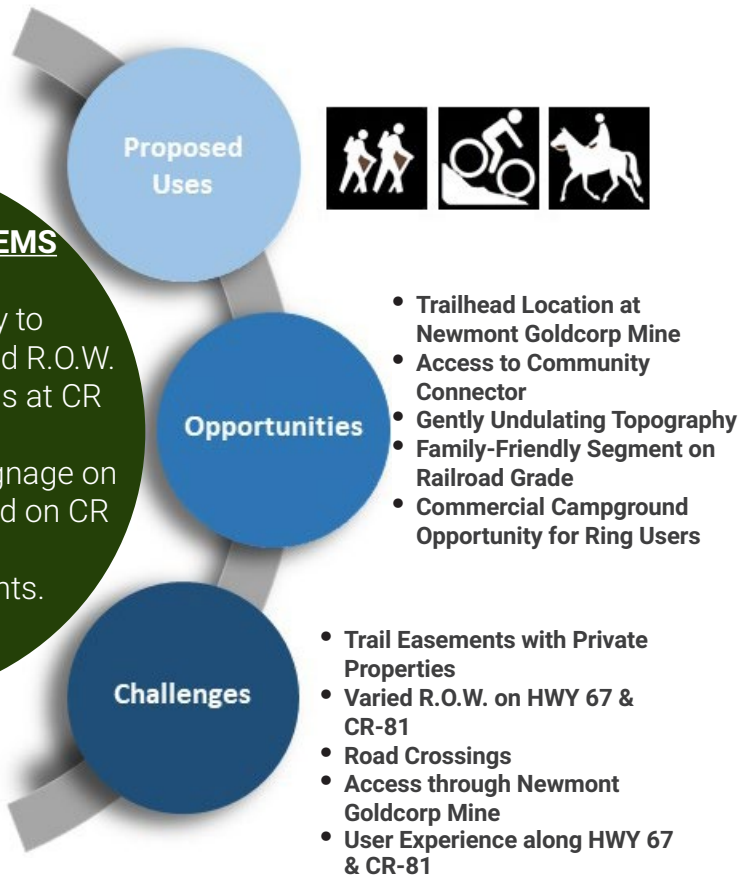
- Trailhead
- Parking
- Segment 2
- Trail Easement Required
- BLM
- Kiosk
- Segment 1
- Existing Ring Trail
- Pike National Forest
- Proposed Trail Corridor



Exhibit 3.6

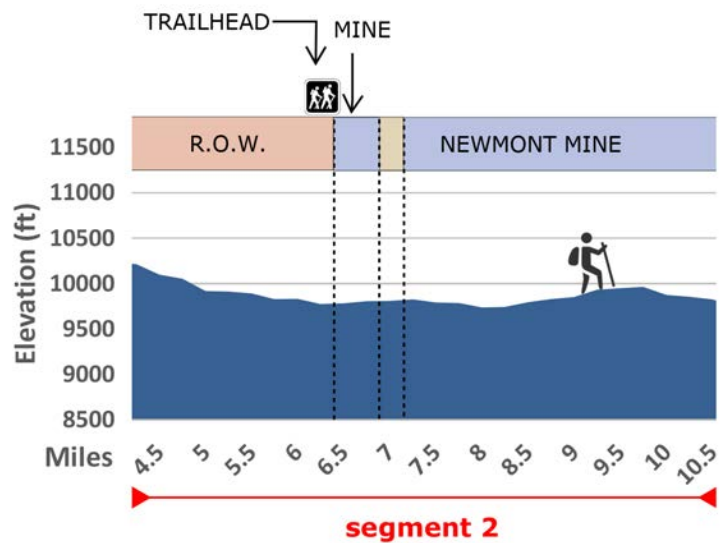


- EARLY ACTION ITEMS**
1. **Refine** trail corridor.
 2. **Engage** Teller County to secure access to road R.O.W.
 3. **Secure** trail crossings at CR 81.
 4. **Install** trail safety signage on HWY 67 and trailhead on CR 81.
 5. **Secure** trail easements.



SEGMENT 2

Segment 2 is approximately 6.4 miles in length. Segment 2 starts and travels along the right-of-way on the east side of HWY 67 for approximately 1 mile. For the majority of the trail along HWY 67, there is sufficient space between the road and private property to construct a trail buffered from vehicles. Eventually, the right-of-way along HWY 67 narrows and the trail will require easements from private landowners for approximately 0.4 miles. At the intersection of HWY 67 and CR-81, the proposed trail leaves HWY 67 and follows the east side of CR-81. There is insufficient right-of-way along CR-81 for a trail. This section will require trail easements with adjacent private property owners for approximately 0.6 miles. Low traffic volumes and good visibility on CR-81 support use of the shoulder on an interim basis until easements can be secured. A road crossing is needed to access the Newmont Goldcorp Mine property from CR-81. This crossing is highly visible with clear lines of sight for trail users and a strategic location for a trailhead to serve the Community Connector and the Ring. On Newmont Goldcorp Mine property for approximately 2.1 miles the trail corridor utilizes the old Midland Railroad grade until it meets up with Segment 3.



SEGMENT 2 OF THE RING

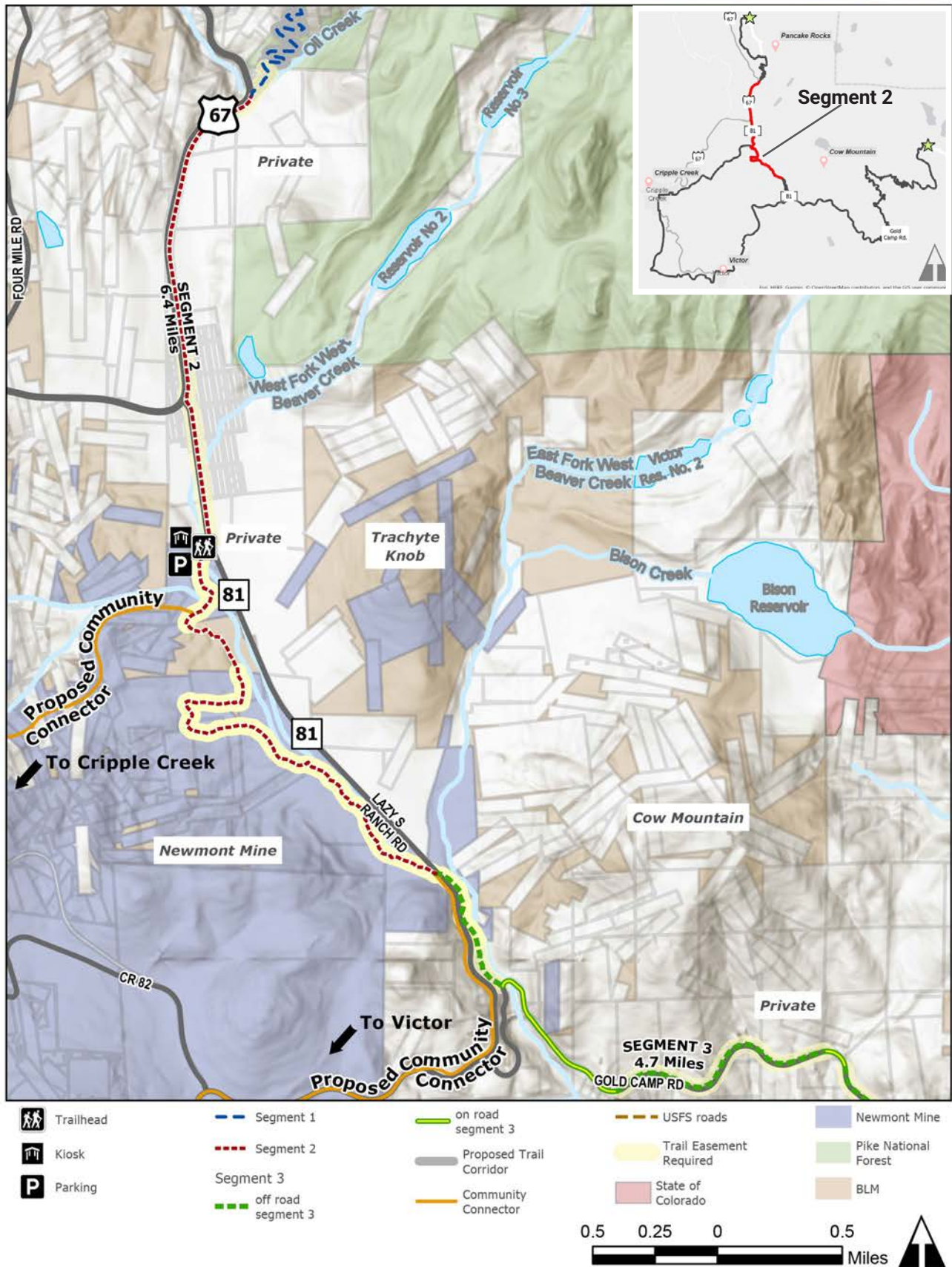


Exhibit 3.7



Photo by City of Colorado Springs

EARLY ACTION ITEMS

1. **Secure** trail access agreement through Newmont Goldcorp Mine.
2. **Create** clear signage to guide trail users and encourage trail etiquette.
3. **Implement** marketing strategies for Victor and Cripple Creek as Community Portals.

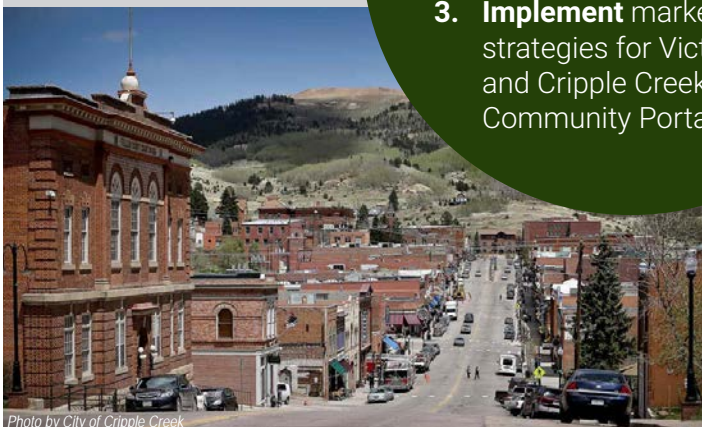


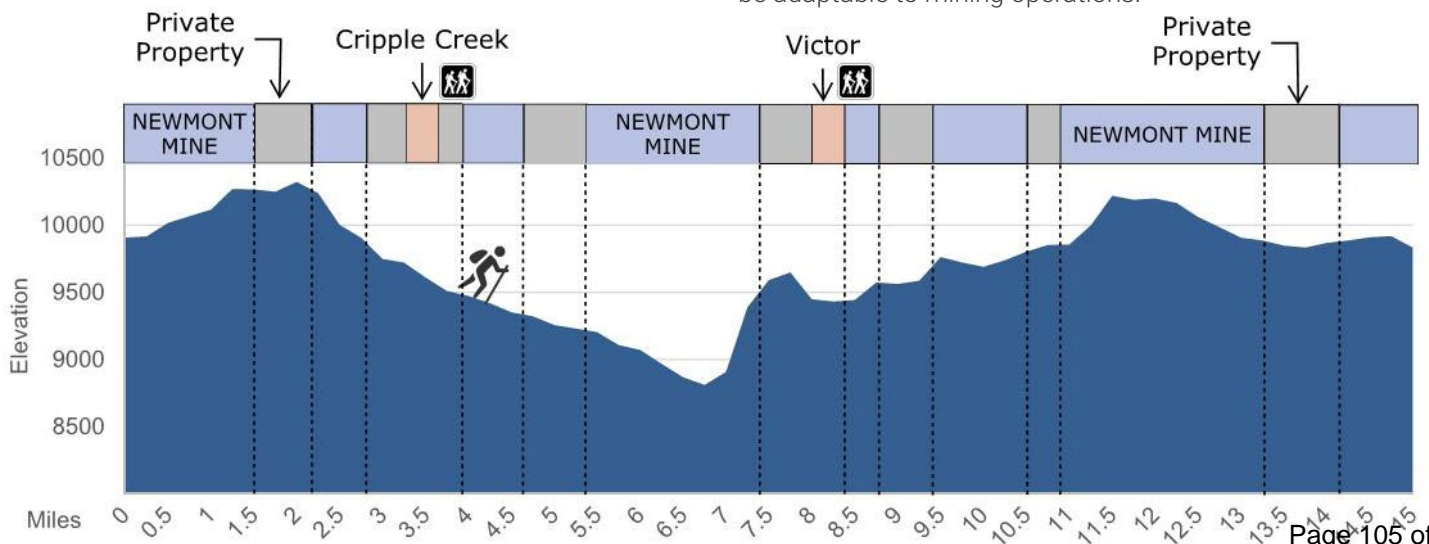
Photo by City of Cripple Creek



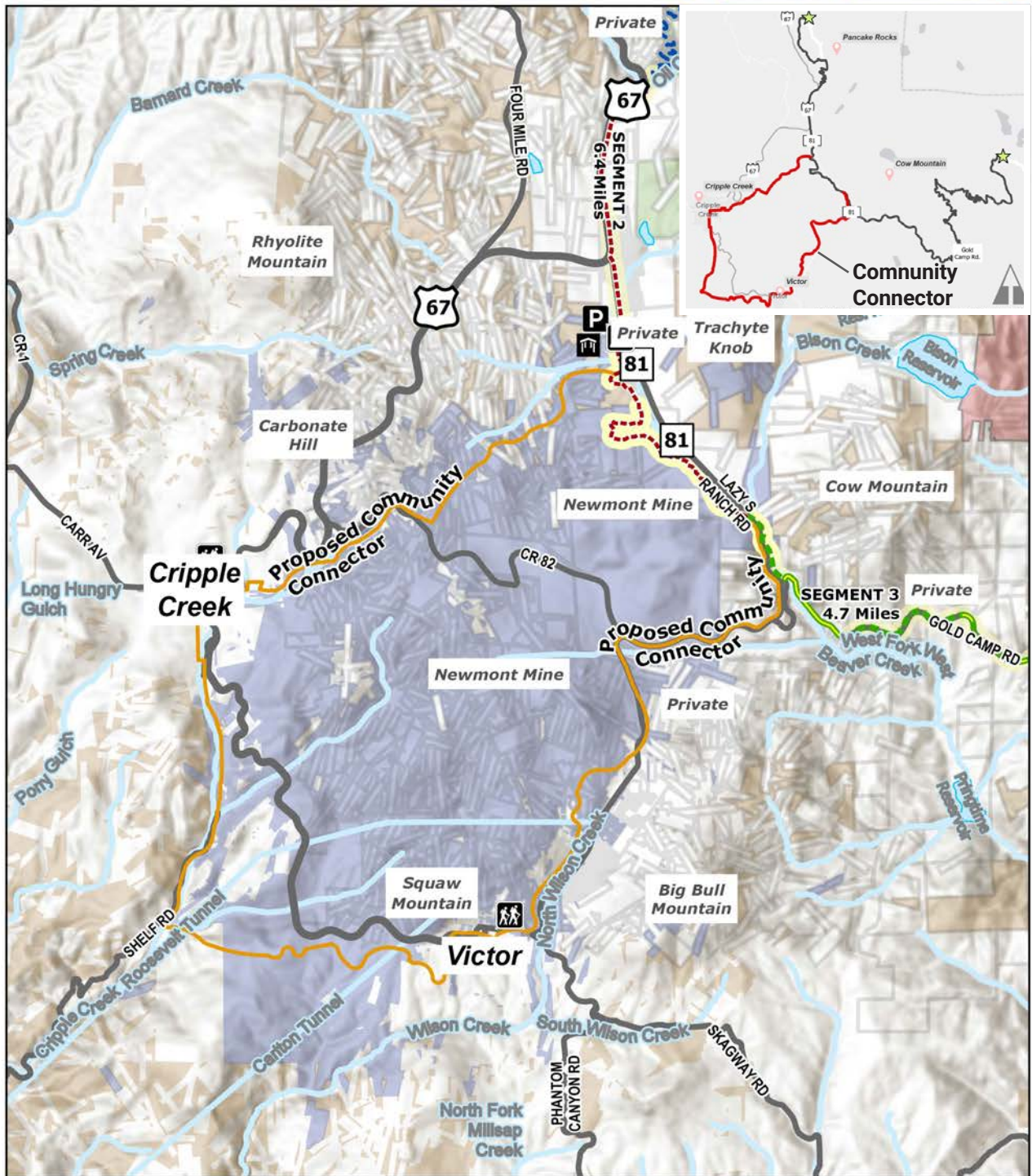
COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

The Community Connector is a loop off of the Ring trail linking the communities of Cripple Creek and Victor. This segment will utilize existing roads, trails and railroad grades to build upon past and current local trail advocacy efforts. With the construction of the Community Connector trail Victor and Cripple Creek become portals for the Ring. The Community Connector introduces new and burgeoning avenues of recreation tourism for the towns of Cripple Creek and Victor. The development of new opportunities for different user groups along this Community Connector will require work with local communities to identify access

and feasibility options. The rich cultural history and scenic natural resources of these towns make them exceptional destinations for travel along the Ring. The communities of Victor and Cripple Creek function as portals to access the Ring creating additional economic opportunities in the form of outfitters, guides, shuttles, bed and breakfasts, restaurants and hotels. Integrating trailheads into the existing parks in Cripple Creek and Victor will increase access and showcase the town's scenic view corridors. The proposed alignment of the Community Connector was provided by Victor and Cripple Creek and is consistent with their community trail plans. The Community Connector will need to be aware and be adaptable to mining operations.



THE COMMUNITY CONNECTOR



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--|---------------------|--|-------------------|--|-------------------------|--|----------------------|
| | Trailhead | | Community Connector | | on road segment 3 | | Trail Easement Required | | Pike National Forest |
| | Kiosk | | Segment 3 off road | | Segment 2 | | State of Colorado | | BLM |
| | Parking | | Segment 1 | | Segment 1 | | Newmont Mine | | USFS roads |



Exhibit 3.8



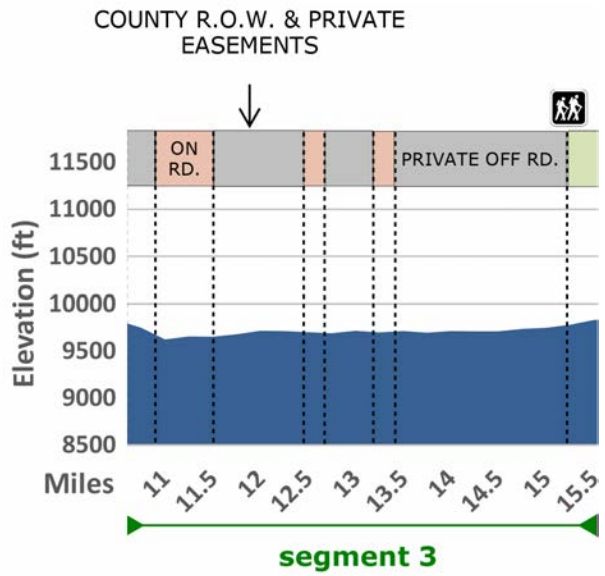
EARLY ACTION ITEMS

- Engage** Teller County and USFS to secure trail access on Gold Camp Rd.
- Engage** Teller County to plan and install trail safety standards along roads.
- Create** a pedestrian crossing at CR-81.



SEGMENT 3

Segment 3 is approximately 4.7 miles and begins at the trail crossing on CR-81, drops down for 0.3 miles onto Newmont Goldcorp Mine property and connects with Gold Camp Road. This proposed alignment offers clear lines of sight for trail users crossing CR-81 and utilizes an existing pull-off drive on the north side of the crossing. At this point the trail skirts along the site of historic wells that serve the City of Victor. Once the trail corridor joins Gold Camp Road, intermittent vertical rock faces and sheer drop-offs on either side force the proposed trail onto the road in several stretches. Segment 3 finishes on USFS property at an existing pull-off, a strategic trailhead location with opportunities for views, outreach and access. On an interim basis, trail users may travel on the existing Gold Camp Road; however, due to limited visibility, narrow road width and compromised user experience, it is recommended that approximately 3.3 miles of trail easements be secured from property owners along the north side of Gold Camp Road.



SEGMENT 3 OF THE RING

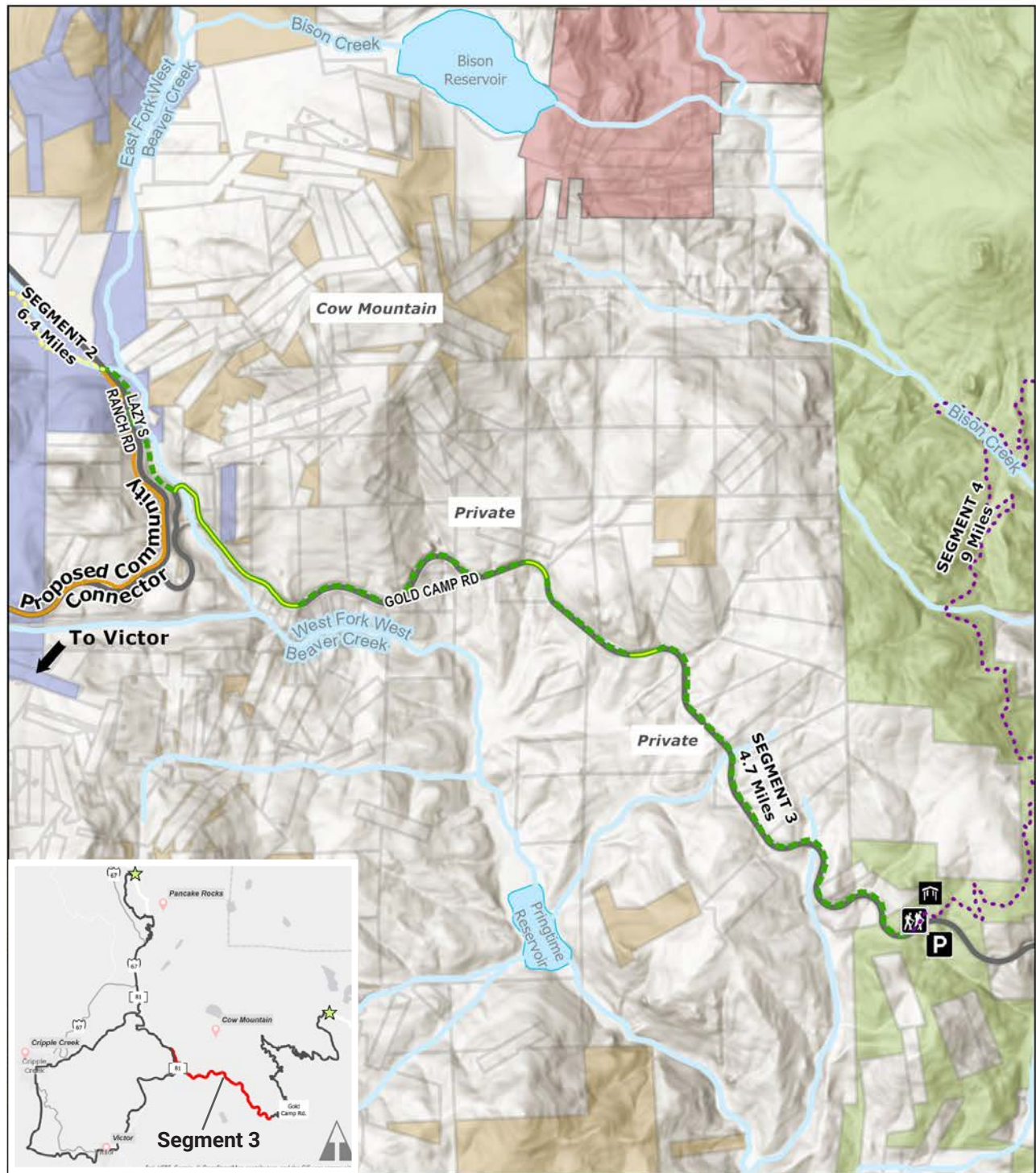


Exhibit 3.9



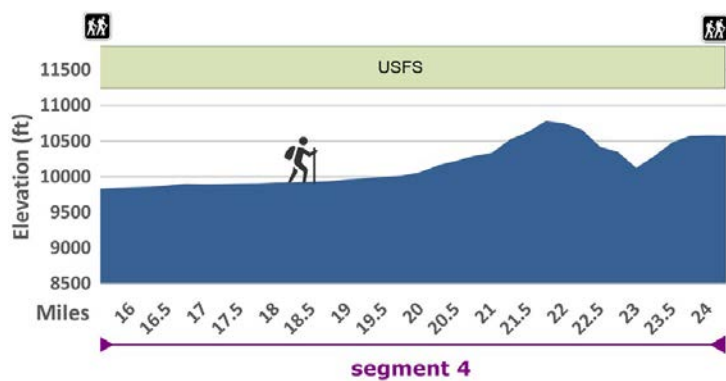
EARLY ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Refine** trail alignment.
- 2. Engage** USFS in NEPA process.
- 3. Create** clear signage to guide trail users and encourage trail etiquette.



SEGMENT 4

Segment 4 is approximately 9 miles in length. It begins at the existing entrance to Pike National Forest and remains on USFS property the entire length connecting with trail that is part of the existing Ring at USFS Road 376. Segment 4 has a diverse mix of topography with several challenging ascents that reward trail users with unique views. Segment 4 transitions in several instances from dense canopy cover to wide open spaces. There are a few rock outcroppings that make for excellent picnic spaces to relax and take in the natural setting. Segment 4 is bookended by proposed trailheads and parking areas. The trailheads would include interpretive and educational kiosks to assist in wayfinding and enhance the user experience. Similar to Segment 1, this segment of the Ring will offer trail users stunning fall colors and views of Pikes Peak. Features of cultural importance and interest include glory holes dug by prospecting miners. Switchbacks are proposed to address steep slopes in several areas and allow for sustainable and safe passage.



SEGMENT 4 OF THE RING

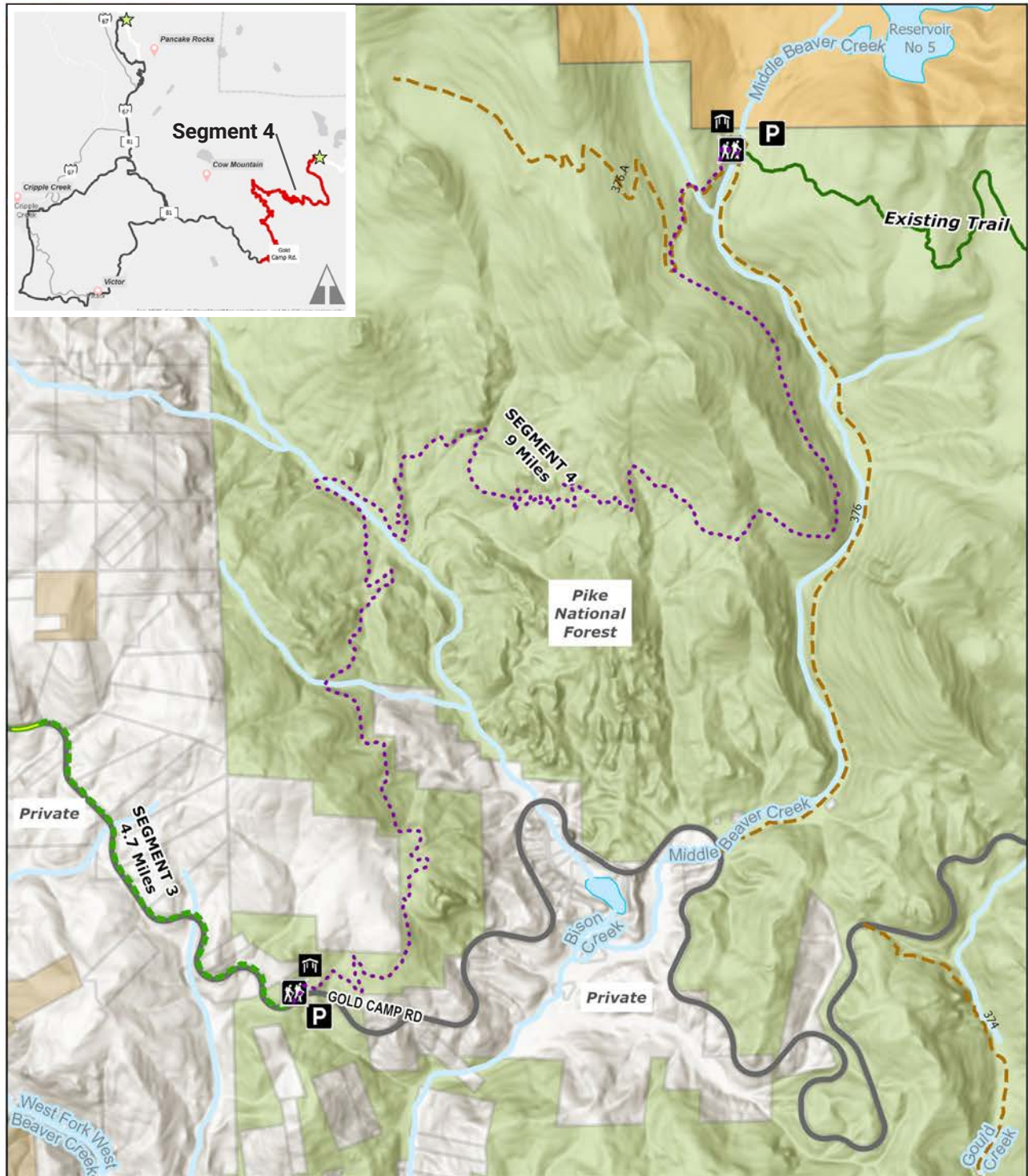


Exhibit 3.10

Planning Steps Completed to Close the Southwest Gap



Obtain and analyze existing information on affected resources within or near the trail corridors, including expertise of agency staff and data and knowledge from prior nearby projects.



Perform desktop (GIS and research-based) evaluations to identify resource issues and the impacts of proposed trail alignment.



Conduct reconnaissance level field reviews to validate existing information, confirm resource conditions and boundaries, and explore opportunities for avoidance or mitigation.



Work with the Consultant Team and stakeholders to further refine trail alignments to minimize environmental impacts.



Describe the issues, process, data, findings and mitigation measures in the Plan.



Coordinate with CPW staff and bighorn sheep experts to understand and document the issues and the sensitivity of different areas to potential trail impacts.



Utilize available mapping and county records to evaluate private properties and right-of-way opportunities along the trail corridor.



Conduct on site investigations to determine the best proposed trail corridor to close the southwest gap in the Ring.



SECTION 04

CLOSING THE MANAGEMENT GAP









INTRODUCTION

The recommendations of this Plan build upon the 1999 Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan, including management strategies for the overall Ring and specific strategies that are necessary for closing the southwest gap. Existing segments of the Ring have been implemented largely through the steadfast advocacy, leadership and many volunteer hours provided by Friends of the Peak with the support of stakeholders, federal, state and local agencies. Closing the southwest gap and long-term management of the Ring will require additional management and operational strategies that expand the roles of the partner agencies and current non-profit leadership. Consistent with the 1999 Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan, each governmental agency will be responsible for implementation of the Ring within their respective jurisdiction. The Plan outlines clear roles for non-profit partners including:

- Vision, leadership & organizational structuring
- Fundraising
- Trail planning
- Trail construction
- Trail maintenance
- Interim management
- Long term management
- Operational strategies
- Plan implementation

In addition, the Plan seeks to leverage the energy and strengths of existing agencies and organizations in the Pikes

PLAN OBJECTIVES

-  Review existing management and operational models for benchmarking
-  Identify currently available management, maintenance and operational resources
-  Identify resource gaps and community based, sustainable solutions
-  Identify policies, standards and procedures to guide the maintenance efforts of volunteers, community service groups and work crews
-  Identify funding opportunities for trail construction
-  Gain approval and implementation of Plan by city, county, state, federal and other land management agencies

Peak region that value the Ring.

VISION & LEADERSHIP

FOTP has served as the catalyst and community voice for implementation of the Ring. In 2016, TOSC added their voice of advocacy to the project and joined efforts with FOTP to pursue funding through GOCO to develop a master plan for the southwest gap and the management of the entire Ring, effectively becoming co-champions for the Ring. While the USFS Pikes Peak Ranger District and Colorado Springs Utilities are expressly identified as the early champions of the overall vision for the 1999 Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan, the creation of a new advocate and management entity, envisioned as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused exclusively on the management of the Ring the Peak, is recommended to be the keeper and champion of the vision for completing the Ring and closing the southwest gap.

BENCHMARKING

A key component to the Master Plan Process was to identify a sustainable operations and management model for the Ring. The Consultant Team evaluated six existing management organizations with similar attributes to the Ring. The analysis sought to understand why these benchmark organizations are successful and how to apply their traits to the unique characteristics of the Ring. The Consultant Team recognizes that each organization is unique and what works well in some contexts might not work well for the Ring. The extensive information collected through this process has been analyzed and summarized into key takeaways in following pages.





ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA - *Colorado*



The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) is recognized as one of the nation's most popular locations for whitewater rafting and kayaking on the Arkansas River the most commercially popular river in the United States. AHRA is managed by the Colorado State Parks and Wildlife Department. The following are the key takeaways from a phone conversation with Rob White, AHRA Park Manager.

Trust

Gain the trust of the community. Respond to needs and concerns immediately.

Citizens

Establish a Citizen Task Force (CTF) to work through issues. The CTF works on compromise and consensus.

Rangers

Have seasonal or full-time peace officers/rangers for education and enforcement.

Fees

Build support through user fees, commercial permitting fees and limited state funding.

GEORGE S. MICKLESON TRAIL - *Black Hills, South Dakota*



The George S. Mickelson Trail passes through national forest land, with areas that pass through privately owned lands where trail use is restricted to the trail only. The George S. Mickelson Trail is maintained by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission. The following are the key takeaways from a phone conversation with Dana Garry-Reiprich, Park Manager, Black Hills Trails.

Fees

Fees are collected at trailhead locations for use of the trail.

Public

No fees are required for use of trails within municipalities.

Rangers

Rangers are critical for education and enforcement. The presence of rangers on the trails is sufficient for compliance.

Access

Provide access and facilities at regular frequency along trail

RIO GRANDE TRAIL - *Pitkin County, Colorado*



The Rio Grande is a rails to trails project, which is built in the Aspen Branch of the historic Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad. In 1997, the right-of-way corridor was purchased with a combination of funding by local governments, GOCO, Pitkin County Open Space and Trails, and the Colorado Department of Transportation. The following are the key takeaways from Gary Tennenbaum, Director of Pitkin County Open Space and Trails and from Brett Meredith, RFTA Trails and Corridor Manager.

Organization

One organization manages trail. Consistent philosophies on management, regulations and maintenance.

Volunteers

Volunteer organizations provide clean-up and other minimal trail projects on the lower portion of the trail.

Permits

Unified event permitting process for use of entire trail. Monetary responsibility for any damage to trail.

Funding

Majority of funding comes from transit fees and local open space taxes.

THE COLORADO TRAIL- *Colorado*



The Colorado Trail is Colorado's premier long distance trail. Stretching almost 500 miles, it is maintained through voluntary and public involvement in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and BLM. The following are the key takeaways from a conversation with Bill Manning, Executive Director of The Colorado Trails Foundation.

Make it Happen

Greater value to have trail than not even if it is in a temporary location. Find a way even if it's not the most desirable location.

Presence

Keep a presence with all state and local jurisdictions to maintain relevancy and interest in the project.

Rangers

Increased users does not equate to increased good stewards. Rangers are critical for education and enforcement.

Active Board

Having a working, active Board with many skills is important.

N & S SLOPE RECREATION AREAS - *Pikes Peak Region*



The South Slope watershed is a diverse and biologically rich landscape. Recreational opportunities are designed to be as low impact as possible to protect sensitive areas. The North and South Slope Recreation Areas are managed by the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services through an agreement with the Colorado Springs Utilities. The following are the key takeaways from conversation with Jon Carlson, City of Colorado Springs Special Improvement Maintenance Districts Administrator.

Fees

Use of South Slope is restricted based on limited paid parking passes. Use of North Slope is based on fee paid to use Highway.

Volunteers

Major trail maintenance is done by volunteer groups.

Rangers

Having a ranger presence is critical for compliance with rules and regulations. Funding for rangers and operations comes from user fees.

Location

Rangers should be trained with Wilderness First Aid and have communication devices to receive and send messages.

TAHOE RIM TRAIL - *California*



The Tahoe Rim Trail is 165+ mile single-track trail open to hiking, equestrians and mountain biking. The trail circumnavigates the ridge lines of the Lake Tahoe Basin crossing six counties, four National Forests, three wilderness areas, two states and one state park. The following are a few of the key facts from Morgan Fessler Steel, Executive Director of the Tahoe Rail Trail Associations by means of a completed questionnaire.

Local

Work with local businesses who benefit from increased recreational tourism as a result of the Trail.

Organization

Management Plan which spells out responsibilities of all jurisdictions or organizations involved.

Balance

Balance increased numbers of users while trying to preserve the user experience and the land.

Funding

Funding for the trail and organization comes from user fees, membership and grants.

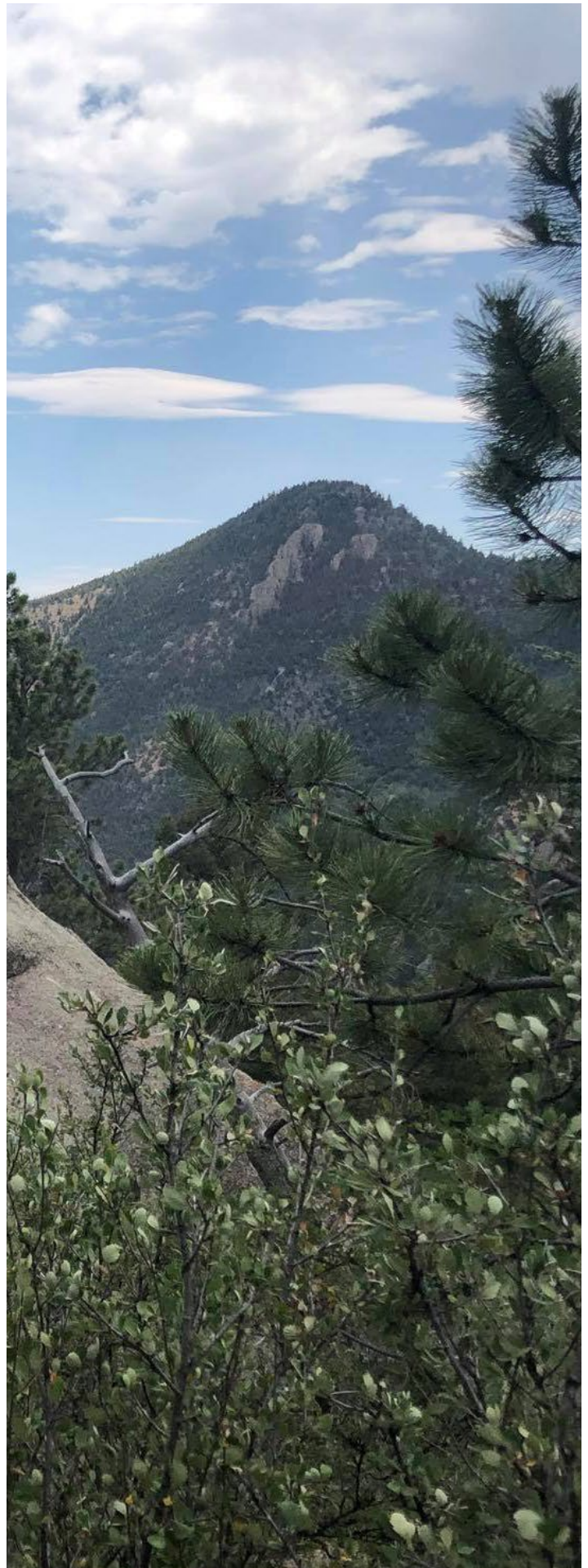


LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

The scope and size of the Ring trail system lends itself to the establishment of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to serve as the advocate, facilitator, fund-raiser, project manager and liaison between the many agencies, landowners and local communities. **The Ring the Peak 501(c)(3) non-profit organization** (Ring non-profit) will serve as a catalyst for implementation, development, completion and operation of the Ring and, working with the members of the **Task Force**, affiliated businesses and land managing agencies, coordinate closing the southwest gap and coordinate long-term management and maintenance of the entire Ring. The **Ring the Peak Project Manager (Project Manager)** and Task Force will assist the Ring non-profit to facilitate and advocate for the fulfilment of the vision for the Ring and closure of the southwest gap.

The future leadership and organizational structure for the Ring is envisioned with TOSC to provide interim leadership for the management and development of the Ring trail during the formation and establishment of the Ring non-profit. Roles and responsibilities will need to evolve and expand as the focus continues to shift from implementation to management of this unique recreational resource. The long term and interim leadership for the Ring including the roles and responsibilities of the Ring non-profit are described in the following pages.



LONG-TERM ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Exhibit 4.1



LONG TERM ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

For long-term sustainability of operations and management for the entire length of the Ring a clear understanding of the roles and responsibility of each party will be critical. The long-term organizational structure for the operation and management of the Ring is illustrated in Exhibit 4.1. The Ring non-profit will consist of a board of directors, Project Manager, additional Ring non-profit staff and volunteers. Within the long term organizational structure the Ring non-profit will:

- Advocate for the Ring and seek its full completion, protection, preservation and funding with members of local, state and federal agencies and private land managing agencies
- Assist with obtaining the necessary approvals and acquisitions for constructing and maintaining the Ring
- Build strong relationships with officials at the local, state and federal levels and seek champions in city halls and the state capitol to celebrate and spearhead the mission of the Ring
- Apply relevant regulations and procedures to shape the strategic direction and policies of the Ring

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Ring non-profit board of directors will help further the goals and vision of the Ring with the acknowledgment these roles and responsibilities may evolve over time. The Ring non-profit board of directors will apply their expertise in outdoor recreation, trail management, marketing, law and fundraising to the development of strategic direction and policies for the Ring. The Ring non-profit board of directors will select the Ring non-profit staff such as the Project Manager. The Ring non-profit board of directors will collaborate with the Task Force, to identify the direction for successful completion, operations and management of the Ring. The Ring non-profit board of directors will convene regularly as needed to advance the goals and objectives established in the Plan.

TASK FORCE

Acting as the advisory group in cooperation initially with the TOSC board of directors and later with the Ring non-profit board of directors, the Task Force will contribute to shaping the strategic direction and policies of the Ring. The TOSC board of directors and staff will establish the Task Force early into the implementation of this Plan to provide assurance that the diverse spectrum of Ring users is represented in the direction and policies of the Plan moving forward. In the long



term organizational structure Task Force members will be selected by the Ring non-profit board of directors. This Task Force, consisting of seven interest areas, will have specific roles, functions and processes. The Task Force will champion implementation strategies and policies for the completion and management of the Ring and assist in identifying resources to put these implementation strategies and policies into action. Task Force members will provide valuable input for the Ring non-profit board of directors to consider when implementing the Plan recommendations. The Task Force will assist in providing an open communication link to all interested parties affected by decisions of the Ring non-profit. The Task Force will utilize their experience and knowledge to assist the Ring non-profit and Project Manager in resolving management problems along the trail system corridor as they arise. Members of the Task Force are recommended from the following:

- United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Local government representatives (representing municipal, county or city officials)
- Outdoor recreation industry
- Environmental organizations
- Property Owners
- Trail users (representing all types including hiking, biking, equestrian, motorized, etc.)

Task Force members will be able to demonstrate interest and experience with the issues throughout the Ring. Members must be capable of representing their respective interests while working as productive members in a team setting. The Task Force will meet a minimum of once each quarter.

PROJECT MANAGER

The Project Manager will carry out the implementation strategies for the Ring to close the southwest gap under the direction of the Ring non-profit board of directors to ensure the leadership and organizational vision for the Ring continues to be maintained and developed. The Project Manager will serve as the Ring trail system central manager and will:

- Identify and prioritize funding opportunities for Plan implementation
- Serve as the liaison between the Task Force, stakeholders, the Ring non-profit and land managing agencies
- Work under the direction of the Ring non-profit and in conjunction with community groups, private landowners, and government agencies

- Convene and attend Task Force meetings
- Coordinate gaining needed access, acquisitions and easements, etc.
- Oversee the plan to close the southwest gap in the Ring
- Coordinate trail construction for the Ring
- Coordinate long-term management and maintenance of the Ring
- Coordinate evaluation and monitoring of the Ring
- Gather user, community and stakeholder input and feedback
- Identify changes in program and approach
- Identify and Implement marketing strategies to promote the Ring
- Seek funding, in particular for acquisitions, approval processes and construction.

The Project Manager and the Ring non-profit board of directors will coordinate and collaborate with the Task Force, government agencies, stakeholders and private land owners for the completion, promotion and management of the Ring. The Project Manager may work with additional staff and volunteers for any of these responsibilities.

INTERIM ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Exhibit 4.2 outlines the organizational management structure for the Ring in the interim until the formation of the Ring non-profit. After being established by the TOSC board of directors and staff the Task Force will provide interim recommendations to the TOSC board of directors and staff until the Ring non-profit is formally established. This will allow various agencies and organizations to be involved with and be a part of the early Plan implementation and management.

The opinions and insights of Task Force will be especially valuable in the development of strategic policies and direction for the Ring. The Task Force will utilize their experience and knowledge to assist the TOSC board of directors and staff in developing the Ring non-profit and addressing management problems along the trail system corridor as they arise.

INTERIM ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Exhibit 4.2



TOSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the interim the TOSC board of directors and staff will fill the role of the Ring non-profit until the Ring non-profit is formed and operational. The TOSC board of directors will maintain the momentum for completing the Ring and assist in guiding the creation of the Ring non-profit. The board of directors will meet to discuss the Ring as needed to discuss immediate concerns and identify changes in program and approach until the formation of the Ring non-profit.

TOSC STAFF

TOSC staff will carry out the implementation strategies for the management of the Ring project and to close the southwest gap under the direction of the TOSC board of directors to ensure the leadership and organizational vision for the Ring continues to be maintained and developed. TOSC staff will:

- Form the Ring the Peak non-profit as a Colorado 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Work with the TOSC board of directors to establish the Task Force

The TOSC board of directors and staff will coordinate and collaborate with the Task Force, government agencies and private land owners during the establishment of the Ring non-profit.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

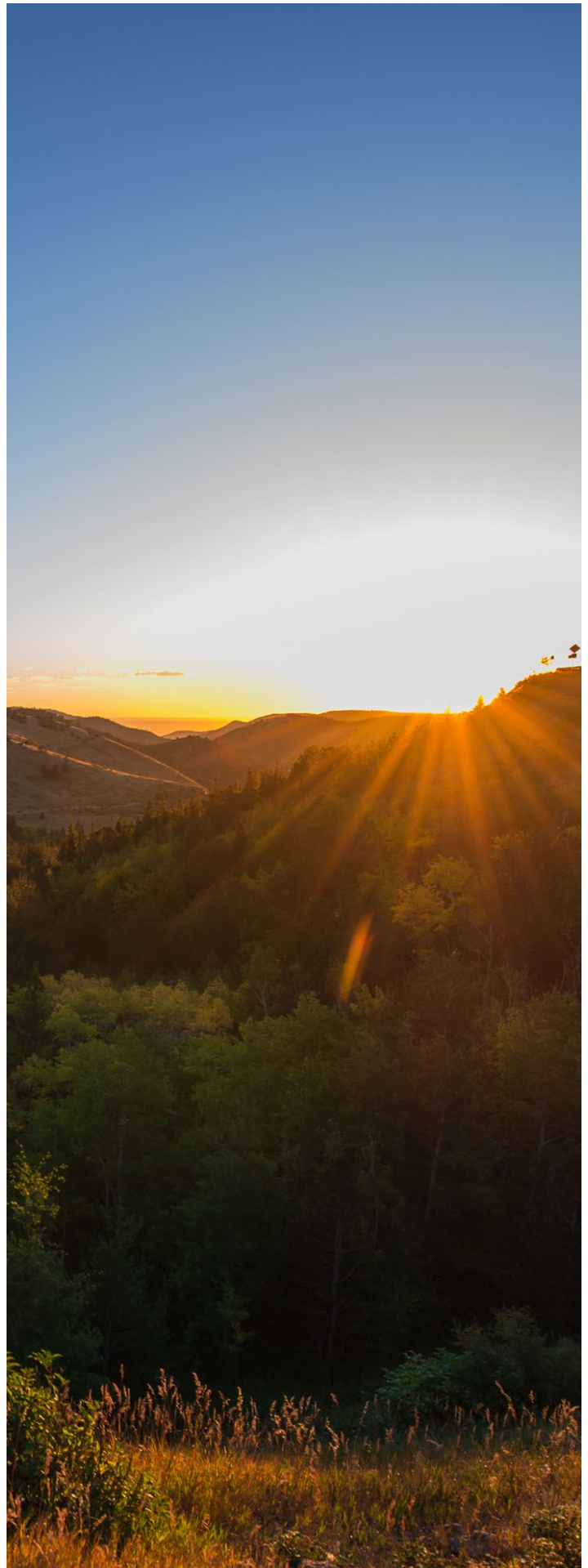
The implementation of the Plan is intended to help the collaborating private, public and non-profit entities make the completion of the Ring into a reality and will require:

- A commitment on the part of decision makers and the public to close the southwest gap
- Approval from the land owners or land managers through each new segment of trail
- Trail construction
- Funding
- Ongoing trail maintenance and repair

A critical next step in the Ring implementation process is to clarify and formalize jurisdictional responsibilities for each trail segment. Regular maintenance of the Ring and associated support facilities contribute to successful operation of the Ring. However, with multiple jurisdictions, agency involvement and ownership of land along the proposed trail corridor, it is necessary to have a clear understanding, with written agreement between the agencies at the onset of the efforts, to close the southwest gap in the Ring and identify the roles and responsibilities of each agency related to the entire Ring. Because the project crosses multiple jurisdictions and land managing agencies, it will be important to have each entity understand their role as well as who will take the lead and when.

TRAIL PLANNING

In accordance with the overall vision and goals for the Plan, the recommended trail corridor alignment is designed to provide a quality trail experience in a manner that is sustainable and responsive to the surrounding natural environment. To support and sustain the variety and level of expected use the proposed trail corridor for the Ring needs to be a resilient system consisting of a wide array of well planned, designed, constructed and managed trails that are supported by a mosaic of public and private interests. The Ring should inspire stewardship and invite people of all ages and abilities and from all backgrounds to enjoy the Ring and use them to connect to their public lands while protecting and conserving natural and cultural resources.



The Ring non-profit and Project Manager will support trail planning efforts as follows:

- Coordinate with responsible land managing agencies for in the field interpretation of the proposed trail corridor to close the southwest gap as identified in this Plan
- Help determine what approvals and acquisitions are needed and facilitate approval processes and acquisitions
- Assist in identifying enhancements to existing segments of the Ring where appropriate, such as erosion control measures, connector trails, loop trails, spur trails and water sources
- Engage and assist agencies, such as Teller County or the Palmer Land Trust, in land and easement acquisition from property owners to replace segments on or along roads with trails

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

The Ring non-profit and the Project Manager will work with land managers to establish trail design standards for the Ring to serve as technical guidelines for the survey, design, construction and maintenance of the proposed trail corridor. These criteria include: appropriate uses, tread, surface, grade, cross slope, clearing and turns. The scale and scope of the trail to close the gap in the Ring will benefit from a combination of trail construction efforts from professional trail construction services (contractor) and volunteer groups. The Ring non-profit and Project Manager will support and assist land managing agencies with trail construction efforts by:

- Assist land managing agencies in the assessment of each segment of the proposed trail corridor for suitability for trail contractor or volunteer efforts
- Assist as needed in selecting, hiring, and monitoring contractors and contract work
- Act as the liaison to volunteer groups
- Coordinate volunteer efforts with contractor work
- Assist in identifying and obtaining grants, donations, and other funding sources for trail construction.
- Assist in outreach and notification efforts to landowners and managing agencies when trail construction is to begin adjacent to their respective properties



TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Trail maintenance is critical to sustaining the Ring. Maintenance needs should be evaluated and prioritized. Maintenance of the Ring will be accomplished through the joint effort of many volunteer, local, state and federal agencies. The maintenance needs of the Ring will vary along different trail segments, depending on surface and design, surrounding landscape, land managing agencies and other factors. The Ring non-profit and Project Manager will support and assist land managers and land managing agencies in implementing the Ring maintenance standards and strategies. The Ring non-profit and the Project Manager will work closely with local and regional volunteer groups for a variety of tasks to support and sustain the Ring. The Ring non-profit, Task Force and the Project Manager will examine the possibility of creating an Adopt-a-Trail program to fund new construction, repair, renovation, maps, trail brochures, facilities (bike racks, picnic areas, birding equipment) and maintenance support. The Project Manager will act as liaison and assist in coordinating maintenance efforts with the land managing agencies and with volunteer groups. Maintenance of the Ring trail is the responsibility of each respective jurisdiction, but volunteers groups will be an important component of trail maintenance work, supported by and with the approval of the land managing agencies.



The role of the Ring non-profit and Project Manager in support of maintenance of the Ring will be to:

- Pursue memorandums of understanding with land managing agencies around the Ring
- Support the assessment of maintenance needs and help determine the best course of action and prioritize needs and actions
- Assist in maintenance efforts of local, state and federal agencies
- Connect volunteers and volunteer programs with needed projects and events
- Support efforts to provide notice of temporary closure of trails in order to conduct repairs, maintain public safety and reestablish vegetation
- Designate reference point locations along the Ring for trail maintenance and monitoring

The Ring non-profit and the Project Manager will assist land managing agencies in identifying and coordinating potential volunteer projects and maintenance efforts that may include:

- Develop a core group of trail maintenance volunteers that have completed basic training regarding trail construction and maintenance techniques
- Help establish an Adopt-a-Trail program to ensure that trail conditions are monitored and documented annually
- Utilize and coordinate with volunteers and user groups to accomplish relevant tasks
- Assist land managing agencies in ensuring trail repairs shall be as sustainable as possible and maintain natural and cultural resource values
- Support efforts to close social trails to protect sensitive natural resources, wildlife and public and private lands
- Facilitate efforts to coordinate annual trails maintenance by assembling resource, maintenance, and ranger staff as well as pertinent volunteers to jointly assess maintenance needs and help determine the best course of action

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING

Construction of the proposed trail corridor requires the USFS and BLM to conduct an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) where it is proposed on federal land. The Ring non-profit and Project Manager will support the BLM and USFS in conducting the environmental review under NEPA.

RIGHT-OF-WAY & ACCESS EASEMENT ACQUISITION

The proposed trail corridor presented in this Plan traverses through federal, state, county, city, and private lands. This trail corridor was created with the understanding that partnership with private landowners and easements would be critical to the trail corridor’s success.

LAND ACQUISITION PLAN

The development of a land acquisition plan will help the Ring non-profit and Project Manager support and assist an acquisition agency, such as Teller County or the Palmer Land Trust, in the creation of a roadmap that can be followed throughout the acquisition process. This Plan identifies potential methods of trail access to complete the southwest gap in the Ring. The Project Manager, Ring non-profit, and the acquisition agency will work together to decide on the appropriate method for each parcel to secure trail access for the Ring. The potential methods of acquisition described below are meant to be used as tools for securing trail access. The Ring non-profit and Project Manager will support the acquisition agency.

POTENTIAL METHODS OF ACQUISITION

DONATION

Normally, acquisition for parks, trails and open space requires some interest in land to be donated by the landowner or purchased by a governmental agency or a non-profit organization. Donation has also been used as a tool to avoid inheritance tax, capital gains taxes and other property taxes. Many times the term dedication is used synonymously with the term donation. It is important to note that dedication arrangements are specifically controlled by state statute and those statutes may control what types of specific interests may be transferred.

PUBLIC TRUST

The creation of a public trust can be thought of as the common-law version of a statutory dedication. In its most basic form, a public trust doctrine stems from the idea that some types of natural resources should be held in trust for the benefit of the general public.

LEASE

Under a typical lease scenario, the subject land is rented from the landowner by the acquiring agency for a set term and

price. Land leases may vary greatly in term, price, purpose and form.

TRAIL EASEMENT

Under a typical easement agreement, only those uses and interests set out in the easement agreement are transferred to the grantee. Easements for trails are typically permanent in nature whereby the underlying ownership is retained by the landowner, but access is permanently allowed over the property. A public access easement is normally permanent in nature and, as the name implies, grants the public access to a specific property when a full conservation or preservation easement is not required. The conditions of use attributable to the easement are defined in the easement agreement itself.

FEE SIMPLE ACQUISITION

In a fee simple acquisition, the landowner conveys full title to the land and the entire “bundle of property rights” to the grantee. This includes the right to possess the land, use the land, exclude others from the land and to alienate or sell the land. A fee purchase scenario may be the preferred method of acquisition; however, some factors may limit the ability of the acquiring organization in exercising a fee simple purchase of the land to be used as a trail.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

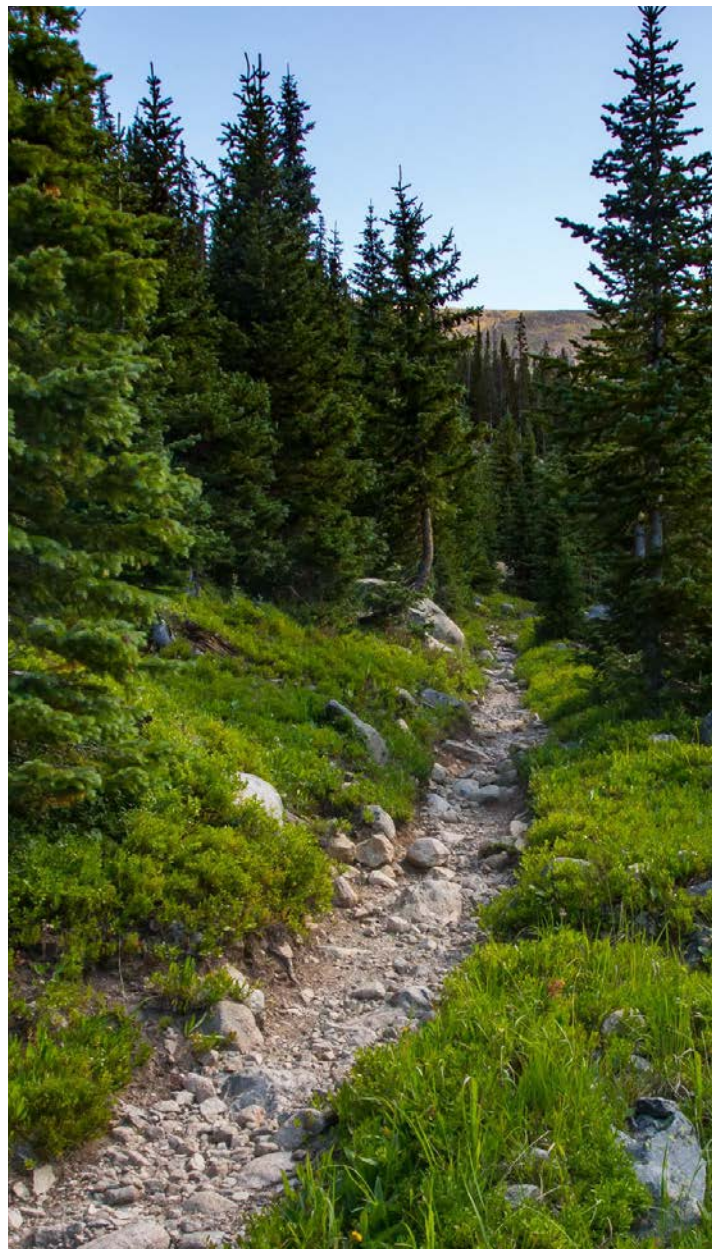
A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement that a landowner may enter into with a qualified conservation organization (typically a land trust, such as Palmer Land Trust), restricting particular development and uses of the landowner’s property in order to protect certain resources. The landowner retains ownership of the property after a conservation easement is conveyed. The conservation easement conveys certain rights to the property to the designated land trust. A conservation easement does not have to encompass an entire parcel of land. A conservation easement may include public access but also might not. What public access is included depends on the specifics of the conservation easement. Conservation easements are perpetual and every conservation easement is unique and subject to conditions agreed upon by the parties.

RIGHT OF WAY

Portions of the proposed trail corridor is on the right of way (ROW) of HWY 67 and CR-81. This is public ROW for Colorado Department of Transportation (HWY 67) and Teller County (CR-81) who reserve the right to ensure ROW availability

for public use. The Ring non-profit and Project Manager will engage agencies such as Teller County and Palmer Land Trust to secure right-of-way Use Permits from the Colorado Department of Transportation and Teller County Department of Transportation to use the right-of-way along HWY 67 and CR-81 for the Ring. For right-of-way access and easement acquisition associated with the Ring, the Ring non-profit and Project Manager will:

- Align the interests of property owners and land preservation agencies, such as Teller County or Palmer Land Trust
- Build relationships with private property owners
- Work with land managing agencies to establish memorandums of understanding, agreements etc., with state and federal departments, municipalities and private landowners.





MANAGEMENT

The strategy of this Plan for trail management and maintenance is to maintain the functional use of the Ring, eliminate potential hazards, provide for public safety, protect natural resources and maintain the aesthetic quality of the trail's environment. A wide variety of management tools can be employed to address management needs. Management of the Ring will be accomplished through a cooperative management structure requiring the resources and assistance of numerous collaborating entities. The Ring travels through numerous jurisdictions, each with their unique mix of assets, capabilities, needs, goals and political priorities. Management will be the responsibility of each land managing agency through which the Ring travels. Management of the Ring will require regular inspections and maintenance of trails to identify and correct existing or potential problems, ensure public safety and minimize liability. The frequency of trail inspections and maintenance will be dependent on seasons, weather conditions and staff and volunteer availability. When necessary easements may determine the need for the acquisition of indemnification and liability insurance.

The Ring non-profit and the Project Manager will assist land managing agencies in developing and implementing policies and procedures to guide the maintenance efforts of volunteers, community service groups and work crews. The Ring non-profit and the Project Manager will assist and support day-to-day operational and administrative tasks performed by governments and volunteer groups. This strategy will allow for leveraging the financial and labor resources of various agencies to manage multiple lengths of the trail. This will also allow individual jurisdictions the flexibility to address site-specific conditions while accomplishing the overall goal of a unified trail system. The Ring non-profit will:

- Assist land managing agencies in the overall management of the Ring
- Work with the Task Force to identify and leverage the unique mix of assets, capabilities, needs, goals and political priorities of the numerous local jurisdictions involved in the Ring
- Act as liaison between these entities to ensure the successful management and completion of the Ring
- Assist stakeholders and land managing agencies in the application of consistent management strategies along the Ring
- Provide local jurisdictions with flexibility to address

site-specific conditions while accomplishing the overall goal of a unified Ring

- Actively support public agencies and private land owners to discourage and prevent trespassing and the development of social trails on private lands

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A regional destination trail like the Ring offers distinct opportunities and experiences. However, it is not enough to build the trail. Programs need to be implemented that attract users, develop and tailor small businesses to capture the Ring spending, market the Ring as a destination and hold events at key sites along the Ring. The Ring non-profit and the Project Manager will:

- Coordinate with the adjacent communities, such as Victor and Cripple Creek
- Act as a catalyst for local economic opportunities associated with the Ring
- Partner with organizations such as the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance to identify new strategies and support for the Ring
- Assist outreach efforts to local businesses on the economic potential of the Ring
- Support marketing by communities along the Ring as portals through which the trail may be accessed
- Assist in the identification of additional economic opportunities throughout the Ring in the form of outfitters, guides, shuttles, campsites, cabins, restaurants, bed and breakfasts and hotels

EDUCATION & PROMOTION

The promotion and marketing of any trail project requires creativity, time and funding. To implement and support such an endeavor as the Ring requires promotion and marketing. The success of completing the Ring depends on potential users and supporters' awareness of its existence. It is important to ensure that appropriate means are used to inform the public about the Ring and the wide range of user experiences and trail characteristics it encompasses. Multiple access points and connections to communities present both challenges and benefits to the recreation market for the Ring. To realize these opportunities for the Ring, the Ring non-profit and Task Force will:

- Assist in identifying new and burgeoning avenues for destination trail tourism
- Support education efforts on the rich cultural history and scenic resources that will be available at the completion of the Ring

- Reach out to media to provide publicity for the Ring
- Maintain and update the Ring website and e-newsletters
- Communicate rules and regulations to trail users through trailhead signage and website
- Develop and implement educational information and outreach programs to enhance protection and enjoyment of the Ring
- Assist in addressing the growing need for providing information to trail users regarding basic facts, such as access points and trail routing
- Assist in the placement of wayfinding signage, rules of use signage, trail map signage and regulatory signage at key locations along the Ring
- Coordinate and facilitate the periodic assessment of signage to ensure the placement is serving the intended purpose

SPECIAL EVENTS & PERMITTING

Issuing permits for organized events on the Ring is the responsibility of the managing agency or jurisdiction of the property on which the Ring is present. Coordination and issuing of permits will be accomplished by the managing agency where the entire trail or where a significant majority crosses more than one jurisdiction. Special use permitting for events staged on or associated with the Ring will be conducted in accordance with special use laws, regulations, policy, guidelines and this Plan. The Ring non-profit will support managing agencies of the properties along the Ring and will:

- Assist land managing agencies to ensure special use permitting for events staged on or associated with the Ring will be conducted in accordance with special use laws, regulations, policies and guidelines of land managing agencies
- Support the efforts of land managing agencies to manage activities throughout the entire length of the Ring in accordance with land, social, wilderness, and other constraints
- Create a resource manual to guide event coordinators for staging events and navigating the permitting process.
- Work with event coordinators to incorporate sustainable Leave No Trace principles when planning and holding events along the Ring
- Maintain a calendar of events permitted along the Ring

FUNDING & FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Management and maintenance of the Ring requires ongoing and reliable resources. Throughout the development of the Plan, stakeholders repeatedly advocated ongoing responsible management of the Ring including trail maintenance, prevention and closure of social trails, preservation and enhancement of natural resources with special emphasis on bighorn sheep and watersheds, protection of private property owner rights, and ongoing education and enforcement of rules and regulations. The Plan acknowledges that land managing agencies currently have limited funding and resources available to support the Ring and future funding is uncertain. The existing programs benchmarked for this Plan provide a range of funding strategies and mechanisms to be considered. The Ring non-profit and Project Manager, in partnership with land management agencies and stakeholders, will actively explore and evaluate long-term funding sources and mechanisms such as donations and memberships, operational grants and partnerships, parking passes, dedicated use taxes, commercial permits, and user fees to support the long-term sustainability of the Ring. Potential options for grant and fundraising sources include:

- Allocations from municipal government
- Grants from non-profit foundations
- Donations and sponsorships from businesses
- Donations from individuals
- In-kind and donated services in the form of materials, labor, equipment, operators
- State and federal grant programs
- Support from tourism and recreation taxes and fees

ENFORCEMENT

The Ring travels through numerous local jurisdictions, each with their unique mix of goals, rules and resources for enforcement. The rules and enforcement of these rules will be the responsibility of the managing agency or law enforcement agency through whose jurisdiction the proposed alignment for the Ring crosses. The Ring non-profit and the Project Manager will support and coordinate with local jurisdictions and managing agencies to:

- Facilitate engagement efforts with land managers to establish common consistent rules and regulations for the entire Ring
- Support the establishment and distribution of protocols for trail supporters, trail users, volunteers and property owners to report enforcement issues



- Establish a volunteer trail ambassador program to support local jurisdictions and managing agencies to provide a welcoming presence along the Ring and at trailheads

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The size, scope, remoteness and diversity of jurisdictions along the total length of the Ring is a challenge for emergency service providers. Existing emergency service providers within the Pikes Peak region will be responsible for the segment of the Ring within their jurisdiction. The Ring non-profit will support local emergency services and will:

- Work with emergency service providers to identify and map geographic service areas and access points along the Ring
- Assist in determining landmarks and other location reference points to designate locations along a trail to be used by emergency response
- Work with emergency service providers to create educational information for trail users at trailhead signage and on the Ring website
- Assist in the equipping of trail volunteers with basic safety protocols
- Support efforts to ensure volunteer projects have a safety plan in place and emergency service providers are informed of trail events and work days

EPILOGUE

The Ring Master Plan is rooted in the hopes, dreams and vision of many trail users that have aspired to one day circumnavigate Pikes Peak. The Plan represents significant compromise on the trail alignment, made possible by a firm and enduring belief by all stakeholders that the development of a unique trail experience around the Peak is a worthy goal to enthusiastically pursue. It is this enthusiasm and focus, more than financial resources, that will be needed to sustain the efforts to realize implementation.

Few trails circumnavigate a natural feature as iconic as Pikes Peak, passing through a broad spectrum of geologic provinces, ecological life zones and vegetation communities from alpine tundra to wet meadow marshes. The Ring, by virtue of its geographic expanse, its route through diverse local, state and federal lands around Pikes Peak and its cornucopia of natural and cultural resources, has the unique potential to provide visitors with an inspirational outdoor experience, attain national and international recognition and invigorate the economies of local communities.

Implementation is where the recommendations in this Plan can come to life. Taking action on the items and opportunities identified in this Plan honors the efforts and countless hours dedicated by the Project Team, stakeholders and the community during the planning process, as well as the decades of effort from many agencies' staffs and nonprofit volunteers that formed the existing parts of the Ring. The recommendations emerging out of this Plan portray the dedication of stakeholders and the community to not only complete the Ring, but do it in ways that enhance recreational experiences, are environmentally sustainable, protect and preserve natural resources, expand community outreach and maintain visitor safety.

The tremendous progress toward completing and managing the Ring could not have been made without the support and dedication of the Project Team, stakeholders, landowners and surrounding communities, as noted throughout this Plan. Looking ahead, these partnerships will continue to be extremely important in the coming years to complete the Ring and manage it in a sustainable manner for the future.

With approval of this Plan TOSC, FOTP and the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, the sponsors and grant recipients, confirm their dedication to completing the Ring and managing the entire trail in a manner that is thoughtful, community driven, conscientious of natural resources and considerate of future generations.



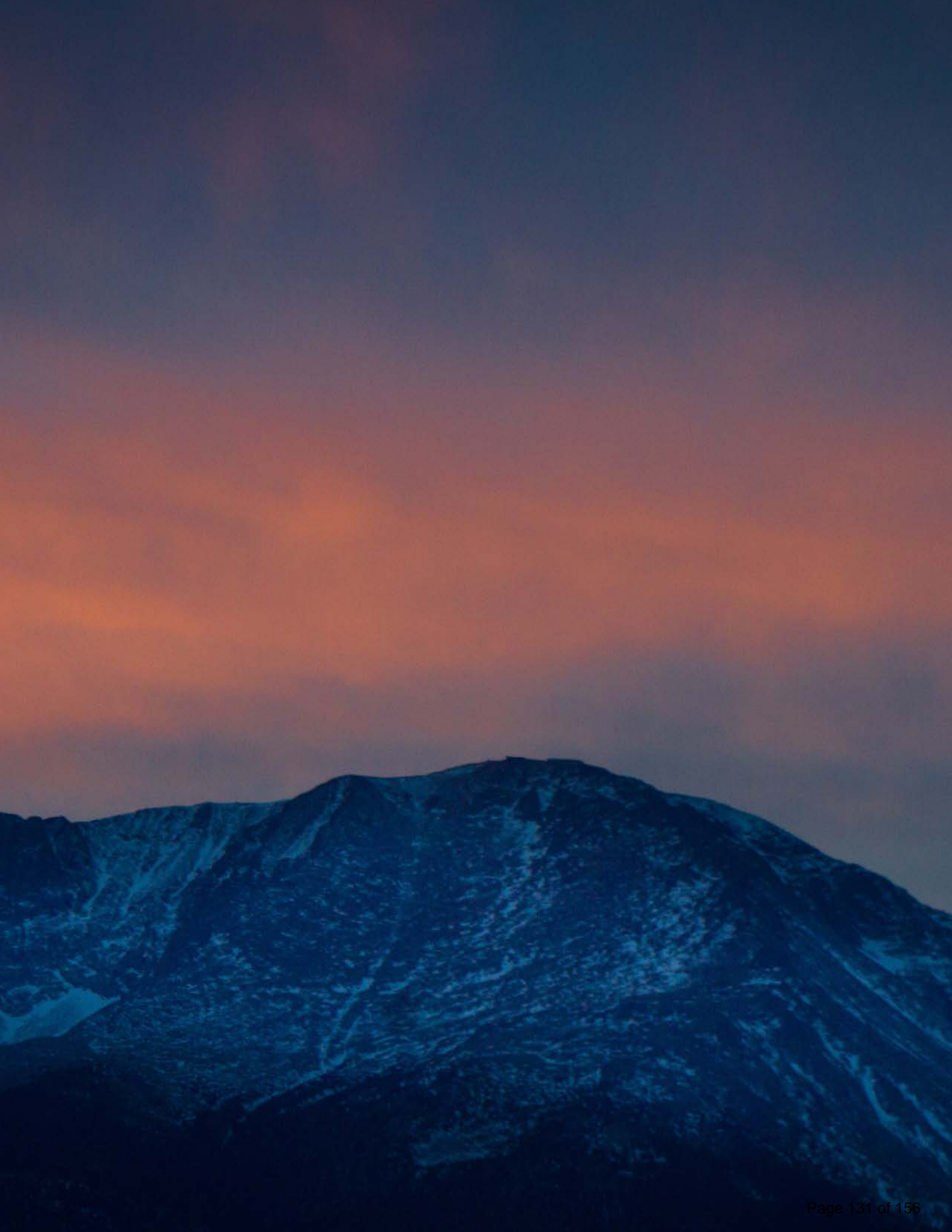
Photo by Friends of the Peak

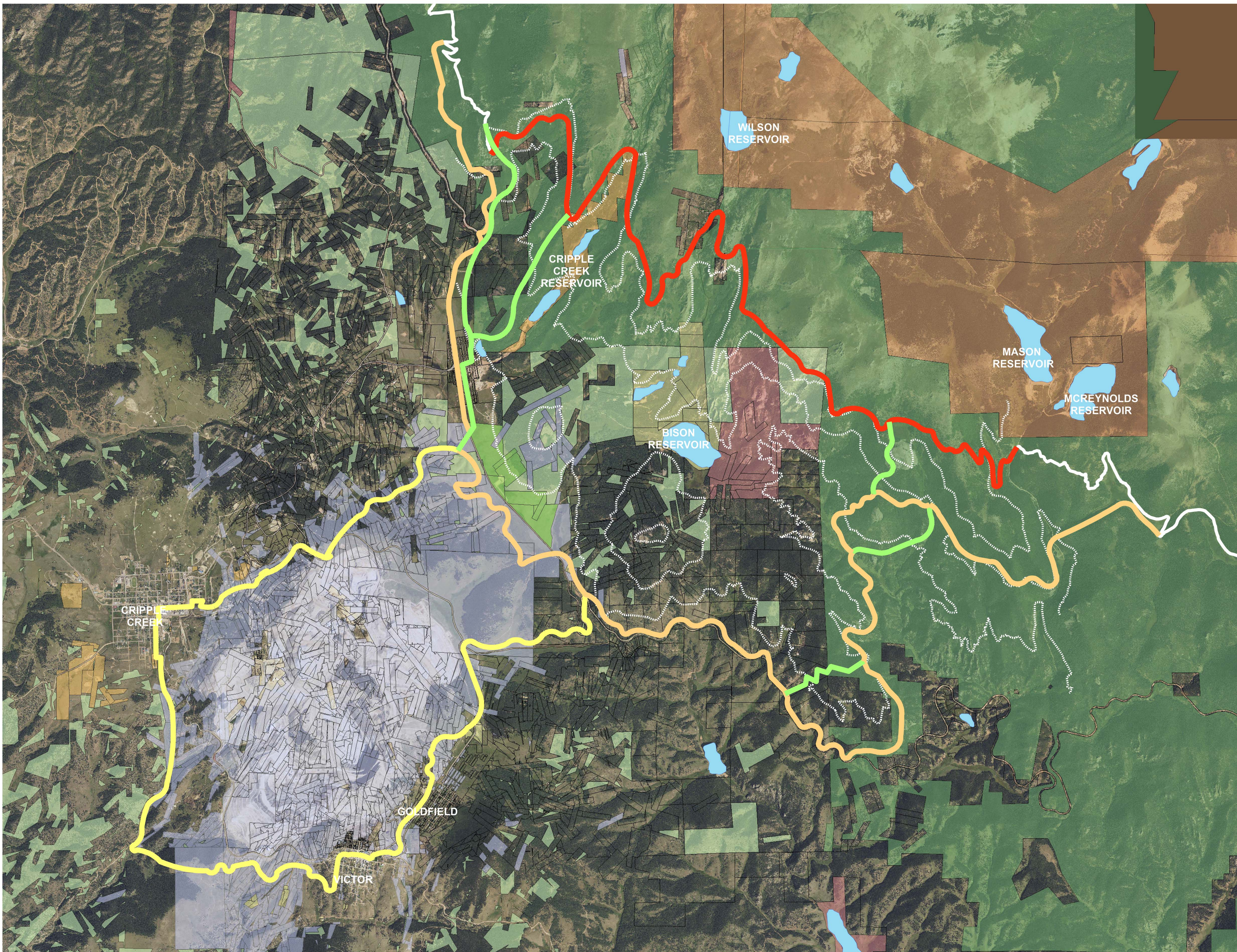


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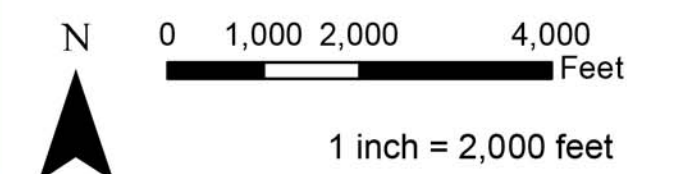
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12. USGS. 2011. GAP/Landfire National terrestrial Ecosystems. GAP Landcover 2011 Group. <https://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/>.





- PROPOSED TRAILS**
- Alternate
 - Community Route (14.79 MI.)
 - High Route (11.73 MI.)
 - Low Route (19.42 MI.)

- KEY PROPERTY OWNERS**
- BLM
 - Newmont_Mine
 - Teller_County_Shooting
 - Pike_National_Forest_EI
 - Pike_National_Forest
 - City_of_Colorado_Spring
 - City_of_Colorado_Spring
 - City_of_Cripple_Creek
 - City_of_Victor
 - City_of_Manitou
 - El_Paso_County
 - State_of_Colorado



PROPOSED ROUTES

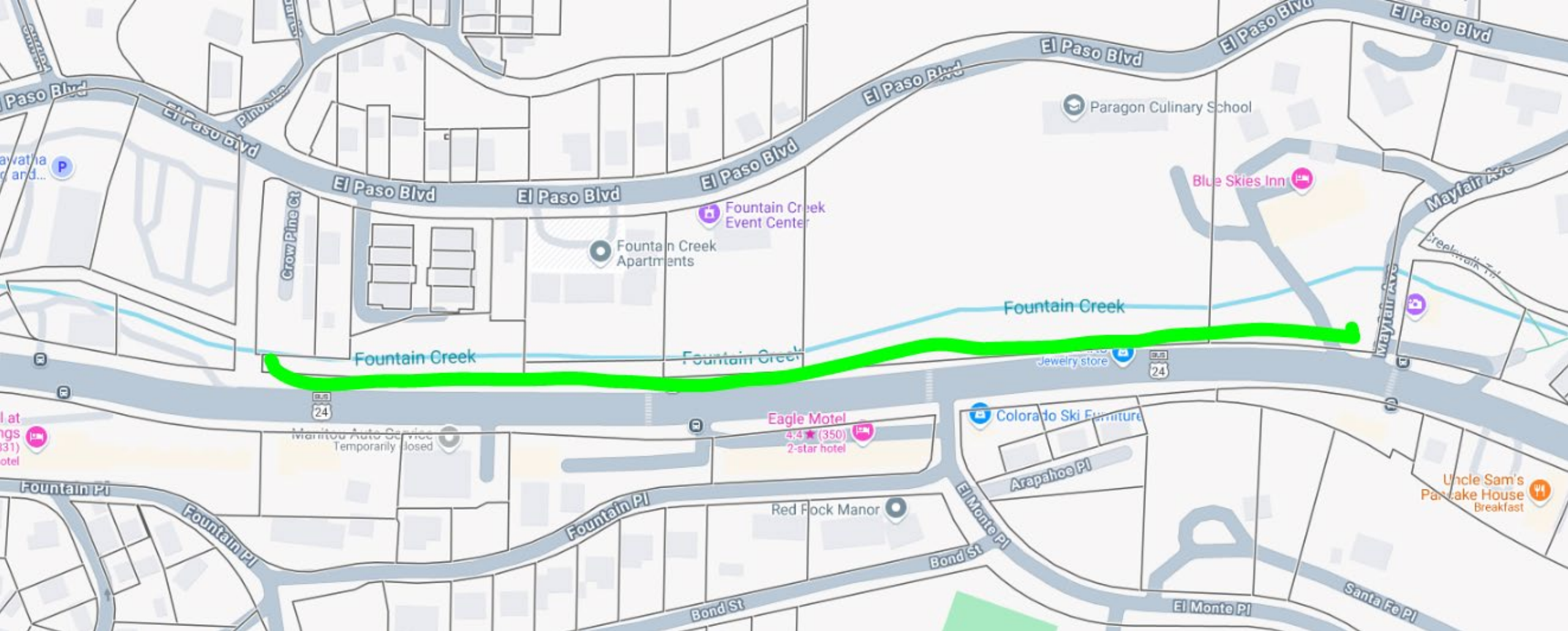




Funding Request

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CREEK WALK TRAIL PHASE #4



Creek Walk Trail Phase #4 Mayfair Avenue to the former Chase Bank

Existing conditions



Existing conditions





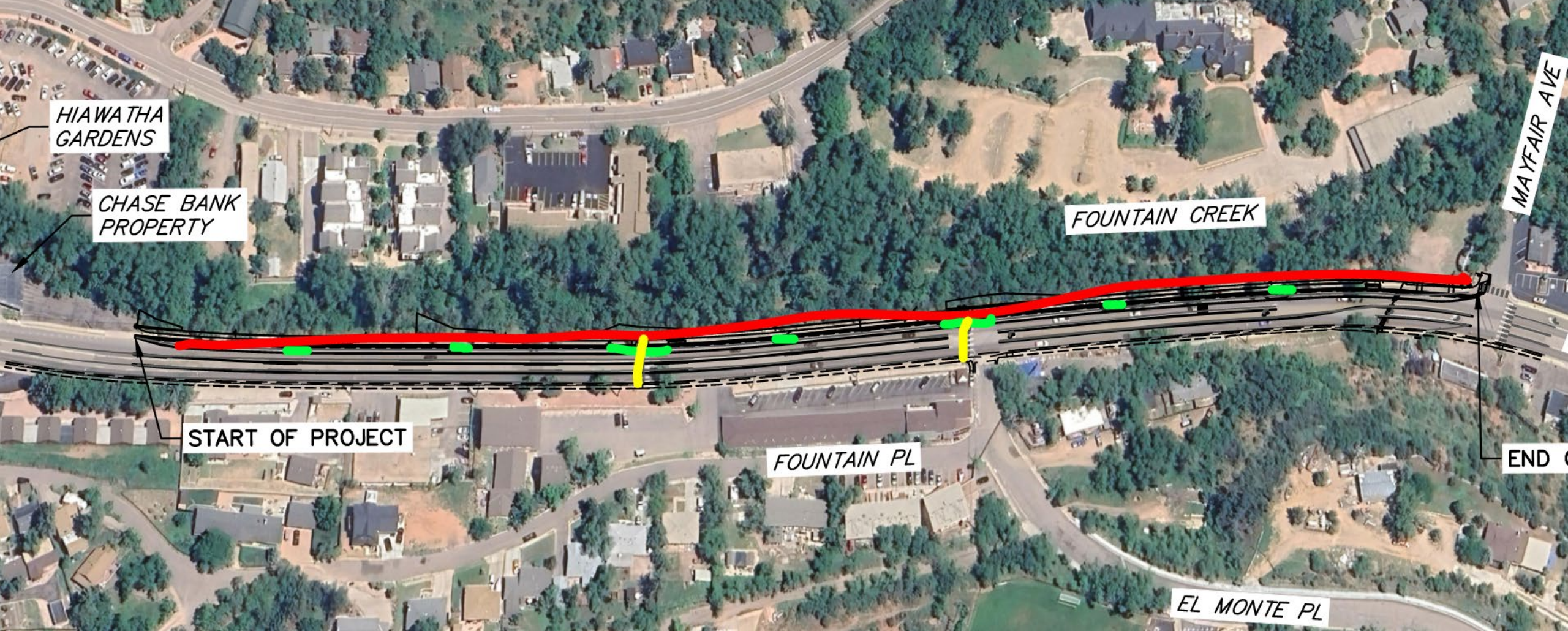
Key Project Improvements and Benefits

1. Construct 10' wide into the existing street/parking area.
2. Construct 5 landscape buffer areas.
3. Construct 2 pedestrian crossing bulb outs with landscaping.
4. Planting 9 trees and drip irrigation system.
5. Construct timber/railroad tie stairs with better grade on West Creek trail connection.
6. Connects to the Creek Walk Trail system just North of the Manitou Springs Visitor center which connects to the Regional Trail system to the East.
7. Will connect the remaining Creek Walk Trail to the West when completed.

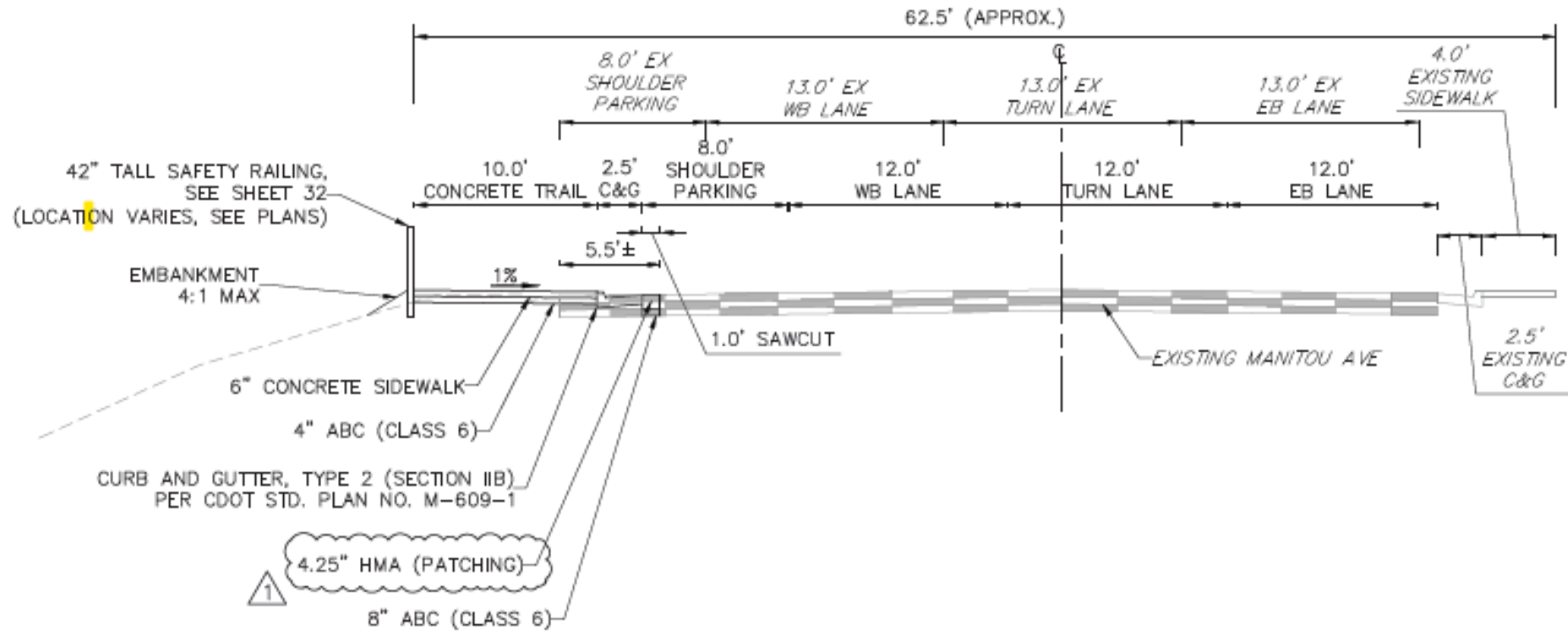


Schedule and Funding Need

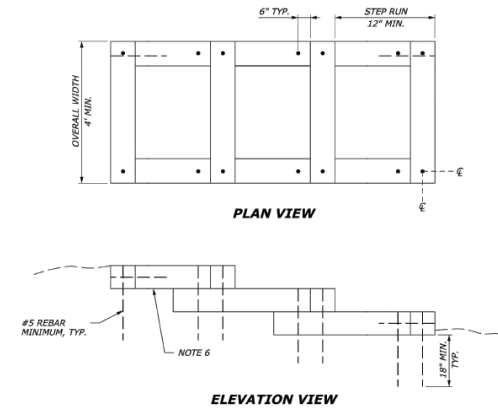
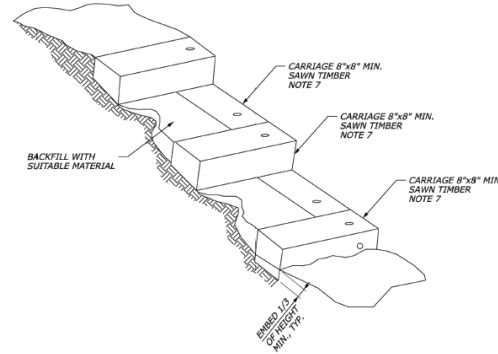
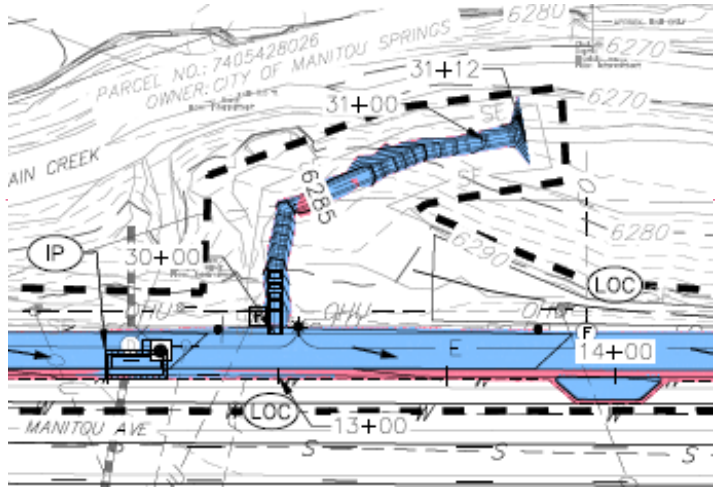
1. CDOT Grants were received for up to \$1,000,050 to construct the project before April 2026.
2. Construction scheduled to begin Sept. 2, 2025 (if funding secured) and completed by end of October 2025 with the plan to open sidewalk for Coffin Races on Oct. 25th, 2025.
3. Construction plans were out to bid July 2025 with a budget of \$1 M construction bid items and \$200,000 construction oversight (meet federal requirements). Bids were received on July 30th, 2025 and an additional \$400,000 is needed to construct the project to federal/CDOT requirements.
4. Additional \$100,000 funds were received from PPRTA however the project is still short funding. Requesting OSAC Creek Walk funding in the amount of \$138,340 for Creek Walk Trail 4.
5. Creek Walk Trail Phase 6 is currently under design with an unknown construction budget and schedule for construction.



- Trail
- Landscape bump outs
- Crosswalks



Sidewalk typical section from plans looking East



Timber Stairs to trail by Fountain Creek
Plan View (left). General details (right)

Request



OSAC vote to approve \$138,340 designated for the Creek Walk Trail Project for use towards the Creek Walk Trail Phase 4 Project to provide funding to construct this section of trail in 2025.

Reasons for the request:

A critical portion of the Creek Walk Trail is constructed along Manitou Ave. connecting to the trail system to the East.

The secured federal grants will be utilized and not revoked.

Creek Walk Trail Phase 6 from Serpentine Roundabout to Rainbow Falls is under design and construction timeframe is unknown. It is expected that Creek Walk Trail Phase 6 will be estimated and designed by end of 2026.

Biesel Parcel Map



Draft OSAC Budget for 2026

By David Conley

Revenue: *Estimates based off of 2024 figures.*

Property Tax:	\$65,000
Open Space sale tax revenue:	\$60,000
Investment interest:	\$7,000
Total Estimated Revenues: \$132,000	

Expenses:

Black Canyon:	
Fire Mitigation	\$150,000
Permit Management (Kimley-Horn)	\$5,000
Professional Fees	\$25,000
Training	\$5,000
Noxious Weed Mitigation	
Conservation Service Corp expense after grant	\$4,500
Trail Maintenance	
RMFI contract (estimate)	\$30,000
Additional maintenance	\$10,000
Capital Acquisition-Land	
Rollover balance from prior years	\$400,000
2026 addition	Balance of unused revenue \$112,290 (as of June 2025)
Administrative Support	
Allocation to Parks Dept. for staff time (OSAC Minutes)	\$9,000

Bill Bauers Open Space Public Engagement Survey Quotes

Consultant: Kimley-Horn

Quote: **\$5,700**

Date Submitted: July 1st, 2025

Scope of Services:

PUBLIC OUTREACH SURVEY

The Kimley-Horn team will prepare a user and resources questionnaire and provide the City with the link to the questionnaire, as well as the Concept Plan graphics to post with the digital survey and on the City's website. Kimley-Horn will conduct one meeting to refine the survey questions prior to preparing the final digital tool. It is assumed that the city will provide the final public notice to generate the traffic. It is assumed that the client will also provide a link on the City's website to further offer opportunities for the public to share their input. Last the team will prepare a hardcopy version to be available in the city offices for residents that prefer to fill out an alternative format.

Kimley-Horn will provide a summary of findings after the posting period for each of the questions listed in the survey.

Consultant: Hord Coplan Macht

Quote: **Not received**

Date Submitted: N/A

To: Mayor John Graham, Manitou Springs

From: Cory Sutela, Chair, City of Manitou Springs Mobility and Parking Board

Date: July 30, 2025

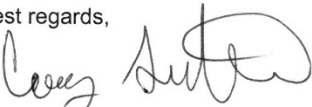
Re: A RESOLUTION OF THE MANITOU SPRINGS MOBILITY AND PARKING BOARD SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTI-USE TRAIL IN THE BILL BAUERS OPEN SPACE.

Hello Mayor Graham,

On behalf of the MaP board, I want to let you know about this resolution which was adopted at our July 23 regular meeting. This resolution passed unanimously. Can you please let the council know of this endorsement?

The pleasure of your reply is requested, at your convenience.

Best regards,



Cory Sutela

WHEREAS, the City of Manitou Springs recently acquired open space property adjacent to Bill Bauers Park, utilizing the open space fund for the enjoyment and benefit of all Manitou Springs residents; and

WHEREAS, the Manitou Springs Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan envisions a multi-use connection in this corridor; and

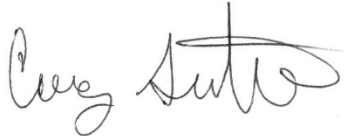
WHEREAS, there is currently no safe, off-street connection for pedestrians and cyclists traveling between the Crystal Hills neighborhood and Manitou Avenue; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated multi-use trail through this property would significantly improve safety and access for residents, visitors, and notably, for students traveling to and from school.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MOBILITY AND PARKING BOARD OF THE CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS:

The Mobility and Parking Board formally endorses the development of a multi-use trail in this area. We encourage City Council to proceed with resource allocation for planning and construction of this vital connection with all due haste.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of July, 2025.



Black Canyon Open Space Fuels Mitigation Bids

Contractor: Front Range Arborists

Bid: **\$150,500** (35 acres at \$4300/acre)

Date Submitted: July 23rd, 2025

Contractor: Deer Creek Forestry

Bid: **\$210,000** (35 acres at \$6000/acre)

Date Submitted: August 18th, 2025

Contractor: Tall Timbers Tree & Shrub Service

Bid: N/A

Date Submitted: N/A

Contractor: N&D Tree and Crane Service

Bid: N/A

Date Submitted: N/A

Black Canyon Open Space Fuels Mitigation Scope of Work:

The Manitou Springs Fire Department is interested in reducing wildfire risk in Black Canyon Open Space area. The Manitou Springs Fire Department (MSFD), Manitou Springs Parks and Forestry with Manitou Springs Open Space Committee is proposing to mitigate 35 acres in the City of Manitou Springs Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The area is bordered by Cliff Dwellings land to the west, private lands to the north, Black Canyon Road to the east, and US-Hwy 24 and private lands to the south. The intent is to reduce critical fuel loading and modify fuel structure by limbing, thinning stand density, modification/chipping of any dead and down woody debris, and the removal of live, dead, and diseased standing vegetation. The total project area is **APPROXIMATELY** 35 Acres with vegetation consisting of mainly Gambel oak, mountain mahogany, three leaf sumac, pinyon pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and juniper. Contractors will provide bids for the unit. A map outlining the total management area, acreage shall be provided by the Manitou Springs Fire Department during the pre-bid site visit. Implementation of work within the Management Area will begin after contracts are awarded and work must be completed before December 31st, 2025.

Treatment Methodologies Permitted:

Management Unit: Manitou Springs Fire Department will consider various treatment methods including hand thinning, light machinery and/or a combination of fuels mitigation treatments.

Goals:

- Reduce the wildfire risk to surrounding neighborhoods and public property
- Protect critical infrastructure by reducing wildfire risk to adjacent access roads and utilities
- Prevention of post -storm slope erosion by reducing the risk of catastrophic canopy loss
- Reducing wildfire risk to wildlife habitat, recreation resources, biological areas, and natural and cultural resources (i.e. trails, scenic vistas, riparian, historical, archeological)

Objectives:

- Reduction of woody biomass by at least 50% across the project area
- Reduce ladder fuels across all stands
- Maintain the natural character of lands in relationship to the surrounding area, recreational opportunities, and natural and cultural resource management

General Project Specifications:

- Orange flagging denotes unit boundaries. Knots of the flagging face inwards toward the unit. Abrupt corners are typically flagged with two flags, knots face the directions of the boundary lines.

- Previously closed trails will not be removed of existing branches or woody debris designed to close the trail. If the contractor clears or removes debris from closed trails the contractor must return the closed trails to the condition before the project began.
- All existing, approved trails shall not be damaged. If trail is damaged, it must be returned to the condition before the project began.
- Trails will have moderate to minimal cutting within the first 5 feet of the trail prism. Trees or vegetation keeping trail corridor intact will not be cut. Small areas to cross trails may be cut for mechanical / project feasibility.
- Infrastructure such as culverts, bridges, fencing, or similar will not be damaged. If damaged, the contractor is bound and obligated to return damages to the condition before the project began.
- Chips will not be broadcast onto lands outside the project areas, into drainages (defined by cut banks), onto existing trails and will not reach depths greater than 4" in height.
- Traffic control, trail closures, safety signs, and permits are the responsibility of the contractor. Guidelines for this shall be provided by the MSFD representative.
- Heavy equipment routes are the responsibility of the contractor. This includes mobilization, de-mobilization, and routes in the project units / project area. Routes must be approved by a MSFD Representative.
- Stumps will be no greater than 6" in height.
- Care will be taken to prevent damage to "Leave" trees and brush.
- Trash generated by the contractor will be cleaned up and removed daily.
- Contractor must have AT LEAST one (1) working fire extinguisher, one (1) first aid kit, and two (2) shovels onsite at all times while work is in progress within 500 feet of all large running equipment (chipper, masticator, etc.) at all times.
- Chainsaws must be equipped with spark arrestors. Fire danger, fire restrictions, or burn ban may result in work shut down as determined by the Fire Marshal.
- Access and staging areas are restricted to those designated by the MSFD representative.
- Smoking within the project area is strictly prohibited.
- Work shall be conducted weekdays (Monday through Friday) during the hours of 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, to minimize noise disturbance. Work may not be conducted on Federal Holidays / City Holidays. Holiday list will be provided a MSFD representative.
- All PPE shall be worn by contractor at all times.
- Contractor must follow OSHA and ANZI guidelines at all times.
- Refueling stations for saws, chippers, masticators, or like equipment must have a fuel-proof tarp to collect any spillage that may occur – all spilled oils, fuels and contaminated soils shall be removed from site.
- All equipment and trucks shall be washed with a high-pressure water or steam device prior to entering the project area to reduce the spread of noxious weeds and/ or invasive waterborne organisms from other projects and areas. Particular

attention shall be paid to the undercarriage, hard-to-reach areas, and tires. If visible dried or caked mud was on equipment prior to steam cleaning, it must be removed prior to steam cleaning.

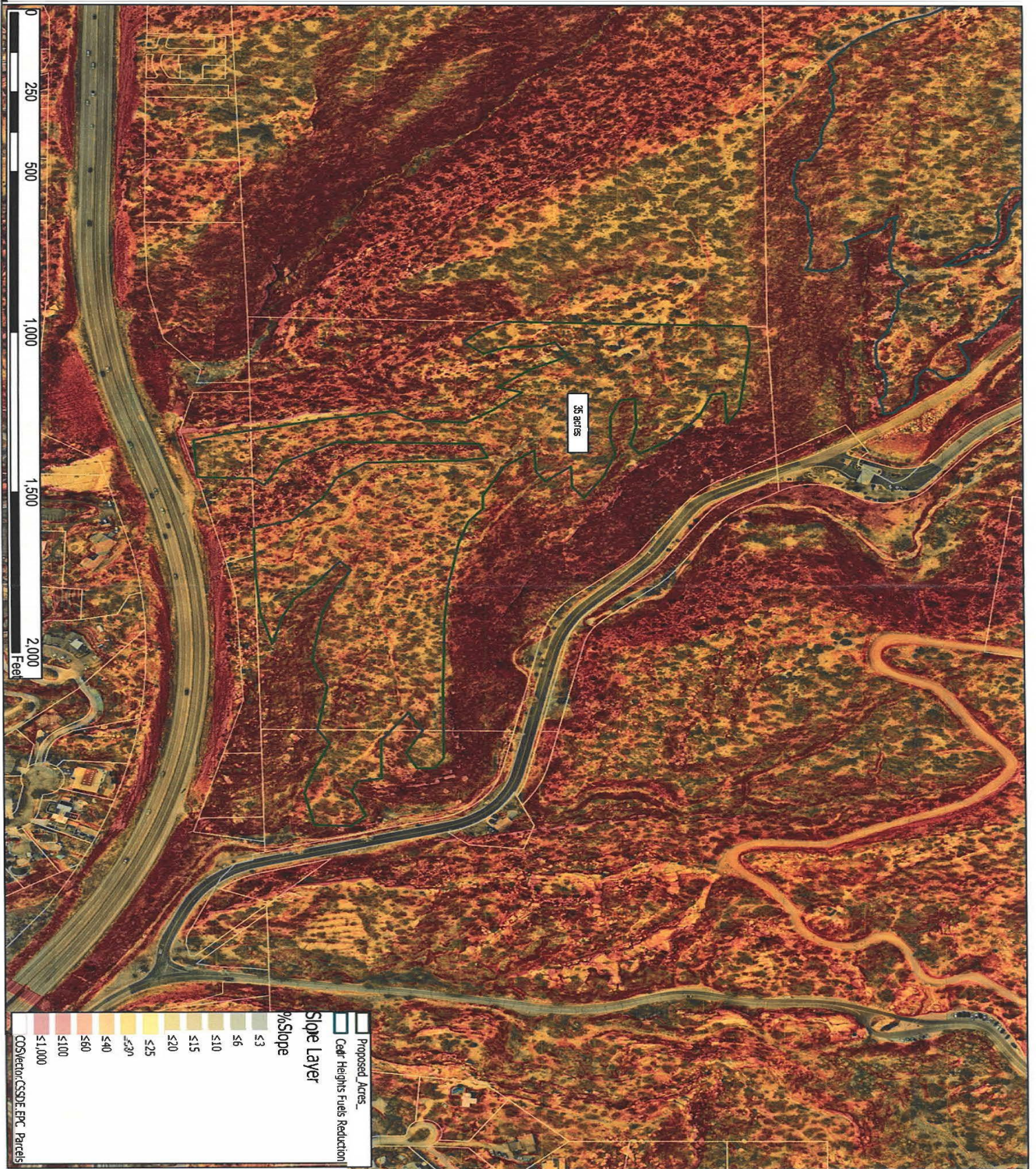
- Deep scarification by mastication/grinding down to bare mineral soil and below the A horizon shall be minimized as much as possible and closely monitored by contractor and MSFD Mitigation representatives.
- Tracked or heavy equipment will not be driven through or up/down incised ravines to the best of the contractor ability.
- Work shall be scheduled and implemented when the ground is in suitable working conditions. These conditions are when the land is not muddy or wet and will lessen the tracks left by equipment and crews. Weather and soil conditions will be taken into consideration for contract deadlines. MSFD Representatives reserve the right to halt work due to soil conditions.
- The contractor is responsible for any/all property damage resulting from his/her activity; this includes damage to trees and brush that were labeled as a "leave" item.
- All disturbed areas including skid trails, landings, and staging areas, will be restored using native, weed-free seed, mulch, etc.
- Contractor crews must have a copy of the contract and management unit map onsite at all times (in vehicles)
- Equipment may be left onsite after working hours, at the contractor's own discretion and liability.
- Archaeological sites of concern will follow best management practices to protect identified features. MSFD Representatives will provide technical knowledge and specifications to contractor.
- School-marm or multi stemmed trees are trees that split ≤ 4.5 feet. It is a single tree only if the split occurs > 4.5 feet.
- Contractor will not take tracked equipment on the rock bed drainage area. MSFD Representative will show area.

Units Specifications

- All conifer / evergreen trees, 1 foot in height to ≤ 5 " DBH, will be cut and either chipped or masticated.
- All conifer / evergreen trees leave trees, except juniper, will be limbed of all live and dead limbs, 5 feet up the bole. This is measured from the ground on the high-side or uphill side of the tree, 5 feet up the bole. If trees are less than 15 feet tall, only 1/3 of live/dead crown will be limbed of all live and dead limbs.

- Remove all Conifer/evergreen trees more than 30% dead or display signs of diseased (dead or alive)
- School-marm or multi stemmed trees (School-marm or multi stemmed trees are trees that split ≤ 4.5 feet. It is a single tree only if the split occurs > 4.5 feet) such as pinyon trees will be cut of stems ≤ 5 " DBH. Multi stemmed trees greater than 5" DBH will be limbed according to the previous limbing specification.
- All invasive species such as Siberian elm, Russian olive, ash, Mexican black locust. etc., 1 foot in height to ≤ 10 " DBH, will be cut and either chipped or masticated.
- 50% of Gambel oak or other shrublike species, 1 foot in height to ≤ 5 " DBH, will be cut and either chipped or masticated.
 - Oak to be cut will focus on smaller diameter stems.
 - Existing oak groups will be enhanced or made smaller to increase separation from other groups.
 - Oak will be cleared from the dripline of all leave trees.
 - Oak will be cleared, twice the distance of the dripline (measure outward from the bole) from all juniper leave trees.
- All ponderosa pine, 1 foot in height to ≤ 8 " DBH, with a DMR of ≥ 2 , see Figure 2.
- All standing dead, 1 foot in height to ≤ 8 " DBH, will be cut and either chipped or masticated. If snags or standing dead have nesting cavities, the tree will not be cut.
- Limbs and boles that are on the ground from naturally fallen trees will be cut and either chipped or masticated if needles and/or bark is still intact (Log decomposition class 1 and 2, see Figure 1).
- 50% of Gambel oak or other shrublike species, 1 foot in height to ≤ 5 " DBH, will be cut and either chipped or masticated.
 - Oak to be cut will focus on smaller diameter stems.
 - Existing oak groups will be enhanced or made smaller to increase separation from other groups.
 - Oak will be cleared from the dripline of all leave trees.
 - Oak will be cleared, twice the distance
- Access to this unit is very difficult for machinery. Contractor may have hand drags to area where they can get tracked chipper

Slope Map



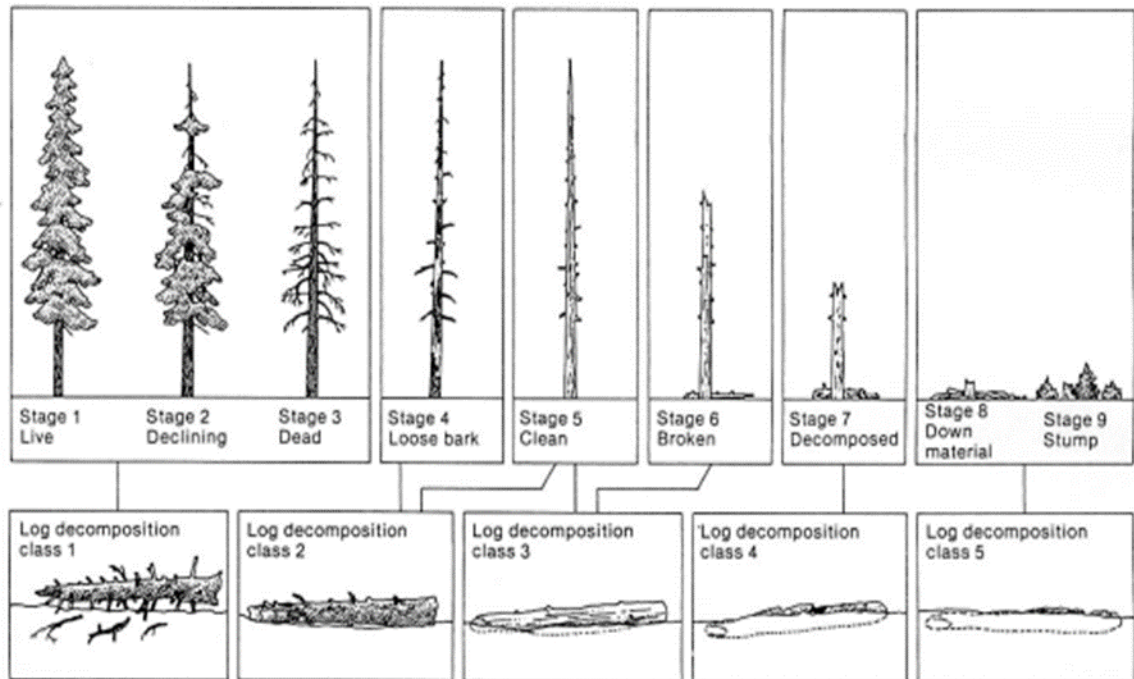


Figure 1

Instructions	Example
<p>Step 1 Divide live crown into thirds.</p> <p>Step 2 Rate each third separately. Each third should be given a rating of 0, 1, or 2 as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (0) no visible infections (1) light infection (1/2 or less of total number of branches in the third infected) (2) heavy infection (more than 1/2 total number of branches in the third infected). <p>Step 3 Add ratings of thirds to obtain rating for total tree.</p>	
	<p>If this third has no visible infections, its rating is (0).</p> <p>—</p> <p>If this third is lightly infected, its rating is (1).</p> <p>—</p> <p>If this third is heavily infected, its rating is (2).</p> <p>—</p> <p>The tree in this example gets a rating of: $0 + 1 + 2 = 3$.</p>

Figure 2

Iron Mountain/Intemann Trail Repair Bids

Contractor: Timberline TrailCraft

Quote: **\$15,213.43**

Date Submitted: August 15th, 2025

Scope of Services:

This proposal is only for the improvements on the Iron Mountain Trail (Intemann Trail). The trail has gotten a significant amount of rain over the summer and has created a cupped tread and heavily eroded fall line trail. Timberline is proposing we improve the existing trail alignment by adding a bit more flow to the trail. Meaning TrailCraft will create a trail that rises and lowers, flow left and right will creating new tread, improving existing (fill material, and closing existing tread where the new tread parallels the old tread. From our measurements it is approximately 1,330 linear feet of trail improvement, the entire trail will be improved, short reroute, or closed so we will capture it all in one consistent price per linear foot instead of breaking it into three different tasks. This will improve the trail drainage, the user's fun factor, and the overall sustainability of the longevity of the trail. We want to ensure that the community/users are safe during the construction period and would ask for a public announcement that the trail will be closed. TrailCraft will place large orange "trail closed" while we are onsite.



Contractor: Traction Trailworx

Quote: **Not received**

Date Submitted: N/A

Iron Mountain Ditch Improvement Bid

Contractor: Timberline TrailCraft

Quote: **\$3,558.96**

Date Submitted: August 15th, 2025

Scope of Services:

Timberline TrailCraft proposes to improve the trail, we need to divert the water out of the ditch (running parallel with the trail tread) every 50-75 linear feet. Digging ditch outlets this often, will divert the water in multiple places instead of it being channeled in one location along the trail running straight downhill causing constant damage to the trail tread. This proposal is only for dirt work, if you want to import rocks and check dams that will be a change order.