

**GUNNISON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OUTDOOR TOURISM COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
December 17, 2020**

The December 17, 2020 Gunnison Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Tourism Committee (STORC) meeting was conducted by Zoom virtual online meeting.

**Committee Members Present:**

Voting Members:

Kevin Alexander, Chair, Hunter & Anglers- Western Colorado University  
Christie Hicks, Vice-Chair, Crested Butte Nordic  
Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners  
Dave Ochs, Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association  
Tim Kugler, Gunnison Trails  
Chris Parmeter, CPW  
Kristi Murphy, BLM  
Kimberly Schappert, At-Large Community Member  
Matt Reed, High Country Conservation Advocates  
Matt McCombs, U.S. Forest Service  
Mallory Logan, City of Gunnison  
Mona Merrill, Town of CB  
Steven Guerrieri, Stockgrowers' Association  
John Norton, Gunnison Crested Butte Tourism Association  
Elijah Waters, BLM  
Joellen Fonken, Gunnison Nordic  
Roman Kolodziej, Mt. Crested Butte Town Council

**Others in Audience:**

Ashley Hom, USFS  
Aaron Drendel, USFS  
Pam King, USFS  
Derrick Nehrenberg  
Nick Catmur  
Melanie Yemma, Town of Crested Butte  
Hedda Peterson  
Greg Austin  
Katie Gienapp  
Peter Horgan  
Cody Dyce  
Rob Strickland  
Dayle Funka

**Staff:**

Cathie Pagano, Community Development Director  
Joe Lavorini, Gunnison County Stewardship Coordinator-National Forest Foundation

**CALL TO ORDER:** Lavorini called the December 17, 2020 meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Agenda approved as presented.

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2020 MEETING MINUTES:** **Moved:** by Schappert and seconded by Kugler to approve the November 19, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### **RIDERS OFF THE ROAD: SHORT TERM TRAIL PLAN PRESENTATION**

Lavorini went over the memo on behalf of the STOR Committee that was provided to the Committee before the meeting. It includes a summary and the draft STOR Committee Recommendation.

Ochs presented. Asking the committee to offer a letter of support for the trails plan go into the Forest Service process. Gave summary of the process of how they got the plan to where it is now and each of the trails that are proposed in the plan:

1. Lake Irwin Parallel Trail
2. Snodgrass Public Trail
3. Rustler Gulch to Lower #401 Reroute
4. Upper Upper to Brush Creek Trailhead
5. Strand Bonus to Trail #409
6. Ambush/Budd Connection to Tent City
7. Deer Creek to Brush Creek Trailhead
8. Teocalli Extension to Brush Creek Road
9. Trail #405.2a/3a Reroute
10. Reno Road Parallel Trail
11. Cement Creek Trail – Upper CCT to Crystal
12. Cement Creek Trail – Lower CCT to Caves Trail
13. Eccher/Granite Entrance, Reroute, Exit
14. Bear Creek Reroute
15. Dr. Park Mud/Turnpike Reroute

Discussion followed on each of the trails in regards to grazing, wildlife habitat issues, traffic, and location.

**Moved:** by Norton and seconded by Parmeter that the Committee endorse a recommendation to the Gunnison Ranger District to accept the Riders Off the Road Trail Plan (v4.5 – 12.10.2020), with the exclusion of the Snodgrass Public Trail and Eccher/Granite Basin Trails, for scoping in NEPA. Voting yes: Guerrieri, Schappert, Alexander, Reed, Ochs, Parmeter, Kolodziej, Kugler, Fonken, Logan, and Merrill. Abstained: Waters and McCombs. Motion passed unanimously.

The final recommendation is attached at the end of these minutes. Ochs' presentation is also attached.

Ochs feels that if the Snodgrass Trail isn't discussed further and some kind of plan made they are doing a huge disservice to the public they represent and requested that the Committee discuss the Snodgrass Trail further in a future agenda.

### **EXPANDED FEE AREA UPDATE**

Not discussed. Will be put on future agenda.

### **GUNNISON COUNTY STEWARDSHIP FUND, GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT UPDATES**

Not discussed. Will be put on future agenda.

### **GENERAL UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None.

**ADJOURN:** The December 16, 2020 meeting of the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Prepared by Rebecca Ricord, Community Development Administrative Assistant III



**Gunnison County, CO**  
**Community Development Department**  
221 N. Wisconsin St. Ste. D, Gunnison, CO 81230  
Phone: (970) 641-0360 FAX: (970) 641-8585  
Website: [www.gunnisoncounty.org](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org)  
Email: [planning@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:planning@gunnisoncounty.org)

## **Gunnison County Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Committee – Memo**

**To:** U.S. Forest Service, Gunnison Ranger District

**From:** Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Committee

**Date:** December 17, 2020

**Subject:** Endorsement of Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association's Short Term Trail Plan for Scoping

---

### **Summary**

The Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association (CBMBA) has been working for many years to refine the Short Term Trail Plan - *Riders Off the Road*. This plan represents a 5-8-year road map that was formed over many years through collaborative efforts and public, stakeholder, and agency input.

CBMBA presented this plan to the Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee in June of 2020 and again in December 2020. At the June meeting, the STOR Committee provided input that helped shape the version of the plan that was presented in December. This plan places emphasis on values that are important to the STOR Committee: stewardship of natural resources, enhanced public access, consideration of user safety, and an improved user experience, especially for novice recreators. The proposed trail connections and reroutes will connect existing trails, realign non-sustainable routes, and designate proper trail access points.

### **STOR Committee Recommendation**

The STOR Committee, via a unanimous vote at its December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, endorsed a recommendation to the Gunnison Ranger District to accept the Riders Off the Road Trail Plan (v4.5 – 12.10.2020), with the exclusion of the Snodgrass Public Trail and Eccher/Granite Basin Trails, for scoping in NEPA. The Committee recommends to the U.S. Forest Service to prioritize the proposed trail alignments outlined in the plan in recreation management decisions, including the timely initiation of a NEPA scoping process. The priority trails include:

1. Lake Irwin Parallel Trail
2. Rustler Gulch to Lower #401 Reroute
3. Upper Upper to Brush Creek Trailhead
4. Strand Bonus to Trail #409
5. Ambush/Budd Connection to Tent City
6. Deer Creek to Brush Creek Trailhead
7. Teocalli Extension to Brush Creek Road
8. Trail #405.2a/3a Reroute
9. Reno Road Parallel Trail
10. Cement Creek Trail – Upper CCT to Crystal
11. Cement Creek Trail – Lower CCT to Caves Trail
12. Bear Creek Reroute
13. Dr. Park Mud/Turnpike Reroute

The STOR Committee declined to include in its recommendation two trails identified in the Riders off the Road Trail Plan: Snodgrass Public Trail (#2) and Eccher/Granite Basin Trail (#13(a), (b), (c)).

**About the STOR Committee**

The STOR Committee is a community coalition, created by the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners to improve and maintain tourism and outdoor recreation in a manner that is sustainable (environmentally, socially, and financially) and aligns with community values. The committee is structured to be a wide-ranging group that acts thoughtfully, efficiently, and proactively to address negative impacts and develops unique approaches to create a sustainable tourism economy and outdoor recreation experience while preserving the natural resources of Gunnison County.

The STOR Committee is comprised of nineteen regular members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The Committee is represented by land management agencies, towns and municipalities, non-profit organizations, for-profit businesses, and other sectors of the community. According to the Committee charter, each nominating entity shall empower their nominee to represent the entity and to make decisions and recommendations on behalf of their entity. Appointed members must have the authority, to the maximum extent feasible, to vote on issues before the Committee without having to seek counsel from their nominating entity. The STOR Committee serves an important purpose in creating a forum to prioritize projects, leverage resources, and maximize impact.

Signed:

Chris Parmeter, Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
Christie Hicks, Crested Butte Nordic  
Dave Ochs, Crested Butte Mountain Bike  
Association  
Joellen Fonken, Gunnison Nordic  
John Norton, Tourism and Prosperity Partnership  
Kevin Alexander, Western Colorado University  
Kimberly Schappert, Public At-large

Mallory Logan, City of Gunnison  
Matt Reed, High Country Conservation Advocates  
Mona Merrill, Town of Crested Butte  
Roman Kolodziej, Town of Mt. Crested Butte  
Steve Guerrieri, Gunnison County Stockgrowers  
Association  
Tim Kugler, Gunnison Trails

# CBMBA SHORT TERM

## PLAN 2020

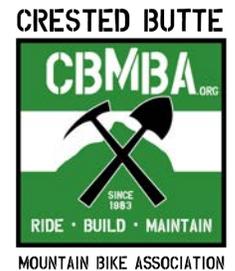
V4.5 – 12.10.2020



# RIDERS OFF THE ROAD



# Background and Summary



For decades, CBMBA has been dedicated to providing the best trail experiences possible. We've grown since 1983, but our vision is the same – work with local partners, stakeholders, landowners, municipalities, and government agencies to realize responsible, sustainable, and positive recreation amenities for a variety of users.

In 2009, CBMBA put together a long-term Master Plan, then revised it in 2016, and further refined it into this 2020 short term plan: **Riders Off the Road**. This plan presents a 5 - 8 year roadmap formed by collaborative efforts and public, stakeholder, and agency input. Many desirable trails have been retracted due to concerns regarding existing uses, wildlife, ranching, private property, research, and feasibility. While CBMBA still maintains a long-term plan that includes some of those retracted trails, **this short-term plan is an effort to focus on less impactful trail improvements and connections within the existing network**. Most of the proposed trails in Riders Off the Road are parallel trails in existing high-use areas that will help disperse riders throughout trail systems while also creating more beginner-level singletrack. Most proposals are adjacent to existing roads, therefore minimizing impacts to wildlife habitat while maximizing public benefit.

**Goal of Riders Off the Road Plan: Provide a better user experience in the greater Crested Butte area by facilitating safe, responsible, and sustainable recreation infrastructure improvements within the current trail system by connecting existing trails, realigning non-sustainable routes, and designating proper trail access points.**

# Desired Outcomes

- Enter into the NEPA scoping process with the USFS/Gunnison Ranger District (GRD)
- Secure a recommendation from the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee to the GRD to accept this plan for scoping
- Gain approval of a 5-8 year roadmap to avoid frequent requests to agencies for annual project approval

# Community Benefits

- Improve trail and recreation infrastructure in already-impacted areas and centralized hubs
- Increase connectivity between drainages and existing trails to reduce shuttling and driving
- Move users off of busy roads and onto trails to reduce potential vehicle collisions
- Build and re-route trails to be more sustainable (last longer, require less annual maintenance)
- Increase variety of trails for different users and ability levels
- Move trails and access entirely onto public lands
- Expand access points for users
- Establish a plan to spread out the increasing volume of users in the valley
- Re-route and decommission trails to mitigate resource damage from existing poor alignments
- Plan recreation for a healthy wildlife and forest habitat

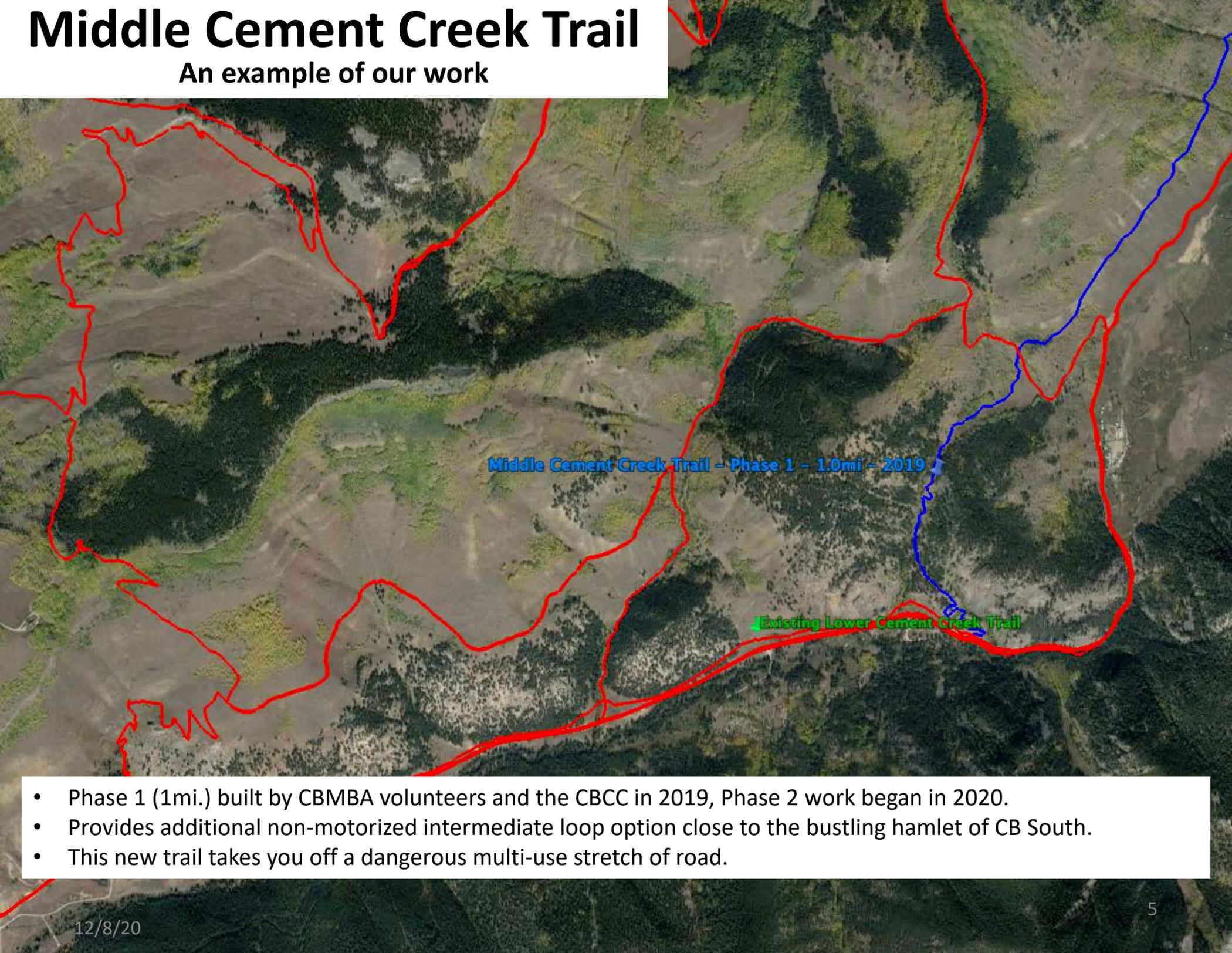
# CBMBA's Trail Work and Maintenance History

Since 2010

Year	May/June Work	National Trails Day	June/July Work	Annual Overnight	Other/Maintenance/Fall Projects - Grants
2010	Canal Trail	Budd Trail (1.25 mi.) CB Land Trust	Upper West Side Trail	401	KB Connector
2011	West Side Trail	Lupine 1 (1.6 mi.) CB Land Trust/Town of CB	West Side Trail	Upper Cement Creek Trail (w/USFS)	\$41,800 RAC Grant Funds for USFS – Upper Cement Creek Trail/Restoration
2012	Waterfall Cutoff Trail	Lupine 2 (1.2 miles) CB Land Trust/Town of CB	Deer Creek Trail (West Side)	401 Boardwalk Renovation and Lower/re-route	403, 409, Warm Springs, 405.2a, Dr. Park, Waterfall Cutoff \$10,000 RAC Grant Funds for USFS - Cement Creek Trail Restoration
2013	409 re-route(0.2 mi. Caves side)	Lower Loop Project with CB Land Trust	Tony's Trail Landslide Restoration - Block and Tackle Reroute (w/GOATs/USFS 0.4 mi.)	Point Lookout (2.1 mi.)	Lower Meander Trail (w/CBMR), Green Lake Trail Re-route (start) \$19,900 RAC Grant Funds for USFS – Sustainable Trails Project: 409, B & T, Strawberry Trail
2014	Lower Cement Creek Trail	Bridges/Upper Decker Trail	409 re-route (below Pt. Lookout), 405 Decommission (w/USFS), 405 and 405.2a (w/GOATs)	Dyke Trail Downhill	Bridges/Upper Decker (11 Decks installed), 6 Rollovers installed, Dr. Park. \$10,000 RAC Grant Funds for USFS – Sustainable Trails Project: 405, B & T, 409
2015	Bridges and Point Lookout (both in May)	Gunsight Connector (1.9 miles) CB Land Trust	Woods Walk Connector (w/CB Devo), , Happy Hour Trail (w/CBMR)	Baxter Gulch Trail	Lupine Trail(w/Adaptive), Point Lookout, Lower Cement Creek Trail Maint. (w/Adaptive) \$18,500 RAC Grant Funds for USFS – Crystal Peak Trail Restoration and Re-route
2016	Happy Hour finish (w/CBMR)	Strand Revival (Maint. on Bonus, Canal, Strand Hill)	401 Mud Bog/Turnpike/Maint. Tony's Trail Landslide Restoration	Crystal Peak Trail Re-route	Waterfall Cutoff Trail, Woods Walk Connector (w/CB Devo), CB Bike Park, Dyke Trail Mud bogs, Lily Lake Trail, Green Lake Maint. And Restoration
2017	Warm Springs Trail	Deer Creek Wall Re-route (0.85mi)	Strawberry Trail	Baxter Gulch Trail (1.5 mi. built)	Woods Walk re-route, Baxter Gulch, Creation of CBCC – see CBCC Trail Logs
2018	Strawberry Trail Mud Bog Re-route (0.4 mi.)	Deer Creek West Re-Route (0.8 mi.)	Baxter Gulch Completion	403 Start Re-route (1.1mi)	Snodgrass/Teddy's Bike Trail, Happy Hour, CB Bike Park, Red Lady Open Space Trail, Snodgrass (West) Deck
2019	Snow, Teddy's Trail (Snodgrass)	Brush Creek Trail work halted	Lower 401, Farris Creek Trail, Walrod Cutoff	Middle Cement Creek Trail (1.0mi)	Middle Cement Creek (continued work), CB Bike Park, GB Loop, CBCC Year 3
2020	COVID-19	GB Loop Completion	Coal Train Trail (Gunsight to OBJ), Middle Cement Creek Trail	Middle Cement Creek Trail (0.9mi)	CBCC Season #4 – Coal Train with Devo, Lupines with Adaptive, CRMS on Mid-Cement

# Middle Cement Creek Trail

An example of our work

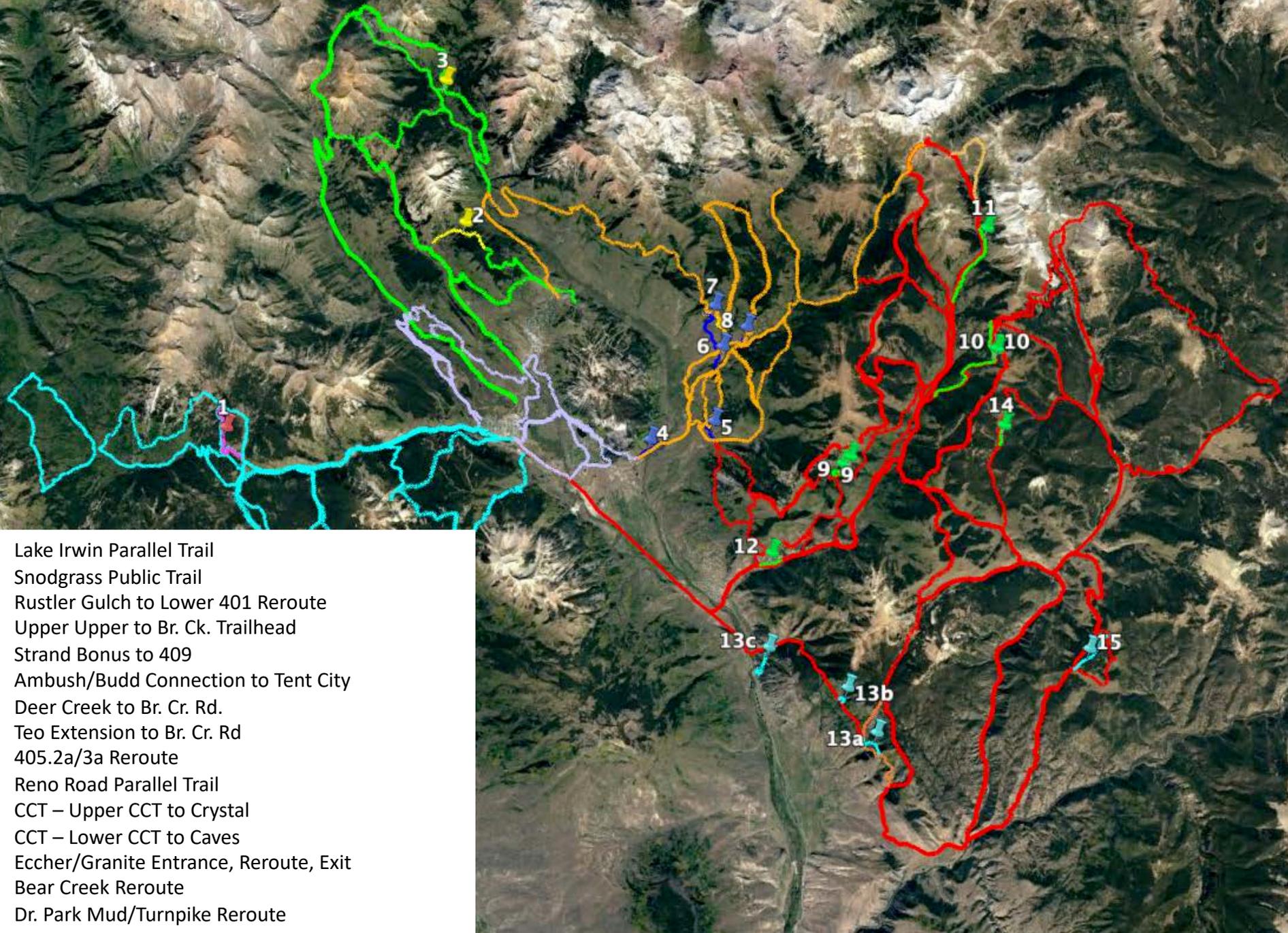


Middle Cement Creek Trail - Phase 1 - 1.0mi - 2019

Existing Lower Cement Creek Trail

- Phase 1 (1mi.) built by CBMBA volunteers and the CBCC in 2019, Phase 2 work began in 2020.
- Provides additional non-motorized intermediate loop option close to the bustling hamlet of CB South.
- This new trail takes you off a dangerous multi-use stretch of road.

# Map of Riders Off the Road Trail Plan



1. Lake Irwin Parallel Trail
2. Snodgrass Public Trail
3. Rustler Gulch to Lower 401 Reroute
4. Upper Upper to Br. Ck. Trailhead
5. Strand Bonus to 409
6. Ambush/Budd Connection to Tent City
7. Deer Creek to Br. Cr. Rd.
8. Teo Extension to Br. Cr. Rd
9. 405.2a/3a Reroute
10. Reno Road Parallel Trail
11. CCT – Upper CCT to Crystal
12. CCT – Lower CCT to Caves
13. Eccher/Granite Entrance, Reroute, Exit
14. Bear Creek Reroute
15. Dr. Park Mud/Turnpike Reroute

# Riders Off the Road Proposed Trails

## 2020 Short Term Plan - Riders Off the Road

		Type of Trail	Comments	mi/length	Decomm/Restoration
<b>Kebler Pass Area</b>					
1	Lake Irwin Parallel Trail (from original 2009 Long Term Plan)	Parallel/Connection	Taken off master plan after 2010 Travel Management, have revisited the trail now with the growing impacts and uses on the Irwin Lake Road. Remove the existing 'Wagon Trail' below the Irwin Road, replace with this trail that connects the 'hubs'	2.1	1.6
<b>Washington Gulch Area</b>					
2	Snodgrass Public Lands Trail	Trail off of Private Property/New Trail	Wildlife concerns, fragmentation, new trail - not Riders Off the Road, RMBL research plots in lower wetlands can be avoided.	1.85	
<b>Gothic Area</b>					
3	Rustler Gulch to Lower 401 reroute out of mud bog	Re-route		0.15	0.1
<b>Brush Creek Area</b>					
4	Upper Upper to Br. Ck. Trailhead	Parallel/Connection	RMBL research plots - go above - GWA wants close to road	0.75	
5	Strand Bonus to 409	Parallel/Connection		0.6	
6	Ambush/Budd Connection to Tent City	Parallel/Connection		0.6	
7	Deer Creek to Br. Cr. Rd.	Parallel/Connection	RMBL research plots, needs to be a bit further from the road - GWA if starts at green gate and doesn't go past trailhead, then ok	1.65	
8	Teo Extension to Br. Cr. Rd.	Parallel/Connection	GWA ok	0.35	
<b>Cement Creek/Spring Creek Area</b>					
9	405.2a/3a Reroute to Waterfall Cutoff	Re-route	decomm/restore existing trail	0.5	0.35
10	Reno Road Parallel Trail	Parallel/Connection	Was on LT Plan, was on preliminary ST Plan, back as parallel trail to get motorized singletrack separate from busy road	3.15	
11	CCT - Upper CCT to Crystal - East Side of Road	Parallel/Connection		2.3	
12	CCT - Lower CCT to Caves	Parallel/Connection	GWA Ok	0.6	
13	a Eccher/Granite S. Entrance	Re-route	GWA opposes - heavily used by wildlife and sportsmen, HCCA ok if decomm the old trail	0.85	0.82
	b Eccher/Granite Middle Reroute			1.3	0.21
	c Eccher/Granite Exit to 135	Parallel/Connection	Bee Research plot, RMBL - can avoid	0.35	1.1
14	Bear Creek Reroute	Re-route	Take out of wetlands, trail up on higher ground parallel to existing, Decomm/Restore existing trail	0.95	0.95
15	Dr. Park Mud/Turnpike re-route	Re-route	Remove Spur/Bonus Trail and old trail (decomm/restore), just one sustainable new one	1.25	3.4
	Parallel Routes	10	<b>Total miles</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>8.53</b>
	Reroute	5			
	Reroute off of Private Property	1	<b>Net Total</b>	<b>10.77</b>	

# Public Process and Feedback

## Long Term/Short Term Master Planning timeline

Date	What	Outcome/Results
2009	Original CBMBA LT plan - Donita's/BOD retreat	
2010	Travel Management	East River Trail, Baxters, Strawberry, Crystal, Pt. Lookout, Upper Cement, West Side Trail - all results of TM changes/additions/scoping. Denied on G to CB, Irwin Lake Parallel Trail, Wall Re-route, Snodgrass to 403
2/16 - Present	Gunnison Public Lands Initiative	CBMBA has been a 'working group' member with GPLI since the beginning conversations in 2012. CBMBA's long term plan and the trails from this Short Term Plan are considered in the GPLI proposal.
2016	June - Annual Kickoff	Solicit comments, first real 'public' request for comments - incorporated into the 2017 Prioritization
2017	October Board Retreat	Huge, collaborative prioritization process with full board input - Round 1 - full document
3/18	Rd 1 and 2 - 5 year plan	Proposal to Forest Service - requested to gather more public comment. Solicited comments at CBMBA events and gatherings
10/18	RMBL Analysis of LT Plan	Comments/Maps - most trails can avoid and stay away from research areas - all on G Drive
5/19	Rd 3 - 5 year plan - OPEN HOUSE	Comments/Green Forms and online - HCCA, Gunnison Wildlife, Gunnison Stockgrowers
5/19	Solicitation of public comments online - open still	Letters in with the comments on G Drive
6/19	HCCA comments to CBMBA/USFS	11 pages, detailed comments on entire proposal and process, individual trail comments, sent also to USFS/Gunnison Ranger District
7/19	Silent Tracks comments - letter	Letter in with the comments on G Drive
7/19	Meeting with USFS Staff re: Mid-Cement/Fencline - Future Process	Mid CCT will get a CE with the positive support, but they want a comprehensive County Wide trails plan with STOR consensus before allowing to accept a trails plan for NEPA process to begin
9/19	GWA Letter - comments about 5 year plan	Letter in with the comments on G Drive
10/19	Stockgrowers letter - comments about 5 year plan	Letter in with the comments on G Drive
12/19	Annual Mtg with FS - discussion about Short Term plan and Long Term comprehensive plan	
1/20	STOR discussion about a CBMBA short term plan and a County Wide/STOR/Trails plan	
1/20	Trails Committee Meeting - Revisit Prioritization plan to gather all 'short term' potential trails	Create a new 'Short Term Plan - Riders Off the Road' - 22 proposed trails from previous years/planning efforts from a total of 41 potential trails (some wish list/some condensed ie:Eccher/Granite complex - 3 trails)
2/20	Meet with C. Parmeter - CPW, go over 22 proposed trails in Short Term plan	Some trails from previous plans and versions, but gathering all the parallel trails, trail connections, network improvements - low hanging fruit - some re-routes. 4 major concerns, but preliminary support for the rest (18) - will revisit with next revision
3/20	Meet with Stockgrowers	Go over tenets of short term plan, not in detail. Good discussion around trail networks, connections, parallel trails - some re-routes. will revisit with next revision
3/20	Revised 2020 Short Term Plan - Trails Comm.	15 proposed
5/20	Meet with S. Guerrieri (GWA/Ranchers), C. Parmeter (CPW), J. Reithel (RMBL), CBMBA Trail Committee mtg	Go over revised Short Term Plan - 15 trails, modify and discuss trails proposed and arrange presentation
6/20	Meet with stakeholders at Pittsburg about Slate River Loop	Request to go north of Slate River Road, will not support any trail or access on the South side
6-11/20	Walk alignments, meet stakeholders, identify concerns and look for solutions for proposed alignments	Updated trail proposals based on feedback, removed Slate River Loop, added some much needed re-routes, modified Snodgrass, Deer Creek, 405.2a/3a - Added Reno Road Parallel Trail
11-12/20	Plan Revision #4 - STOR presentation reprise	

# Public Comment Summary

All Comments received [HERE](#)

## Top 5 Areas of Support

- #1 – Snodgrass to Public Land and open longer
- #2 – Connect Washington Gulch and Slate River (aka – Long Lake/Cloud City)
- #3 – More beginner and intermediate Trails
- #4 – Gunnison to CB
- #5 – Better connectivity, access, progressive trails

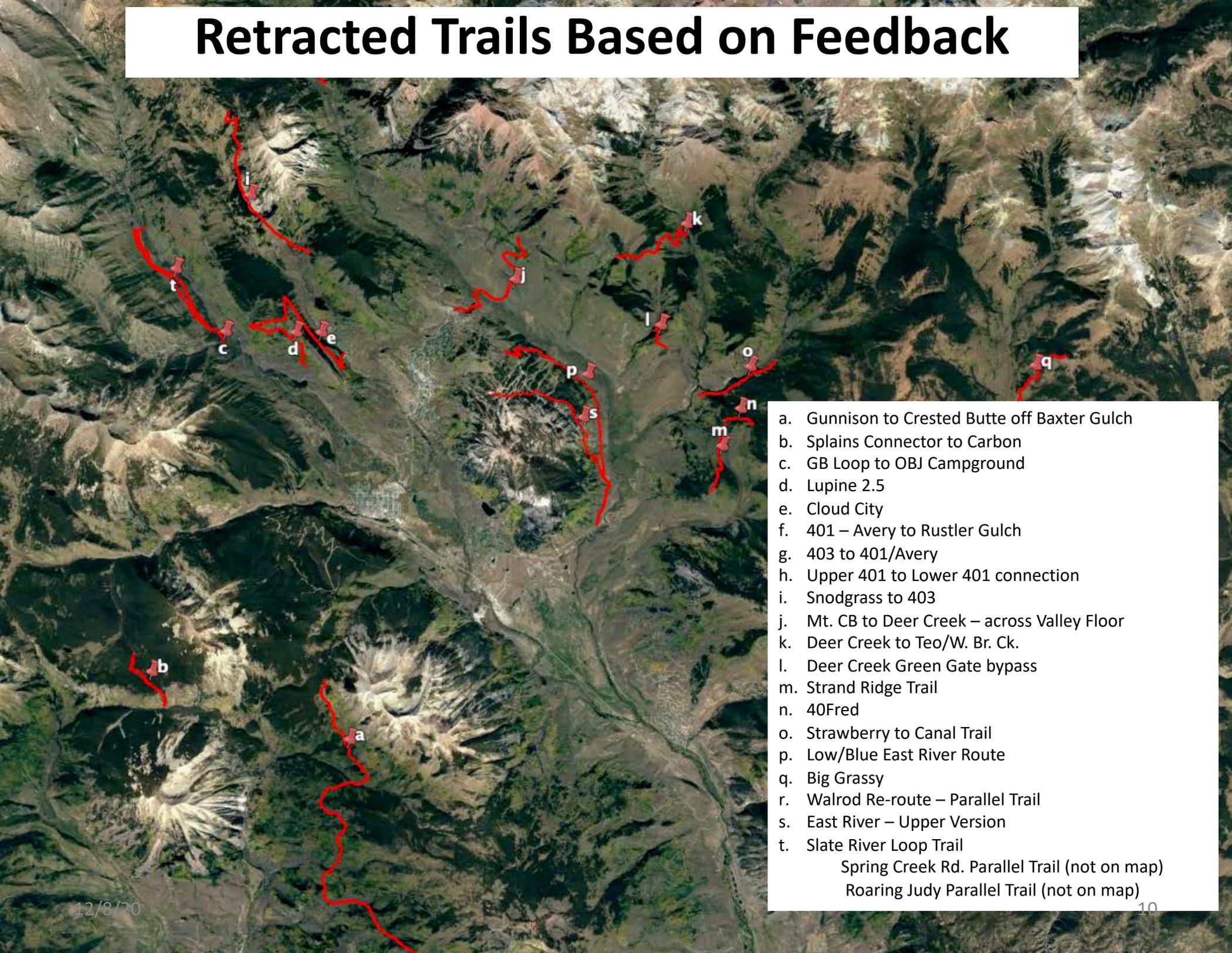
## Top 5 Concerns

- #1 – Wildlife and ecological concerns
- #2 – “When is enough, enough?”
- #3 – Fragmentation
- #4 – Have enough already
- #5 – Existing uses

### **Sample Comment from High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA) on Slate River Loop (42) and Slate River Loop to Slate River (43)**

“Expanding the developed mechanized recreation system further up the Slate River Valley requires careful consideration by the Forest Service of impacts to wildlife, wetlands, and other recreational users. This landscape is a noted black bear fall concentration area and elk summer concentration area, and its wetlands are of critical importance. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program has identified this area as the Slate River Potential Conservation Area. Is an extension of one of the most popular and utilized trails in the valley into this area compatible with these and other values? Can the Forest Service sustain this trail system in an area already experiencing user-conflict and environmental impacts? Is the trail expansion compatible with the livestock grazing at that end of the valley? Please carefully consider the appropriate tools to balance any expansion of the recreation system here with care for other resources.”

# Retracted Trails Based on Feedback



- a. Gunnison to Crested Butte off Baxter Gulch
  - b. Splains Connector to Carbon
  - c. GB Loop to OBJ Campground
  - d. Lupine 2.5
  - e. Cloud City
  - f. 401 – Avery to Rustler Gulch
  - g. 403 to 401/Avery
  - h. Upper 401 to Lower 401 connection
  - i. Snodgrass to 403
  - j. Mt. CB to Deer Creek – across Valley Floor
  - k. Deer Creek to Teo/W. Br. Ck.
  - l. Deer Creek Green Gate bypass
  - m. Strand Ridge Trail
  - n. 40Fred
  - o. Strawberry to Canal Trail
  - p. Low/Blue East River Route
  - q. Big Grassy
  - r. Walrod Re-route – Parallel Trail
  - s. East River – Upper Version
  - t. Slate River Loop Trail
- Spring Creek Rd. Parallel Trail (not on map)  
Roaring Judy Parallel Trail (not on map)

# Retracted Trails Based on Feedback

Based on public input, open houses, meetings with stakeholders, and our own prioritization process, these are the trails we have taken out of the Riders Off the Road plan. Although many of these were requested by our constituency and were recognized as needs by the CBMBA Board of Directors, they are currently either moved to our Long Term plan to allow for more vetting and a more comprehensive feasibility analysis, or they have been deemed not worthy of pursuit and taken off completely. We strive listen to our constituents, our neighbors, our stakeholders, and our partners.

<b>Trails we've retracted since 2016 Planning</b>				
	<b>Trail Name</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>On LT Plan</b>
a	G to CB off Baxter	2016	CPW, Ranchers, Sportsmen, USFS - all say it's huge island of refuge for wildlife, parts used for grazing	yes
b	Splains Connector to Carbon	2020	CPW, HCCA - important migration corridor - 2018 - 2020	no
c	GB loop to OBJ CG	2019	BLM/LT have a proposed connection to OBJ via Gunsight Bridge in 2020	yes
d	Lupine 2.5	2019	Town of CB/Allens/LT - 2019 - not the right time, but potential for future	yes
e	Cloud City	2019	Same as above - not to stir the pot while the Long Lake Exchange is going on, there is potential for future	yes
f	401 Avery to Rustler	2019	RMBL concerns	no
g	403 to 401/Avery	2019	RMBL concerns	no
h	Upper 401 to Lower 401 connection	2020	Wilderness, some boundaries to consider - some RMBL plots to avoid too, something to vet in future, perhaps in conjunction with GPLI in regards to Wilderness boundaries and buffers for re-routes	yes
i	Snodgrass to 403	2019	fragmentation, some private parcels	yes
j	Mt. CB to Deer Creek - across the E. River Valley Floor	2016	Ranching operations, wildlife, fragmentation	no
k	Deer Creek To Teo/West Br Road	2016	fragmentation	no
l	Deer Creek Green Gate Bypass	2019	Preferred by stockgrowers/sportsment to just go to top of the Deer Creek Road climb, avoid trying to bypass the steep hill in there, it's a corridor used by Elk	no
m	Strand Ridge Trail	2020	CPW liked it in the grand scheme of the Brush Creek/Strand complex of trails, but too much for now in the 'short term' plan, would require travel management and a bigger picture view of the whole area, GWA opposed	yes
n	40Fred	2020	see above - if works with big complex and Strand Ridge Trail - great	yes
o	Strawberry to Canal	2020	For now, Boreal toad in the lakes there, perhaps something to look to in the future	yes
p	Low/Blue East River Route	2020	Proposed an upper route that CPW likes better -	no
q	Big Grassy	2020	Fragmentation	no
not on map	Spring Creek Road Parallel Trail	2020	will be super hard to find an alignment on that East side of the road, so as to stay away from the creek on the other side	yes
r	Walrod Wall Re-route - parallel trail	2017	Perhaps we just fix the actual wall itself? But huge efforts for parallel trail, and not busy enough a road to warrant it	yes - if Wall reroute
not on map	Roaring Judy Parallel Trail	2020	doesn't make sense - too much private	no
s	East River Trail - Upper Version	2020	Ranchers, sportsmen, fragmentation, CBMR, GWA opposed	new trail from existing trail
t	Slate River Loop Trails	2020	Ranching operations, wildlife, fragmentation - ranching opposed, private property owners out Slate opposed	yes

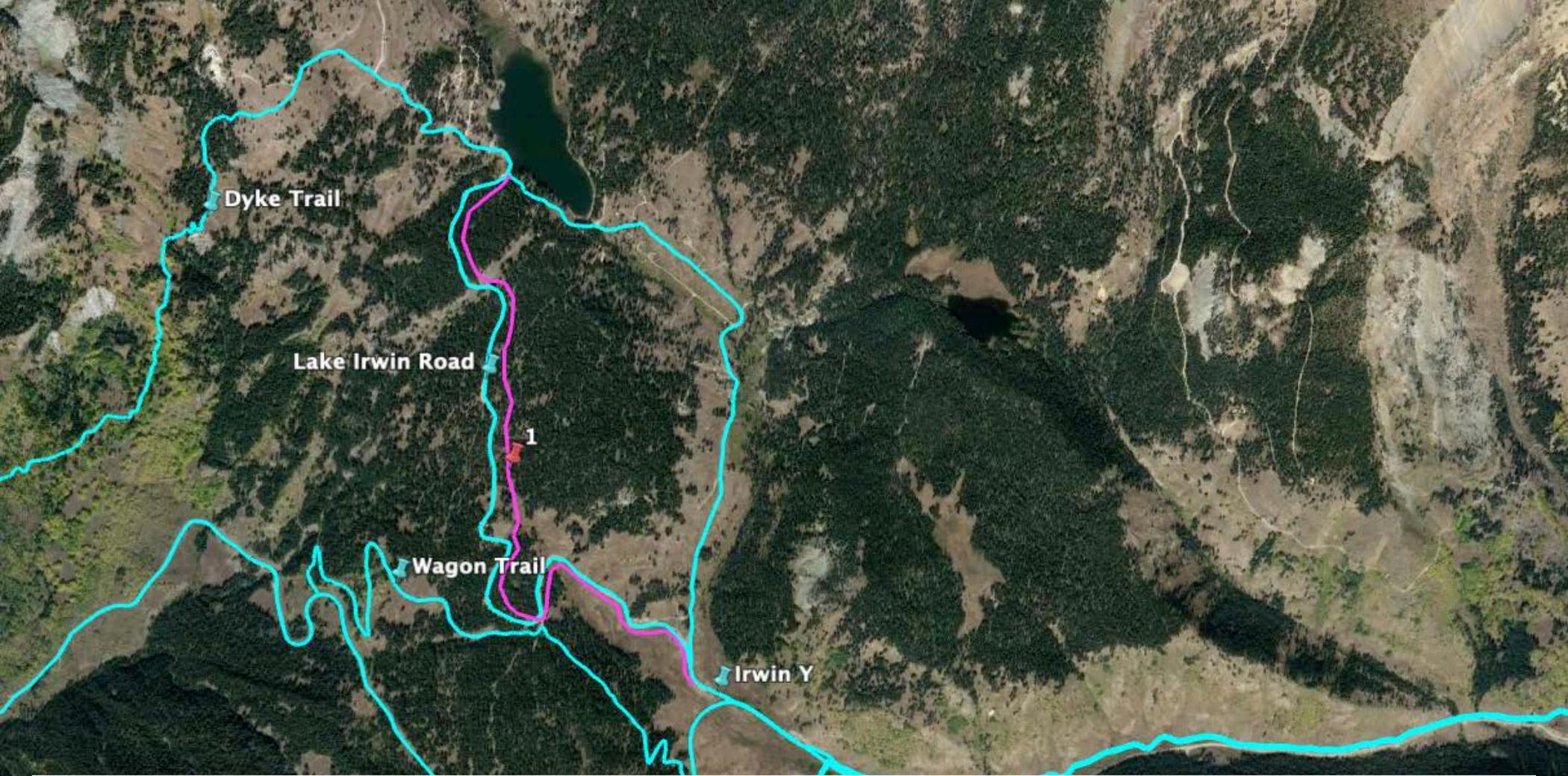
# Why NOW?



Our valley continues to see increased numbers each year, and the impacts are more noticeable each year. Without proper foresight, without a plan for trails and infrastructure, and without providing opportunities for the “right behavior”, chaos ensues! This example on Brush Creek Road in 2019 shows users going rogue and creating illegal trails all over this hillside to get better “close-ups” of wildflowers. CBMBA’s proposed “Upper Upper to Brush Creek Trailhead” connection trail would provide improved access to this attraction and encourage use of the existing start/finish at the proper parking area.

12/8/20

12

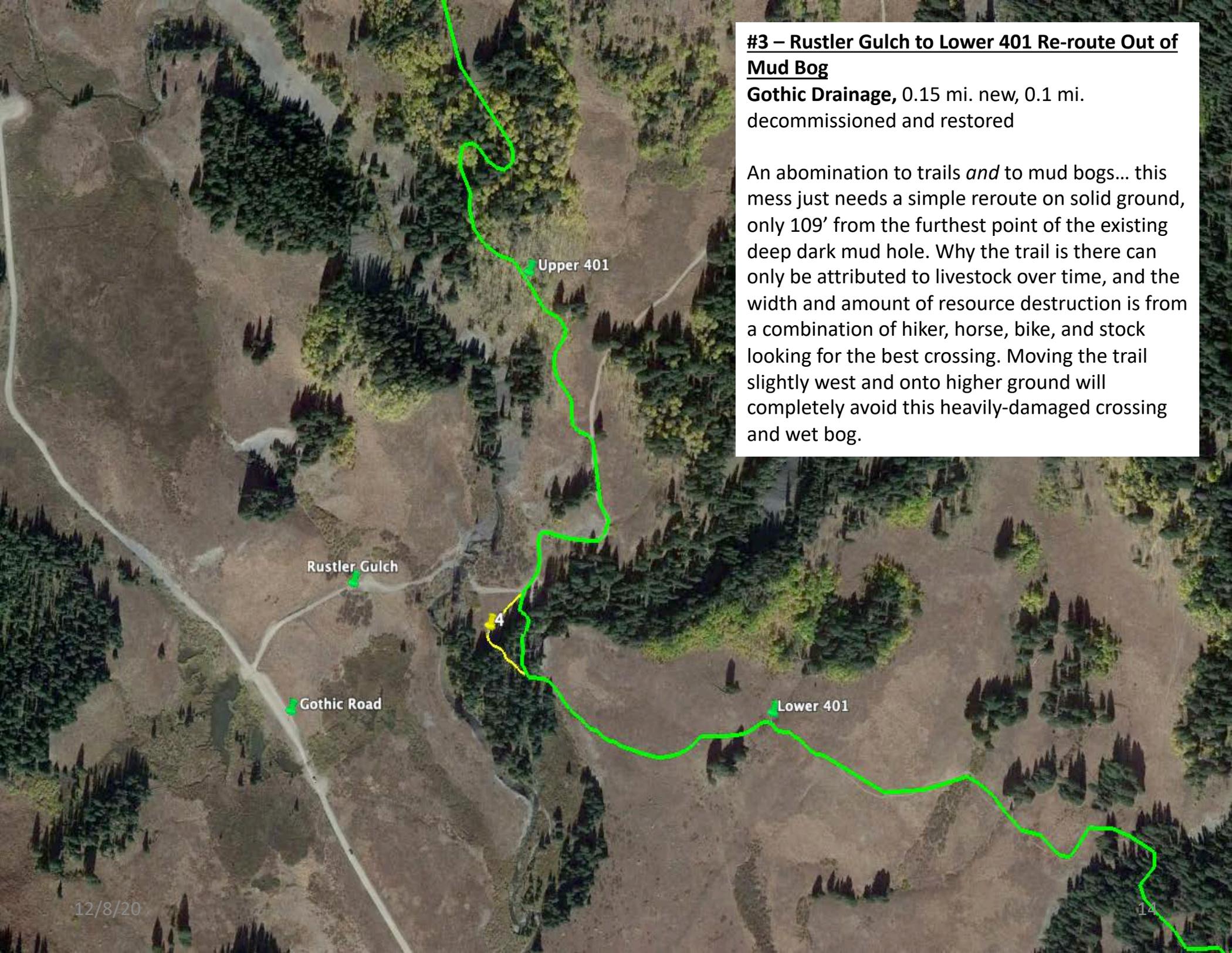


### **#1 – Lake Irwin Parallel Trail**

**Kebler Drainage, 2.1 mi. new build, 1.6 mi. decommissioned**

This trail was not included in the 2010 Travel Management decision on the basis that access already existed via the current road. Today, that road (FS #826) is a veritable highway with a high volume of summer day users and campers. A parallel trail here would get non-motorized users off the road and away from the dust and high vehicular speeds, while creating a beginner/intermediate trail amenity for the campground and busy day use area. This trail would also connect the Lake to the Wagon Trail.

12/8/26 Comments: CPW-trail is better on East side of the Irwin Road (it has been moved to East side), stay as close to the road as possible. CBMBA- Decomm and restore existing 1.6 mi. Wagon Trail below the Irwin Road. 13



**#3 – Rustler Gulch to Lower 401 Re-route Out of Mud Bog**

**Gothic Drainage, 0.15 mi. new, 0.1 mi. decommissioned and restored**

An abomination to trails *and* to mud bogs... this mess just needs a simple reroute on solid ground, only 109' from the furthest point of the existing deep dark mud hole. Why the trail is there can only be attributed to livestock over time, and the width and amount of resource destruction is from a combination of hiker, horse, bike, and stock looking for the best crossing. Moving the trail slightly west and onto higher ground will completely avoid this heavily-damaged crossing and wet bog.

### #3 – Rustlers Gulch to Lower 401 Reroute out of Mud Bog



Existing Start to Lower 401 at Rustler Gulch during a *low* water season. There is no real trail, just a free-for-all to get across this riparian area. It continues to grow in width and impacts each year as users attempt to go around it.

CBMBA and the CBCC will relocate this section to a more elevated area away from the widest and lowest part where it is now. They will then decommission and restore the existing impacted riparian area to its natural state.



**#3 – Rustlers Gulch to Lower 401 Reroute Out of Mud Bog**

Existing trail into Mud Bog  
Proposed trail around it



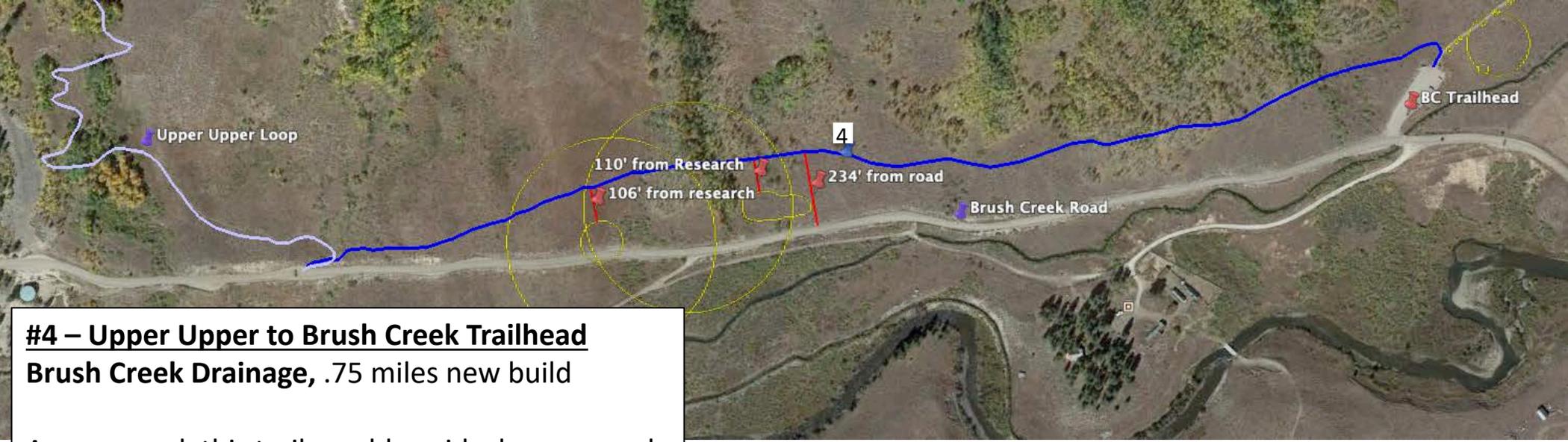
### #3 – Rustlers Gulch to Lower 401 Reroute out of Mud Bog



Proposed Track on higher ground, one improved/hardened crossing, then a straight shot onto the most derelict, denigrated, rickety, and jingus bridge you've seen this side of the Mississippi.



**This** bridge needs help, and we will work with the USFS to repair or replace it. This bridge came to being before there were handlebars... let alone handlebars nearly 3' wide these days!



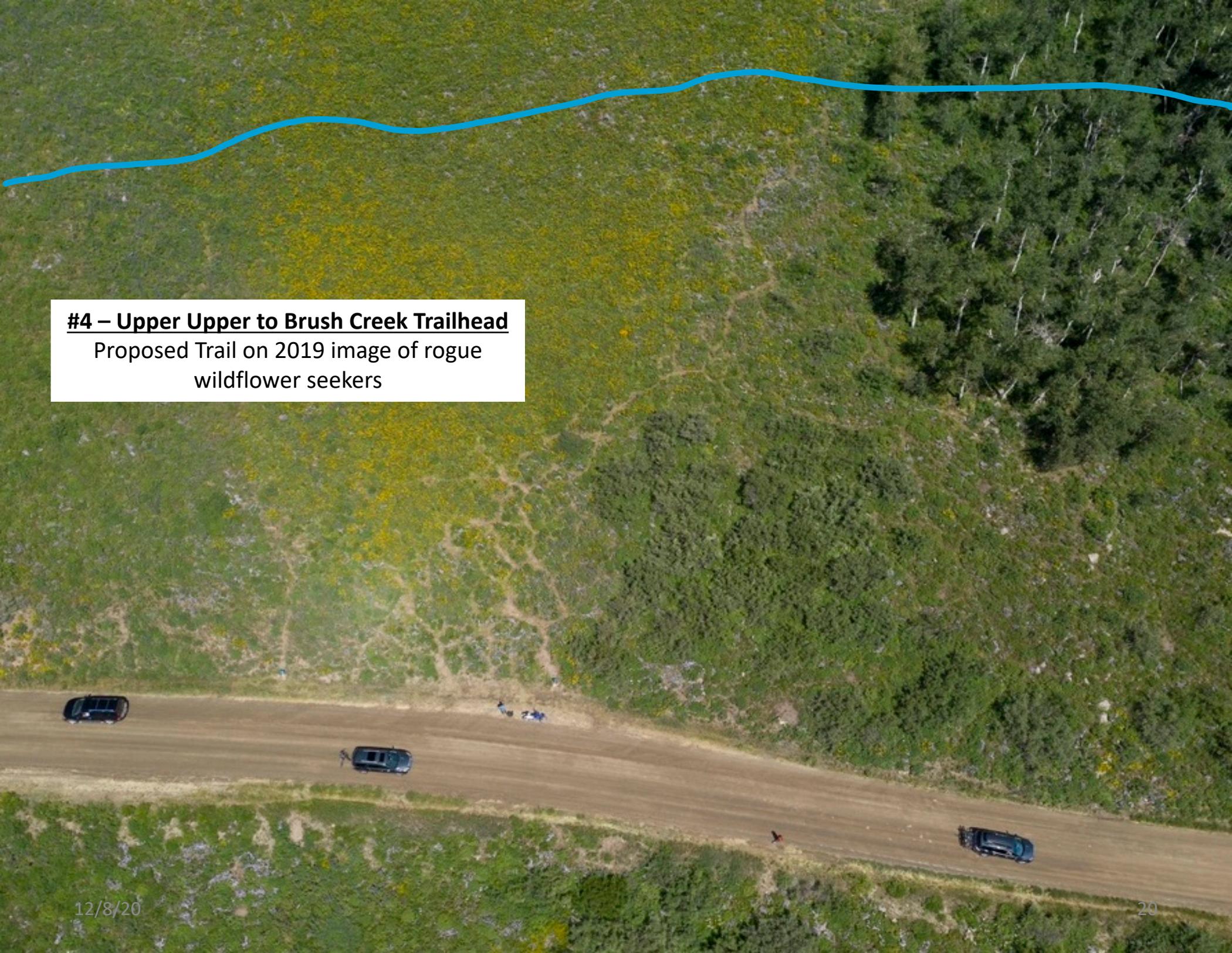
**#4 – Upper Upper to Brush Creek Trailhead**  
**Brush Creek Drainage, .75 miles new build**

As proposed, this trail would avoid a bee research area, connect Upper Upper to the Brush Creek TH in a most pleasant way, ensure access to a gorgeous field of flowers, and get users off the road.

Comments: GWA- Closer to the road, CBMBA- seasonal closures for ranching/wildlife



**Lower photo: Close up on the research area/highly impacted area** 19

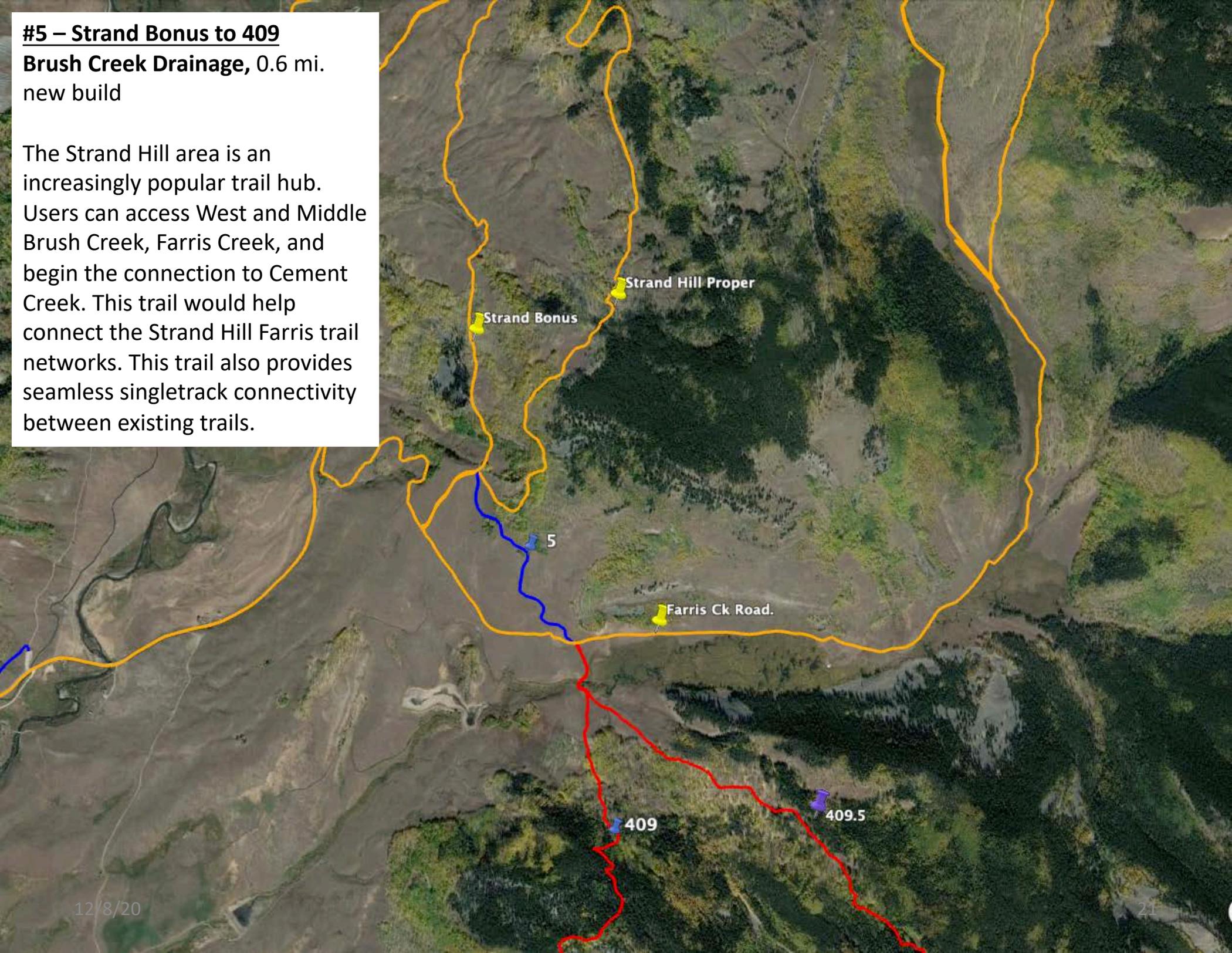


**#4 – Upper Upper to Brush Creek Trailhead**

Proposed Trail on 2019 image of rogue  
wildflower seekers

**#5 – Strand Bonus to 409**  
**Brush Creek Drainage, 0.6 mi.**  
new build

The Strand Hill area is an increasingly popular trail hub. Users can access West and Middle Brush Creek, Farris Creek, and begin the connection to Cement Creek. This trail would help connect the Strand Hill Farris trail networks. This trail also provides seamless singletrack connectivity between existing trails.



**#6 – Ambush/Budd Connection to Tent City – REVISED**

**Brush Creek Drainage, .60 mi. new build**

This proposed trail provides a connection between the Strand/Farris network to “Tent City”. Tent City can ultimately provide parking, bathrooms, and designated camping for the Strand, Canal, Farris, Teocalli, and Deer Creek access points. Having an established trail into this hub is logical and necessary.

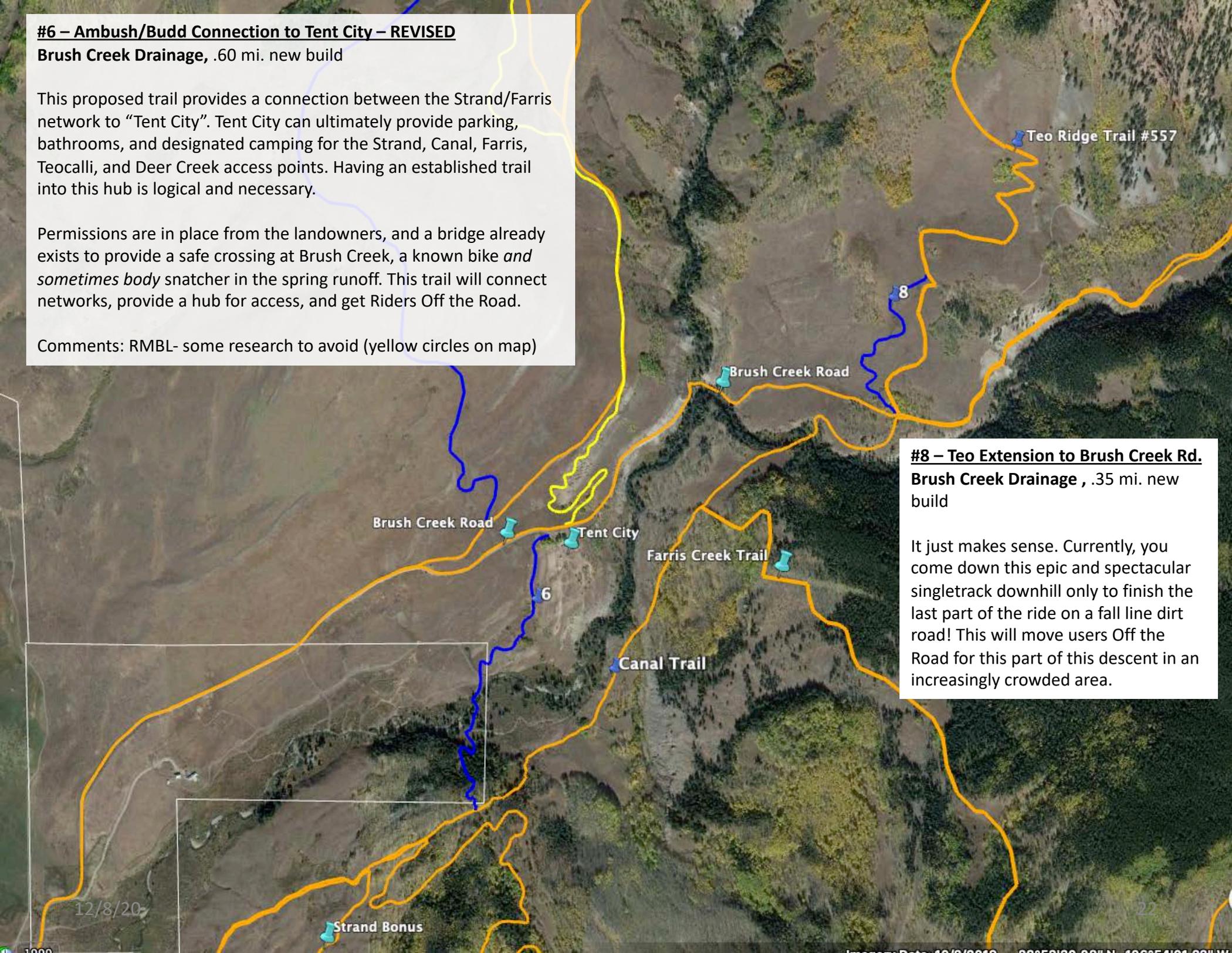
Permissions are in place from the landowners, and a bridge already exists to provide a safe crossing at Brush Creek, a known bike *and sometimes body* snatcher in the spring runoff. This trail will connect networks, provide a hub for access, and get Riders Off the Road.

Comments: RMBL- some research to avoid (yellow circles on map)

**#8 – Teo Extension to Brush Creek Rd.**

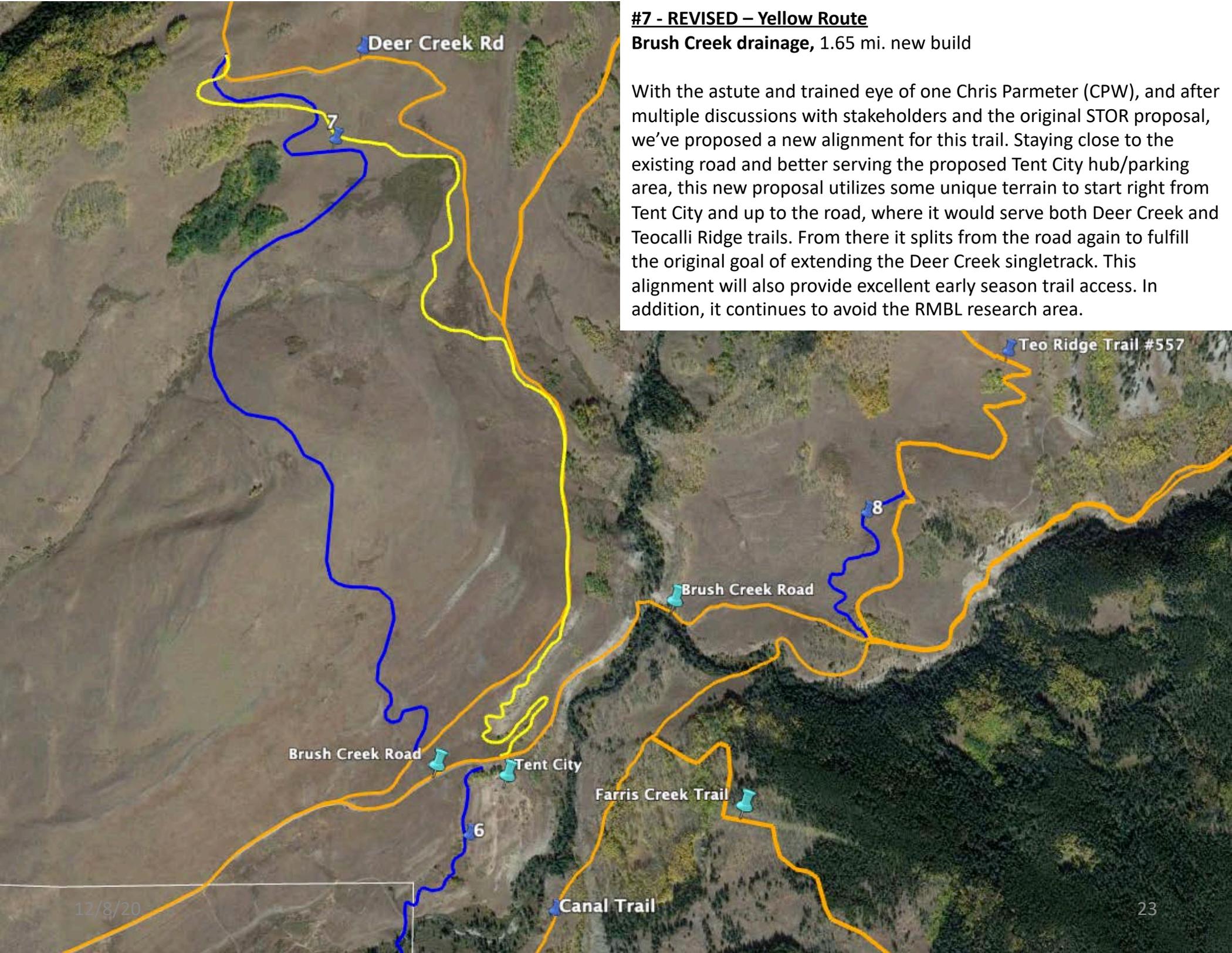
**Brush Creek Drainage, .35 mi. new build**

It just makes sense. Currently, you come down this epic and spectacular singletrack downhill only to finish the last part of the ride on a fall line dirt road! This will move users Off the Road for this part of this descent in an increasingly crowded area.



12/8/20

22



### **#7 - REVISED – Yellow Route**

**Brush Creek drainage, 1.65 mi. new build**

With the astute and trained eye of one Chris Parmeter (CPW), and after multiple discussions with stakeholders and the original STOR proposal, we've proposed a new alignment for this trail. Staying close to the existing road and better serving the proposed Tent City hub/parking area, this new proposal utilizes some unique terrain to start right from Tent City and up to the road, where it would serve both Deer Creek and Teocalli Ridge trails. From there it splits from the road again to fulfill the original goal of extending the Deer Creek singletrack. This alignment will also provide excellent early season trail access. In addition, it continues to avoid the RMBL research area.

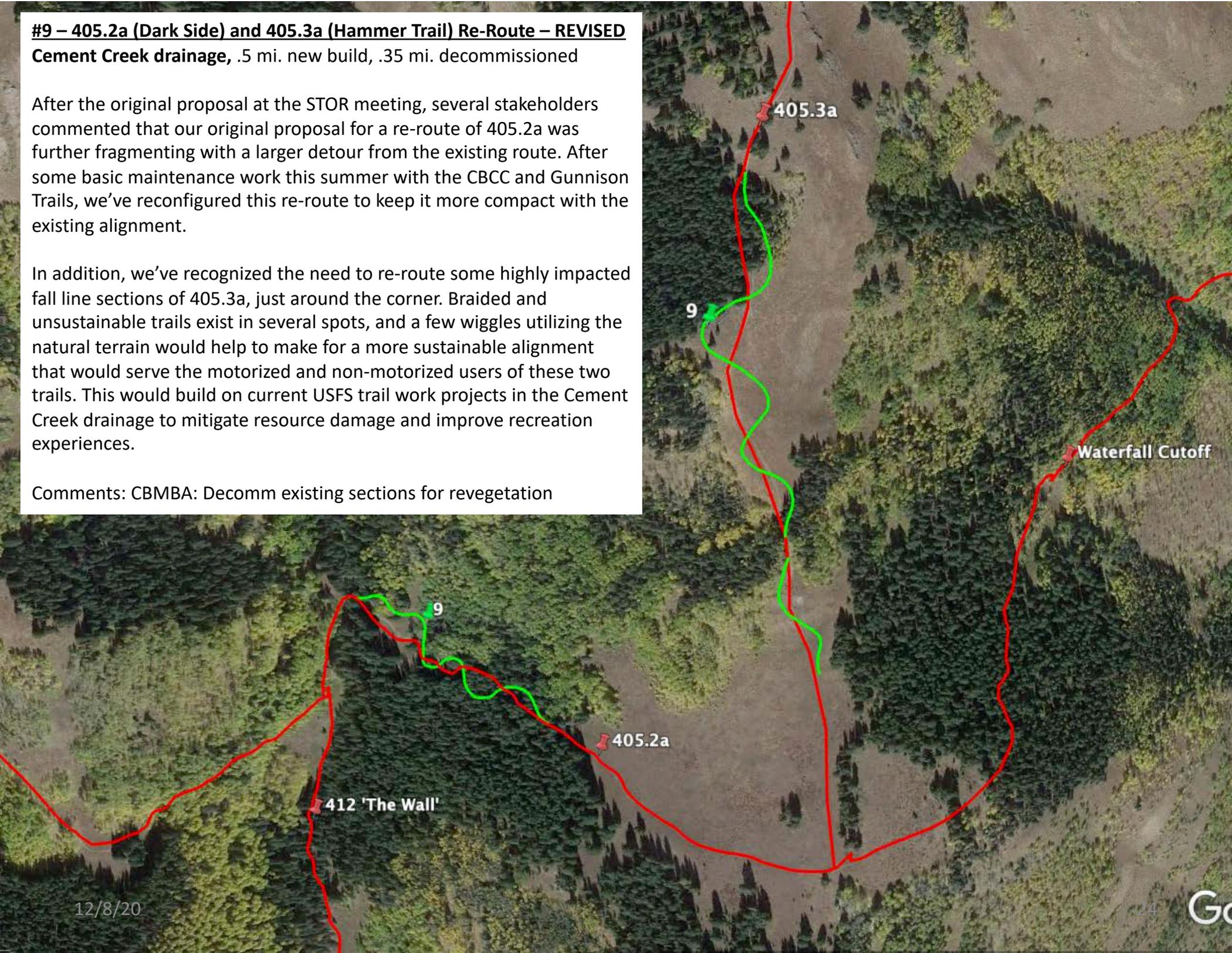
**#9 – 405.2a (Dark Side) and 405.3a (Hammer Trail) Re-Route – REVISED**

**Cement Creek drainage, .5 mi. new build, .35 mi. decommissioned**

After the original proposal at the STOR meeting, several stakeholders commented that our original proposal for a re-route of 405.2a was further fragmenting with a larger detour from the existing route. After some basic maintenance work this summer with the CBCC and Gunnison Trails, we've reconfigured this re-route to keep it more compact with the existing alignment.

In addition, we've recognized the need to re-route some highly impacted fall line sections of 405.3a, just around the corner. Braided and unsustainable trails exist in several spots, and a few wiggles utilizing the natural terrain would help to make for a more sustainable alignment that would serve the motorized and non-motorized users of these two trails. This would build on current USFS trail work projects in the Cement Creek drainage to mitigate resource damage and improve recreation experiences.

Comments: CBMBA: Decomm existing sections for revegetation

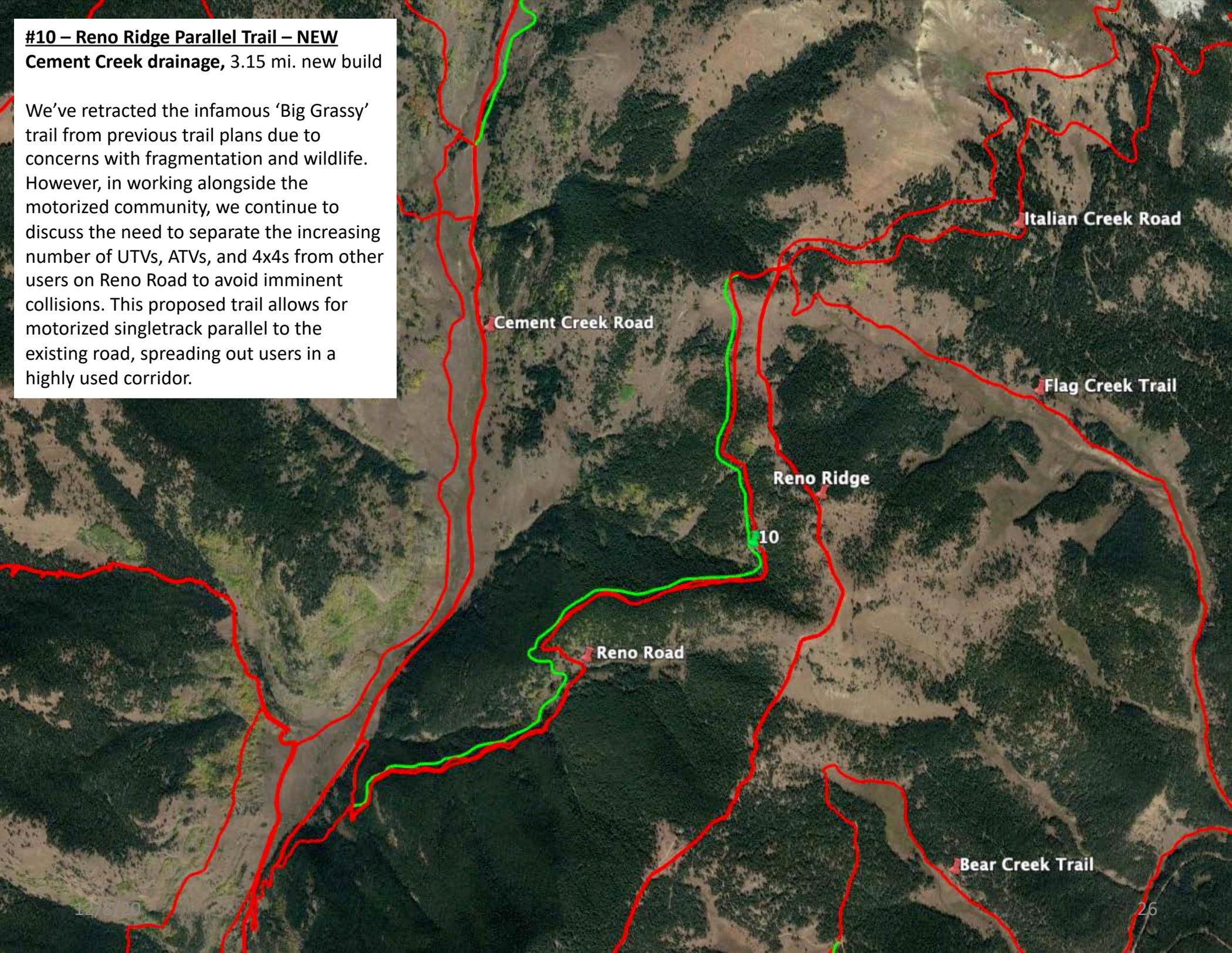


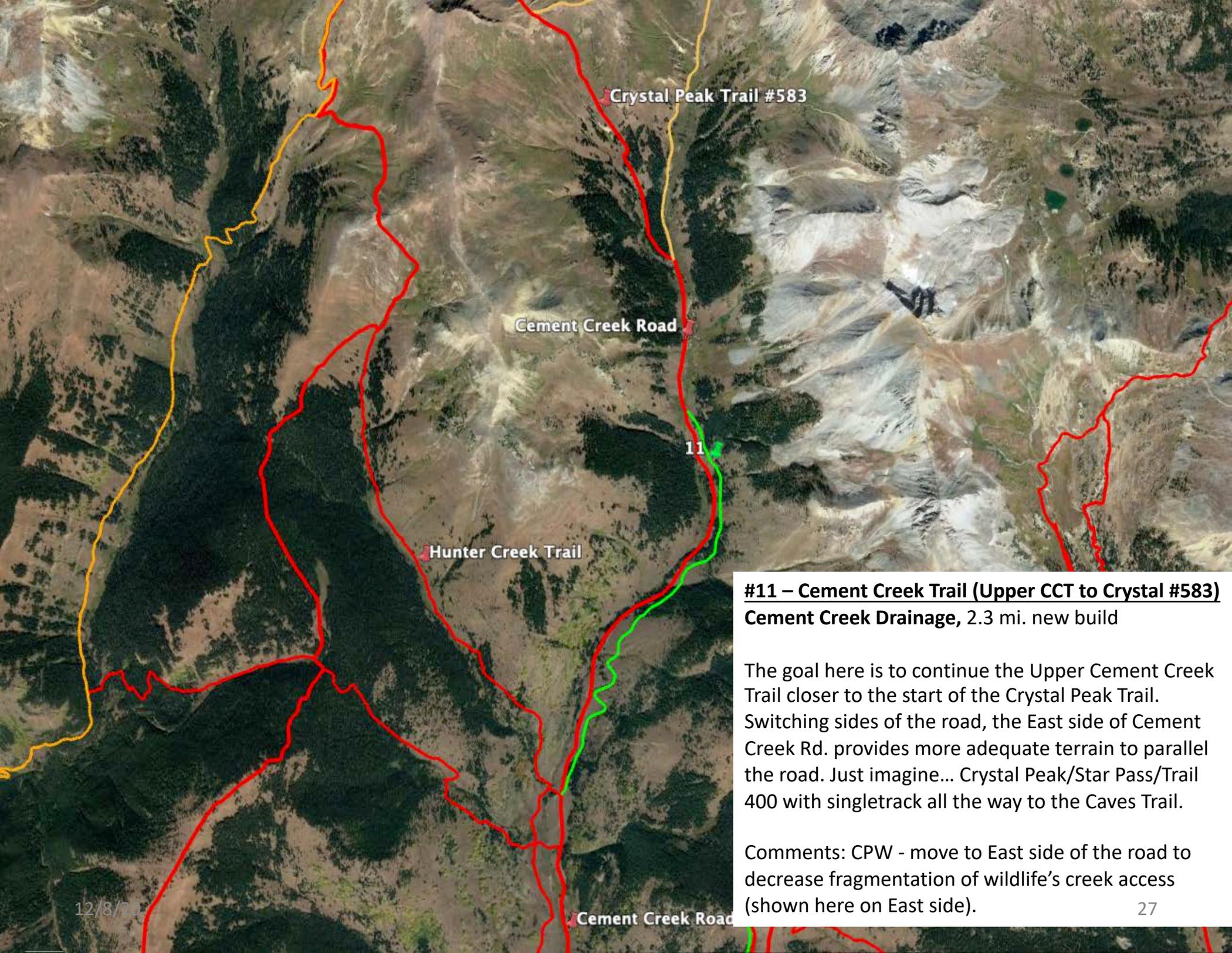


**Trail braiding on sections of 405.3a**

**#10 – Reno Ridge Parallel Trail – NEW**  
**Cement Creek drainage, 3.15 mi. new build**

We've retracted the infamous 'Big Grassy' trail from previous trail plans due to concerns with fragmentation and wildlife. However, in working alongside the motorized community, we continue to discuss the need to separate the increasing number of UTVs, ATVs, and 4x4s from other users on Reno Road to avoid imminent collisions. This proposed trail allows for motorized singletrack parallel to the existing road, spreading out users in a highly used corridor.





Crystal Peak Trail #583

Cement Creek Road

#11

Hunter Creek Trail

Cement Creek Road

**#11 – Cement Creek Trail (Upper CCT to Crystal #583)  
Cement Creek Drainage, 2.3 mi. new build**

The goal here is to continue the Upper Cement Creek Trail closer to the start of the Crystal Peak Trail. Switching sides of the road, the East side of Cement Creek Rd. provides more adequate terrain to parallel the road. Just imagine... Crystal Peak/Star Pass/Trail 400 with singletrack all the way to the Caves Trail.

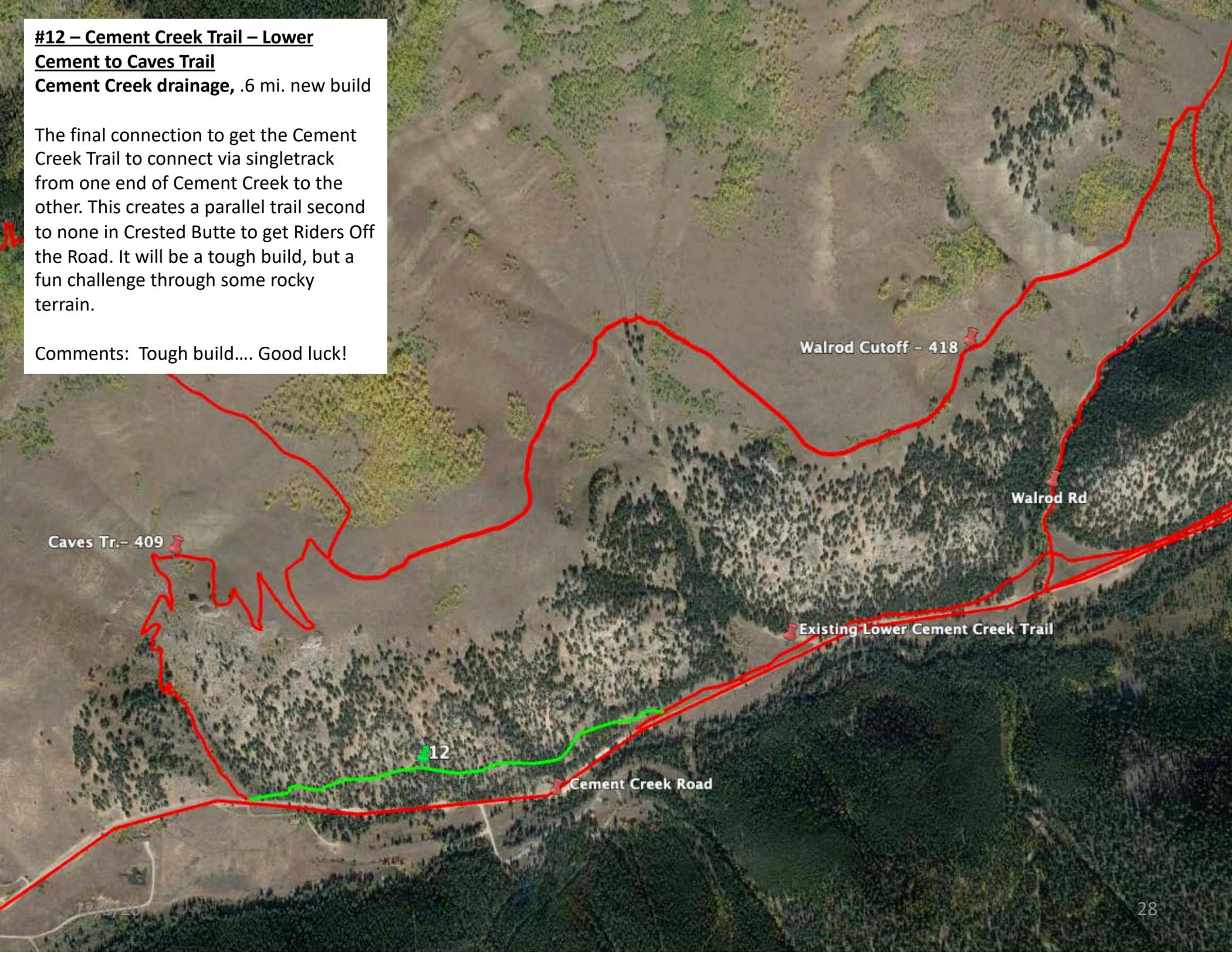
Comments: CPW - move to East side of the road to decrease fragmentation of wildlife's creek access (shown here on East side).

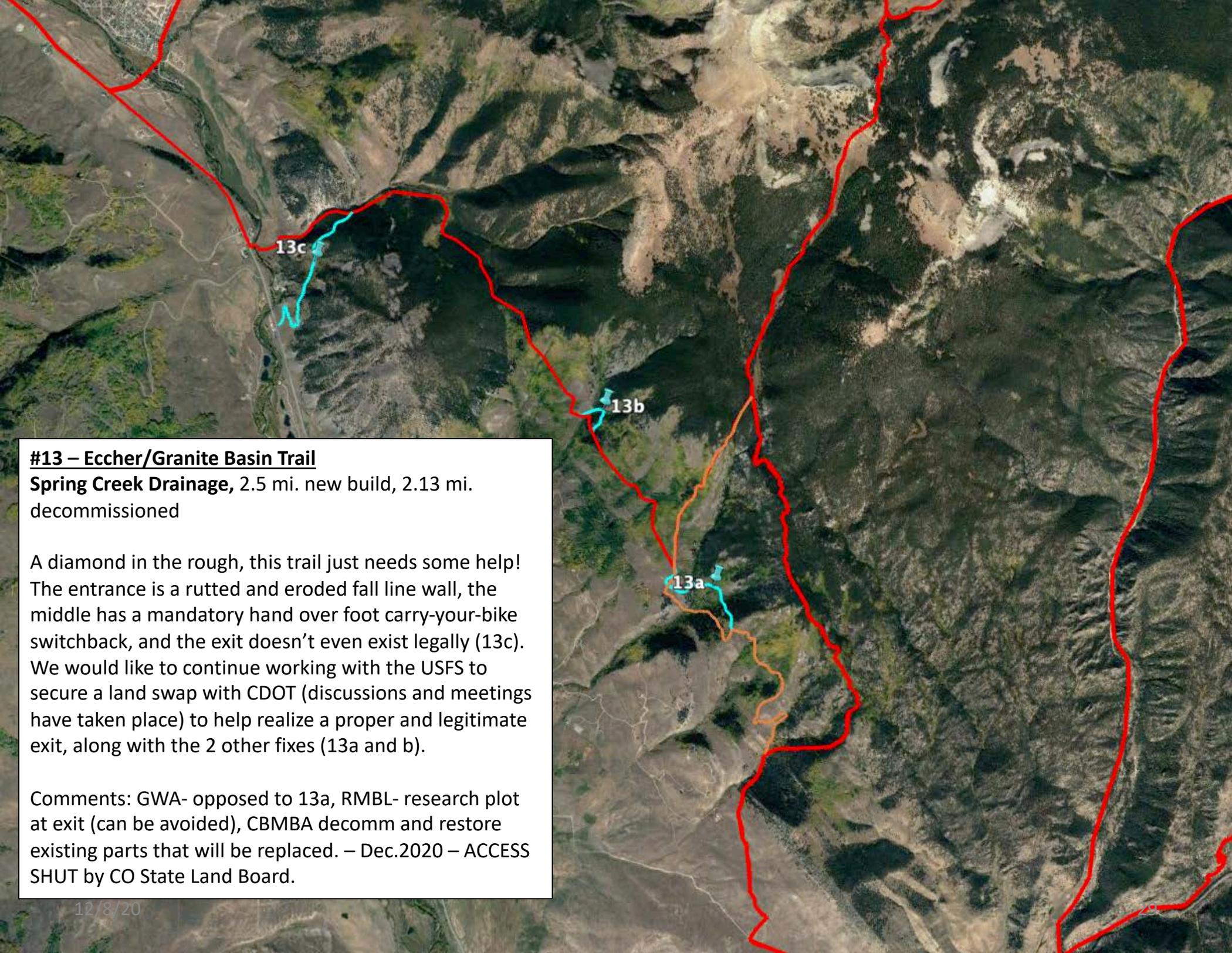
**#12 – Cement Creek Trail – Lower  
Cement to Caves Trail**

**Cement Creek drainage, .6 mi. new build**

The final connection to get the Cement Creek Trail to connect via singletrack from one end of Cement Creek to the other. This creates a parallel trail second to none in Crested Butte to get Riders Off the Road. It will be a tough build, but a fun challenge through some rocky terrain.

Comments: Tough build.... Good luck!





**#13 – Eccher/Granite Basin Trail**

**Spring Creek Drainage, 2.5 mi. new build, 2.13 mi. decommissioned**

A diamond in the rough, this trail just needs some help! The entrance is a rutted and eroded fall line wall, the middle has a mandatory hand over foot carry-your-bike switchback, and the exit doesn't even exist legally (13c). We would like to continue working with the USFS to secure a land swap with CDOT (discussions and meetings have taken place) to help realize a proper and legitimate exit, along with the 2 other fixes (13a and b).

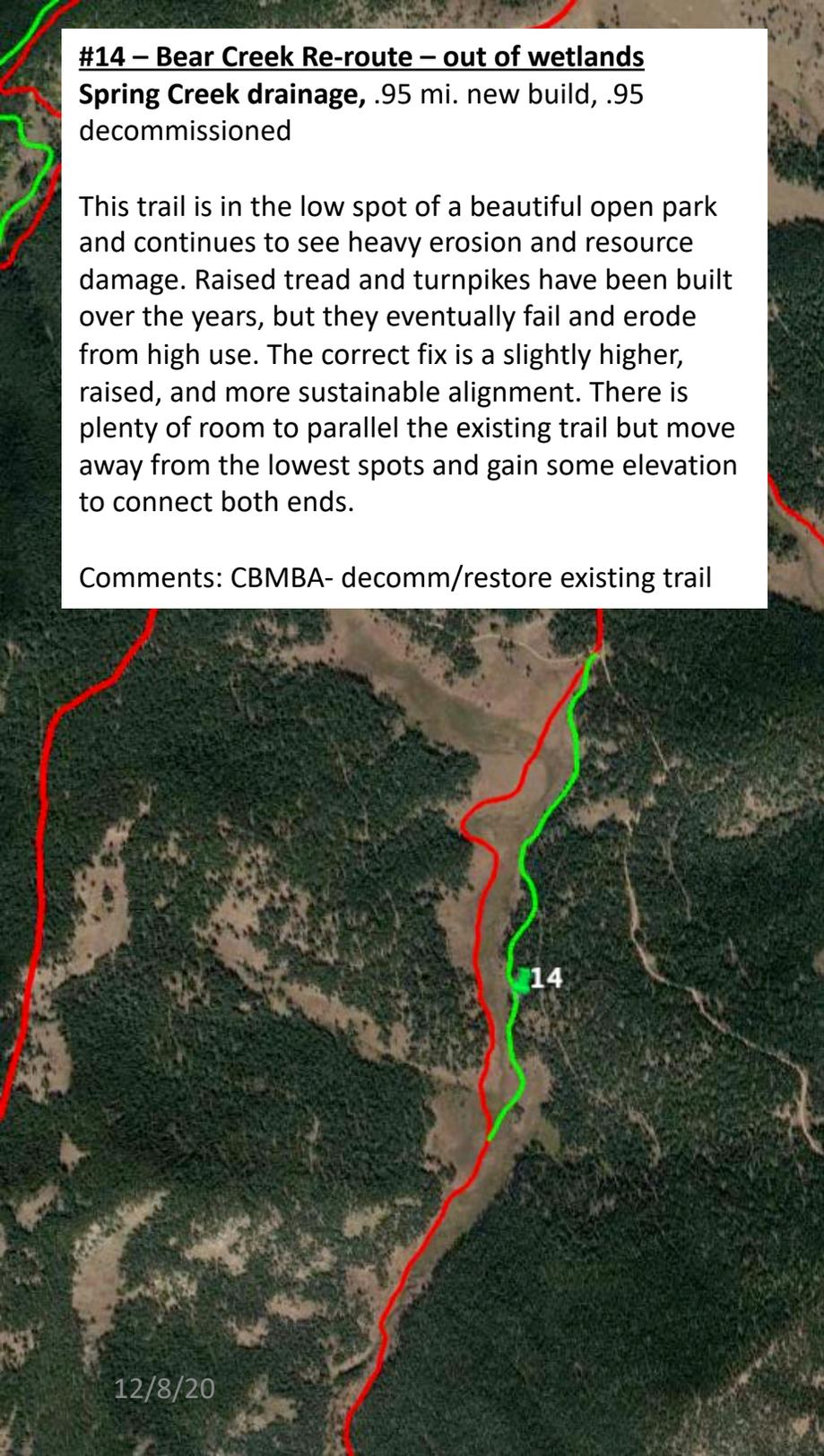
Comments: GWA- opposed to 13a, RMBL- research plot at exit (can be avoided), CBMBA decomm and restore existing parts that will be replaced. – Dec.2020 – ACCESS SHUT by CO State Land Board.

**#14 – Bear Creek Re-route – out of wetlands**

**Spring Creek drainage, .95 mi. new build, .95 decommissioned**

This trail is in the low spot of a beautiful open park and continues to see heavy erosion and resource damage. Raised tread and turnpikes have been built over the years, but they eventually fail and erode from high use. The correct fix is a slightly higher, raised, and more sustainable alignment. There is plenty of room to parallel the existing trail but move away from the lowest spots and gain some elevation to connect both ends.

Comments: CBMBA- decomm/restore existing trail



14

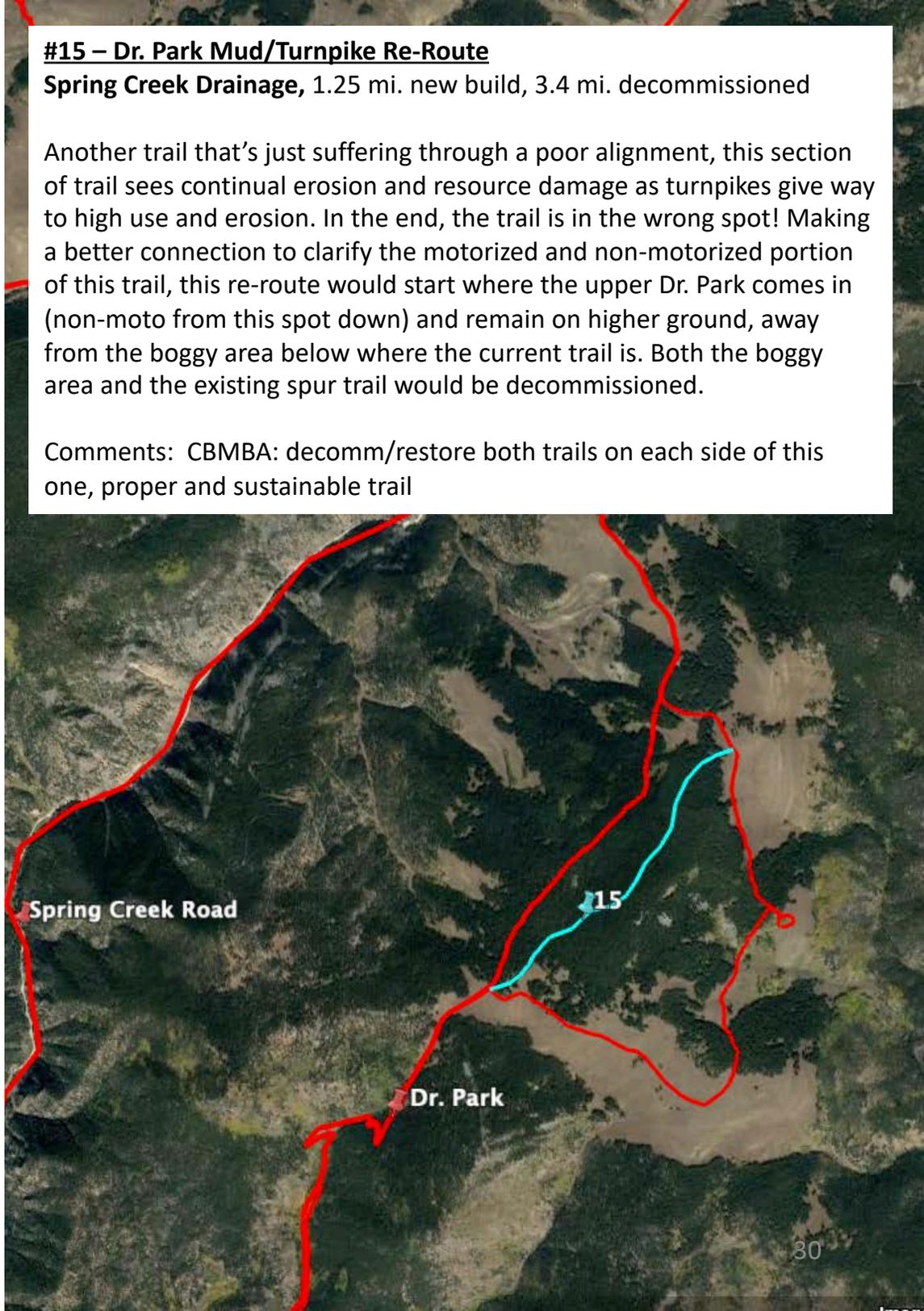
12/8/20

**#15 – Dr. Park Mud/Turnpike Re-Route**

**Spring Creek Drainage, 1.25 mi. new build, 3.4 mi. decommissioned**

Another trail that's just suffering through a poor alignment, this section of trail sees continual erosion and resource damage as turnpikes give way to high use and erosion. In the end, the trail is in the wrong spot! Making a better connection to clarify the motorized and non-motorized portion of this trail, this re-route would start where the upper Dr. Park comes in (non-moto from this spot down) and remain on higher ground, away from the boggy area below where the current trail is. Both the boggy area and the existing spur trail would be decommissioned.

Comments: CBMBA: decomm/restore both trails on each side of this one, proper and sustainable trail



Spring Creek Road

Dr. Park

15

30

# Before

# After

## Dr. Park Trail Maintenance in 2012

However, now this section looks even worse than in this "Before" photo...  
The trail should be relocated to a sustainable location.



## #2 – Snodgrass Public Lands Trail – Revised Proposal

### Washington Gulch Drainage, 1.85 miles new build (yellow)

Hearing comments from stakeholders, public forums and comments, STOR committee discussion, etc, we worked with CPW/Parmeter to look for a Snodgrass Trail re-route that was as close as possible to the existing Snodgrass alignment, yet was located on Public Lands. There were many challenges, and CBMBA did not find a suitable means to achieve the STOR committee feedback. CBMBA suggests leaving the current and beloved Snodgrass Trail untouched in an effort to maintain the existing experience. CBMBA proposes adding an additional trail (yellow trail) from the existing Snodgrass Road that connects to the well-used 'Rendezvous Meadow' designated camping area (bathroom, parking, camping, information).

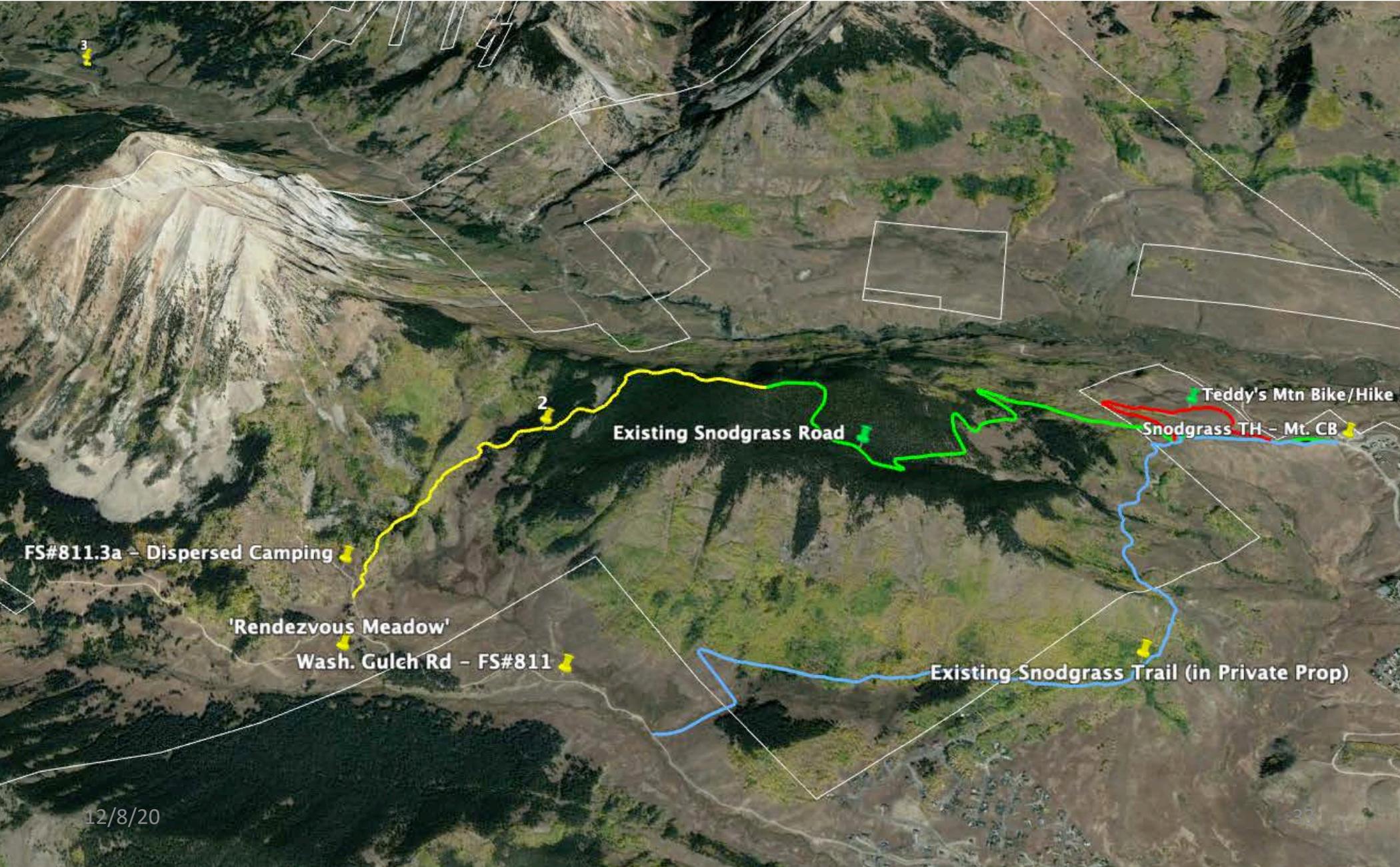
The revised proposal here shows a trail (yellow) that descends from the peak of Snodgrass Mountain into Washington Gulch above private property. The proposed trail is more 'downhill' oriented, would be open as long as the season allows, and it begins and ends at two existing hubs. In addition, it provides a recreation amenity for the newly-improved and popular Rendezvous Meadow designated camping area.



## #2 – Snodgrass Public Lands Trail – Revised Proposal

Washington Gulch Drainage, 1.85 miles new build

We understand the proposed new trail will require more public scoping and review, however, access to the public lands between the Gothic and Washington Gulch drainages is the number one request from the trail-using community. The newly proposed trail will provide a means to disperse users, keep users on public lands, and connect two improved and managed trailheads. With proper signage and potential hike/bike options, this progressive trail amenity could be the solution to the much sought-after Gothic to Washington Gulch season-long connection.



# Closing Thoughts

CBMBA seeks STOR Committee support because STOR represents various interests in the Gunnison Valley and was formed to prioritize recreation infrastructure and minimize negative recreation impacts via collaborative efforts. CBMBA has solicited comments, held public meetings and open houses, and worked with STOR committee partners to realize shared interests and recreation solutions. The proposed plan has taken into account extensive public input from the scientific, ranching, sportsmen, conservationist, wildlife, and recreation communities.

Ultimately, CBMBA desires a recommendation from the STOR Committee to the USFS/Gunnison Ranger District to include this Riders Off the Road Plan into the NEPA/scoping process. CBMBA has considered concerns and suggestions and believes this plan will create better recreation infrastructure while still supporting existing uses and limiting the impacts on wildlife and natural resources.

CBMBA believes that recreation engenders authentic connections to the environment, and this plan offers improved opportunities for better, more sustainable recreation experiences. Through the CB Conservation Corps, CBMBA has proven that we can manage the existing network of trails while also bringing this short-term plan to fruition.

**We hope you join us in support of this Riders Off the Road plan!**

For more information, please contact [dave@cbmba.org](mailto:dave@cbmba.org).  
To comment on this plan, please follow this link [here](#).

