

**Slate River Winter Trailhead
STOR Committee Meeting – February 25th, 2021**

Agenda and Talking Points

1. Project Background

- a. Present Forest Service Winter Recreation Map and Slate River Valley Overview.
- b. The Slate River Winter Trailhead is located entirely within Gunnison County's right of way, surrounded by the "Kikel Parcel" owned and conserved by the Crested Butte Land Trust.
- c. The location of the trailhead predates Land Trust ownership of the parcel.
- d. The need for a trailhead solution was identified as far back as 2008 when the Crested Butte Land Trust purchased and conserved the Kikel Parcel.
- e. Addressing the trailhead issues in the Slate River Valley is a stated priority in the STOR strategic plan.
- f. Crested Butte Land Trust, along with the town and county, conducted a planning process in 2019 and 2020 that included several public meetings and a first draft of a site plan that attempted to address the issues identified in public meetings.
- g. The second draft of the site plan did not get presented or discussed publicly due to significant public opposition from adjacent and upstream neighbors prior to releasing the revised plan.

2. Update on CB Land Trust Position on Slate River Winter Trailhead

- a. Crested Butte Land Trust's primary goal is to protect the conservation values of the property surrounding the Slate River Winter Trailhead.
- b. Crested Butte Land Trust's relationship to the trailhead is as a neighbor and stakeholder. The Land Trust is partner to STOR and the community.
- c. Crested Butte Land Trust only has regulatory authority on lands owned by CBLT. The Land Trust can't regulate public use on public lands beyond private conservation land boundaries.
- d. Crested Butte Land Trust manages land predominantly for non-motorized recreation, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat and ranching.
- e. The "Kikel Parcel" is conserved land that prohibits motorized use, with an allowed "**restricted use**" of 8000 square feet of non-paved parking.
- f. Crested Butte Land Trust's current position is to slow down and re-organize a stakeholder driven process to determine the best path forward.
- g. Crested Butte Land Trust will work with STOR to create a subcommittee dedicated to this topic. The previous sub-committee members, including Noel and Mel have moved on to different roles/orgs.
- h. Crested Butte Land Trust and STOR will seek volunteers to participate in the sub-committee. It would be good to have representation from users, neighbors and landowners.

3. Season Updates

- a. Updated snowmobile signage indicating that snowmobiles must stay on road until they reach public lands.
- b. Participation in the WCU Data Collection Initiative (DCI) including an additional camera provided by CBLT to collect use data at fixed times each day. This is a supplement to the motion camera maintained by DCI.
- c. Placement of a portable restroom that is pumped out weekly.

4. Call for subcommittee volunteers

- a. Email CB Land Trust with interest following the meeting. Email Cheryl cc Joe.



Winter Recreation around Crested Butte

ACTIVITIES

- Snowmobiling
- X-C Skiing
- Dogsledding
- Snowshoeing
- Snowcat Touring/Skiing

ACCESS

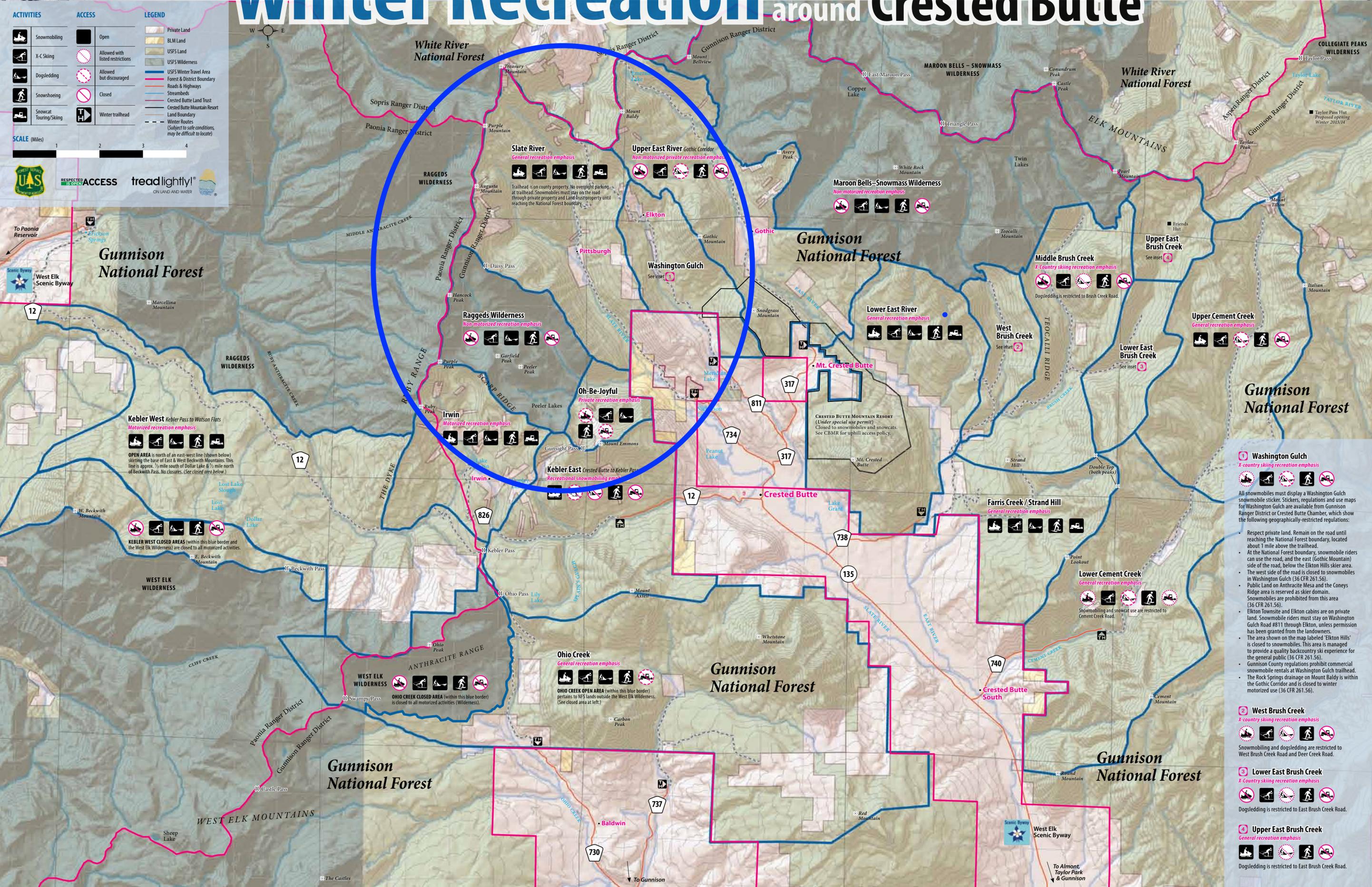
- Open
- Allowed with listed restrictions
- Allowed but discouraged
- Closed
- Winter trailhead

LEGEND

- Private Land
- BLM Land
- USFS Land
- USFS Wilderness
- USFS Winter Travel Area
- Forest & District Boundary
- Roads & Highways
- Streambeds
- Crested Butte Land Trust
- Crested Butte Mountain Resort Land Boundary
- Winter Routes (Subject to safe conditions, may be difficult to locate)

SCALE (Miles) 1 2 3 4

RESPECTED ACCESS treadlightly! ON LAND AND WATER



- 1 Washington Gulch**
X-country skiing recreation emphasis
- All snowmobiles must display a Washington Gulch snowmobile sticker. Stickers, regulations and use maps for Washington Gulch are available from Gunnison Ranger District or Crested Butte Chamber, which show the following geographically-restricted regulations:
- Respect private land. Remain on the road until reaching the National Forest boundary, located about 1 mile above the trailhead.
 - At the National Forest boundary, snowmobile riders can use the road, and the east (Gothic Mountain) side of the road, below the Elkton Hills skier area.
 - The west side of the road is closed to snowmobiles in Washington Gulch (36 CFR 261.56).
 - Public Land on Anthracite Mesa and the Coneyes Ridge area is reserved as skier domain. Snowmobiles are prohibited from this area (36 CFR 261.56).
 - Elkton Townsite and Elkton cabins are on private land. Snowmobile riders must stay on Washington Gulch Road #811 through Elkton, unless permission has been granted from the landowners.
 - The area shown on the map labeled 'Elkton Hills' is closed to snowmobiles. This area is managed to provide a quality backcountry ski experience for the general public (36 CFR 261.56).
 - Gunnison County regulations prohibit commercial snowmobile rentals at Washington Gulch trailhead.
 - The Rock Springs drainage on Mount Baldy is within the Gothic Corridor and is closed to winter motorized use (36 CFR 261.56).
- 2 West Brush Creek**
X-country skiing recreation emphasis
- Snowmobiling and dogsledding are restricted to West Brush Creek Road and Deer Creek Road.
- 3 Lower East Brush Creek**
X-country skiing recreation emphasis
- Dogsledding is restricted to East Brush Creek Road.
- 4 Upper East Brush Creek**
General recreation emphasis
- Dogsledding is restricted to East Brush Creek Road.

Gunnison National Forest

Gunnison National Forest

White River National Forest

Gunnison National Forest

Gunnison National Forest

Gunnison National Forest

Gunnison National Forest

Ohio Creek
General recreation emphasis

OHIO CREEK OPEN AREA (within this blue border) pertains to NF's lands outside the West Elk Wilderness. (See closed area at left.)

Kebler West
Motorized recreation emphasis

OPEN AREA is north of an east-west line (shown below) skirting the base of East & West Beckwith Mountains. This line is approx. 1/2 mile south of Dollar Lake & 1/2 mile north of Beckwith Pass. No closures. (See closed area below.)

Raggeds Wilderness
Non-motorized recreation emphasis

Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness
Non-motorized recreation emphasis

Slate River
General recreation emphasis

Upper East River
Non-motorized/private recreation emphasis

Trailhead is on county property. No overnight parking at trailhead. Snowmobiles must stay on the road through private property and Land Trust property until reaching the National Forest boundary.

Lower East River
General recreation emphasis

Middle Brush Creek
X-country skiing recreation emphasis

Dogsledding is restricted to Brush Creek Road.

Irwin
Motorized recreation emphasis

Oh-Be-Joyful
Private recreation emphasis

Kebler East
Crested Butte to Kebler Pass
Recreational snowmobiling emphasis

Farris Creek/Strand Hill
General recreation emphasis

Lower Cement Creek
General recreation emphasis

Snowmobiling and snowcat use are restricted to Cement Creek Road.

West Elk Wilderness

OHIO CREEK CLOSED AREA (within this blue border) is closed to all motorized activities (Wilderness).

KEBLER WEST CLOSED AREAS (within this blue border and the West Elk Wilderness) are closed to all motorized activities.

Ohio Creek
General recreation emphasis

Farris Creek/Strand Hill
General recreation emphasis

Lower Cement Creek
General recreation emphasis

Gunnison National Forest

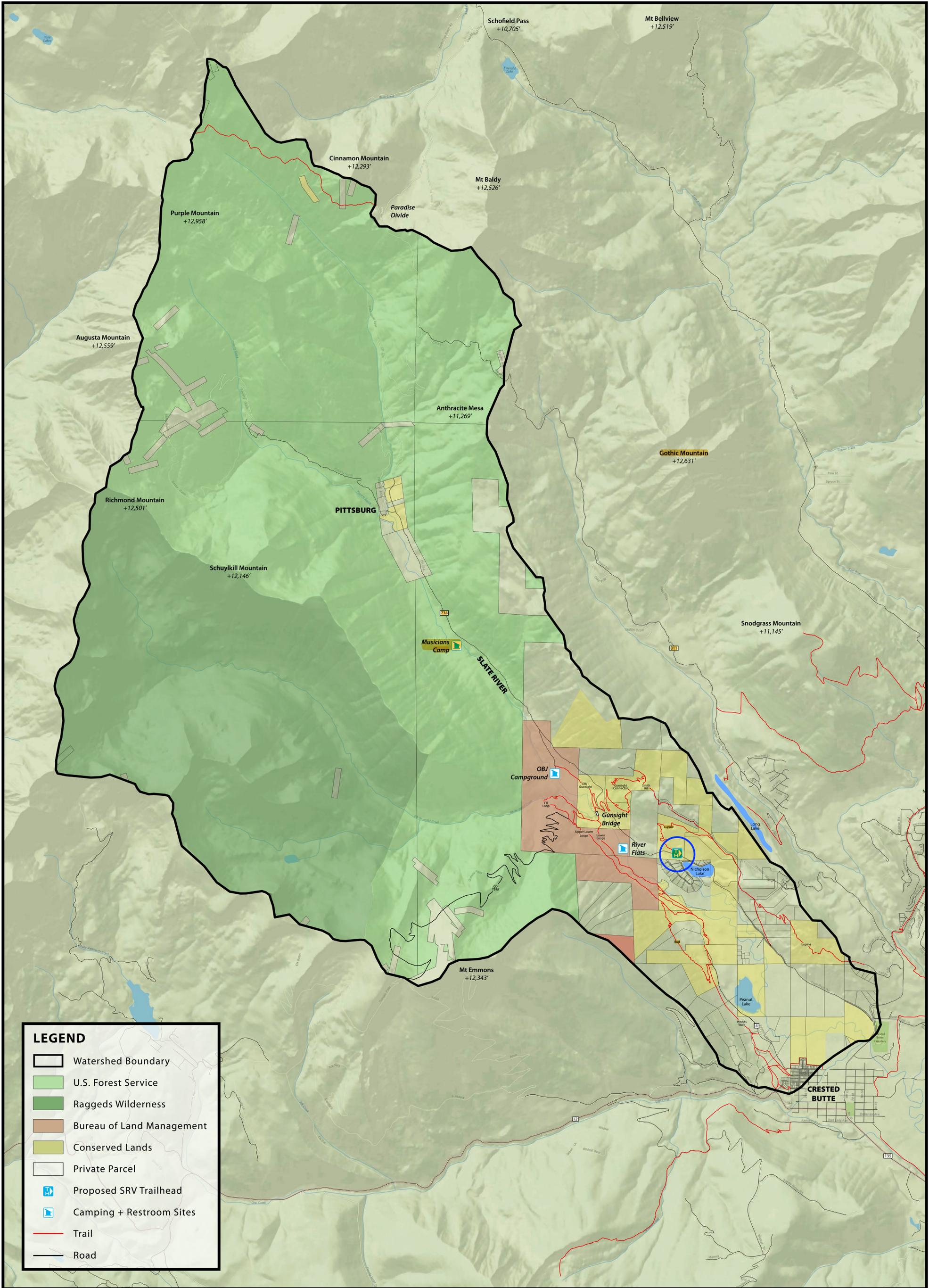
Gunnison National Forest

Gunnison National Forest

Gunnison National Forest

SLATE RIVER VALLEY OVERVIEW MAP

June 12, 2020



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN + LAND PLANNING
ECOLOGICAL PLANNING



Slate River Winter Trailhead

Crested Butte Land Trust - Kikel B Parcel Conservation Easement – Recorded 2008

Language Relevant to the Slate River Winter Trailhead – Excerpts from the CE

S Dominguez Gunnis County, CO 588209
12/19/2008 03:36 PM Pg: 4 of 18
921 R: \$91.00 D: \$0.00

5. **Prohibited and Restricted Uses.** Any activity on or use of the Property inconsistent with the purpose of this Easement is prohibited. Subject to the foregoing, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Grantor and Grantee hereby acknowledge and agree:

h. **Paving, Road and Trail Construction, Utility Easement, Parking Lot.** No roads or driveways shall be constructed or permitted on the Property, except for the Slate River Road depicted on **Exhibit A** and the driveway described below. No portion of the Property shall

Deed of Conservation Easement (GOCO) Kikel Parcel B 5 120908

Page 4

S Dominguez Gunnis County, CO 588209
12/19/2008 03:36 PM Pg: 5 of 18
921 R: \$91.00 D: \$0.00

be paved or otherwise covered with concrete, asphalt, or any other paving material.

Grantor shall be allowed to place a driveway and utility easement on the Property for access to the 5 acre home site tract described on **Exhibit A** as the “Area of Parcel A south of the centerline of Slate River Road” (the “**Driveway and Utility Easement**”). Said easement shall be located only in the area south of the Slate River Road. The total Easement width shall not exceed the greater of (i) sixty (60) feet or (ii) as required by Gunnison County at the time the driveway is permitted, and the width of the traveled portion of the easement shall not exceed the greater of (i) twenty-two (22) feet or (ii) as required by Gunnison County at the time the driveway is permitted. No other driveway or utility easement is permitted on the Property.

In addition, Grantor shall be allowed to place an unpaved parking lot on the Property, adjacent to the Gunnison County right of way for the Slate River Road and shall be sited so as to create the least impact on the Conservation Values. The parking lot shall not exceed 8,000 square feet in size (40 vehicles).

k. **Motorized Vehicles.** Motorized vehicles may be used on the Property only on the Slate River Road, or for Nordic track setting purposes, or in the parking lot referenced in Paragraph 5.h and on the driveway referenced in Paragraph 5.h, and only in a manner that does not substantially diminish or impair the Conservation Values of the Property. Off road vehicle courses for snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, or other motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Slate River Winter Trailhead

Crested Butte Land Trust - Updated Snowmobile Signage at Slate River Winter Trailhead







Slate River Winter Trailhead

2020/2021 Winter Data Collection Initiative Study Summary

- A game camera was installed at the trailhead on December 28, 2020 to capture vehicular use of the parking area.
- A researcher collects the SD card bi-weekly and then analyzes the images.
- The study quantifies the number of vehicles at the parking area at four-hour intervals: 7am, 11am, 3pm and 7pm.
- The study also categorizes the types of vehicles:
 - Truck/SUV;
 - Mid-sized/Compact;
 - Vans/RV's;
 - Vehicles w/ Trailers.
- This information will help us to better understand parking area usage, trends, and parking capacity at the trailhead.