



Telluride Mountain Club Summer 2017 Trails Proposal

Draft I

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Introduction

In the fall of 2015, the Telluride Mountain Club (TMtC) initiated the Telluride Regional Trails System Vision Survey. Nearly 400 responses were collected from locals, second homeowners, and visitors regarding their vision for the future of Telluride's Trails.

Over the course of the past two years, TMtC has analyzed these results to create this proposal for necessary new trails, much needed reroutes, and connector trails in our region. Most recently, TMtC reached out to the trail user community again and asked them to rank the proposed sections in order of importance to them. We felt there was no better way to understand what should be prioritized than asking people who use the trails. These are our results (in order of importance, one being the most important, seven being the least important):

1. Perimeter Trail
2. Mill Creek Bypass Trail
3. Eider to Mill Creek Connector
4. Deep Creek Reroute
5. West Valley Floor Meadows Connector
6. Galloping Goose to Sunshine Trail Connector
7. Two Rivers Galloping Goose Connector Trail

The following trail proposals outline the scope of the trail, where it is located, the major purpose for the trail, a map of the trail, info on stewardship and maintenance, possible ideas for funding, and a general overview of the proposal.

It is important to note that Telluride's current trail system is becoming more popular and crowded each summer. From 2007 to 2016, daily summer average growth increased by nearly 35% (information provided by the Telluride Tourism Board). More and more people are coming to Telluride and using our trails. The proposals included will help spread out usage in our region to help and eliminate congestion problems and work to create a better, well-rounded trail system.

The Telluride Mountain Club looks forward to the next steps in the approval process.

Disclaimer: The following document is a conceptual plan. This is a living document and may include the elimination or addition of additional routes in the future. The trails are conceptual with approximate starting and ending points. Many of the trails have not been scoped on the ground and exact alignments will be decided upon approval of the trail concept. Telluride Mountain Club does not presume to have permission to cross private property or implement any trail plan without permission from all proper authorities.

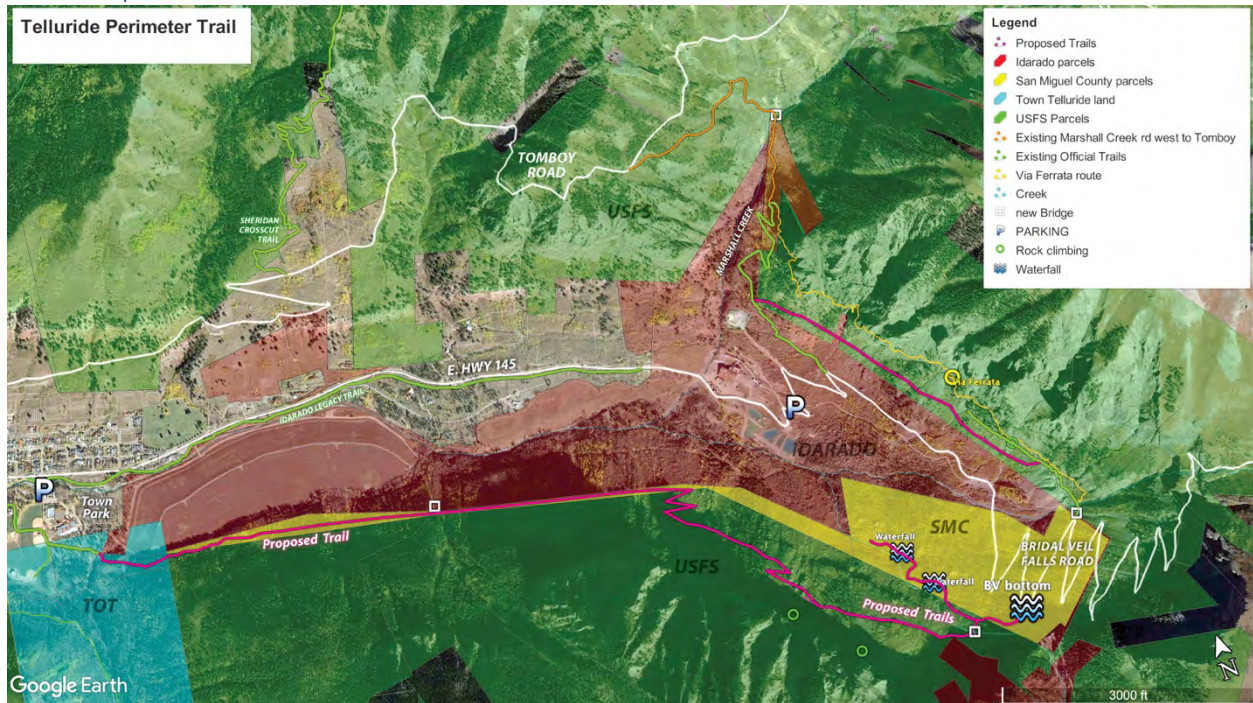
Perimeter Trail Proposal

Intro & Overview

The proposed Telluride Perimeter Trail would be established as a primitive hiking trail and meander from the Town of Telluride’s Union Placer Trail (stems from Telluride Town Park) to the San Miguel County’s (SMC) Kentucky Placer Trail, to a new “Umbrella Wall Trail” on United States Forest Service (USFS) and SMC Land. This section would then connect to the existing primitive trail that extends from the south corner of the Bridal Veil Falls Road. A short section of new trail would also be proposed to connect from this existing primitive trail and meander north-west along Bridal Veil Creek. On the north side of the valley, there is a proposed section that would meander to connect Bridal Veil Falls Road with the existing Marshall Creek Trail/Road. From there, TMTc proposes linking this section with Tomboy Road via the existing primitive Marshall Creek Road.

This trail proposal will require existing trail improvements in addition to new trail segments. The trail will be established as a primitive trail. A perimeter trail in Telluride has the ability to increase tourism to the valley. There is a similar perimeter trail in Ouray and its popularity is booming. Additionally, this trail will free up congestion on other trails that are easily accessible from the Town of Telluride, namely the Jud Wiebe and Bear Creek Trail.

Trail Map



The proposed Telluride Perimeter Trail is denoted on the map above which includes a legend to show land ownership, existing trails, and proposed new sections. The proposed new trail

segments are shown in pink while the existing mining and primitive trails are shown in yellow and orange.

West to east, moving counterclockwise here is an overview of what you see on the map:

- Pink segment- from Telluride Town Park to start of switchbacks: 1.3 miles (Umbrella Wall)
- Pink segment- from start of switchbacks to the fork: 1.4 miles (Umbrella Wall)
- Pink segment, branching off from the fork: 0.4 miles (Bridal Veil Creek Spur)
- Pink north side segment: 1 mile (North Side)
- Green segment- existing official trail with easements
- Orange segment- existing Marshall Creek Road to be adopted into USFS trail inventory

As you can see, the proposed trail sections would lie entirely on USFS land and SMC land. It is important to note that the map above shows a suggested route for the various trail segments. Actual length and location would be determined when the trail is professionally flagged and GPS coordinates are obtained.

Trail Purpose

The proposed Perimeter Trail will quickly turn into one of the most popular trails in Telluride. The trail will be used by hikers as an intermediate primitive trail. This trail will allow for a possible loop of the established Idarado Legacy Trail connecting the Town of Telluride to Bridal Veil Falls and/or a larger perimeter connection to the Marshall Creek Trail Connector which ultimately links to the Tomboy Road and subsequently the Jud Wiebe and so on. This Perimeter Trail will also take congestion off other popular and existing trails like the Jud Wiebe and Bear Creek Trails. This new trail will allow users to visit waterfalls and previously unvisited areas.

The proposed Telluride Perimeter Trail will ideally be built to accommodate intermediate hikers.

Trail Design & Construction

If the proposed Telluride Perimeter Trail is to be preliminarily approved, the next steps would be to flag the trail and obtain GPS coordinates. With this information, the Telluride Mountain Club, SMC, and USFS could work together to bid the project and get a good cost estimate in place. Funding for a trail like this could be obtained through private funding, trails grants, and even online crowd funding.

New signage for the trail would be required at the various main intersections: in Telluride Town Park, at the intersection of the Bridal Veil Creek Spur, at both intersections of Bridal Veil Falls Road, and at the Marshall Creek Trail Connector. Signage that includes maps and “you are here” direction would be incredibly helpful for users.

Depending on a few build factors, the proposed Perimeter Trail would also require new bridge construction. Definite bridges would be required along the new “Umbrella Wall” section, near the fork of the “Bridal Veil Creek Spur” and possibly on the north side near Bridal Veil Falls Road where the “North Side” trail connects to the road.

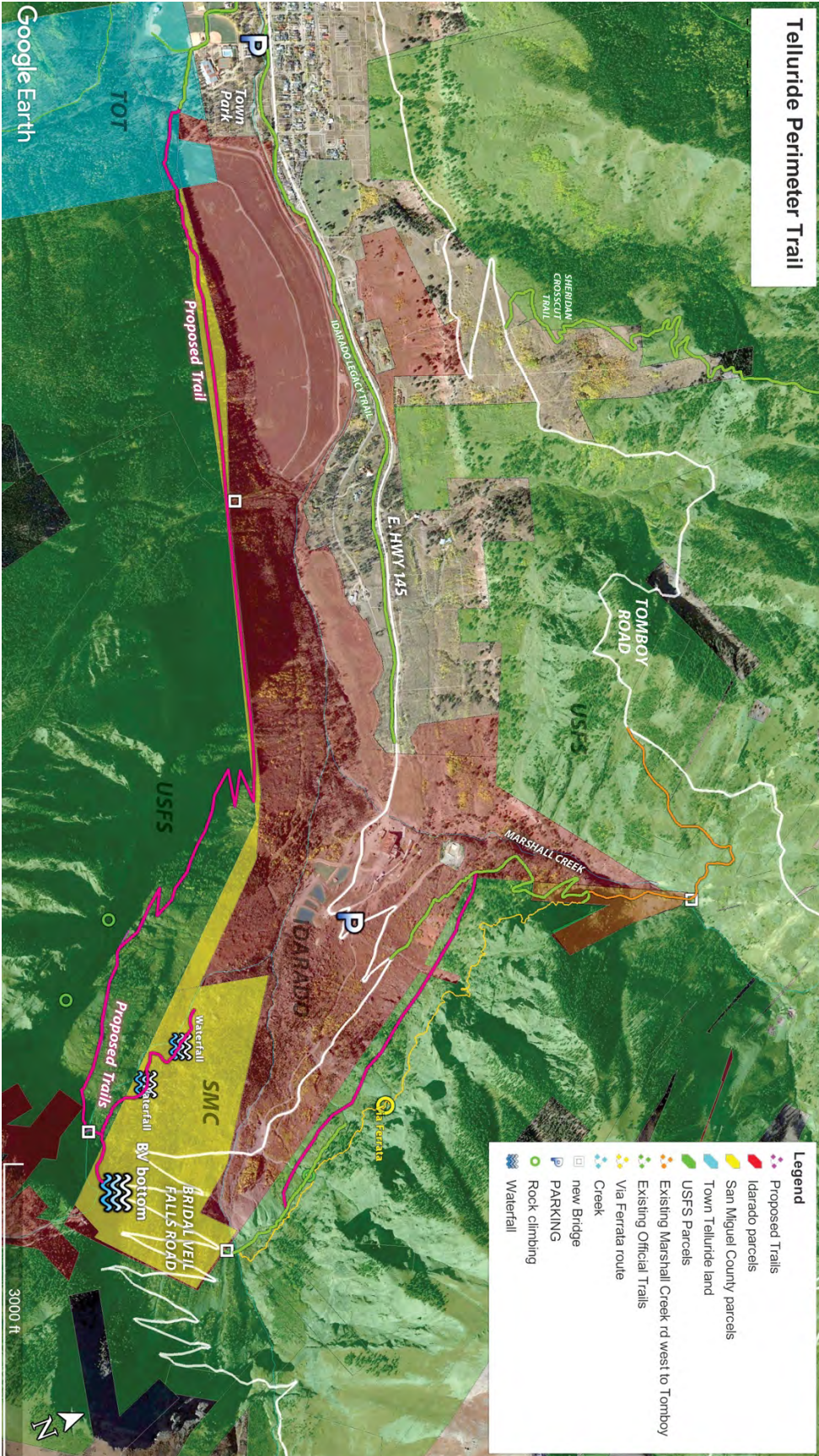
Maintenance & Stewardship

The proposed Perimeter trail would likely be maintained by both the USFS and SMC due to the nature of land ownership where the trail is proposed to go. Maintenance could also be achieved through public trail work days initiated by the Telluride Mountain Club. If the trail is built by professionals at a high level, maintenance should be minimal after early-season clearing. The Telluride Mountain Club could assist in putting together a trail maintenance program to maintain the integrity of the trail year after year.

Conclusion

If the proposed Telluride Perimeter Trail is to be initially approved and to move forward, the next steps would include hiring a consultant to flag the route and bid the project to provide building quotes. The Telluride Mountain Club, SMC and USFS could work in conjunction to achieve necessary funding to provide a buildout. The first real step to any of this is to receive approval from both USFS and SMC to move forward with the next steps.

This trail will likely be a big draw to people visiting the region. This proposed trail segment has received the most positive feedback and comments from the Telluride community. Telluride Mountain Club looks forward to learning the next appropriate steps in this process and working with the USFS and SMC to make this trail a reality.



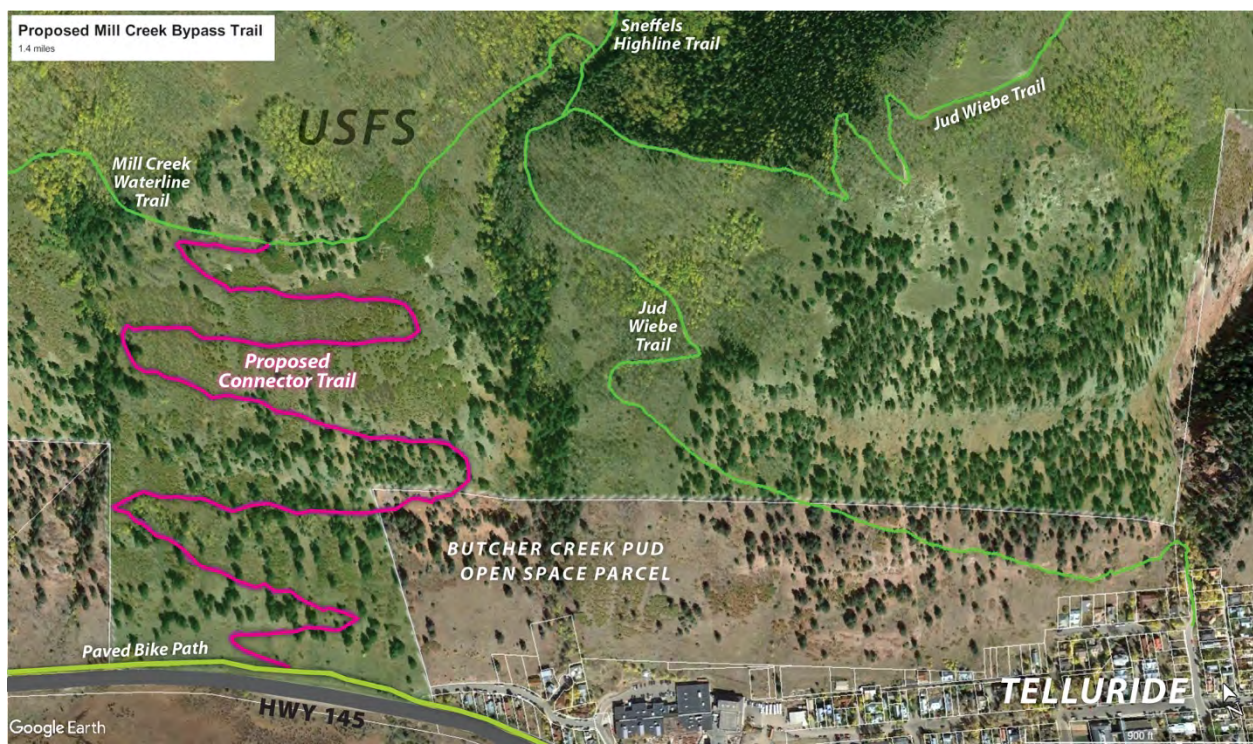
Mill Creek Bypass Trail Proposal

Intro & Overview

The proposed Mill Creek Bypass Trail is being proposed primarily to keep mountain bikers off the Jud Wiebe Trail, and secondarily to create a new section of trail connecting the established Mill Creek Trail to the bike path parallel to HWY 145. This new segment of trail would allow hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers with another option to access Mill Creek, Deep Creek, the Sneffels Highline, and the Jud Wiebe trails. This added segment would create new trail linking and looping options to relieve some of the congestion on the Jud Wiebe Trail and Mill Creek Trail.

This proposed bypass trail would be roughly one and a half miles in length. It would switchback on USFS land, and possibly meander through the Butcher Creek PUD Open Space Parcel, if we could get approval. At this time, there is no trail in this location and the proposed segment would need to be scouted, flagged with GPS, and professionally built. This trail would accommodate intermediate and advanced bikers as well as all abilities of hikers and trail runners. This trail connector would allow for more freedom in routes on the sunny side of the Telluride valley which would help mitigate congestion on popular routes on this same side of the valley.

Trail Map



The proposed Mill Creek Bypass Trail is shown on the map above. Shown in green are the established trails in existence: Jud Wiebe, Mill Creek/Waterline, Sneffels Highline and the paved bike path that runs parallel to HWY 145. The pink line denotes the proposed Mill Creek Bypass Trail. The trail would switchback up/down from the paved bike path to the Mill Creek Trail. The majority of this trail would be constructed on USFS land. If we could get permission or an easement to cross the Butcher Creek PUD Open Space Parcel, we could extend the trail and switchbacks onto this parcel of land. We believe getting an easement is possible as the established Jud Wiebe Trail also runs through this property.

Trail Purpose

The purpose of the proposed Mill Creek Bypass Trail is to first eliminate bike traffic on the west side of the established Jud Wiebe Trail and second to create new options for connectivity with the other established sunny side trails. Though this trail is likely to be primarily utilized by mountain bikers, the trail will also be open to hikers and trail runners. This trail would likely be used quite a bit, especially early in the season when the sunny side of the Telluride valley is the only option for trail use due to snow and elk calving on the ski resort trails. The trail would almost always be used for recreation.

Due to the nature of the landscape, it is likely that this trail would be built as an intermediate and advanced trail. This is due to the steepness of the hillside of the proposed location.

Trail Design & Construction

If preliminary approval allows this trail proposal to move forward, the next step would be to hire a professional to flag and obtain GPS coordinates for the trail. With flags in place, we could bid the scope of the project out to professional trail builders to get an estimate on price. From there, we could contract the builder with help from grants and private donations.

This trail would require special attention to make sure it is built to accommodate the least experienced mountain bikers possible. The land in consideration for this trail is steep, and thus needs to be taken into careful consideration when constructing the trail.

In addition to the actual trail location and building, this project will require a few new signs to be put in place. Ideally, there would be signage at the intersection of the paved bike path and signage at the intersection of the proposed trail and the established Mill Creek Trail.

Maintenance & Stewardship

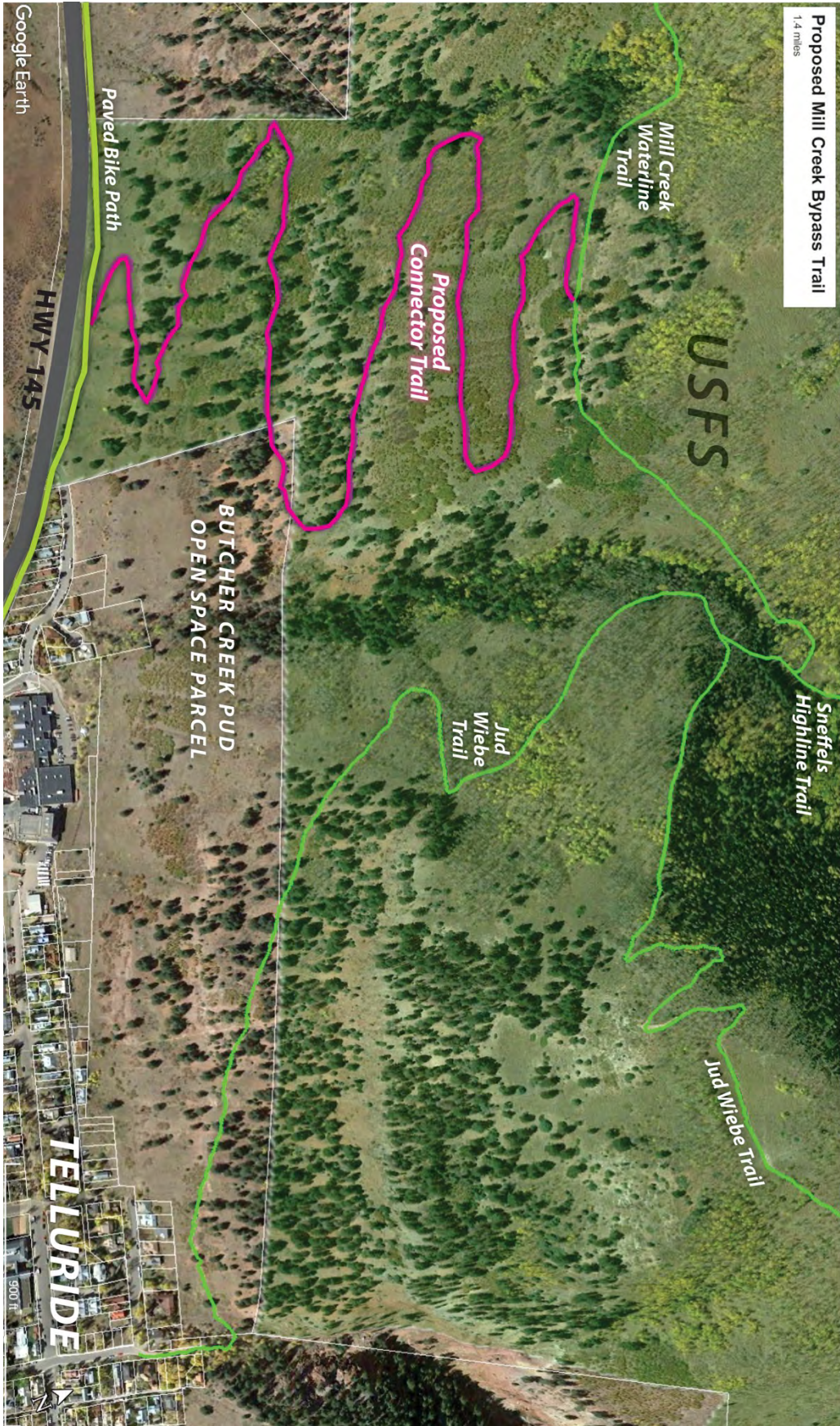
Due to its prominent location on USFS land, this trail would likely be added to the USFS trails inventory list and therefore be maintained by the USFS. The Telluride Mountain Club and other trails advocacy groups (SMBA) would be stewards and help maintain the trail through public trail work days. The trail would likely require minimum annual maintenance due to its short distance and future, professional build.

The Telluride Mountain Club is happy to work with the USFS on putting together a trail management plan if, and when this trail is approved and the next steps come to fruition.

Conclusion

A Mill Creek Bypass Trail will reroute mountain bikers off the west side of the Jud Wiebe trail, create new links to established trails on the sunny side of the Telluride valley, and create new mountain biking options in Telluride. This trail will remove congestion on popular trails on the sunny side of the valley. The next steps include getting approval to flag a trail and get quotes on cost.

The Telluride Mountain Club looks forward to the next steps of this process.



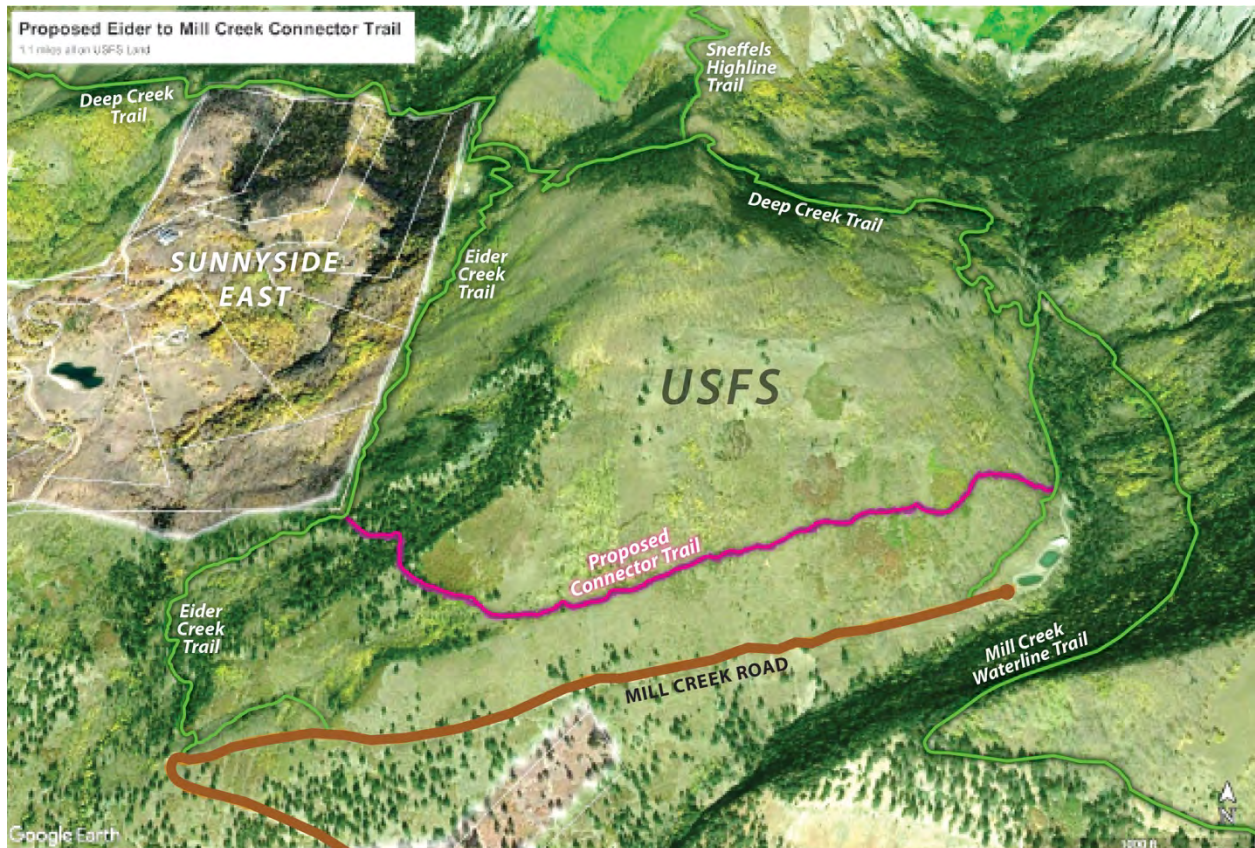
Eider to Mill Creek Connector

Intro & Overview

The proposed Eider to Mill Creek Connector Trail would connect the lower section of the established Eider Creek Trail to the beginning of the west end of the established Mill Creek Trail. This connector would take recreation off the Mill Creek Road. This trail would allow for, and be built to accommodate, multi-use—hiking, trail running and mountain biking—and would allow for more connections and loops via established trails on the sunny side of the Telluride valley. The sunny side trails are used quite a bit in the early season and throughout the summer when other popular regional trails become busy. An additional connector on the sunny side would allow for early season recreation opportunities, thus creating less damage on other trails that are not yet rideable or hike-able early in the season.

This trail connector would be able to accommodate beginners through advanced users for all user groups. This makes the proposed connector highly desirable as there are not many beginner trails that exist in the Telluride region.

Trail Map



The proposed Eider to Mill Creek Connector Trail is denoted on the map above. The entirety of the proposed trail is on USFS land. The proposed connector would link the established Eider Creek Trail to the established Mill Creek/Deep Creek Trail. You can see the established trails in green, and the proposed trail in pink. Additionally, the Mill Creek Road is shown in brown. From the map, you can get a better sense of how this connector will allow for more loops and trail-use options.

This proposed trail connector is just over one mile in length. It is important to note that this length could modify during the flagging process and is only an estimate based off the map below.

Trail Purpose

The purpose of adding a connector between the established Eider Creek Trail and Mill Creek Trail is broad: to create a new trail, to allow for more options to connect existing trails, to take recreation users off the Mill Creek Road, to create an early season trail offering, and to link established trails in new ways. Users of this proposed connector trail will be hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers.

This trail will likely be used quite a bit in the early spring season when the sunny side of the Telluride valley is clear of snow, and before trails on the ski area are open to the public. Additionally, this trail will be used throughout the summer as a new connection between already established trails to create new trail loops. This connector has the ability to move users off of some of the popular trails in Telluride—Bear Creek and Jud Wiebe—to help with congestion.

The landscape where this trail would be built should allow for it to be constructed as a beginner trail for hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers. This is a positive for the Telluride region as there are very few beginner trails in existence.

Trail Design & Construction

If the proposed Eider to Mill Creek Connector Trail is to be preliminarily approved, the next steps would be to flag the trail and obtain GPS coordinates. With this information, the Telluride Mountain Club and USFS could work together to bid the project and get a solid cost estimate. Funding for a trail like this could be obtained through private funding or trails grants.

In addition to the actual building of the trail, there will need to be new signage as part of the project. The likely locations of signage will be at the junction of the proposed connector and the Eider Creek Trail and at the junction of the Mill Creek/Deep Creek Trail and the proposed connector.

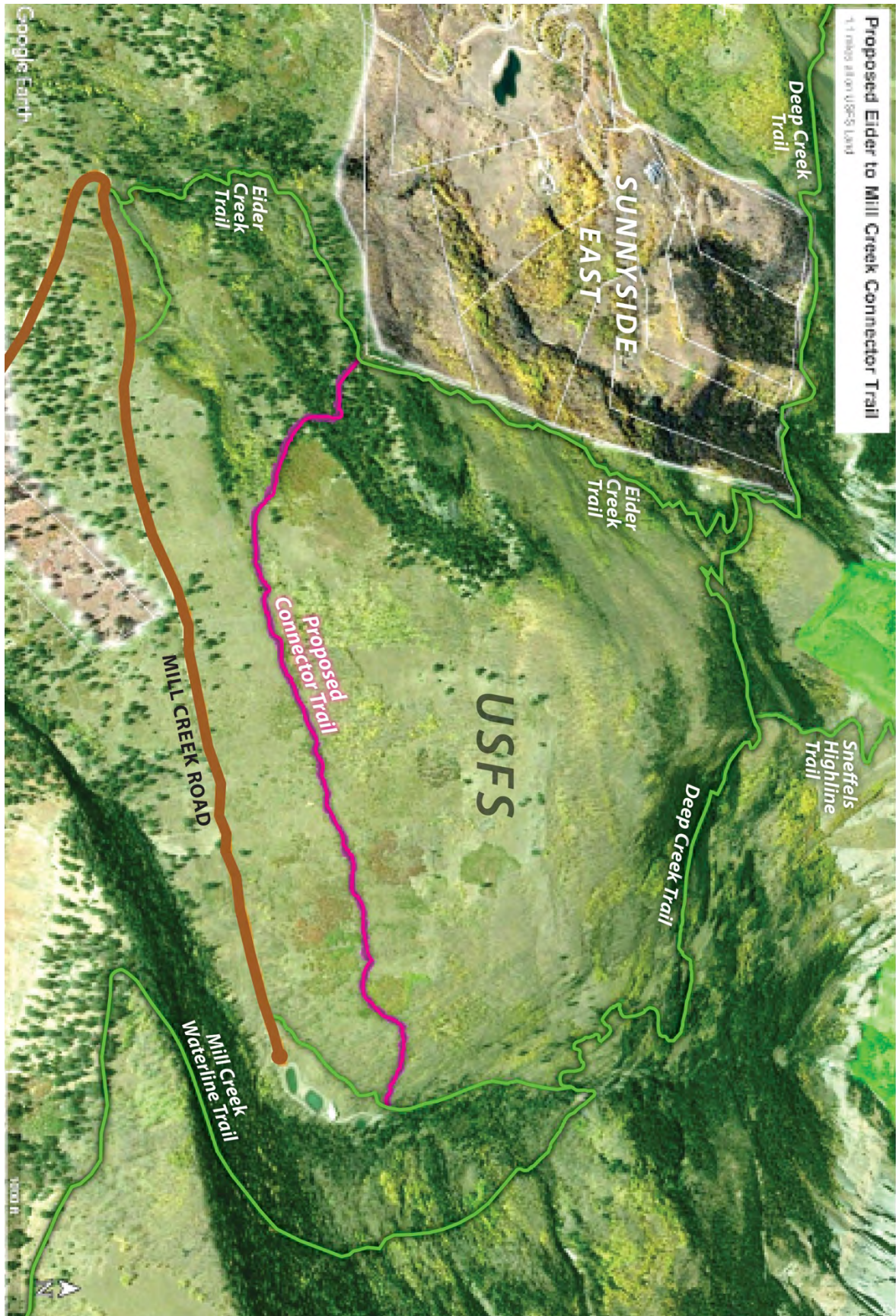
Maintenance & Stewardship

The entirety of the proposed connector is located on USFS land. For this reason, it is likely that this trail will be added to the USFS trail inventory list and thus maintained by the USFS. The Telluride Mountain Club would help assist with trail maintenance through seasonal public trail work days. If built to high standards, it is likely that a trail of this shorter length could be maintained yearly with little maintenance requirements. It would certainly require early season clearing, but not much maintenance would be required after it is established each season.

Conclusion

The proposed connector between the Eider Creek and Mill Creek Trails can create new loops and routes among already existing trails and will accommodate all user levels and groups. The entire scope of the trail is on USFS land which will make the project easier to complete with approval. The next steps include getting preliminary approval so the trail can be flagged and bid to trail contractors for pricing estimates.

The Telluride Mountain Club looks forward to working with you on the next steps in the process.



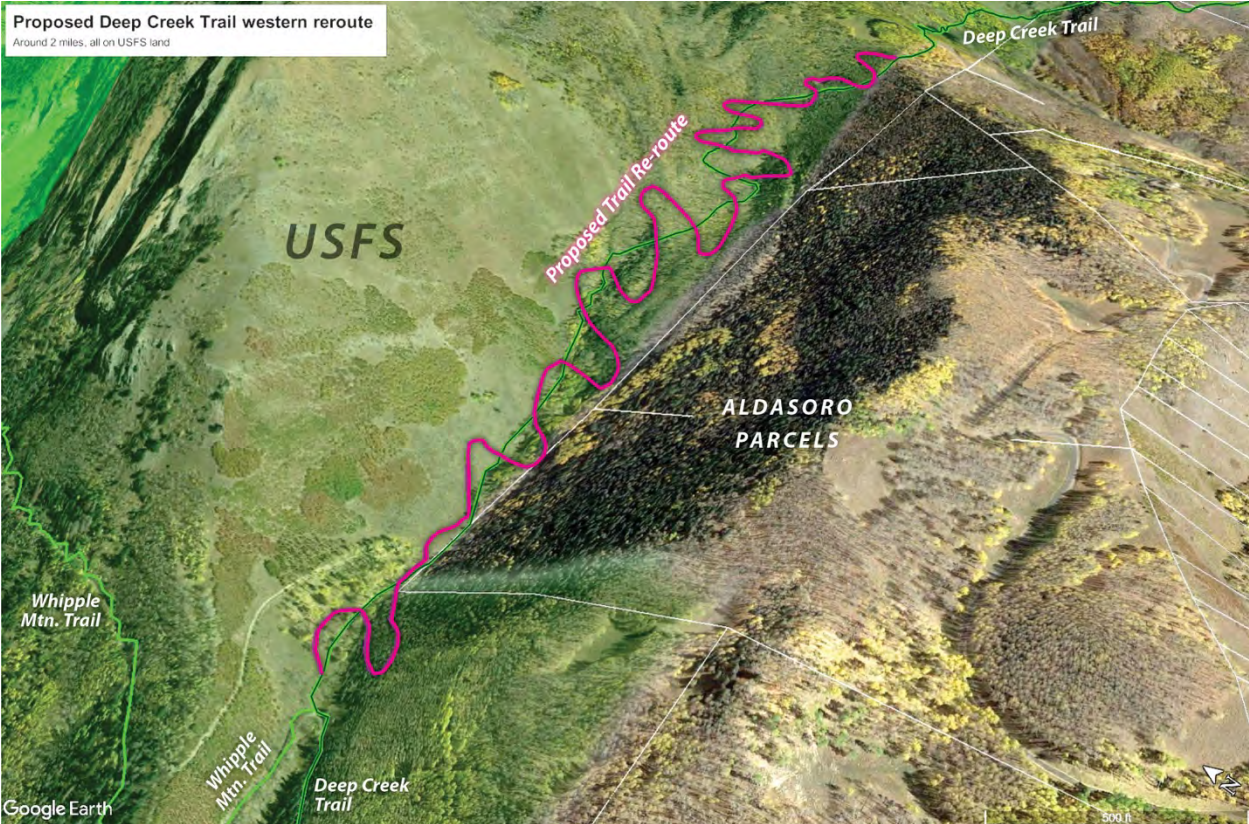
Deep Creek West End Reroute Trail Proposal

Intro & Overview

The Telluride Mountain Club is proposing a reroute of the west end of the Deep Creek Trail to preserve the land surrounding both the current and proposed trail, and to create a trail that better accommodates multi-use and a broader range of ability levels. If a professional and official trail reroute does not occur, more “rogue” trails will be formed (and are already being formed) which is not ideal for the landscape. The proposed reroute would start at the top of the hill on the west end of the established Deep Creek Trail and switchback at a moderate grade down to the established Whipple Mountain/Deep Creek Trail intersection. The scope of the proposed reroute is located entirely on USFS land and is approximately two miles in length.

The current west end of the Deep Creek Trail is built at a grade that only accommodates advanced mountain bikers, and is not sustainable for spring runoff. A rogue trail is already being established which is being casually constructed at a grade that also is not user friendly. This rogue trail will end up being another trail that isn’t suitable for multi-use. In order to sustainably utilize the west end of the Deep Creek Trail, the trail needs to be professionally and thoughtfully rerouted.

Trail Map



The current Deep Creek Trail and proposed reroute are shown on the map above. The green line shows the established trail, while the pink line shows the proposed reroute. As you can see, the entire reroute is proposed to occur on USFS land and will not involve any other land owners.

The proposed reroute will be approximately two miles in length, though it is impossible to know the exact length of this reroute without flagging and gaining accurate GPS on the trail. If this trail is to be preliminarily approved, flagging and GPS would be the next logical steps in the process.

Trail Purpose

The proposed reroute of the west end of the Deep Creek Trail has a multitude of future uses and purposes. The trail is currently being used by all types of recreational users: hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers and horseback riders. However, the current grade on the west end of the trail does not accommodate mountain bikers in a sustainable, rideable way. All user groups will benefit from a that is rerouted to meet moderate grades, built to correctly drain water, and switchback to multi-use standards.

This trail is currently being used mainly by advanced recreators. If the reroute takes place and is successful, the trail will be able to accommodate intermediate recreators, which will spread out intermediate recreators in the Telluride region. Additionally, the Deep Creek Trail could be used in conjunction with other sunny side trails to create longer loops and connections of trails. It is important that the trail be professionally constructed to match the user base and sustain longevity into the future.

Trail Design & Construction

The proposed reroute of the west end of the Deep Creek Trail needs to be professionally flagged and built to a high standard that would accommodate all user groups: hiking, trail running, mountain biking and horseback riders. The main purpose of a reroute would be to establish proper switchbacks and grades for the trail to be usable by more ability levels of the current user groups.

The Telluride Mountain Club would work with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to bid the project and find the correct builders. Because this is an established trail in the USFS inventory, it is not likely that there would need to be any additional signage with a reroute of the trail.

Maintenance & Stewardship

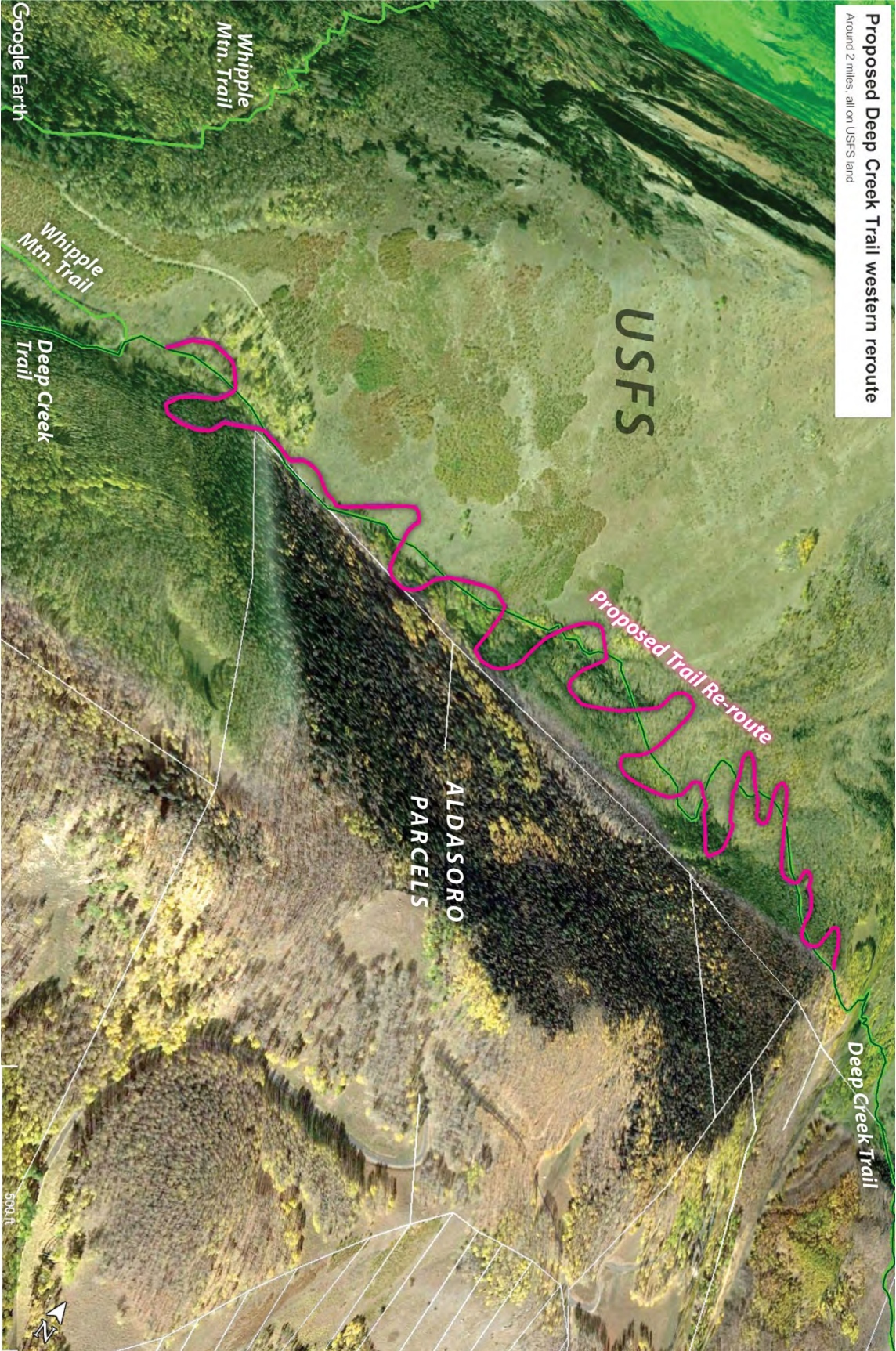
The Deep Creek Trail is currently set up to be maintained by the USFS. Maintenance could also be achieved through public trail work days initiated by the Telluride Mountain Club if/when necessary. If the trail is built at a high level, only seasonal maintenance should be needed.

If the trail is to be approved, next steps would include hiring a consultant to flag the route and provide a quote. The Telluride Mountain Club and USFS could work in conjunction to achieve necessary funding to provide a professional buildout. Funding for this project can come from private donations, grants or other forms, however trail approval is the first necessary step.

Conclusion

A reroute on the west end of the existing Deep Creek Trail will allow for multiple user groups to enjoy a sophisticated trail. Additionally, it will open recreation to more ability levels of current trail user groups. The entire scope of the proposed project is located on USFS land which should allow for simple execution once approved. Next steps including initial approval, flagging of the route, bidding the project, and fundraising.

The Telluride Mountain Club looks forward to learning the next appropriate steps in the approval process.



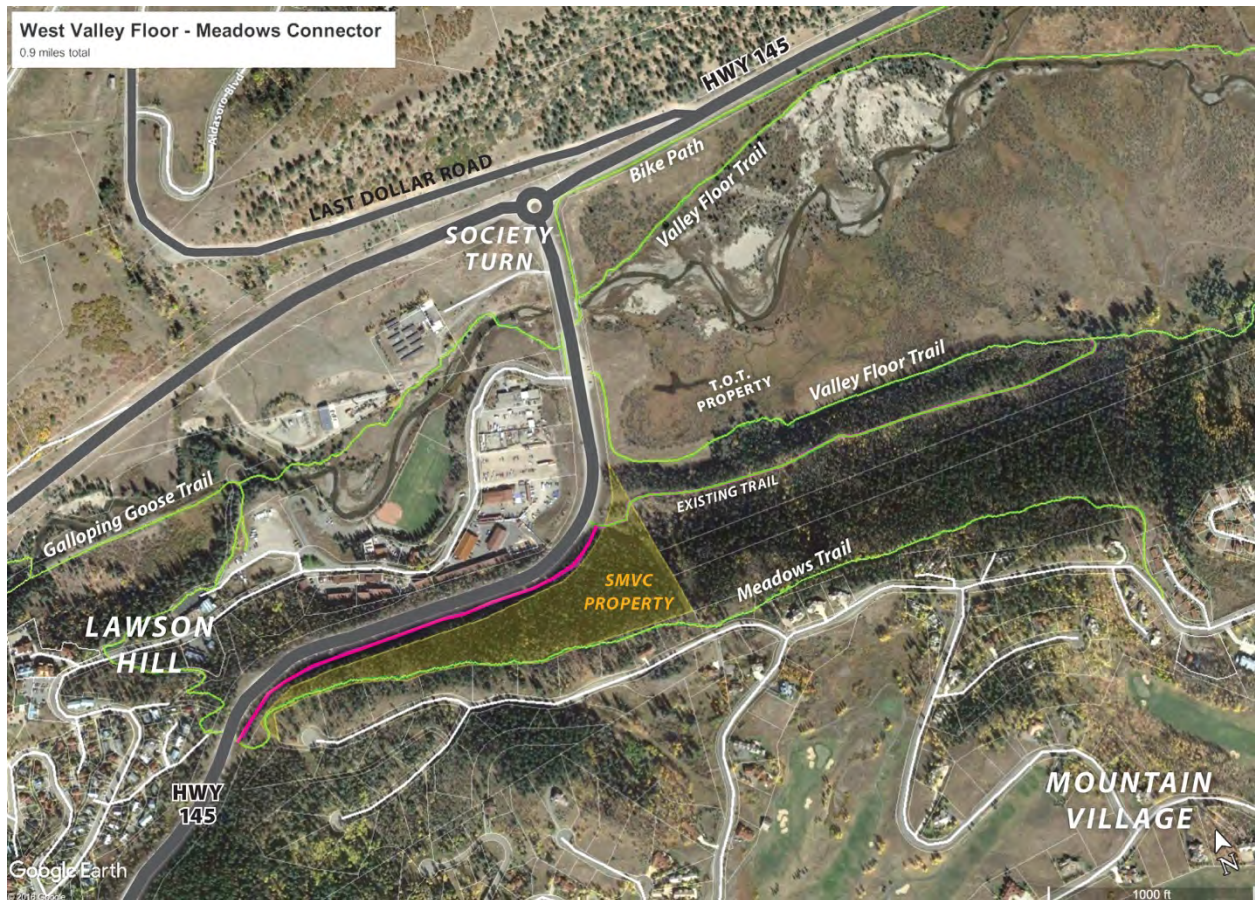
West Valley Floor Meadows Connector

Intro & Overview

The Telluride Mountain Club is proposing a new connector trail on the west end of the Telluride Valley Floor. The trail would connect the established Meadows Trail with the west end of the Telluride Valley Floor Trail. This trail connector was brought up as a suggested addition to Telluride’s trail inventory to eliminate the need for recreationalists to cross HWY 145 at the current Meadows and Lawson Hill Trail intersection. HWY 145 is a busy road, especially during the summer and the crossing can be very intimidating by any level of user, especially tourists.

The proposed connector would be constructed near HWY 145 between the highway and San Miguel Valley Corp land. This new section would be constructed along the bench (old railroad grade) that currently exists. This new section of trail would connect with the existing trail on the Town of Telluride property that links to the Valley Floor trail. The total length of the proposal is less than one mile of trail.

Trail Map



The proposed West Valley Floor Meadows Connector is shown on the map above. The established Meadows Trail, Valley Floor Trails and Bike Path are shown in green while the proposed new connector is shown in pink. Looking from west to east, you can see the proposed connector lies near HWY 145 and links to an established trail that then links to the Valley Floor via Town of Telluride property.

The entire scope of the new proposal is 0.4 miles in length. The Telluride Mountain Club believes this piece of land is owned by CDOT, but further investigation will be required.

Trail Purpose

The proposed West Valley Floor Meadows Connector trail has many uses. The new connector will be used by hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers to connect already established trails in the region and eliminate a busy highway crossing. Additionally, this connector can be used by commuters to connect Telluride with Mountain Village and Lawson Hill.

The Telluride Mountain Club was first exposed to this proposed trail idea through the Regional Trails Survey. Many respondents expressed concern about having recreationalists having to cross HWY 145 to link the established Meadows Trail with the trail through Lawson Hill. Many users of these trails are beginners, intermediates and visitors of Telluride. Having these users cross a busy highway is not ideal. The proposed connector would eliminate the need for anyone to have to cross the highway.

The trail would be built in line with the challenge of the Meadows Trail which is a beginner trail. This would accommodate the users that are currently recreating on and commuting via the Meadows Trail.

Trail Design & Construction

The proposed West Valley Floor Meadows Connector needs to be professionally flagged and built to a high standard that would accommodate all user groups: hiking, trail running, and mountain biking at a beginner level. The main purpose of the connector will be for recreation, but we envision commuters using the trail as well.

If approval is gained, the next steps would include getting the route flagged and see how much trail construction is needed. There is a faint trail on Town of Telluride land already. Once the route is flagged, the project could be bid to acquire cost estimates. With these cost estimates, the Telluride Mountain Club would work in conjunction with the various land owners and interested parties to raise funds. Additionally, if the RTA tax is passed regionally, funds could be applied for to help offset the build costs of this trail as it will be used by commuters into the future.

Additional signage would likely be needed at the Meadows Trail, West Valley Floor Meadows Connector intersection and the Valley Floor Trail, West Valley Floor Meadows Connector intersection.

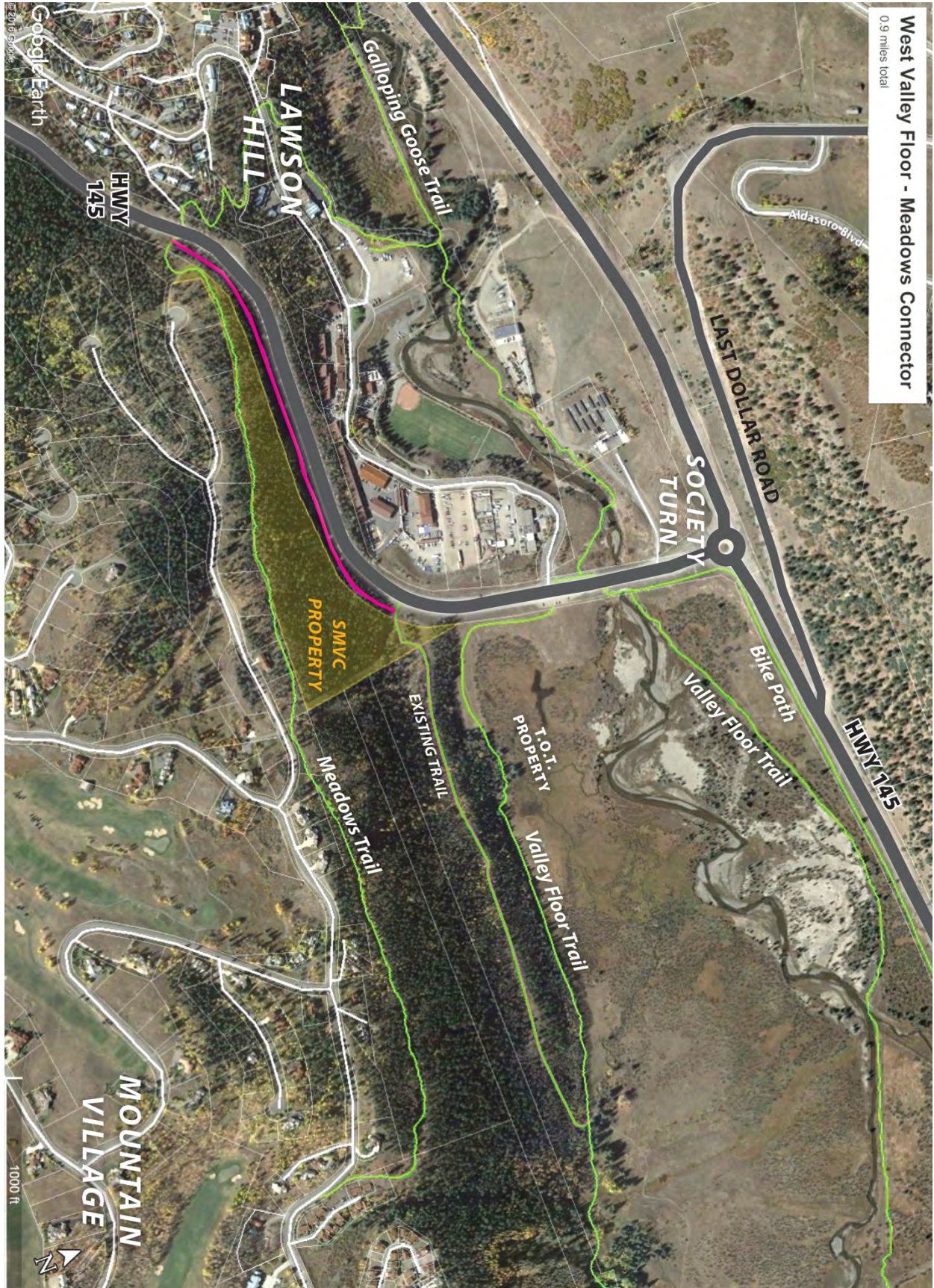
Maintenance & Stewardship

If the West Valley Floor Meadows Connector is to be approved and built, a maintenance plan will need to be created based on land ownership. Maintenance can also be achieved through public trail work days initiated by the Telluride Mountain Club if, and when necessary. If the trail is built at a high level, only seasonal maintenance should be required.

Conclusion

A new West Valley Floor Meadows Connector Trail will eliminate the need for hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers to cross HWY 145 at the Meadows Trail and Lawson Hill intersection. The proposed connector will accommodate all user groups starting at a beginner level. The trail will allow for new links and loops of existing trails by recreationalists and be utilized by commuters to link Mountain Village to Lawson and the Town of Telluride. Next steps include getting preliminary approval and flagging the route.

The Telluride Mountain Club looks forward to learning the next appropriate steps in the approval process.



West Valley Floor - Meadows Connector
 0.9 miles total

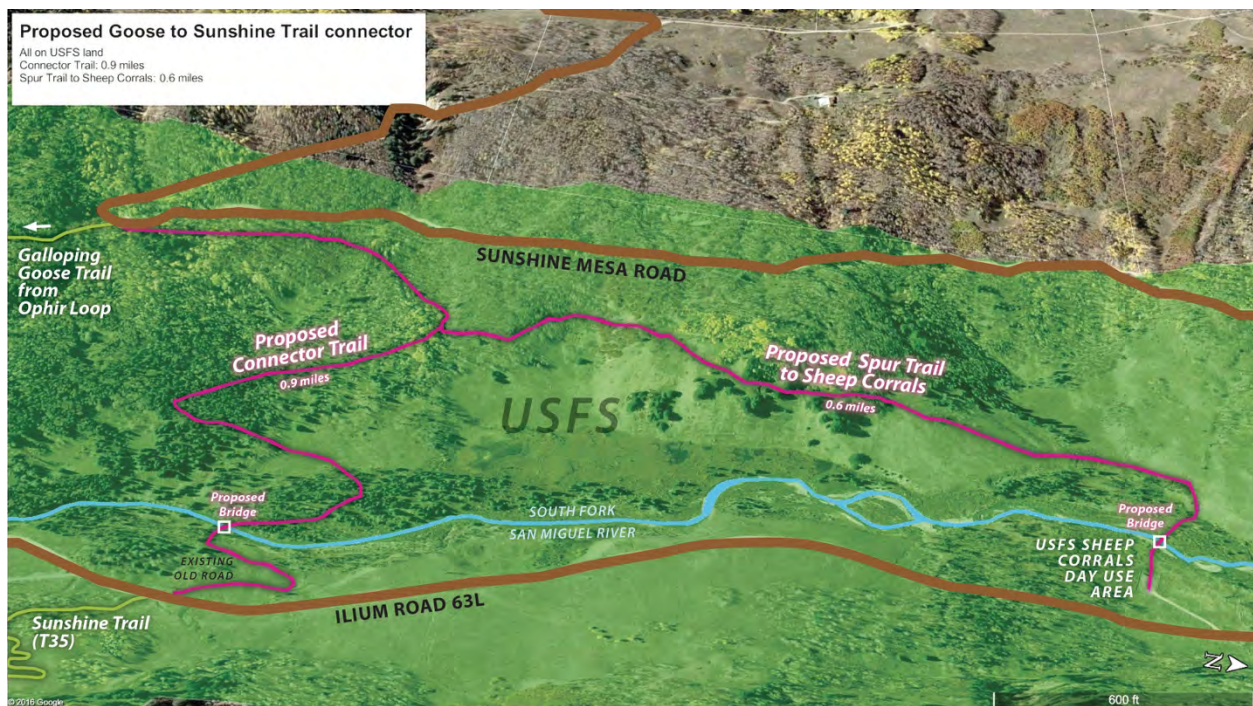
Galloping Goose to Sunshine Trail Connector

Intro & Overview

The Telluride Mountain Club is proposing a new connector trail in the Ilium Valley that would link the popular Galloping Goose Trail to the growingly popular Sunshine Trail (T35). It would also include a spur trail connecting this new section to the Sheep Corrals. This connector system would get hikers, bikers, and trail runners off the narrow and steep Sunshine Mesa Road and busy Ilium Road 63L, and allow for new connections and loops with existing trails. The entire scope of this proposal is on USFS land and could utilize existing road cuts where possible.

The main connector linking the Sunshine Trail to the Galloping Goose trail would be approximately 0.9 miles in length, while the spur trail to the Sheep Corrals would be around 0.6 miles. To fully execute this trail connector system, two bridges will be required to be built and put in place so user groups can cross the South Fork River.

Trail Map



The proposed Galloping Goose to Sunshine Trail Connector is shown in pink on the map above. You can see that the main proposed trail connector would establish a connection from the Sunshine Trail (T35) to the fork of the Galloping Goose Trail and Sunshine Mesa Road. The main proposed connector is roughly 0.9 miles. Additionally, there is a spur section that would come off this trail and connect to the Sheep Corrals which is 0.6 miles. The entire scope of the proposed connector lies on USFS land.

In addition to actual trail construction, two bridges would need to be built to allow users the ability to cross the South Fork River. The first would be along the main proposed connector near where the Sunshine Trail meets the Ilium Road and the second bridge would be located near the Sheep Corrals.

Trail Purpose

The proposed Galloping Goose to Sunshine Trail Connector would accommodate hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers. The proposed trail would allow recreationalists the ability to link already existing trails in new ways. The connector and spur would work together to eliminate recreation from the Sunshine Mesa Road and Ilium Road 63L between the Sunshine Trail and the Sheep Corrals. This is important as the Sunshine Mesa Road and Ilium Road 63L become more popular with vehicular traffic. We can also imagine that this trail will be used by homeowners in the Ames and Ilium Valleys as a commuter trail from time to time. Last, if the Sheep Corrals day use area is ever reopened for camping, which could happen in the near future due to an increase of tourism to the Telluride Valley, the proposed trail connectors would allow for easier trail navigation for campers.

These trail connectors would be built to accommodate beginner and intermediate mountain bikers and all abilities of hikers and trail runners. The Telluride region doesn't currently have a lot of beginner and intermediate trail options and this connector system has the ability to allow for more beginner options in the Telluride region. Everyone from kids to adults will benefit from this proposed trail.

Trail Design & Construction

Once initial approval is granted, the proposed Galloping Goose to Sunshine Trail Connector needs to be professionally flagged. The build would need to be at a high standard that would accommodate all user groups: hiking, trail running, and mountain biking starting at a beginner level. The main purpose of the connector and spur will be for recreation, but commuters and campers could likely use the trails as well.

Once GPS coordinates are gained, we could better see what type of trail construction is needed. There are some old roads cuts that could be utilized where possible to help lower the cost of trail building. Additionally, cost estimates would need to be produced for the two bridges that cross the South Fork River. The Telluride Mountain Club is interested in learning more about the standards that are in place for bridges of this type.

With cost estimates in place, the Telluride Mountain Club would work in conjunction with the USFS to raise funds for this trail connector system. Funding could be achieved through grants or private funding. Additionally, if the RTA tax is passed regionally, funds could be applied for to help offset the build costs of this trail as it can accommodate commuters from the Ames and

Ilium Valleys. Last, new signage would likely be needed at the four junctions/intersections of the proposed trail connectors.

Maintenance & Stewardship

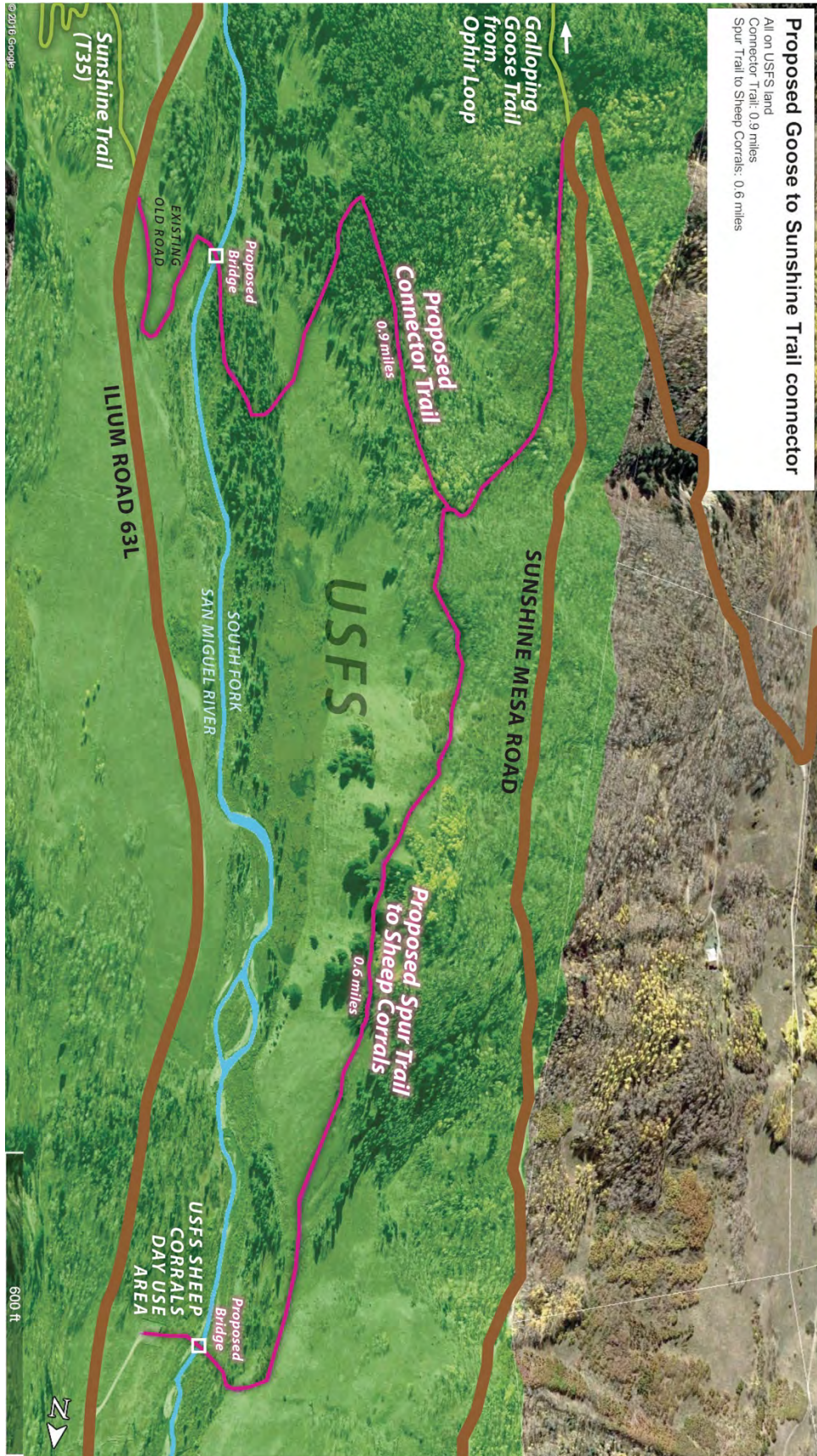
If the Galloping Goose to Sunshine Trail Connector is to be approved and built, the connectors would likely be added to the USFS trail inventory. For this reason, the USFS would be responsible for trail maintenance. The Telluride Mountain Club could also help support trail maintenance through public trail work days organized and initiated by the club. If the trail is built at a high level, only seasonal maintenance should be needed.

Conclusion

A new Galloping Goose to Sunshine Trail Connector will take recreators off the Sunshine Mesa Road and off a portion of Ilium Road 63L, create new loops with existing trails, offer a new beginner mountain bike option in the Telluride region, and possibly act as a commuter trail for homeowners in the Ames and Ilium Valleys. If camping is ever reinstated in the Sheep Corrals, these connectors will also allow for incredible trail access from the campground. In fact, these connectors have the ability to increase the value of this particular campground in the Telluride region.

Next steps include getting preliminary approval, initiation of route flagging, and begging to understand what kind of bridges need to be built to cross the South Fork River. Once these pieces are in place, a full cost estimate can be obtained.

The Telluride Mountain Club looks forward to learning the next appropriate steps in the approval process.



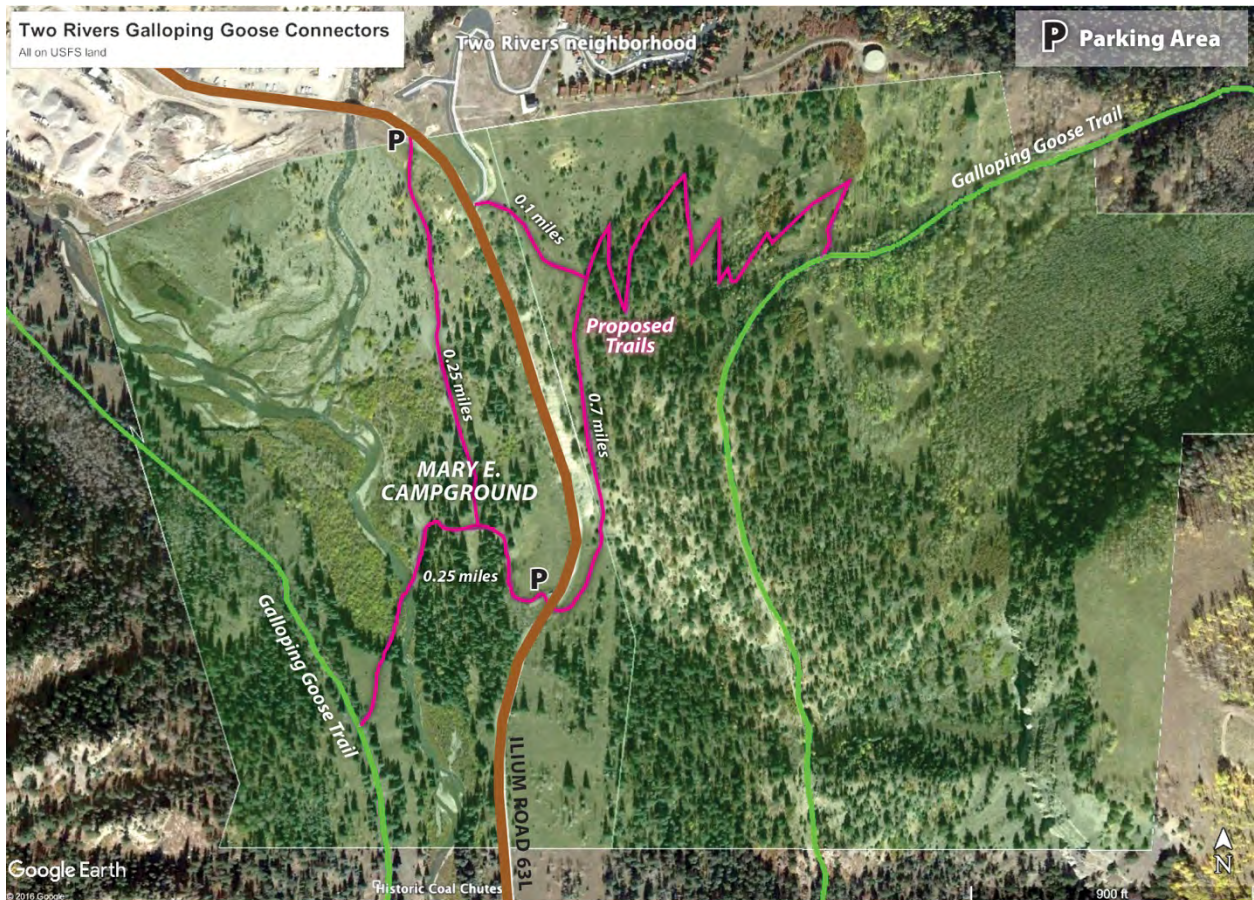
Two Rivers Galloping Goose Connector Trail

Intro & Overview

The proposed Two Rivers Galloping Goose Connector Trails would link the established Galloping Goose Trail near Lawson Hill, the Two Rivers Neighborhood, County Road 63L, the Mary E Campground, and the Galloping Goose Trail that meanders along the west side of the South Fork of the San Miguel River. The entire scope of the proposed connector trail system is located within United States Forest Service land. Currently, there is no trail in this proposed area. The connector trails would require a professional build from start to finish.

These proposed connector trails will be built as beginner to intermediate multi-use trails to accommodate hikers, trail runners, and mountain bikers. These links have the ability to act as recreational trails, in addition to commuter trails connecting the Ilium Valley to Telluride via the Galloping Goose, Lawson Hill and the Telluride Valley Floor.

Trail Map



The proposed Two Rivers Galloping Goose Connector Trails are marked on the map above. The green lines show the existing Galloping Goose Trail while the pink lines represent the proposed trail segments. The Two Rivers Galloping Goose Connector Trails will connect the existing Galloping Goose Trails to one another via the Mary E Ilium Campground. Additionally, these trails will connect to the Two Rivers Neighborhood and the Ilium Valley parking pullout.

The entire scope of this proposal is on USFS land which is represented with a green shaded background. The switchbacks from the existing Galloping Goose Trail are rough estimates, but professional flagging of the route will be needed to determine exactly where the trail will lie. Lengths of the proposed connectors are also shown on the map above. In total, this project would require approximately 1.3 new miles of trail.

Trail Purpose

The proposed Two Rivers Galloping Goose Connector Trails have a multitude of uses and purposes. The trails will be used by recreational users as a beginner to intermediate multi-use trail connector. These new connector pieces will allow for new loops of the established Galloping Goose Trail and as a new section for other established regional hikes and mountain bike rides. Additionally, it will alleviate some of the congestion off the existing Galloping Goose Trail section which is currently the only route up and down into the Ilium Valley.

The proposed trail will also act as a commuter trail between the Ilium Valley, Lawson Hill, Town of Telluride and Town of Mountain Village. One trailhead is near the Two Rivers neighborhood for ease of access. Residents, business owners and renters in Ilium valley can also use the trail as a means of transportation. Last, if the Mary E Ilium Campground is ever reopened for camping, these proposed trail connectors will allow for campers to have easy access to trails and a way to get to Telluride without driving.

The trail will ideally be built to accommodate beginner and intermediate users. This will allow the trail to be used by a larger user group. If it is built too difficult, the purpose of the trail would change. It's important that the trail be professionally constructed to match the beginner to intermediate user base.

Trail Design & Construction

The proposed trail alignment would need to be professionally flagged on the ground for review by the USFS. Once the alignment is approved, bids will be solicited from experienced trail contractors. The trail would be built to accommodate both hikers and mountain bikers in the beginner to intermediate levels.

In addition to a proper buildout of the trail, there would be one bridge necessary for users to cross the South Fork River near the Galloping Goose section on the west side of the river.

In conjunction with the new trail connectors, new signage would be needed at the following locations:

- At the parking pullout along County Road 63L
- At the intersection in the Mary E Campground
- At the intersection with both Galloping Goose Trails
- At the fork in the new section of proposed trail on the east side of County Road 63L

Maintenance & Stewardship

The proposed Two Rivers Galloping Goose Connector Trails would be added to the USFS trails inventory and likely be maintained by the USFS office. Maintenance could also be achieved through public trail work days initiated by the Telluride Mountain Club if necessary. The trail would likely require a small amount of annual maintenance due to its short overall distance.

Conclusion

The Telluride Mountain Club and USFS will need work together to achieve necessary funding to provide a professional buildout. Additionally, if the RTA tax is approved locally, the Telluride Mountain Club could apply for funds from the RTA to build this trail as a commuter trail. We can also seek out grants locally, regionally and statewide. The first real step is to receive initial approval and get the trail segments flagged.

This new beginner to intermediate trail connector system will allow for multiple user groups to both commute and recreate in an already established zone near Telluride where a current trail does not exist. All the land for the proposed trail connectors resides on USFS land, which allows for a simple execution once approved. If the trail is to be approved and to move forward, next steps would include hiring a consultant to flag the route and provide a quote.

The Telluride Mountain Club looks forward to learning the next appropriate steps in this process.

