

SPEB Wildcat Canyon Field Meeting:

Date: July 17th, 2019

Day: Wednesday

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Matukat (NFSR 211) Road and Corral Creek Road Junction (See Map). We will meet at the gate at the closed Corral Creek Road at 10:00 am. Once everyone arrives, we will carpool down the road in as few vehicles as possible. Please bring high-clearance, 4WD vehicles where possible, or carpool from another location with someone else. Be prepared for a full day in the sun and bring water and lunch.

Directions:

From Denver area – Take U.S. Highway 285 South to County Road 126 towards Deckers. Just before you head NE along County Road 126 to Deckers, turn right on NFSR 211 (Matukat Road). Drive south on the Matukat road for approximately 15 miles until you get to the Corral Creek Road (about 3.75 miles past the Goose Creek Campground). The large pullout at the gate for the Corral Creek Road is on the left (you will see a large pullout area just about a mile south of the turnoff for the Goose Creek Trailhead).

From Woodland Park – Take State Highway 67 north out of Woodland Park and turn left on County Road 126 past Deckers. Turn left on NFSR 211 (Matukat Road). Drive south on the Matukat road for 15 miles until you get to the Corral Creek Road (about 3¾ miles past the Goose Creek Campground). The large pullout at the gate for the Corral Creek Road is on the left (you will see a large pullout area just about a mile south of the turnoff for the Goose Creek Trailhead).

From Lake George – Drive north on County Road 77 and turn right on NFSR 211 (Matukat Road). Drive north on the Matukat Road for approximately 9.5 miles until you get to the Corral Creek Road on the right, 2.5 miles past the Corral Creek crossing.

Meeting Agenda:

- Briefly discuss the Decision Notices and requirements under the Hayman Roads EA.
- Discuss Segment C Outstandingly Remarkable Values
 - Scenery
 - Geology
 - Fisheries
 - Wildlife
- Designation by the CPW as a Wild Trout Water (naturally reproducing fishery with little to no stocking).
 - Discuss pre- and post-Hayman Fire status of the population.
- Determined eligible as scenic under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1963 and is required to be managed as protected under the Act.
- Discuss resource concerns in the area (T&E species, water quality, etc.).
- Tour of water crossings and the post and cable that would be removed under contract (we will not cross the River).
- Discussion of barriers needed of improvement within the area (locations where traffic is entering the canyon).

If there is any additional questions, not listed above, regarding the application of SPEB grant funding, feel free to bring that up at the meeting as well.

Attachment A
South Platte Enhancement Board Grant Application

Part A – CONTACT AND GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION
(to be completed for all projects)

Name of Project: Wildcat Canyon Management Project Date: June 12, 2019
(Please limit the project name to five words or less)

Project Type (check all that apply):
 Fisheries Wildlife Scenic Trails
 Recreation Historic Geologic Vegetation Management
 Other (please describe) Resource Protection

Please check all river segments in which the project will occur and/or affect (see Table 1 and Figure 1 of Guidelines and Instructions):
 A B C D E H

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name and Address of Applicant and Primary Contact
Person(s)
South Platte Ranger District, Brian Banks, District
Ranger, 30403 Kings Valley Dr., Suite 2-115, Conifer, CO
80433
Phone: 303-275-5610 Fax: 303-275-5642 Email: brian.banks@usda.gov

Name and Address of Partner(s) and Partner's Primary Contact
Person(s):
South Park Ranger District, Josh Voorhis, District
Ranger, P.O. Box 219, Hwy 285, Fairplay, CO 80440
Phone: 719-836-2031 Fax: 719-836-3875 Email: josh.voorhis@usda.gov

Attach a brief description of the organization requesting the grant including examples of successfully completing similar projects and references.

Applicant Federal Employer ID Number (FEIN): Can supply upon award of grant request.

Signature of Authorized Agent:
I, _____, hereby affirm that I am the authorized agent for _____, which is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization or government entity and is applying for the grant as described herein, and that I am legally authorized on behalf of _____ to apply as its agent for this SOUTH PLATTE ENHANCEMENT BOARD Grant.

Signature of Authorized Agent

GRANT REQUEST**Amount Requested (round figure to nearest \$100):**

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Total Project Cost | \$ 31,800 |
| Grant Request | \$ 19,500 |
| Matching Funds | \$ 12,300 |

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF GRANT REQUEST: Limit the description of the grant request to the space below or a maximum of 150 words.

With this 2019 grant proposal, the USDA Forest Service is requesting funds to secure a contract for installing fencing designed to help manage motorized recreation on National Forest System Roads around the Wildcat Canyon area of the South Platte River (Segment C). Materials including steel pipe and concrete were purchased with a previous SPEB grant in 2017. To complete the project the Forest will use in-house resources to remove existing infrastructure along the river, repair erosion damage on administrative roads, and rehabilitate non-system routes. However, the Forest lacks in-house equipment and personnel to cement and weld new steel fencing at the end of public system roads, so we will need to contract that part of the work to a skilled professional.

This project tiers to the 2004 Hayman Fire Roads Management Project Decision Notices and 2019 Supplemental Information Report. Wildcat Canyon recreation management is also supported by Park County Commissioners, as stated in their April 16, 2019 Press Release. The completed project will continue providing non-motorized access to the river, while protecting the scenic, geologic, wildlife, and fisheries ORVs that characterize South Platte River Segment C.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please include two photographs of the existing site if applicable. If possible, digital photographs should be copied and included in the application and included in the electronic copy. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PHOTOS AFTER APPENDIX D.

PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION (as applicable)

City/District: South Platte and South Park Ranger Districts, Pike National Forest

Section/Township/Range: T 11 S, R 71 W, Sec. 4, 9, 16

LAND OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT

Name of Landowner(s): US Government, Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service

Attach completed landowner/manager approval forms (Attachment C) for activities to be performed on land not owned by the grant applicant:

Enclosed Will forward, if requested Not yet available (Explain)

Part B – DETAILED PROJECT NARRATIVE (to be completed for all projects)

All projects for which grants are requested must comply with SPEB Guidelines and demonstrate that the project enhances, preserves, conserves, restores, or improves one or more of the resource values within the Eligible Area. Several questions and discussion points are provided below to aid in your discussion. Please limit your response to this section to a maximum of three pages.

Enhancement, Restoration, or Conservation of Resource Values

- **Fishery Resources:** The proposed project is designed to alleviate the source of sediment and riverbed disturbance that is currently degrading fish habitat in Wildcat Canyon.
- **Recreation:** The nature of public recreation in Wildcat Canyon will be improved for non-motorized visitors seeking a backcountry river experience. The project will help local authorities enforce the existing travel management plan, and will not decrease the existing legal routes for motorized recreation.
- **Wildlife:** The proposed project is designed to alleviate the source of wildlife disturbance and habitat loss that is currently affecting Preble's meadow jumping mouse, Pawnee montane skipper, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and numerous other wildlife species.
- **Historic Resources:** The focus of this proposal is fisheries, wildlife, geologic, and scenic resources. Historic resources will not be affected.
- **Other Resources:** Geologic and scenic resources will benefit from implementation of the proposed project, because the local sensitive soils will be conserved, fluvial geomorphology of the river will be restored, and overall scenic quality of Wildcat Canyon will improve.

Planning and Design

The Forest Service appropriated budget for road and recreation management is insufficient to cover the resource needs in Wildcat Canyon. Nevertheless, land managers must meet goals and standards of the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands Land Management Plan, which includes Forest Plan Amendment 31 requiring protection of river segments eligible for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Funding is needed now to address unauthorized motor vehicle use in Wildcat Canyon before the situation becomes completely unmanageable and the ORVs of Segment C are irretrievably compromised. Once the grant is secured, Forest Service will obtain bids from contractors to install vehicle barriers with the previously purchased materials. The contract will be executed to the extent that funding allows. On-site work will commence in 2020 as weather conditions allow. Work will employ best management practices to minimize soil disturbance and ensure longevity of installed structures. Forest Service will verbally or in writing provide monthly progress reports to the board, and present a formal summary of the completed work. Long-term success of the project will also depend on regular patrols to ensure compliance with authorized use.

Partnerships (Optional)

Partners include Colorado Parks and Wildlife enforcement and Wild Connections implementation. Wild Connections is prepared to provide in-kind match of \$7,500 in volunteer labor and logistics. Local CPW officers provide additional enforcement of travel management regulations and support resource protection and public safety.

Long-term Maintenance

The vehicle barriers will be constructed of steel pipe and concrete, so long-term maintenance is expected to be minimal.

Connectivity

This project is designed to improve aquatic and riparian habitat connectivity between Cheesman Reservoir and Elevenmile Dam, and improve terrestrial habitat connectivity between the Wildcat Canyon area and the Tarryall Mountains.

Part C – BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

| Source of Funds | Date | Request | Cash Match | In-kind Match | Totals |
|------------------|--------|---------|------------|---------------|--------|
| SP | 5-2020 | 19,500 | | | 19,500 |
| S Forest Service | 5-2020 | | | 4,800 | 4,800 |
| Wild onnections | 5-2020 | | | 4,800 | 7,500 |
| Total | | 19,500 | | 12,300 | 31,800 |

Uses of Funds

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--|--------|--------|
| Contractor for steel barrier installation | 5-2020 | 19,500 | | 12,300 | 31,800 |
| Totals | | 19,500 | | 12,300 | 31,800 |

Part D – LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Please see attached letter of support from Wild Connections and statement from Park County Commissioners.

Part E – EXPERIENCE

The Forest Service South Platte Ranger District has extensive experience balancing motorized recreation and habitat management. The North Rampart Travel Management Plan is a highly successful example of providing for a variety of recreation pursuits in conjunction with responsible habitat protection.

Part F – MAPS

See attached map.

Attachment B
2019
Grant Cycle Schedule

| Action Item | Deadline |
|--|---------------------------|
| Application Availability | Friday, April 12, 2019 |
| Letter of Intent (Optional) | Monday, May 13, 2019 |
| SPEB Responds to Letters of Intent | Within 14 days of receipt |
| Grant Application Deadline | Wednesday, June 12, 2019 |
| SPEB Determines Applications Complete, or Requests Additional Information | Friday, June 28, 2019 |
| SPEB Interviews Grant Applicants (Optional) | July, 2019 |
| SPEB Meets to Determine Grant Awards at Meeting Open to the Public (Jefferson County Open Space, 700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 100, Golden Colorado 9:00 a.m.) | Wednesday, July 17, 2019 |
| SPEB and Grant Recipients Sign Agreement | By October 31, 2019 |

Attachment C
Federal Environmental Information and Land Manager Approval

Project Name Wildcat Canyon Management Project Sponsor US Forest Service

As the official responsible for management of the land on which the project will be accomplished, I agree to the following:

1. The project as described in this application has my approval. YES
2. The project is located on federal public lands and is in conformance with the appropriate Forest Management Plan, BLM Resource Area Management Plan, or other decision document titled:

PSICC Land and Resource Management Plan Date: 1984

3. This project will remain open to public access for a minimum of:
 5 years 10 years 25 years Indefinitely.

4. A decision has been issued as part of the NEPA environmental review process.

Date and title of document:

2004 Hayman Fire Roads Management Project Decision Notices

If not, please state reason. No funds will be distributed until any required NEPA documentation is completed.

For more information contact:

Josh Voorhis, South Park District Ranger

The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for _____ (date).

Brian Banks, District Ranger, South Platte Ranger District

Print or type Land Manager's Name and Title

Land Manager Signature and Title

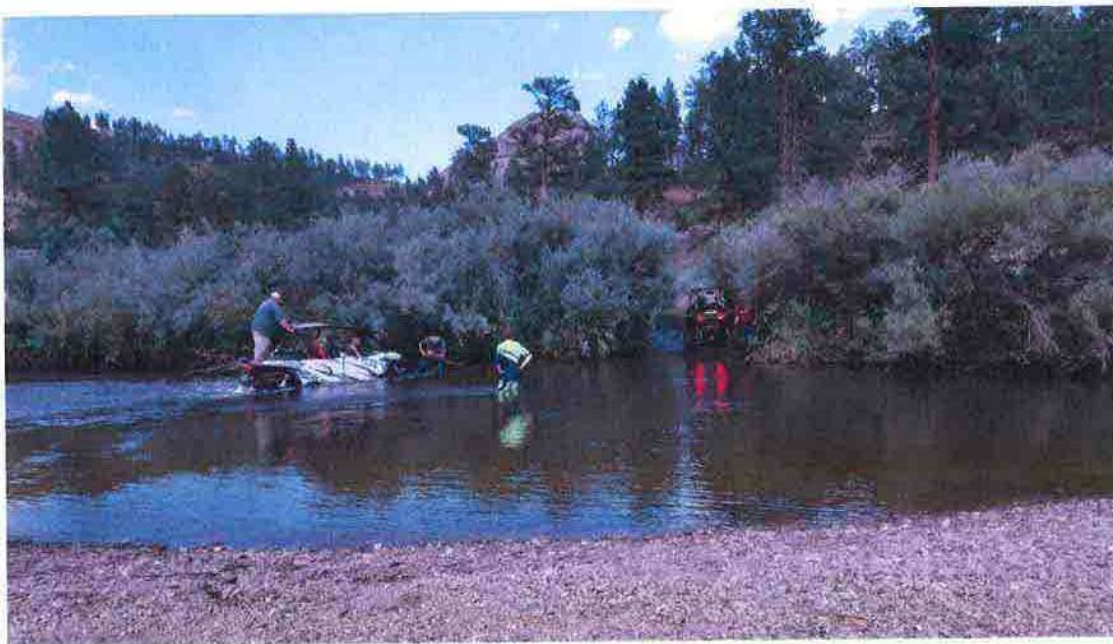
Date

Attachment D Contacts Made

Please provide a list of people and organizations you have contacted and coordinated with regarding the project for which you are requesting grant funds.

| | Agency/Organization | Contact Person | Phone No. | E-mail Address |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Park County Commissioners | Tom Eisenman | 719-836-4203 | teisenman@parkco.us |
| 2. | Colorado Parks and Wildlife | Jeff Spohn | 303-981-0197 | jeff.spohn@state.co.us |
| 3. | Colorado Parks and Wildlife | Dawson Swanson | 303-916-2425 | dawson.swanson@state.co.us |
| 4. | Wild Connections | James Lockhart | (719) 385-0045 | jlock@datawest.net |
| 5. | | | | |
| 6. | | | | |
| 7. | | | | |
| 8. | | | | |
| 9. | | | | |
| 10. | | | | |

Photographs documenting current resource damage at South Platte River in Wildcat Canyon.



Photos



2168 Pheasant Place
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
719-686-5905
info@wildconnections.org
www.wildconnections.org

Dear South Platte Enhancement Board Members,

On behalf of the Board, members and supporters of Wild Connections, I would like to express our support for the US Forest Service's proposal to control unauthorized motorized recreation in Wildcat Canyon on the South Platte River.

The mission of Wild Connections is to identify, protect, and restore wildlands, native species, and biological diversity in the Arkansas and South Platte watersheds. Wild Connections has a long history of working to protect Wildcat Canyon and since 2017, has been actively engaged in educating the public on the tremendous threats and damage being done every single day to this special section of the South Platte River by rampant illegal motorized recreationists.

The Forest Service's proposal to protect this unique and ecologically valuable section of the South Platte River corridor is highly congruent with our mission, and we are poised to provide volunteer and logistical assistance where appropriate. The challenge of managing recreation in this remote section of the river is considerable, so we are eager to help the Forest Service and SPEB meet their objectives and responsibilities to conserving the scenic, geologic, wildlife, and fisheries Outstandingly Remarkable Values in Wildcat Canyon.

Wild Connections strongly encourages the South Platte Enhancement Board to grant the Forest Service's request for funding to contract construction of vehicle barriers on National Forest System roads to manage motorized recreation in Wildcat Canyon. We look forward to partnering with the Forest Service to correct this most egregious activity on the Pike/San Isabel National Forest and Denver's water supply.

Thank you for your support for this request.

Sincerely,

James E. Lockhart, President
Wild Connections
2168 Pheasant Pl.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(719) 385-0045
jlock@datawest.net

<http://parkco.us/civicalerts.aspx?AID=477>

Posted on: April 16, 2019

Press Release - Park County Wildcat Canyon Area



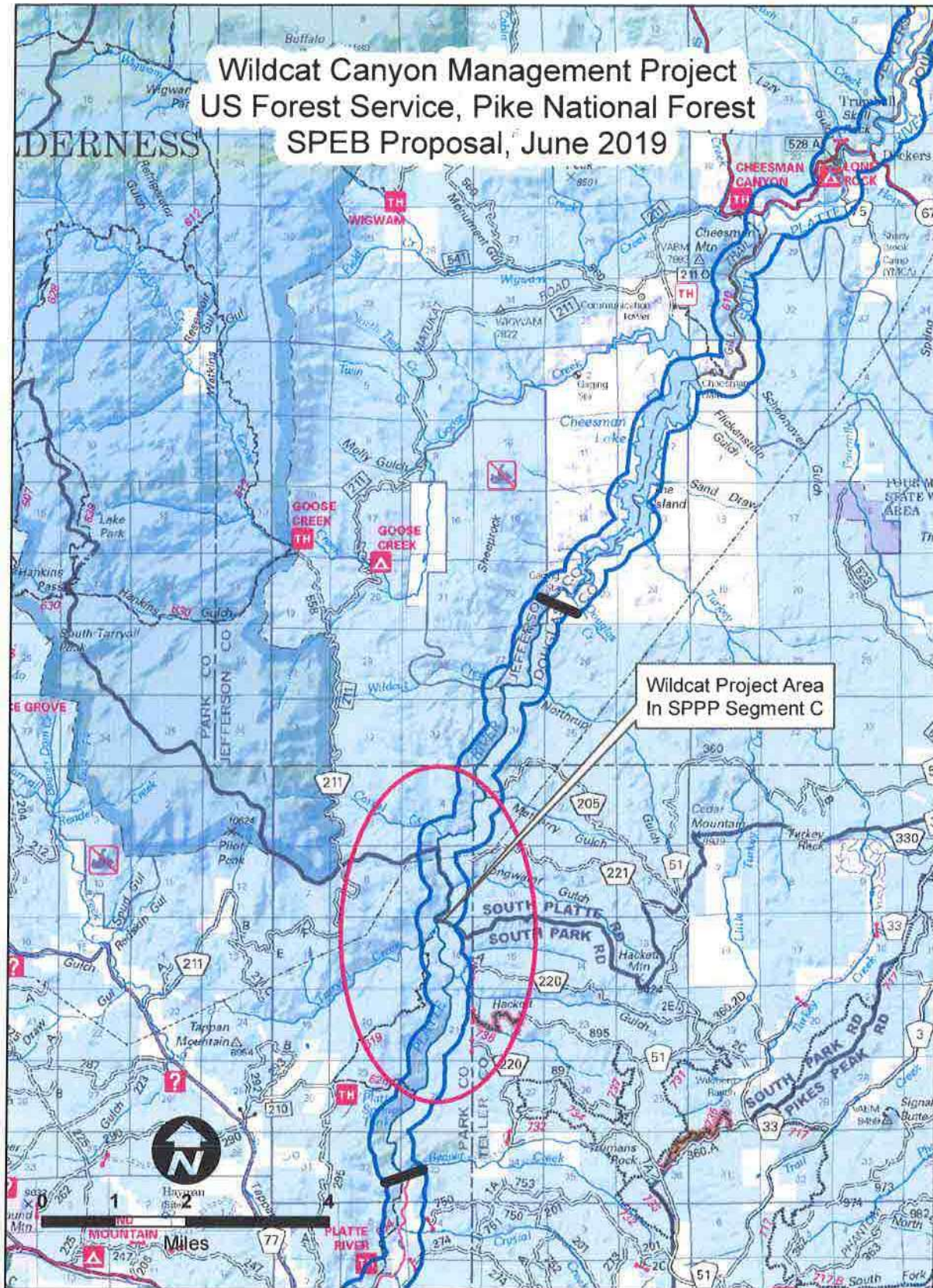
Park County Commissioners have had many requests from various 4-Wheel Clubs and off-road enthusiasts to reconsider our position as related to the re-opening of Wildcat Canyon, Hackett Gulch, Longwater Gulch, and Corral Creek to motorized vehicles.

Even though the commissioners are strong supporters of all recreation within Park County's boundaries, "We are not the experts in this type of recreation or establishing the needs for this type of recreation. We have left that up to the experts that we recognize as those individuals who manage public lands within the Forest Service."

In or around 2015, the County informed the South Park Ranger District that we have no interest in obtaining any easements related to the above mentioned areas. We are inclined to support any management plan the Forest Service will put forward in those areas.

For editorial information, please contact Mr. Tom Eisenman, County Manager, at (719) 836-4203 or via [E-Mail](#).

Wildcat Canyon Management Project
US Forest Service, Pike National Forest
SPEB Proposal, June 2019



Dave,

I provided 3 different versions,
The main cable is in the circled area.
I would estimate around a mile, Let me
know about any questions.

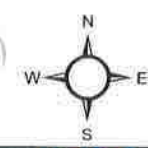
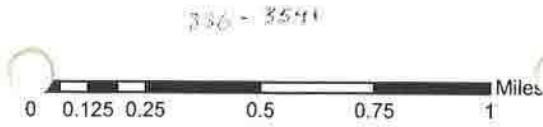
Thanks

Josh

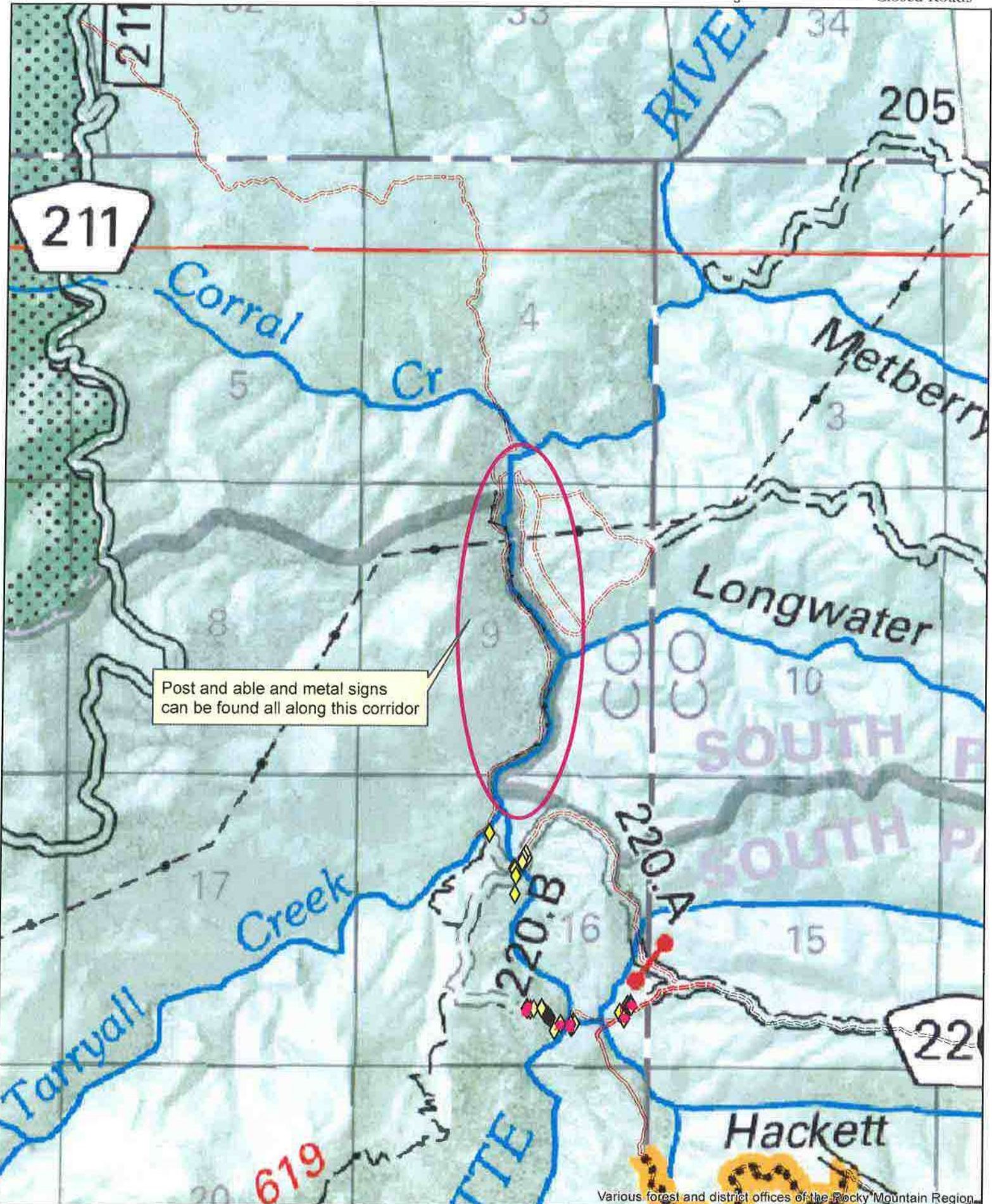
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It helps maintain the excellent print quality
of your HP LaserJet printer.

The frequency of printing this page can be adjusted in the control panel.
Please see your user's guide or printer administrator for further information.

Wildcat Canyon Post and Cable Removal

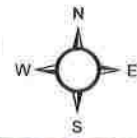


- Post and Cable
- ◇ Signs and Posts
- Closed Roads



Post and cable and metal signs can be found all along this corridor

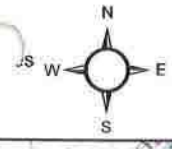
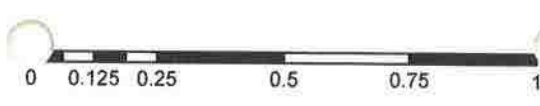
Wildcat Canyon Post and Cable Removal



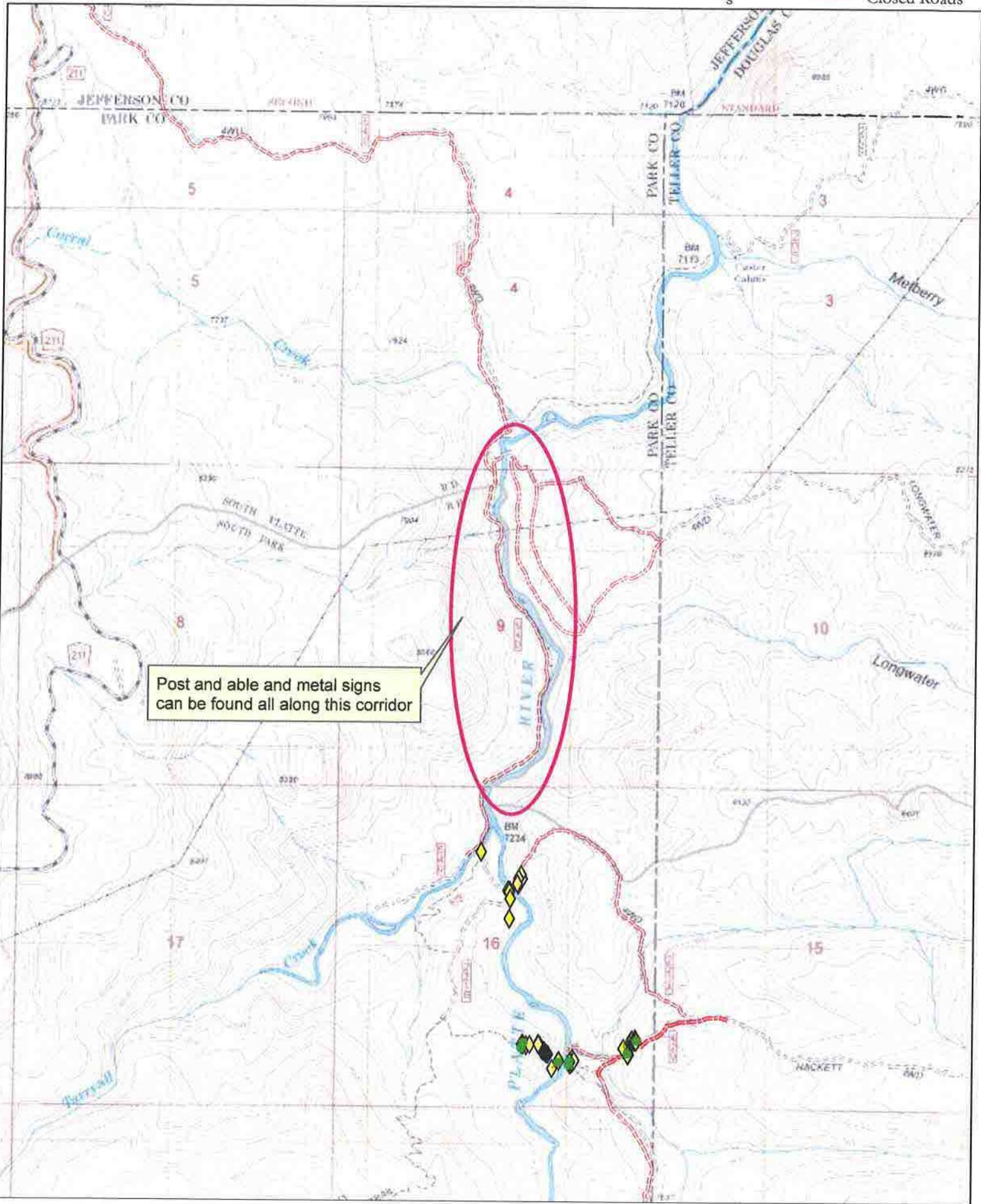
- Post and Cable
- ◆ Signs and Posts
- Closed Roads



Wildcat Canyon Post and Cable Removal



- Post and Cable
- ◆ Signs and Posts
- ==== Closed Roads



Post and cable and metal signs can be found all along this corridor

