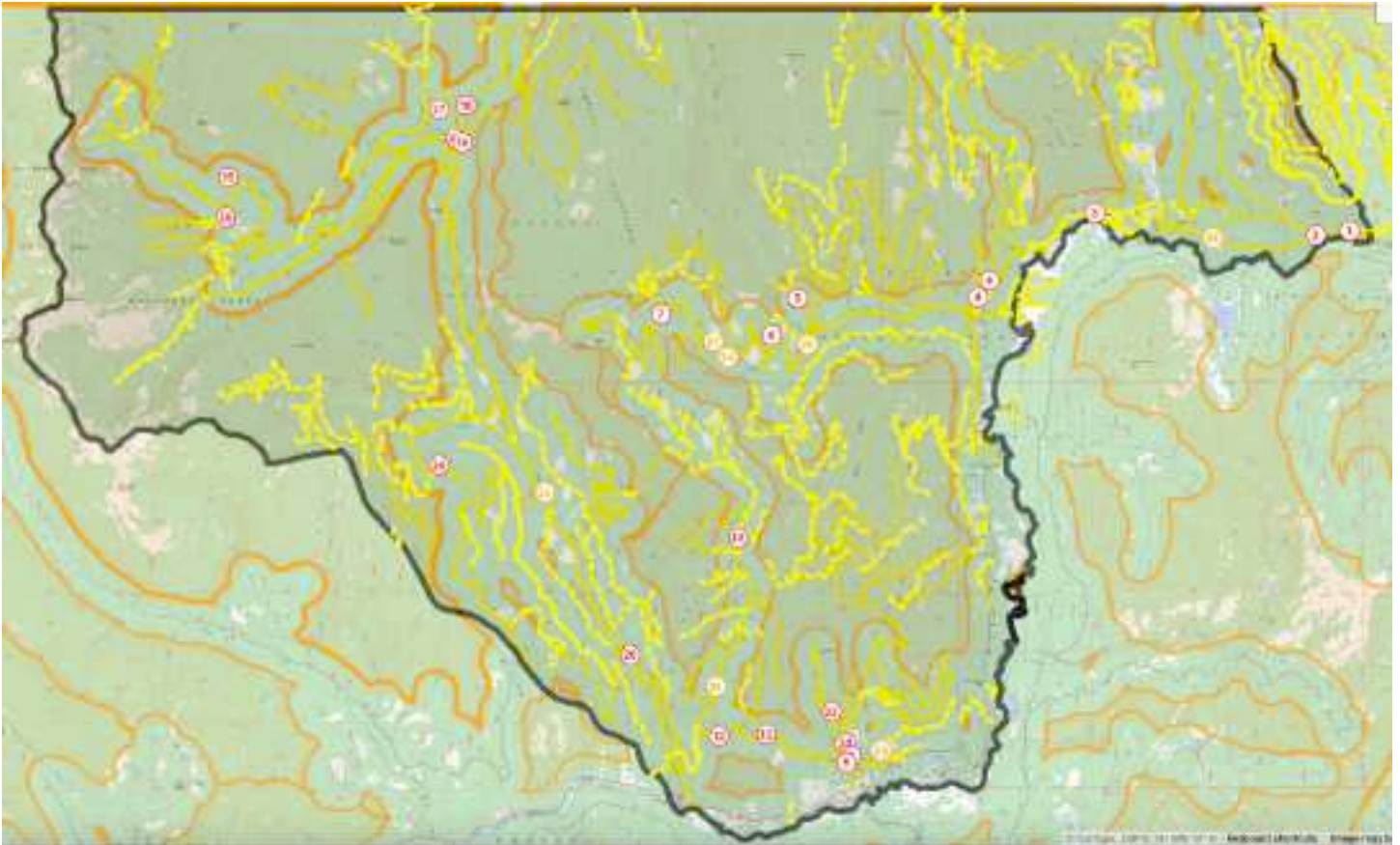




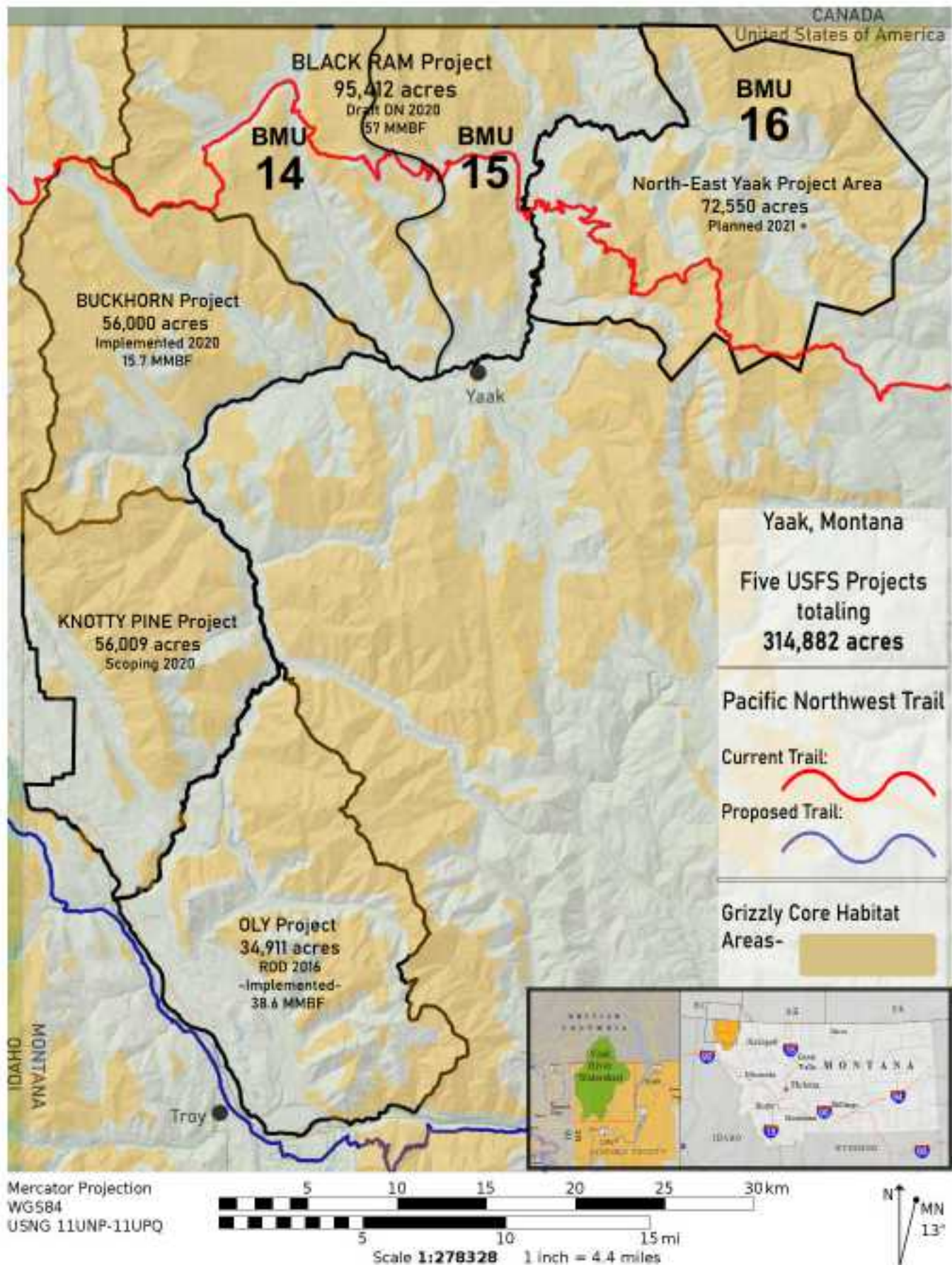
Insufficient Grizzly Barrier Report 2020-2024

CYE BMUs 14-15

Submitted April 2025



Prepared by
Chris Bachman, Conservation Director
Yaak Valley Forest Council



YVFC submits this report in a collaborative effort with the USFS to ensure secure habitat for Yaak grizzly bears. YVFC is documenting insufficient road barriers in the Kootenai National Forest to limit core habitat fragmentation due to a proliferation of access on unauthorized forest roads, a primary threat to the Yaak's vulnerable grizzly bear population. With approximately 25 bears remaining in the Valley the USFS must protect key habitat from unauthorized road usage. YVFC documentation and reporting of insufficient road barriers aims to clearly and convincingly convey the imminent need for the USFS to prioritize installing barriers that will prevent unauthorized disturbance of sensitive habitats critical to grizzly bear recovery.

Roads fragment habitats and provide access, which are proven key factors in grizzly bear mortality.

Preserving landscape connectivity by decreasing unauthorized access is vital to ensuring the survival of threatened species in the Yaak and beyond. The YVFC, like the Foundation, is committed to developing and implementing effective, reputable methods for protecting key habitats for threatened species from human disturbance, directly preserving these critical natural lands. This project will lay the foundation for YVFC to work with the USFS to effectively protect these habitats and ensure that wildlife in the Yaak - including the USFS-designated "most vulnerable" grizzly bear population - can thrive.



Chris Bachman
Conservation Director
Yaak Valley Forest Council

Date

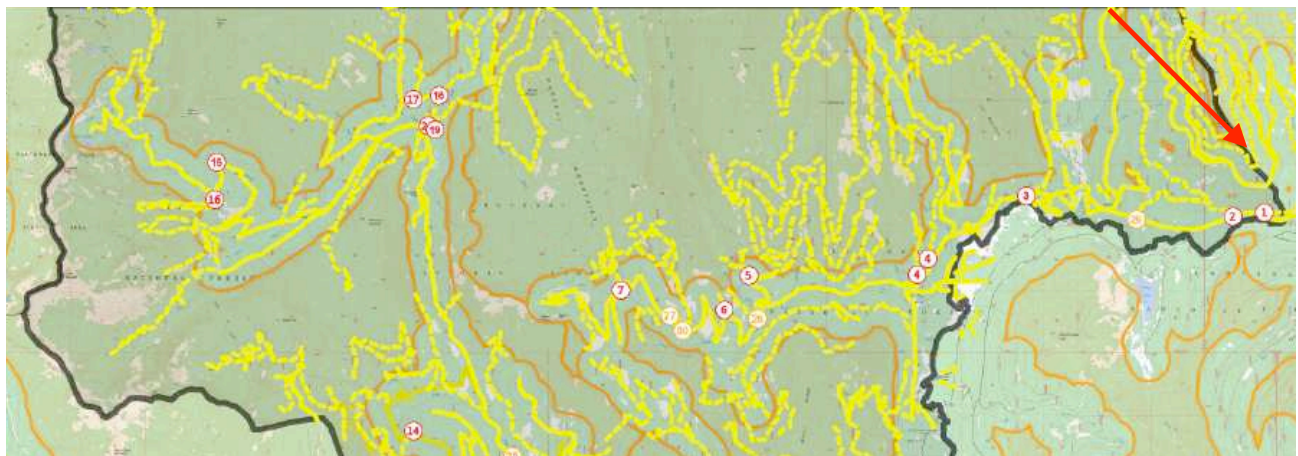
BR 1- Coordinates: N 48.95251, W -115.54898

Date: 13 August 2024

BMU 15: Female with young documented 2016-|2023

Barrier ineffective 2024. There has been no visible recent activity behind the gate. A user-created bypass is present on the left of the gate. The gap to the right of the gate is insufficient.

Remedy: berm or boulders.

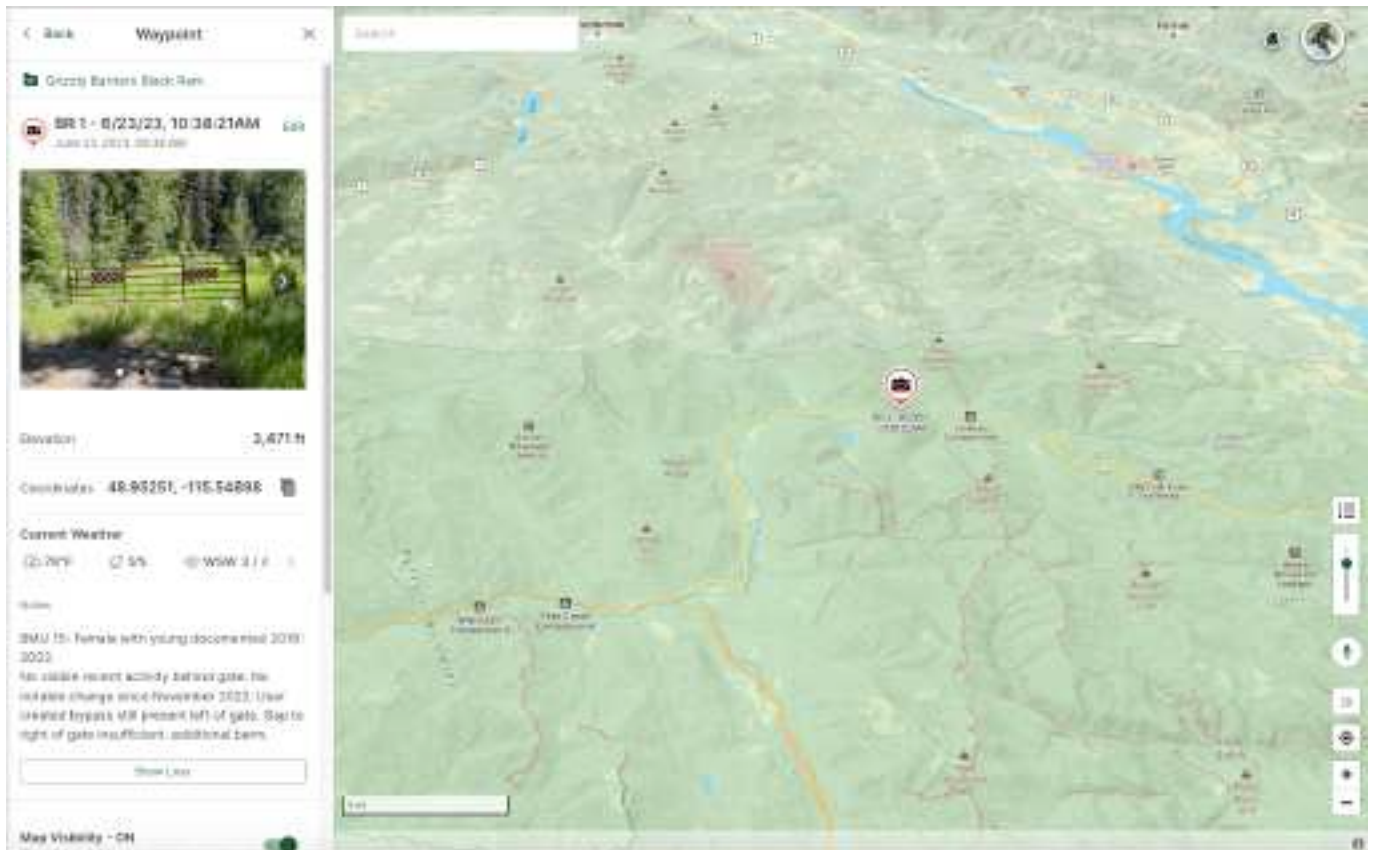


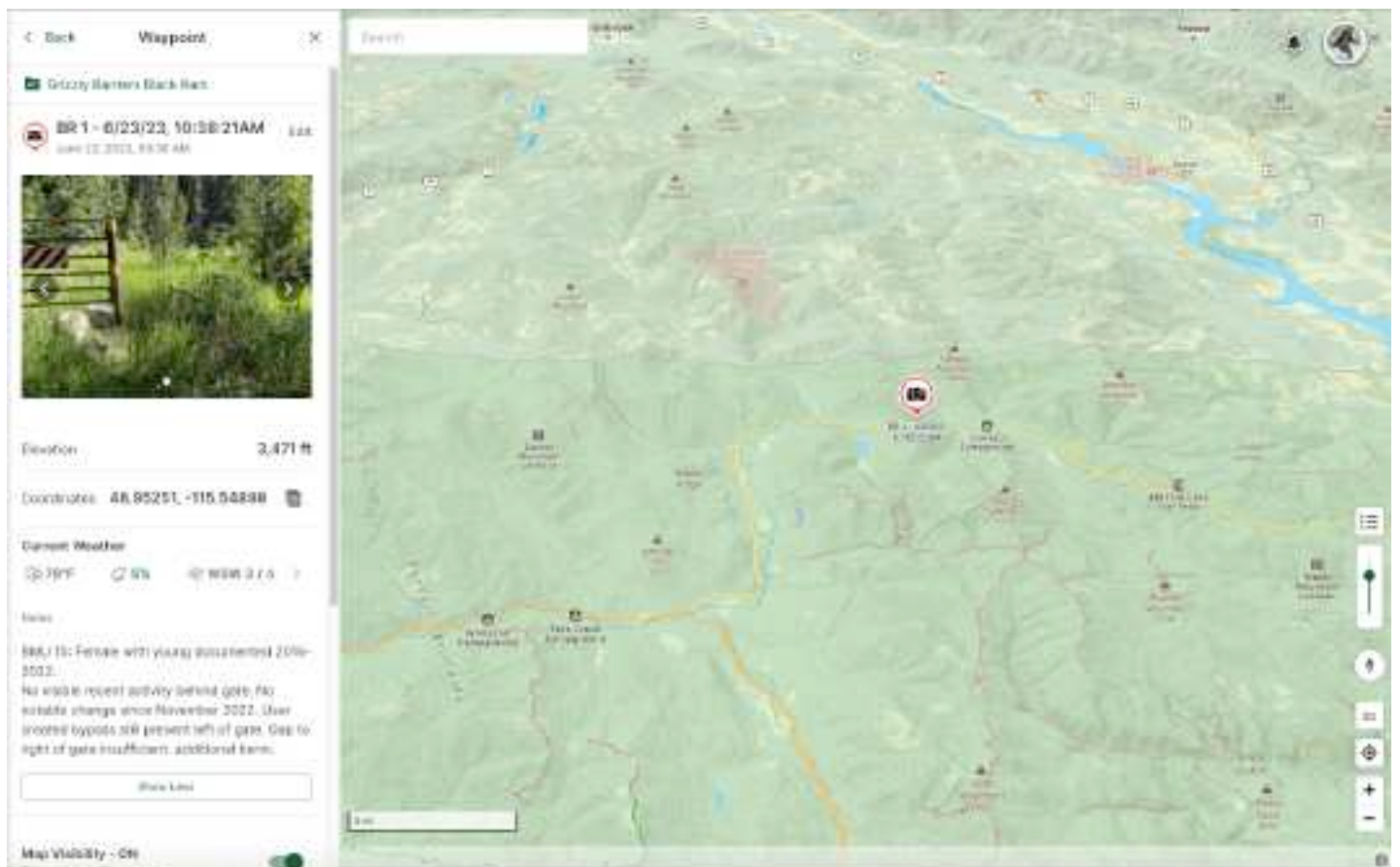
BR 1- Gate Right, passable with ATV/motorcycle

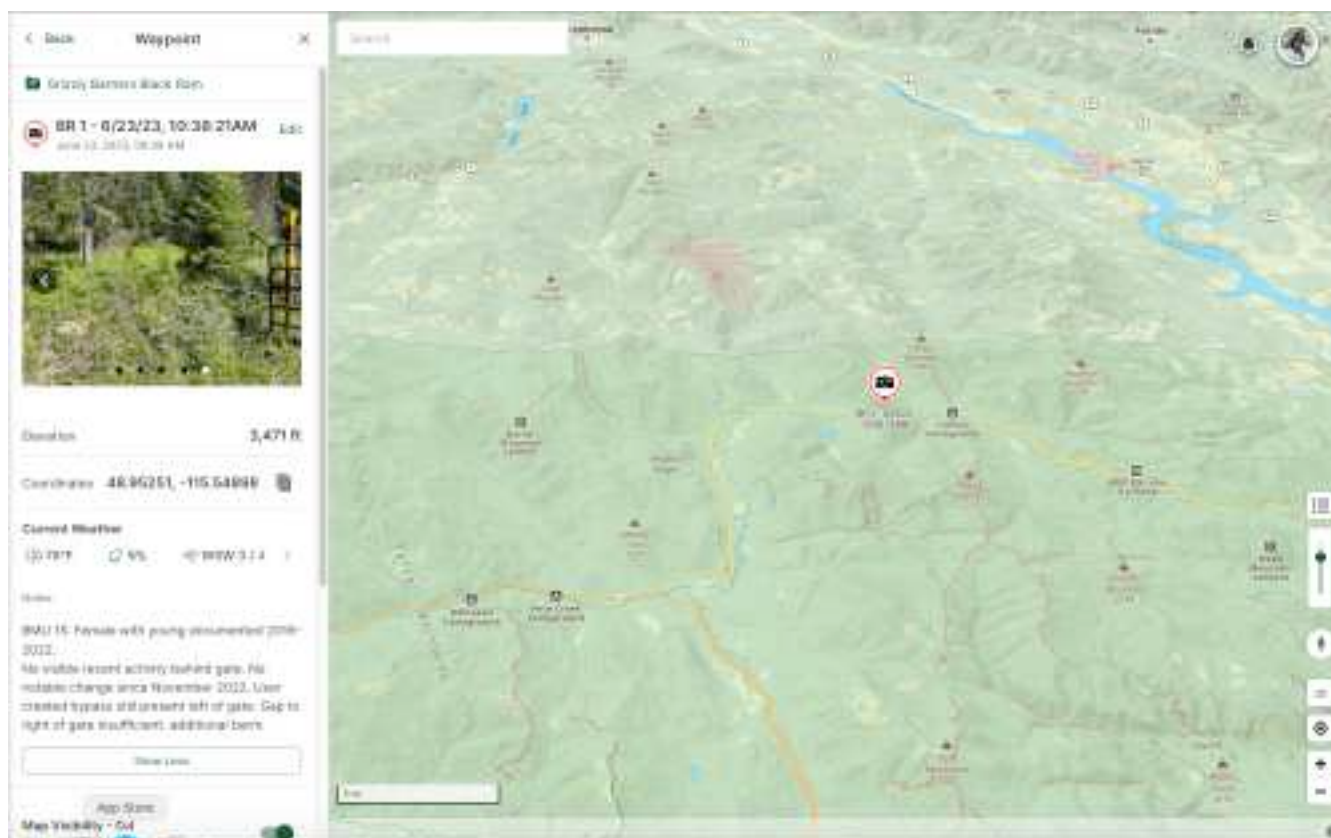


BR 1-Gate left









Prior Documentation:

2020

2022

Site:	BR-1	
Road #, or description:	Road # 5821	
Coordinates:	48 57 08.4 / 115 32 56.4	
Site Notes:	<p>2020: Gate barrier. A user created bypass is located directly gate-left, approximately 8' wide passage with cleared/trampled vegetation. Grizzly bear tracks present in snow.</p>	
		
		

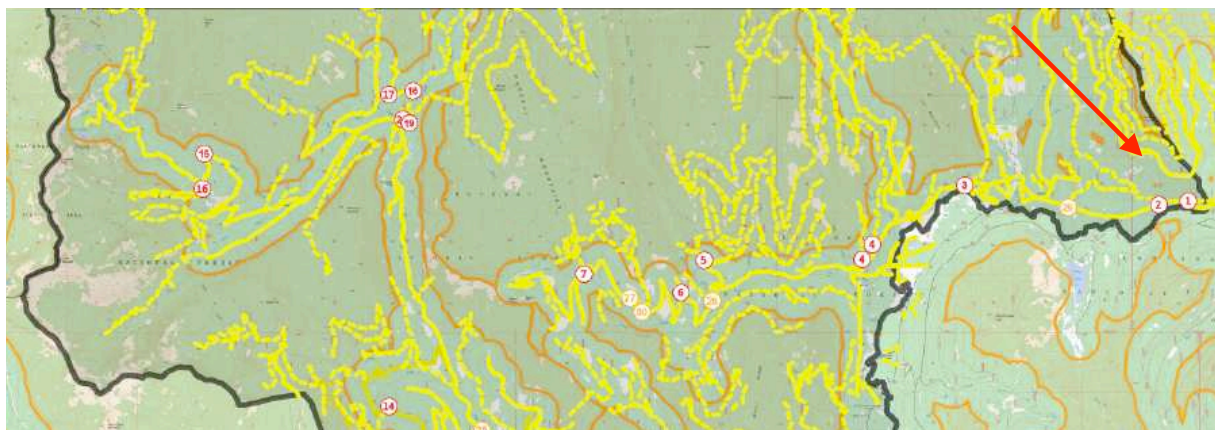
BR 2- Coordinates: N 48.95161, W -115.55925

Date: 13 August 2024

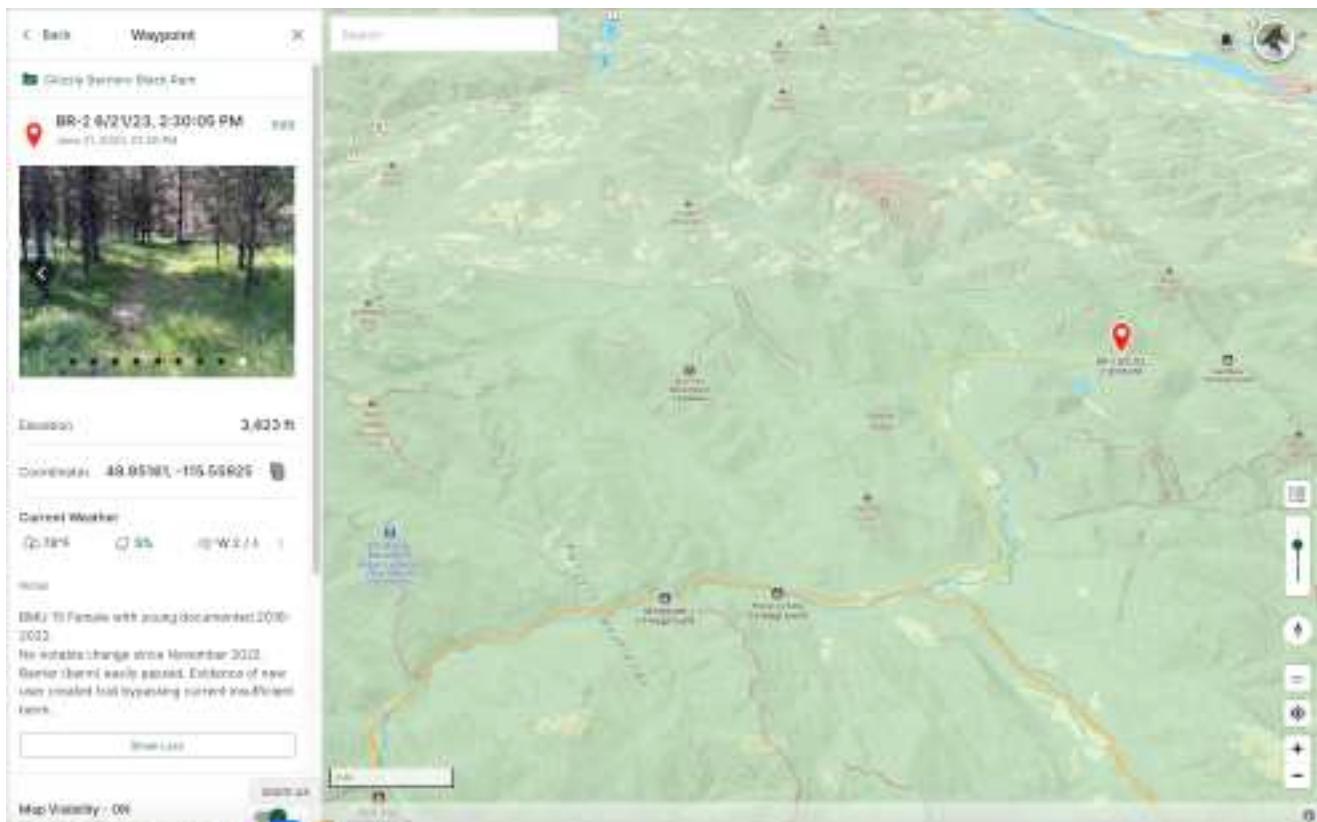
BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

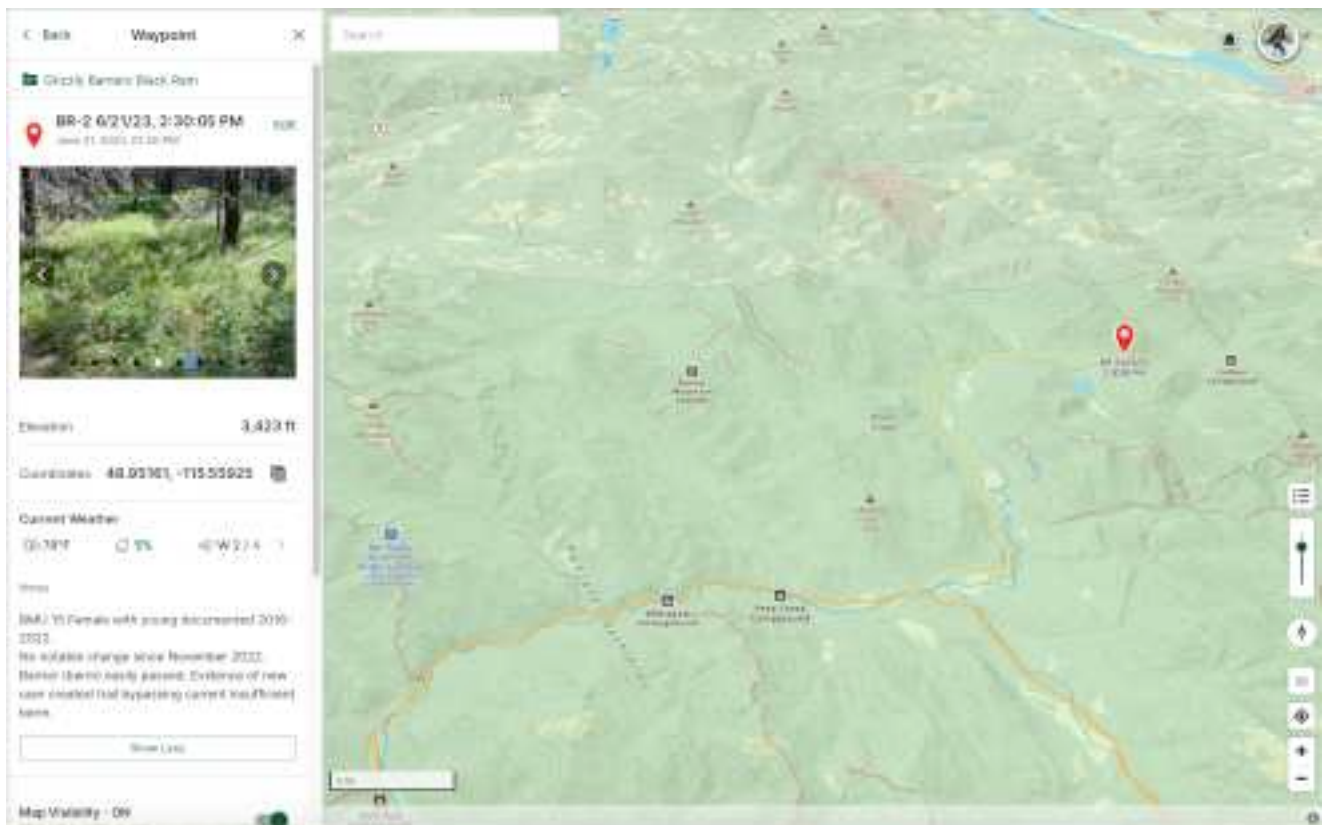
Barrier ineffective 2024. No notable change since November 2023. Barrier (berm) easily passed.

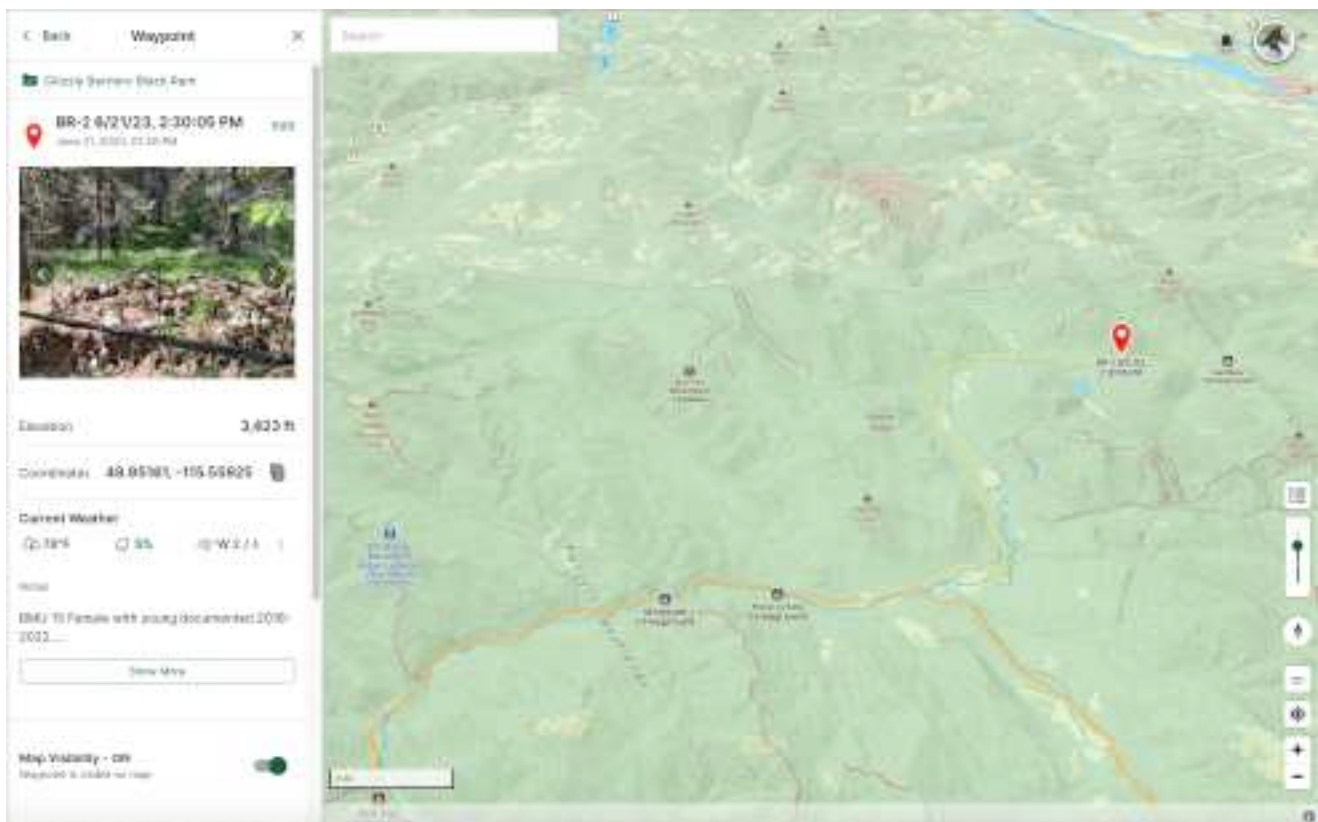
Evidence of new user-created trail bypassing current insufficient berm.













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Site:	BR-2	
Road #, or description:	unmapped user created road off of Highway 92	
Coordinates:	48 57 05.8 / 115 33 33.3	
Site Notes:		
<p>2020: User-created road. New berm installed-2021, can be bypassed to the barrier left and right. Takes off of highway 92, dropping down through the ditch and into a travel corridor through forest. Heavy tracks and rutting from motor-vehicle use. Miscellaneous litter along the travel corridor. Exceeds 300' in length.</p> <p>2022: This site has been bermed to prevent motor vehicle use since 2020. However, users have created a second path around the berm.</p>		

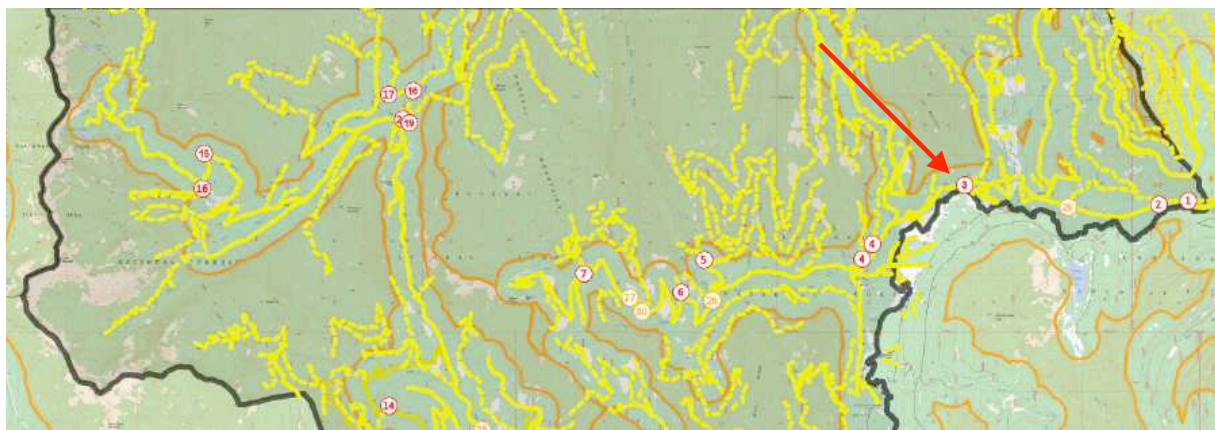
BR 3- Coordinates: N 48.95650, W -115.63289

Date: 13 August 2024

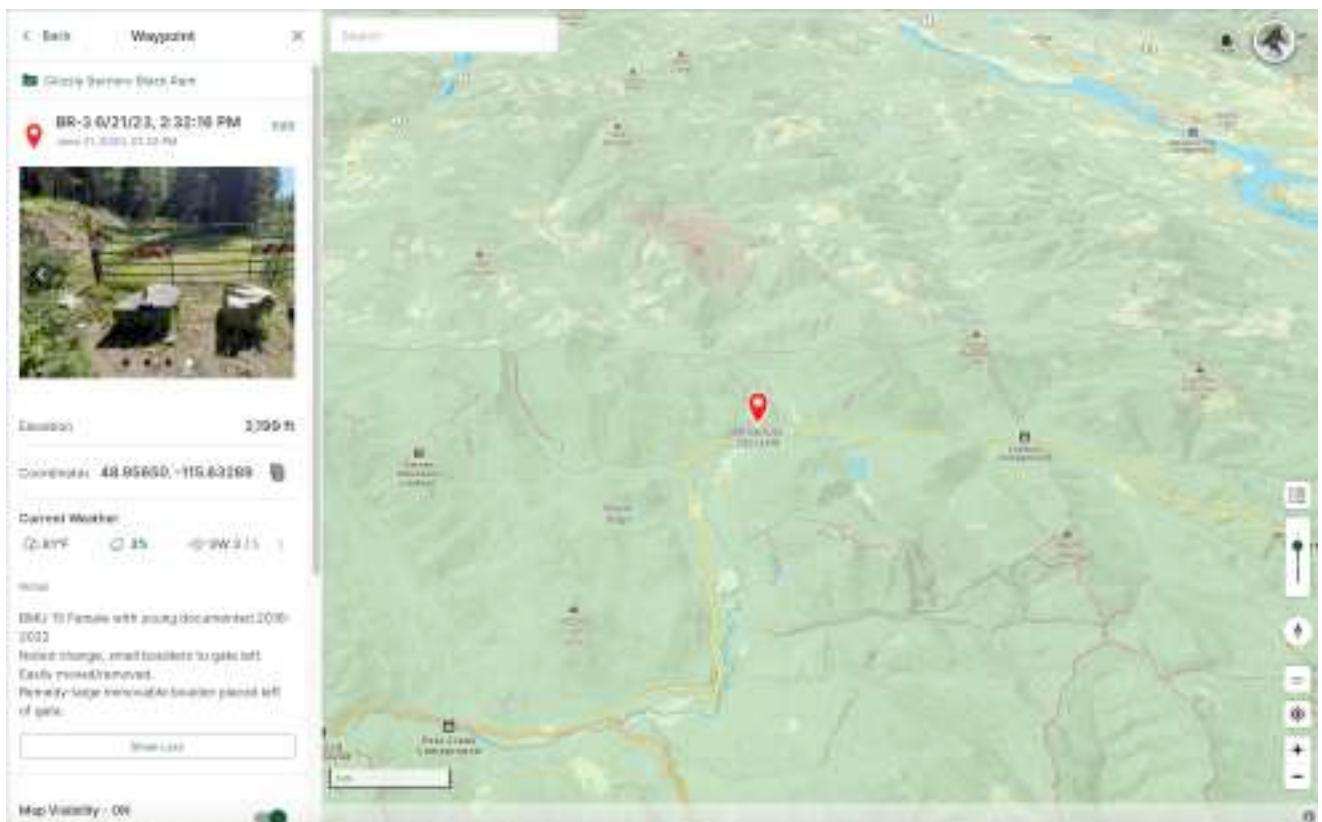
BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

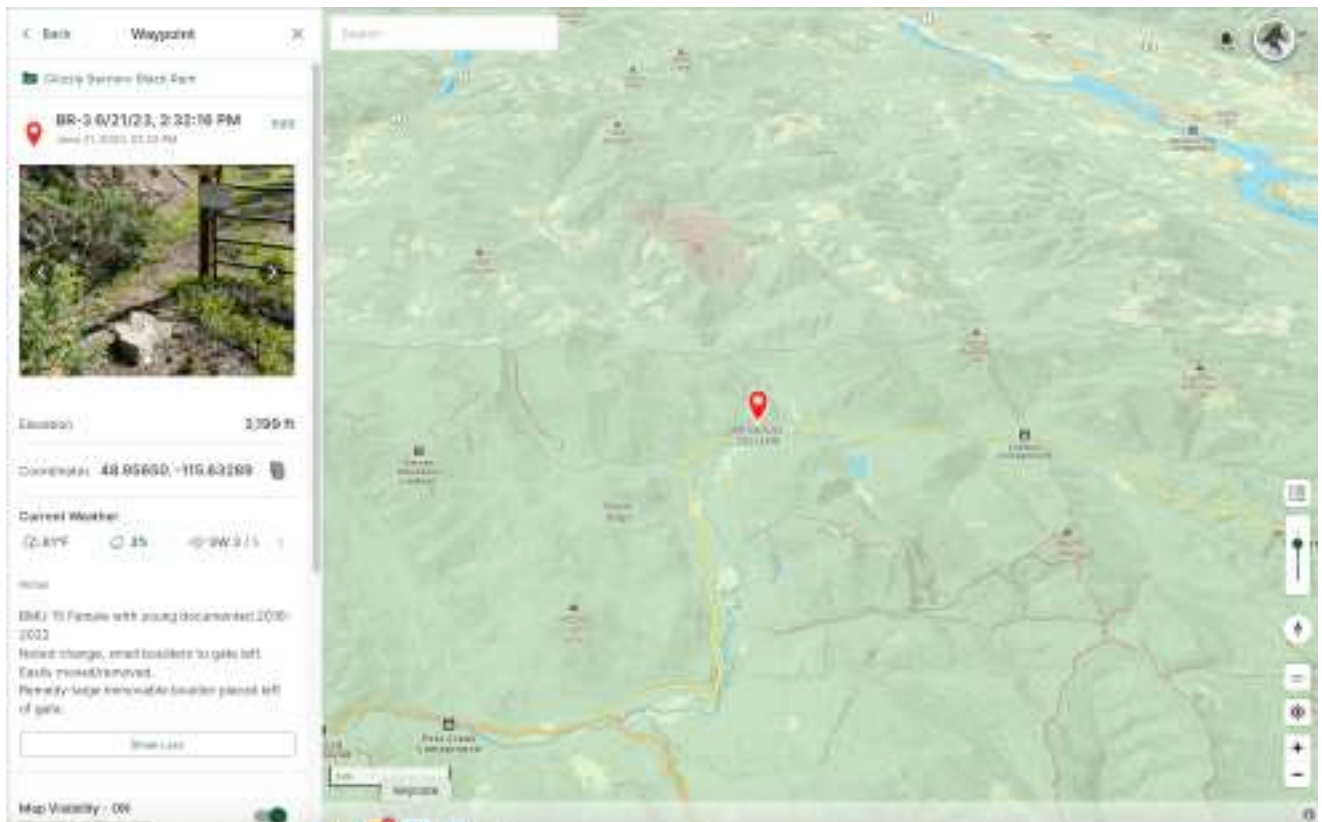
Barrier ineffective 2024. Change noted in 2023, small boulders to the gate left. Easily moved/removed, easily bypassed.

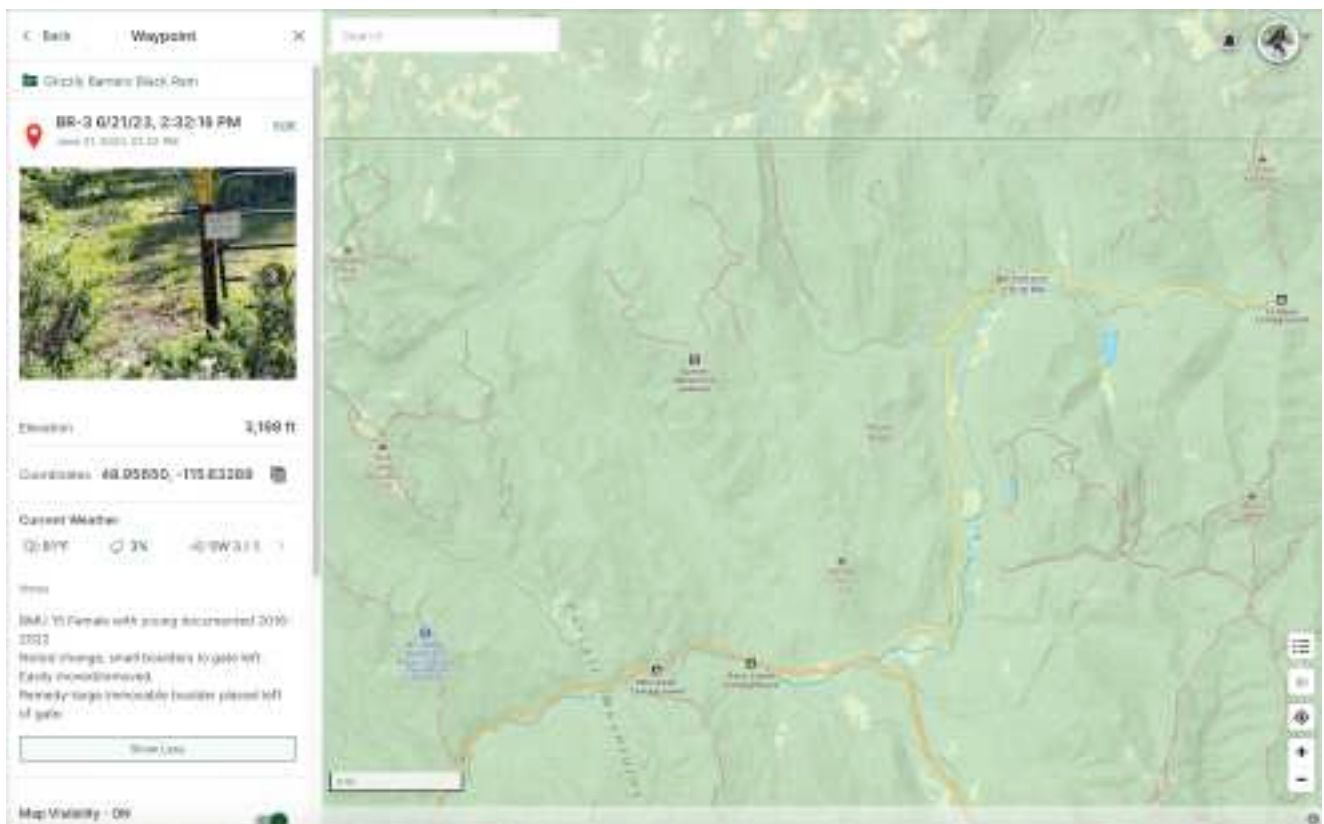
Remedy - large immovable boulder placed left of the gate.










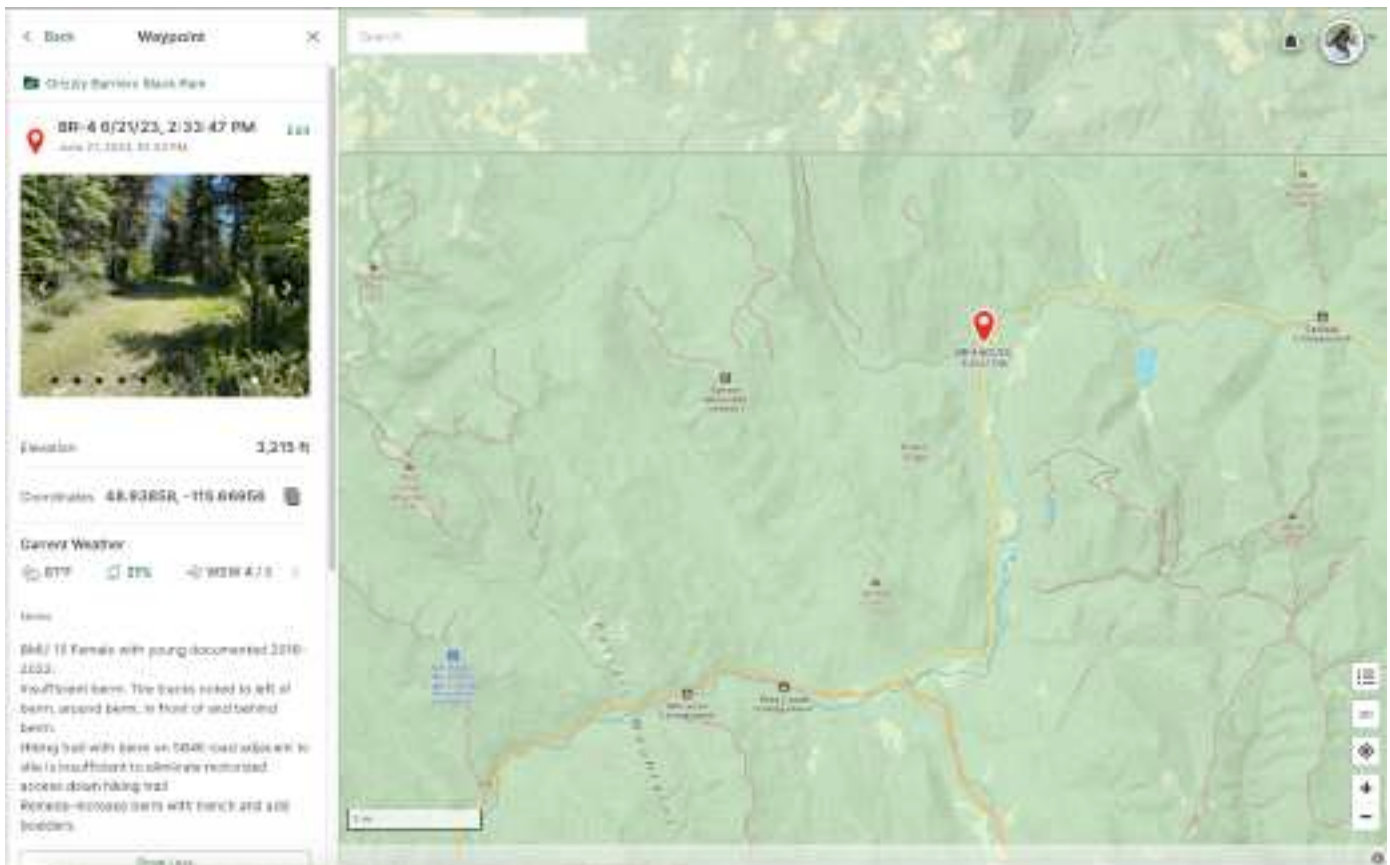


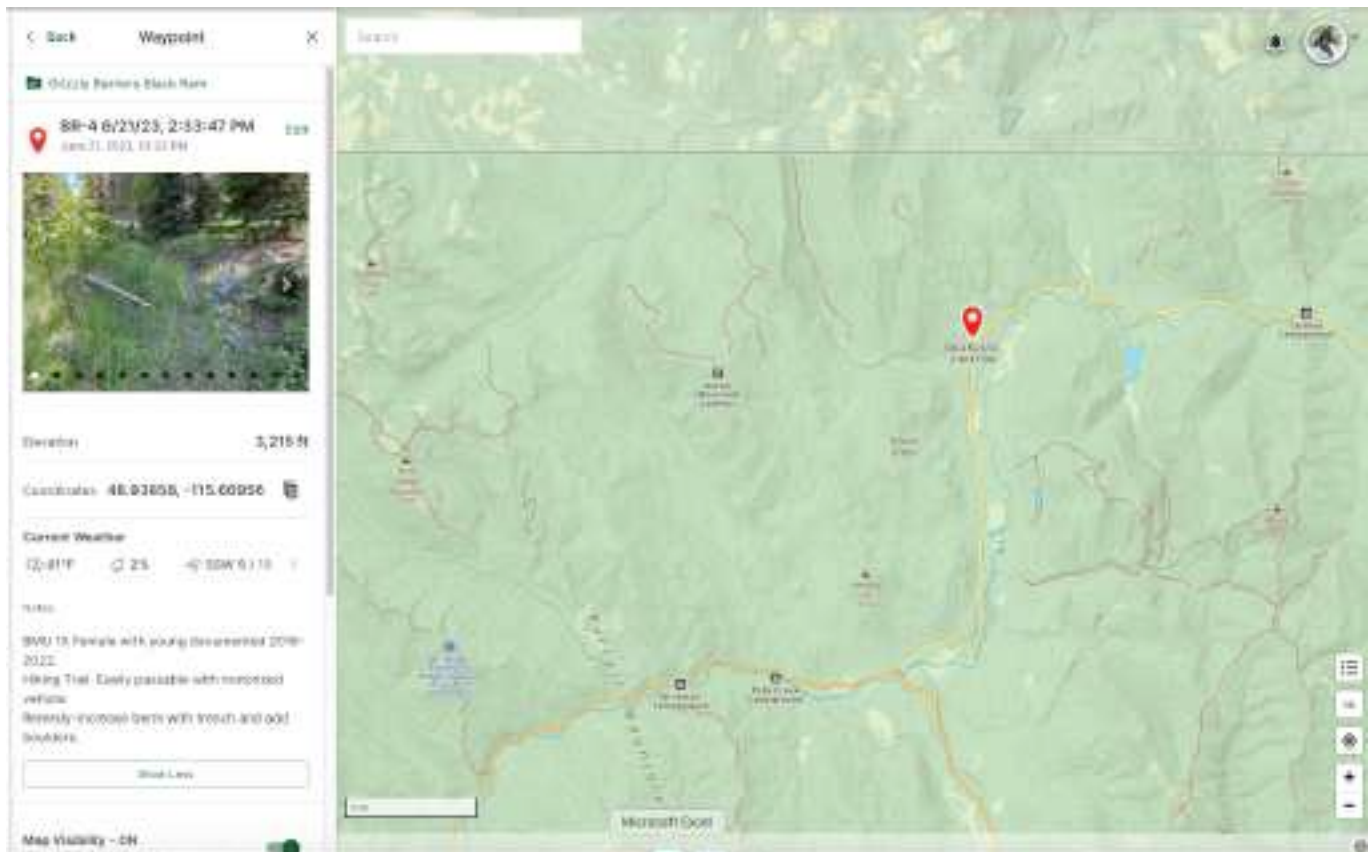
Site:	BR-3	
Road #, or description:	Road # 5835	
Coordinates:	48 57 23.4 / 115 37 58.4	
Site Notes:		
<p>2020: Gate with small boulders. 5' wide passage directly to gate-left. Juniper shrub is not a sufficient barrier. Tire rutting and tracks behind the gate on the road bed, indicating illegal MV use.</p>		



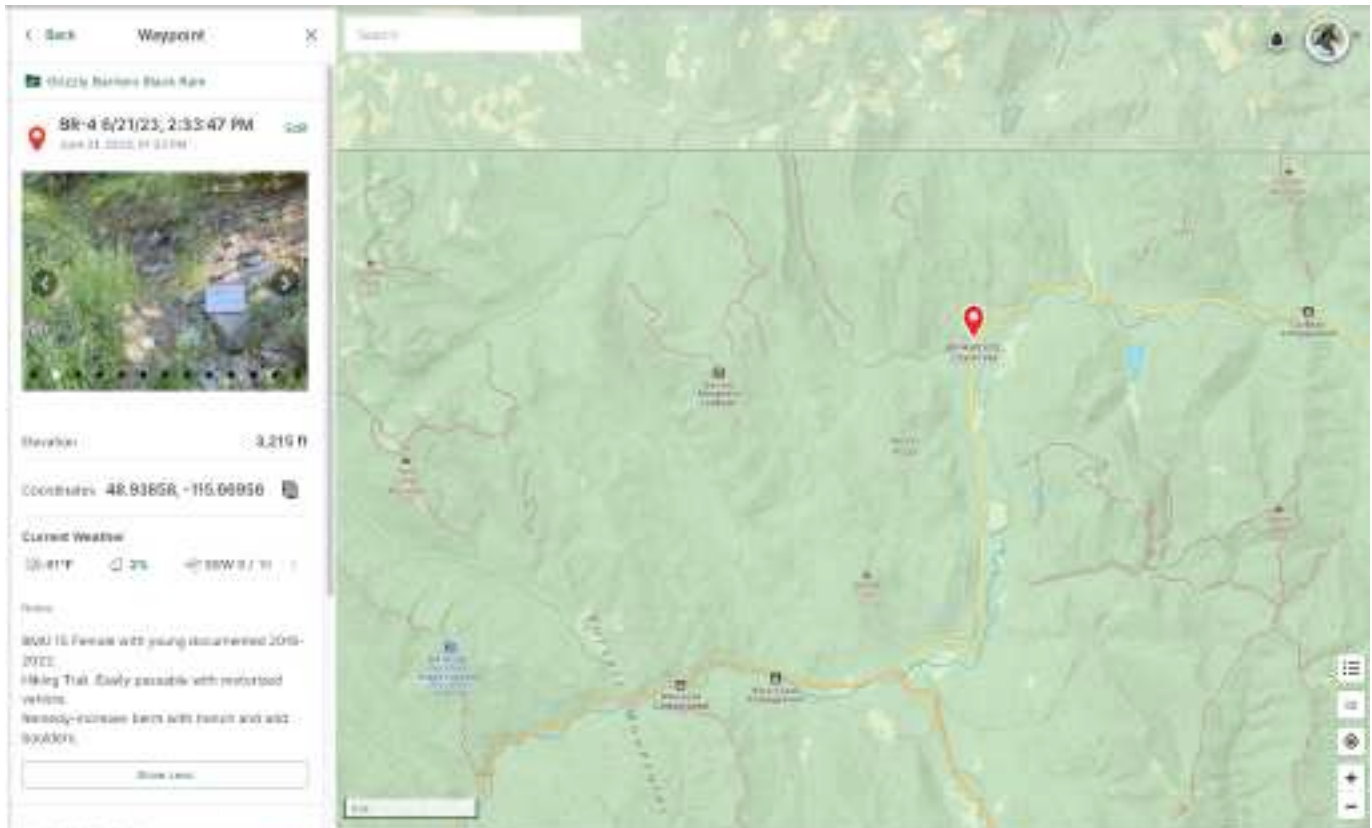
BR-4	Coordinates N 48.93858, W -115.66956	Date
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Woodcutter present 2024.08.13		
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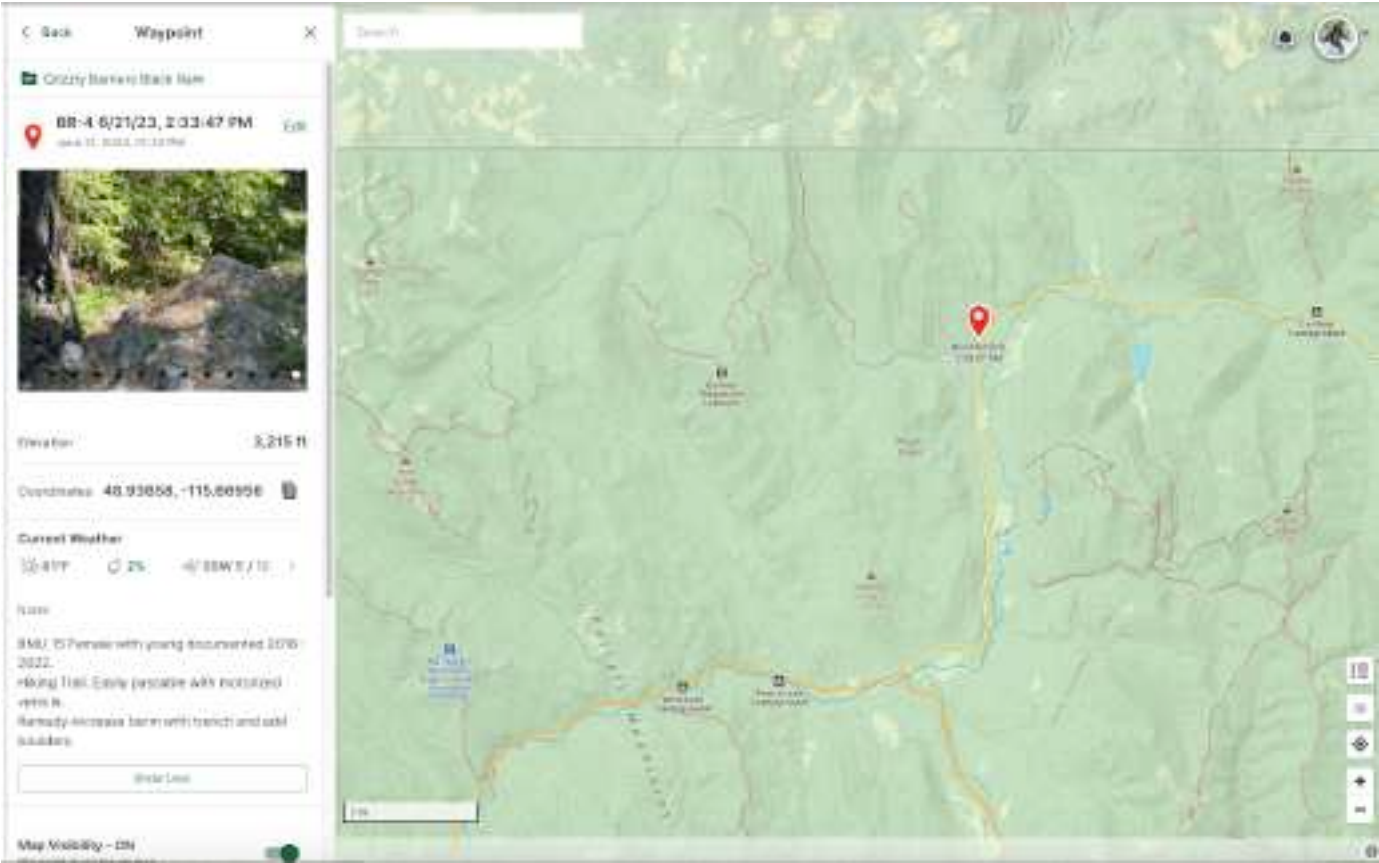






Berm right



Berm left



Site:	BR-4	
Road #, or description:	Road # 5839	
Coordinates:	48 56 18.9 / 115 40 10.4	
Site Notes:		
2020: Berm with signposts; no sign. A low spot passage through berm-left. Tire Ruts have reshaped the berm to be accessible via single-track /ATV.		

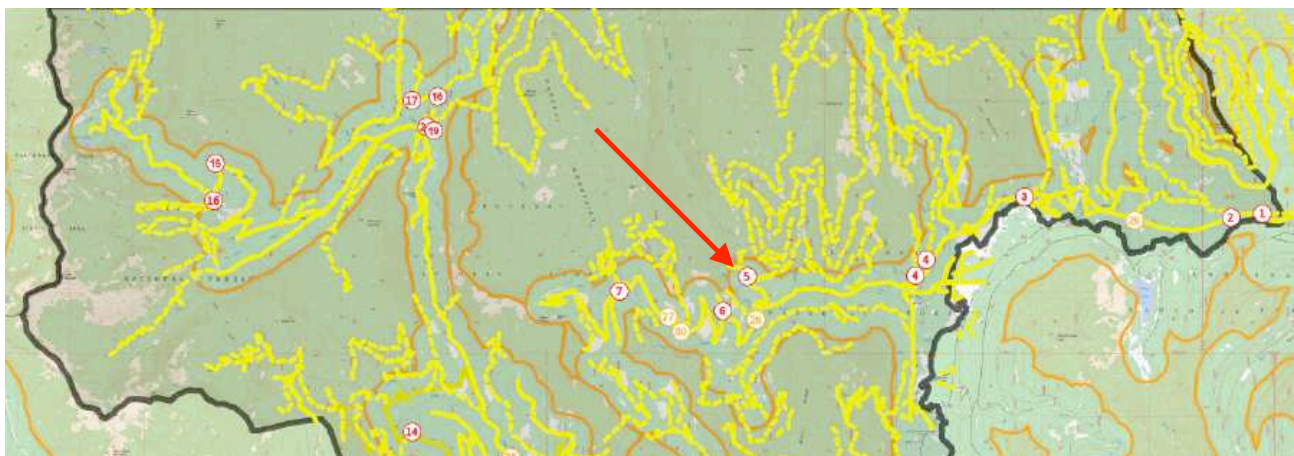
BR 5 **Coordinates N 48.93858, W -115.66956**

Date 2024.08.13

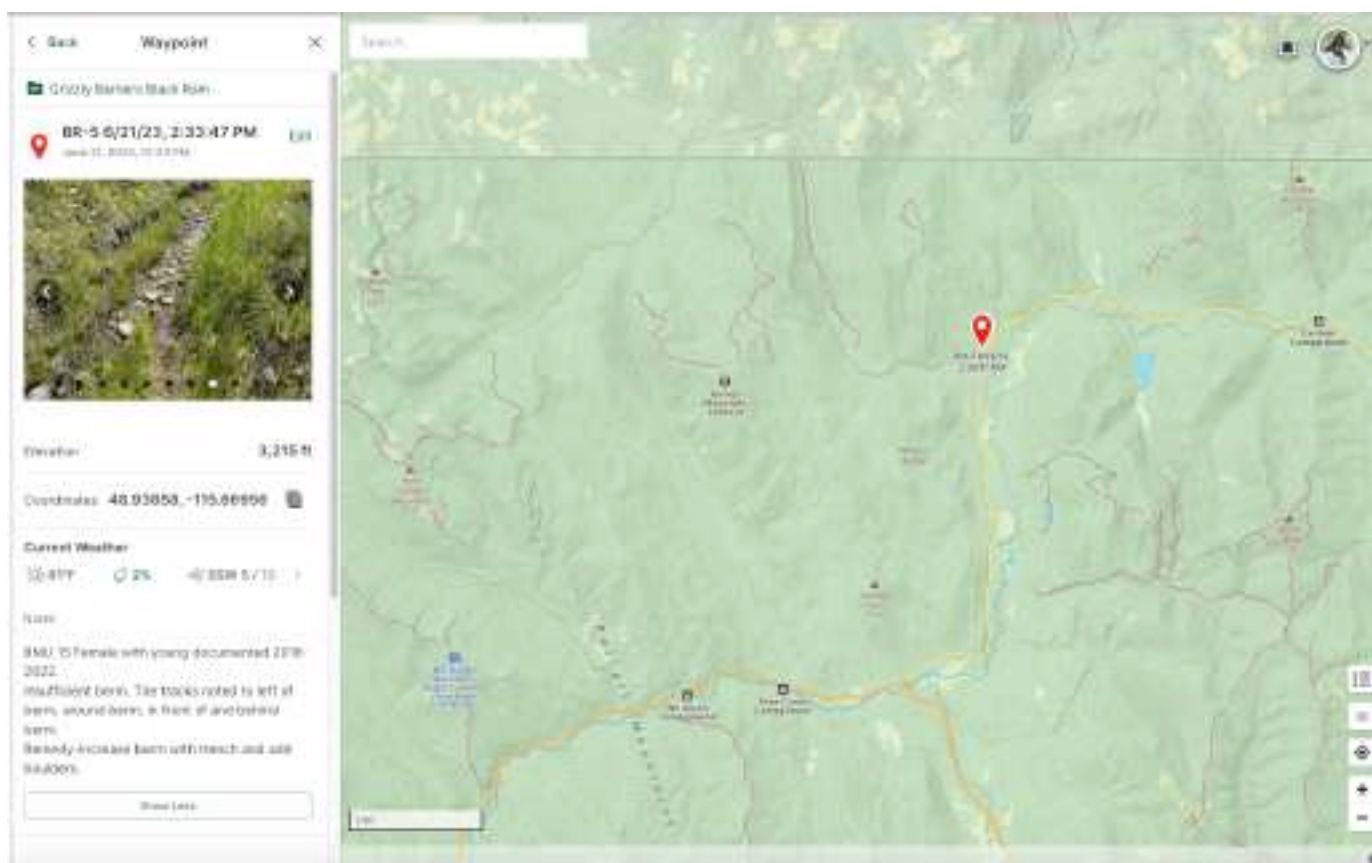
BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

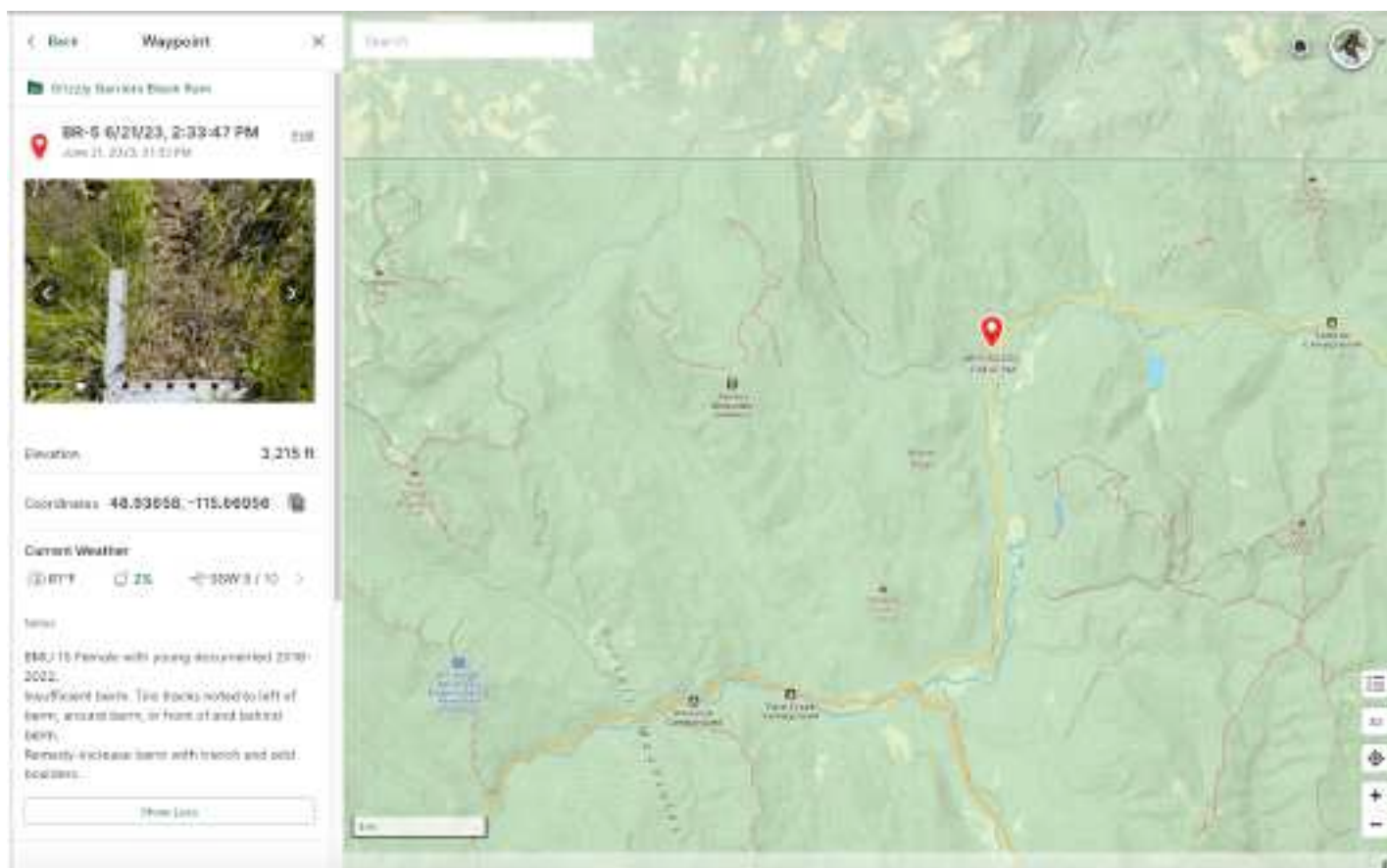
Barrier ineffective 2024. Insufficient berm. Tire tracks noted to the left of the berm, around the berm, in front of, and behind berm in 2023.



Remedy-increase berm with trench and add boulders.









Site:	BR-5	
Road #, or description:	Road # 276	
Coordinates:	48 56 16.7 / 115 43 38.0	
Site Notes:		
<p>2020: Berm with a 4' wide rutted passage through berm left. Looks as though it was possibly left open for ditch relief/drainage, but is being used by motor-vehicles to bypass barriers. Visible tire tracks in soil and grasses laid down from use.</p>		
		

BR 6 **Coordinates N 48.93797, W -115.72722**

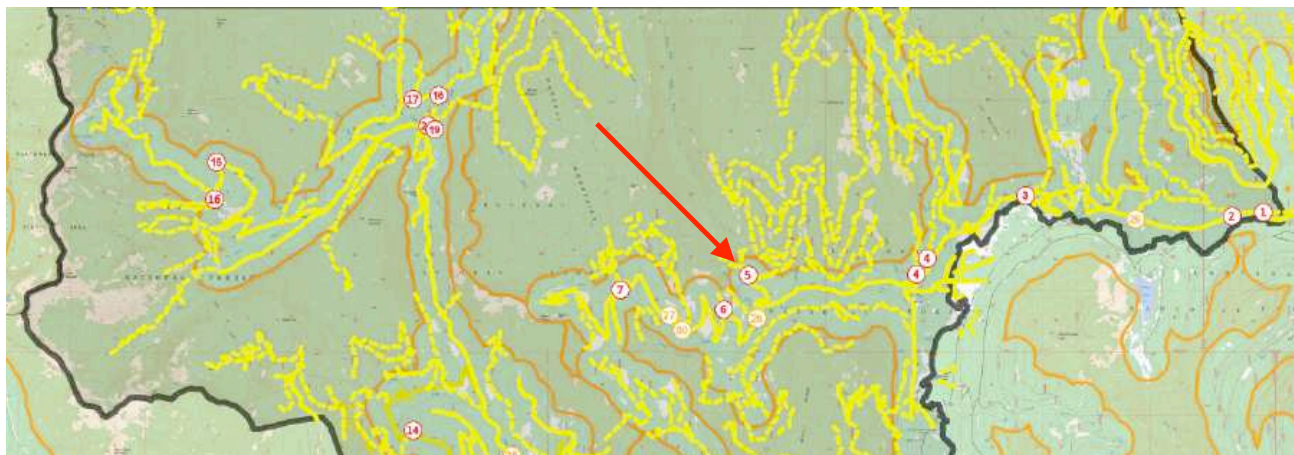
Date 2024.08.13

BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-|2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. Quality of barrier is unchanged since the last site visit in November 2023.

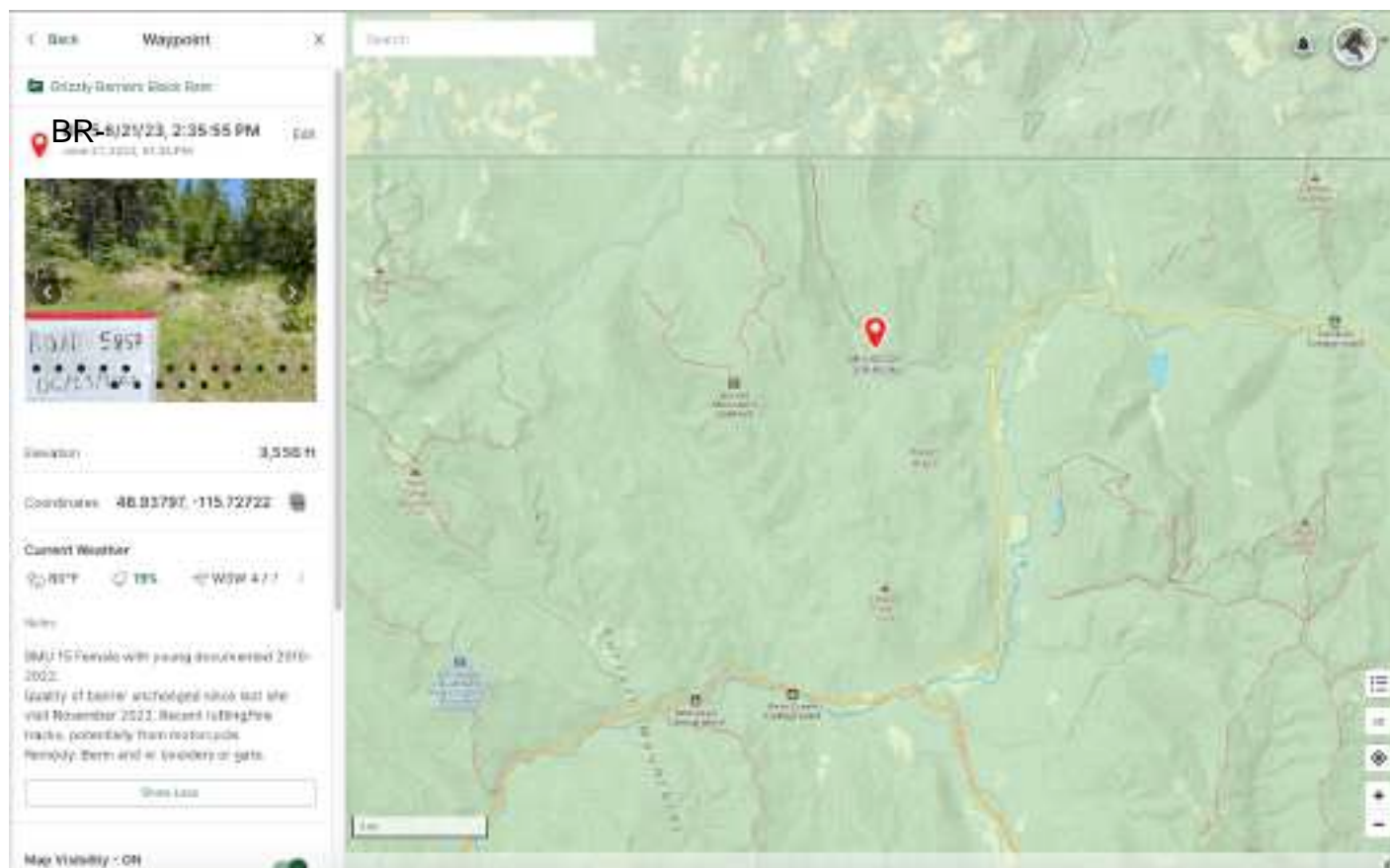
Recent rutting/tire tracks, potentially from a motorcycle visible 2023.

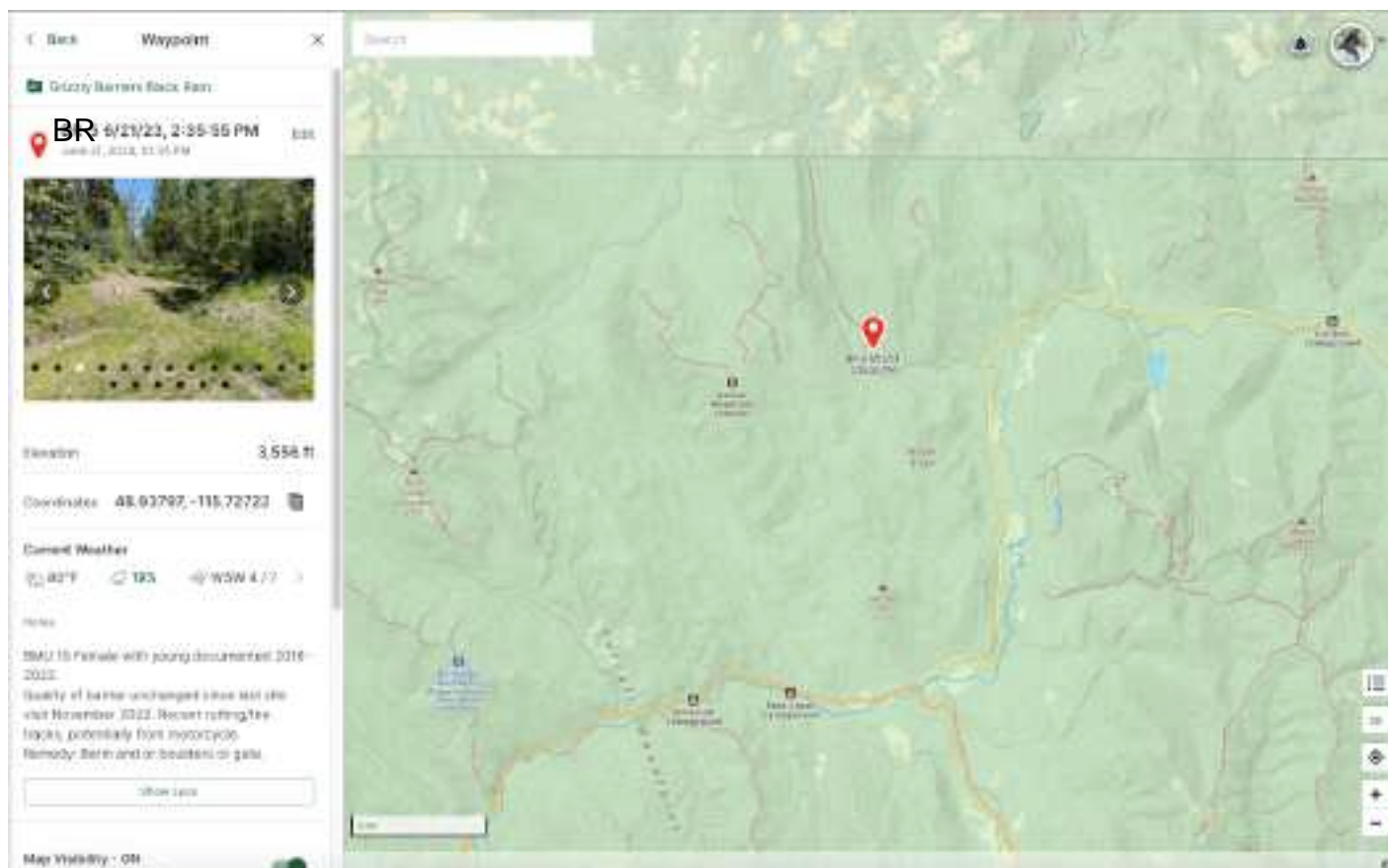
Remedy: Berm and or boulders or gate or all of the above.



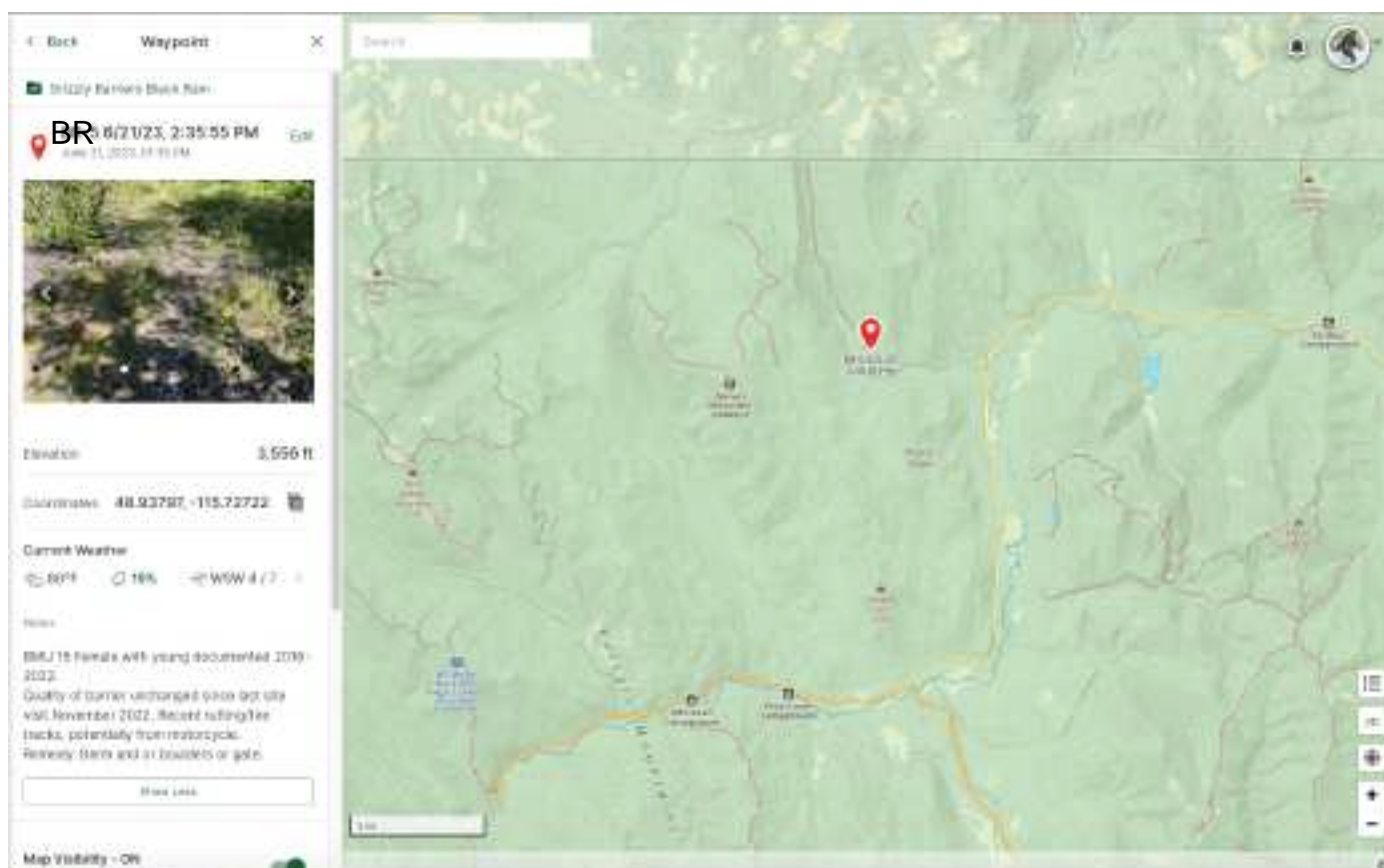
Road behind barrier is passable.









BR-



Site:	BR-6
Road #, or description:	(unmapped) User created road off of road # 5857
Coordinates:	48 55 49.5 / 115 44 12.1
Site Notes:	
2020: Looks to have been bermed to the right of the usercreated road, but currently has no barrier to prevent passage. Tracks, rutting and signs of dispersed camping along the travel corridor.Full vehicle width	



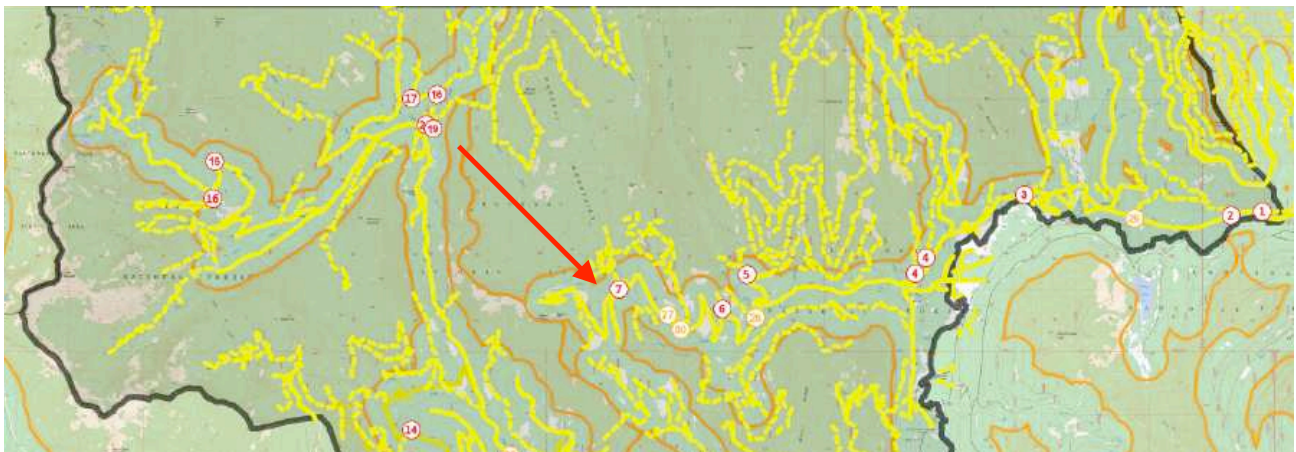


BR 7 **Coordinates: N 48.93478, W -115.77294**

Date 2024.08.13

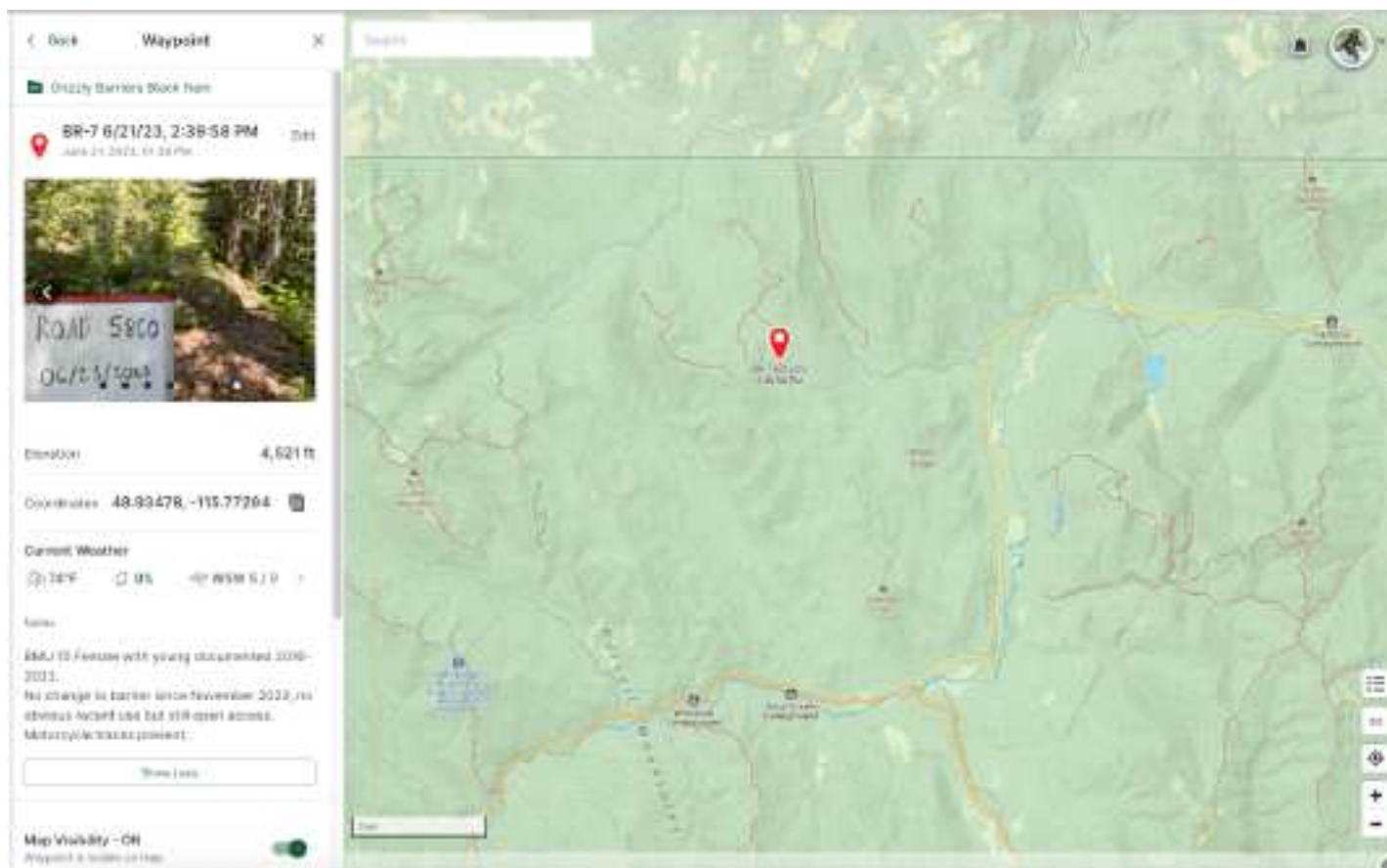
BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

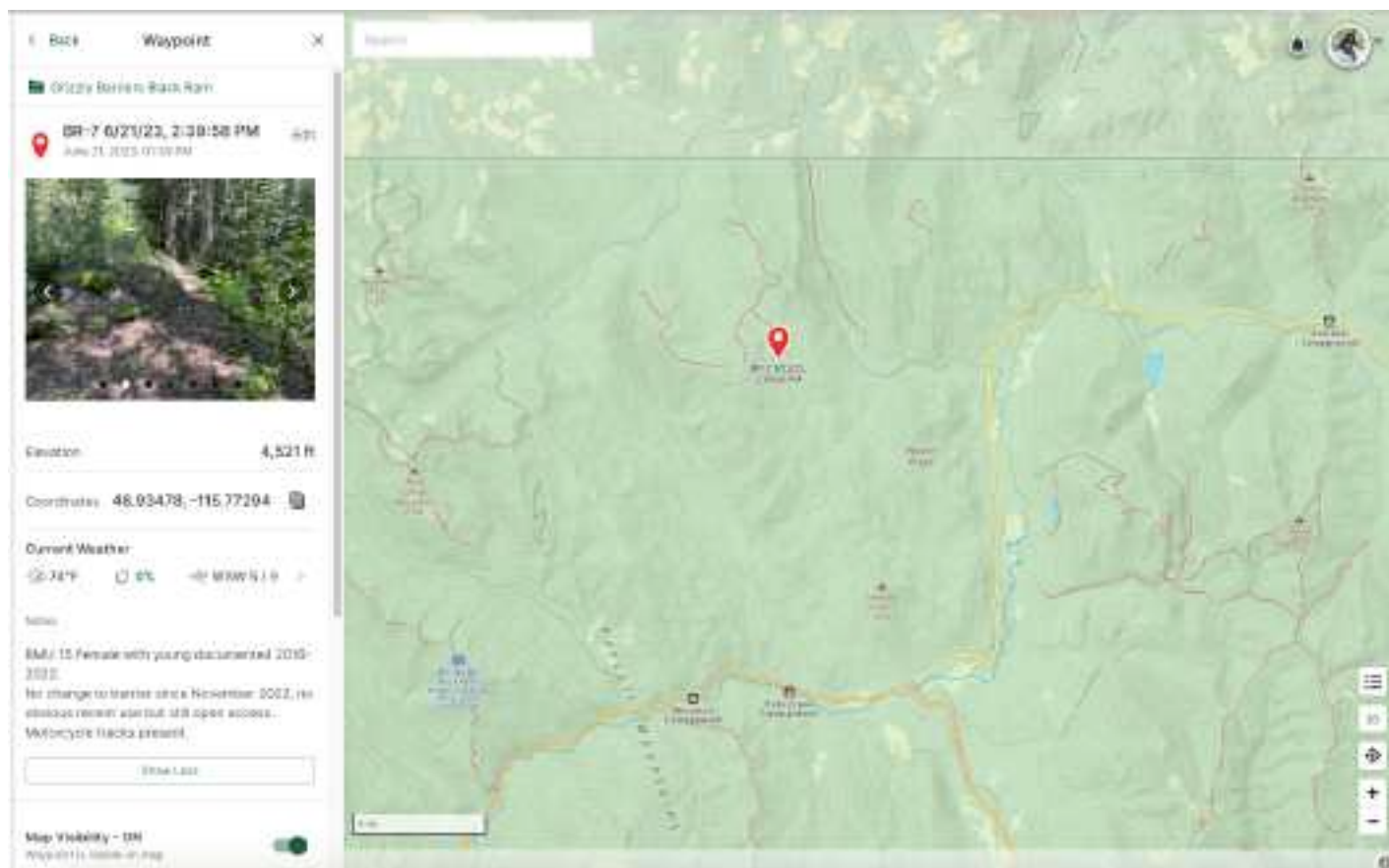
Barrier ineffective 2024. No change to barrier since November 2023, no obvious recent use but still open access. Motorcycle tracks present in 2023.

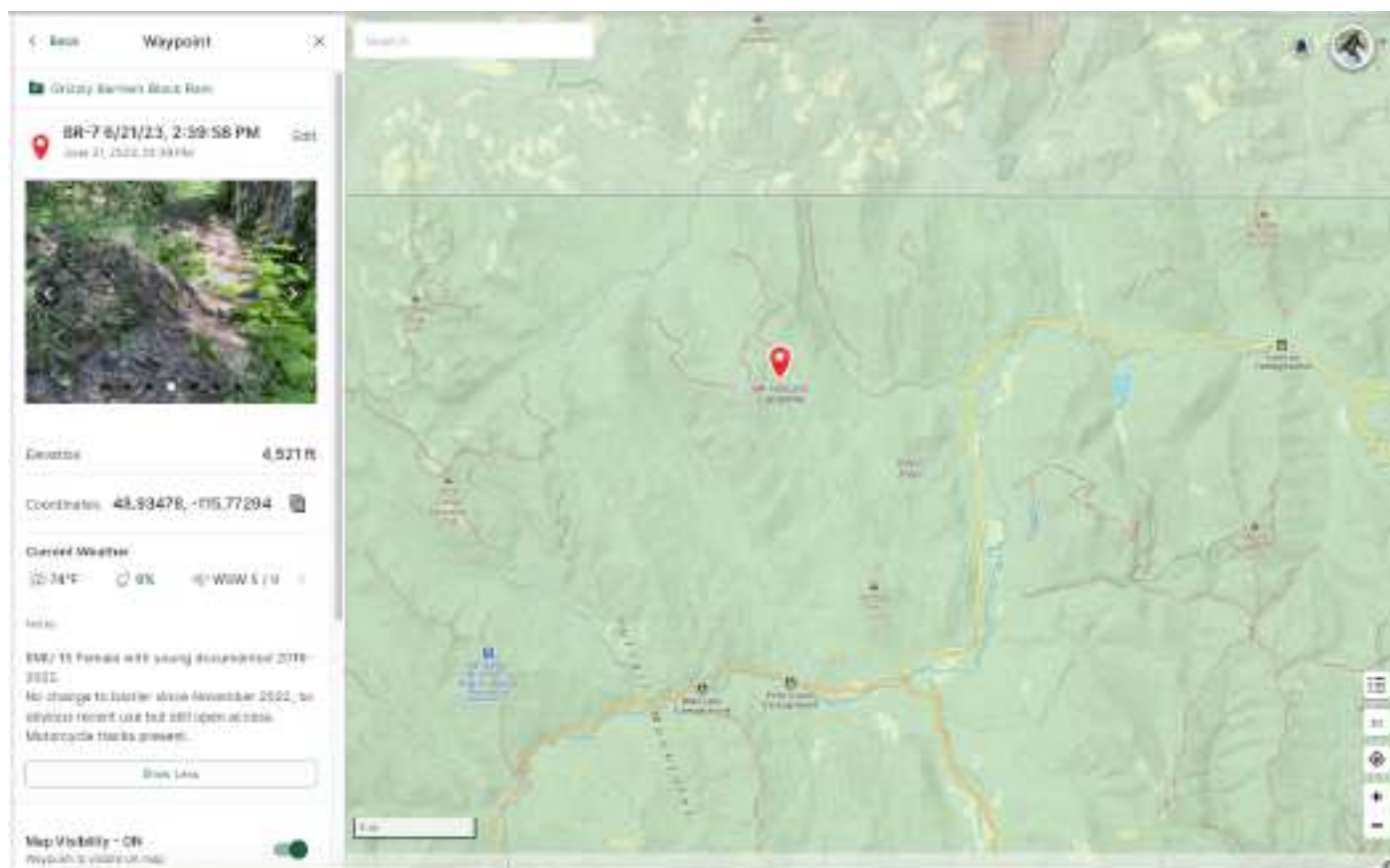


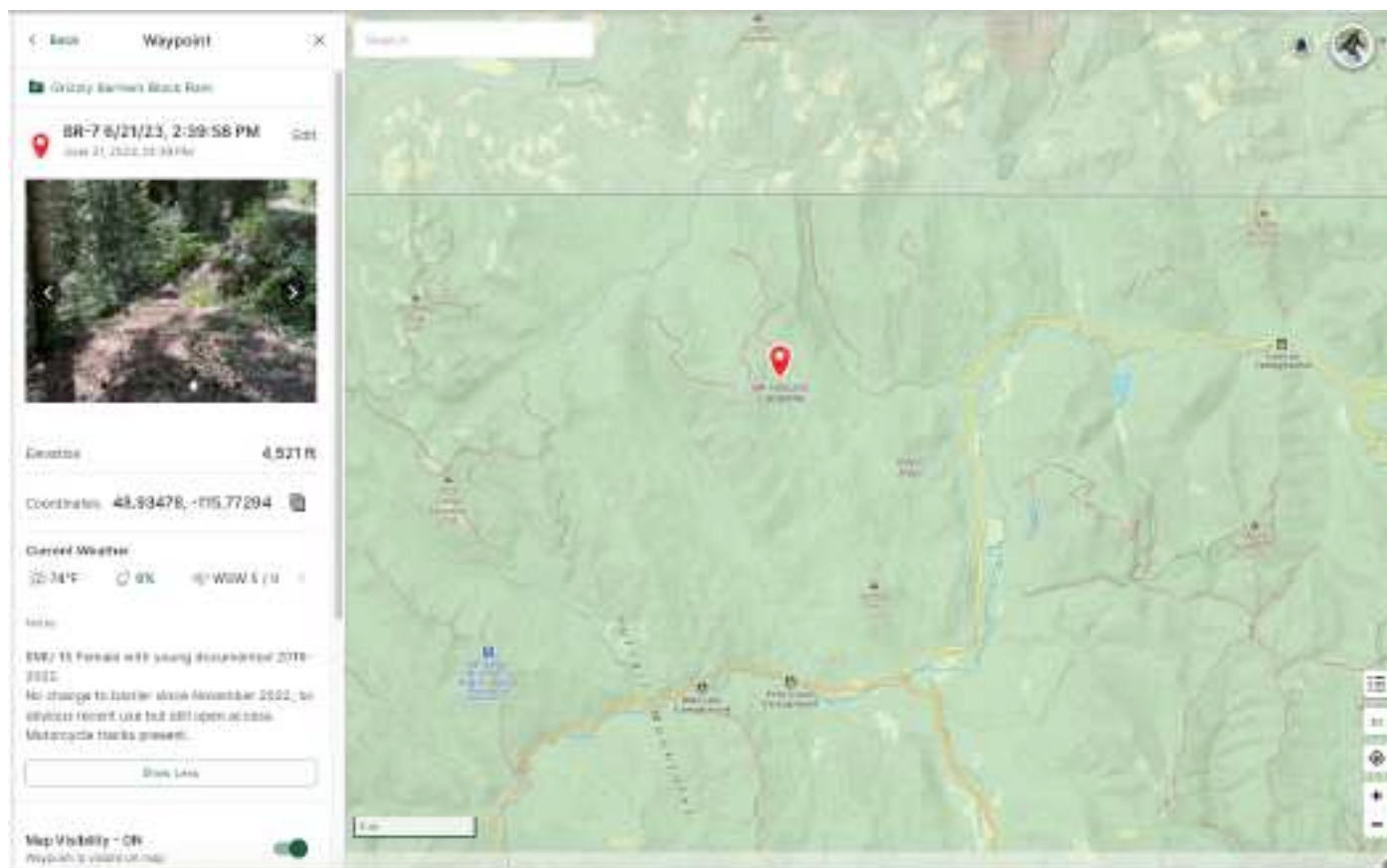
Barrier passable by ATV or motorcycle.

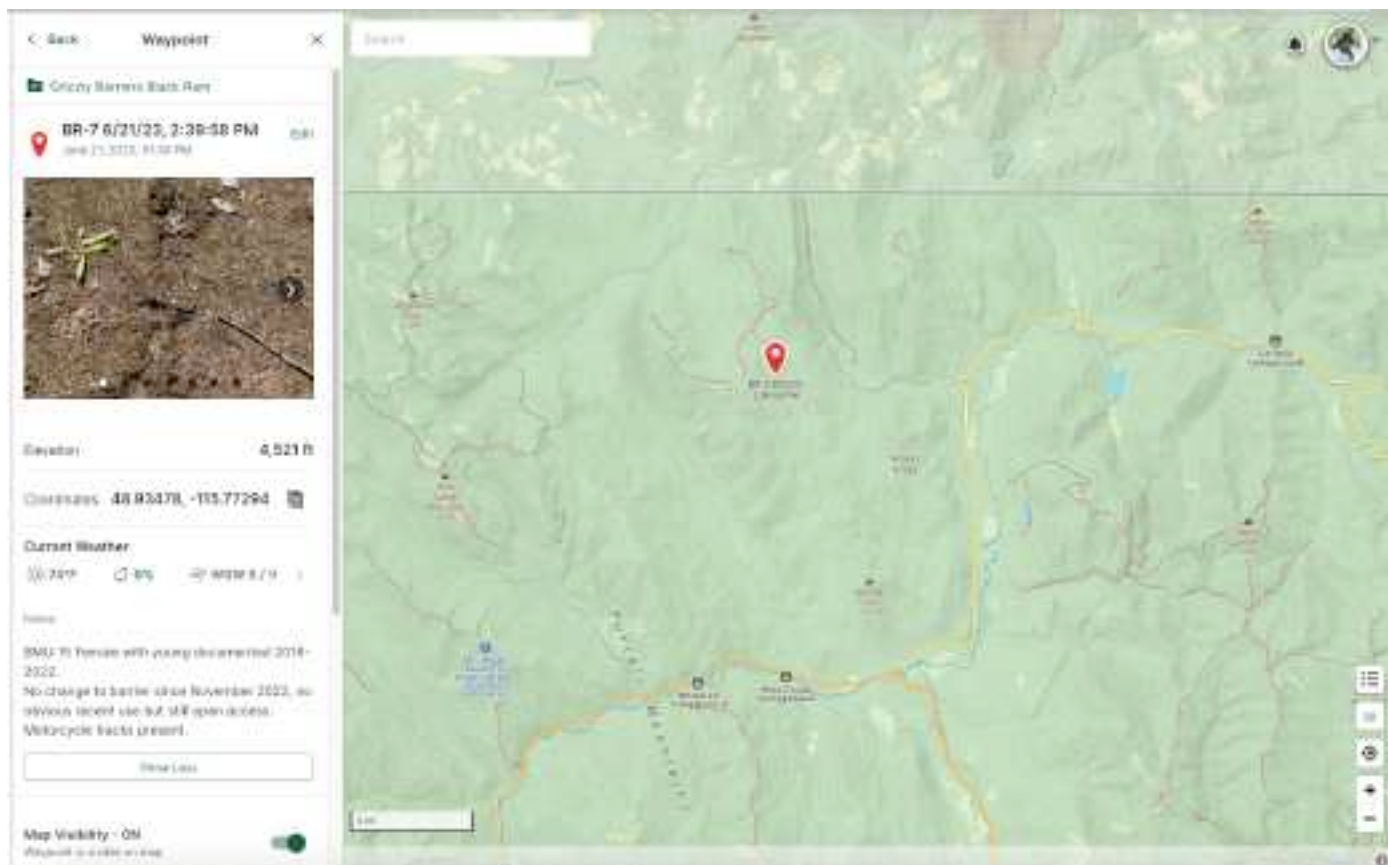












Site:	BR-7	
Road #, or description:	Road # 5860 / French Creek Trail # 22	
Coordinates:	48 56 05.2 / 115 46 22.6	
Site Notes:		
<p>2020: The berm located at the end of road 5860, the start of the French Creek trail, has a 3.5' wide passage to the berm-right. Woody debris has been laid along the fill-slope to widen the passage. Single track rutting from MV or 'fat-tire' bike.</p>		



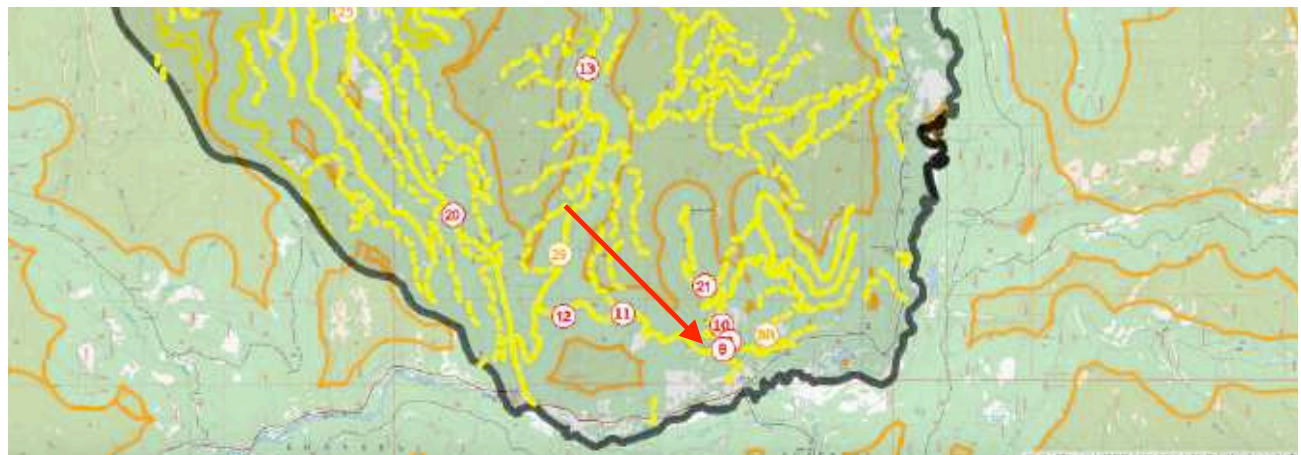
BR 8

Coordinates: N 48.83892, W -115.71231

Date 2024.08.13

BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. No notable change in barrier since November 2023. The berm barrier is present, however, the barrier has been completely negated by the user-created road circumventing barrier. Full vehicle width, obvious and recent use.

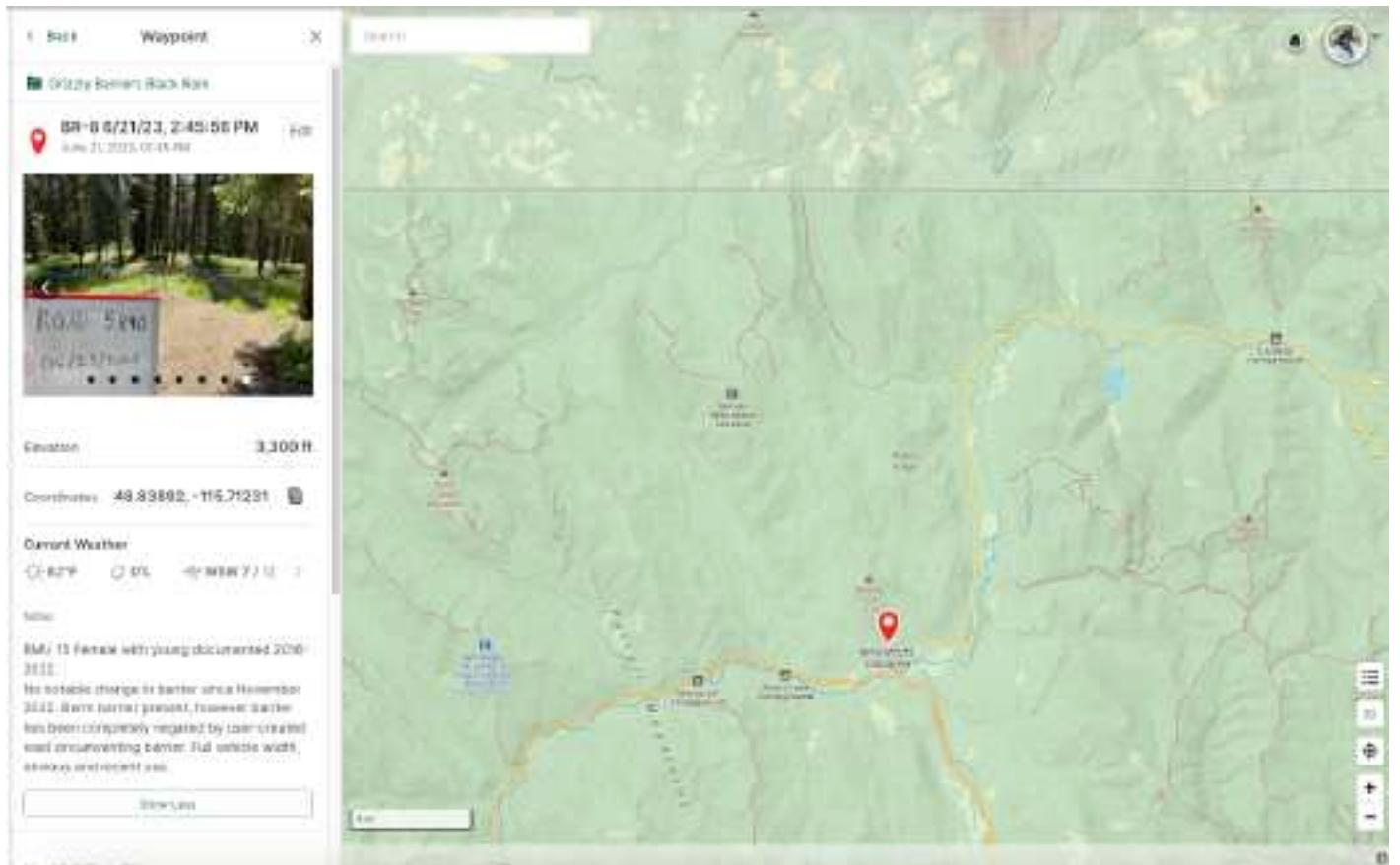


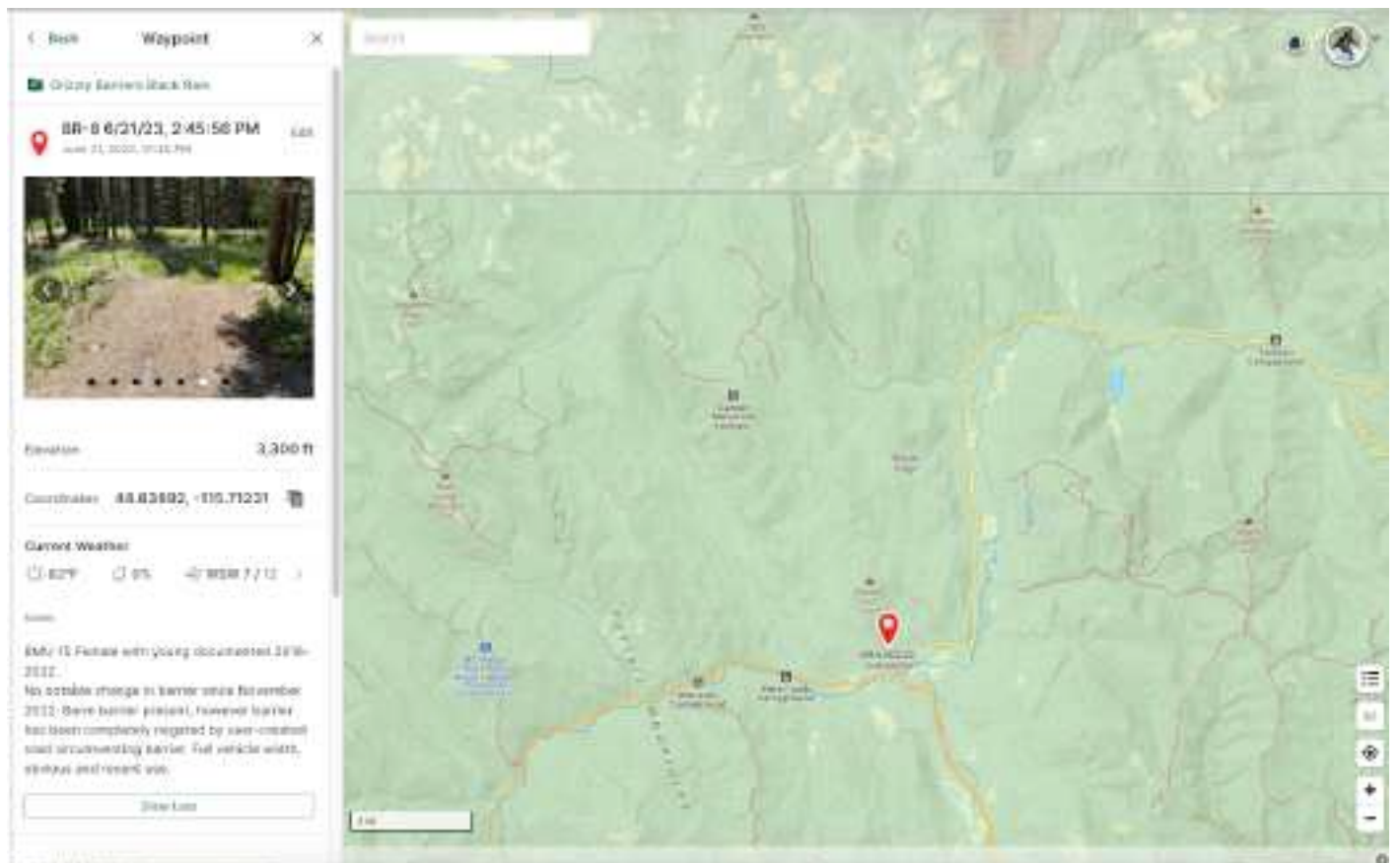
Berm with bypass in background.

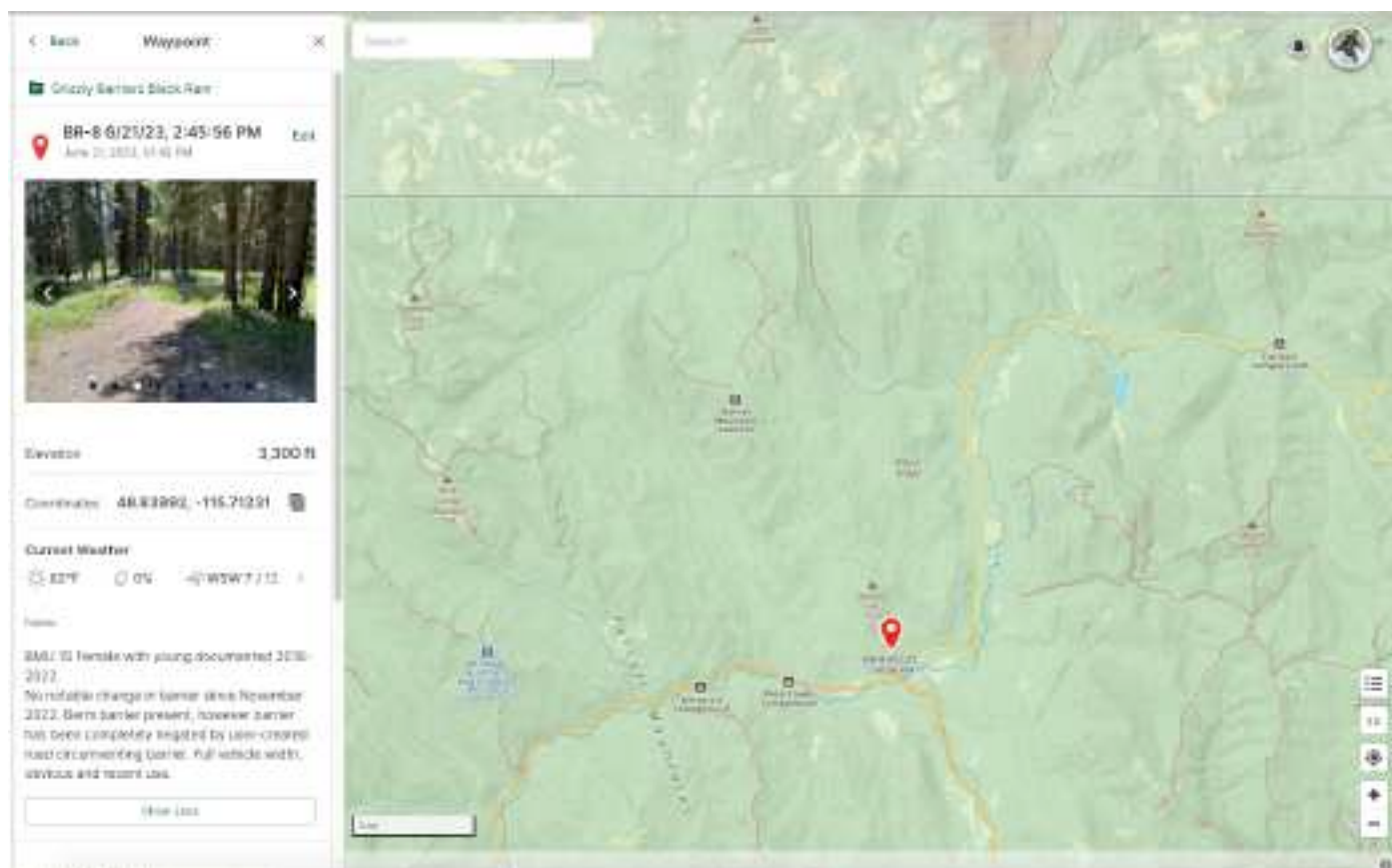


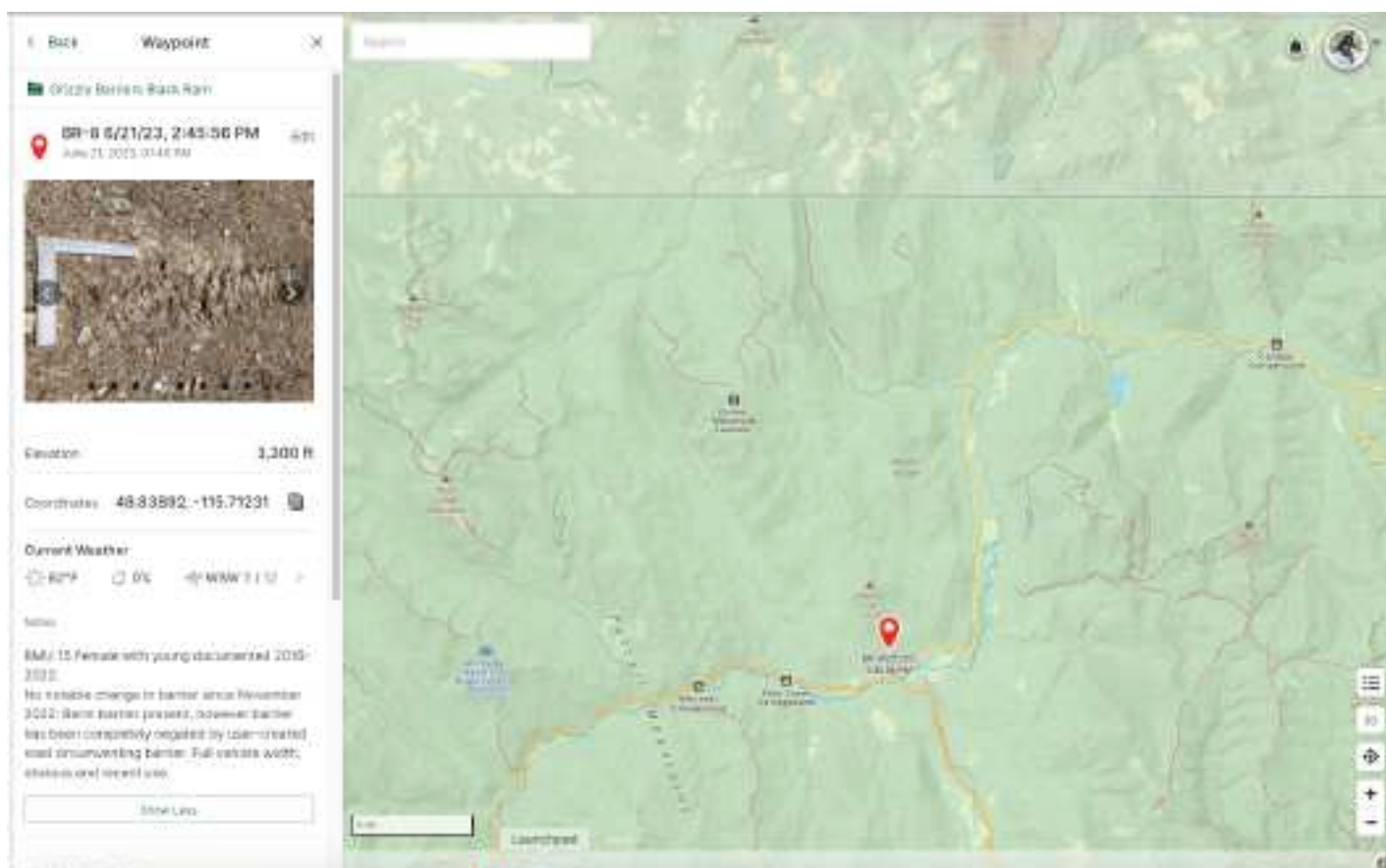
Bypass

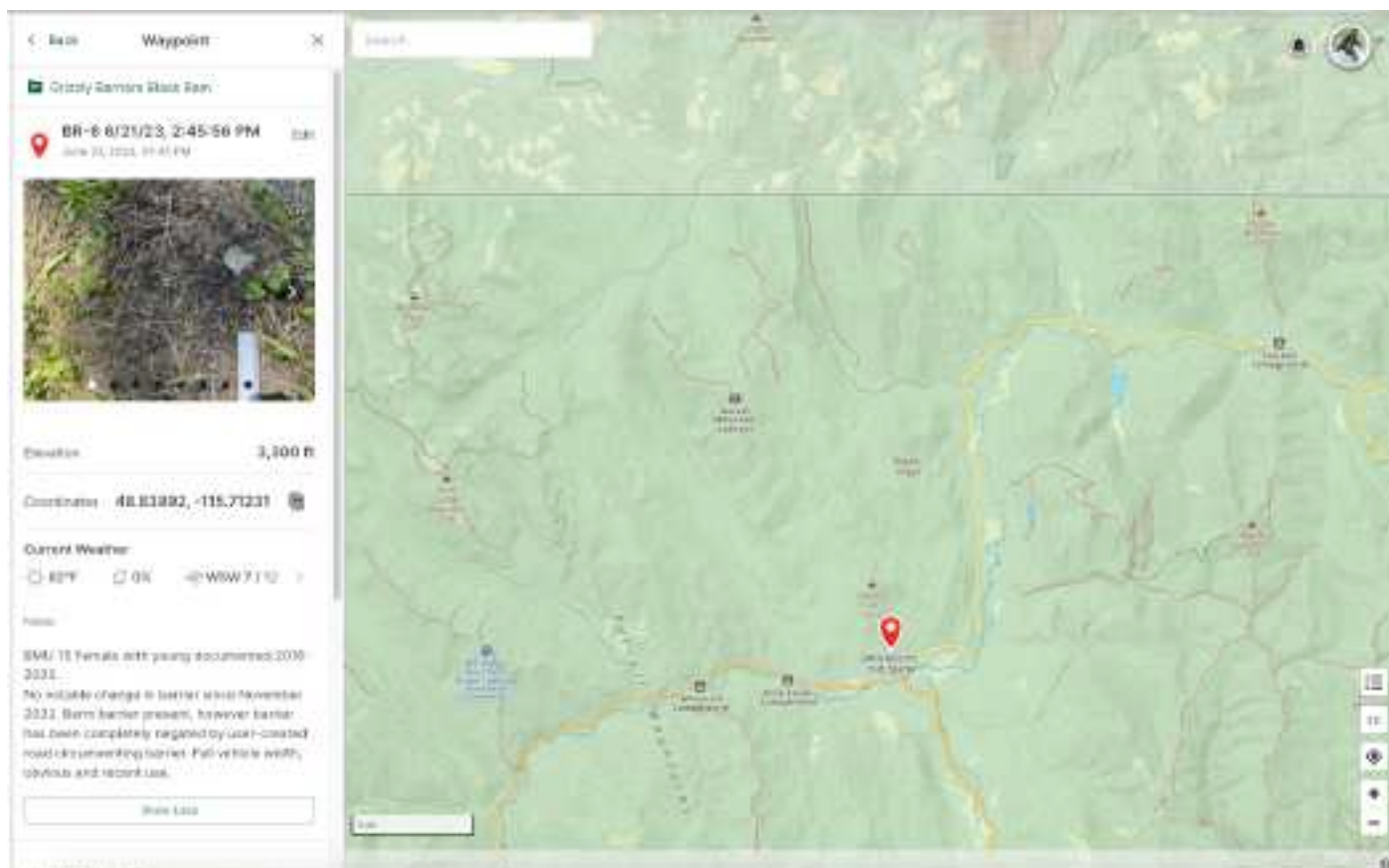
Barrier/Berm










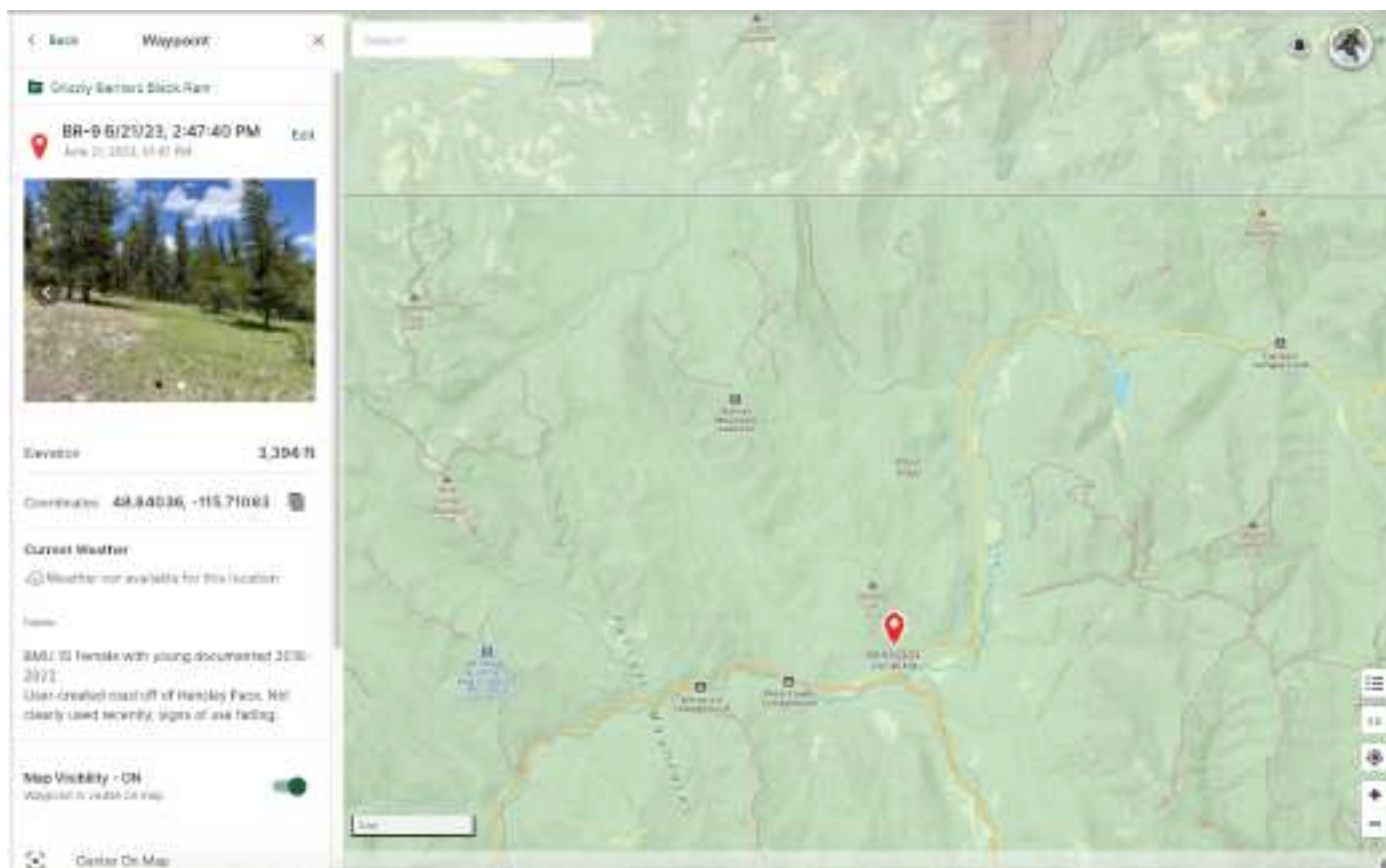


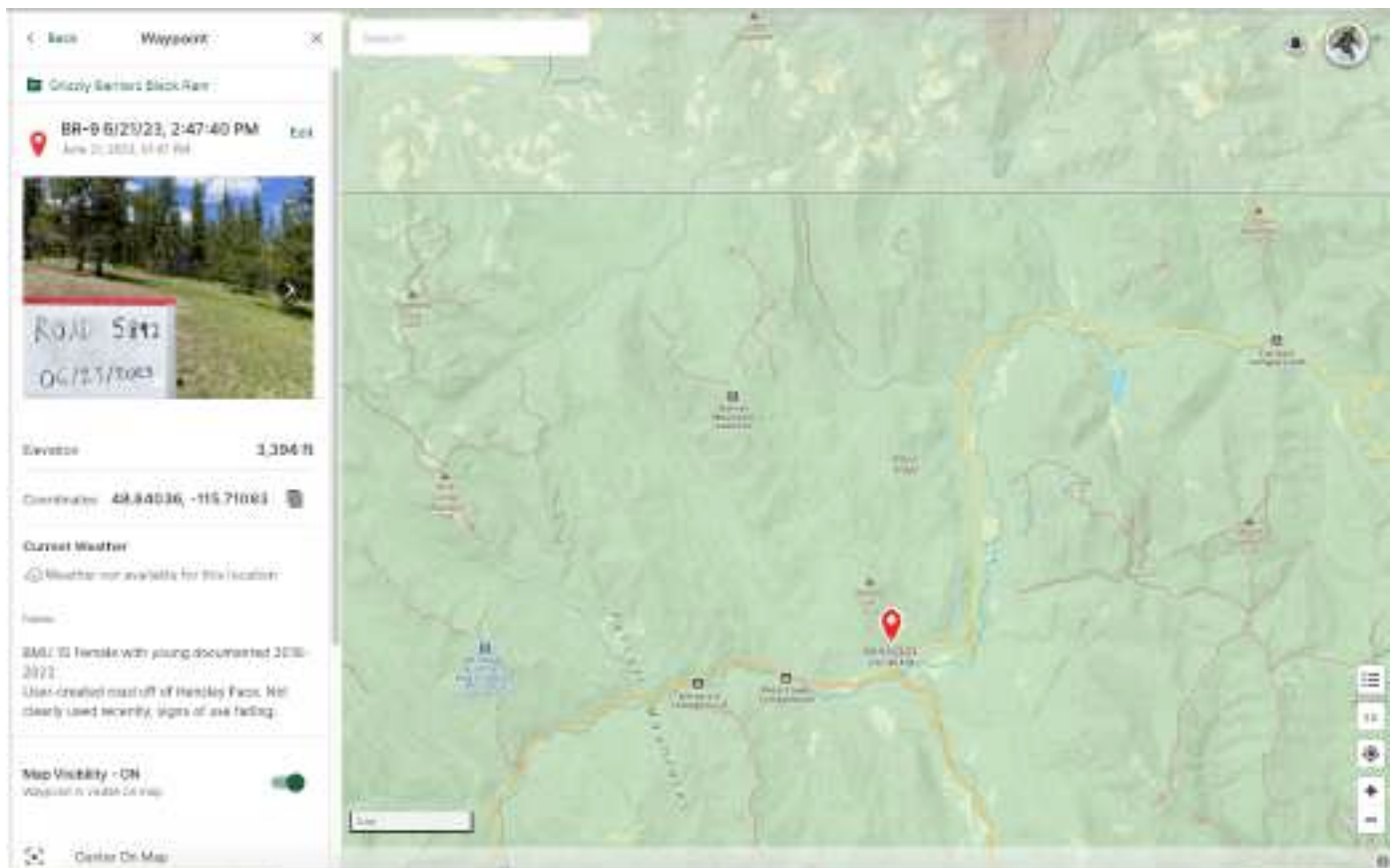
Site:	BR-8	
Road #, or description:	Road # 5890	
Coordinates:	48 50 20.1 / 115 42 44.3	
Site Notes:		
2020: Shallow berm located across the road at the junction of 5892 and 5886. There Is a full vehicle sized passageway approx. 50'to berm-left. Looks to be traveled frequently,major rutting and tracking from MV use. Barrier is ineffective and can be bypassed easily.		

BR 9

Coordinates: N 48.84036, W -11571083

Date:





Site:	BR-9	
Road #, or description:	(unmapped) User created road off of road # 5892	
Coordinates:	48 50 25.3 / 115 42 39.0	
Site Notes:		
2020: User created road. Looks to possibly have been bermed in the past, but now is nothing more than a 'bump'. Ineffective barrier and can be driven over by full-sized MV. Exceeds 300' in length.		

BR 10

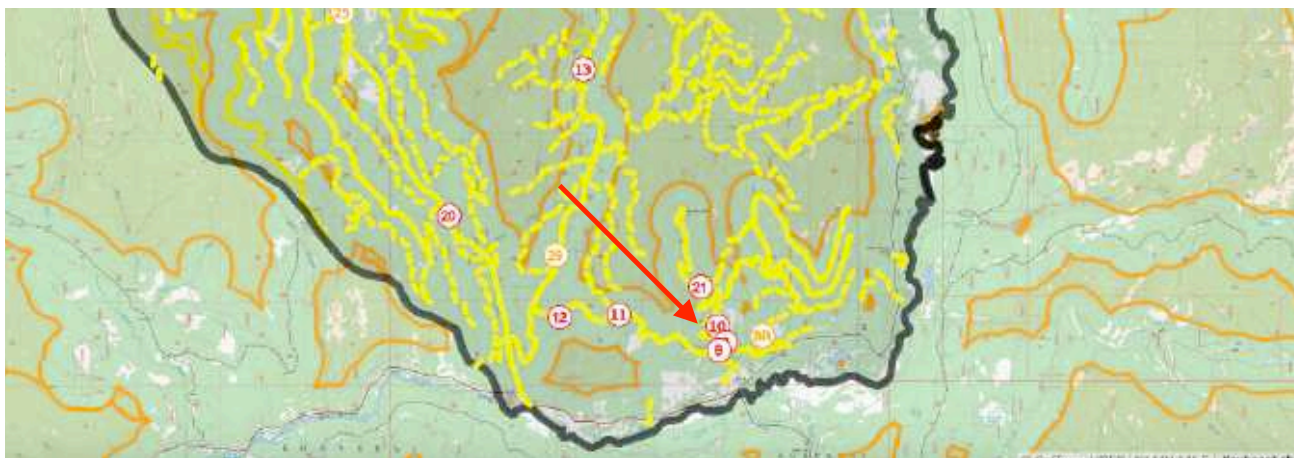
Coordinates: N 48.84303, W -11571275

Date: 2024.08.13

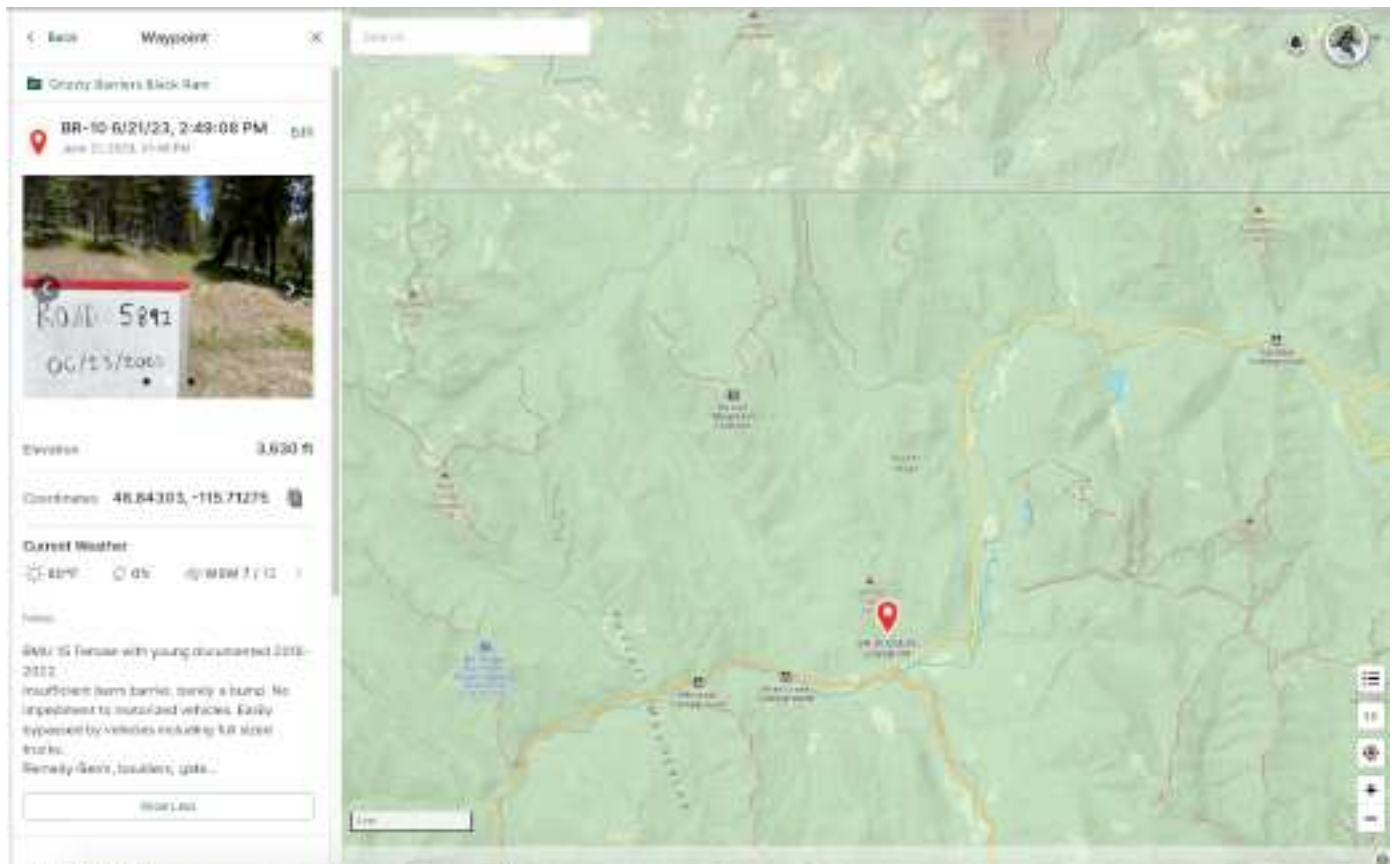
BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023

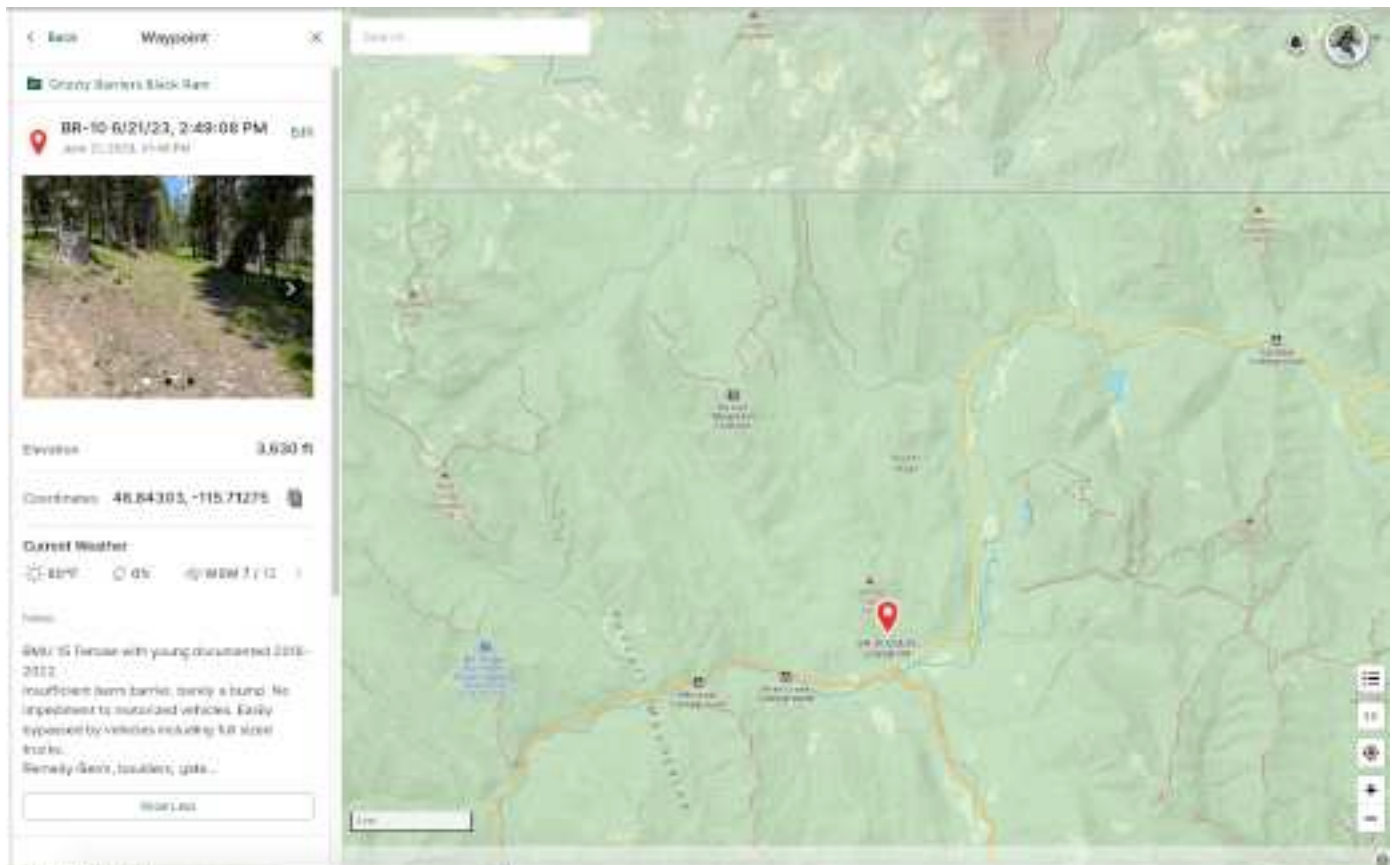
Barrier ineffective 2024. Insufficient berm barrier, barely a bump-passable in Subaru Outback. No impediment to motorized vehicles. Road easily accessible off of main NF Rad 5872.



Remedy: Berm, boulders, gate. Barrier needs to extend uphill and downhill from gate.









Site:	BR-10	
Road #, or description:	(unmapped) User created road off of road # 5892	
Coordinates:	48 50 34.9 / 115 42 45.9	
Site Notes:		
2020: Insufficient berm, nothing more than a minor bump. No signage.Exceeds 300' in length. Looks driven often by full-sized vehicles.		

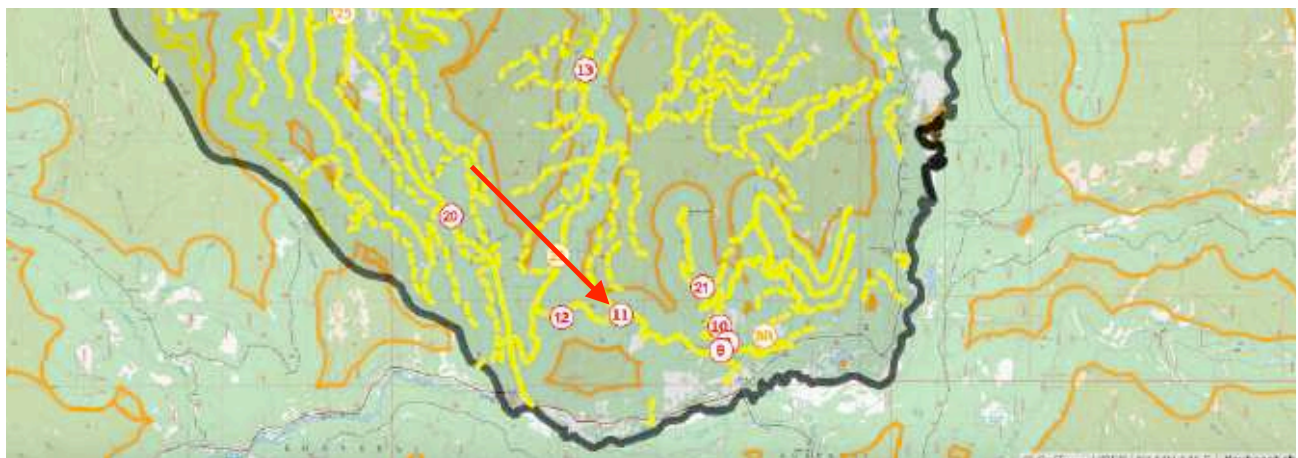
BR 11

Coordinates: N 48.84506, W -115.73875

Date: 2024.08.13

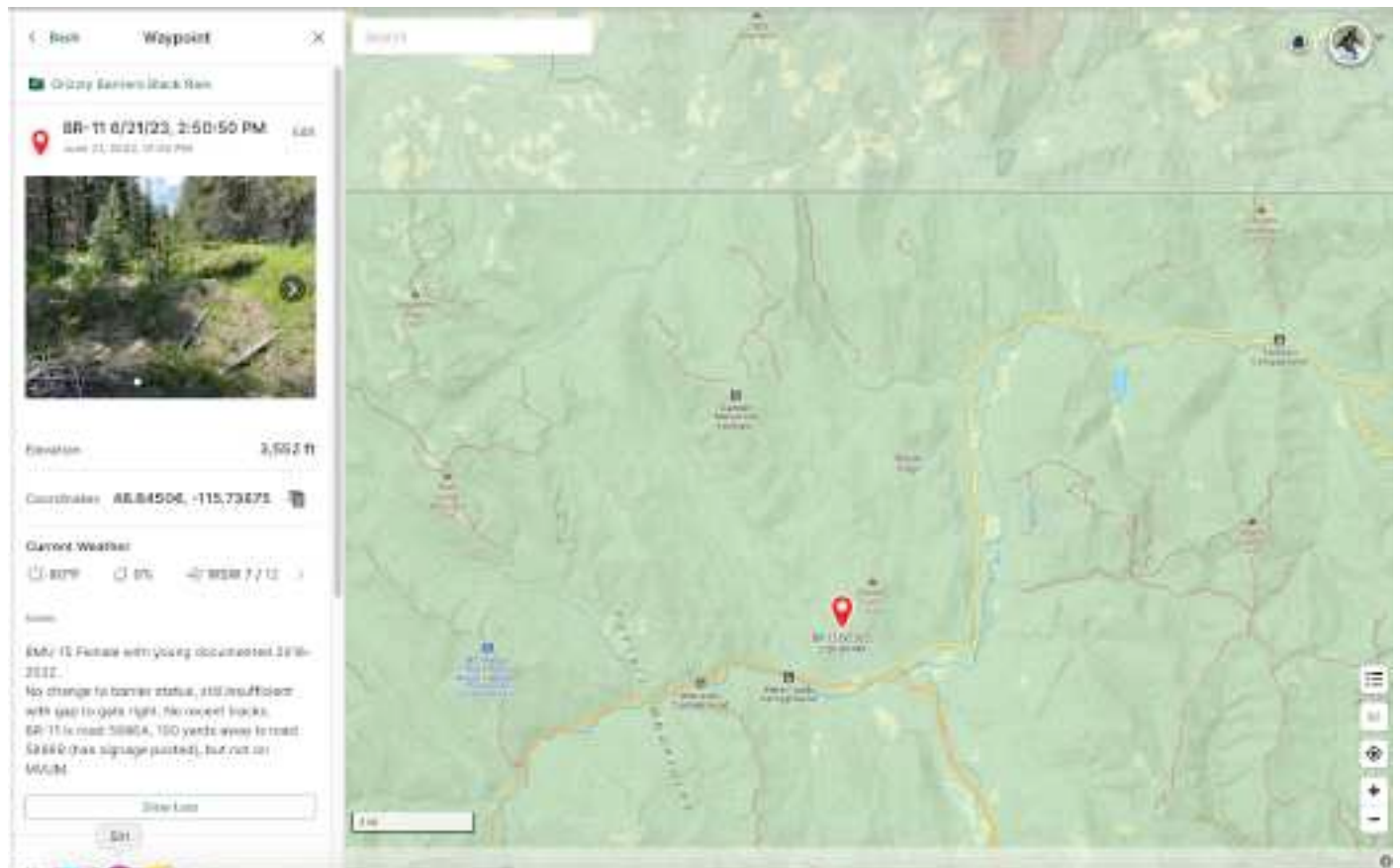
BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. No change to barrier status, still insufficient with a bypassable gap to the right of berm. No recent tracks. BR-11 is road 5886A, and 100 yards away is road 5886B (has signage posted), but not on the Motor Vehicle Use Map.

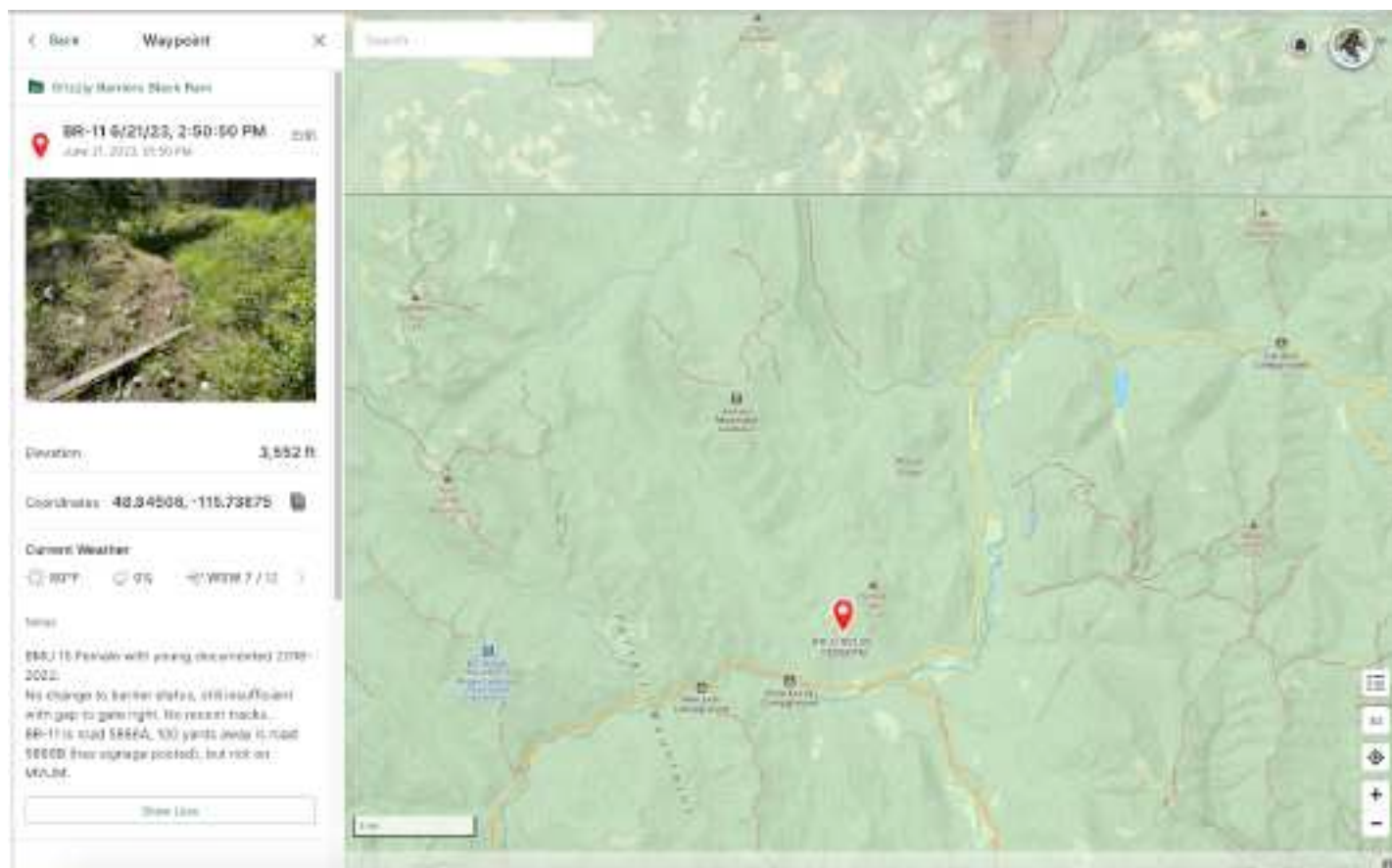




Bypass



A photograph showing a steep, eroded bank. On the left side of the bank, a long, thin, light-colored metal strip or pipe is visible, possibly part of a retaining structure or a drainage system. The bank itself is composed of brown soil and some rocks, with sparse green vegetation growing on it. To the right of the bank, there is a dense area of green grass and other plants. The background is filled with more dense green foliage, including trees and shrubs. The overall scene suggests a natural or semi-natural environment with some human-made structures or interventions.



Site:	BR-11	
Road #, or description:	Road # 5886	
Coordinates:	48 50 42.2 / 115 4419.5	
Site Notes:		
<p>2020: Berm with motor-vehicle passage to berm-right. Signage at the barrier is broken from being driven over. Rutting and tire tracks going around the barrier.</p>		
		

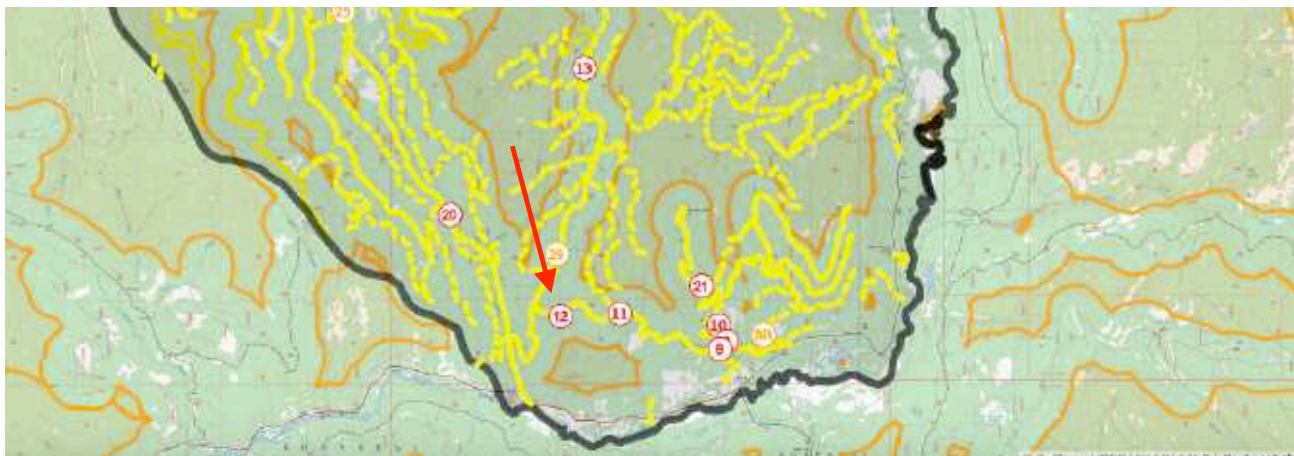
BR 12 **Coordinates: N 48.84444 , W -115.75414**

Date: 2024.08.13

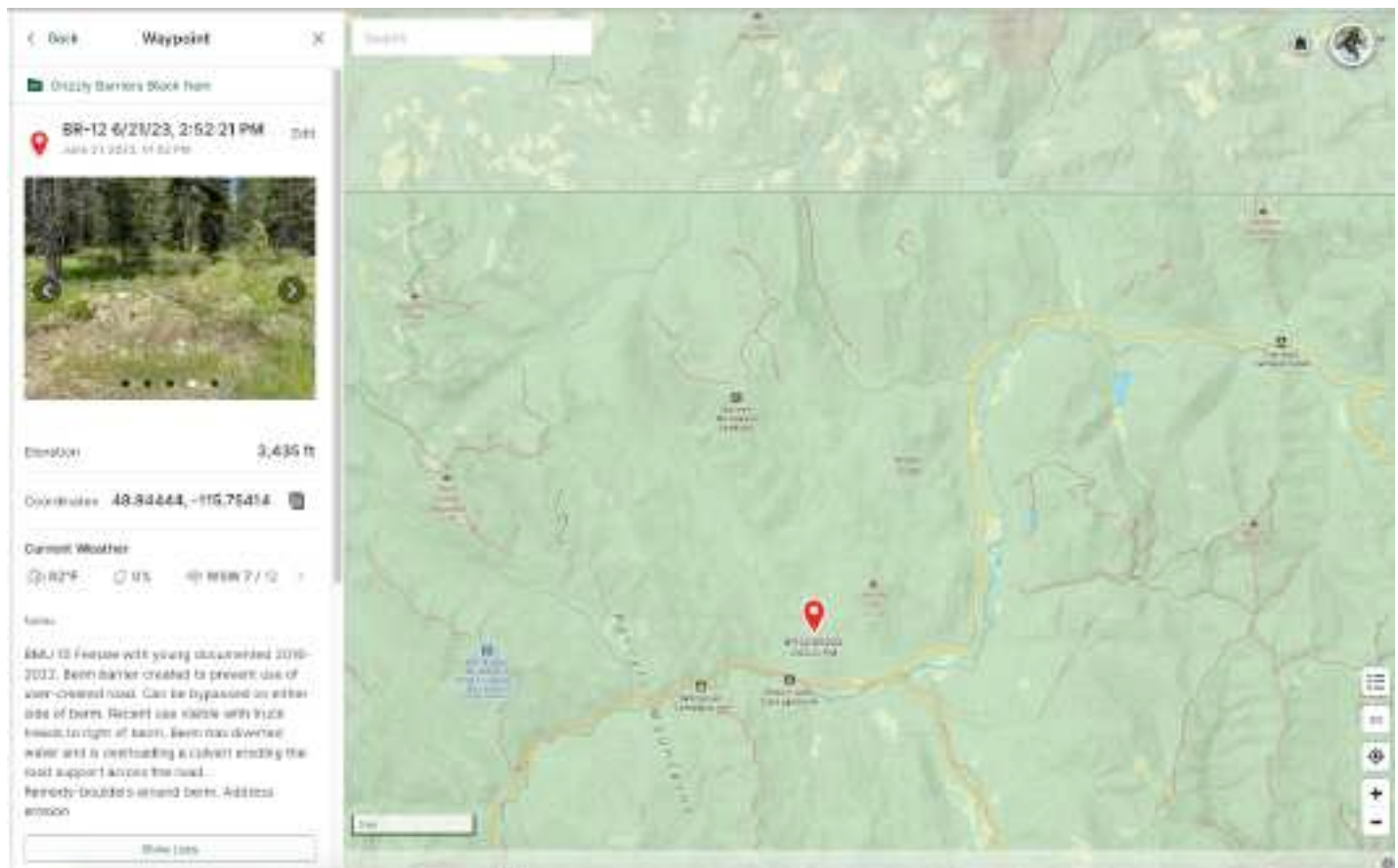
BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

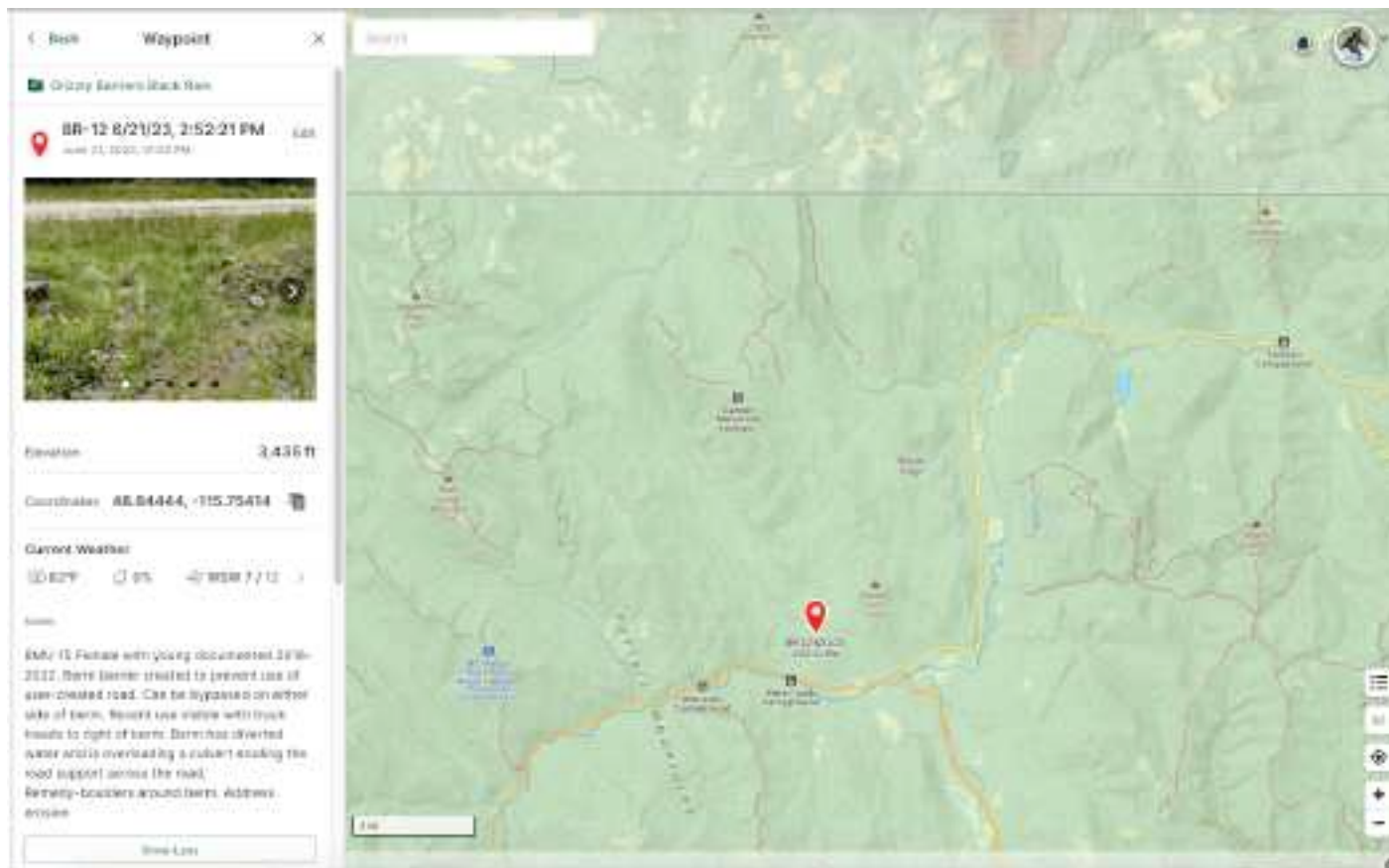
Barrier ineffective 2024. A Berm barrier was created to prevent the use of user-created road. Berm can be bypassed on either side. Recent use was visible with truck treads to right of berm in 2023. Berm has diverted water and is overloading a culvert, eroding the road support across the road.

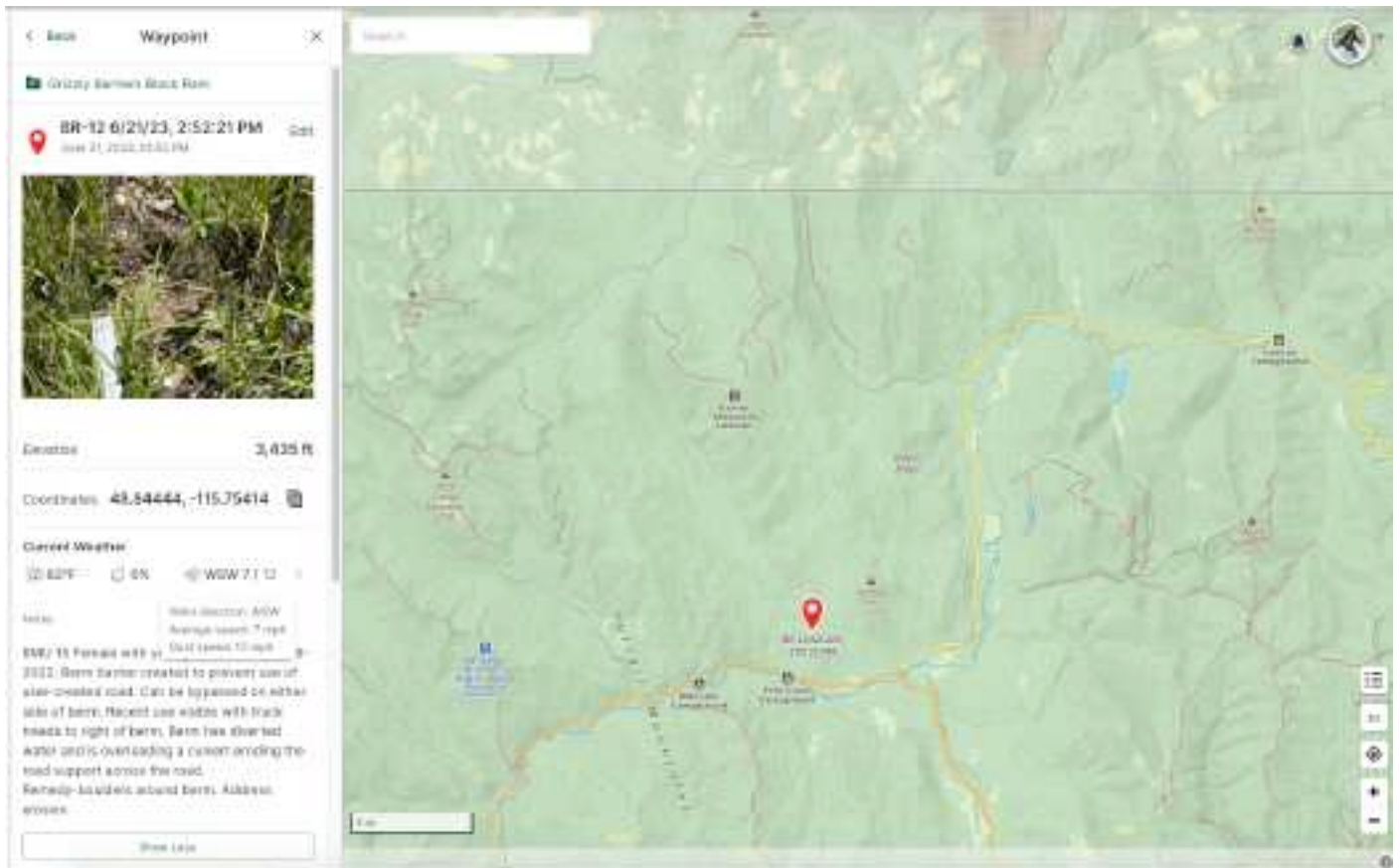
Remedy-boulders around berm. Address erosion.













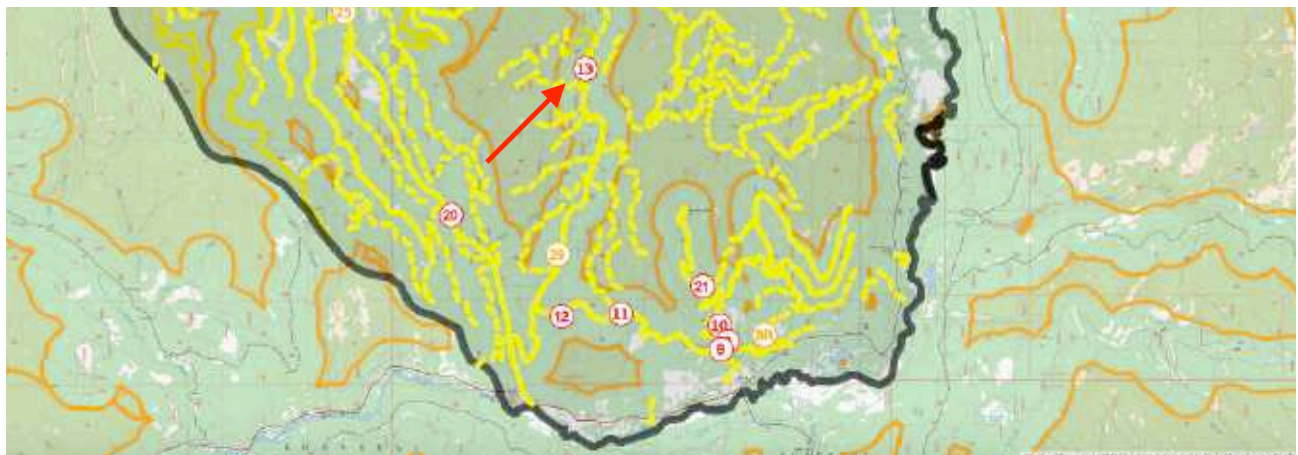
Site:	BR-12	
Road #, or description:	(unmapped) User created road off of road # 5886	
Coordinates:	48 50 40.0 / 115 4514.9	
Site Notes:		
<p>2020: A full-sized MV travel corridor that proceeds through vegetation and forest, located off of 5886 Hensley Face Road. Well established roadbed with new berm barrier installed 2021. Can easily be bypassed to barrier left and right. Exceeds 300' in length.</p> <p>2022: This is one of the sites where the Forest Service created a berm to deter illegal MV use. This user created road was bermed sometime between summer 2020 and summer 2021, when YVFC next surveyed these barriers. However, this berm can be bypassed on either side.</p>		

BR 13 **Coordinates: N 48.88708, W -115.74781** **Date: 2024.08.02**

BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. The barrier can be bypassed to the right gate by an ATV, side by side, or with other vehicles.

Remedy-Boulders





CalTopo Properties

- BR-13
- 48.88713, -115.74774

Raw Photo Properties

- August 2, 2024 5:01 AM
- 48.88713, -115.74774
- 280°

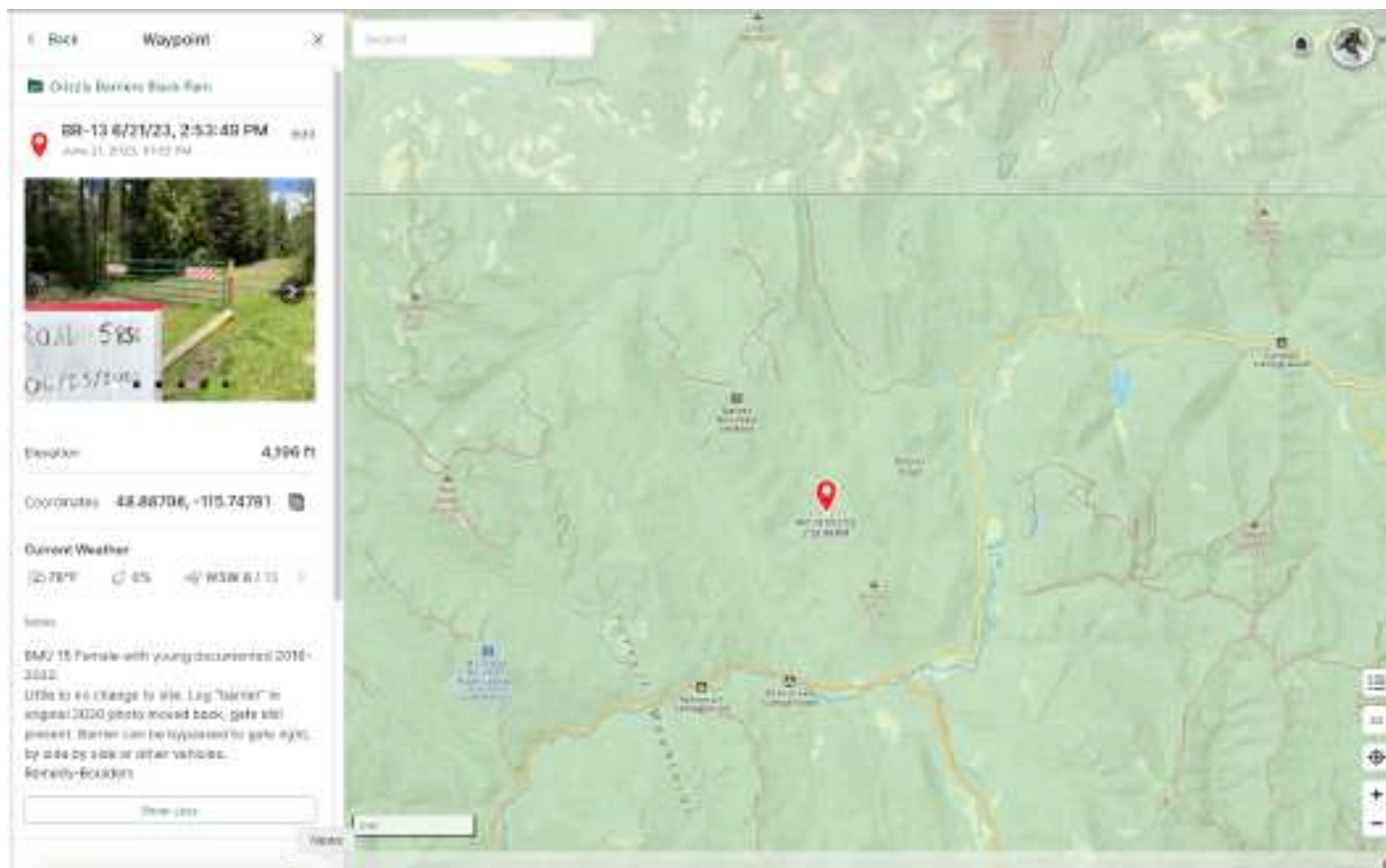


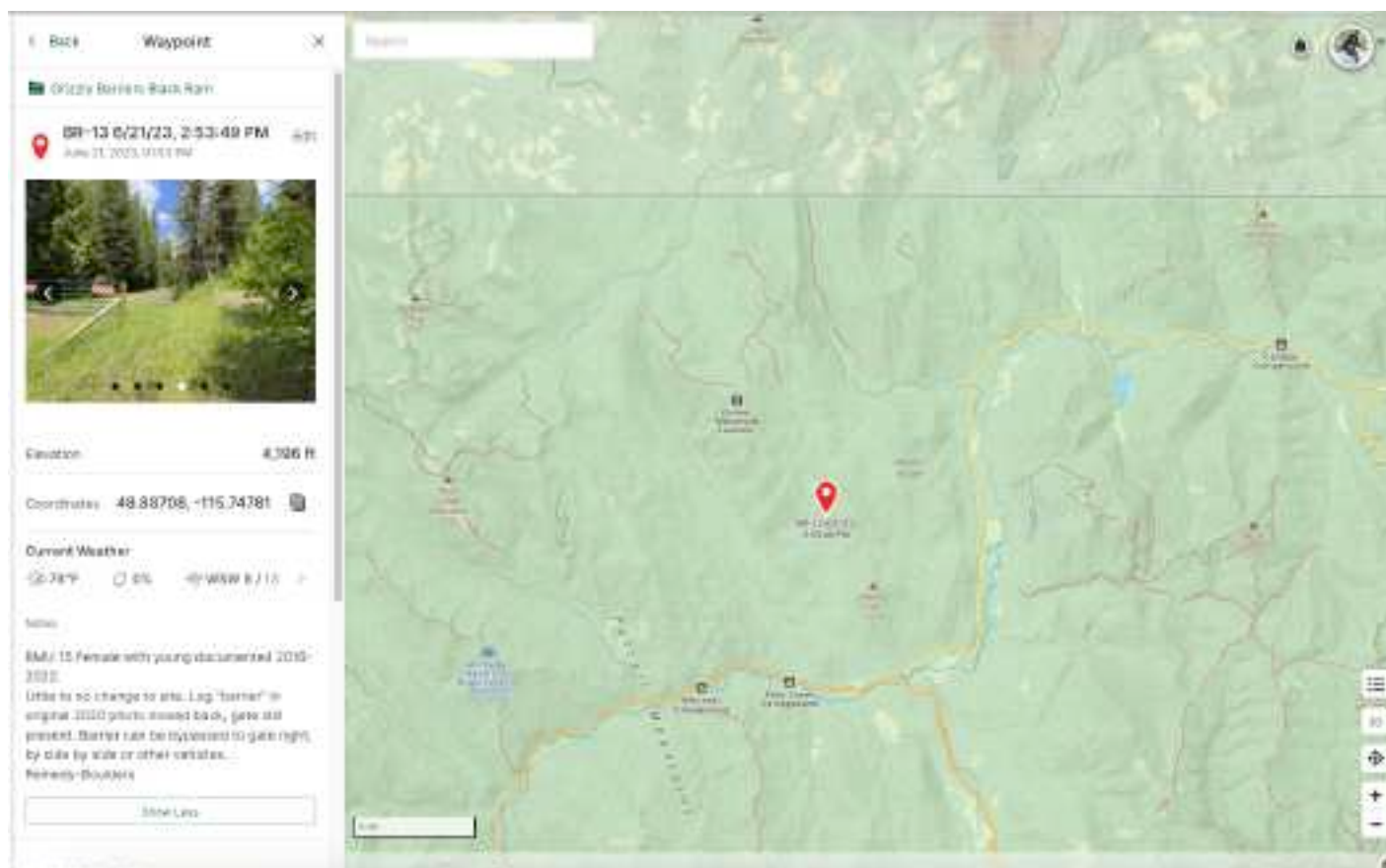
CalTopo Properties

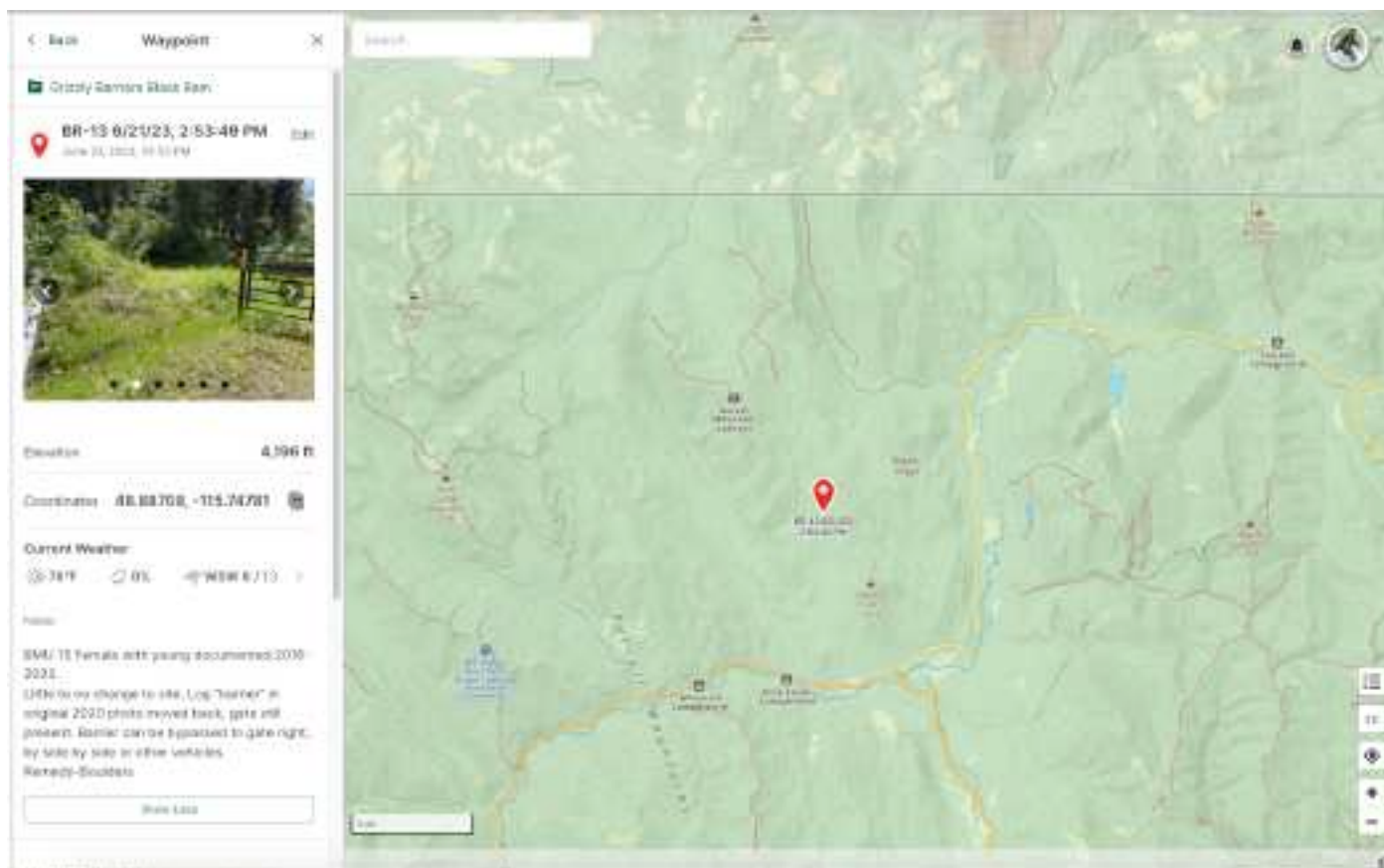
- BR-13
- 48.88717, -115.74775

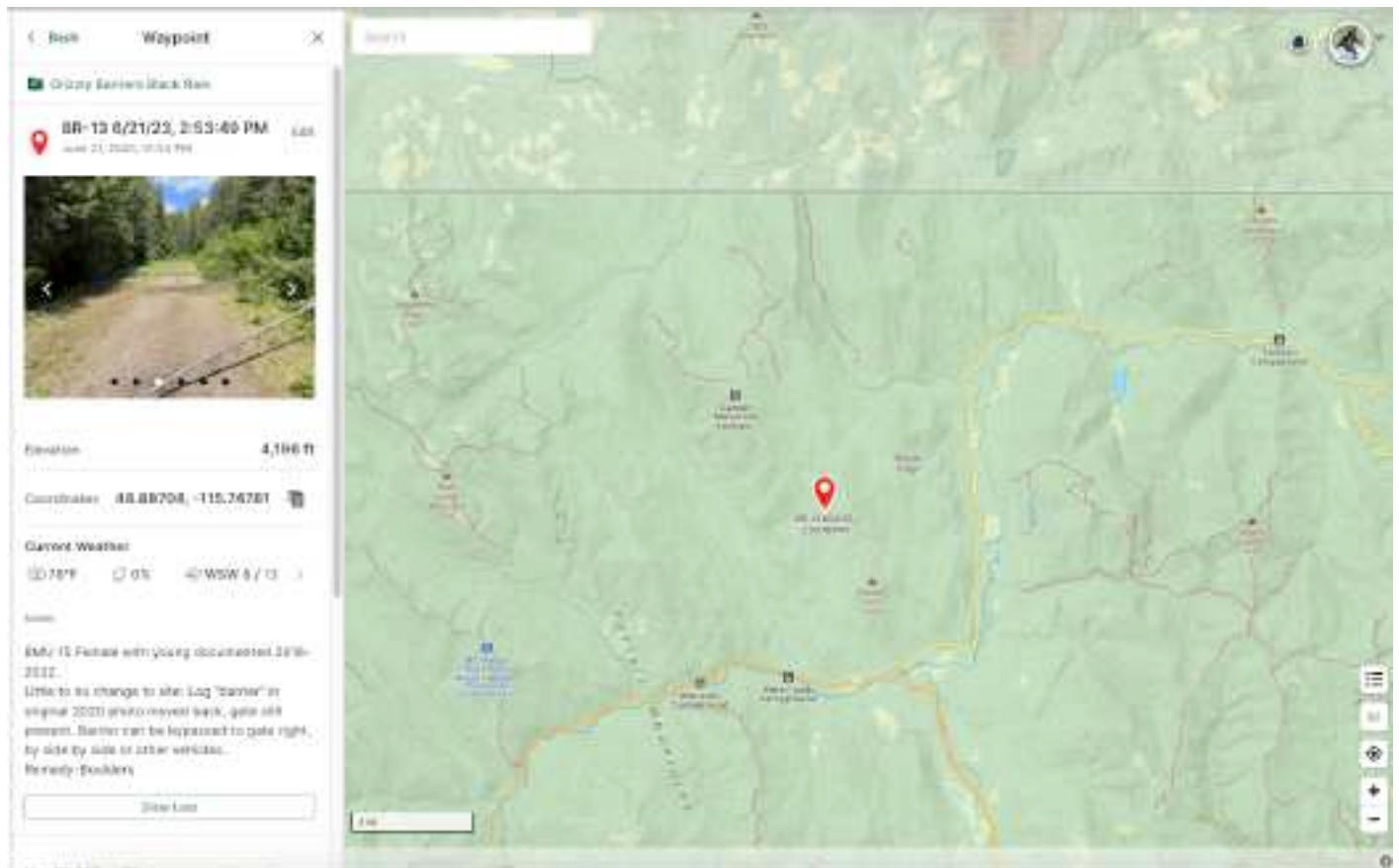
Raw Photo Properties

- August 2, 2024 5:02 AM
- 48.88717, -115.74775
- 79°



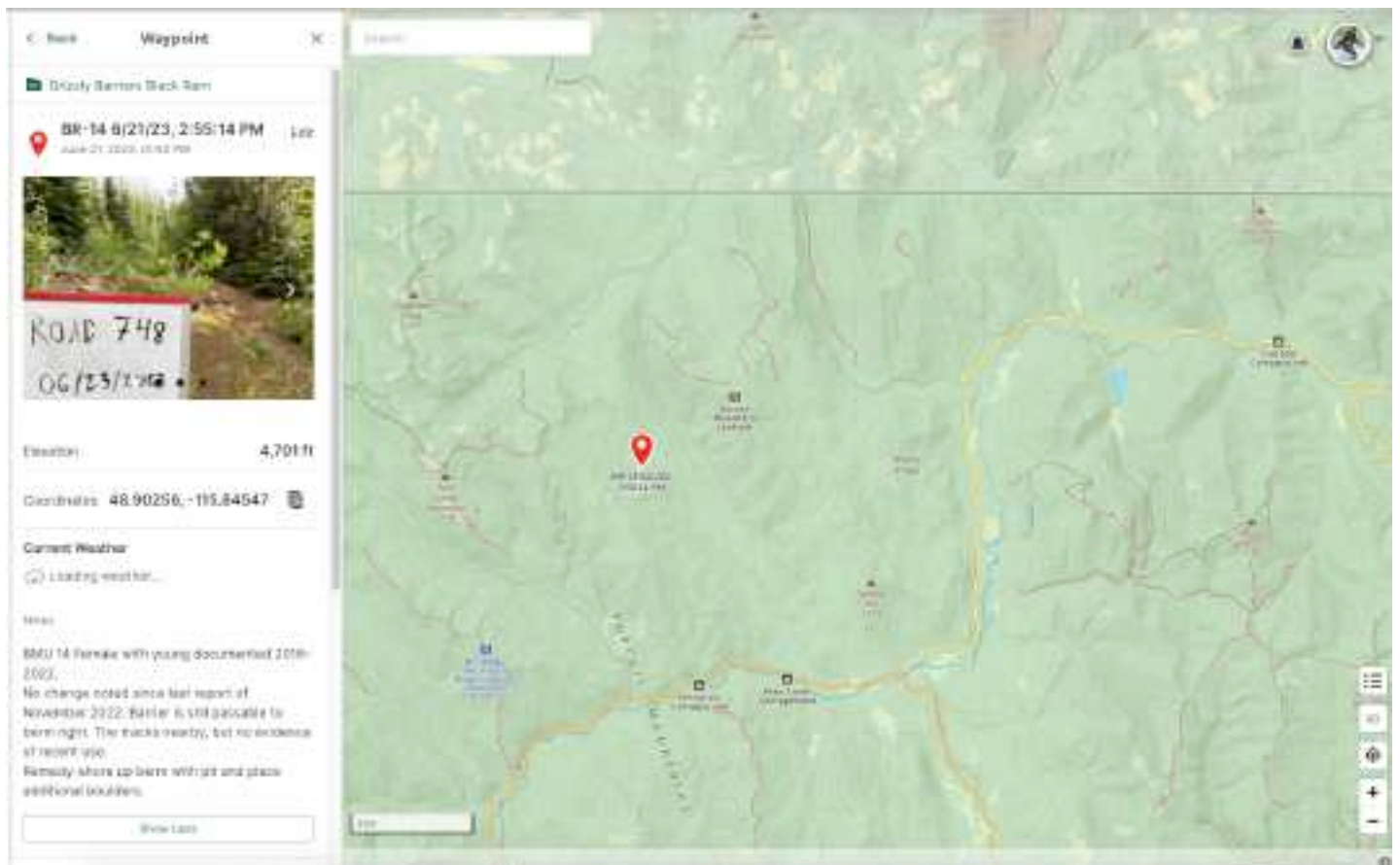


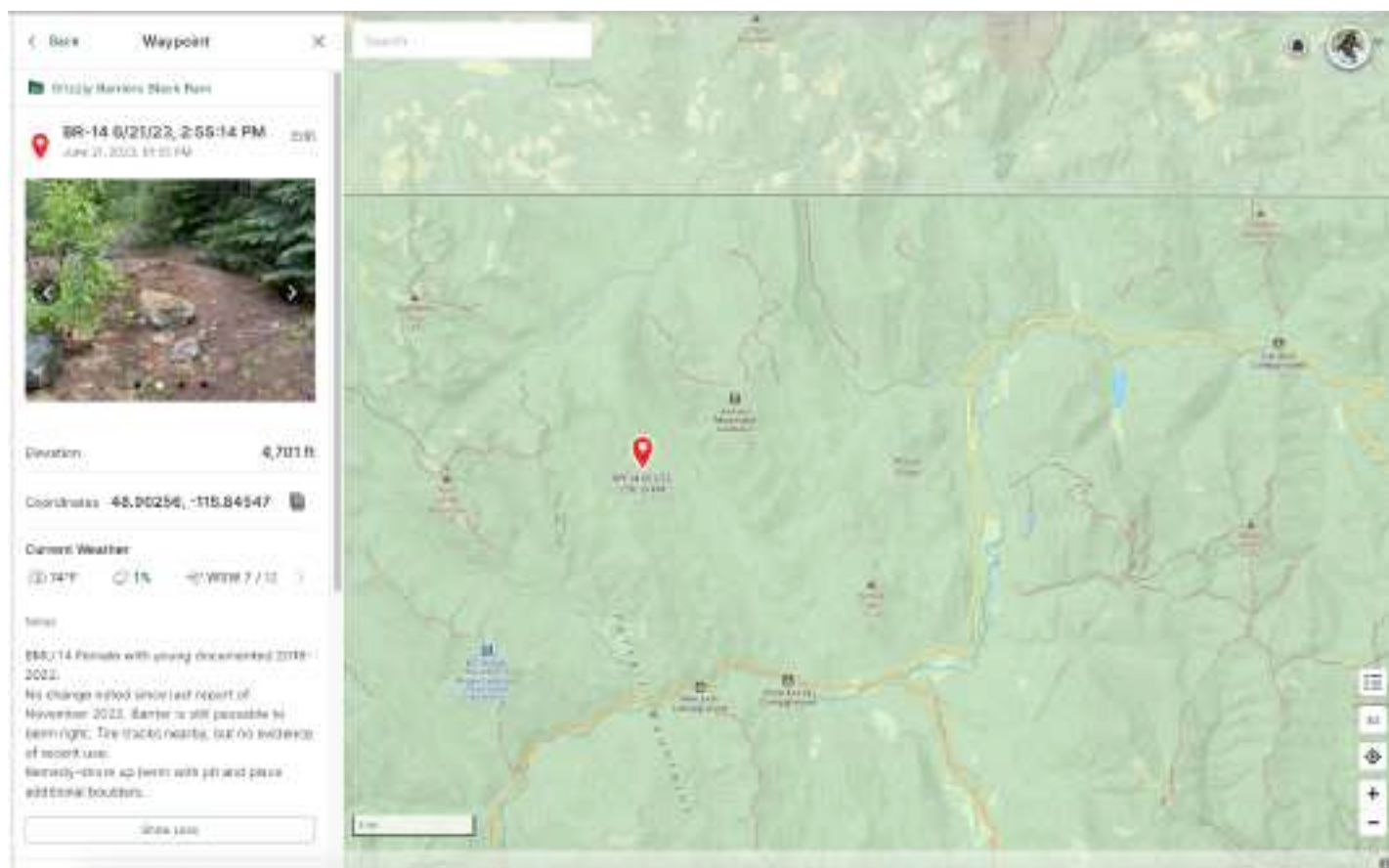


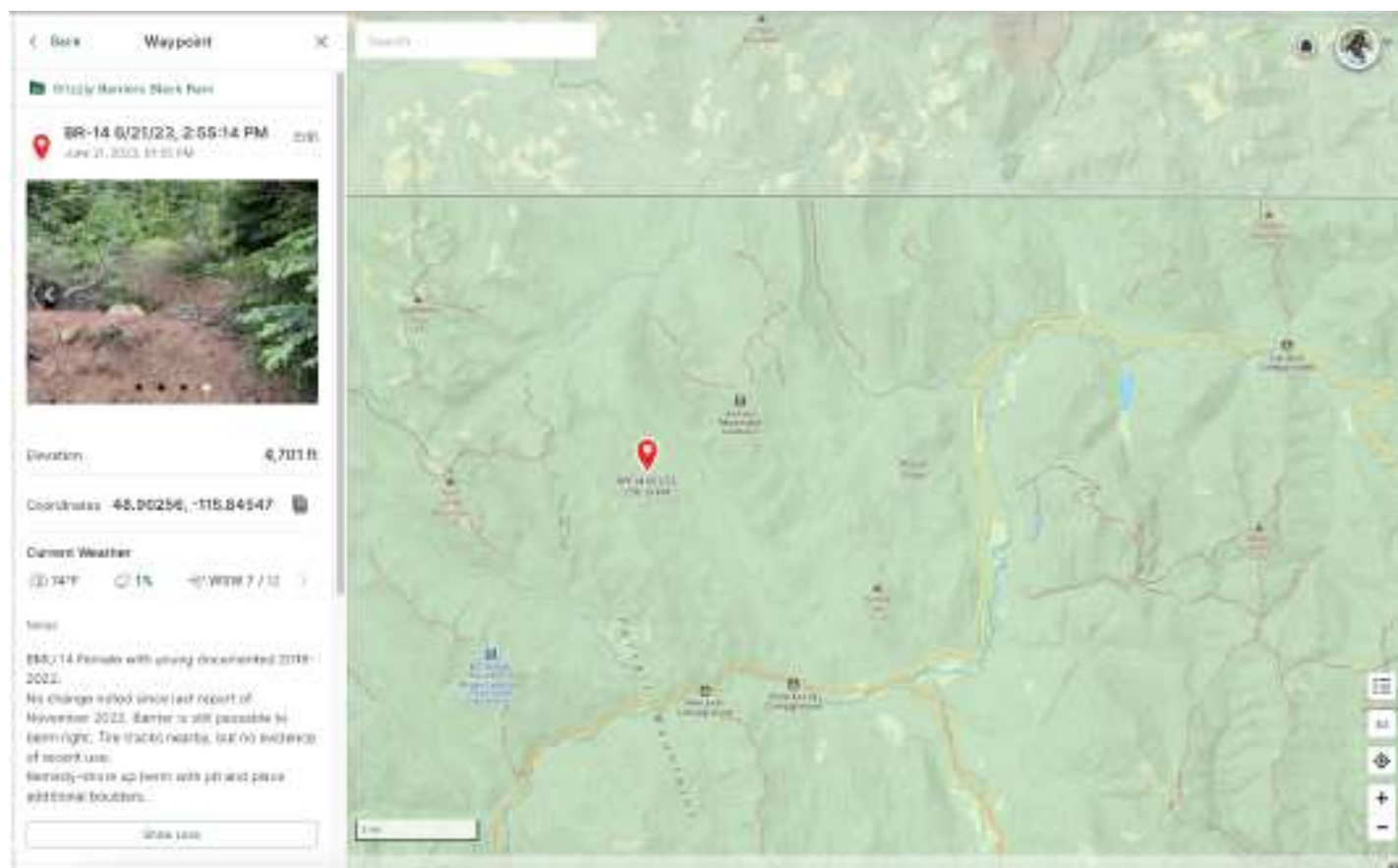


Site:	BR-13	
Road #, or description:	Road # 5856	
Coordinates:	48 53 13.5 / 115 4452.1	
Site Notes:		
<p>2020: Gate barrier. Motor-vehicle bypass to gate-right,using the spur road to get around the barrier, obvious tire tracks and rutting. Lack of vegetation from being driven over. The temporary log barrier (choice firewood tree) can be easily removed so the barrier is not effective.</p>		

BR 14 Coordinates: N 48.90256, W -115.84547 Date:







Site:	BR-14	
Road #, or description:	Road # 748	
Coordinates:	48 54 09.2 / 11550 43.7	
Site Notes:		
2020: Shallow berm with poorly placed boulders. Access to Core Grizzly Bear Area. A 5' wide passage through berm-right provides access for ATVs and motorcycles.		

BR 15

Coordinates: N 48.96425, W -115.91408

Date: 2024.08.02

BMU 14 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. No noted change to the barrier since 2023. Some scattered trash around the area in 2023 was removed. The barrier can be bypassed, the road after the barrier, is overgrown but passable. Vegetation is starting to reclaim the road.



Back

Waypoint

XC

Grizzly Barriers Black Run

BR-15 6/21/23, 2:56:39 PM

June 21, 2023, 2:56 PM

Elevation

5,660 ft

Coordinates

48.86425, -115.91408

Current Weather

69°F

1%

WSW 8 / 15

Notes

SMJ 14 Female with young documented 2018-2022.

No change to barrier since last visit. Some scattered brush around. Barrier can be bypassed...but not very passable after barrier. vegetation has grown in.

Show more



Map Visibility

ON

Search

A photograph showing a grassy field with a pile of logs in the background and a forest of tall trees. The field is covered in green grass and some small rocks. The logs are stacked in a pile, and the forest is dense with tall, thin trees.

92

Site:	BR-15	
Road #, or description:	Road # 338P	
Coordinates:	48 57 51.3 / 115 5450.7	
Site Notes:		
<p>2020: A pile of small mixed woody debris with flagging is the current barrier. There are no signs or effective barriers. Due to wildfire activity, the soil is sensitive and major surface runoff is present.</p> <p>2022: YVFC was unable to access this location in November 2022 due to the amount of snow. A photograph from August 2022 is used here instead.</p>		

BR 16

Coordinates: N 48.95569, W -115.91458

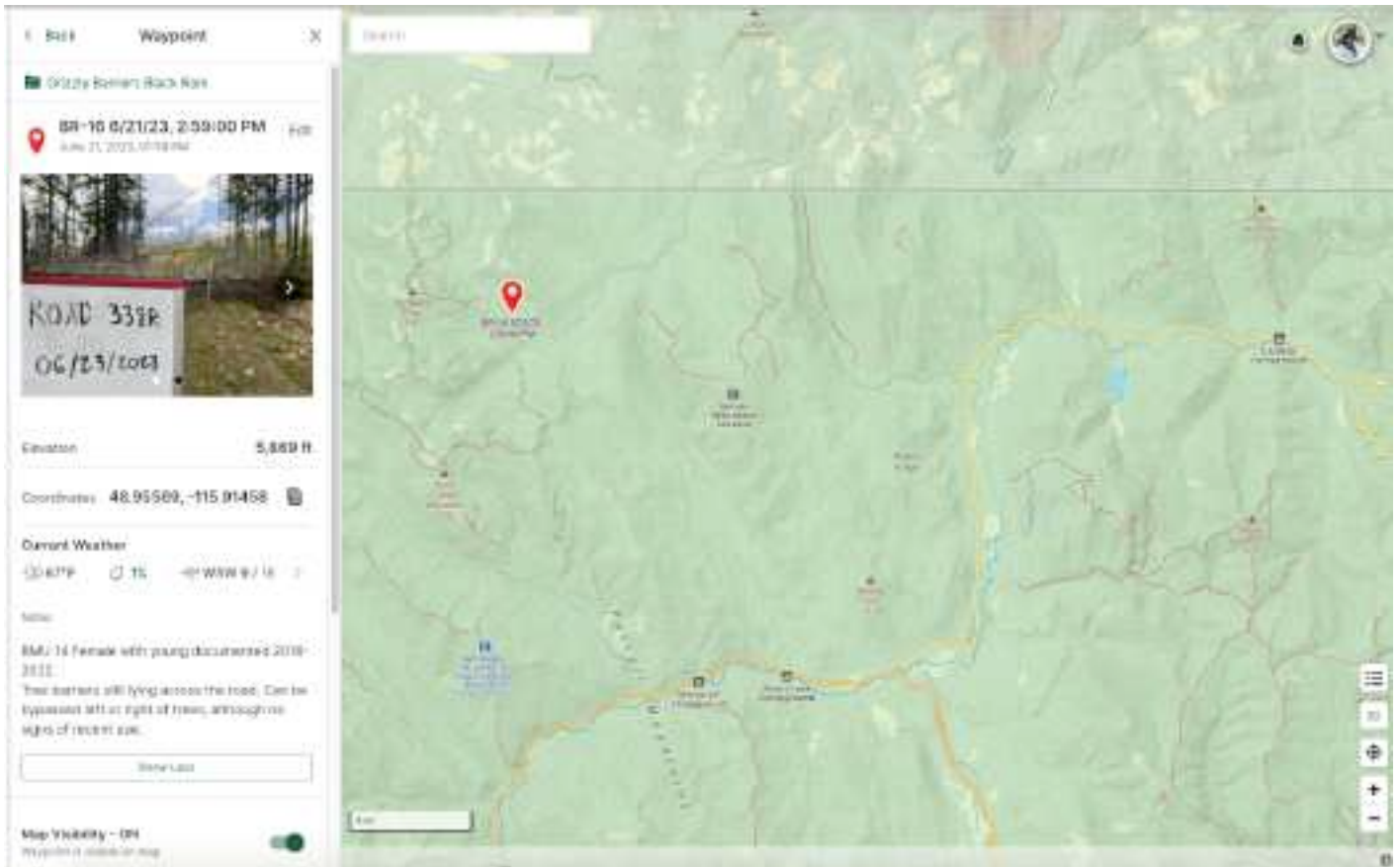
Date: 2024.08.02

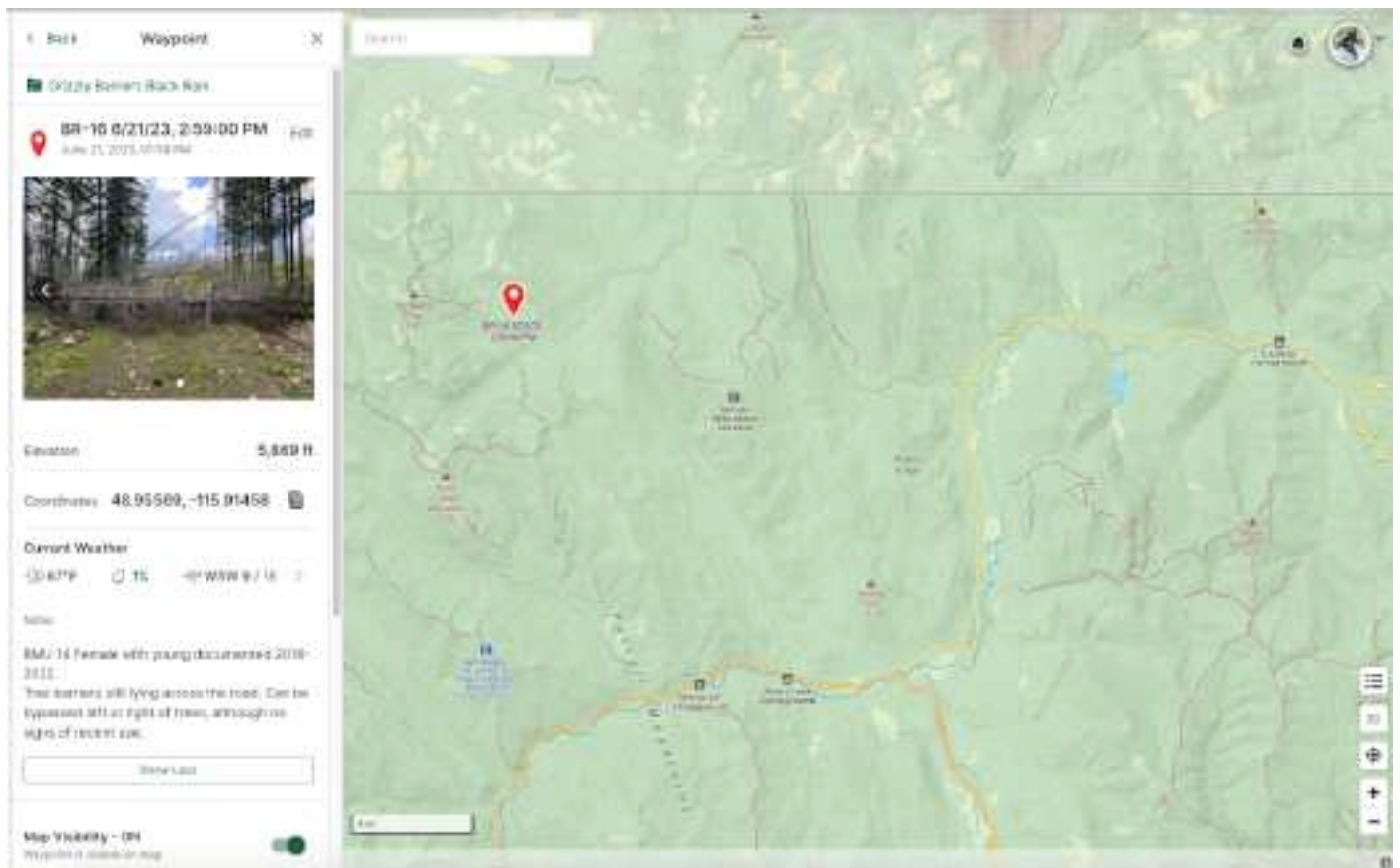
BMU 14 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. Tree barriers are still lying across the road. It can be bypassed to the left or right of trees. No signs of recent trespass.


Remedy: additional blockage, boulders, or gate.







Site:	BR-16
Road #, or description:	Road # 338R
Coordinates:	48 57 20.5 / 115 54 52.5
Site Notes:	
<p>2020: No barrier other than two recently fallen trees. Heavy rutting and tracks from motor-vehicle use. Due to wildfire activity, the soil is unstable and major surface runoff is present. Exceeds 300' in length.</p> <p>2022: YVFC was unable to access this location in November 2022 due to the amount of snow. A photograph from August 2022 is used here instead.</p>	





BR 17

Coordinates: N 48.97878, W -115.84531

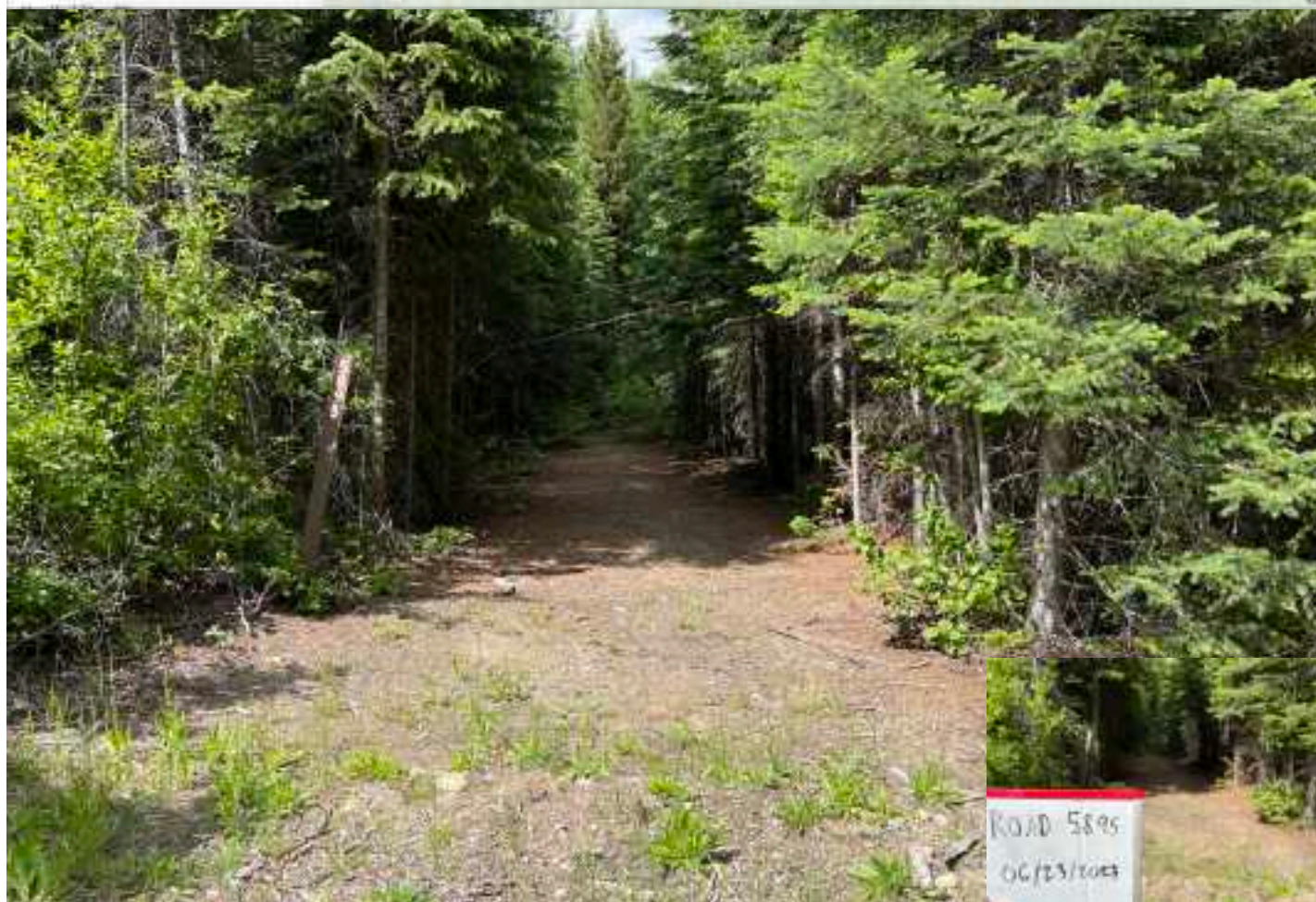
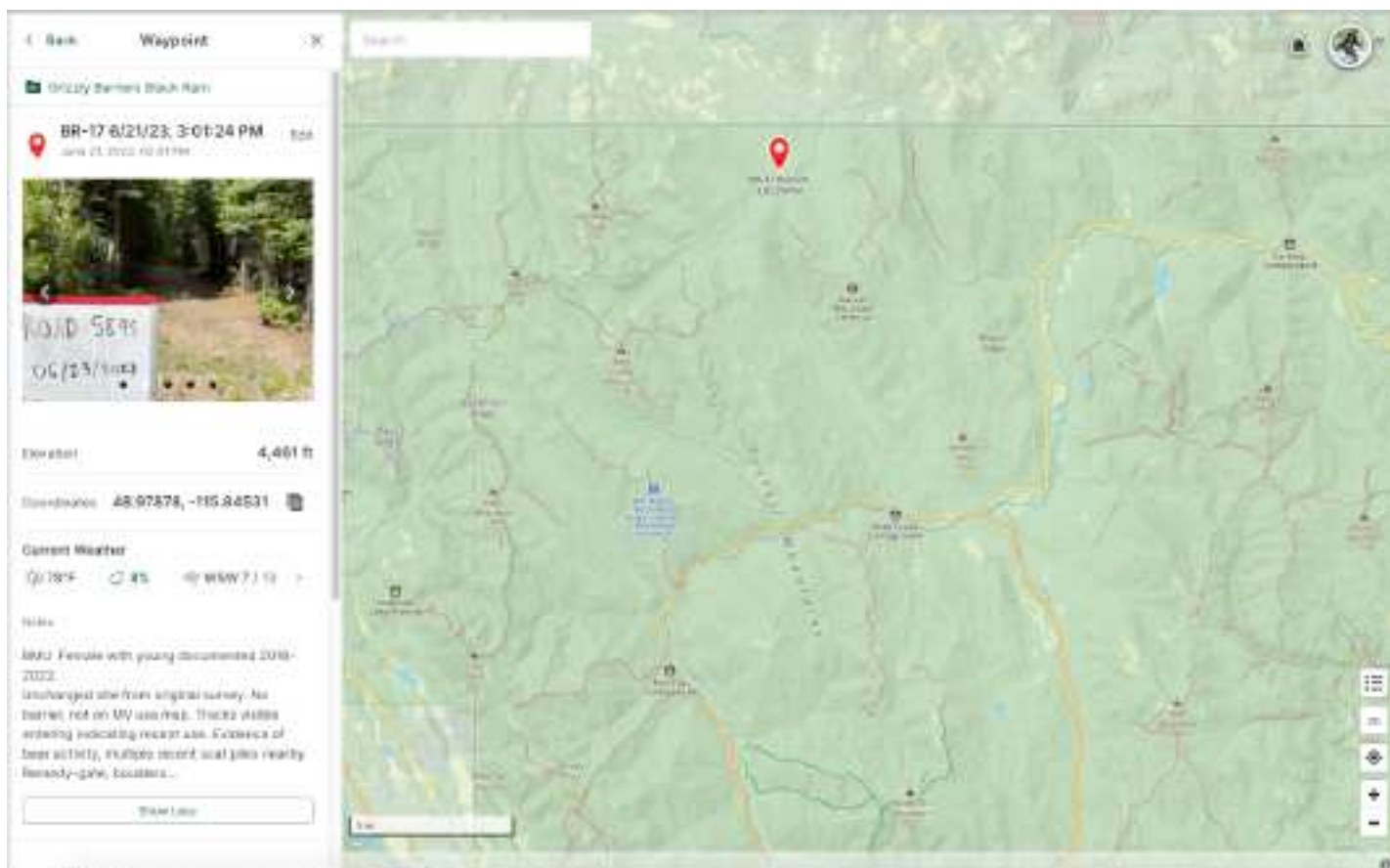
Date: 2024.08.02

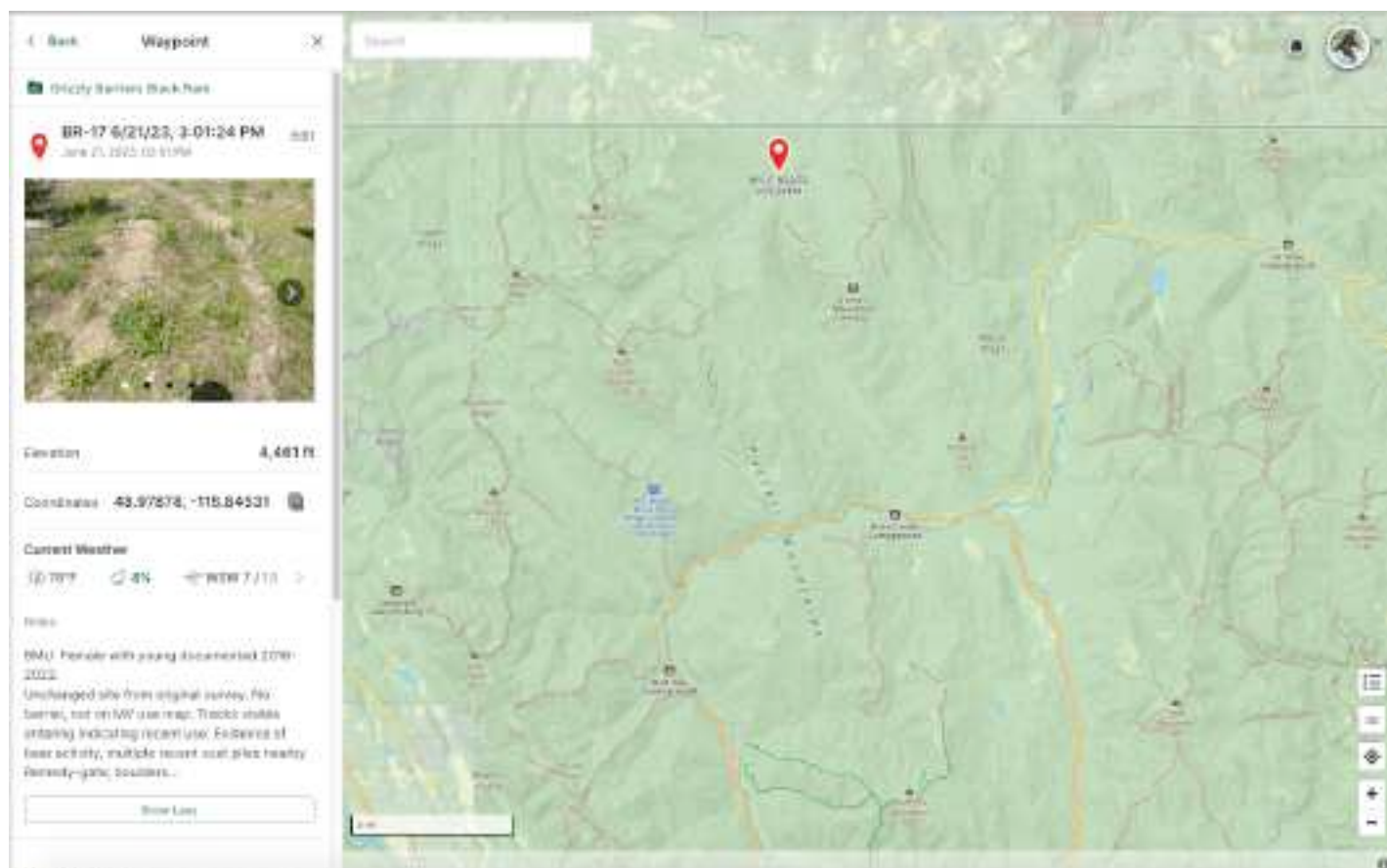
BMU 14 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. Unchanged site from the original survey. No barrier, road not on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Tracks visible entering indicating use in 2024 and 2023 surveys. Evidence of bear activity, and multiple recent scat piles nearby.

Remedy-gate, boulders...







Back

Waypoint

Grizzly Bears Black Bear

BR-17 6/21/23, 3:01:24 PM

June 21, 2023, 12:21 PM

Elevation

4,601 ft

Coordinates

48.97578, -115.84521

Current Weather

70°F

3%



WSW 7 / 13

Notes

BMU Female with young documented 2019-2022. Unchallenged site from original survey. No barrier, not on MV app map. Tracks visible entering indicating recent use. Evidence of bear activity, multiple recent scat piles nearby. Remedy-gave, boulders.

Show Notes

102

Site:	BR-17	
Road #, or description:	Road # 5895	
Coordinates:	48 58 43.6 / 115 50 43.1	
Site Notes:		
2020: No barrier. Road 5895 is not mapped as an open road, according to the MV Use Map provided by the Kootenai National Forest.		

BR 18

Coordinates: N 48.97988, W -115.83790

Date: 2024.08.02

BMU 14 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. Gate present, but bypassable. Tire tracks on road on both sides of gate in 2023. GATE UNLOCKED at 2023 survey.

Remedy-Lock Gate, boulders on the uphill side of the gate where it is passable by an ATV.





CalTopo Properties

BR-18
48.97941, -115.83645

Raw Photo Properties

August 2, 2024 7:34 AM
48.97941, -115.83645
127°

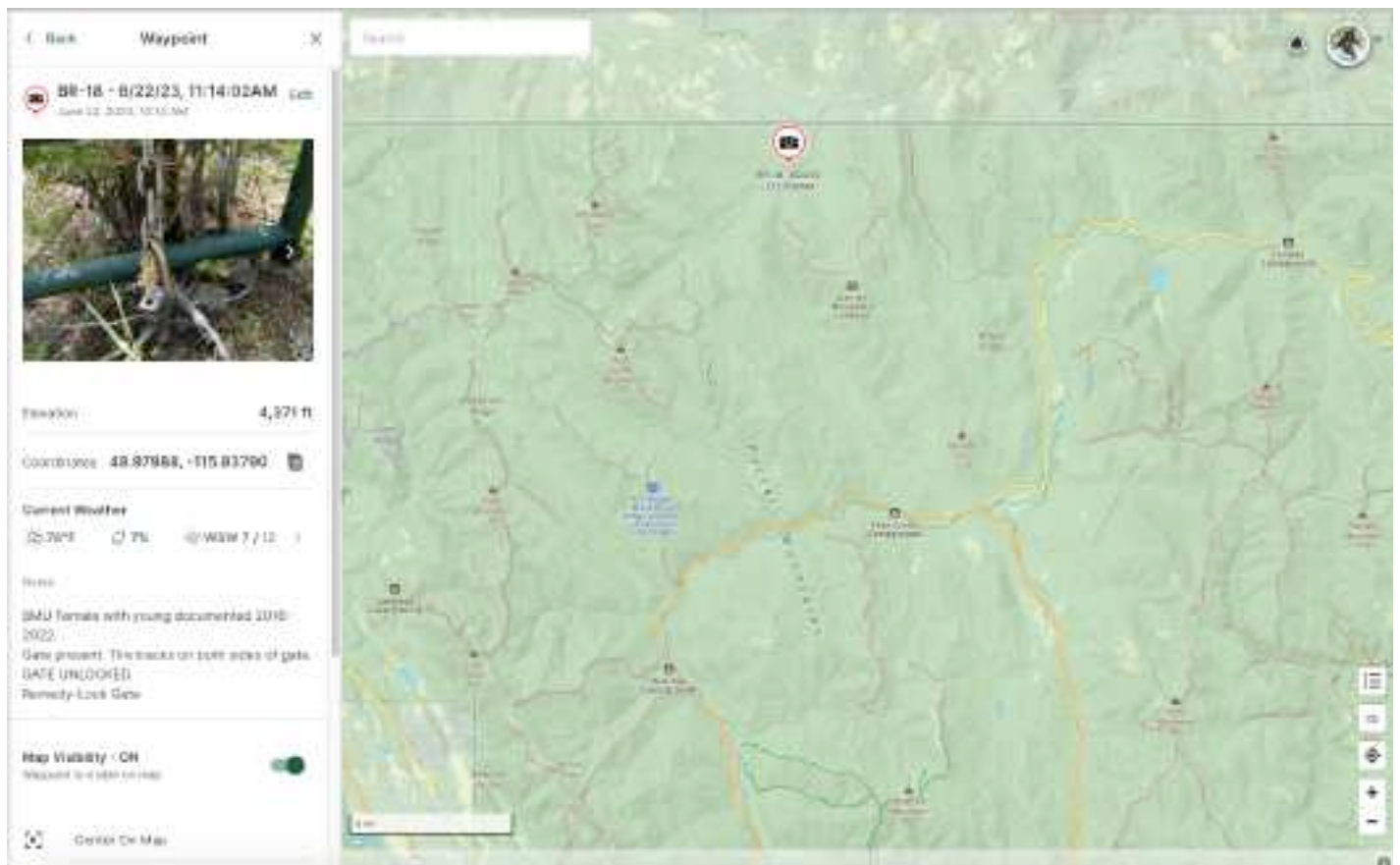


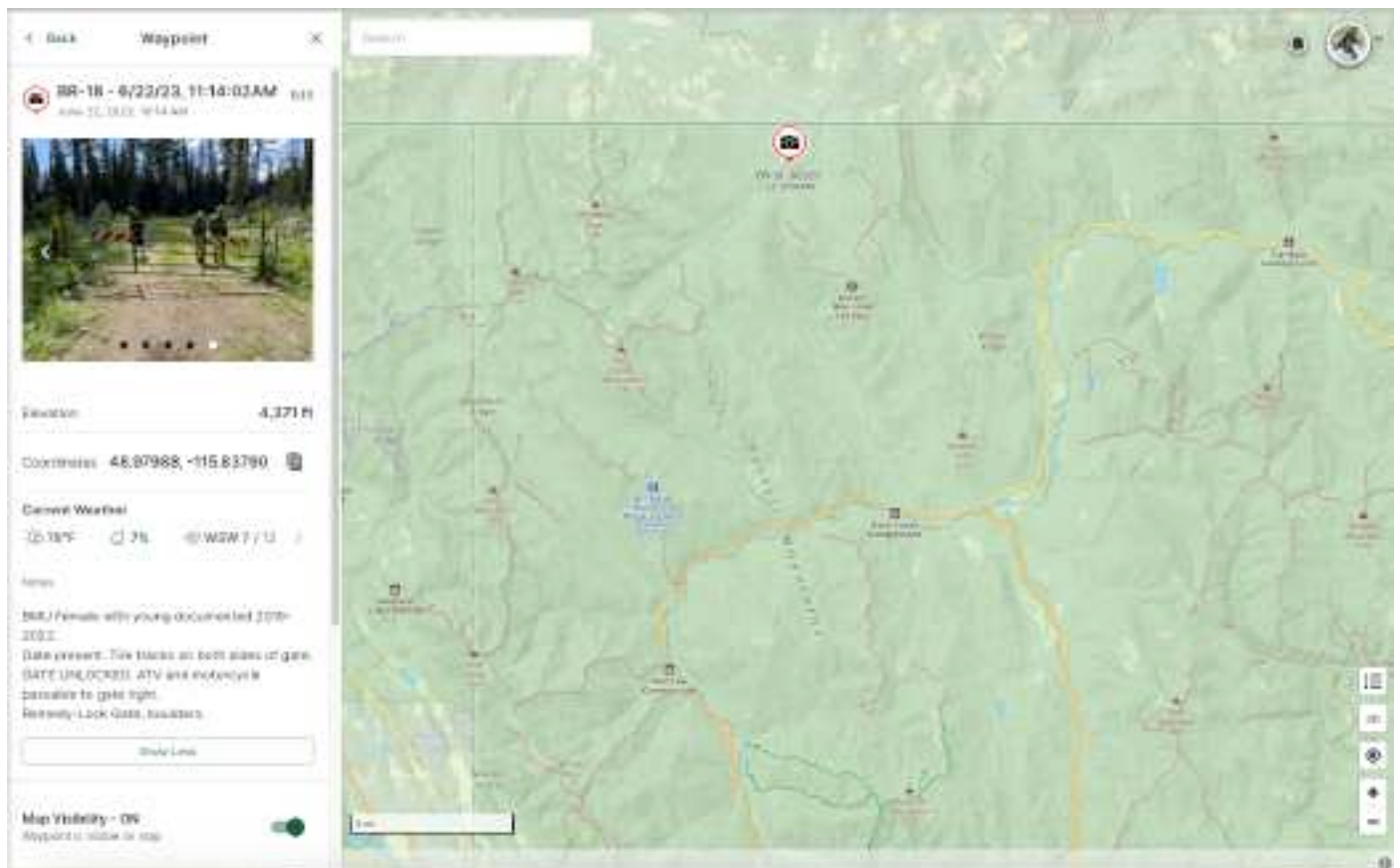
CalTopo Properties

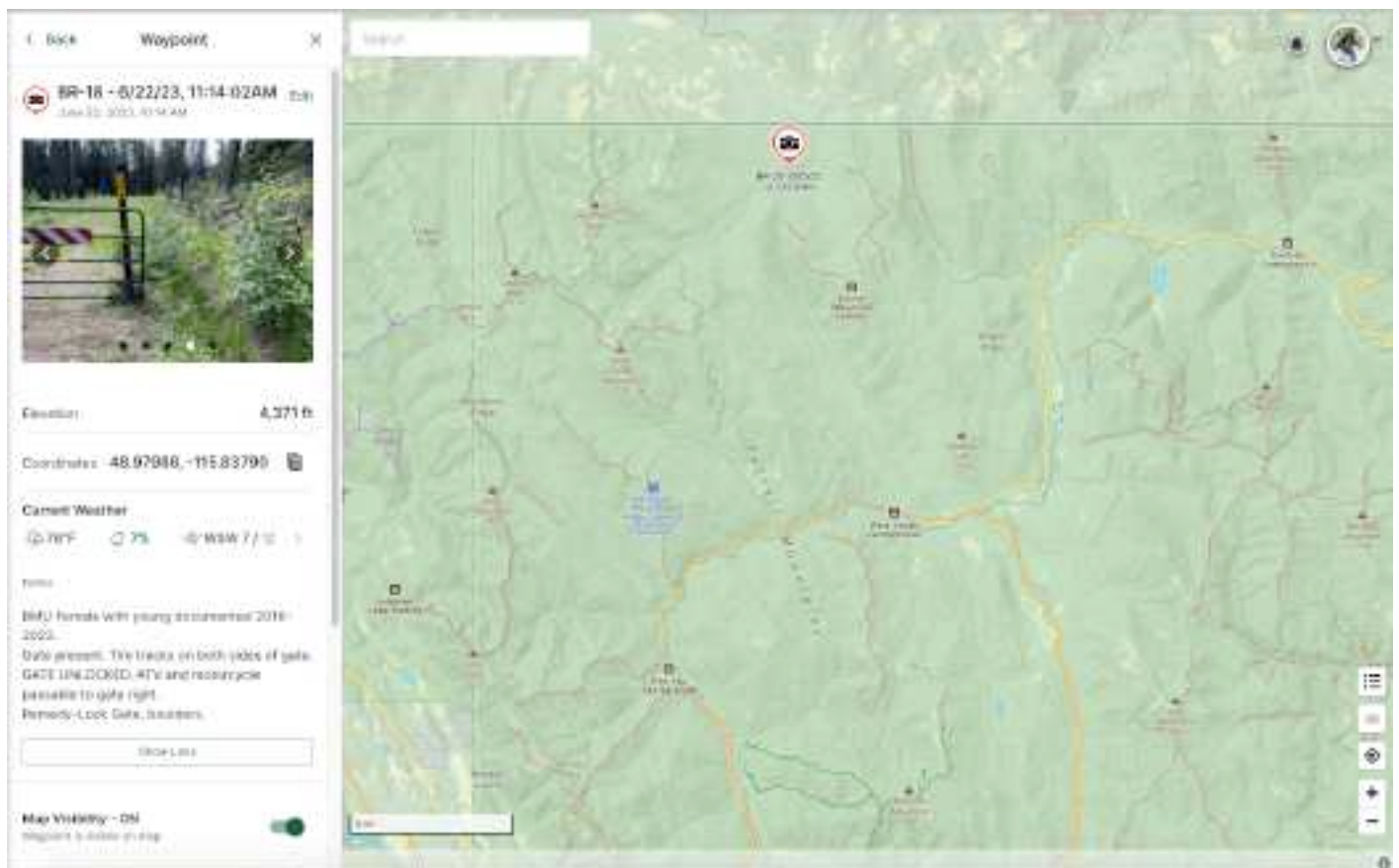
BR-18
48.97946, -115.83650

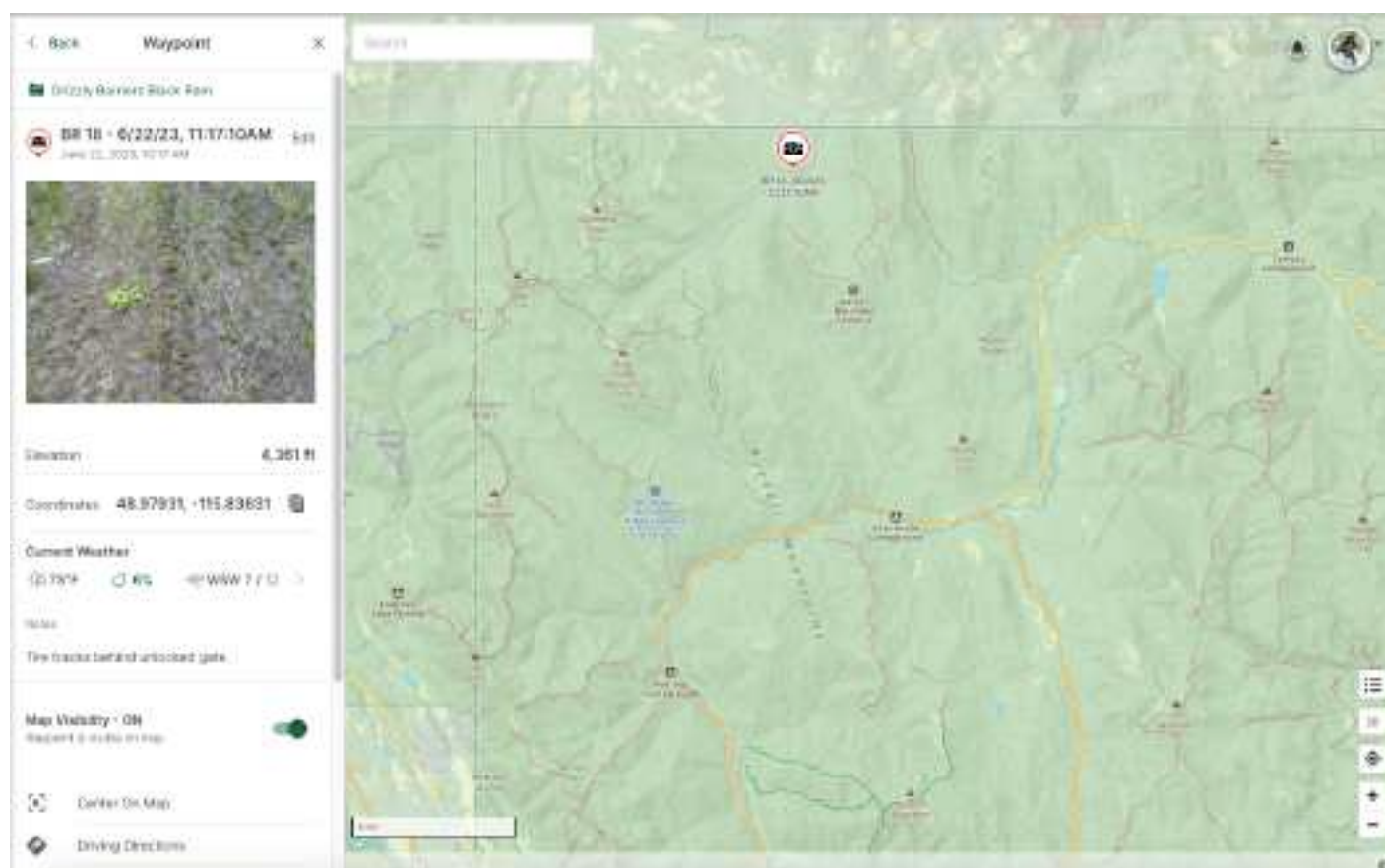
Raw Photo Properties

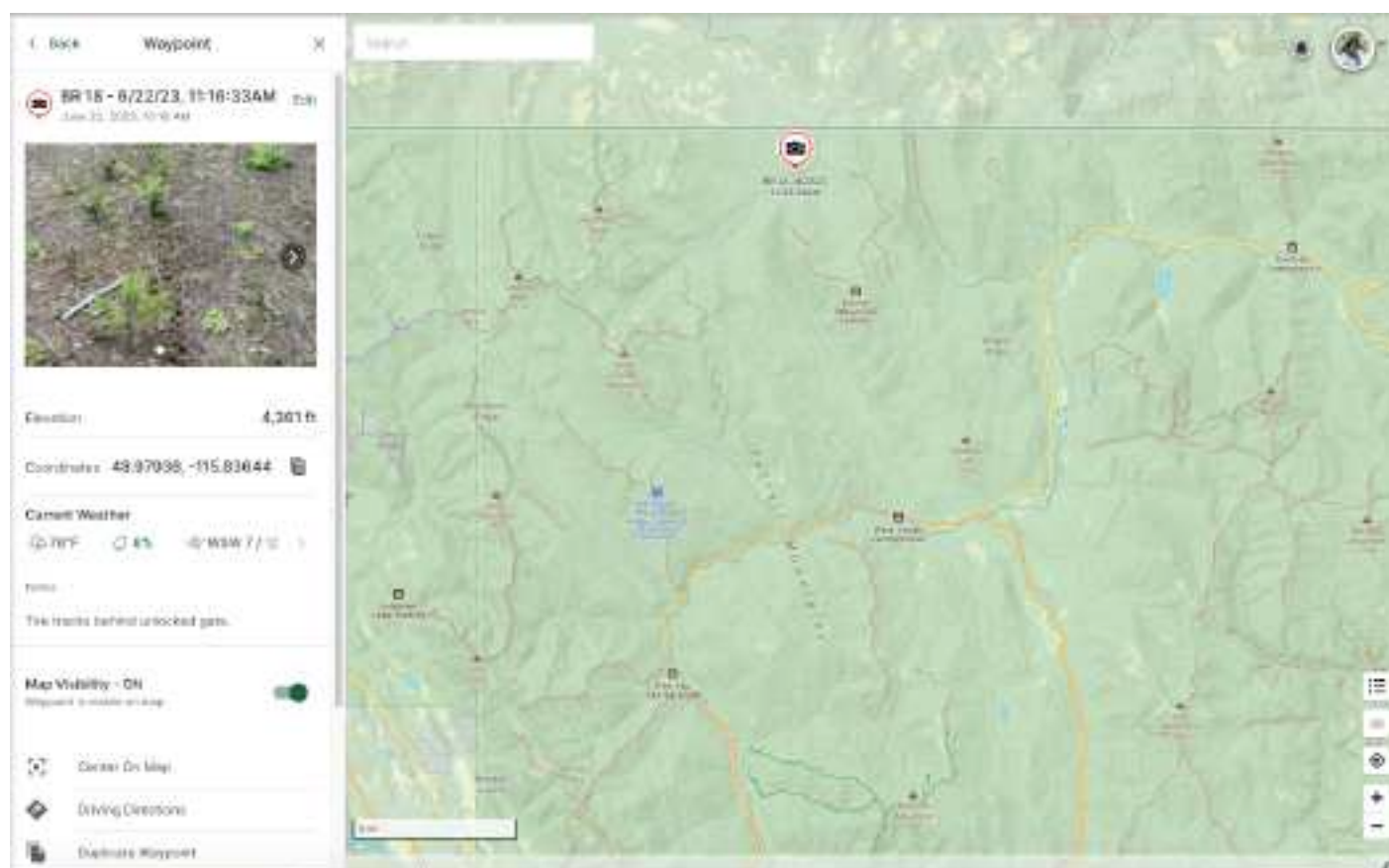
August 2, 2024 7:35 AM
48.97946, -115.83650
356°











Site:	BR-18
Road #, or description:	Road # 5894
Coordinates:	48 58 45.9 / 115 50 11.8
Site Notes:	
2020: Gate. 5' wide passage to gate-right. This road is accessible to ATVs and motorcycles. This ineffective barrier grants access to the Canada/USA international boundary and the sensitive Davis Wildfire fire-break.	

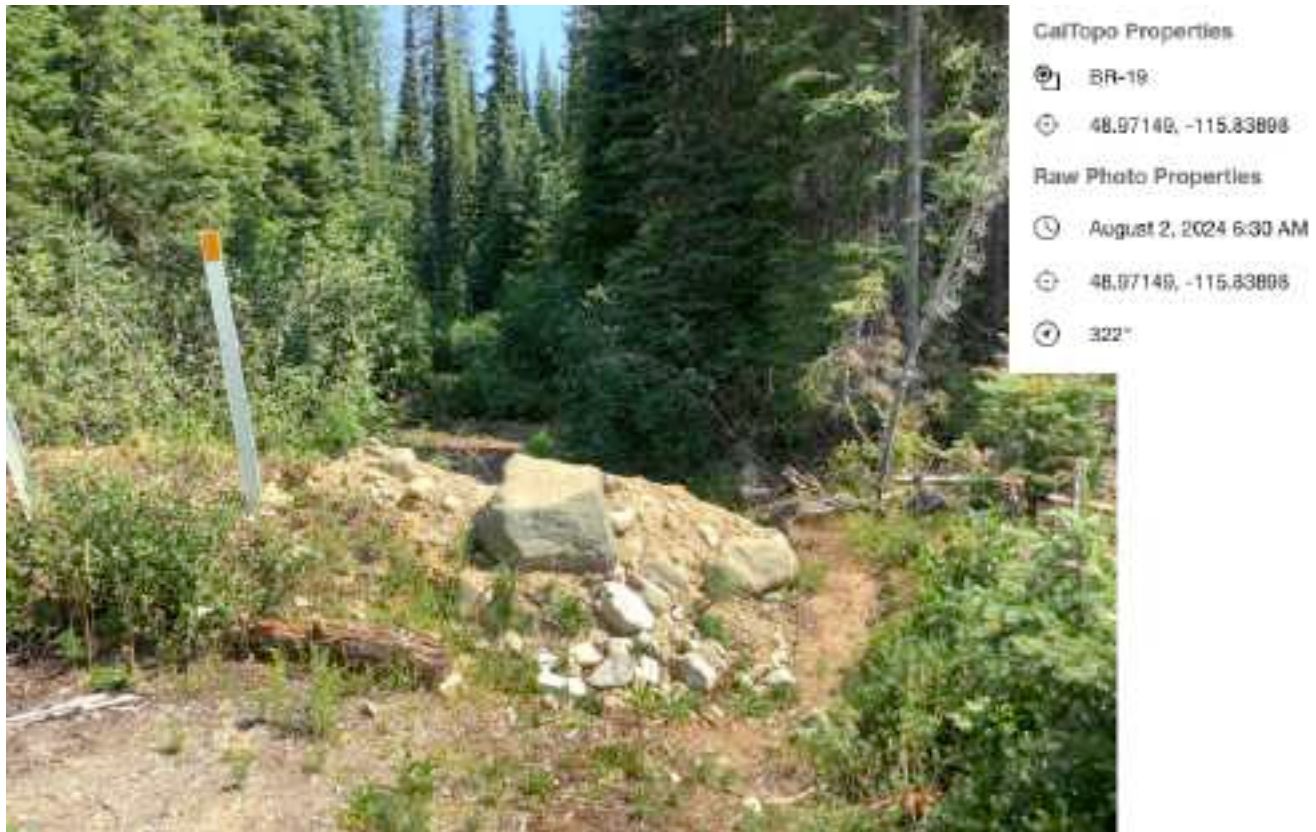


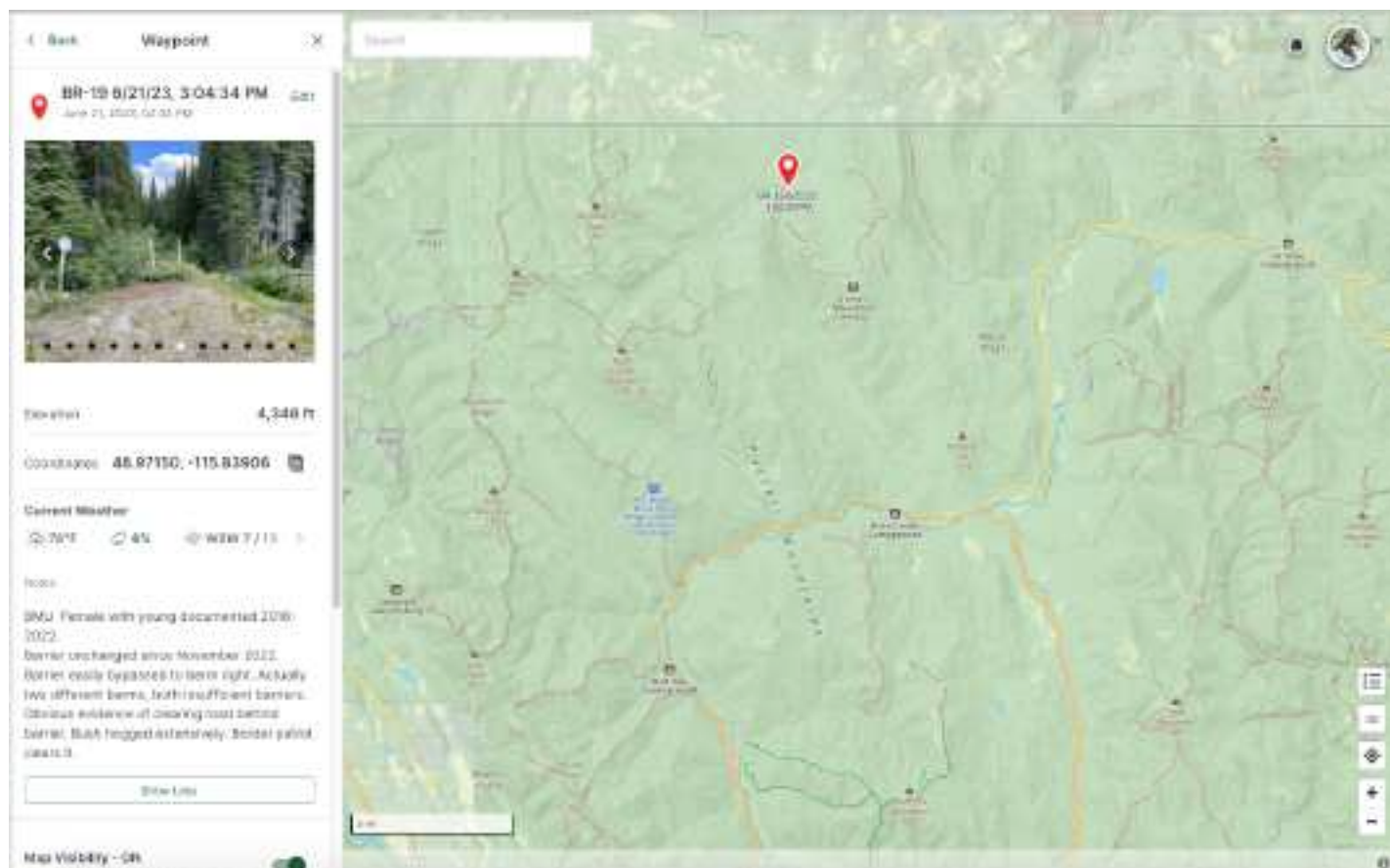


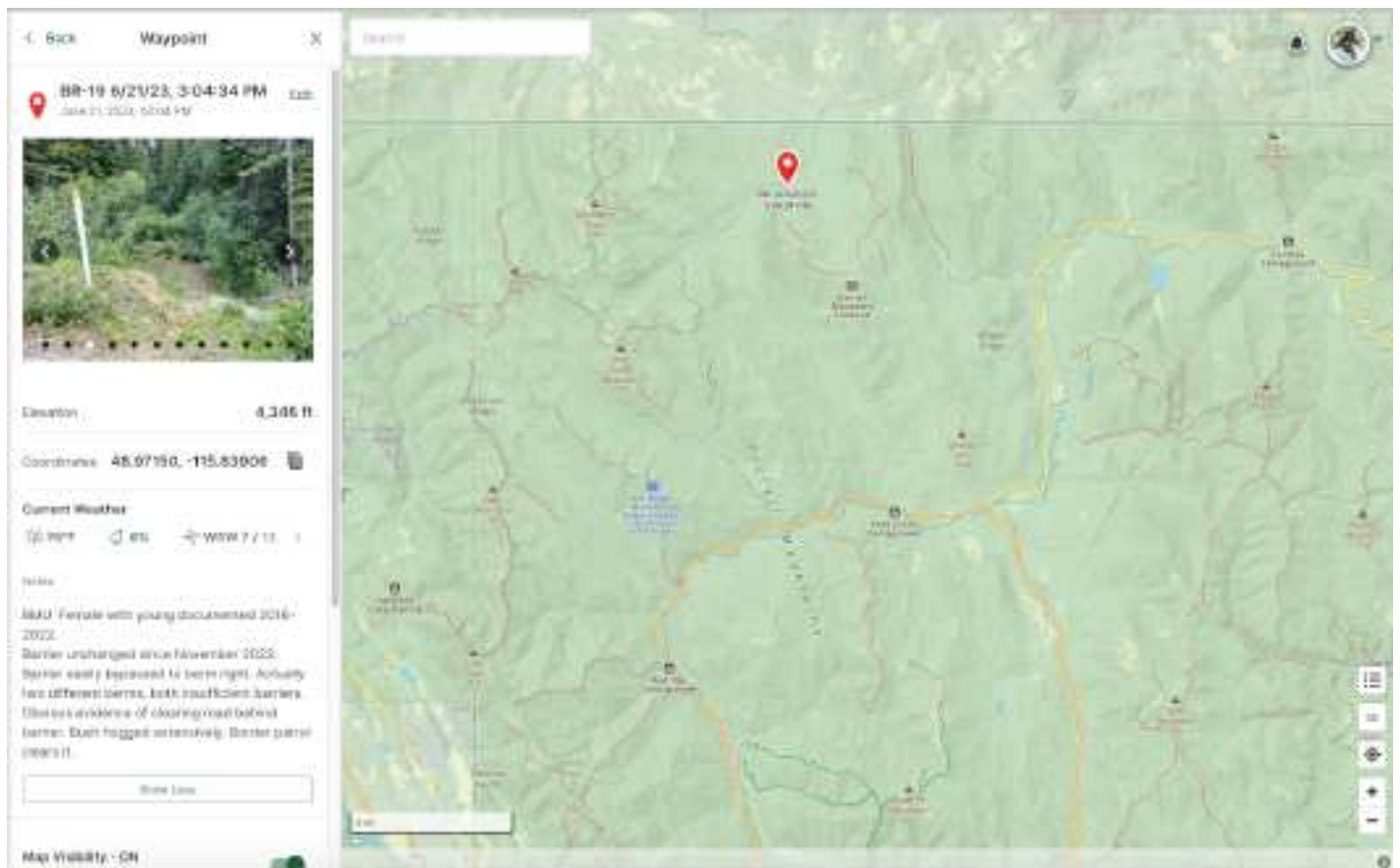
BR 19 **Coordinates 48.97150, -115.83906** **Date: 2024.08.02**

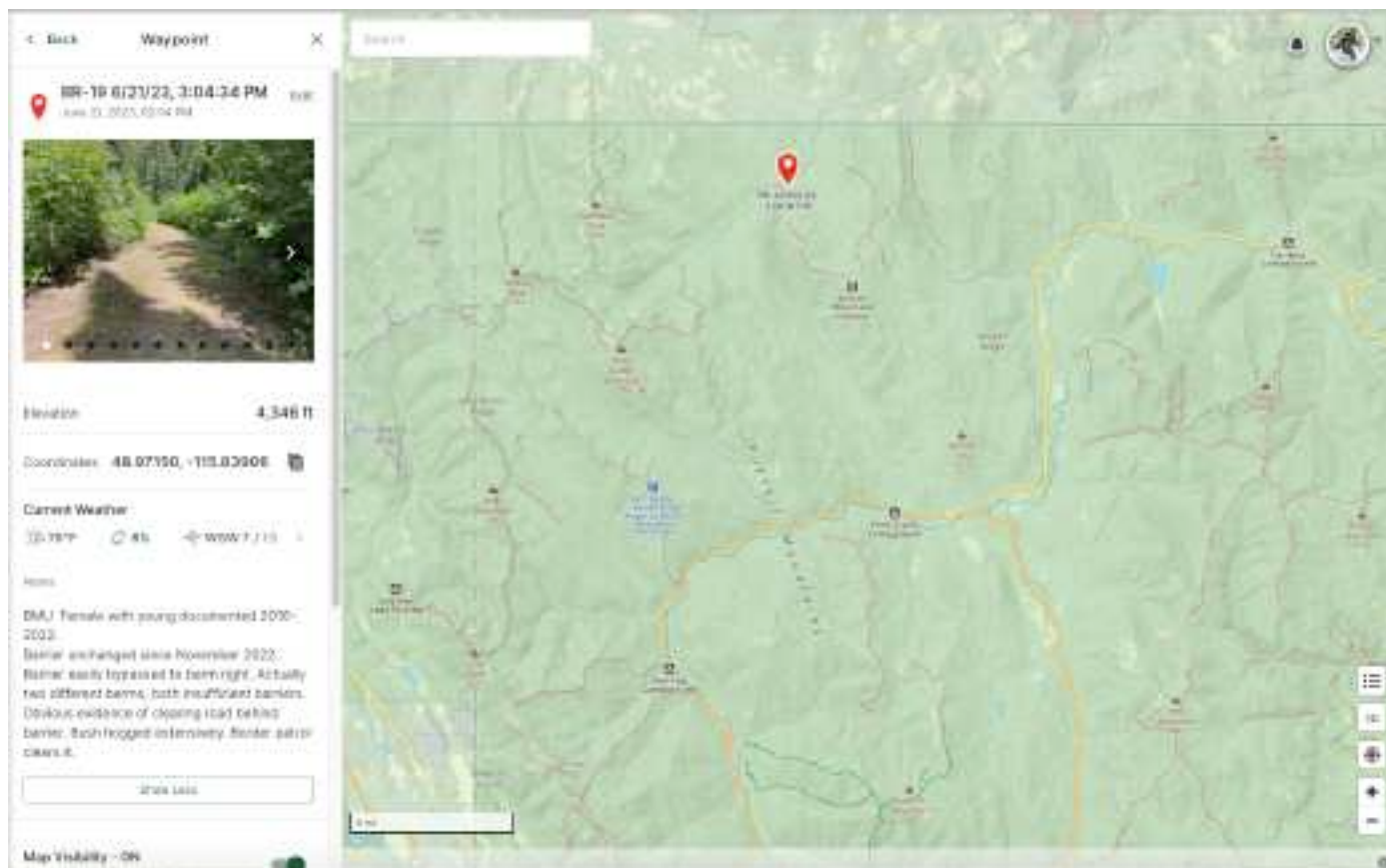
BMU 14 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. Barrier is unchanged since November 2023 survey. Barrier easily bypassed to berm right. Actually two different berms, both insufficiently barrier the road. Obvious evidence of clearing road behind barrier. Bush hogged extensively. Border patrol clears the road and patrols it frequently. Road is deemed closed.









Site:	BR-19	
Road #, or description:	Road # 747	
Coordinates:	48 58 17.4 / 115 50 20.6	
Site Notes:		
2020: Berm with signage. A 3.5' wide passage through berm-right allows ATVs and motorcycles to access.		

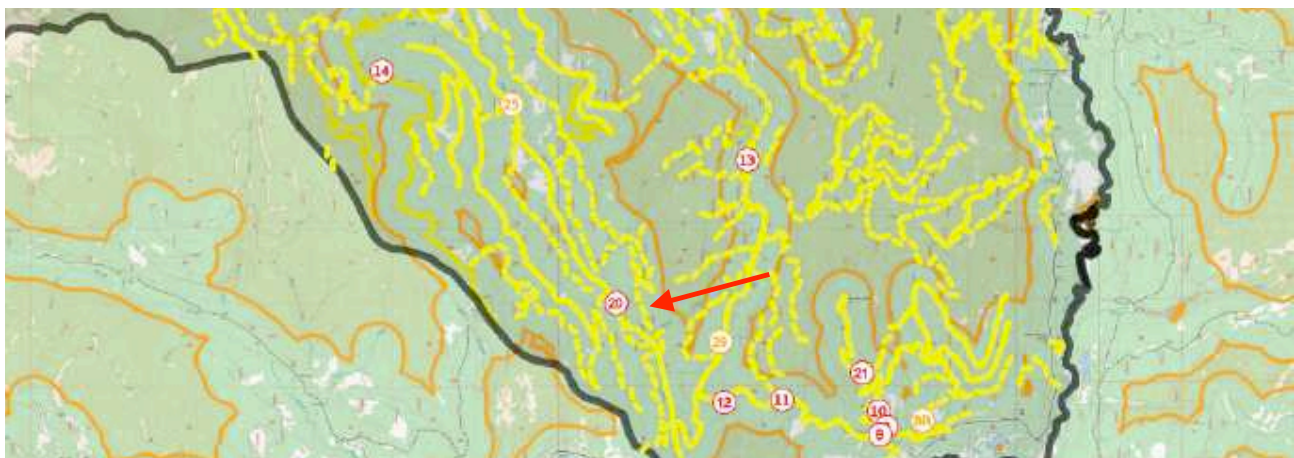
BR 20

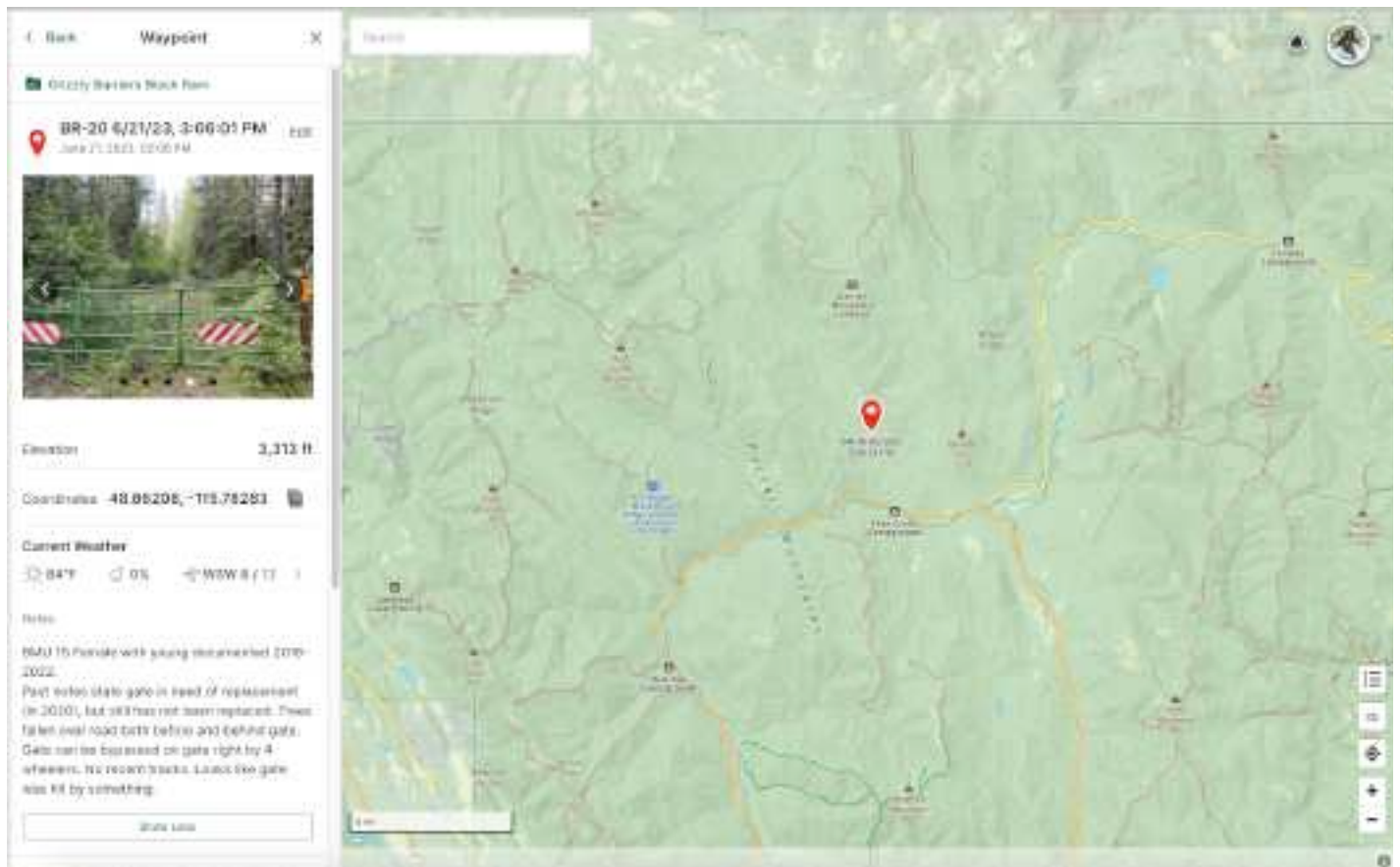
Coordinates 48.86208, -115.78283

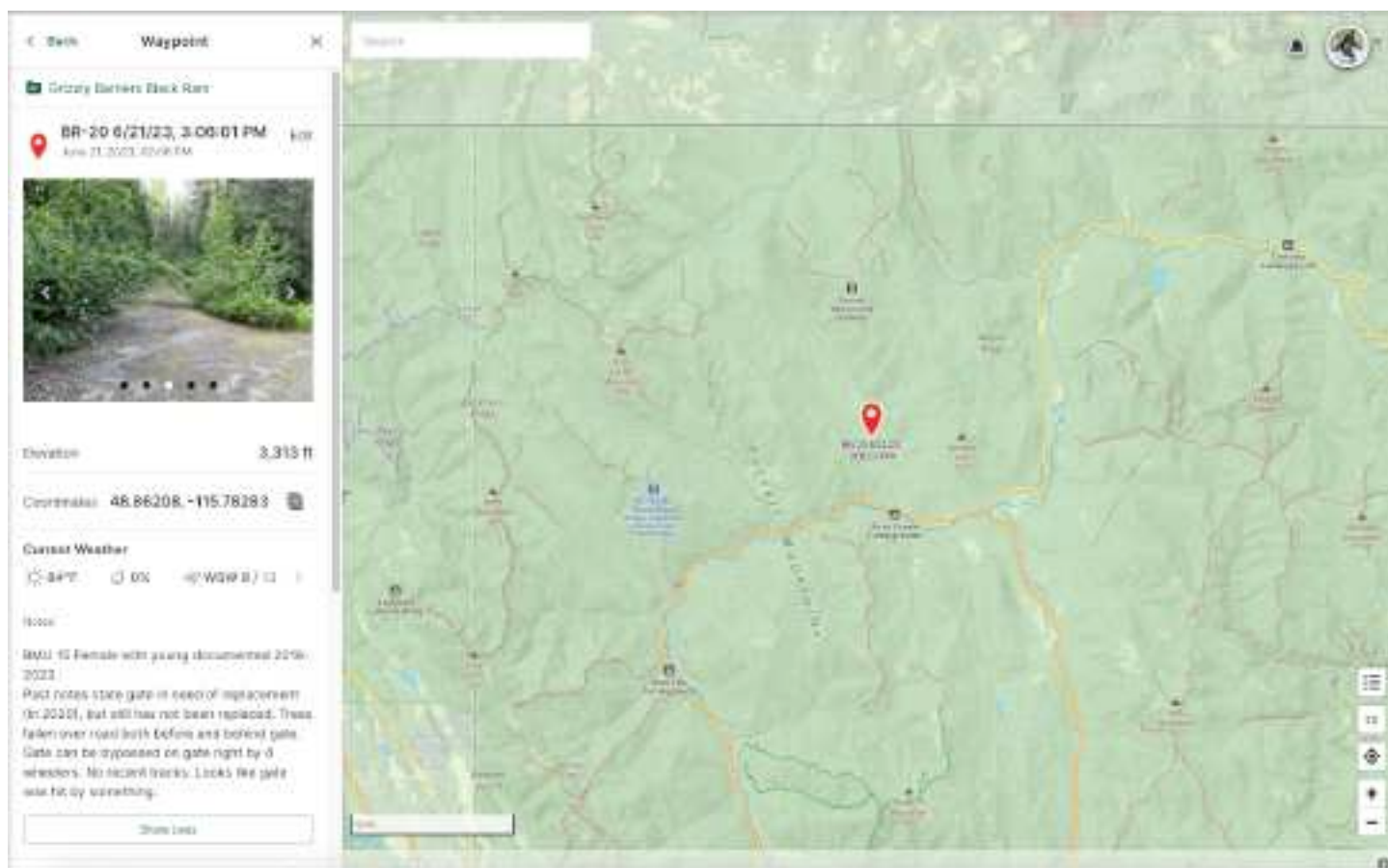
Date: 2024.08.02

BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. Past notes state that the gate needs replacement (in 2020) but still has not been replaced (2024). Trees fell over the road both before and behind the gate. The gate can be bypassed on gate right by four-wheelers (ATVs). No recent tracks. Looks like the gate was hit by something.







Site:	BR-20	
Road #, or description:	Road # 6134	
Coordinates:	48 51 43.5 / 115 46 58.2	
Site Notes:		
<p>2020: Gate barrier with a leaning/unstable lock post. A passage to gate-left approx. 3' allows access by motorcycles. There is a USFS marker, located gate-right, indicating the need to replace this insufficient barrier.</p>		

BR 21

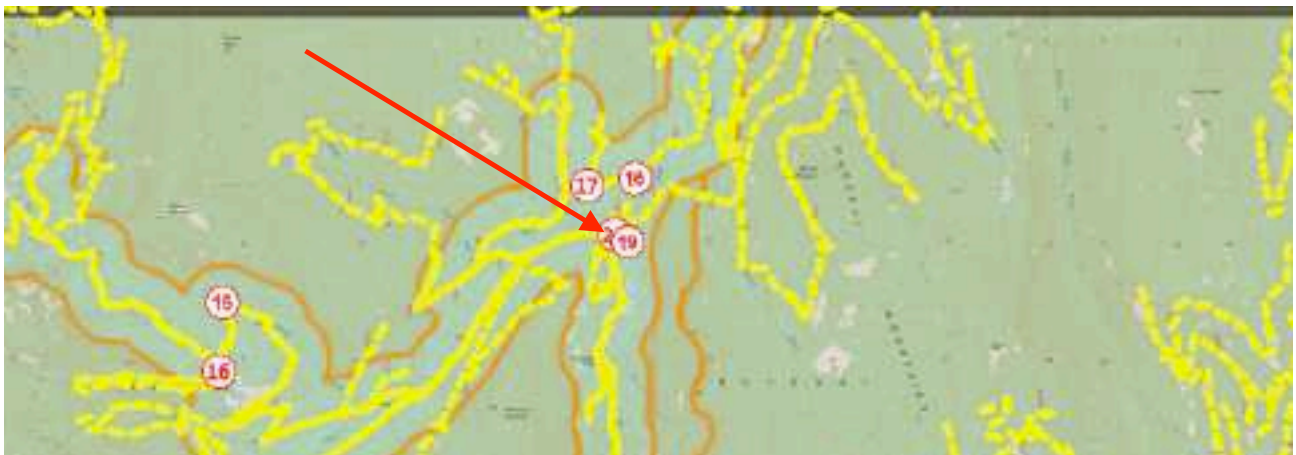
Coordinates: N 48.97755, W -115.83713

Date 2024.08.13

BMU 14 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. KNF 5894 Road. The gate is bypassable on gate left, and the woods have been cleared to the gate left. ATV passable.

Remedy-boulders.



Barrier bypassable on gate left.



GalTopo Properties

BR-21

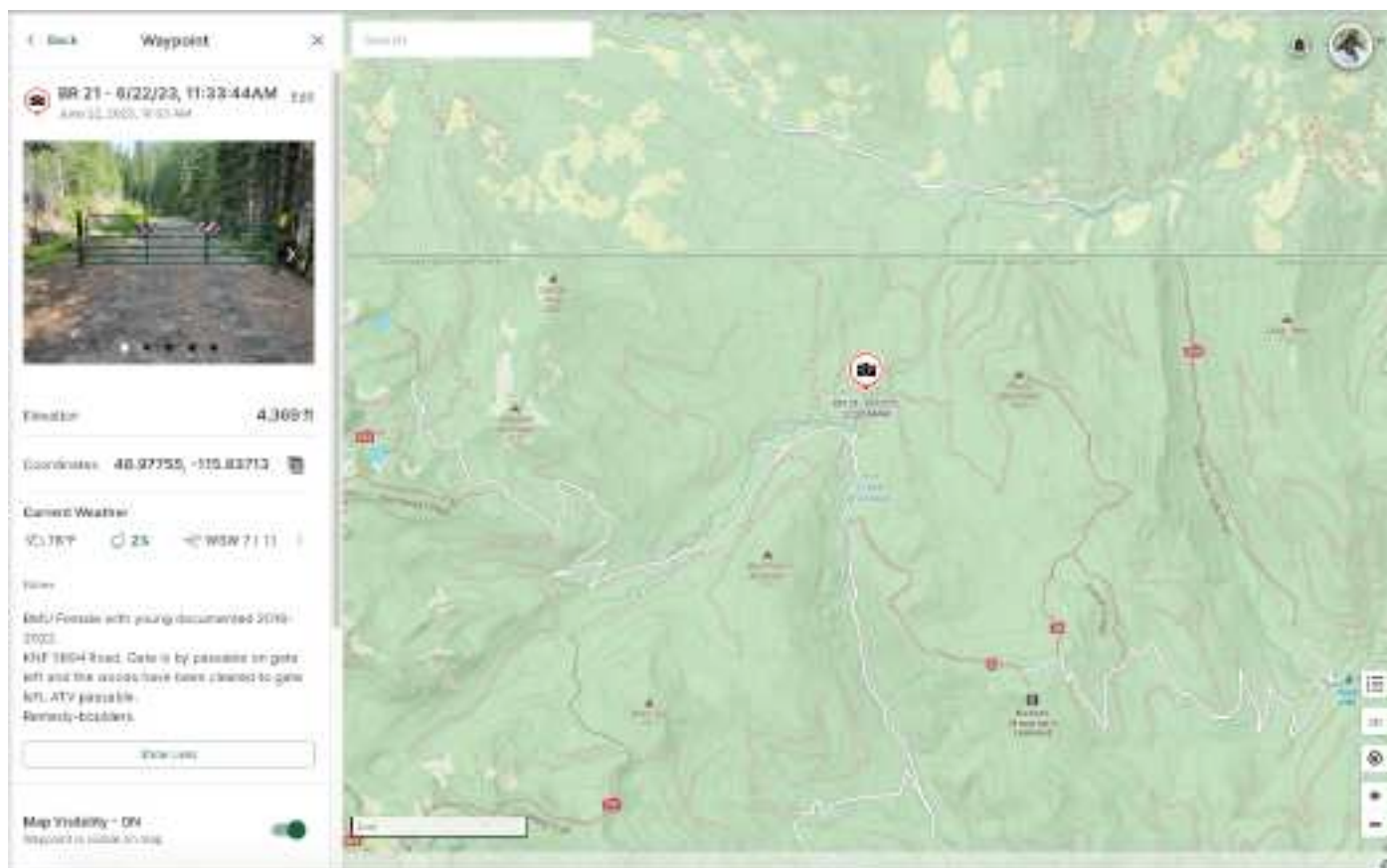
48.97261, -115.84014

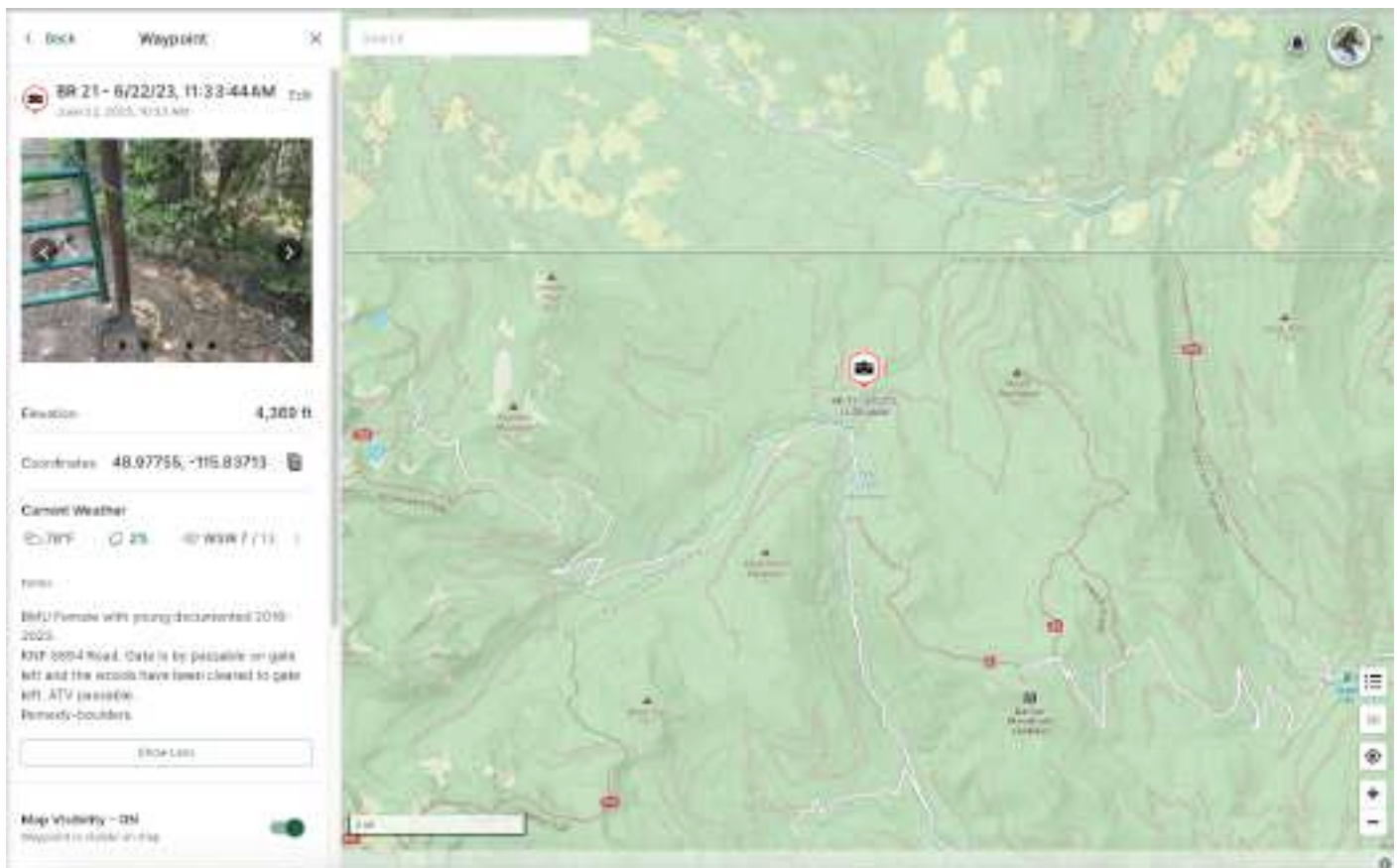
Raw Photo Properties

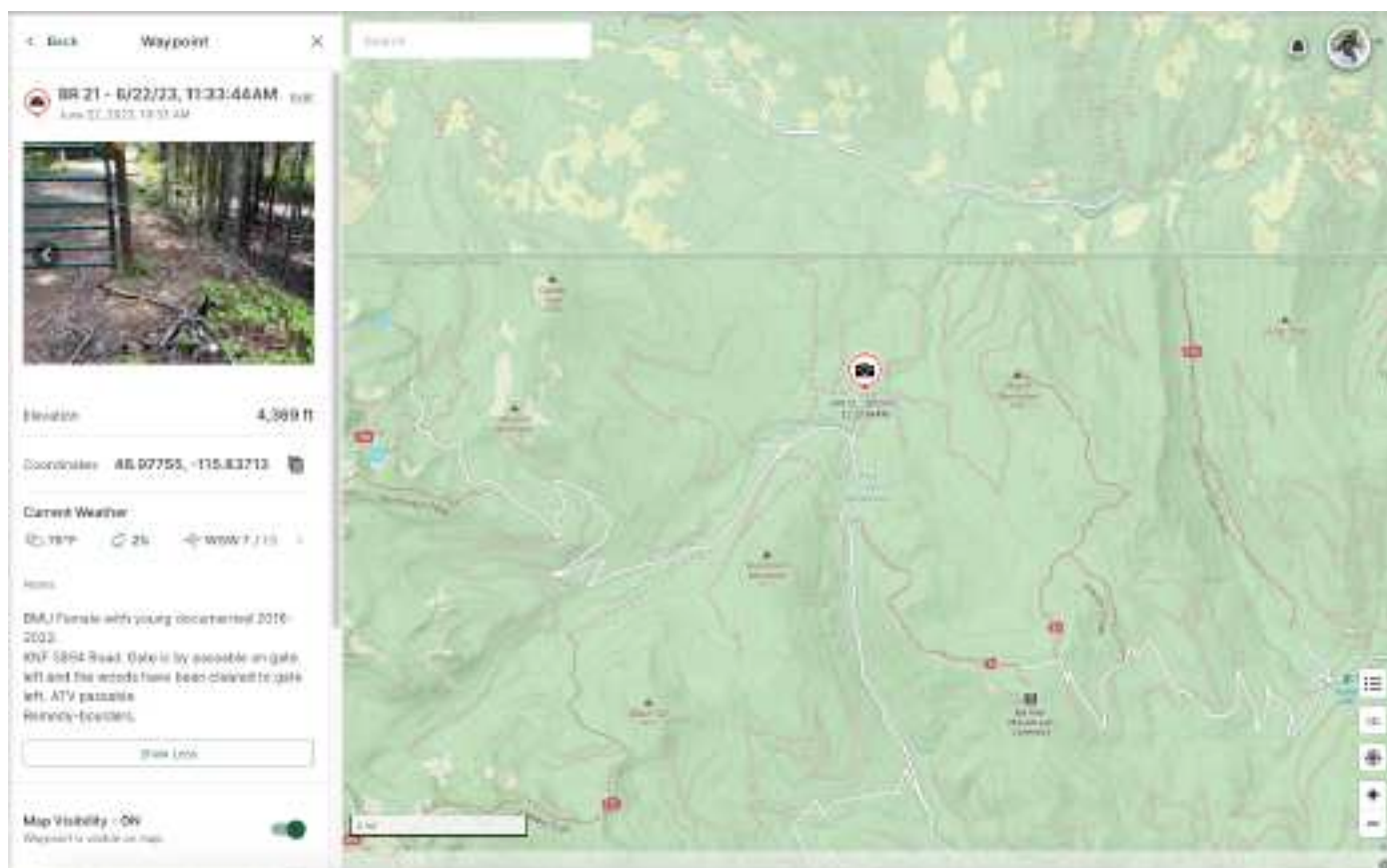
August 2, 2024 6:36 AM

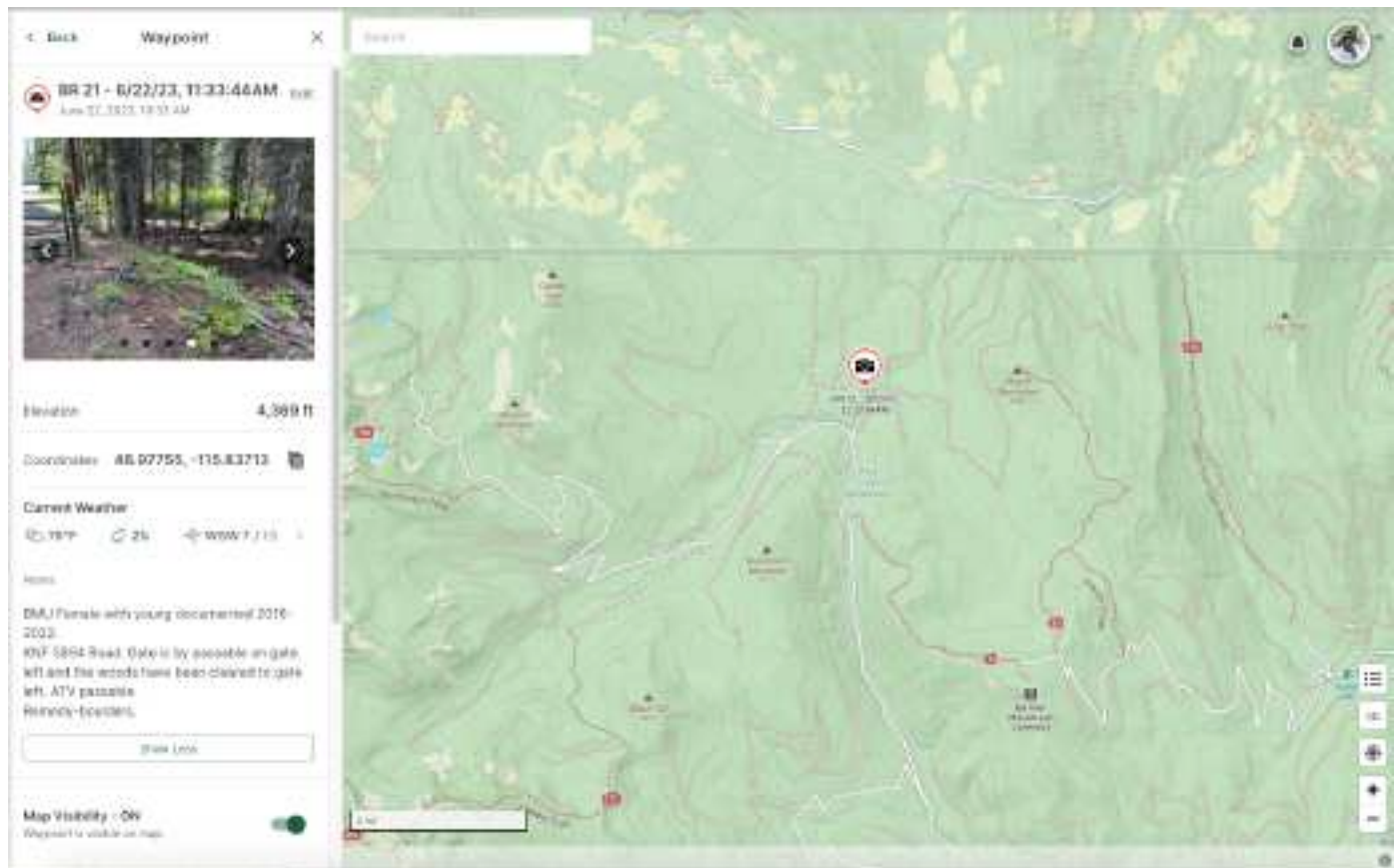
48.97261, -115.84014

257°





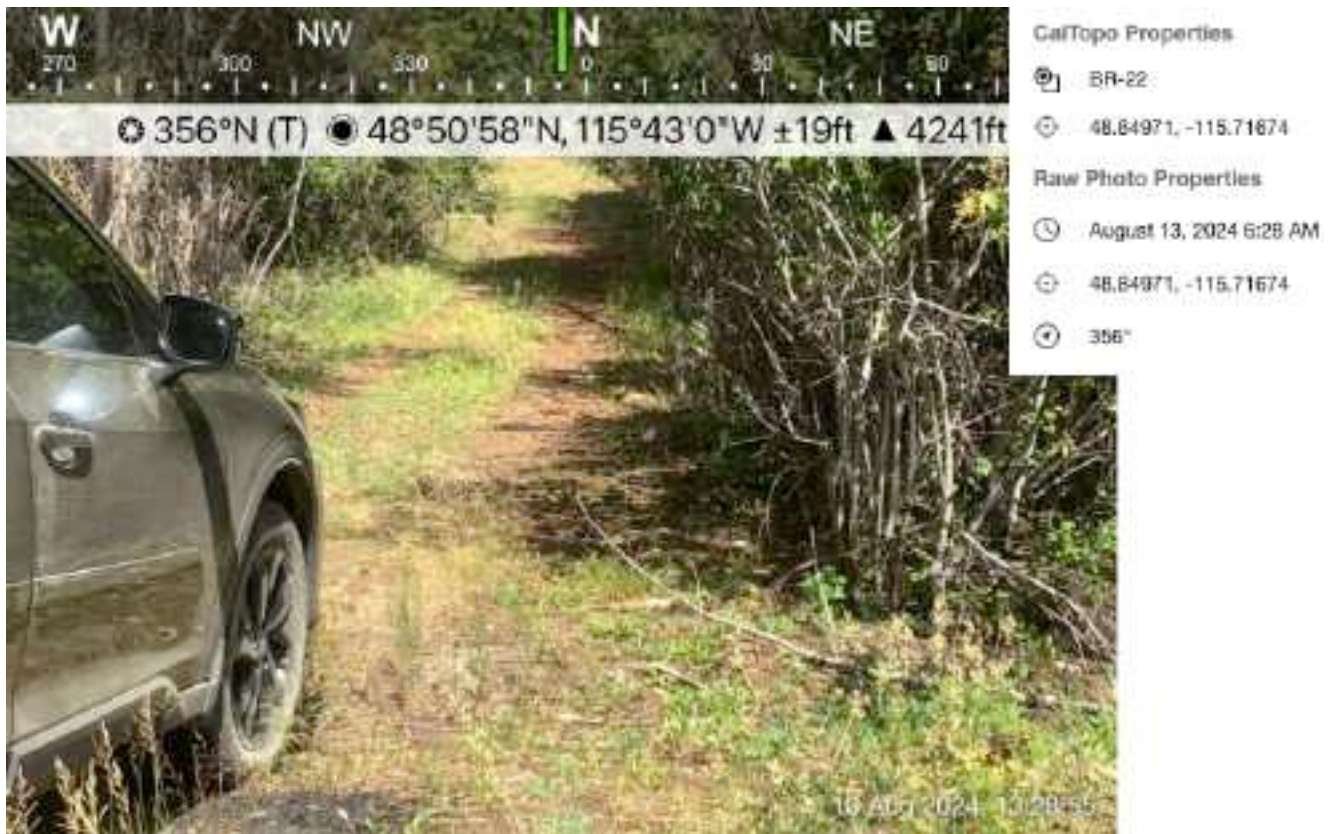




Date: 2024.08.13

BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023

Barrier ineffective 2024. Unbarriered road open for several hundred yards then blocked by downed tree.





☉ 351°N (T) ● 48°51'1"N, 115°43'0"W ±16ft ▲



CalTopo Properties

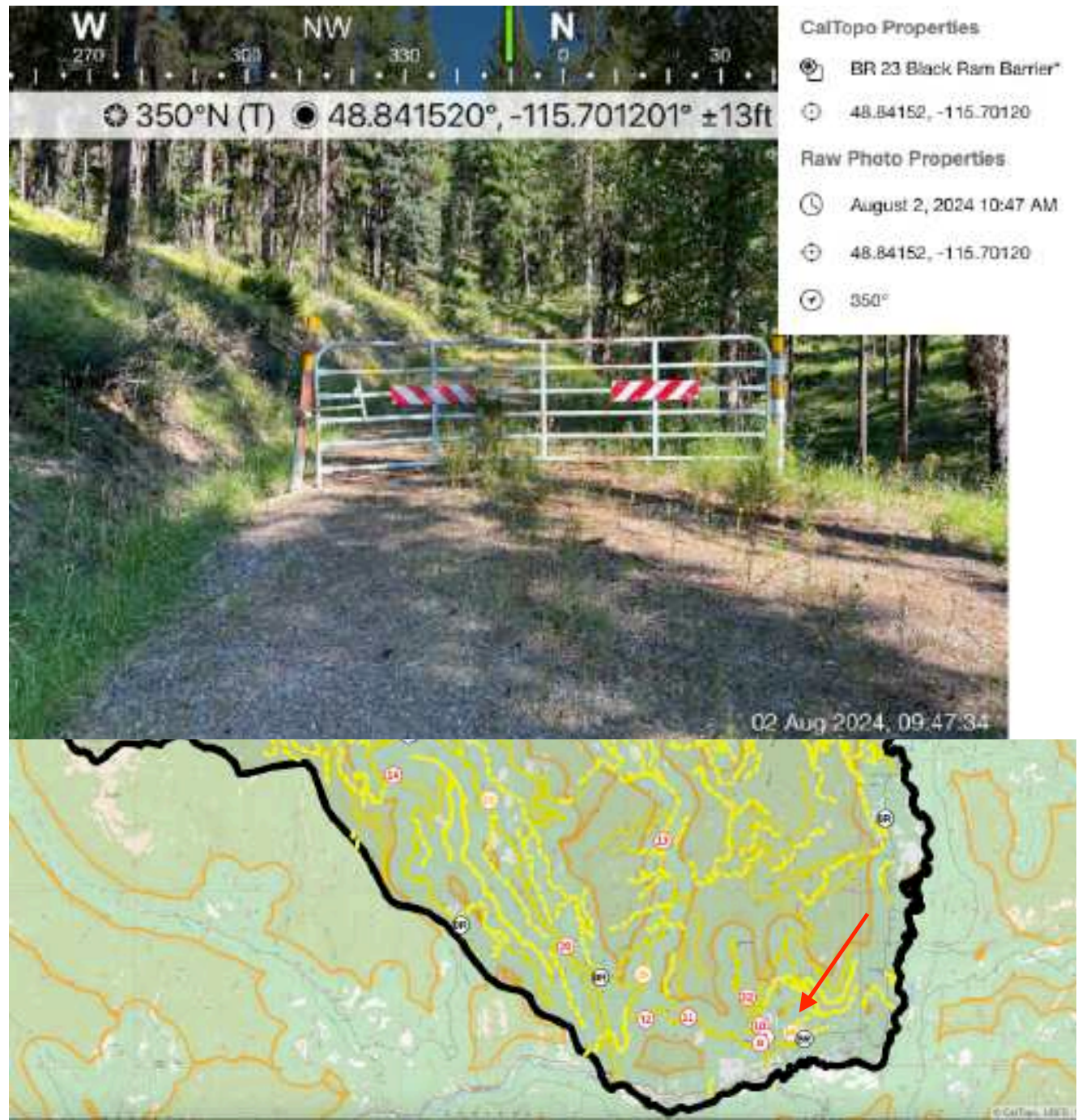
📍 BR-22
📍 48.85035, -115.71679

Raw Photo Properties

🕒 August 13, 2024 6:27 AM
📍 48.85035, -115.71679
📐 351°

2024 New Identified Insufficient Barriers-road access behind barrier extending over 300 feet.

BR 23 **Coordinates: N 48.841520, W -115.701201** **Date: 20234.08.02**
BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023
Barrier ineffective 2024.



BR 24 **Coordinates: N 48.92571, W -115.75106** **Date: 2024.08.13**

BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023

Barrier ineffective 2024. Berm barrier, bypassable on the right side. Road open behind the barrier.



BR 25

Coordinates: N 48.89687, W -115.81093

Date: 2024.08.02

BMU 14 Female with young documented 2016-2023

Barrier ineffective 2024. Road barriered with gate and berm 2024.08.02. Road open and drivable behind berms. Berms were removed with evidence of traffic for most of August 2024.



2024.08.18 Road berm barriers removed with evidence of a lot of traffic moving in both directions.



BR 26 **Coordinates: N 48.951760, W -115.592472** **Date: 2024.08.13**

BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023

Barrier ineffective 2024. Woods Mountain Trailhead. The gated road is bypassable on the left. Access is wide enough for ATVs, side-by-side, or small trucks. Road behind gate is drivable.





BR 27 **Coordinates: N 48.929107, W -115.755557** **Date: 2024.08.13**

BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023

Barrier ineffective 2024. Bermed old road. Berm can be ridden over with a motorcycle. Road behind berm is open and passable by motorcycle or ATV.



BR 28

Coordinates: N 48.92832, W -115.72514

Date: 2024.07.18

BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023

Barrier ineffective 2024. Old bermed road. Open trail behind berm. Berm passable and road accessible for motorcycles.



BR 29

Coordinates: N 48.85514, W -115.75511

Date: 2024.08.02

BMU 15 Female with young documented 2016-2023.

Barrier ineffective 2024. User-created road.



