



Tonight's Agenda

TC Review Process – next steps

Chapter 3 – Town-owned Land and Use of Lands

- Follow-up questions from July 17th
- Plan refinements

Chapter 4 – Trails

- Wildlife discussion-Bill Andree
- Overview of Chapter 4

2018 Update to the 1994 Comprehensive Open Lands Plan

INTRODUCTION

Meeting #1

Introduction/overview of the 2018 Open Lands Plan Update

June 5th, 2018

Meeting #2

Suggested approach to Council's review

Discussion of Council's general impression of draft

Specific questions/comments of Council

June 19th, 2018

TOPICAL REVIEW

Meeting #3 Environmentally Sensitive Lands

'94 plan, process, results

Community input during this update process

2018 Update process

Overview of Chapter 2

Lands recommended for acquisition/protection

Methods for protecting sensitive lands

Action Items/Implementation Steps

Implications/relationship of Chapter 2 with rest of the plan

Summary of refinements

Date TBD

Meeting #4 Town-Owned Lands

'94 plan, process, results

Community input during this update process

2018 Update process

Overview of Chapter 3

Existing town lands and lands recommended for potential acquisition

Action Items and Implementation Steps

Implications/relationship of Chapter 3 with rest of the plan

Summary of refinements

Date TBD

Meeting #5 Trails

'94 plan, process, results

Community input during this update process

2018 Update process

Overview of Chapter 4

Proposed trail ideas/trails dropped from consideration

Action Items and Implementation Steps

Implications/relationship of Chapter 4 with rest of the plan

Summary of refinements

Date TBD

Refine Draft
Follow up as necessary

Refine Draft
Follow up as necessary

Refine Draft
Follow up as necessary

APPROVAL

Meeting #6

Presentation of revised plan

Consideration of resolution for approval

Suggestion for Next TC Meeting

Goal of Next Meeting

Finalize Council's refinements to Plan

Approach

- Review Council's suggested refinements (made to date)
- Based on previous meetings, discuss potential refinements to other topics
- Discuss other comments from Council
- Suggestions from Community

Next Step

Staff/consultant to complete refinements to Plan, present to TC for final adoption.

Follow-up from July 17th

16 Environmentally Sensitive Lands Action Items

6 Town Land/Use Action Items

Middle Bench, re: reference to RETT and land uses

Colorado Natural Heritage work from '94

Follow-up from July 17th

Buildable area of Action Item #9



Follow-up from July 17th

Buildable area of Action Item #9



Follow-up from July 17th

Development potential of Action Item #23



Plan Refinements

- Clarify conference facility – voter’s rejected funding
- “Link” sustainable destinations with Town’s management of sensitive lands
- Add importance of monitoring town lands, re: management, biodiversity, etc.
- Broaden potential uses for Action Item #9

Trails

Background

- 1994 Plan
- 2018 Update - Community Input
- 2018 Update - Process

Town Council Comments/Questions

Chapter 4 Overview

- Approach/format
- Main elements

Town Council Comments/Questions

Key Elements of Chapter 4

- The vision
- Wildlife
- Conceptual Trails Plan

Public Comment

Town Council Comments/Questions

Background/1994 Plan

Priorities for open space and recreation needs:

#1 – Acquisition, preservation and protection of natural open space.

#2 – Improvements of the trail and bike path system in and around the Town

Top 5 Action Item Priorities:

#1 Protection of sensitive lands

#2 Extend Vail Trail to East Vail

#3 North Trail

#4 New trailheads

#5 Frontage Road bike lanes

Town of Vail

Comprehensive Open Lands Plan



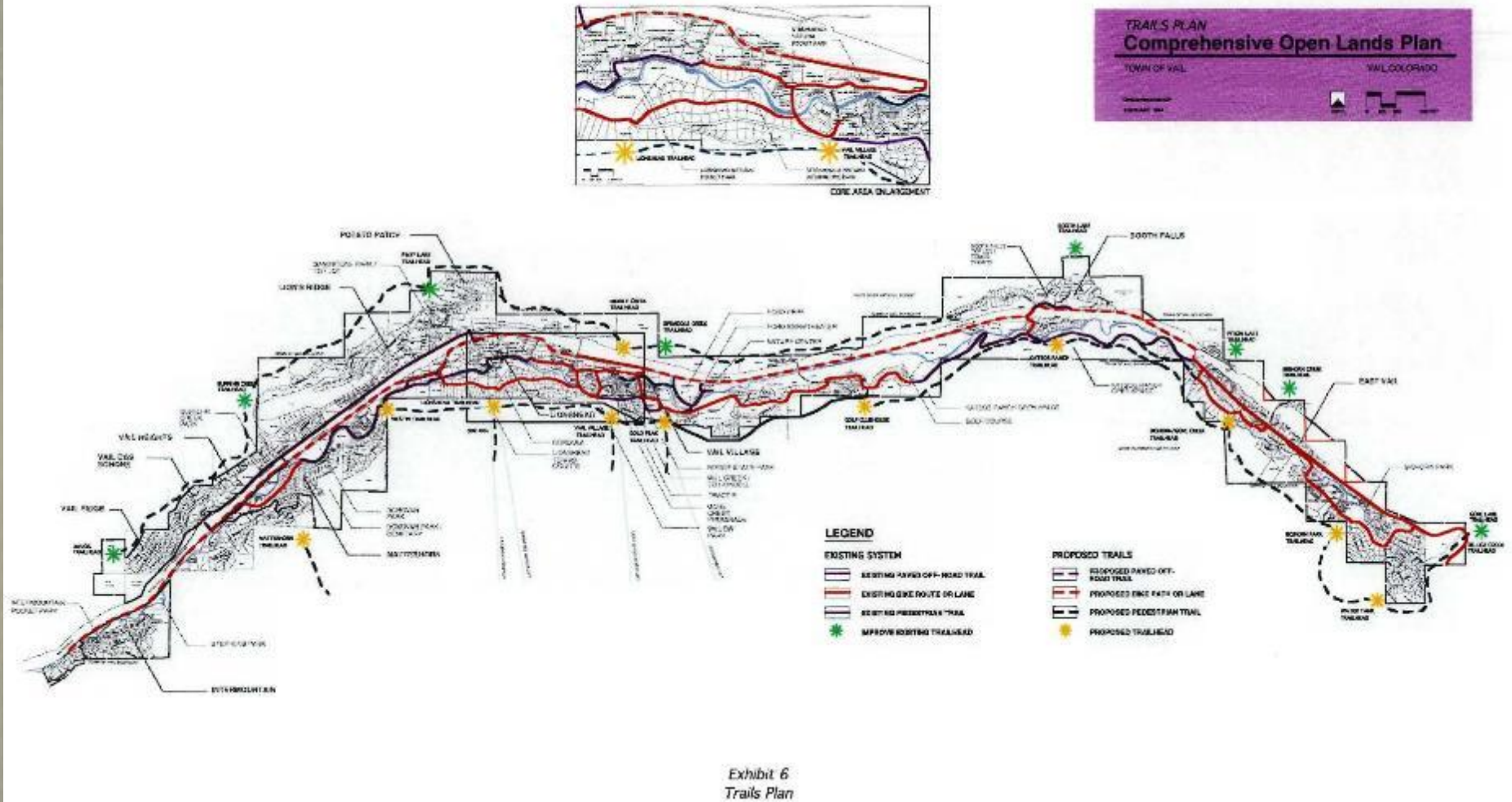
TOWN OF VAIL


BRAUN
 ASSOCIATES, INC.

Background/1994 Plan

Draft Comprehensive Open Lands Plan

of Vail



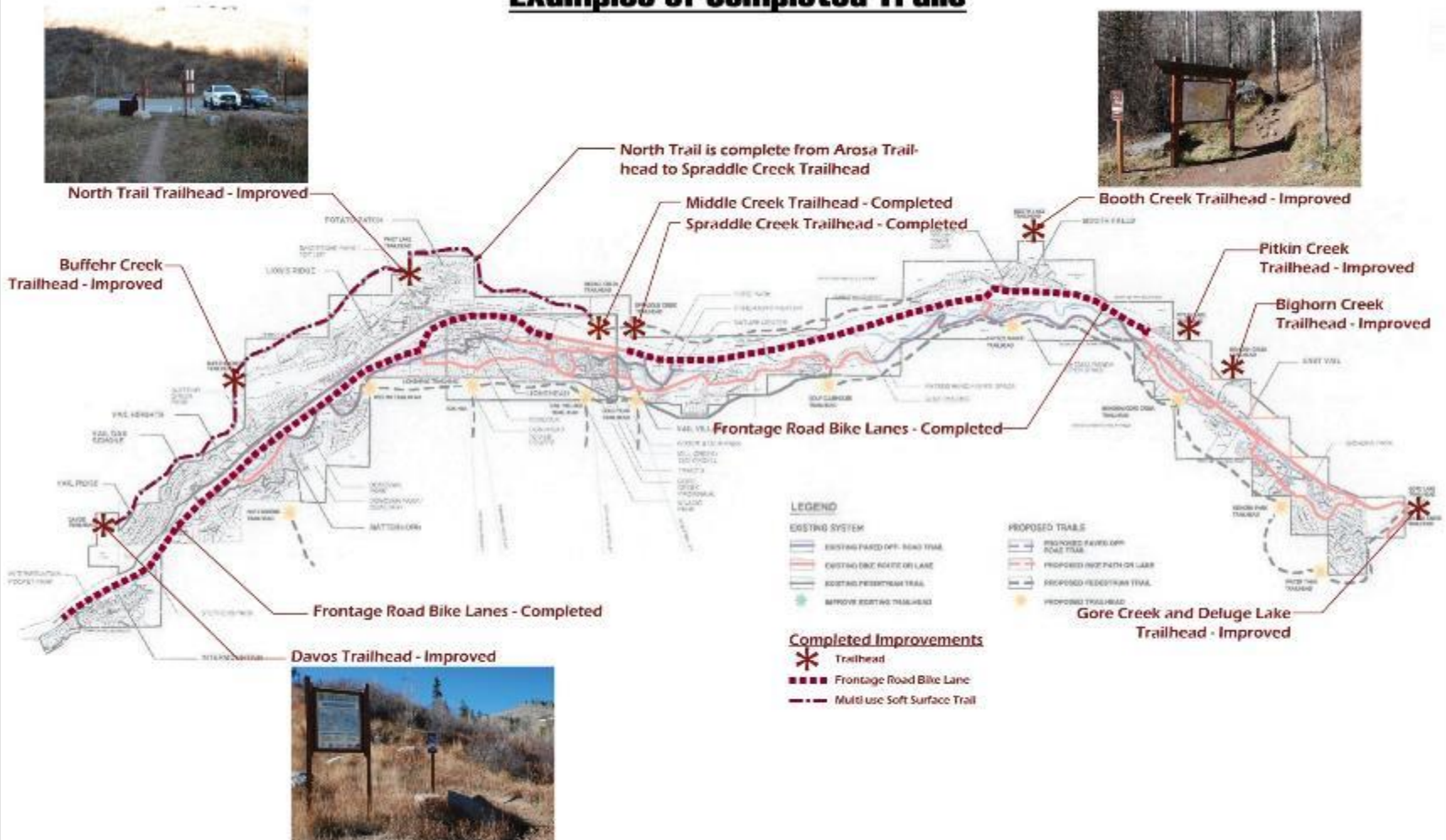
Update to the
1994 Comprehensive Open Lands Plan



BRAUN
ASSOCIATES, INC.

Background/1994 Plan

Examples of Completed Trails



Background/2018 Community Input

3 Scoping Meetings

- +/-75 participants
- 11 “prompts”/3 related to sensitive lands

2 Community Meetings

- #1 – “targeted” small group conversations
- #2 – presented initial findings

Town website portal

Small group meetings

Trails workshop

Wildlife Forum

Background/2018 Community Input

Prompt 1

How do you use the Town's trails and paths?

(open ended question)

Bike Path	14.6%
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Hiking Soft surface trails	19.5%
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Multiple Use (bike, hike, walk)	65.9%
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Non User	0%
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41 responses

Background/2018 Community Input

Prompt 2

Do trails benefit the community?

Yes 100%

No 0%

32 responses

Background/2018 Community Input

Prompt 3

What steps could be taken to improve the Town's existing trail system? (open ended question)

Better Signage	13.3%
More Trails	40%
Improved Trailhead Parking	3.3%
Better Maintenance	10%
Outreach/trail etiquette/enforcement	20%
Nothing	13.3%

30 responses

Background/2018 Community Input

Prompt 4

Support for the concept of a trail system between neighborhoods?

Support	74.4%
Not Support	25.6%

39 responses

Background/2018 Community Input

Prompt 5

What factors are important to you when thinking about potential trail development in Vail?

Environmental	77.4%
Aesthetics/Open Space/Privacy	6.5%
Safety	3.2%
Parking/Access	9.7%
Overdevelopment	3.2%

31 responses

Background/2018 Community Input

Tasks

- Define potential trail ideas
- ID other trail related programs and improvements
- Improve upon how '94 Plan addressed trails

Approach

- Additional community engagement
- SE Group
- Find balance between potential trails and environmental considerations

Background/2018 Process

Town Council Comments/Questions

Chapter 4 Overview

- Community Input on Trails
- Small Group Meetings
- Trails Workshop
- Vision for Trails
- Wildlife in the Gore Valley
- Wildlife and Recreation Trails
- Mitigating measures
- Conceptual Trails Plan
- Description of Trail Ideas
- Other Trail Improvements
- Trail Types and Standards
- Regional Context of Vails Trails
- Process for Evaluation of Trail Ideas
- Easements from Private Land Owners

Chapter 4 Overview

Town Council Comments/Questions

Chapter 4 Trails

Bill Andree

Chapter 4 Trails

Vision for Vail's Trails

Wildlife Considerations

Mitigating Measures Prior to Further Study

Conceptual Trails Plan

Other Considerations and Next Steps

Chapter 4 Trails

“Vail can’t be all things to all people”

“Vail should be a mountain biking mecca”

“Build a loop trail around the valley for world-class connectivity”

“Make the Vail Trail hiking-only”

“We have an amazing place - let’s work with our existing trails with better signage and maintenance”

“Natural trails as Vail’s signature”

“Vail may not be a trails destination but we need a trails update to meet existing demand”

“Vail should be a place where kids can ride a bike safely”

Chapter 4 Trails

A VISION FOR VAIL'S TRAILS

Based on input from the community throughout this update process, the vision for Vail's system of trails and pathways is:

A system of paved and soft-surface trails that is safe for all users. Through best practices in design, signage and education, trail users with diverse needs and ability levels can safely recreate on trails in the Vail area. Educational and informational programs with an emphasis on safety, awareness and respect for others are provided to trail users.

Trails are maintained to meet the highest standards for sustainability. Managing existing trails to maintain high standards takes priority over expanding the trail network.

All trails are designed and constructed to respect and protect sensitive wildlife habitat and terrain while providing opportunities for both residents and visitors to connect with and experience nature.

A variety of soft and hard-surface trails of varying difficulty levels are available to provide accessibility to all user groups.

Connectivity is key. Trails provide safe, non-vehicular connections between neighborhoods and important destinations in Town. Proper signage will make trails easy to find and follow.

Trails in the Vail area are planned in concert with trails in the surrounding area. Continued collaboration with neighboring towns, Eagle County, and the USFS is essential for a successful trail network.

**Safety
Sustainability
Sensitivity
Variety
Connectivity
Collaboration**

Chapter 4 Trails

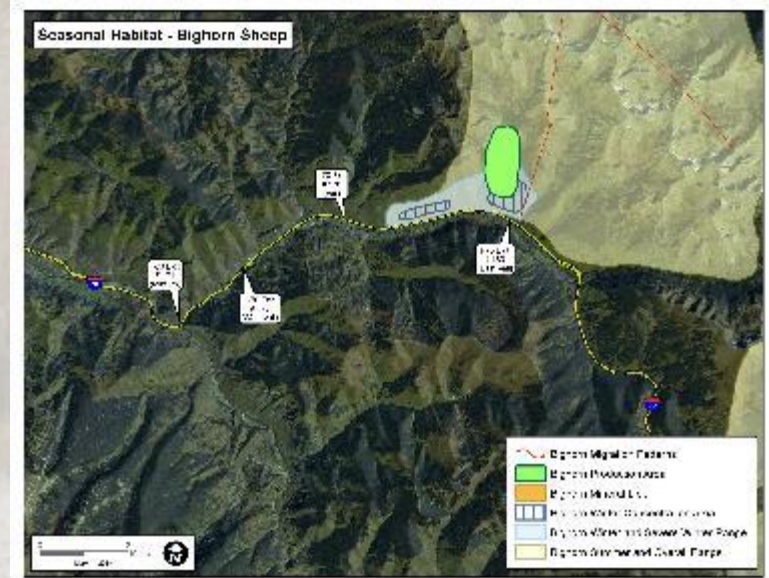
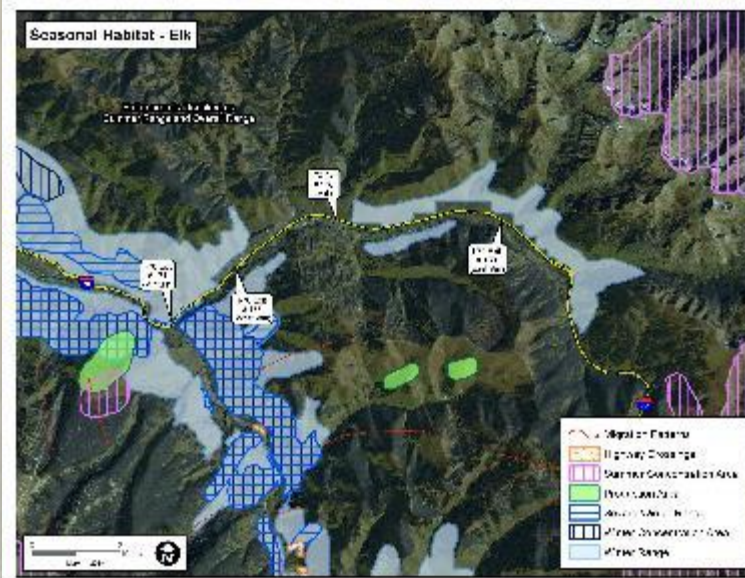
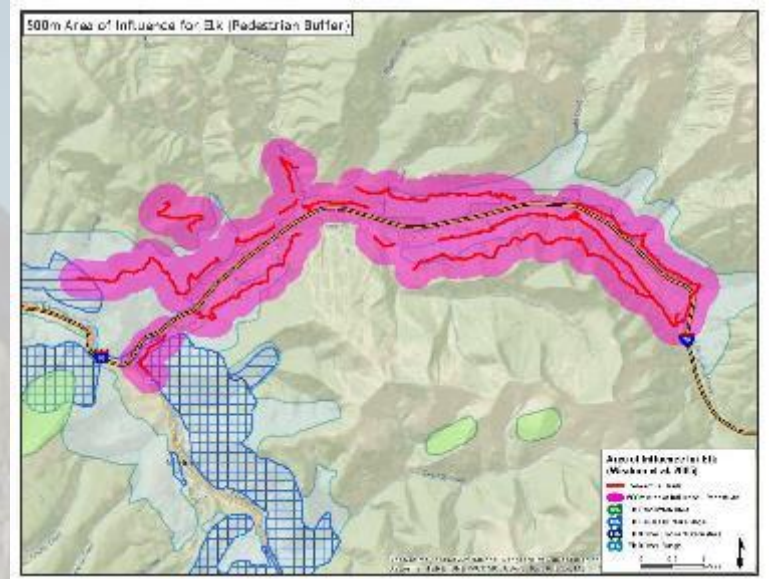
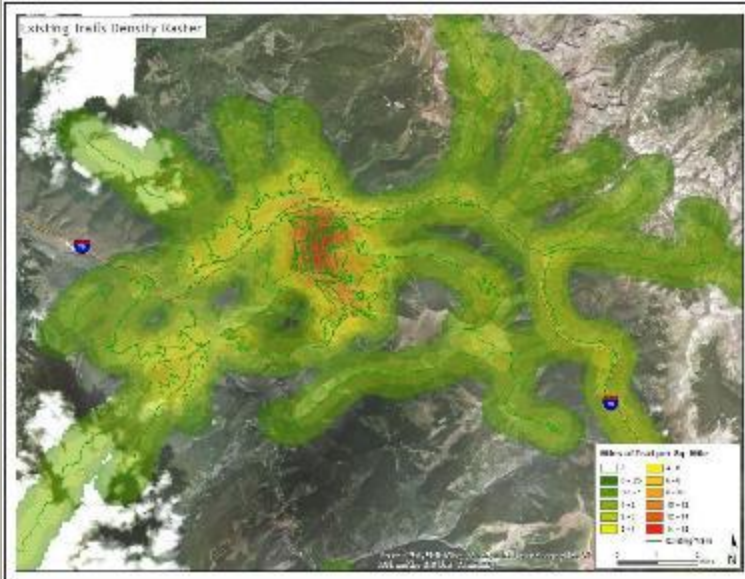
Wildlife in the Gore Creek Valley

How trail use affects wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife



Chapter 4 Trails



Chapter 4 Trails

Initial Steps:

- Define trail-free zones
- Public education
- Enforce seasonal trail closures
- Habitat enhancement



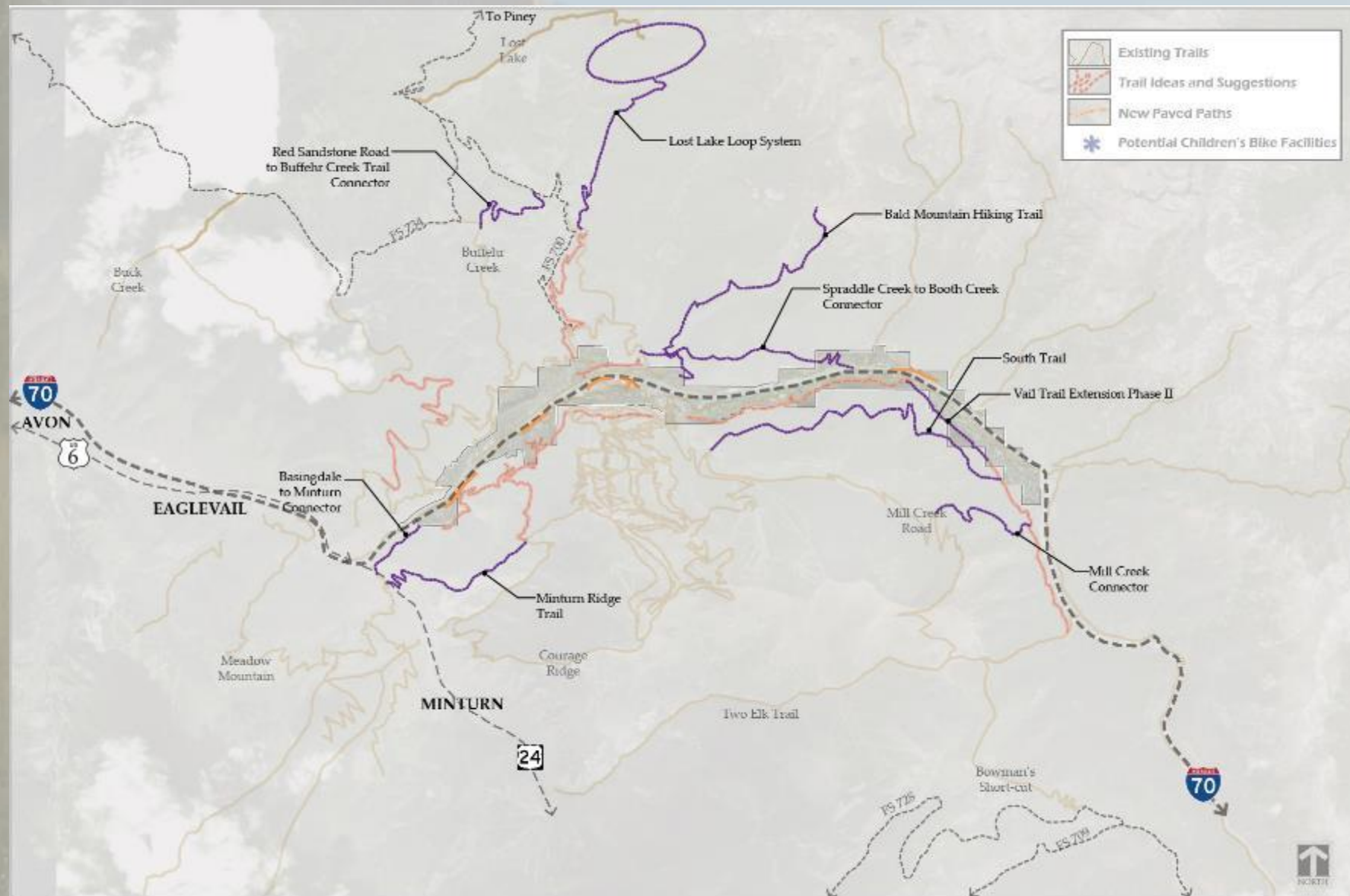
Chapter 4 Trails

Conceptual Trails Plan “ideas”

Parameters for decision-making:

- Wildlife considerations, potential for mitigation
- Safe for users, improve safety of existing trails
- Expand opportunities for user groups
- Provide neighborhood connectivity/trail linkages

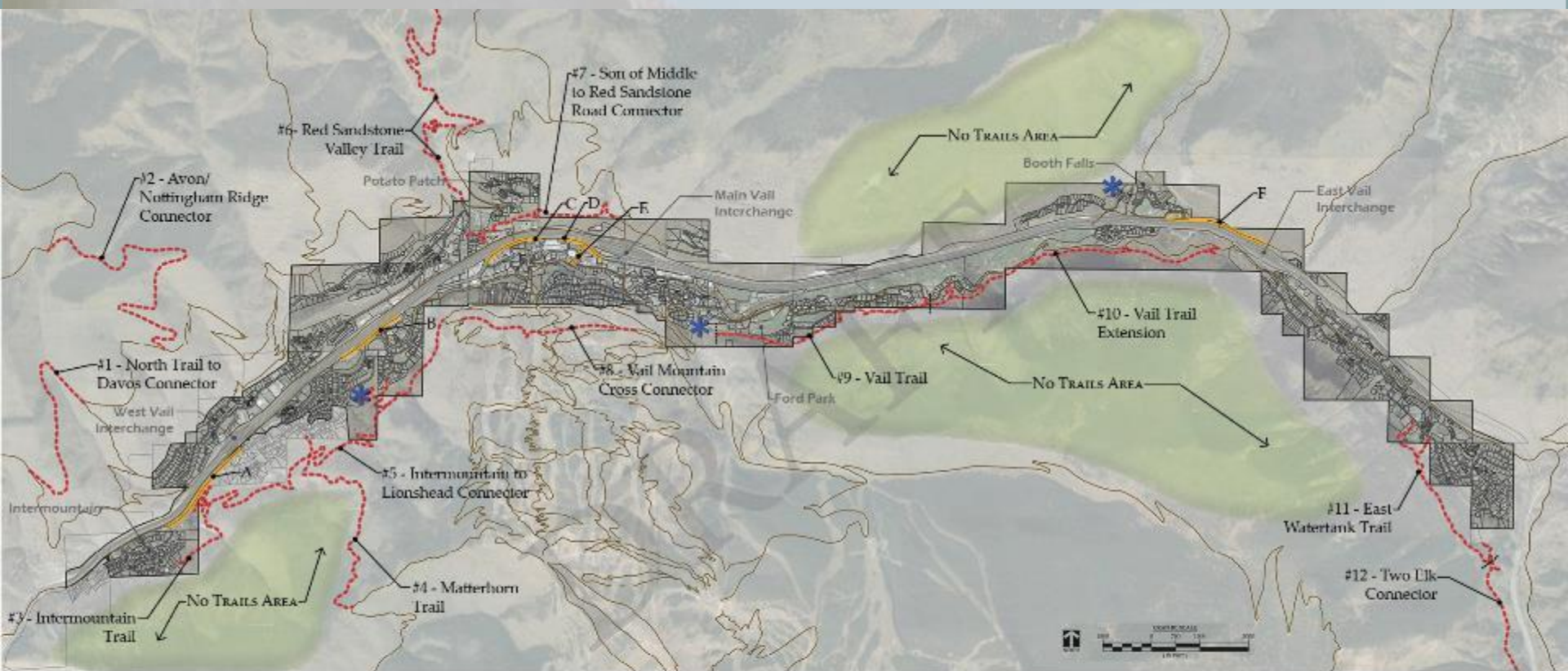
Chapter 4 Trails



Update to the
1994 Comprehensive Open Lands Plan



Chapter 4 Trails



CONCEPTUAL TRAILS PLAN

2017 Open Lands Plan - Update

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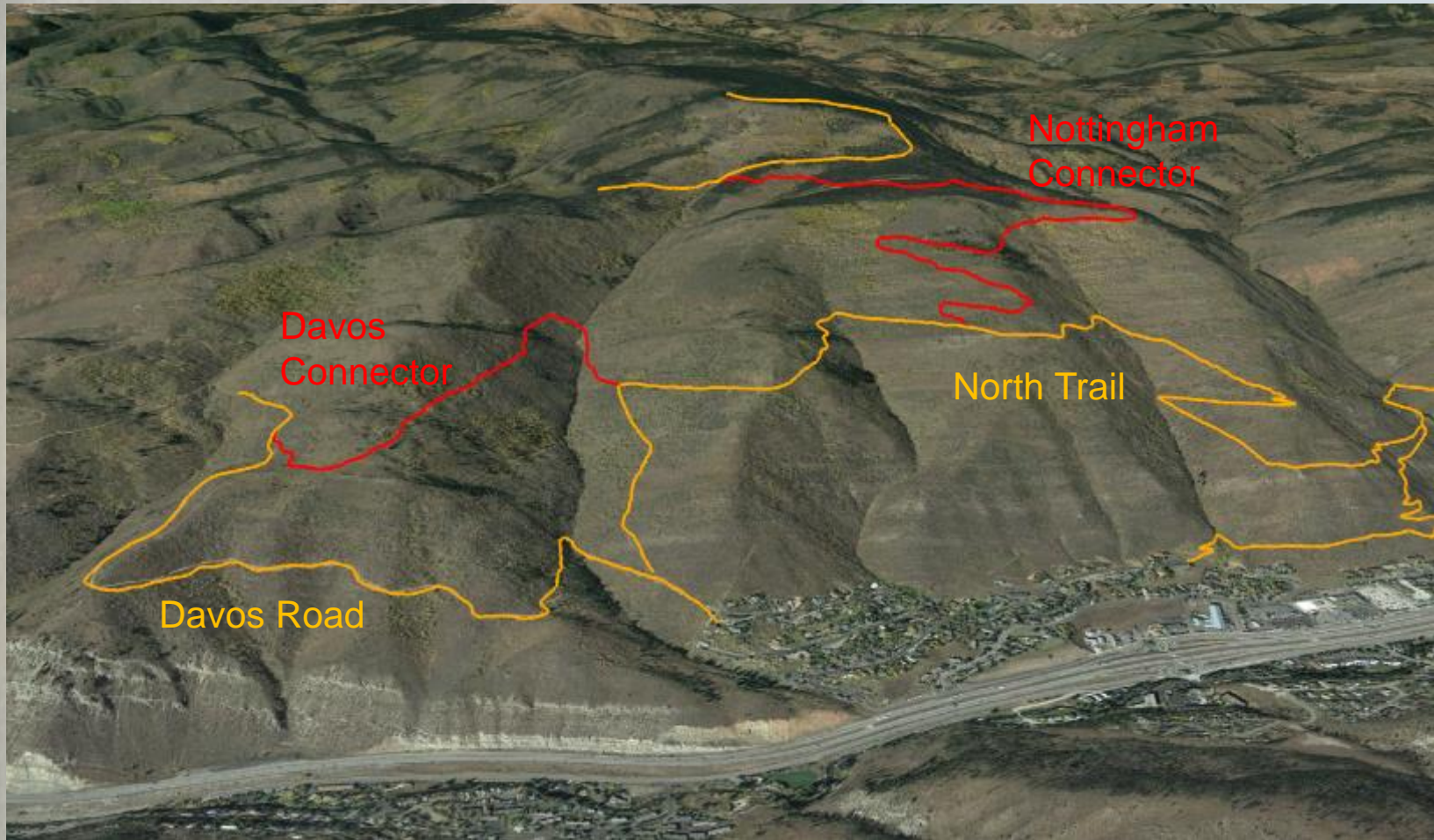
Chapter 4 - Trails

-  Existing Trails
-  Trail Ideas and Suggestions
-  New Paved Paths
-  Potential Children's Bike Facilities

Chapter 4 Trails

Trail #1-North Trail/Davos Connector

Trail #2-Avon/Nottingham Ridge Connector



Chapter 4 Trails

Trails #1 and #2

#1. North Trail to Davos Connector:

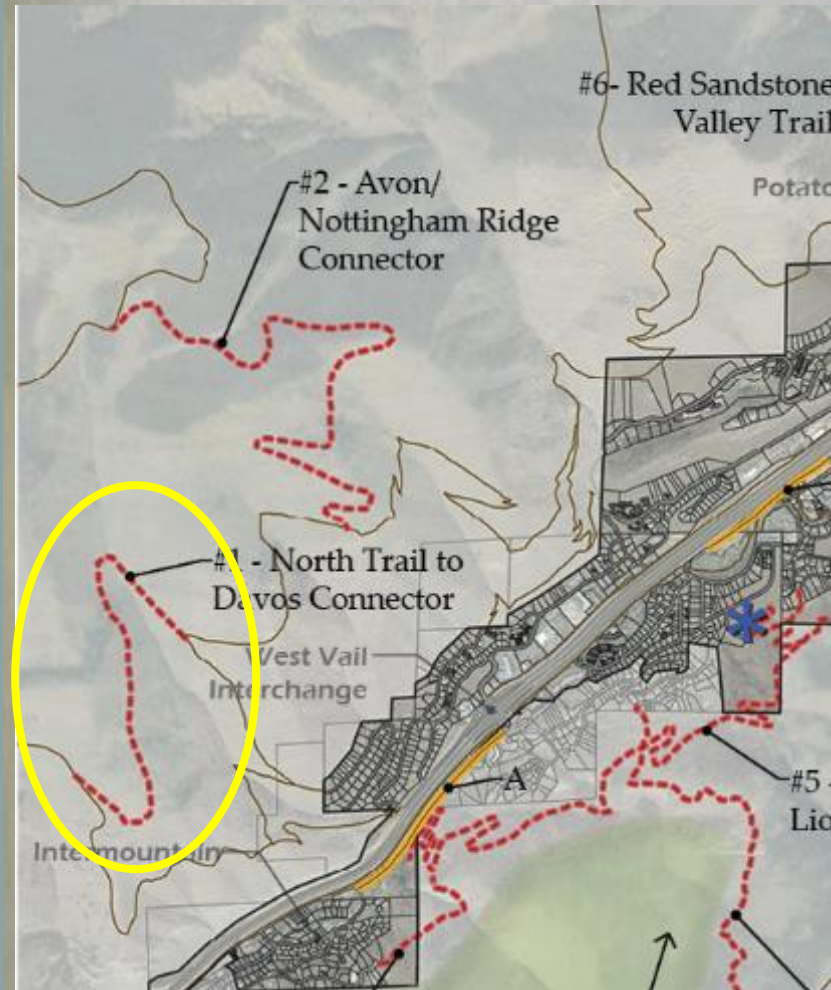
Proposed multi-use trail to connect segments of the North Trail to the Davos Trail to create a moderate loop trail from West Vail.

User groups: Multi-use

Ability Level: Intermediate

Supports Vision Goals: Diversity, Connectivity

Issues/Concerns/Process: wildlife analysis, USFS approval



Chapter 4 Trails

Trails #1 and #2

#2. Avon/Nottingham Ridge Connector:

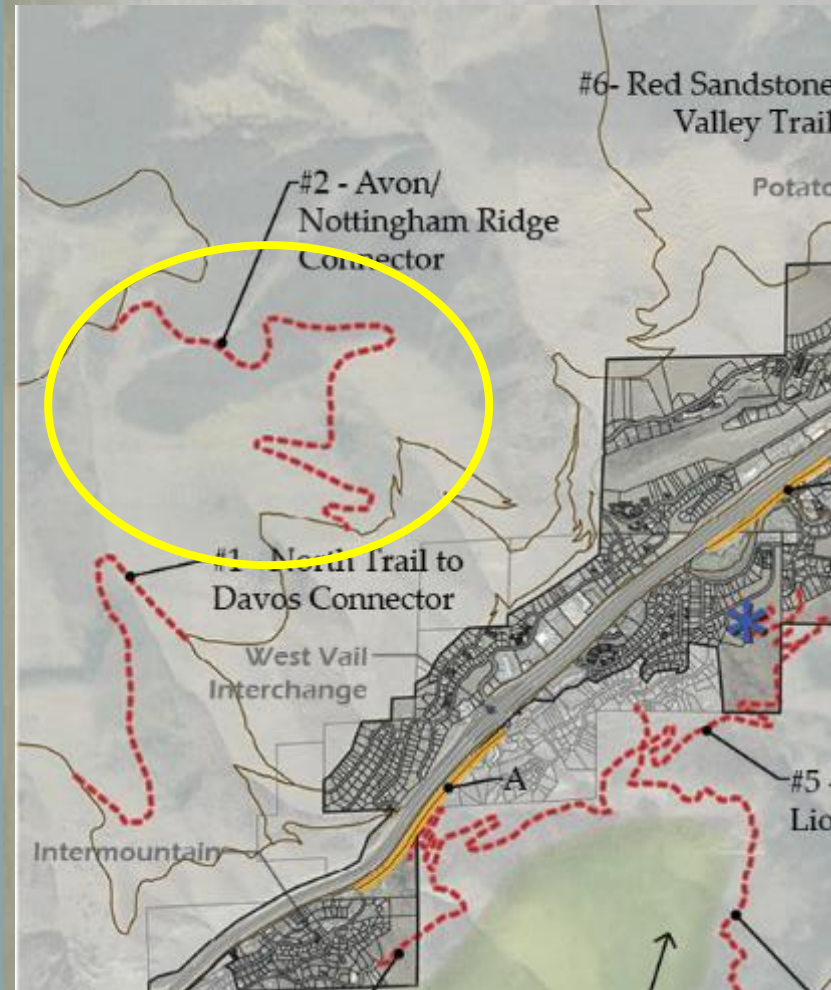
Proposed multi-use trail to connect the North Trail to the existing Nottingham Ridge Trail and future Traer Creek development in Avon. This connection is identified in the current White River National Forest Travel Management Plan.

User groups: Multi-use

Ability Level: Intermediate/Difficult

Supports Vision Goals: Accessibility, Diversity, Connectivity

Issues/Concerns/Process: Wildlife analysis, coordination with Traer Creek Development Company, Town of Avon, USFS approval

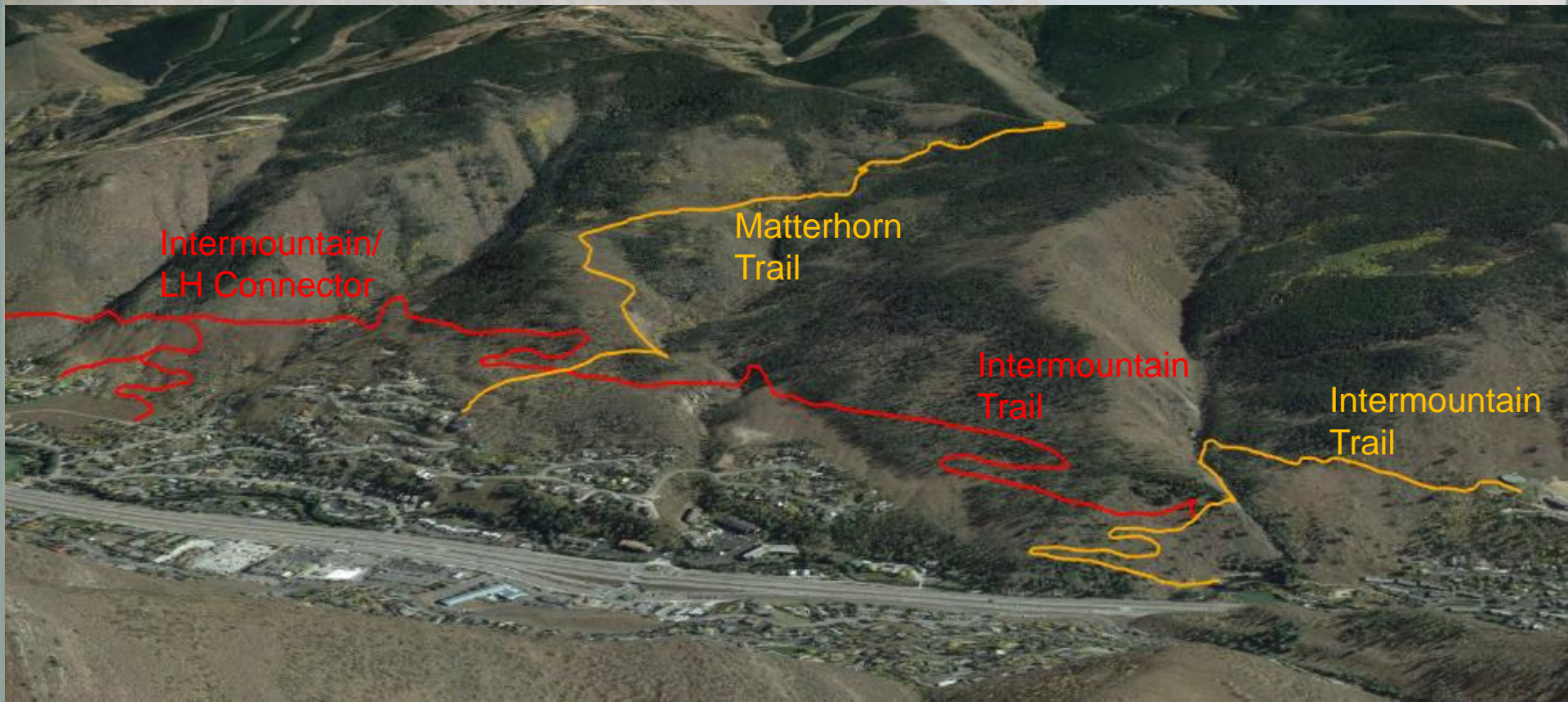


Chapter 4 Trails

Trail #3 Intermountain Trail

Trail #4 Matterhorn Trail

Trail #5 Intermountain/LH Connector



Chapter 4 Trails

#3. Intermountain Trail:

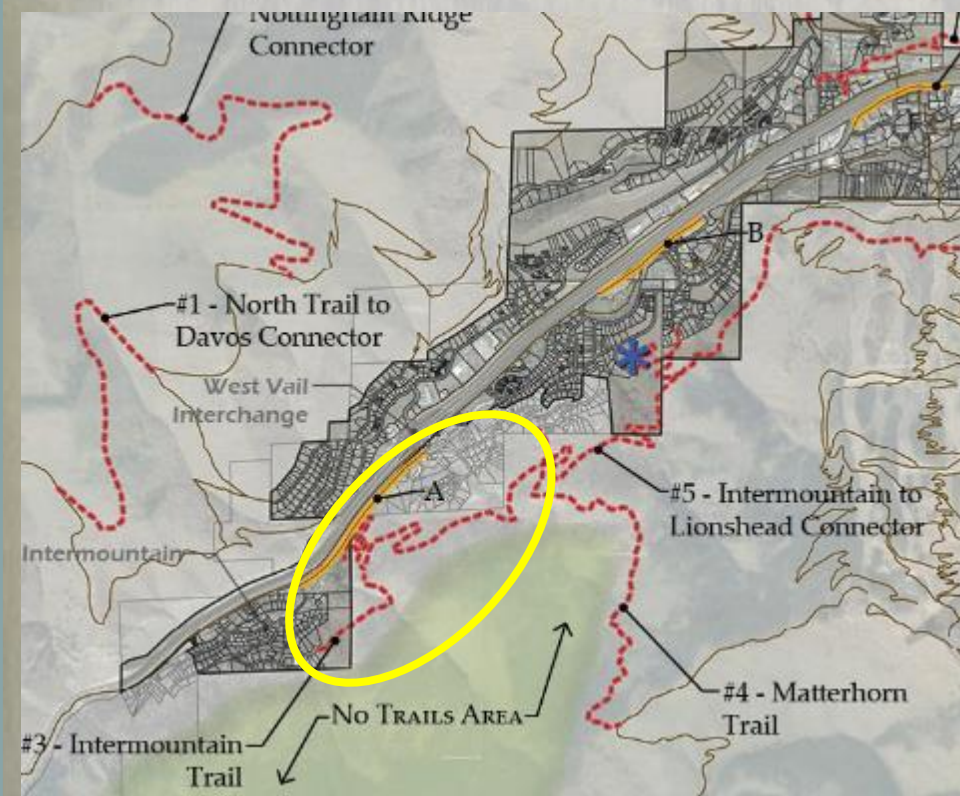
Existing social trail provides intermediate soft-surface hiking opportunity for the Intermountain neighborhood. The upper reaches could be adopted/improved as a hiking-only trail while the lower reach could provide hiking/biking access to Trail Opportunity #5.

User groups: Hiking-only

Ability Level: Intermediate

Supports Vision Goals: Accessibility, Connectivity, Diversity

Issues/Concerns/Process: Steep terrain, safety, wildlife analysis, USFS approval



Chapter 4 Trails

#4. Matterhorn Trail:

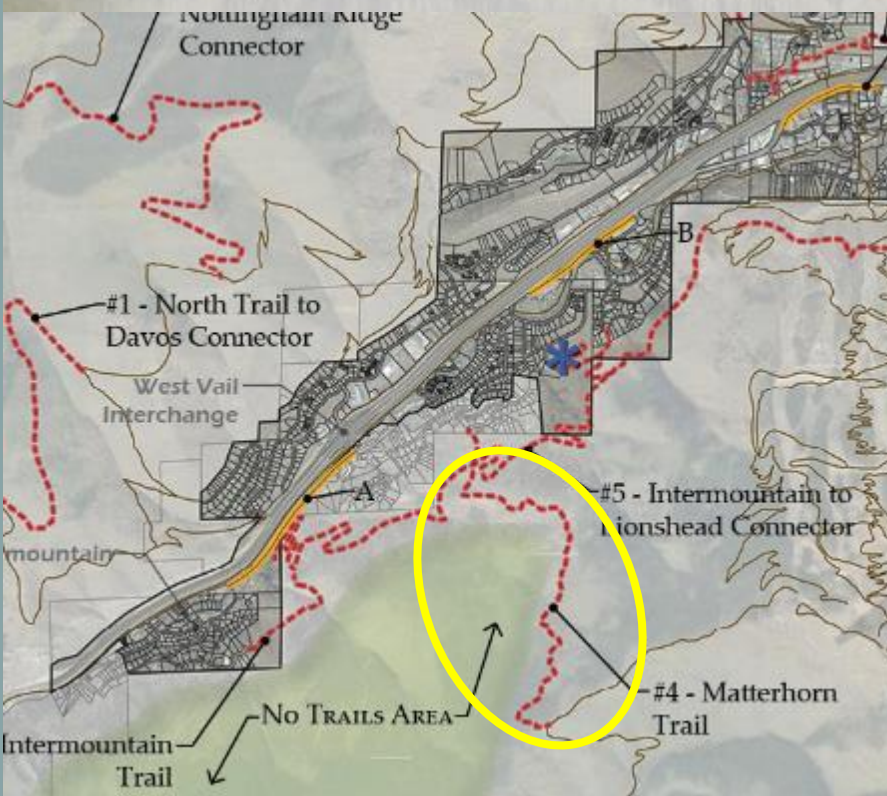
Existing social trail connects Eagles Nest/Game Creek Trail down to the Matterhorn neighborhood. If formally approved by USFS, trail should be realigned in sections to improve sustainability and connected to Trail #5. **Potential wildlife impacts from this trail need to be evaluated comprehensively with Trails #3 and #5. An outcome of this analysis could be to take steps to close the Matterhorn Trail.**

User groups: Hiking, mountain biking

Ability Level: More difficult

Supports Vision Goals: Sustainability, Connectivity, Diversity

Issues/Concerns/Process: Steep grades, safety, wildlife analysis, USFS approval



Chapter 4 Trails

#5. Intermountain to Lionshead Connector:

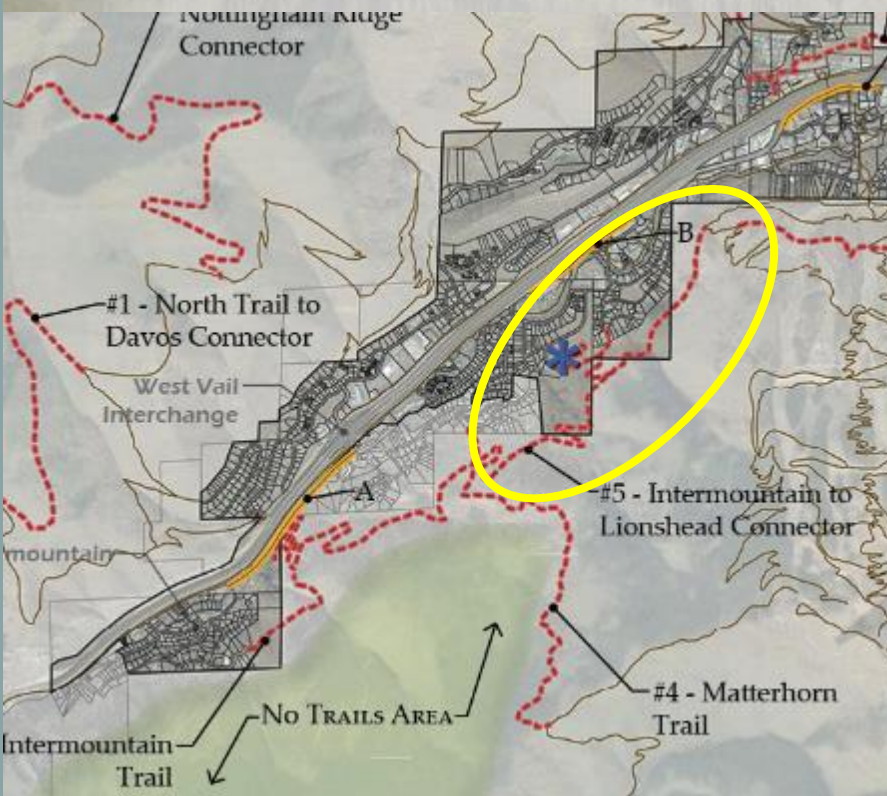
Proposed multi-use trail to connect the Intermountain Trail (#3) to Hank's Hideaway on Vail Mountain with several neighborhood trailheads to provide access. The alignment could pass through recent timber cuts as a way of reducing environmental impacts.

User groups: Multi-use

Ability Level: Intermediate

Supports Vision Goals: Accessibility, Diversity, Connectivity,

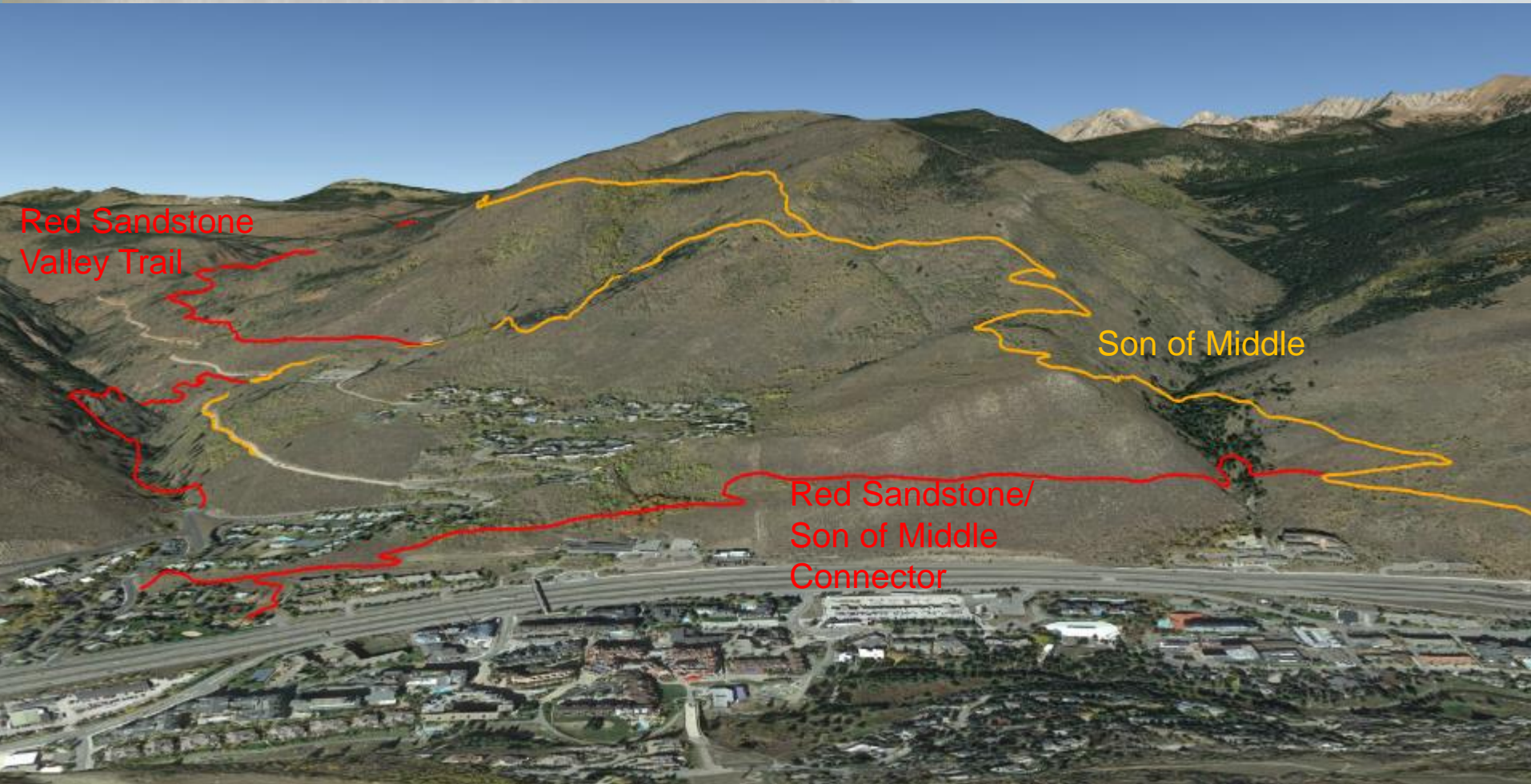
Issues/Concerns/Process: Wildlife analysis, evaluate private property impacts, USFS approval



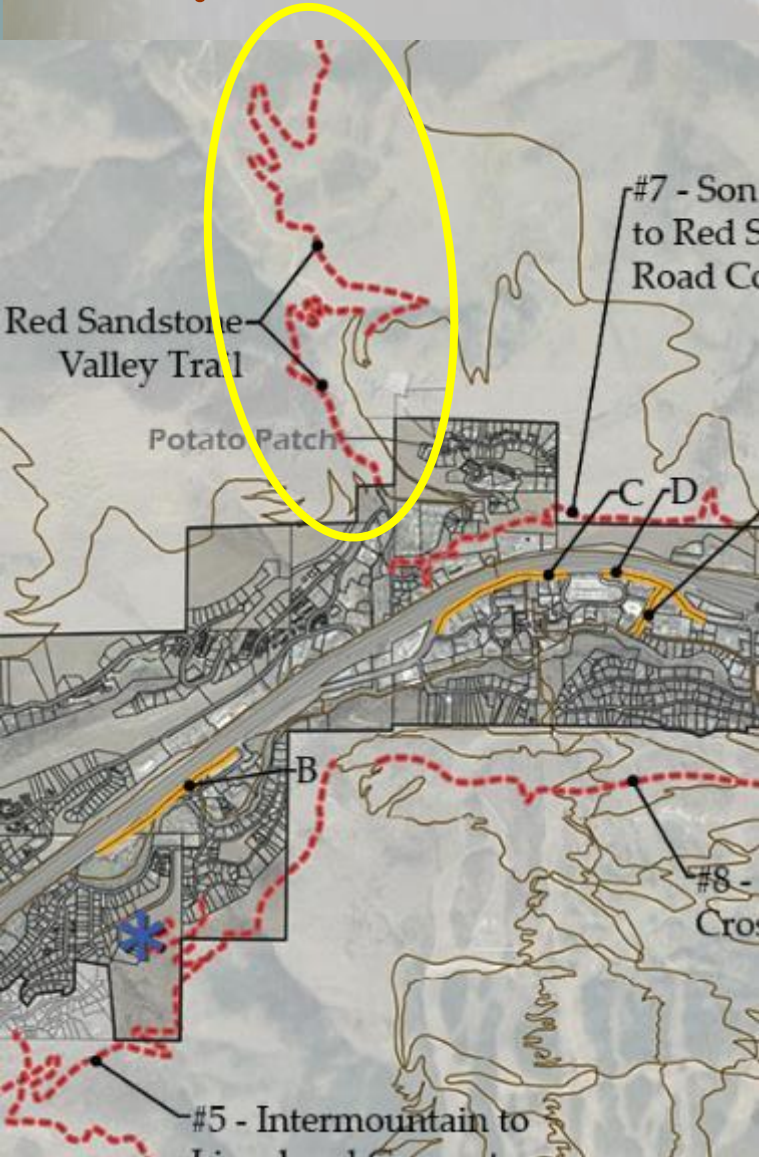
Chapter 4 Trails

Trail #6 Red Sandstone Valley Trail

Trail #7 Son of Middle/Red Sandstone Rd Connector



Chapter 4 Trails



#6. Red Sandstone Valley Trail:

Proposed multi-use trail connecting Vail to existing and proposed trails in the forest north of Vail. This soft-surface trail parallels Red Sandstone Road and Piney Lake Road to provide **a much safer alternative** by providing trail users an alternative to Red Sandstone Road. This trail, if deemed feasible from a design and wildlife impact standpoint, will need to be "tight" to Red Sandstone Road in order to minimize habitat fragmentation and impacts from trail use.

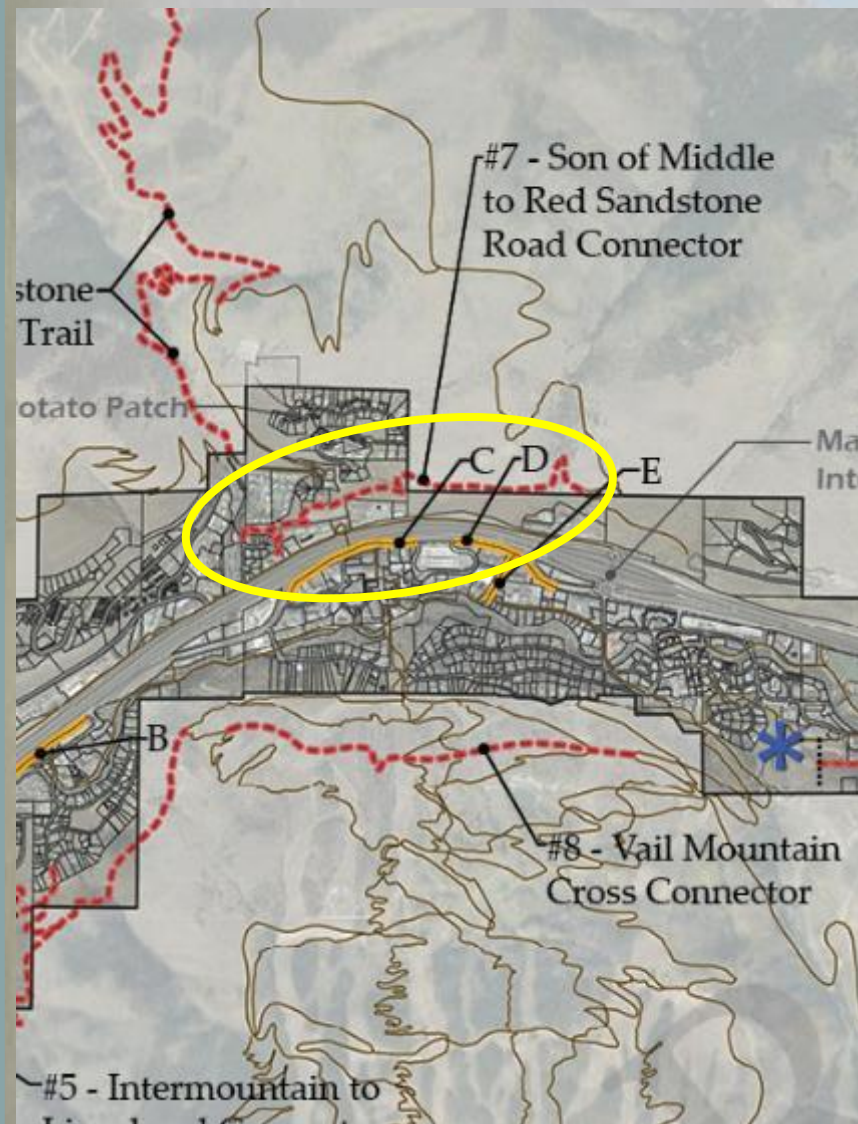
User groups: Multi-use

Ability Level: Intermediate

Supports Vision Goals: Accessibility, Diversity, Connectivity,

Issues/Concerns/Process: Wildlife analysis, USFS approval

Chapter 4 Trails



#7. Son of Middle Creek to Red Sandstone Road Connector:

This trail connects the Son of Middle Creek trail to Red Sandstone Road through Town of Vail and USFS land above Red Sandstone School. This connector creates an intermediate loop with the North Trail and provides a loop alternative between Lionshead and Vail Village on the north side of I-70.

User groups: Multi-use

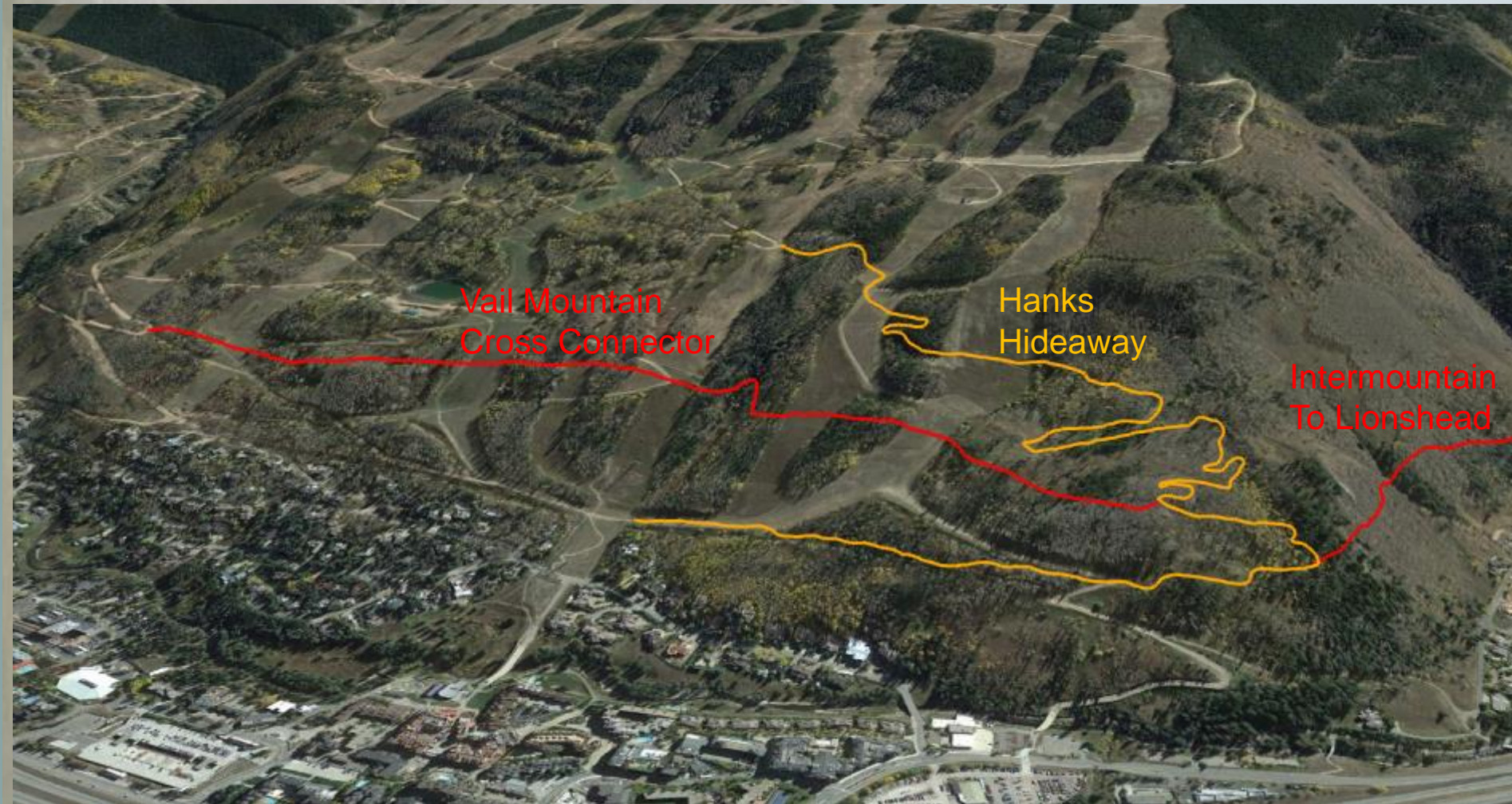
Ability Level: Intermediate

Supports Vision Goals: Accessibility, Diversity, Connectivity

Issues/Concerns/Process: Terrain, private property impacts, wildlife analysis, Town of Vail approvals, USFS approval

Chapter 4 Trails

Trail #8 – Vail Mountain Cross Connector



Chapter 4 Trails

#8. Vail Mountain Cross Connector:

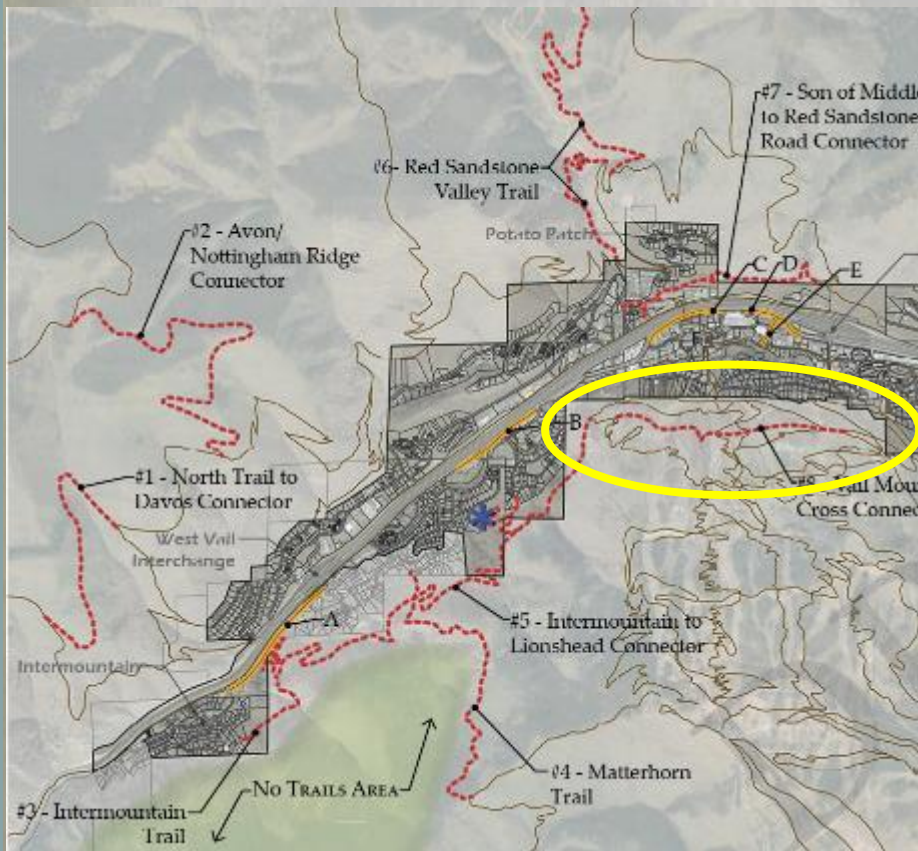
Potential soft-surface trail across the lower reaches of Vail Mountain utilizing existing trail where feasible. Requires planning process and approvals with Vail Resorts and USFS.

User groups: Multi-use

Ability Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Supports Vision Goals: Accessibility, Diversity, Connectivity, Sustainability

Issues/Concerns/Process: Wildlife analysis, evaluate private property impacts, USFS approval



Chapter 4 Trails

Trail #9 Vail Trail

Trail #10 Vail Trail Extension



Chapter 4 Trails

#9. Vail Trail:

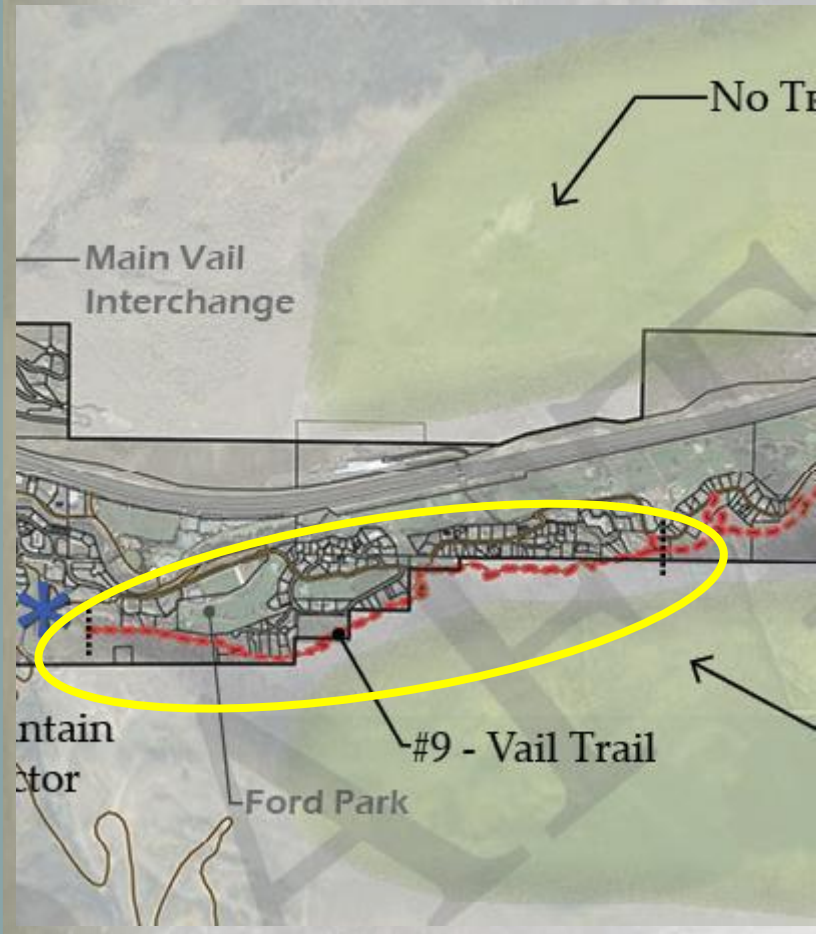
Existing social trail provides intermediate soft-surface hiking and limited biking between Vail Village and the Golf Course Clubhouse. The trail currently crosses into USFS and private property and should be formalized with the property owners. Trail improvements are needed to address sustainability and accessibility. This trail is recommended to be a hiking-only trail. Any work to improve this trail should maintain the width and informal, organic character of the existing trail.

User groups: Hiking-only

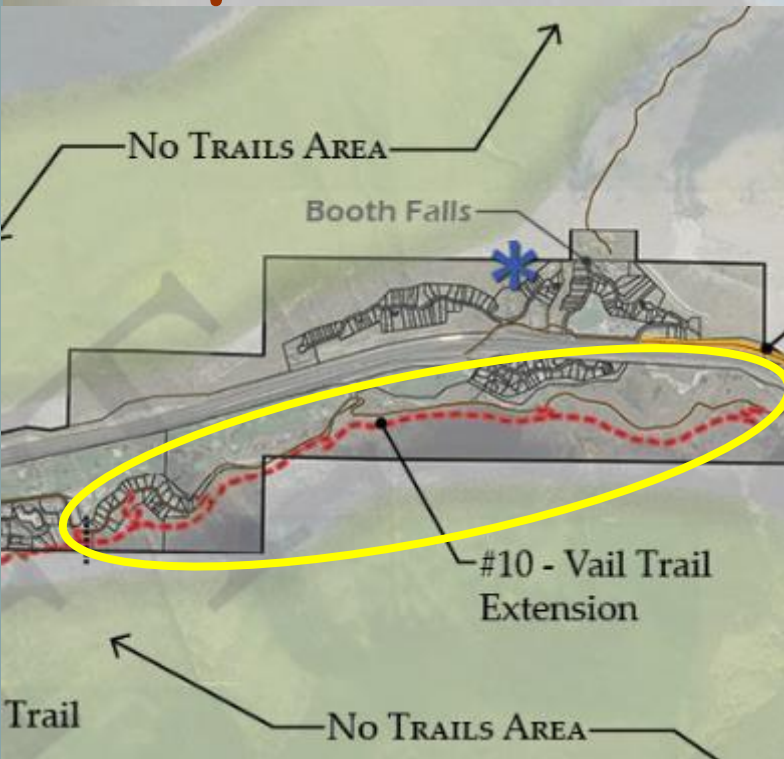
Ability Level: Intermediate

Supports Vision Goals: Accessibility, Sustainability, Connectivity, Diversity

Issues/Concerns/Process: Steep terrain, hazard areas, private property, wildlife analysis, USFS approval



Chapter 4 Trails



#10. Vail Trail Extension:

New trail that provides a soft-surface alternative to the paved Gore Valley Trail through the Town-owned Katsos Ranch Open Space. A peregrine falcon nesting site is located in the vicinity of this potential trail and a portion of the trail is located within Elk Winter Range and Transitional Range. Analysis of how this trail may impact these wildlife resources will be necessary to determine if this trail should be constructed and if so, to identify any measures necessary to mitigate impacts on wildlife resources. The trail alignment should be very close to the Gore Valley Trail to minimize habitat fragmentation. Potential mitigating measures for elk winter range and the falcon nest will likely include seasonal trail closures. Another potential mitigating measure for the falcon nest could be to reduce the length of the trail by linking it back to the Gore Valley Trail west of the nest to minimize new activity with the nest's Area of Influence. Taking steps to close social trails around the Vail Memorial Garden should also be considered.

User groups: Multi-use

Ability Level: Beginner

Supports Vision Goals: Accessibility, Diversity, Connectivity

Issues/Concerns/Process: Wildlife analysis/
Peregrine falcon, geological hazard areas,
Town of Vail approvals, USFS approval

Chapter 4 Trails

Trail #11 East Water Tank

Trail #12 Two Elk Connector



Chapter 4 Trails

#11. East Water Tank Trail:

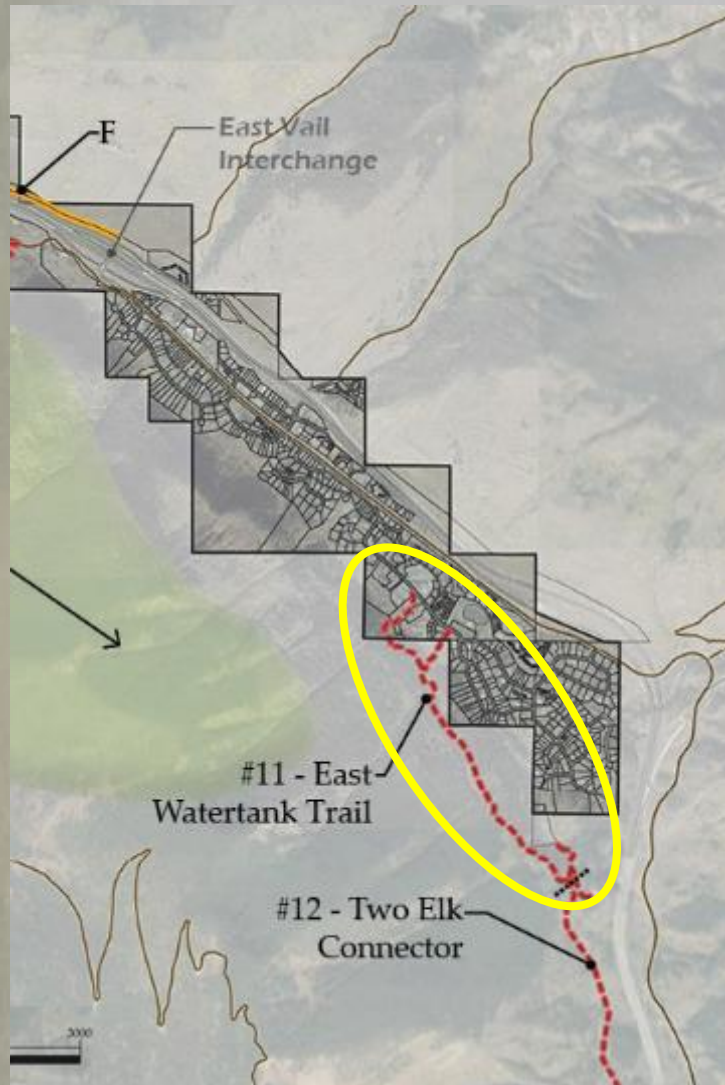
Existing social trail provides intermediate soft-surface hiking and limited biking for the East Vail neighborhood. **Wildlife implications of this social trail will need to be evaluated to determine whether this trail should be formalized or whether steps should be taken to close the trail.** If efforts are made to formalize this trail, the narrow width and scale of the existing trial should be maintained, particularly with the westernmost leg of the trail given steep terrain in this area.

User groups: Hiking, limited mountain biking

Ability Level: More difficult

Supports Vision Goals: Accessibility, Sustainability, Connectivity, Diversity

Issues/Concerns/Process: Steep terrain, wildlife analysis, USFS approval



Chapter 4 Trails



#12. Two Elk Connector:

This new soft-surface trail would connect the lower reach of the Two Elk Trail with East Vail, eliminating the need to access the Vail Pass bike path. The trail would align low on the hillside south of I-70 and improve a long loop-trail for the Vail area. **Wildlife implications of this trail will need to be evaluated.**

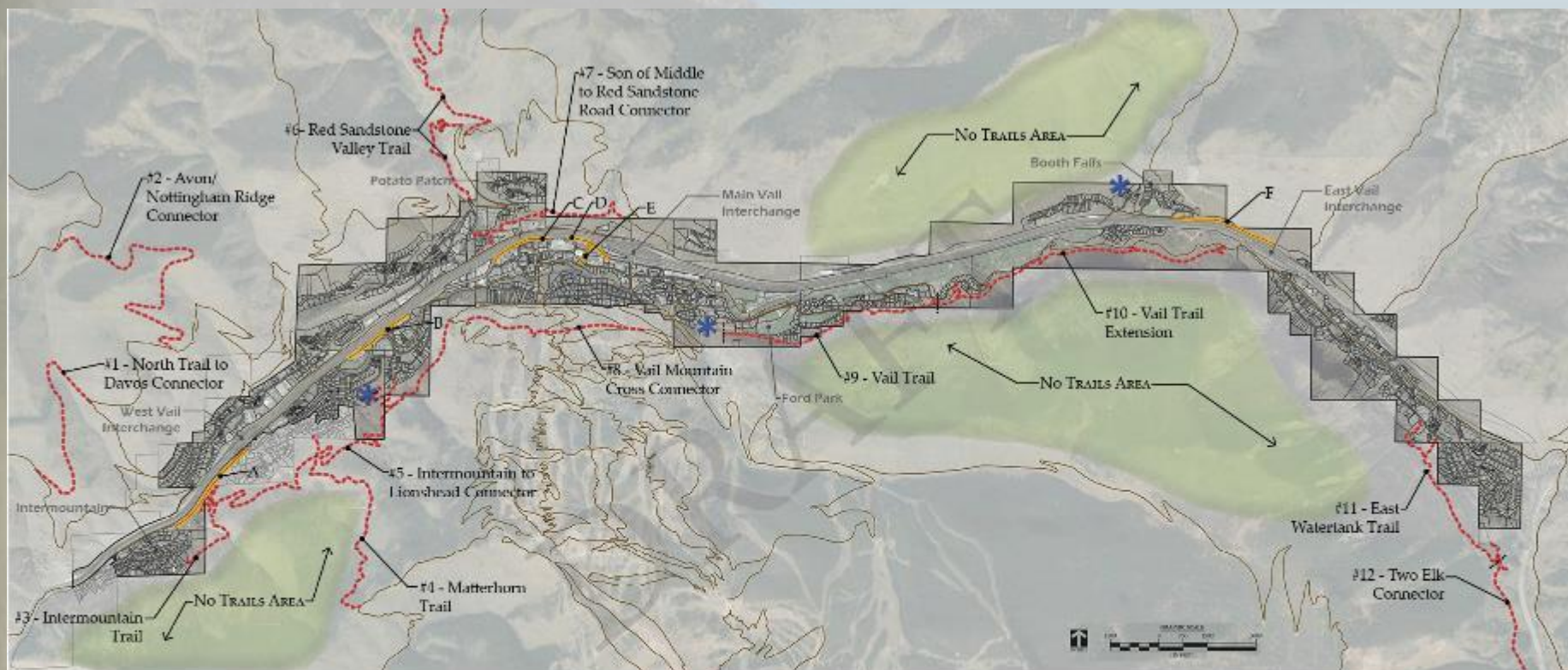
User groups: Multi-use





Ability Level: Intermediate

Supports Vision Goals: Safety, Accessibility, Diversity, Connectivity

Issues/Concerns/Process: Terrain analysis, private property impacts, wildlife analysis, USFS approval

Chapter 4 Trails



-  Existing Trails
-  Trail Ideas and Suggestions
-  New Paved Paths
-  Potential Children's Bike Facilities

CONCEPTUAL TRAILS PLAN

2017 Open Lands Plan - Update

Chapter 4 Trails

Other Considerations

- Paved trails
- Youth facilities
- Trail maintenance
- Accessible trails



Chapter 4 Trails

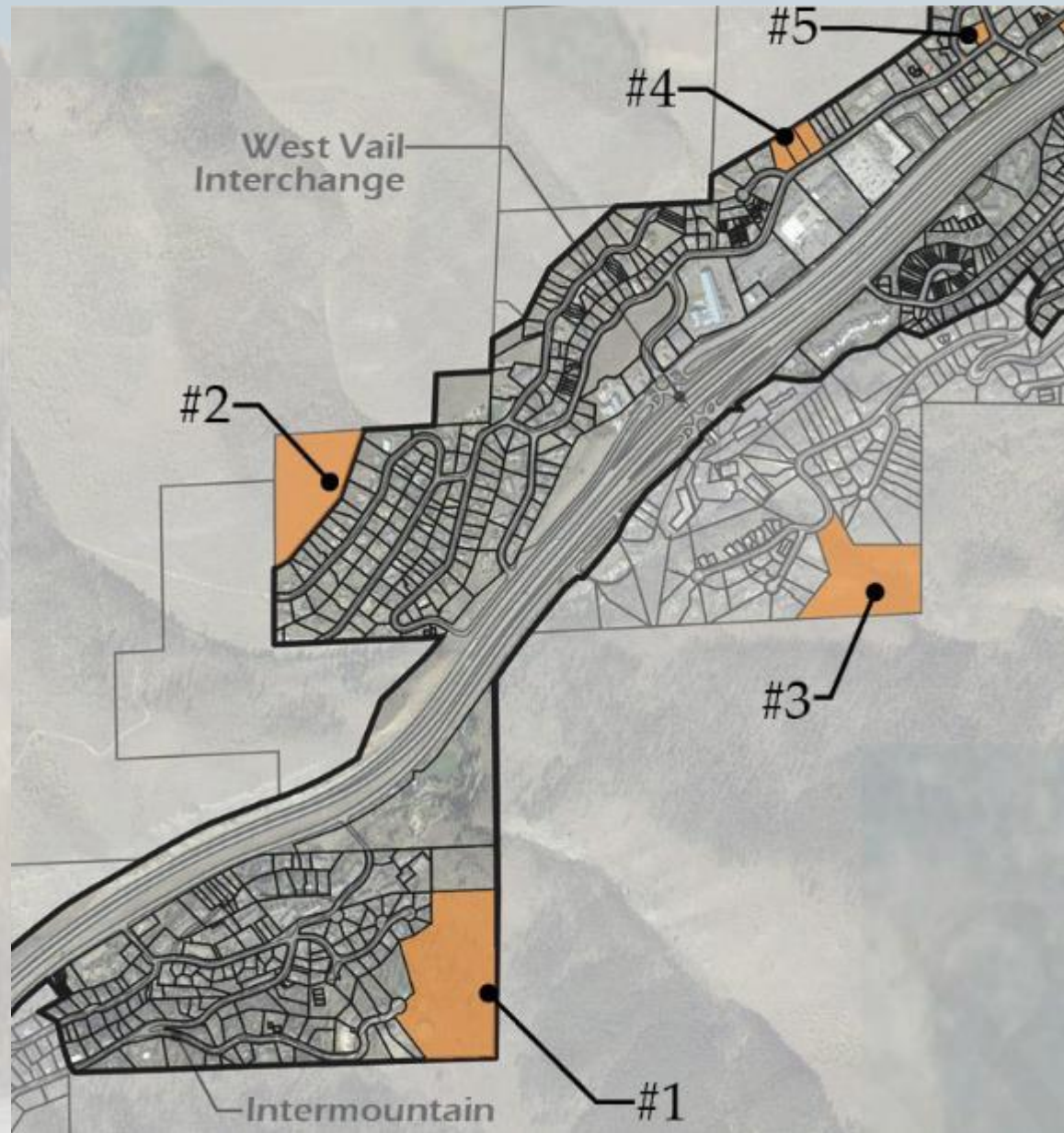
Next Steps

If/when Town Council initiates:

- Environmental Analysis
- Trails Plan
- USFS Process
- Collaborations

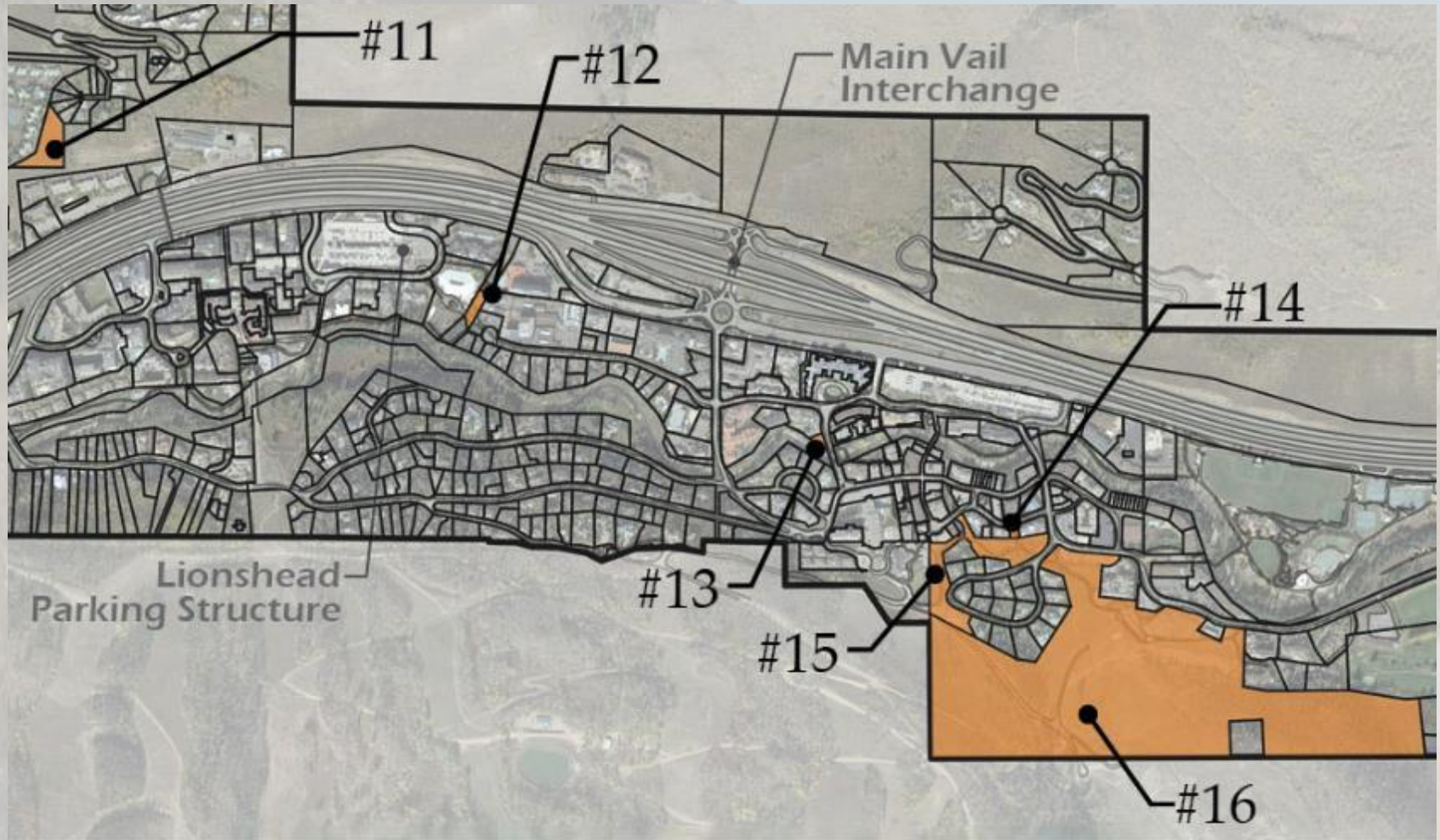
Chapter 4 Trails

Action Items



Chapter 4 Trails

Action Items



Chapter 4 Trails

Implementation Steps

- Wildlife enhancements
- USFS trails and trailheads
- Vail Resorts/Mountain trails
- Education and outreach
- Action Items

Chapter 3/Relationship with OLP

Environmentally Sensitive Lands

- Identification
- Protection

Trails

- Sensitivity

Town Lands

- Use of lands
- Management

Key Elements of Update

Town Council Comments/Questions

Public Comment

Next Steps