



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631**

This agenda, meetings, and information about the Committee can be viewed at www.Townofeagle.org.

OSRAC MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION

This will be an in-person meeting with access via Microsoft Teams. First-time users of Microsoft Teams will need to download the free app before joining the meeting.

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9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items; 3-Minute Limit Please)

9:10 a.m. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9:13 a.m. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY MINUTES

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

9:15 a.m. (75 min) Hardscrabble Trails Coalition Trails Plan Phase 2 Initial Proposal

10:30 a.m. (30 min) New Business/ Future Agenda items

- E-bikes
- Ranger Program
- Hernage and Brush Creek Restoration Projects

11:00 a.m. ADJOURN



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631**

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9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Call to Order at: 9:01am

Roll Call:

Committee members present: Dan Lambert, Ernest Saeger, Phil Kirkman, Ryan Gilmer, Chris Cohen, and Roger Mitchell

Committee members absent: Jessica Foulis and Chris Kehoe

Staff Present: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager and Tom Gosiorowski, Public Works Director

Town Council Present: Ellen Bodenhemier

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

9:10 a.m. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION to adopt the Agenda as presented by Lambert and second by Saeger. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Saeger, Mitchell, Kirkman, Lambert, Gilmer, and Cohen) and 0 opposed.

9:13 a.m. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

MOTION to approve the January OSRAC meeting minutes by Saeger and second by Lambert. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Saeger, Mitchell, Kirkman, Lambert, Gilmer, and Cohen) and 0 opposed.

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

Election of Committee Officers- Secretary

Motion to elect Phil Kirkman as the Committee Secretary through December 2026 by Saeger and second by Cohen. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Saeger, Mitchell, Kirkman, Lambert, Gilmer, and Cohen) and 0 opposed.

Preliminary review and discussion (with the Bureau of Land Management) for a proposal to consider supporting a review of class 1 pedal assist e-bikes policies on natural surface trails in Town-owned open space properties

- Staff presented a request from regional and local mountain bike groups to consider increasing class one pedal assist e-bikes (e-bikes) on non-motorized trails (already open to bikes) in the Eagle area.
- Alan Czepinski, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), presented the goals and timeline of the review for the agency.
- The BLM will evaluate the request for additional e-bike access via a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment. The assessment will include stakeholder and public coordination and feedback.
- The BLM hopes to start this assessment in the fall of 2025.
- The BLM can develop alternatives to consider during NEPA based on input from the Town. Therefore, it could be beneficial for the Town to evaluate e-bike use on open space properties before the NEPA process.
- The BLM will collect user data in the Hardscrabble area this summer. Although not developed specifically to evaluate e-bikes, the survey can add questions on this topic.
- Town staff informed the Committee that the Town Council supports evaluating e-bike use in open space properties.
- Town staff presented several options for the Town to use to evaluate public input and resource impacts from e-bikes.
- The Committee supported a streamlined internal approach for evaluating e-bikes. This would include a survey, a public open house, some environmental assessments, OSRAC meetings and a Town Council public hearing all administered by Town staff.
- Town staff will return to the Committee with an approach and timeline to begin evaluating e-bikes.

New Business

- None.

Future Agenda Items

- The Hardscrabble Trails Coalition will make a proposal to OSRAC for new trails on BLM and Town Open Space lands in March.

10:30 a.m. ADJOURN

MOTION to ADJOURN at 11:00 a.m. by Seager and second by Kirkman. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Saeger, Mitchell, Kirkman, Lambert, Gilmer, and Cohen) and 0 opposed.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: March 4, 2025

Agenda Item: Hardscrabble Trails Coalition Trails Plan Phase 2 Initial Proposal

REQUEST: Staff requests that the Committee review the initial proposal from the Hardscrabble Trails Coalition (HTC) for new trails and reroutes in Town owned open space and adjacent lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Provide initial feedback on the proposal for HTC, staff, and the Council to consider.

BACKGROUND: In 2022, the Town of Eagle adopted its first Open Space and Trails Master Plan (Master Plan). Development of the Master Plan included significant community and stakeholder engagement. Results of the plan detailed desired new trail mileage and trail reroutes within Town open space properties and adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

Based mainly on the Master Plan, HTC completed several trail projects in 2024. The focus of projects in phase one was trail reroutes, decommissioning unauthorized trails, and making improvements to the existing trail network. Most of these developments were identified as high-priority projects in the Master Plan that were to be tackled in a 1-3 year timeframe.

HTC is proposing further trail projects, most of which were identified in the Town's Master Plan. Staff has provided some initial comments to HTC on this proposal, but for the most part, this is the first presentation and opportunity for feedback on the proposed trails for the Town.

HTC is seeking comments and feedback from OSRAC and other stakeholders before submitting a final proposal to the Town of Eagle and BLM for review. Reviews will be completed via a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Analysis (EA) for BLM lands and consistent with Section 6.04.010 of the Eagle Municipal Code for Town open space properties.

The proposal is attached in this packet, and staff seek preliminary comments and feedback from the Committee on the trail proposals.

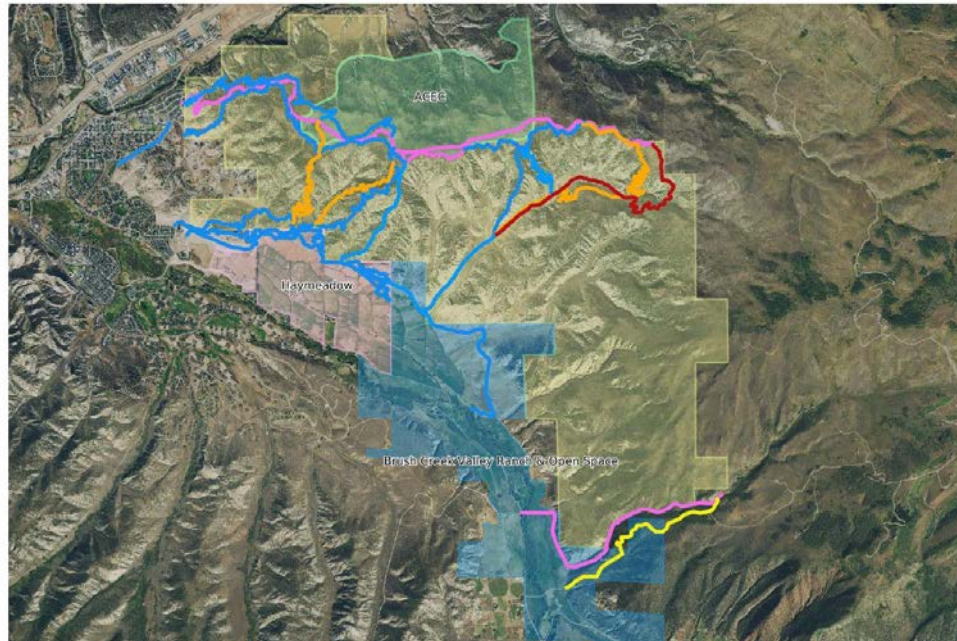
ANALYSIS: The BLM's East Eagle/ Hardscrabble region is managed through a Resource Management Plan (RMP) that was completed in 2015. It provides guidance and regulations for recreation development, resource management, and other resource issues. The NEPA process considers the RMP requirements and restrictions during its analysis.

The Town of Eagle uses its Comprehensive Plan, the Eagle Municipal Code, Open Space and Trails Master Plan, Open Space Management Plans, and other long-range/community documents to guide resource management and new recreation development requests.

The maps below were submitted to the Town by HTC. They include the proposed trails in orange.

**EA 2 -
Alignments to
Propose
East Eagle**

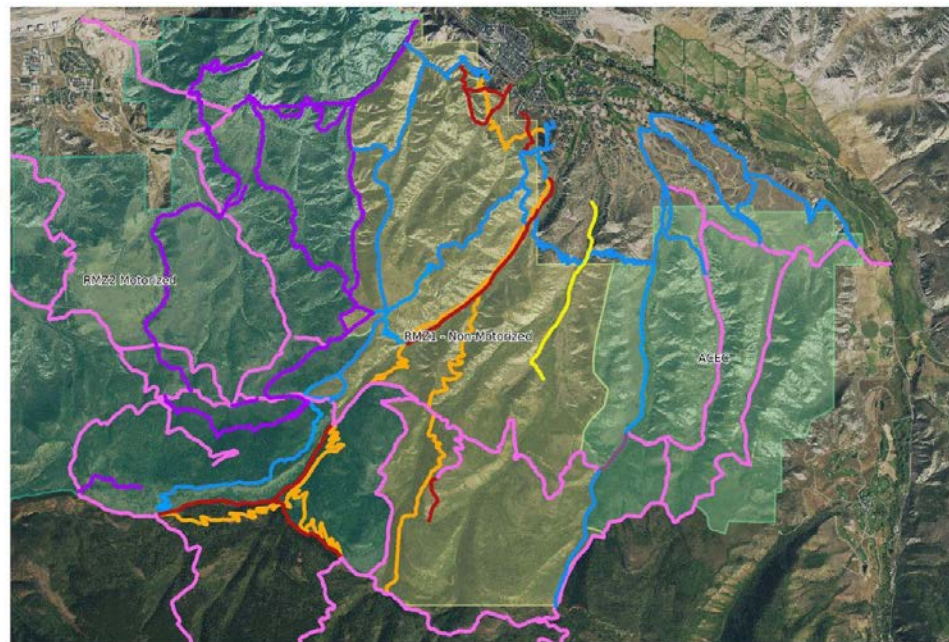
Blue - Legal
Mechanized
Pink - Road
Orange - EA2 Propose
Yellow - Hiking only



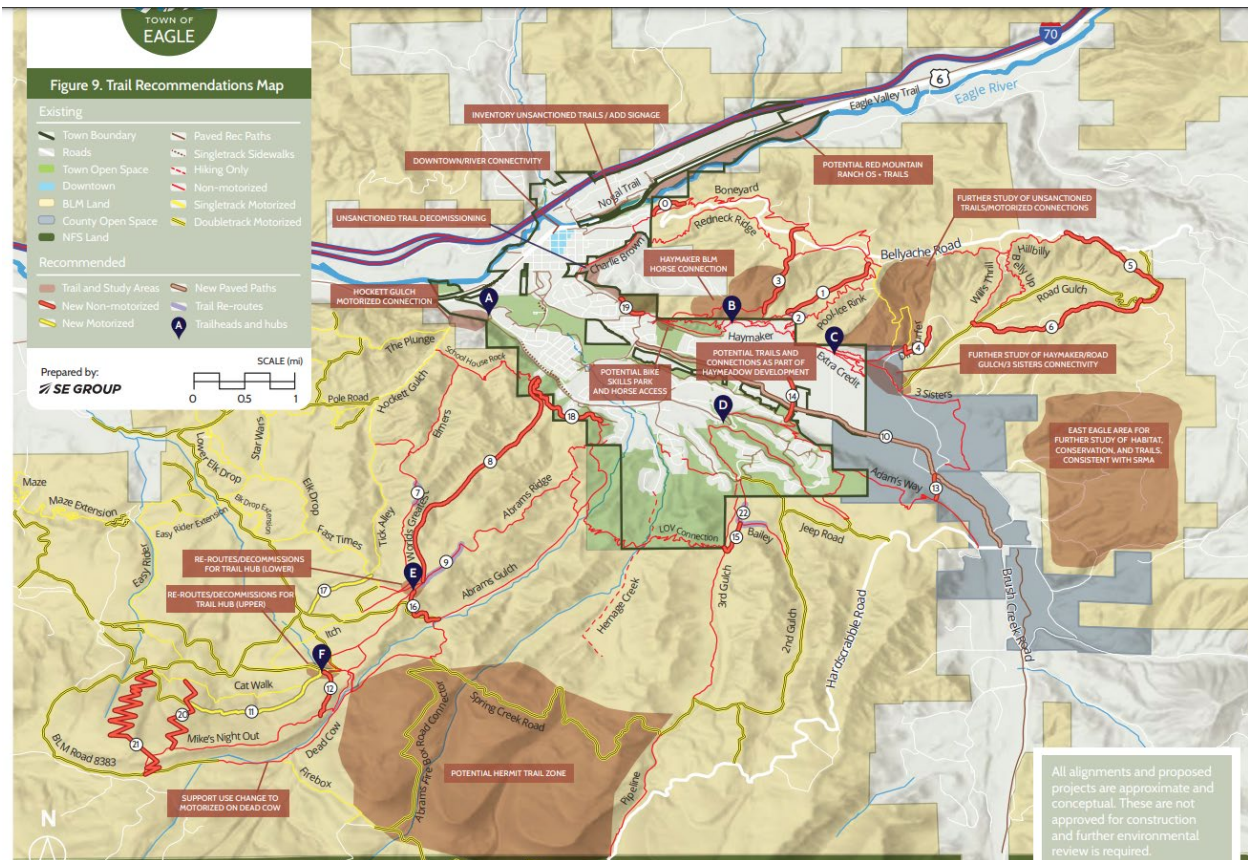
Map 1: Provided by HTC, this map details proposed new trails in the East Eagle area. Proposed trails are labeled in orange. A larger map is included in the packet.

**EA 2 -
Alignments to
Propose
West Eagle**

Blue - Legal
Mechanized
Pink - Road
Dark Red - to
Decommission
Purple - Motorized
Orange - EA2 Propose
Yellow - Hiking only



Map 2: Provided by HTC, this map details proposed new trails in the Hardscrabble area. Proposed trails are labeled in orange. A larger map is included in the packet.



Map 3: This map is from the Town of Eagle’s 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan. The map details the new trail mileage desired from the community and stakeholders at the time of plan adoption. A larger map is included in the packet.

Most of the trails proposed by HTC align with the Master Plan in the East Eagle area (Map 1). Further, most trails will entirely be on lands managed by the BLM. Some consideration may be needed for how the proposed uphill trail (Haymaker to Boneyard) connects with the Haymaker trail.

For the Hardscrabble area (Map 2), there are some further definitions and alternatives to what was initially considered in the Master Plan. Some of the definitions/deviations include:

1. Dead Cow and Fire Box trails are proposed to be rerouted. The Master Plan only considered use changes to these trails and not reroutes. However, downhill and uphill routes to the north side of Mike’s Night Out are no longer being considered.
2. Abrams Gulch trail is proposed to be rerouted off the existing alignment. This was not identified in the Master Plan. Some of the proposed reroutes would impact Town open space.
3. The “Hermit Trail Zone” has been defined with a proposed trail, extending beyond the zone polygon and connecting to the Abram’s Gulch Trail.

In the Hardscrabble area, a new trail and trail reroutes are proposed in Town owned open space properties. First is a new trail connecting School House with Kill Bill. This trail was identified in the Master Plan. Second, reroutes to Kill Bill and Abrams are proposed that were not identified in the Master Plan. The remaining trail proposal and resources are on lands managed by the BLM.

Staff seek initial comments from the Committee on HTC's trail proposals.

COMMUNITY INPUT: Development of the 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan included significant stakeholder and community engagement. This included several stakeholder focus groups, surveys, open houses, OSRAC meetings, and Town Council public hearings.

Staff recommends that additional community and stakeholder input be collected now that the trails are being proposed. Further input should be sought as some proposals deviate from the Master Plan.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: The Town budgeted \$30,000 in 2025 for NEPA and environmental analysis required to scope the new trail proposals. HTC estimates that the analysis will likely cost \$60,000+ in total.

The Town has \$150,000 budgeted for implementation of these projects in 2026. HTC estimates implementation will cost at least \$350,000. However, the implementation number may change based on what is permitted by the NEPA and the environmental analysis.

The Town can place restrictions on the use of these funds.

STRATEGIC PLAN(S) ALIGNMENT: HTC trail proposals are largely based on the 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan.

Here are some of the relevant Action Items from the 2021 Eagle Comprehensive Plan regarding trail development and resource management:

- 3.10: Continue coordination with the BLM on trail network expansion.
- 4.4: Require the identification, mapping, and mitigation/ inclusion of critical wildlife habitats and ecosystem connections within open space.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: Staff requests that the Committee review the initial proposal from the Hardscrabble Trails Coalition for new trails and reroutes in Town owned open space and adjacent lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Provide initial feedback on the proposal for HTC, staff, and the Council to consider.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposal from Hardscrabble Trails Coalition
2. The Open Space and Trails Master Plan Recommendations Map
 - a. The rest of the Master Plan can be viewed on the Town Website at this link:
https://www.townofeagle.org/DocumentCenter/View/17875/070122MapPackage_FINA
[L](#).
3. The Town of Eagle's 2021 Comprehensive Plan can be viewed on the Town Website at this link:
<https://www.townofeagle.org/DocumentCenter/View/17074/2021-Amended-Elevate-Eagle-Comprehensive-Plan>.





HTC/VVMTA BLM Trail Proposal

- HTC/VVMTA are planning to propose to BLM approximately 11 miles of new multi-use singletrack trails in the Special Recreation Management Zones (SRMA's) surrounding Eagle
- BLM will review this proposal via an Environmental Assessment
 - All trail proposed will be subject to the BLM's process requiring NEPA studies, public input and thorough environmental reviews
- Trails adjoining Town of Eagle land will also be subject to NEPA
 - Kill Bill/School House Connector
 - Reroute of Lower Abrams Gulch



How Did We Get Here?

- 2015 BLM finalized their Resource Management Plan
 - Designated BLM land surrounding Eagle as SRMA's
 - RMZ 1 & 2 management plan allow for construction of (estimated 12-15 miles) new single-track mountain bike trails to create loop trails, link existing trails, reduce the amount biking on roads and create trail connections to new access points. Construction of new trails would not be emphasized until the majority of trail reroutes have been completed.
 - West Eagle also has an SRMA managed for motorized use



EA 1

- Emphasis on trail reroutes, decommissioning unauthorized trails and making navigation easier
 - Projects and accomplishments included
 - The Good Bit (beginning of Boneyard) to get people off the road and improve the trail experience
 - Created 2 Trail Hubs in West Eagle to improve route finding and improve connectivity
 - Dirt Surfer 2.0 - reroute to make trail more sustainable, eliminate motorized use and improve experience
 - Rerouting the top of Abrams Gulch and Mikes Night Out
 - Decommissioning 15.63 miles of unauthorized trails and rehabilitating 3.85 miles of social trails

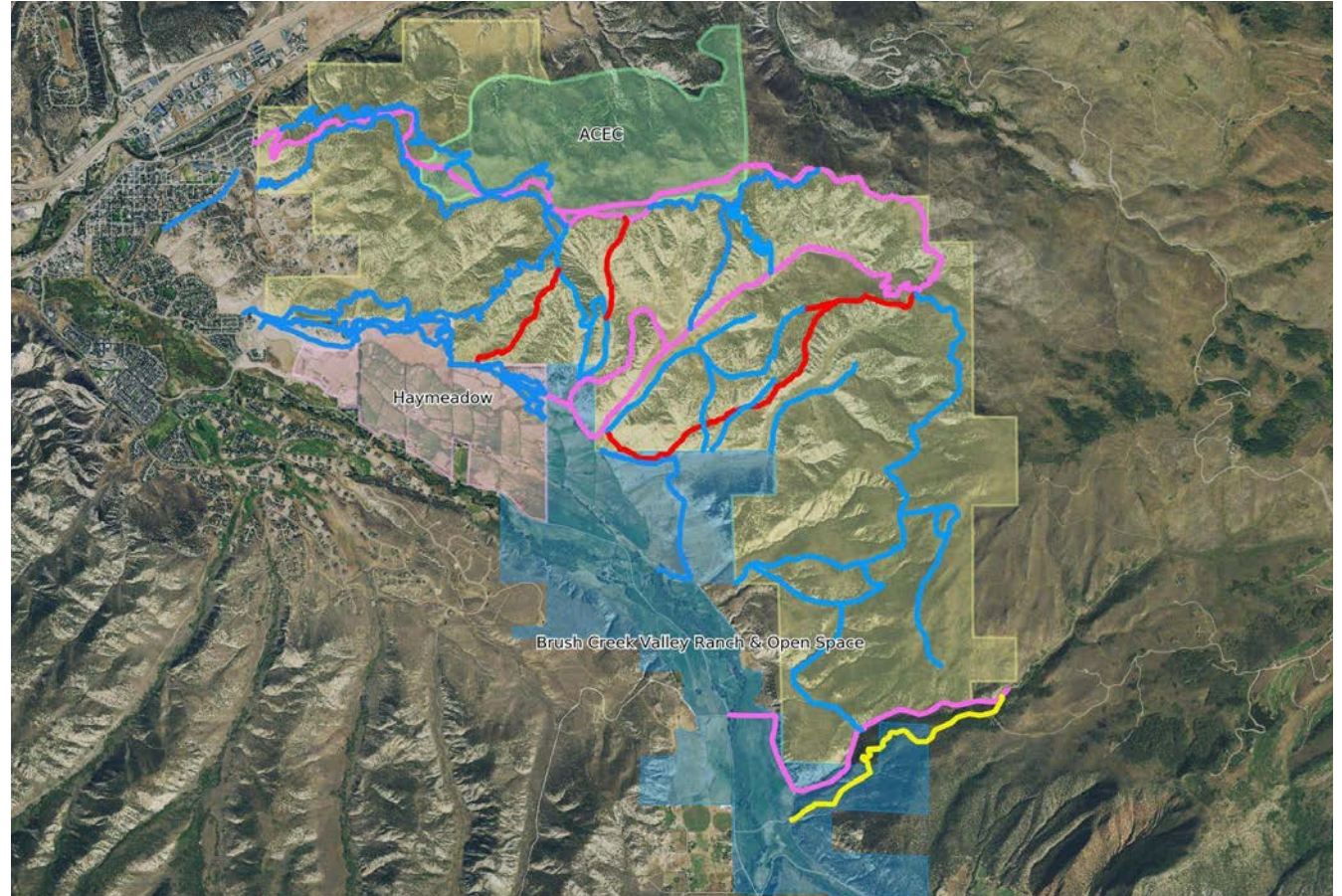


EA2 - Goals

- As stated in the BLM SRMA-RMZ management plan the goal is to create loop trails, link existing trails, reduce the amount biking on roads and create trail connections to new access points
- To utilize the goals and priorities defined in the Town of Eagle Master Plan to guide trail building based on community input and create diverse high quality trail experiences
- Address future needs of trail users for population growth and different user experiences

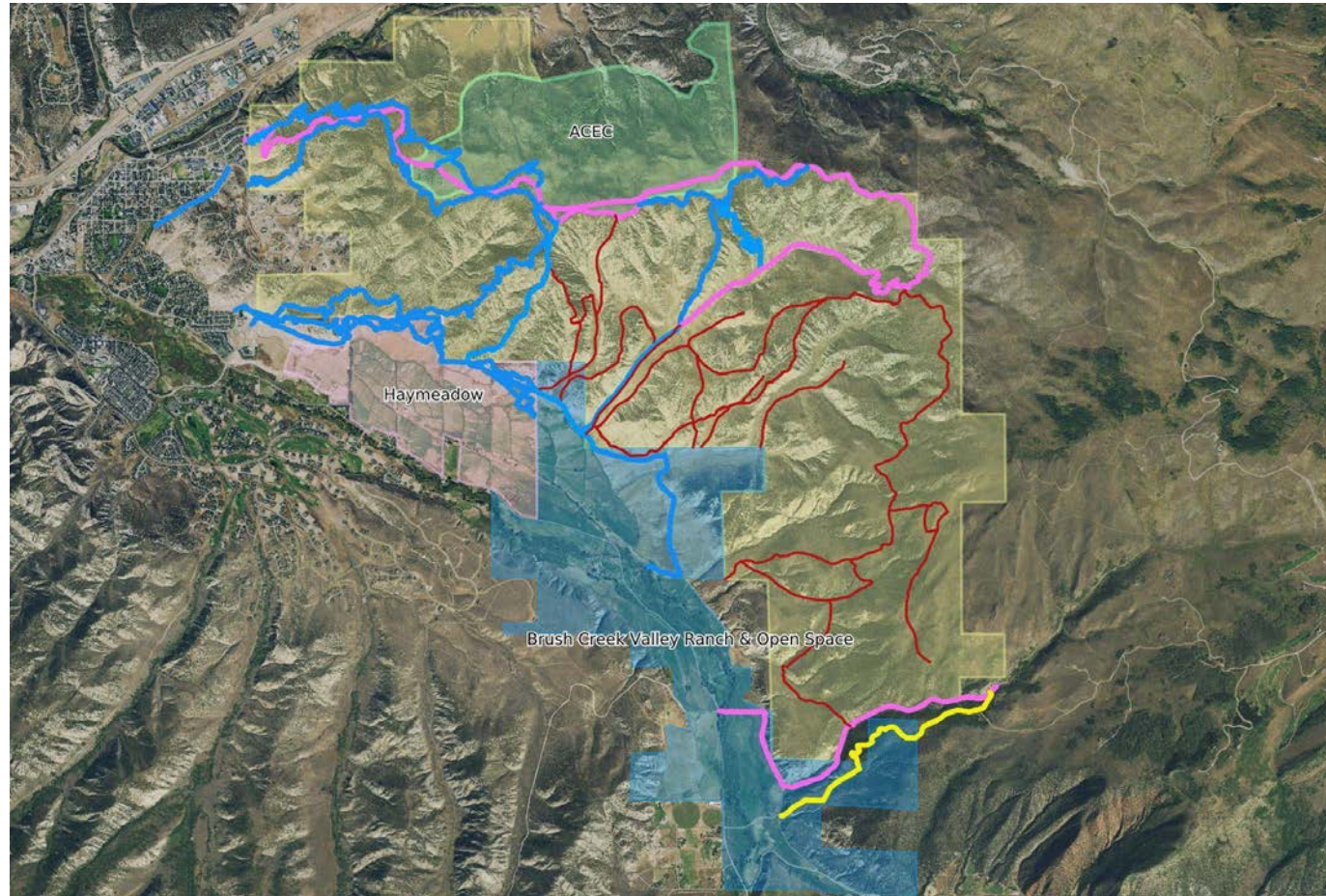
Map -
Pre EA 1
East Eagle

Blue - Legal
Mechanized
Pink - Road
Red - Social/Illegal
Yellow - Hiking only



Map -
EA 1
Improvements
East Eagle

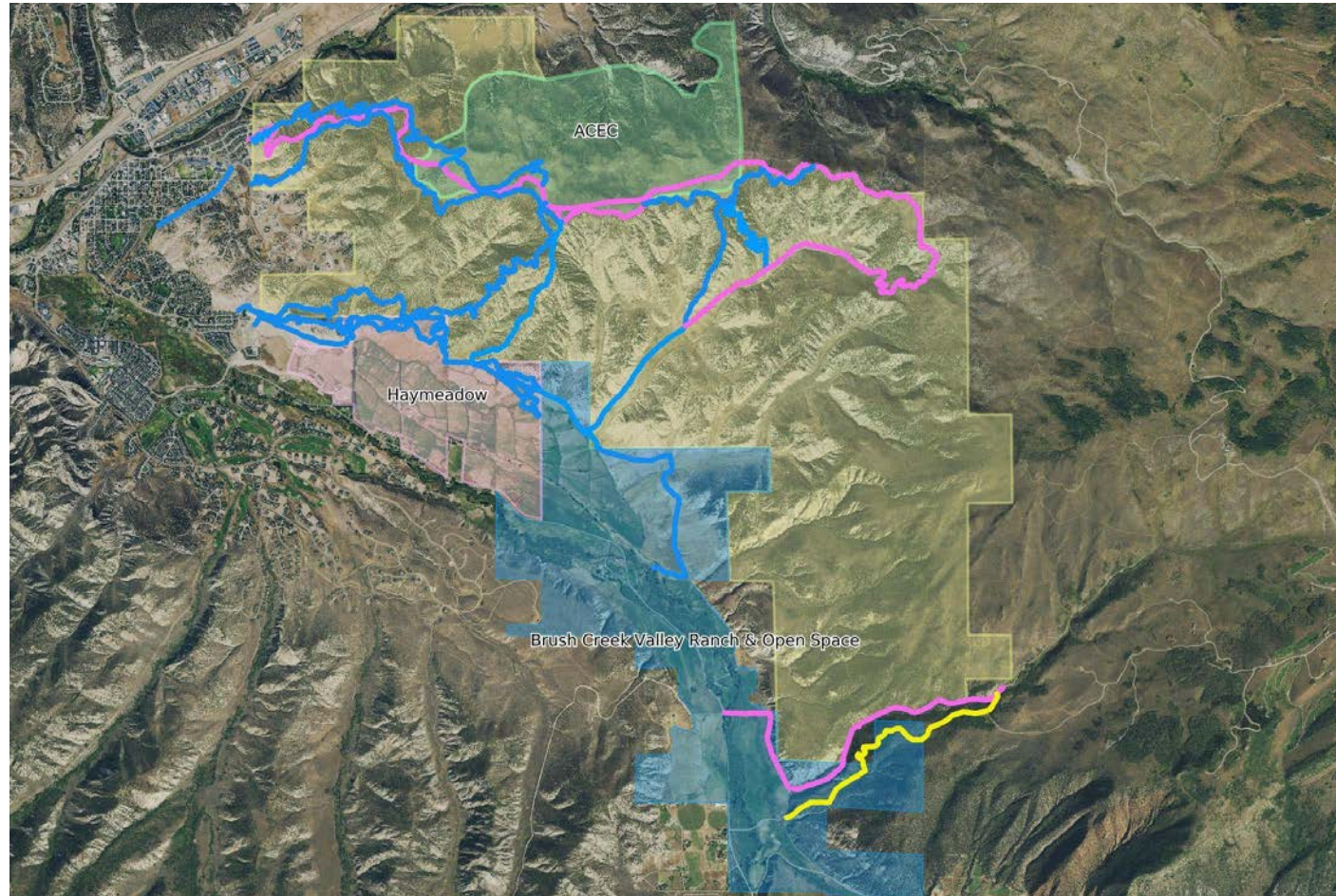
Blue - Legal
Mechanized
Pink - Road
Red - Decommissioned
Yellow - Hiking only





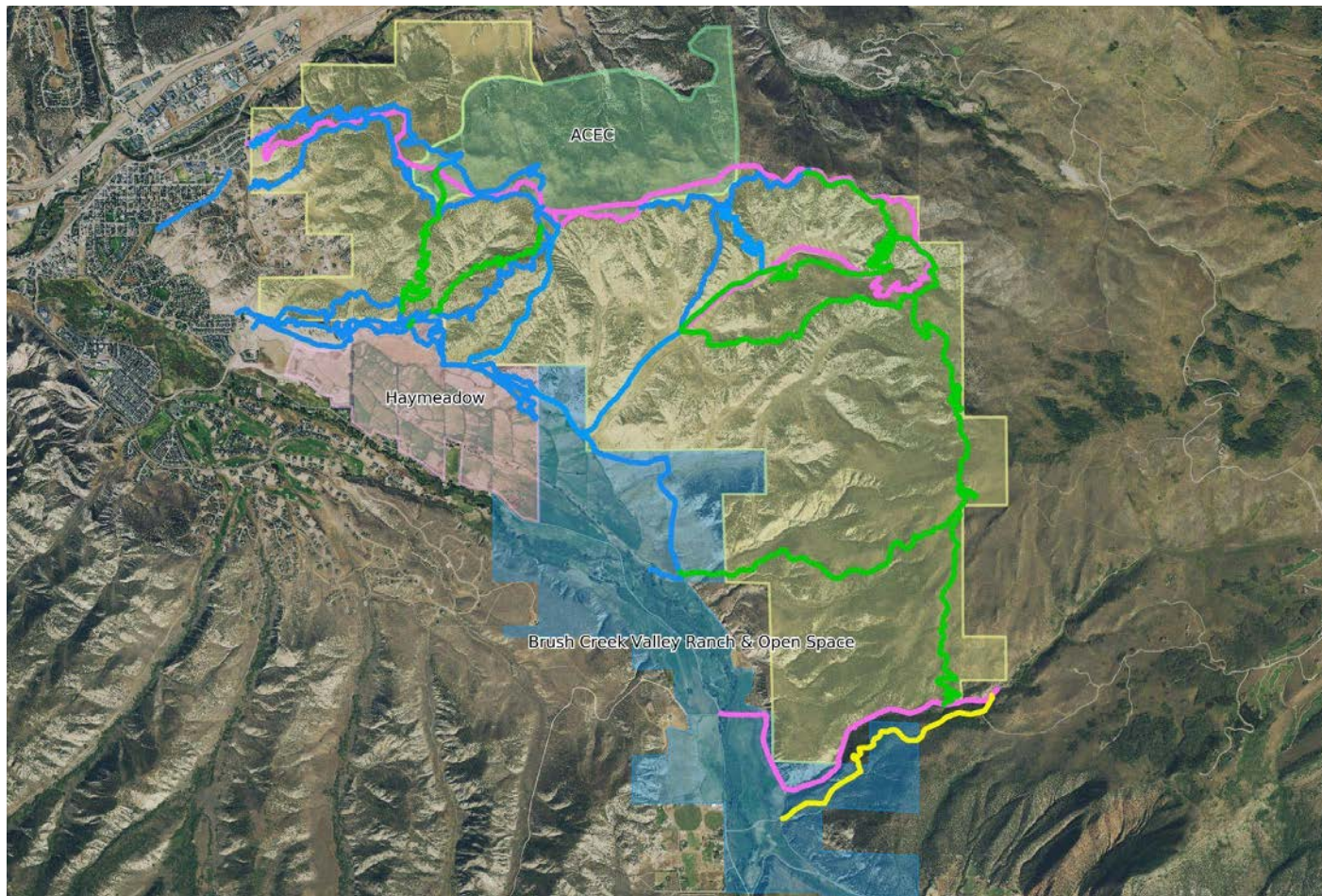
Current Conditions East Eagle

Blue - Legal
Mechanized
Pink - Road
Yellow - Hiking only



EA 2 -
Concepts
East Eagle

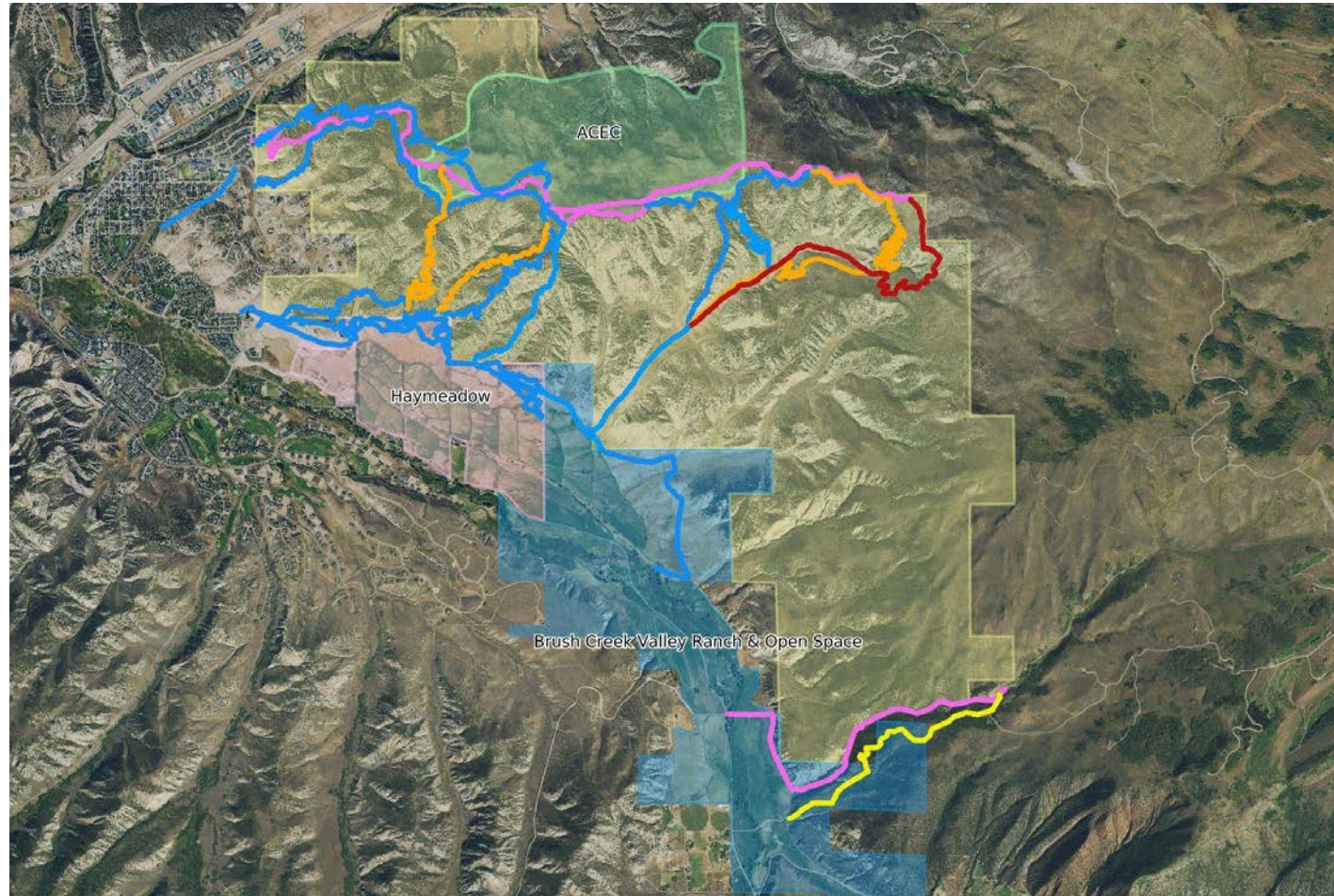
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Mechanized
Pink - Road
Green - Concepts
Yellow - Hiking only





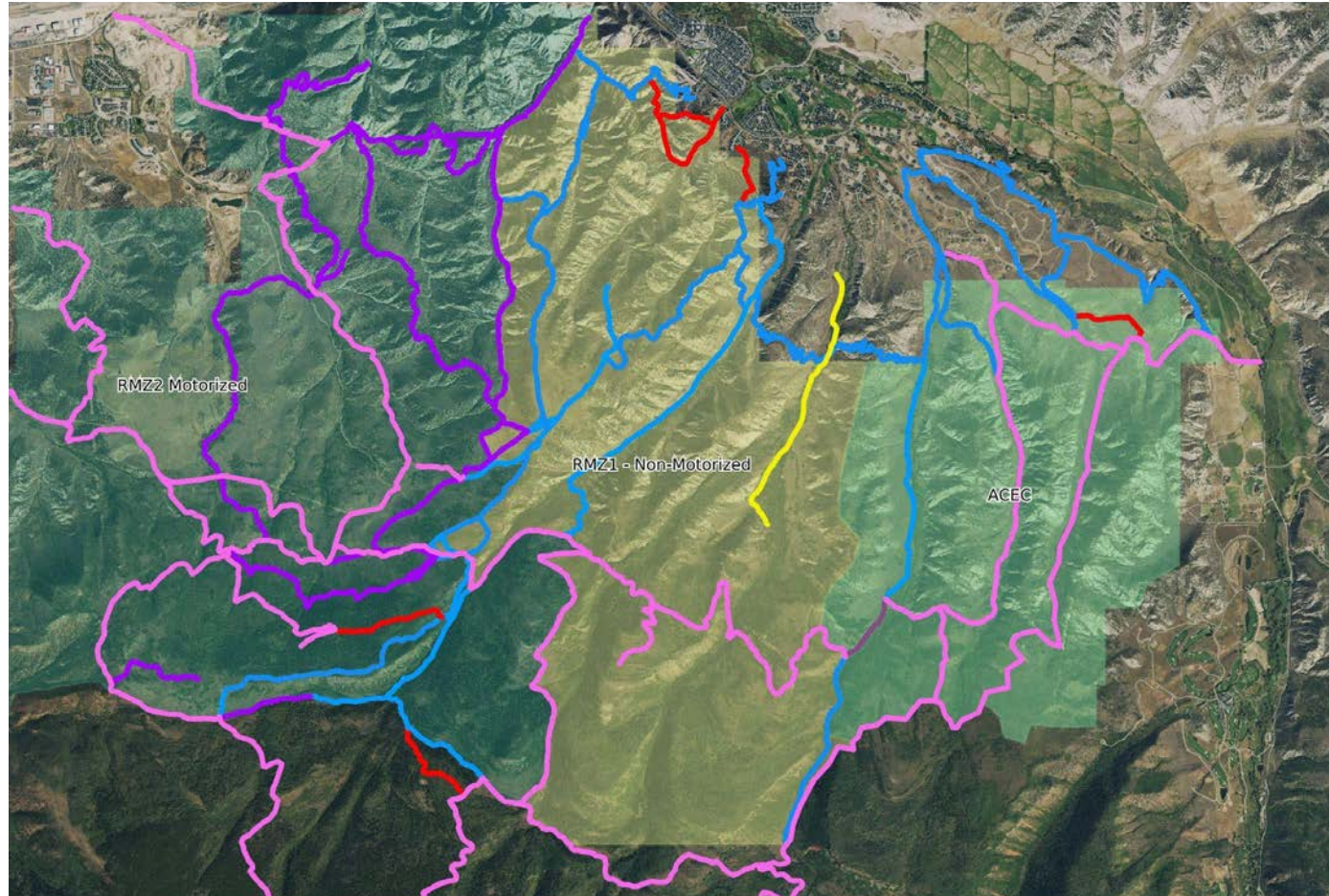
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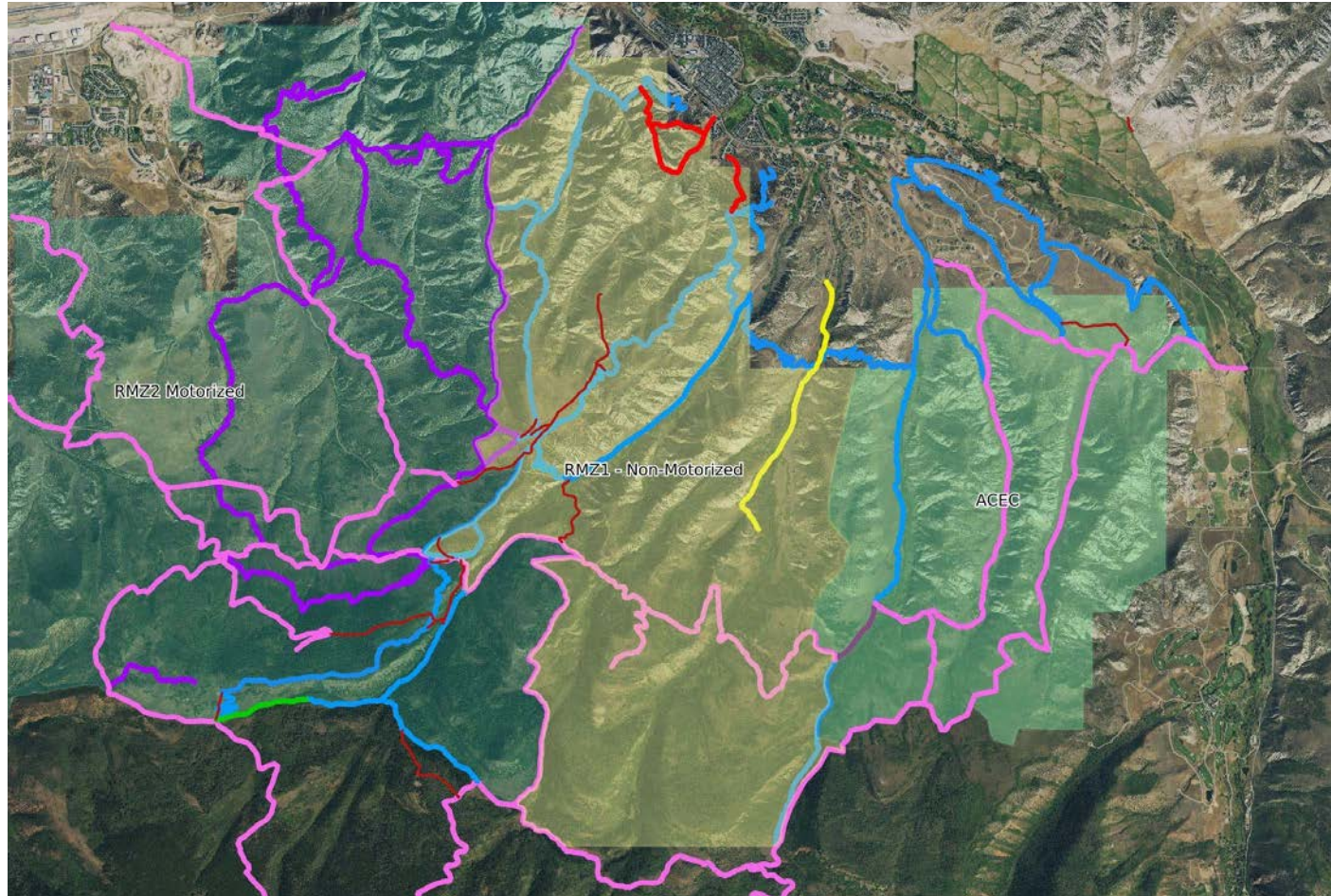
Map -
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West Eagle

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Map -
EA 1
Improvements
West Eagle

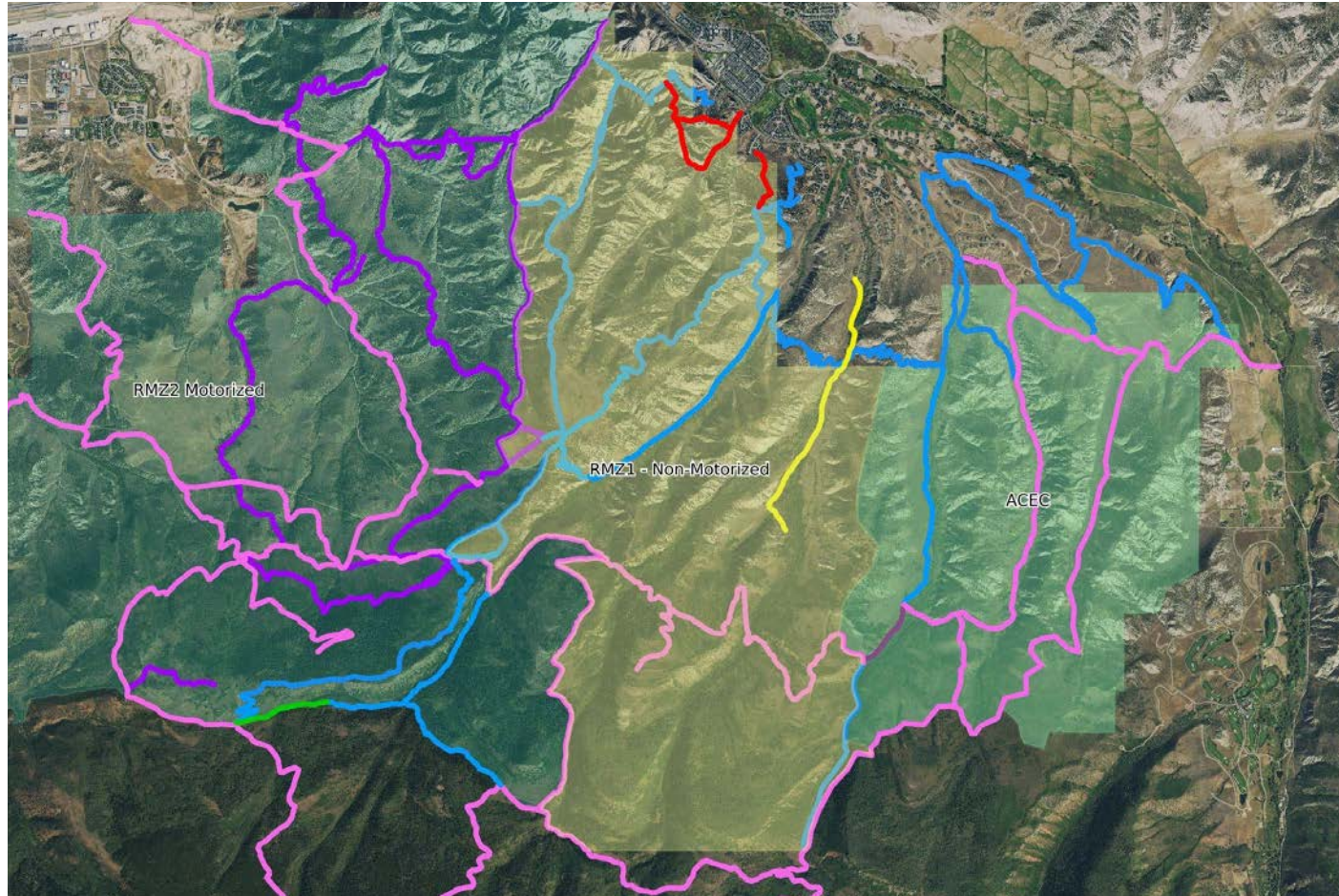
- Blue - Legal
- Mechanized
- Pink - Road
- Purple - Motorized
- Dark Red - Decommissioned
- Red - Identified Social
- Yellow - Hiking only





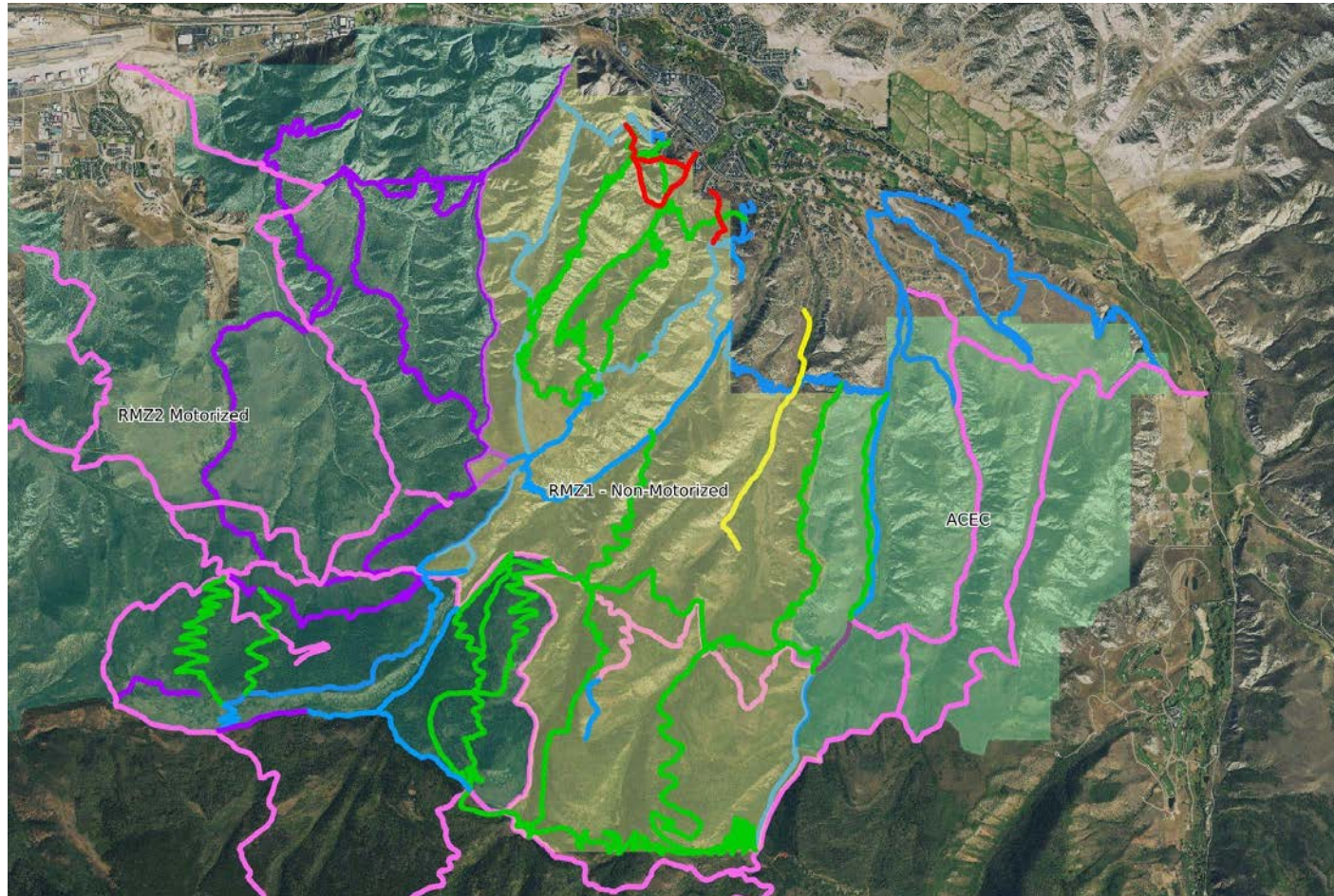
Current Conditions West Eagle

Blue - Legal
Mechanized
Pink - Road
Red - Identified Social
Purple - Motorized
Yellow - Hiking only



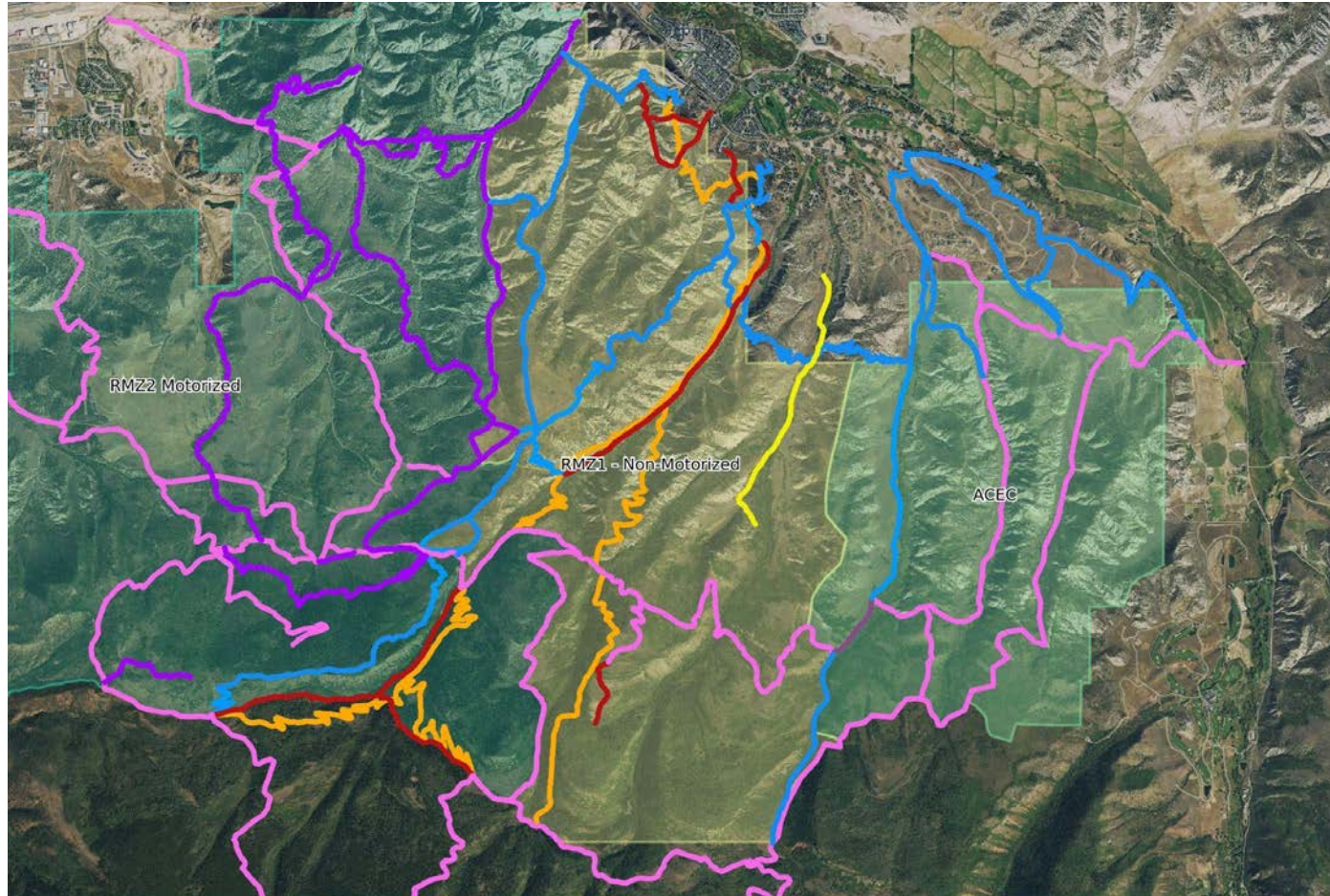
EA 2 -
Concepts
West Eagle

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- Green - Concepts
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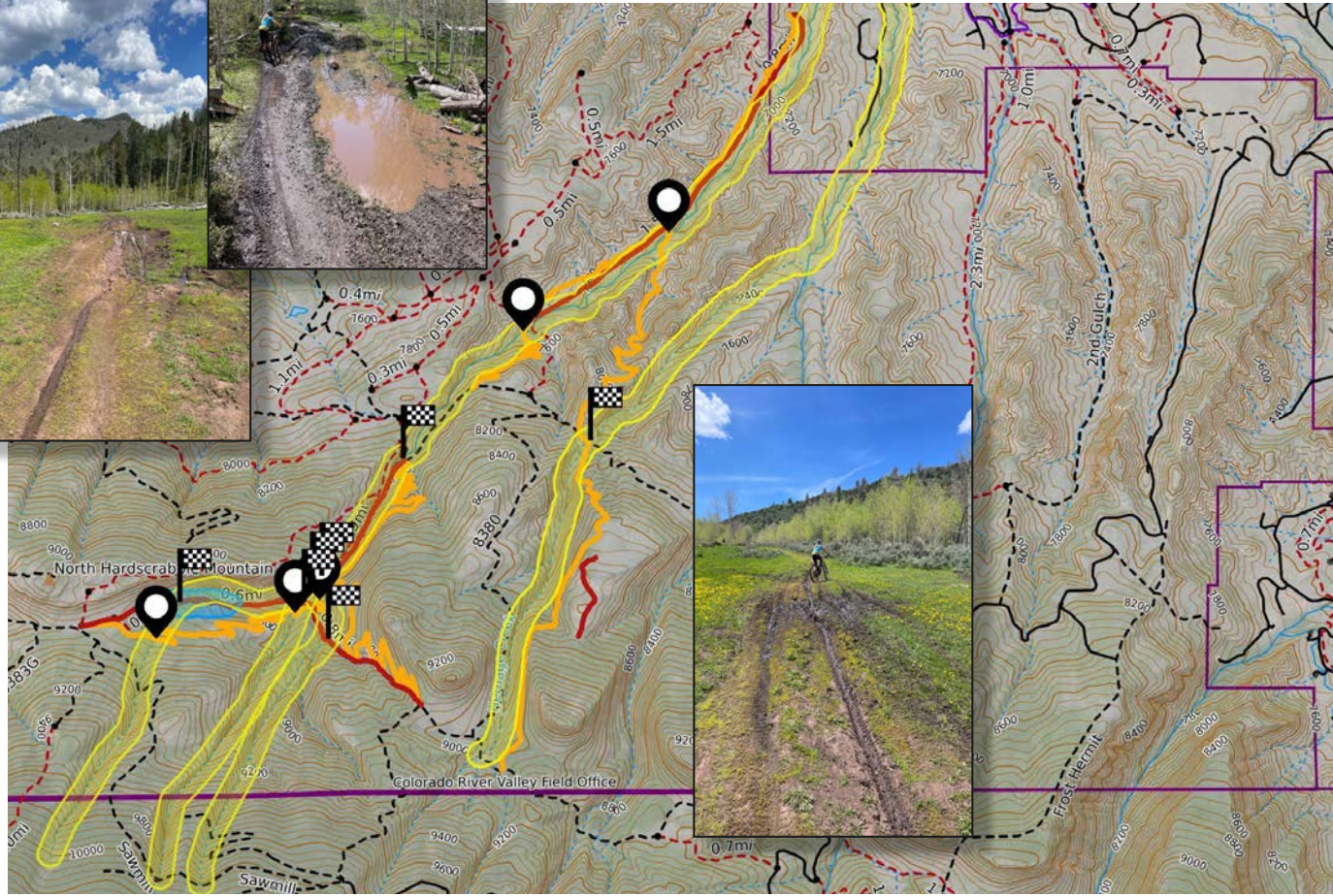


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EA 2 - West Eagle Watershed Improvements





EA 2 - Why These Trails?

- Trail alignments were all identified in a very community driven, thorough, and thought out process as part of the Open Space & Trails Master Plan process. Final determination of the 11 miles is not decided from one source, such as the open house at Mountain Pedaler, it is the combined feedback over many years and sources including the open space/trails master plan, open house, meetings with land managers, partners, and other stakeholders.
 - Input from CPW, Eagle County, Town of Eagle, BLM, and the trail using community
- Something for everyone
 - Some trails close to town, some 'epic day' opportunities
 - Lots of different route options
 - Connectivity with existing network
 - Stacked loop system



Community Input

- Alignments asked about
 - **Hermit 1**
 - Hermit 2
 - Hermit Traverse
 - **School House Ridge**
 - **School House/Kill Bill Connector**
 - **Hillbilly Extension & Rim**
 - Pool/Ice Alt Downhill
 - **Haymaker to Boneyard**
- Re-Routes
 - Abrams Gulch
 - 3rd Gulch



Trail Breakdown - New

East Eagle

- Pool/Ice Alt DH 1.25 Miles
- Haymaker to Boneyard 1.75 Miles
- Hillbilly to Road Gulch/Will's Extension 2.57 Miles

West Eagle

- School House/Kill Bill Connector 1.25 Miles
- Hermit 1 3.76 Miles



Trail Breakdown - Reroutes

- Abrams Gulch - move trail to west side of barbed wire fence to reduce impacts on the watershed and avoid grazing conflicts
- Dead Cow - partnership with RMSR for access to Hermit 1 and improved trail experience
- Firebox - partnership with RMSR for access to Hermit 1 and improved trail experience



Guidance from Town

- School House/Kill Bill Connector
 - Connection from Newquist & Seabry?
 - Public access from each that would meet and connect to SH/KB connector in one spot (Y Connection)
 - Option to decommission social trails and access and have the only access to the trail be from existing locations on Horton Street and off of Kill Bill
- Abrams Gulch Reroute (lower)
 - .28 miles to move the trail west to avoid old double track and improve experience



EA 2 - Next Steps

- Present the EA to stakeholders
- Finalize alignments and have surveys scheduled
- Submit to the BLM



Thank You!



Figure 9. Trail Recommendations Map

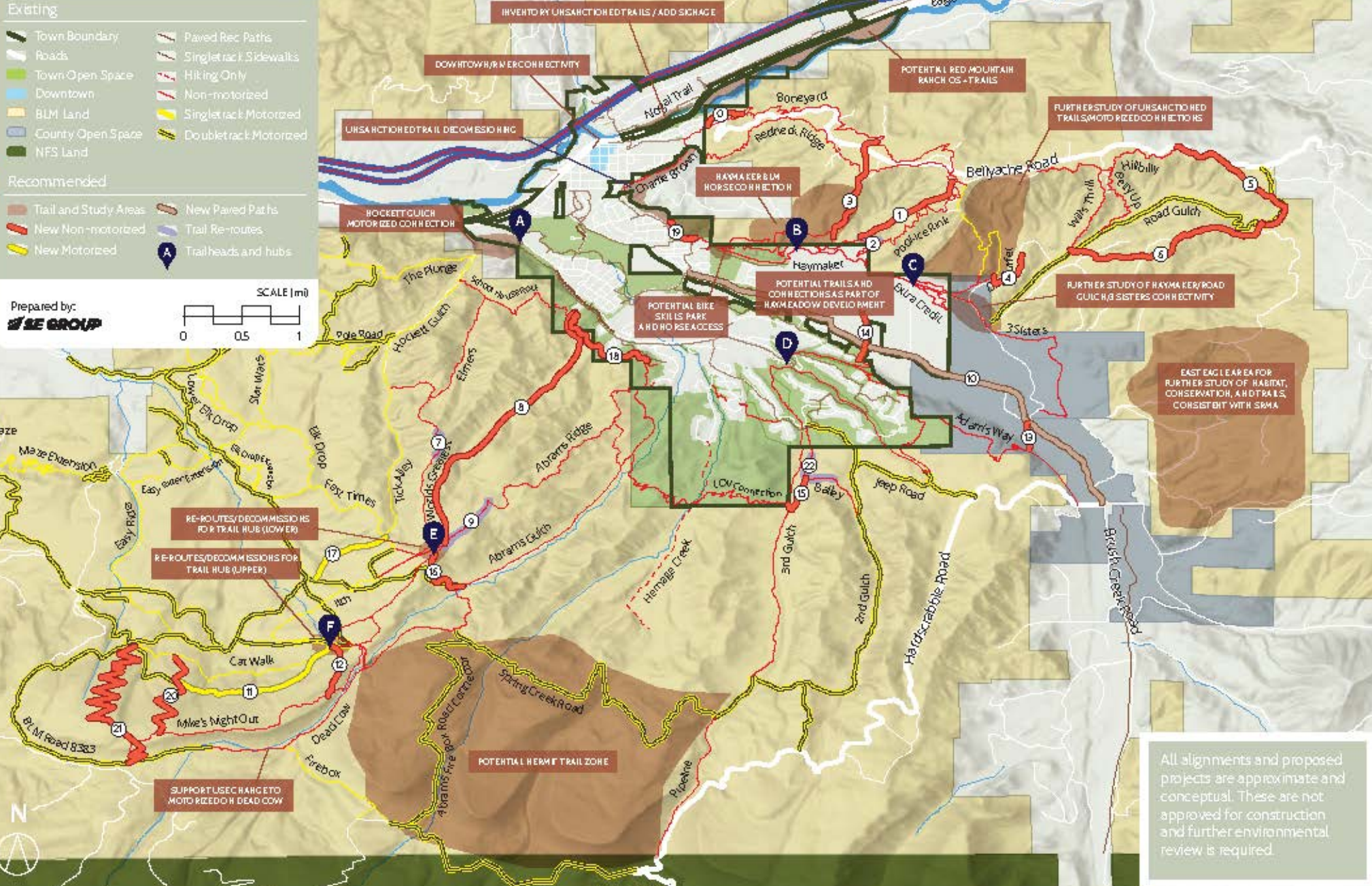
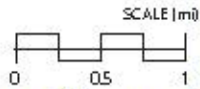
Existing

- Town Boundary
- Roads
- Town Open Space
- Downtown
- BLM Land
- County Open Space
- NFS Land
- Paved Rec Paths
- Singletrack Sidewalks
- Hiking Only
- Non-motorized
- Singletrack Motorized
- Doubletrack Motorized

Recommended

- Trail and Study Areas
- New Non-motorized
- New Motorized
- New Paved Paths
- Trail Re-routes
- Trailheads and hubs

Prepared by:
SE GROUP



All alignments and proposed projects are approximate and conceptual. These are not approved for construction and further environmental review is required.