

APPENDIX A:
Visioning Workshop Summary

The culminating event of the Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning effort was the strategic planning work session, which took place from 4:30 to 8:30 pm on December 3, 2013 at the Lindley Center in Bozeman. A follow-up work session was held by teleconference on December 10 with representatives from Big Sky who were unable to attend in person on December 3 due to inclement weather.

In addition, the Lindley Center was open from 1 pm to 4 pm on December 3 for drop-in feedback for those unable to attend the evening workshop.

After all participants introduced themselves, Jay Renkens and Lauren Schmitt of MIG, Inc. provided an overview of the visioning process and reviewed key findings on assets, issues and opportunities drawn from the process to date. After introducing the trails maps, Jay and Lauren also presented a series of case studies that address some of the issues identified for the Greater Gallatin area. These case studies are included in Appendix D.

Lauren and Jay then facilitated a group discussion about the key findings and potential elements of a vision for the Greater Gallatin area. Ideas were written on a large sheet of paper at the front of the room (the wall graphic that appears to the right).

After a dinner break, the next segment of the meeting was structured as smaller group brainstorming sessions in each of five different goal areas. Participants were divided into five groups. Each group rotated through five stations, spending about 25 minutes with a facilitator at each station. The five goal areas were Collaboration, Trails and Amenities, Maintenance and Management, Education/Communication and Stewardship.

At each station, the members of each group were asked to define what the goal area meant to them. After the group generally agreed on a description, each member was asked to identify specific actions that could be undertaken to help achieve the goal and to write each action on a separate sticky note. The facilitator gave the group a little time to consider actions, and then asked for a volunteer to share one of their actions. Group members continued to share



actions, and the facilitator grouped them by theme. This process was repeated by each group at each station. Aggregated results for each station are provided beginning on page XX.

To close the meeting, each facilitator reported a brief summary of the discussion and top actions within his or her goal area. Lauren and Jay facilitated a brief discussion of the assembled participants, documenting key points on the wall graphic.

COLLABORATION

The goal area related to collaboration was defined fairly similarly by each of the five groups. The idea of accomplishing shared goals and values through working together figured prominently across all groups. General terms mentioned by participants included consensus, courtesy, responsibility, inclusivity, patience, respect, understanding, and sharing things like resources, costs, and problems. Some participants mentioned that communications could be better coordinated for proposals and events that involve more than one trail user group. Others mentioned that collaboration is mandatory in order to avoid gridlock which prevents anything from getting done, and that collaboration will be more easily accomplished with consistent representatives at the table (in people and affiliation). Lastly, participants acknowledged that organized groups in the Greater Gallatin area are generally after the same things, meaning there are more things that unite users than divide them. This can be an incentive for collaboration moving forward.

Participants were also to define strategic actions for collaboration that would advance the Greater Gallatin Trails Vision. Potential action strategies are organized by topic area:

Potential Action Strategies

Information Needs

- Procure data on trail users with a survey (numbers of user types, user needs, what they want, when, why how, etc.)
- Assess landowner interest and buy-in prior to drawing lines on a map
- Get feedback from the Gallatin National Forest trail share program
- Use “good” data to make decisions
- Identify existing conflicts (to define, understand, and explain the nature of the conflicts)
- Identify existing commonalities between user groups and define what is agreed on
- Create an online “capacity inventory” that describes the goals, talents, and resources for each user group
- Plan field trips/trail work days to better understand the landscape and “walk” in each other’s shoes
- Training in conflict resolution and collaborative principles
- Train all user groups on aspects of trail building, maintenance, repair, preventive care

Structure/Leadership

- Maintain transparency with the public
- Further the communication between organized groups about conflict resolution and trail work
- Take outcomes of this planning process and move forward with necessary actions. Keep momentum going and determine which groups will do what.
- Create a diverse, inclusive trails roundtable/forum/organization that facilitates coordination between user groups
- Dedicate a full time coordinator for each user group
- Share funding between groups for a single volunteer coordinator
- Pick dates for coordination early so everyone has adequate lead time and notice to participate in roundtables/forums
- Include MSU students in conversations through student government or clubs
- Joint fundraisers for the GGTV
- Invite participation from anyone missing

Vision/Mission

- Define a unifying mission, vision, and goals
- Work together to develop a common mission statement for the GGTV
- Set priorities together and allocate resources to them
- Set short, mid and long-term goals so people can sign up, and know what they are signing up for
- Establish ground rules
- Take a realist approach
- Set definable goals that grow the collaboration in a sustainable way and produce visible results
- Less talk, more action: collaboration doesn't mean excessive meetings
- Deliver for your partners

Education

- Create a single community trails website for information, events, projects
- Bring volunteers from different user groups together on same project
- Host fun events that center on trail work
- Find opportunities for wilderness advocates to cooperate with non-motorized bikers
- Build and understanding with no assumptions
- Publicize trail share; enforce and expand program
- Develop standardized signs for trail etiquette (same logos, same look -- everywhere)
- Get kids involved

Funding/Resources

- Volunteer coordinator for user groups
- Conduct advocacy with decision makers for funding
- Identify and nurture benefactors for places and projects
- Leverage funds through partnerships
- Develop a coordinated effort for fundraising and leveraging resources

TRAILS AND AMENITIES

The most common definition for trails and amenity development given by the groups was trail and recreational infrastructure, such as trailhead signs, parking, outhouse facilities, dog waste stations, etc. All the groups specified a need to identify various user groups through survey. Sustainable development and assessing the environmental impact was listed by four of the five groups. Other ideas not universally given, but provided were: easements, maintenance planning, funding, safety features (bike lanes, road crossings), connectivity goals (link communities, link to public lands), compliance with state and federal regulations (ex. NEPA), accessibility, multiple use, management plans, create a map for inventory. There was some confusion among a few of the groups concerning the term “amenity”, requiring a bit of context (while trying to avoid defining for them, thus corrupting the exercise) from the facilitator.

Potential Action Strategies

All the groups participating in the strategic actions part of the session included ideas for surveying and identifying the various recreational uses and users. All groups also proposed creating an inventory of existing trails and then developing a master plan in order to determine recreational needs and demands. Some thought it important to distinguish between “recreational” uses vs. “transportation” i.e., bicyclists. Proposals to assist the trail inventory and user group survey and identification process include: “public on-site hearings”, “solicit input through electronic communication”, along with creating a forum for a “public suggestion box.”

In addition to the groups communicating inclusiveness for a multitude of user groups, many also identified sensitivity for wildlife, along with education for how recreational use impacts the local environment—including deterring the “cutting of switchbacks” that result in soil erosion and landscape degradation.

Funding was a major concern and group suggestions included: partnering with local retailers in order to get information out to users and the public, utilize bond initiatives, create a “community trails fund”-where businesses and individual groups can donate, develop existing abandoned trails (rather than build new ones), focus on areas with the greatest density of usage, take

advantage of volunteers. An idea related to trail building or construction was to “empower a local trail building asset/entity to avoid Forest Service low-bid contracting requirements.”

Others wanted to reach out to government agencies, like the Forest Service in order to assess existing trail development priorities. Other suggestions focused on the need to make sure trail use and development maintained legal standards.

Overall, the main strategic action concerns of the five groups focused on the necessity of surveying the existing trail opportunities, inclusiveness of the user groups while developing a master plan, funding, and making sure recreational activities and infrastructure facilities are sustainable for the local environment.

MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Management

A major theme that emerged during this discussion was how to manage shared trail usage and reduce conflicts among user groups. People suggested timeshare trails, separate trails for separate uses, and educating one’s own user group to respect other users when sharing trails. There was a lot of agreement that self-policing within user groups is far more effective than rangers or agency personnel enforcing regulations. People recognized the importance of seasonal, wildlife, or conditions-related trail closures but stressed that these closures are not effective unless people self-regulate and there is sufficient peer pressure within user groups to observe and enforce regulations and closures. Volunteer rangers, backcountry (agency) rangers, and trail “hosts” were all seen as effective means of enforcing regulations and, more importantly, educating users.

Education, particularly for new users, was identified as essential for management. This education needs to include not only proper trail etiquette and respectful use, but also education about trail maintenance so that users feel empowered to take responsibility for their trails. Signs with good, current, information that are consistent across agencies are an important aspect of trail management and user education. It is important to identify who the managing agency is for each trail as well as what uses are allowed on the trail, where the trail goes, and whether there are any safety/maintenance issues users should be aware of. By providing this information, enforcing existing rules, controlling users, and educating them so that they take an active role in trail maintenance and management, the hope is that agencies would not close trails.

Because most of the public does not know or care about the differences between agencies it is important that agencies collaborate with a goal of unified trail management and a consistent recreation experience for trail users. It would be helpful if land managers communicated more frequently with the public, perhaps through a monthly newspaper column, so that people understand that federal agencies consist of real people who are experts in their field.

Maintenance

While there are some very straightforward issues when it comes to maintenance – keeping trails clear, repairing washouts, water management, identifying and addressing safety hazards, and making sure the trail can handle appropriate levels of use – it is also a more complicated issue than at first appearance. For example, agency personnel stressed the importance of finding and training volunteers who have a long term commitment to sustainably keep a trail maintained and open. On State lands, for example, DNRC will not agree to a trail easement unless there is a long-term commitment by the easement holder (generally a land trust) for trail maintenance. Likewise, the Forest Service needs a large pool of volunteers that they can trail and trust to properly maintain trails.

When it comes to actually maintaining a trail there are major differences in maintaining a well-built trail versus trying to deal with a user-created trail. The spectrum of trail types and scale of trail development requires very different maintenance schedules and levels of work. Prior to sending volunteers out to maintain a trail it is important to define the maintenance objectives for that trail – trails are classified from 1 (basically handicap accessible) to 5 (perhaps a route marked by cairns) and maintenance differs depending on the classification. In addition, it is important to keep in mind what types of users will be using a particular trail – for example, a rock water bar is not typically appropriate or safe for a mountain bike trail although it is perfectly acceptable for a hiking trail.

It is important to prioritize what needs to be accomplished with trail maintenance. People thought it might be helpful if land managers established a maintenance schedule for their trails and ranked trails according to levels of maintenance and frequency of maintenance required. However, people stressed the importance of land managers responsibly assessing their ability to manage and maintain trails to desired standards. Land managers need to identify trails that aren't sustainable and either define what's wrong with them and fix them or abandon or relocate unsustainable trails.

As potential volunteers, participants in this workshop were interested in educational opportunities where they could learn how to maintain trails to the proper standard. People want to help agencies develop a good volunteer system and volunteers want to be able to work across agency boundaries. Training and nurturing of future volunteers – through outreach to younger audiences – was seen as critical. People would like to help inventory trails in the spring to assess maintenance needs so that agencies can prioritize maintenance, and they want a way to share information about trail conditions and contact other volunteers and users. A one-stop information shop was repeatedly mentioned. In addition, people felt that managers needed to have a positive attitude about maintenance – to be motivated to try and get things done with available resources rather than automatically reverting to trail closures. However, everybody recognized that money and funding are critical for maintenance and management of trails. Private sponsorship programs, such as an “adopt a trail” program were identified as one way to overcome budget shortfalls.

In addition, by creating a culture where all trail users demonstrate a measure of accountability for trail maintenance we can create an atmosphere where everybody is looking out for and addressing maintenance issues. For example, educating people about why it is bad to cut switchbacks or ride muddy trails would go a long way towards reducing these maintenance headaches. In addition, proper signage (perhaps adorned with American flags to reduce bullet holes) can help remind people to take proper care of public resources.

Potential Action Strategies

Trail management – closures, enforcement of regulations

- Close trails to motors, bicycles, and horses when soft – muddy
- Condition-dependent trail closures
- Trail ambassadors to help enforce closures
- Create motorized standards, enforce motorized standards
- Define limits of use to prevent overuse
- Group pressure to abide by rules = stay on trails, don't destroy signs and switchbacks, etc.

Planning

- Plan for better trails for easier maintenance. Embrace technology
- Manage use to types approved for
- Create a plan for ongoing maintenance
- Managers need the freedom to maintain facilities not have to study it for 2 years
- Liability protection for agencies and volunteers
- Establish maintenance schedule and farm it out to volunteer orgs (what is sensible for orgs to do). Prioritize trails: sustainable – yes, keep. Unsustainable (steep) – no, oblit

Volunteer training and coordination

- Community trail day
- Specialized trail crew (highly trained)/training classes (chainsaw)
- Have a trained volunteer base ready to do maintenance and construction. Centralized coordination for volunteers
- Trail maintenance training for volunteers
- Develop stronger partnerships
- Well trained partners to provide high quality maintenance (or construction)
- Create roundtable)
- Trail managers roundtable
- Community trails volunteer coordinator between various agencies
- Long term maintenance of trail/facilities and related resources
- Trail maintenance liaisons (like roundtable) from each group)
- Developing committed partner trail maintenance groups
- Someone to provide a long term commitment to the maintenance and management of the trail
- Make trail work fun for volunteers
- Train volunteer crews
- Volunteer trail crews
- Clear communication between managing agencies and volunteer maintenance groups

- Communicate with all user groups to collaborate on trail maintenance work days
- Develop clear communication between groups doing trail work

Signs

- Signage
- USFS provides better info on rules/trail use restrictions
- Manage recreational shooting
- American flags integrated into signs

Education – maintenance

- Classes/certifications in proper trail maintenance and building trails
- Educate users on responsibility for trail maintenance and care (signs, flyers, retailers)
- Standardized trail volunteer system (training and tools)

Education – respectful use

- Educating users, “share the trail”, acceptable behavior (town trails vs single use trails, etc)
- Educating/providing information and tools for folks to “do right”
- Better job of publicizing trail time share program

Funding

- Develop organization to raise money, become resource of information (both push and pull) and organize maintenance
- Funding for maintenance
- Establish funding for ongoing maintenance and management

Outreach

- Use events and youth programs to develop a sense of pride and ownership
- Volunteer organization group fair at MSU or be a part of orientation

Information

- Establish a central information portal
- Exchange that can provide information on what has been cleared, what work is needed. Must be backed by data
- Adapt user information into a central information center
- Comprehensive trail guide
- Point of purchase education portal at retailers

- Universal communications vehicle – so for any user group type or trail people know where to go to get or give information
- Easy (web or volunteer coordinator) access to information on what trails are going to be cleared or have been cleared

Maintenance

- Inventory trail maintenance needs, prioritize high use areas and safety hazards, take care of maintenance on schedule, manage users to reduce maintenance problems

Vision/branding

- Create brand and marketing campaign for Gallatin Recreation
- Create trail systems with Bozeman proper as hub

EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION

The goal area related to education and communication was defined differently by each group. Important aspects of the goal area related to developing a more transparent, predictable and well known communications structure. While there were certainly differing opinions regarding the infrastructure that should be put into place for better education and communications, nearly all participants agreed that it should ensure easy access to accurate and timely information. Some participants are interested in creating a new entity to oversee this effort, while others emphasized the importance of utilizing existing groups and institutions. Several groups also identified the need to communicate more effectively with decision makers at all levels of government. Finally, participants felt that information coming from other users tends to be better received than information disseminated by agencies.

When asked to identify what was important to communicate, work session participants highlighted the following **trail-related information**:

- Location of Trails
- Trail Conditions and Potential Hazard
- Trail Network Closures
- Trail Etiquette, Ethics and Responsibilities
- Impacts of Various Trail Use on Natural Resources
- Various Trail Opportunities, Activities and Events
- Regulations and Restrictions (including Types of Use and Trail Time Sharing)
- Perspectives of Various Users
- Wildlife Presence and Requirements
- Trail Economics—Spending (capital and maintenance) and Revenue (equipment, tourism, etc.)
- Legal and Policy Guidelines

Participants were also asked about what the **desired outcomes** of better communication and education will be five to ten years from now. Responses are summarized below:

- More Users with Less Impact and Less Conflict
- Improved Etiquette by All Users
- Trail Users Understand and Consider the Perspectives of Other Users
- Everyone has Access to an Enjoyable Experience
- Streamlined Information and Common Knowledge Where to Find It
- A Clear Understanding of How Land Can Be Used
- Improved Stewardship and Limited Resource Degradation
- Multi-Level Outreach That is Clear and Effective
- Organized and Educated Volunteers

Potential Action Strategies

Volunteerism

- Develop a trail host program
- Trail Rangers Volunteer
- Community Volunteer Campaign (incentives for participation) Strong sense of community

New perspectives

- “Open house” meeting focus on inviting other user groups
- Idea from GCC: How do different user groups change beliefs and behaviors about “opposing” user groups? Exposure/communication/collaboration/socialization: working together to improve trails.

New technology

- Community trails web site to coordinate dispersal of info/maps
- Embrace technology
- Target education to users
- One website with all maps, rules, etiquette
- Use QR codes to access communication info
- GIS business to maintain accurate maps
- Trails website: including uses, locations, limitations (dogs)
- Facilitate education by making correct info easily attainable

On-site strategies

- Frontline: Adequate trail signage explaining guidelines/rules for proper trail use—reaches users immediately on site

- Large signs with different user etiquette rules—I have no idea how to deal with those who refuse to abide by the etiquette rules
- Put specific wildlife usage facts at trailheads
- Every trailhead has adequate signage and etiquette information

Organizational strategies

- Create Gallatin brand and market it
- The Chamber of Commerce sells your town/area with message that trails are the best around
- Find the economic benefits to the community based on types of recreation
- Join Friends of Hyalite

Youth messaging

- Establish community-wide education based on ecology/wildlife needs (K-12 up to parents)
- Working with youth
- Having more joint clinic
- Involve/ingrain, use ethics in youth
- College/high school programming—more youth involvement. Educate the youth!
- With the MSU Alumni push—utilize Alumni to communicate to MSU students about usage
- Educate the users (MSU for example)

New user messaging

- Create centralized trail network map/guide
- Hold public trail etiquette workshops
- Create incentives for getting the community engaged in trail work
- Find ways to attract attention to info sources, e.g. signs, etc
- Unified talking points—educational priorities
- Educational campaign on trail etiquette
- Provide an accessible and available resource for new residents, i.e. don't play the "native card"
- Develop a comprehensive communication plan with the resources to implement it.
- Cool/hip/instant way of messaging about sharing use / trail etiquette that will grab young people
- Try new or different communication efforts; clever radio PSAs; better social networking use
- Develop a clear and concise mission and vision statement and don't let it creep
- Better info clearing house
- Ed/Communication—need a single organization to educate and communicate w/the public regarding trail conditions, access, etc. for the Gallatin region

- Community agreed to universal communication vehicle that all people and agencies use to get and give information

Align different user groups

- Establish a trails round table w/relevant agencies, groups and individuals to coordinate shared trail goals and discussions
- One group that manages all other user groups
- Have trail “time share” policies easily accessible
- Organized groups educate their followers—etiquette
- Communicate with user groups on opportunities/problems
- Lead outings on trails that educate participants

Engage the public /get people active and involved

- Annual poster contest
- Establish a “Good Host” award for our community trails
- Annual shindig/fundraiser
- Base trails (use, construction, etc) decisions on input from all users
- Encourage users to write representatives about trail funding
- City and county commissions to declare resolution for community trails day
- Email blasts, social media, brick & mortar, website coordinator—all of the above approach
- Information center

STEWARDSHIP

The goal area related to stewardship was defined in a similar way by each group. In addition to defining stewardship as ensuring resources available today are retained for future generations, all groups discussed a view of stewardship as holistic, encompassing land, people, wildlife, air, etc. All groups also brought up the importance of gaining experiential knowledge of the landscape through hands-on activities to take care of the trails and the land. The concept of stewardship as a responsibility for all who use or visit was discussed by multiple groups, as was the ongoing need for care. Most groups also discussed the importance of sustaining future generations of people who care about the Gallatin Valley as a critical element of stewardship, and that hands-on engagement with the land is a way to create ownership with future generations.

Each group generated a number of ideas about increasing stewardship, some of which are easily achievable and others that are more long-term in nature. In several groups, individuals emphasized the importance of creating a maintainable vision and trails footprint – not just an ever-expanding network. Another topic that was discussed by several groups was the importance of starting small and achieving success before expanding efforts further. In each group, the need for coordination of stewardship efforts was brought up, from the perspective of volunteer groups as well as from public agencies.

Potential Action Strategies

Volunteerism

- Encourage “as-you-go” trail maintenance by all user groups. For example, encourage recreational trail users to bring a small saw to remove a downed tree, or take a few minutes to remove rocks that have rolled into trail.
- Write an article for Outside Bozeman about doing maintenance while recreating.
- Build momentum by holding consistent workdays.
- Create “adopt a trail” program funded by sponsors with signs.
- Develop a core group of trail maintenance leaders, and combine trail maintenance with fun. Involve beer afterwards!

Education

- Offer a for-credit trail building class
- Offer packing clinics and/or introductory pack trips as field experiences for Equine Program at MSU (*Insurance is key)
- Teach new users about proper trail rules (e.g. Find a built-in audience at places like the college dorms recreation program)
- Educate users to value the landscape, that it is more than just a recreation opportunity.
- Lead by example/set an example for others regarding care of land.
- Encourage each user to accept ownership of resource and the responsibility for stewardship
- Create a brand and marketing campaign for Gallatin Recreation.
- Provide more interpretation so people can learn about the natural environments. This could be signs, online resources, or programs.
- Embrace technology for education.
- Get kids outdoors so they become lifelong stewards from a young age.
- Help people understand or see the consequences of their actions. Most people want to do the right thing, but may not know what that is.

Coordination of Stewardship Activities

- Have a centralized information center (coordinated), with websites linked to others
- Create a coordinator / advocacy position funded by multiple entities
- Hold collaborative work days that include an education component, or education activities that include a stewardship component
- Create a volunteer exchange between organizations
- Create a Round Table to coordinate activities
- Create a single coordinating organization to better and faster facilitate stewardship.
- Further deploy the GVLT paid volunteer coordinator model
- Hold more cross- user group outings to educate, share perspectives and experience the landscape together to come to a consensus on best strategies for stewardship.

- Create a sense of community around trails through better communication between groups
- Leverage the paid USFS volunteer coordinator coming on in 2014 in the Gallatin National Forest.

Stewardship Practices

- Change the management approach to focus on specific issues or key resource improvements, rather than focusing on entire segments. This is especially relevant for USFS activities.
- Encourage each user to accept ownership of resource
- Consider wildlife when locating or rerouting trails, including migration pathways.
- Don't develop more resources than you have the ability to manage.
- Establish clear, consistent etiquette standards or rules and regulations, and highlight user responsibility and emphasize benefits of public access.
- Promote, develop and protect our resources as uniquely our own with our own qualities and values.

Funding

- Increase grant writing and fundraising by non-profits to make the community's vision happen.
- Look for corporate sponsors for community trails, and engage the Chamber of Commerce as a representative of businesses.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK SESSION PARTICIPANTS

Participant

Bob Allen

Teri Ball

Chuck Barone

Greg Beardslee

Roger Breeding

Noreen Breeding

Kurt Buchl

Craig Campbell

Mike Cimonette

Bill Cochran

Julie Cunningham

Heather Debethizy

Bev Dixon

Hilary Eisen

Josh Gage

Organization

Montana Mountain Bike Alliance

Bozeman Women's Activity Group

DNRC

MT Mountain Bike Alliance

Bozeman Men's Activity Group

Bozeman Women's Activity Group

Bozeman Bank President

MT-DNRC

Livingston Bike Club

Gallatin Valley Land Trust and Montana Mountain Bike Alliance

FWP

Interested citizen

USFS

The Wilderness Society

Gage Cartography

Henry Glenn	Backcountry Horsemen
Molly Glenn	Backcountry Horsemen
Mike Harris	Gallatin County Parks and Recreation
Tim Hawke	DIRT Concern
Holly Hill	Wilderness and Recreation Partnership
Rich Inman	Backcountry Horsemen
Joe Josephson	Friends of Hyalite
Carl Kautz	BLM-Ennis
Clark Kinney	Backcountry Horsemen
Ryan Krueger	Wilderness and Recreation Partnership
Kyle McKenzie	Big Sky Winder Drinkers and GVL
Jennifer Miller	The Wilderness Society
Bob Mozer	Montana Mountain Bike Alliance
Aleksi Rapkin	None
Jay Renkens	MIG, Inc.
Lauren Schmitt	MIG, Inc.
Hal Stanley	Bridger Ski Foundation
Patti Steinmuller	MT Wilderness Association
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John Todd	Montana Wilderness Association
Wendy Urie	USFS
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Gary Vodehnal	GVL
Kerry White	Citizens for Balanced Use
Jessica Wiese	Big Sky Community Corporation
Shana Wood	Wilderness and Recreation Partnership

APPENDIX B: Trail Use Profiles

As part of the planning process, MIG, Inc. identified the range of trail uses in the Greater Gallatin area drawing from stakeholder feedback. For each use type, MIG developed a description, identified the type of setting where the use occurs, and indicated the time of year when the use occurs. The purpose of these profiles is to develop a common language and understanding of how trails in the Greater Gallatin area are used. It is important to note that visioning participants most frequently identified themselves as participants in multiple uses rather than with a specific user group. The profiles are presented on the following pages.



Overview: Mountain biking is the sport of riding bicycles off-road, often over rough terrain, using specially designed bikes. Mountain bikes share similarities with other bikes, but incorporate features designed to enhance durability and performance in rough terrain.

Mountain biking can generally be broken down into multiple categories: cross country (XC), trail riding, all mountain, downhill, freeride, slopestyle, dirt jumping, and trials. The vast majority of mountain biking falls into the recreational XC, Trail Riding and Enduro categories.

Setting: Bike park/course, single track trail, shared use trail, downhill course

Typical Season:



Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning

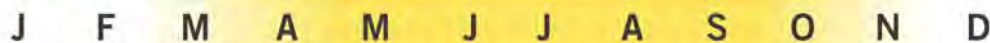


Overview: Cycling, also called bicycling or biking, is the use of bicycles for transport, recreation, or for sport. Apart from two-wheeled bicycles, “cycling” also includes the riding of unicycles, tricycles and quadracycles.

Cycling is widely regarded as a very effective and efficient mode of transportation optimal for short to moderate distances. Bicycles can be used on-street, on paved trails and some hard packed trails. With proper end-of-trip facilities (primarily bike parking), the use of bicycles to access trails can help to reduce demands for automobile parking at trailheads.

Setting: Paved shared use trail, on-street bike lane, shared street, some hard packed trails

Typical Season:



Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning





Overview: Snow biking is performed on a fatbike. A fatbike is a bicycle with over-sized tires, typically 3.7" or larger and rims wider than 44mm, that are designed for riding on soft unstable terrain such as snow and sand. These bikes are built around frames with large forks and stays to accommodate the wide rims required to fit these tires.

Fatbikes were invented for winter trail riding and racing in sub-arctic Alaska and simultaneously, for touring the deserts of New Mexico. Their utility has expanded to include all forms of cycling; they thrive in snow, sand, bogs and mud.

Setting: Single track trail, shared use trail, snow, sand, mud

Typical Season:



Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning



Overview: Backpacking typically combines the activities of hiking and camping for an overnight stay in backcountry wilderness. A backpack allows a hiker to carry supplies and equipment to accommodate one or multiple days out on a trail, into areas past where automobiles or boats may travel.

In some places, backpackers have access to lodging that is more substantial than a tent. Most backpackers purposely try to avoid impacting the land through which they travel. This includes following established trails as much as possible, not removing anything, and not leaving anything in the backcountry.

Setting: Shared use trail, hiking trails, paved shared use pathways

Typical Season:



Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning





Overview: Hiking is an outdoor activity which consists of walking in natural environments, often in mountainous or other scenic terrain. People tend to hike on trails. Hiking appeals to the broadest range of participants of any trail-related recreational activity because of the relatively limited skill level and financial investment required to participate.

It is important to note that an increasing number of people are walking and hiking on trails with their dogs. It is also important to consider people with disabilities when planning the overall trail network to ensure that there are accessible trail options.

Setting: Shared use trail, hiking only trail, paved shared use trail

Typical Season:

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning



Overview: Trail running differs from road running and track running in that generally takes place on hiking trails, often in mountainous terrain, where there can be much larger ascents and descents.

The ranks of trail runners are increasing annually. They have grown from 4.5 million to more than 6 million in the United States alone between 2006 and 2012. Runners often cite less impact stress compared to road running, as well as the landscape and non-urban environment, as primary reasons for preferring trail running. A growing number of people are participating in solo backcountry trail running trips, which are an ultralight form of backpacking.

Setting: Shared use trail, hiking trail

Typical Season:

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning





Overview: Nordic skiing is a combination of winter sports that encompasses all types of skiing where the heel of the boot cannot be fixed to the ski, as opposed to Alpine skiing.

Cross-country skiing is part of the Nordic skiing sport family, which includes ski jumping, Nordic combined (cross-country skiing and ski jumping), Biathlon (skiing and rifle marksmanship), ski touring and ski-orienting (which includes map navigation along snow trails and tracks).

There are three main styles used in cross-country skiing: classic, skating and telemarking. Specially adapted equipment is available to suit each.

Setting: Nordic trails, snow covered shared use trail

Typical Season:

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning



Overview: Snowshoeing is a recreational activity that involves footwear for walking over the snow. Traditional snowshoes have a hardwood frame with rawhide lacing. Some modern snowshoes are similar, but most are made of materials such as lightweight metal, plastic, and synthetic fabric.

In the past, snowshoes were essential tools for fur traders, trappers and anyone who depended on the ability to get around in deep and frequent snowfall. Today snowshoes are mainly used for recreation, primarily by hikers and runners who like to continue their hobby in wintertime. Snowshoeing is easy to learn, and in appropriate conditions is a relatively safe and inexpensive recreational activity.


Setting: Snow covered shared use trail, snow covered hiking trail, open snow fields

Typical Season:

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning





SNOW-MOBILING

Overview: A snowmobile, also known as a snowmachine, or sled, is a land vehicle designed for winter travel on snow. Variations of the snowmobile enable some machines to operate in deep snow or forests; however most are used on open terrain, including frozen lakes, or driven on paths or trails.


Snowmobiles were originally intended as a winter utility vehicle that could be used where motor vehicles could not go. They have since been put to use for recreational purposes as well. The contemporary types of recreational riding forms are known as snowcross/racing, trail riding, freestyle, mountain climbing, boondocking, carving, ditchbanging and grass drags.

Setting: Snow covered trails, groomed trails, minimum width of approx. 7.5 feet

Typical Season:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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M I G



HORSEBACK RIDING

Overview: Trail riding is horseback riding outdoors on natural trails and roads as opposed to riding in an enclosed area such as a riding arena. Trail rides may be informal activities of an individual or small group of people, or may be larger events organized by a club. Some trail rides may be directed by professional guides or outfitters.


In recreational trail riding, speed and form are not the goals, but rather having fun and enjoying time spent with one's horse in nature. Trail riding may include other activities, such as camping, hunting, fishing or orienteering and often incorporates packing horses with equipment and gear.

Setting: Shared use trail

Typical Season:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning
M I G



TRAIL MOTORBIKING

Overview: There are various types of off-road motorcycles, also known as 'dirt bikes', specially designed for off-road activities. Off-road machines are simpler and lighter than road cycles. There are specialized motorcycles for a variety of off-road motorcycle sports:


Motocross - Motorcycles have a small fuel tank for lightness and compactness and long-travel suspension for jumps at high speed.
 Enduro - A modified and road-legal motocross bike, having the addition of a horn, lights, effective silencing and a license plate.
 Rallies - A special type of enduro bike but with a significantly larger fuel tank for very long distance racing, typically through deserts
 Trail - A trail bike is a dual-purpose bike, made for on-road and recreational off-road riding.

Setting: Motorized and shared use trail

Typical Season:

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning M I G



ATV RIDING

Overview: An all-terrain vehicle (ATV), also known as a quad or four-wheeler, is defined by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a vehicle that travels on low-pressure tires, with a seat that is straddled by the operator, along with handlebars for steering control. As the name implies, it is designed to handle a wider variety of terrain than most other vehicles.

By the current ANSI definition, ATVs are intended for use by a single operator, although some companies have developed ATVs intended for use by the operator and one passenger. ATVs with side-by-side seating are increasing in popularity and require wider clear zones.

Setting: Motorized and shared use trails

Typical Season:

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning M I G



**OTHER
ACTIVITIES
ACCESSED
BY TRAILS**

Overview: Some recreational activities are not trail dependent, but still utilize trails to access locations that support the primary activity. For the most part, there are other opportunities to participate in these activities that do not involve trails.

Activities:

- Backcountry Skiing
- Big Game Hunting (Bow and Rifle)
- Bird Hunting
- Ice Climbing
- Paragliding
- Photography
- Rock Climbing
- Shooting
- Trapping
- Wildlife/Bird Watching

APPENDIX C: Stakeholder Interviews

Interviews with key stakeholders provide a way to gather information from individuals and small groups with a high-level of knowledge or local expertise. A series of these interviews were conducted in the early stages of the visioning process to help define the assets, issues and opportunities related to trails, and to identify the strengths and weaknesses that need to be addressed. Stakeholder interviews were conducted in person on October 23 and 24, 2013 and via telephone in October and November. Interviews typically lasted 30 minutes to an hour. Interviewees were contacted initially via telephone or email, drawing from a contact list of organizations, individuals and public agencies from throughout the region including Bozeman, Big Sky and Livingston.

The stakeholder interviews were semi-structured using a series of guiding questions. Based upon the feedback and discussion that occurs within each individual/group, additional probing questions were asked to explore some topics in more detail or to invite discussion on topics suggested by the interviewees. Reframing questions are included in brackets to aid in clarifying the information being sought from participants.

Guiding Questions

Question 1:

In what ways do you personally utilize the Greater Gallatin area? [What is your personal interest in the Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning effort?]

Question 2:

What areas do you personally use for recreation in the Greater Gallatin Area? What do you consider to be part of the Greater Gallatin Area?

Question 3:

What role/s do you think Greater Gallatin should play in providing active and passive recreation in the community?

Question 4:

What are the biggest challenges facing people who want to recreate in Greater Gallatin today? [What is standing in the way of Greater Gallatin from fulfilling the roles articulated in response to the previous question?]

Question 5:

What are the greatest opportunities for positive change in the Greater Gallatin area? Please be specific about treatments/improvements/amenities and locations if possible.

Question 6:

Where do you think are the most appropriate and highest priority locations for access to the Greater Gallatin area?

Question 7:

Where do you think are the best opportunities for connections, loops and corridors in the Greater Gallatin area? Which have best potential for achieving consensus?

Question 8:

What users should have access to the Greater Gallatin area? Are there areas that should be prioritized for particular users? Are there areas where certain groups of users should be discouraged or prohibited?

Question 9:

Who are other important groups or individuals whose participation you think is critical to the success of Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning effort?

Question 10:

What do you think will be the best ways to engage other key stakeholders and the larger community in the visioning process moving forward?

Interview Participants

Bob Allen, Montana Mountain Bike Alliance
Anne Banks, BWAG
Noreen Breeding, BWAG
Julie Carson, Bridger Ski Foundation
Amanda Cater, BWAG
Bill Cochran, Gallatin Valley Bicycle Club
Emily DeLuca, BWAG
Alex Diekmann, Trust for Public Land Northern Rockies Office
Dave Dolph, Wilderness and Recreation Partnership
Jocelyn Dodge, Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest
Josh Gage, Gage Cartographics
Barbara Geller, BWAG
Henry Glenn, Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen
Jeanette Hall, BWAG
Mike Harris, Gallatin County
Holly Hill, Wilderness and Recreation Partnership
Pat Jennings, BWAG
Joe Josephson, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Ryan Krueger, Wilderness and Recreation Partnership
Luke Lanphar, Gallatin Valley Dirt Riders
Brian McNeil, GNF
Mitch Overton, City of Bozeman
Tom Owen, Big Sky Mountain Bike Alliance
Eva Patten, BWAG
Patti Steinmuller, BWAG
Lisa Stoeffler, GNF
John Todd, Montana Wilderness Association
Wendi Urie, GNF
Gary Vodehnal, Gallatin Valley Land Trust
Shana Wood, Wilderness and Recreation Partnership

APPENDIX D: Case Studies

In preparation for the Strategic Planning Work Session convened on December 3, MIG, Inc. worked with stakeholders to identify relevant case studies. Six case studies were selected to exemplify effective approaches to addressing issues related to the five goal areas: Collaboration, Trails and Amenities, Maintenance and Management, Education/Communication and Stewardship. The case studies were selected based upon similar geography, climate and challenges, as well as for creativity and feasibility of the solutions employed to address those challenges. The six case studies include:

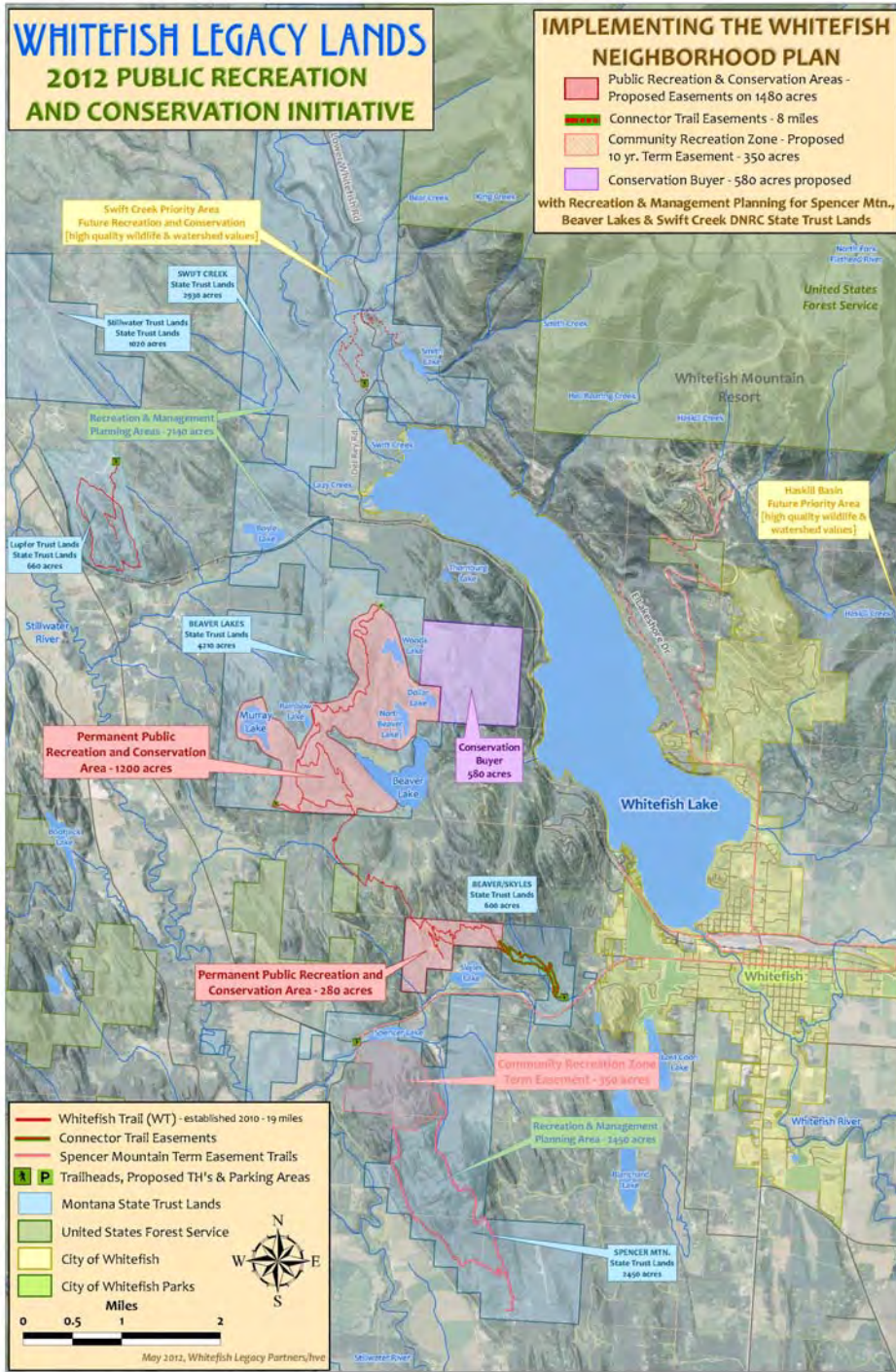
- Whitefish, Montana
- Mammoth Trails, Mammoth Lakes, CA
- Curt Gowdy State Park, Wyoming
- Bend, Oregon
- Grand Valley Trails Alliance, Fruita, Colorado
- Valmont Bike Park, Boulder, Colorado

The following provides a brief summary of the case studies presented and discussed at the Strategic Planning Work Session.

Whitefish, Montana

- WF Neighborhood Plan (2006)
- 13,000 acres
- First large-scale collaborative land use plan for MT Trust Lands
- Prioritizes revenue generation
- Formula for Trust compensation through license fees
- The Whitefish Trail
- Use of DNR Trust lands
- White Fish Legacy Partners: conservation, recreation, education





Mammoth Trails, Mammoth Lakes, CA

- One-stop trails map online: mammothtrails.org
- 300 mi of trail managed jointly by Town and Inyo National Forest
- Non-profit coordination/advocacy group Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation
- Initiated in 2005, incorporated in 2007
- \$20 million in investment



Curt Gowdy State Park, Wyoming

- IMBA “Epic” trail system
- 32-mile stacked loop system
- Bike play area
- Some trails off-limits to bikes
- Equestrian trails
- Fishing access
- Other typical State Park uses and features, including camping
- Clearly defined etiquette

General responsibilities for all trail users:

- **Be courteous and communicate.** Be respectful of other trail users regardless of their mode, speed or level of skill.
- **Keep right and pass left.** When passing, give a clear audible, vocal signal in advance. (Bells may frighten horses.)
- **Stay on designated trails.** Don't shortcut – especially on switchbacks. This creates erosion, damage to wildlife habitat and new trails which cannot be maintained.
- **Keep your pets on a leash and under control at all times.**
- **Pack out your litter.**
- **Downhill traffic should yield to uphill traffic.** Use common courtesy. When in doubt, give the other user the right of way.
- **Do not disturb wildlife along the trails.**
- **Avoid disturbing natural features.**

Mountain biker responsibilities:

- **Yield to all other trail users.** Anticipate other trail users around corners and blind spots, and be prepared to accommodate them.
- **Pass with care and alert other users in advance with a vocal warning.**
- **Be a safe rider.** Know your ability and select routes accordingly. Keep your bike under control and travel at a safe speed.
- **Always wear a safety helmet.**

Equestrian responsibilities:

- **Travel at a safe speed.** Be especially careful when visibility is limited.
- **Communicate with other trail users.** Let others know if your horse is safe to pass.
- **Don't ride in the mud.** If the trail is muddy, try to use an alternate trail. Deep hoof prints make it difficult for others to use the trail.

Hiker and jogger responsibilities:

- **Listen for and be aware of other trail users.** Yield with care to equestrians.
- **Avoid stepping off trails.**



Travel and Recreate with Minimum Impact
Respect the Environment and the rights of others
Educate Yourself, Plan Before You go
Allow for Future Use of the Outdoors, Leave it Better Than You Found It
Discover the Rewards of Responsible Recreation

For more information please visit
www.treadlightly.org

Volunteers

Without the countless volunteers who helped build this system, these trails would not be possible.

Report Trail Conditions

Please report trail conditions and/or maintenance needs.

For more information about volunteering or to report trail conditions, please call 307-777-6323 or e-mail sphs@state.wy.us.



Bend, Oregon

- 4 Season Recreation
- Integration of Ochoco and Deschutes NFs, National Grassland and BLM
- Trail systems:
 - OHV only – multiple trail areas
 - Designated dog on-leash areas
 - Mountain biking
 - Horse riding
 - Hiking
- Urban trail system
- Strong online presence
- Website searchable by use
- Search by use provides specific trail segments and use areas



Grand Valley Trails Alliance, Fruita, Colorado

- Umbrella organization
- “United on trails”
- Calendar
- Roundtable
- Trail systems:
 - Bike
 - Hike
 - Ski
 - Horse
 - OHV (subcategories)
- Mission Statement: Based in the Trails Capital of Colorado, the Grand Valley Trails Alliance works with user groups, communities and land managers to develop resources and collaborative frameworks which enhance and sustain our outstanding trails system.



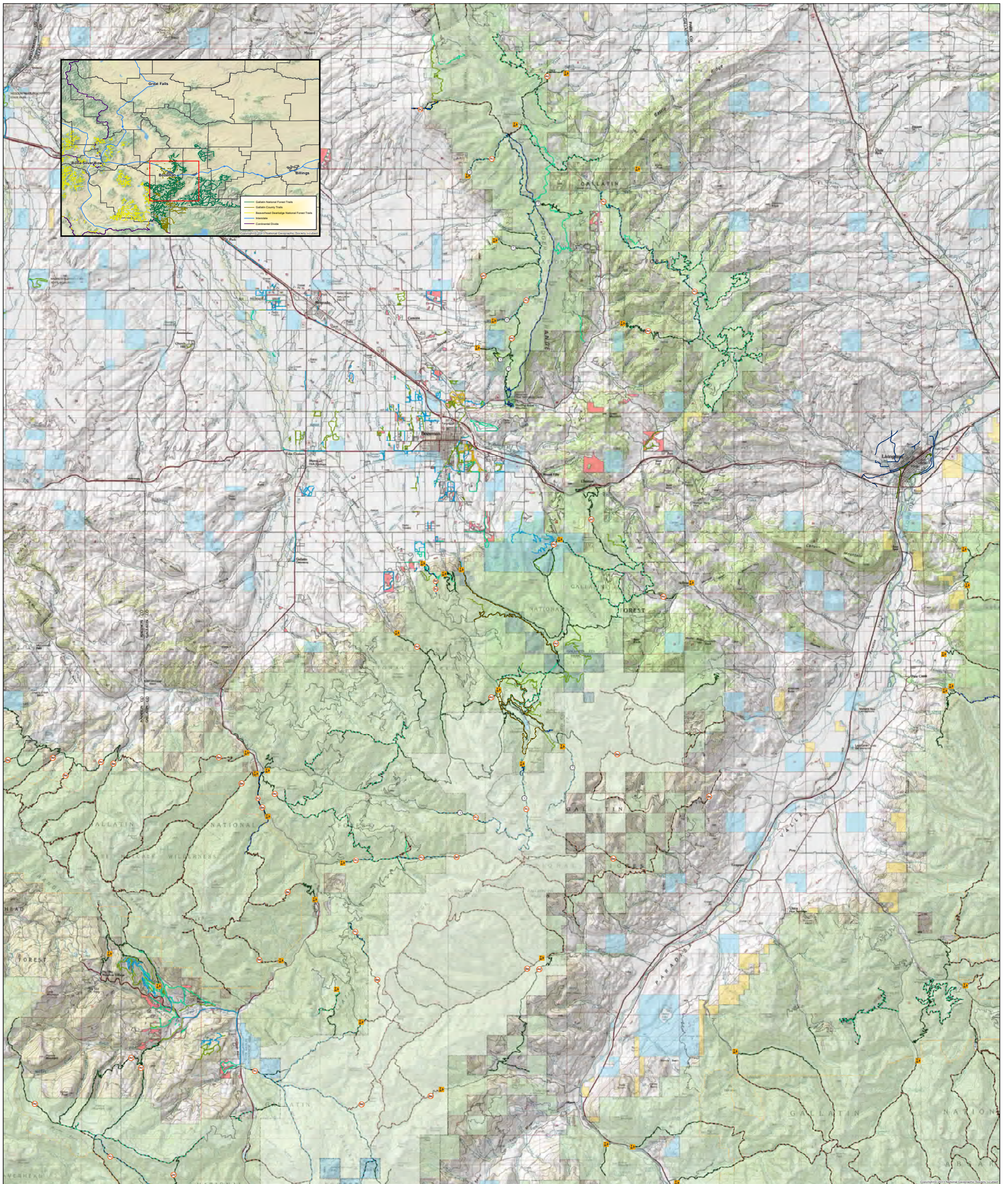
Valmont Bike Park, Boulder, Colorado

- 40-acre bike park in larger City of Boulder park
- Partnership with Boulder Mountainbike Alliance
- Revenue-generating events and programs
- Trained volunteer Park Hosts



APPENDIX E: Trail Facilities Map

A Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning project intern gathered GIS information representing existing and planned trails in the study area. This map will be available digitally for future phases of the trails planning effort.



Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning

Trail Facilities

All users of the data shall be advised that the map features are approximate and are intended only to provide an indication of said feature. Additional areas that have not been mapped may be present. This is not a survey. The County assumes no liability for variations ascertained by actual survey. ALL DATA IS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED AS IS AND WITH ALL FAULTS. The County makes no warranty of fitness for a particular purpose. This disclaimer shall be present on all paper map products and shall be included in the terms of use for this data in a web or software system.

November 2013 Data Sources: Gallatin County GIS, Gallatin County Parks and Conservation, United States Forest Service, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Bridger Ski Foundation, Natural Resource Information System, Park County GIS, ESRI. Projection: NAD 1983 Zone 12 Universal Transverse Mercator 1983 North American Datum (NAD83)

City and County Trails

- Type I: Most developed trail (< 4 feet in width; surface area consist of native, pit-run fines, gravel mixture, asphalt, concrete)
- Type II: Somewhat developed trail (< 6 feet in width; surface area consist of native, pit-run fines, gravel mixture, asphalt, concrete)
- Type III: Least developed trail (< 28 inches in width; surface area consist of native material)
- Nordic Ski Trails
- Livingston Proposed/Planned Trail Opportunities
- Gallatin County Proposed/Planned Trail Opportunity Areas

City trails subject to motor vehicle and equestrian restrictions
 County trails restrict motor vehicles within county park boundaries

Gallatin National Forest Trails

- Motorized Trail open to ATVs
- Non Motorized Trail open hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians; no motor vehicles
- Non Motorized Trail open to hikers only; no bicyclists, equestrians
- Motorized Trail open to motorcyclists; no ATVs
- Non Motorized Trail open to hikers, equestrians only; no bicyclists
- Time Share Trail restrictions apply to bicyclists and motorcyclists
- Forest Service Roads
- Trailhead

Public Land Ownership

- City, County, and Local Government
- State of Montana
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US Government
- Wilderness Boundary
- Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area

