Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning

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I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Gallatin Range and nearby public lands are popular destinations for a wide variety of recreational pursuits in the Bozeman area. The Gallatin Valley's growing population and outstanding access to public lands and other recreational amenities provide both opportunities and potential conflicts for recreationists seeking more and better trail experiences. This document and the discussions that have informed it are intended to explore the potential for further enhancing recreational access and activities in the Greater Gallatin landscape. The purpose of this document is to encourage further community action, engagement and coordination on these issues.

Existing trails plans for the City of Bozeman, Gallatin County, Gallatin Valley Land Trust's "Main Street to the Mountains" system, and a travel management plan for the 1.8 M-acre Gallatin National Forest that addresses trail uses and needs on United States Forest Service lands all provide major contributions to the larger picture of recreational use in the region. Nevertheless, this area lacks a comprehensive, community vision for a multi-user trail system that integrates a full spectrum of jurisdictions, recreation types and a variety of user needs into a single plan. In the view of many trails stakeholders in the region, this lack means the Greater Gallatin area lags behind other Western amenity-based communities such as Sun Valley, Moab, Bend, Durango and others.

Hiking in Hyalite Canyon
Photo courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

Community leadership on trail planning, development and stewardship is already provided by a range of local organizations – groups like the Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Bridger Ski Foundation, Montana Mountain Bike Alliance, Gallatin Valley Bike Club, Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen, and Wilderness and Recreation Partnership, to name just a few. While these groups have done great work to date, their efforts could be even better coordinated, integrated and aligned around a common vision and plan for implementation. A comprehensive, community-built and integrated plan could also provide a mechanism for prioritizing and optimizing funding for recreation projects as well as a rallying point around which to identify and secure additional funding.

With the services of professional recreational planning firm MIG, Inc. and start-up funding from The Wilderness Society, the Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning (GGTV) project has brought community members together to envision a future trail system for the Gallatin Range and surrounding communities and link it with existing trails in the Gallatin Valley.

The GGTV is also a step toward the development of a comprehensive trails plan for the Greater Gallatin area, and this initial report is intended to help all interested parties assess this potential.

Mountain bike riding in the Porcupine drainage at Big Sky
Photo courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

Vision Process

In the fall and winter of 2013, Greater Gallatin stakeholders (see Appendix A and Appendix C for a list of participants) engaged in an effort to develop a collaborative vision for trails and recreation. The public involvement process was facilitated by MIG, Inc., a participatory planning and design firm with 31 years of experience in recreation, parks and trails. The following list describes steps of the public involvement process:

-   Throughout October and November, Greater Gallatin stakeholders were contacted by phone and in person to develop a common understanding of the opportunities and constraints for trails and recreation, as well as needs of specific user groups (see Appendix C for more details). Thirty individual and small group interviews were conducted. Stakeholders were asked a set of common, open-ended questions. Interviewees were asked to answer candidly and responses were reported anonymously.

-   A drop-in community open house was held at the Lindley Center in Bozeman on the afternoon of December 3. All stakeholders and the public were invited to come and provide feedback about the future of trail development, maintenance and management in the Greater Gallatin area. Analysis materials and maps were made available for display.

Nordic skiing at Highland Glen
Photo courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

- The evening of December 3, stakeholders were invited to participate in an interactive and facilitated Visioning Workshop, to define the collaborative vision for the area with a framework of preliminary strategies and recommendations (see Appendix A for more details). The work session included an overview of the project process, a review of MIG's preliminary outreach and research, and both small and large group activities. Comment cards were collected at the end of the work session to allow stakeholders to provide additional written comments. Approximately 35 people attended.

- Early in 2014, stakeholders had a chance to review the draft collaborative vision document and provide feedback through an online commenting form. Comments were incorporated into the vision document.

- The refined vision document was presented to the broader Gallatin community at an open house event on March 4, 2014 at the Bozeman Public Library. The vision, goals and key actions were presented and discussed, and the participants also discussed and refined the highest priority actions presented in the "Next Steps" section of this document. Additional opportunities for commenting were provided through comment cards at the meeting and an online document commenting form.

Sourdough Canyon trailhead
Photo courtesy of Gallatin Valley Land Trust

Vision

The Vision statement below is an attempt to describe the desired future condition expressed by the many participants in this process to date.

> *Diverse users of outdoor recreational resources in the Greater Gallatin area aspire to improve mutual understanding, respect and cooperation; accommodate a growing number of trail users and uses; and ensure development and maintenance of an interconnected trail network that is sustainable for generations.*

Values

Values are shared beliefs that reflect what the stakeholders consider significant or important.

Access

Trail users who have participated in this process to date place high value on convenient, direct and clearly defined access to recreational resources both close to town and further out. Access opportunities should cater to a range of uses, desired duration, ages and ability levels.

Protection

Trail users who have participated in this process to date see high value in protection of natural and recreational resources of the Greater Gallatin area. Although defined differently by various stakeholders, nearly all visioning participants articulated a need to balance access and protection.

Harmony

Trail users of all types who have participated in this process to date value the ability to enjoy various trails and trail amenities without conflict. Reducing conflict is related to improving understanding among various user groups, ensuring that trail uses do not significantly impact other targeted users or the natural landscape, and communicating about trail status, conditions and restrictions.

Goals

The goals below are statements of long-term direction and intent that provide direction for achieving the Vision and upholding the shared values.

Goal 1: Collaborate across users, uses and organizations by agreeing to an inclusive vision; providing information resources; cultivating a representative leadership structure; educating diverse stakeholders; and pooling funding and other resources.

Goal 2: Plan, fund and develop trails and amenities for the Greater Gallatin area to meet the demand of targeted users and visitors while respecting and conserving natural resources, systems and processes.

Goal 3: Develop a maintenance and management approach that leverages the strengths and resources of multiple agencies, engages user groups, trains volunteers and has stable funding.

Goal 4: Develop and sustain well-coordinated, accurate and user-friendly communications and education about trails and trail use.

Goal 5: Promote long-term trails stewardship by curating a culture of Gallatin volunteerism and developing targeted involvement opportunities.

Riding the Continental Divide Trail in Lionhead near West Yellowstone
Photo courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

II. GOALS, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Five overarching goals were identified during the Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning (GGTV) process: collaboration, trails and amenities, maintenance and management, education and communication, and stewardship. Each goal is described with strategies (each denoted with the goal number and a decimal indicating the strategy number) and the associated actions (denoted with the strategy number and a letter indicating the action) that will help stakeholders realize the desired vision articulated above. These strategies and actions were generated by stakeholders at the December 3, 2013 work session. Refinement continued until the March 4. 2014 open house.

> *Goal 1: Collaborate across users, uses and organizations by agreeing to an inclusive vision; providing information resources; cultivating a representative leadership structure; educating diverse stakeholders; and pooling funding and other resources.*

1.1 Collect information from users and land managers regarding trail and recreation use in the Greater Gallatin Area.

1.1a Collect quality data on trail users about types of users, their needs, what they want, when they want it, why they want it, and further identify and confirm existing conflicts and commonalities.

1.1b Create an online capacity inventory that describes the goals, talents and resources available for each user group and/or organization.

1.1c Organize field trips and work days for mixed user groups to better understand the landscape and "walk" in each other's shoes.

1.1d Create a single, comprehensive, interactive, community trails website for information, projects, updates and events.

1.2 Collaborate to create discussion and problem-solving forums and opportunities for meaningful engagement.

1.2a Create a diverse, inclusive trails roundtable forum that facilitates coordination between user groups.

1.2b Establish and agree to procedures and ground rules to be observed at roundtable or forum discussions/events.

1.2c Share funding between formally and informally organized user groups and individuals to create a single volunteer coordinator position for all trail users; dedicate a coordinator within each organized user group as the point person.

1.2d Further the communication between user groups about conflict resolution training to expand capacity for collaborative efforts around trail recreation.

1.2e Invite participation from any user group that is missing from roundtable forum, or that may form in the future.

Backpacking in Buffalo Horn drainage
Photo courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

1.3 Use the Greater Gallatin Trails Vision to set priorities and define achievable implementation outcomes.

1.3a Further expand on the GGTV to identify short-term, mid-term and long-term actions.

1.3b Further define individual organization and agency participation in advancing the GGTV and committing to specific actions.

Left: Snowshoeing at Bohart Ranch near Bozeman. Right: Motocross riding at Revenue Flats near Norris. Photos courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

1.4 Collaborate on trail efforts to educate people, establish mutual understanding and reveal commonalities between users.

1.4a Bring volunteers from different user groups together on the same project to build meaningful experiences. For example, identify opportunities for wilderness advocates to cooperate with non-motorized bikers. Recognize that some trail users do not formally organize into user groups, and including them in the conversation may require another approach.

1.4b Train all user groups on basic aspects of trail building, maintenance, repair and preventative care.

1.4c Publicize the trail timeshare program, enforce it and expand it to additional areas where appropriate. Trail timeshares are usage schedules segregating hikers, bikers, horse riders and motorcyclists. During the summer, these trails are closed to certain users on certain days to minimize user conflicts and trail wear-and-tear.

1.4d Identify opportunities to involve youth in a variety of user-group led events.

1.4e Pilot the use of a point of purchase education portal at partnering retail locations.

1.5 Approach fundraising from a collaborative perspective to maximize results, minimize duplicative efforts and identify possible funding sources.

1.5a Organize joint fundraising and partnership development events and activities for the GGTV.

1.5b Advocate for the GGTV to decision-makers at local, regional, state and federal levels for funding.

1.5c Coordinate efforts for fundraising and grants so that no user group is competing for the same funds at the same time.

1.5d Identify and nurture benefactors who have a desire to fund a particular user need or improvements to a specific place.

Goal 2: Plan, fund and develop trails and amenities for the Greater Gallatin area to meet the demand of targeted users and visitors while respecting and conserving natural resources, systems and processes.

2.1 Complete a comprehensive trail planning effort for the Greater Gallatin Area.

2.1a Complete the inventory of existing and planned trails in the area.

2.1b Define and analyze recreational needs and trail demands with available resources in mind.

2.1c Develop a regional or countywide trails master plan with policies, projects and programs using an inclusive process to engage all user groups.

2.1d Develop a detailed and phased implementation strategy for the Comprehensive Trails Master Plan.

Rock climber at Allen Spur in the Paradise Valley south of Livingston
Photo courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

2.2 Identify and seek a variety of funding sources for trail initiatives.

2.2a Create a community trails fund where businesses and individuals can donate towards clearly defined projects.

2.2b Partner with local retailers and service businesses in the Greater Gallatin area to educate the public about funding.

2.2c Seek state, federal and private monies, using bond funds as incentive or match.

2.2d Reach out to the Forest Service and other governmental agencies with a large stake in the Greater Gallatin area to assess funding partnerships.

Fat tire biking at Hyalite
Photo courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

2.3 Build on the existing trail system first.

2.3a Focus improvements on areas of the trail system with the greatest volume of usage and to resolve known conflicts or issues (e.g., drainage issues)

2.3bTake advantage of organized volunteers to accomplish discrete tasks identified in the needs assessment

2.3c Redevelop abandoned trails in areas where connections are needed.

2.4 Ensure the sustainability of all existing and planned trail activities and related infrastructure.

2.4a Develop educational programs to inform people how to avoid soil erosion and wildlife habitat degradation while recreating.

2.4b Adopt well-defined requirements for trail building specialization to ensure that the Forest Service low-bid contracting requirements result in high-quality trail construction.

Trail runner in Beehive Basin near Big Sky, Montana
Photo courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

Goal 3: Develop a maintenance and management approach that leverages the strengths and resources of multiple agencies, engages user groups, trains volunteers, and has stable funding.

3.1 Streamline policies for trail notifications, regulation enforcement and closures.

3.1a Develop design guidelines that are appropriate for the type and volume of activity on each trail.

3.1b Enforce a policy to close trails to motor vehicles, bicycles and equestrian uses when trails are soft and muddy.

3.1c Identify and recruit trail ambassadors to help enforce closures and detours along trails.

3.1d Use a public awareness campaign to encourage people to abide by trail etiquette rules, stay on marked trails and keep signage visible.

3.2 Develop an ongoing maintenance plan.

3.2a Inventory trail maintenance needs and collect current trail conditions from users via a community trails website.

3.2b Prioritize high use areas and safety hazards for the highest frequency maintenance on a schedule.

3.2b Work with land management agencies to fast-track trail improvement and maintenance requests and avoid lengthy impact studies.

3.2c Build new trails with maintenance standards and sustainability in mind – prioritize upkeep of sustainable trails only and consider abandoning or decommissioning those trails that are difficult to maintain.

3.2d Use available technology, such as hand held GPS units, to facilitate, track and accomplish trail maintenance tasks. Make this work publicly known.

3.2e Encourage land managers to identify trail maintenance tasks for volunteer organizations and involve them in developing the maintenance schedules.

3.3 Formalize and broaden the role volunteers play in both scheduled and time-sensitive maintenance activities.

3.3a Establish and follow a communications protocol between maintenance volunteers, group liaisons and the managing public agencies.

3.3b Provide liability protection for volunteers and organizations to encourage community involvement in maintenance activities.

3.3c Maintain a database of volunteers for maintenance and construction

3.3d Develop and publicize training courses for specialized trail crews to work with equipment such as chain saws, etc.

3.3e Collect and utilize user-generated information on trail conditions or issues through a central information portal.
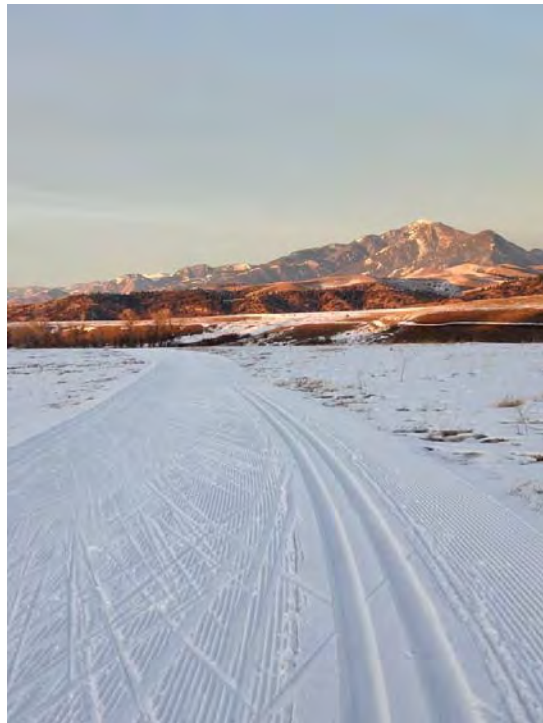
Nordic ski trails at Highland Glen Nature Preserve
Photo courtesy of Gallatin Valley Land Trust

Goal 4: Develop and sustain well-coordinated, accurate and user-friendly communications and education about trails and trail use.

4.1 Develop a transparent, predictable and well-known communications structure for the GGTV.

4.1a Design a communications strategy to help user groups communicate effectively with decision makers at all levels of government.

4.1b Use communication tools such as radio public service announcements and social networking sites that connect with the majority of user groups.

Singletrack trail running after the first snow
Photo courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

4.2 Ensure trail information is made both accessible and timely for public use.

4.2a Develop a single community trails website to be a clearinghouse location for all trail related information – closures, trailhead locations, work opportunities, map resources, trail share schedules, parking, events, etiquette, rules and regulations – to be used by trail users and agencies. Also include rotating profiles and perspectives of various users, impacts of various trail use on natural resources and links to other websites.

4.2b Make the trails website mobile-friendly and continue to adapt it to support changing and new technology.

4.3 Align different user groups through activities, work days and roundtables or workshops with relevant agencies. Recognize that most trail users are on foot, non-mechanized, non-motorized and represent a wide span of ages and abilities.

4.3a Hold an open house meeting, mixer or workshop that brings together a diversity of user groups in an activity around trail etiquette.

4.3b Find exposure, communication and socialization opportunities for members of traditionally opposing groups through community-building activities such as trail stewardship.

Mountain biker from Storm Castle to Hyalite Divide
Photo courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

4.4 Use branding and signage to raise awareness and educate both current and future users about trail etiquette, responsibility and volunteer opportunities.

4.4a Assess existing directional, rules and interpretive signage along trails in the Greater Gallatin Area. Identify inconsistencies, gaps and overlaps.

4.4b Develop a signage hierarchy, location plan and standards that can be used throughout the region.

4.4c Implement the signage plan and standards, prioritizing trailhead signage for consistent messaging and filling gaps with new signage.

4.4d Develop a Greater Gallatin Area brand involving all stakeholders and market it across user groups, destinations, etc.

4.4e Include wildlife usage facts on signage at trailheads.

4.4f Create an "adopt a trail" program funded by sponsors and demarcated with signage that promotes responsible trail use for all.

4.5 Include youth as a target audience for trail education.

4.5a Work with school districts to establish community-wide trail education curriculum based on ecology and wildlife needs.

4.5b Develop programs and activities that target built-in audiences, such as college dorm residents or recreation program participants

Goal 5: Promote long-term trails stewardship by curating a culture of Gallatin volunteerism and developing targeted involvement opportunities.

5.1 Develop an accessible range of volunteer opportunities for all ages, abilities and interests.

5.1a Encourage "as-you-go" trail maintenance by all user groups to do small, unscheduled tasks during regular recreational outings (i.e. remove fallen branches and rocks from trail, etc.). Develop standards for appropriate "as-you-go" tasks.

5.1b Build momentum and purpose among volunteers by holding consistent workdays that are clearly publicized on the community trails website.

5.1c Develop a core group of trail maintenance leaders and combine trail maintenance with social events, such as a happy hour after the work day.

Left: Trail runner on town trails in Bozeman, Montana. Right: Riding town trails at Pete's Hill Photos courtesy of Bob Allen and Estela Villasenor

5.2 Prioritize educational opportunities that increase community involvement and stewardship.

5.2a Offer a trail building class for credit at MSU or area community colleges

5.2b Offer packing clinics and/or introductory pack trips as field experiences for the Equine Program at MSU.

5.2c Provide more interpretation so people can learn about the natural environment of the Greater Gallatin Area through online resources, guided tours, programs or interpretive signs and brochures.

5.2d Hold collaborative work days that include an education component, or education activities that include a stewardship component.

5.3 Better coordinate stewardship activities.

5.3a Create a single coordinating organization to better and faster facilitate stewardship opportunities using the Gallatin Valley Land Trust paid volunteer coordinator as a model approach.

5.3b Leverage the paid USFS volunteer coordinator coming on in 2014 in the Gallatin National Forest.

5.3c Publicize all volunteer opportunities on the unified community trails website and allow registered trail user organizations to post events.

III. NEXT STEPS

Implementation of the Greater Gallatin Trails Vision will require the continued commitment of volunteers, community organizations, non-profits and public agencies. To focus efforts, the following initiatives are those that participating stakeholders prioritized from all of the strategies and actions in this plan. The prioritization discussion occurred at a public open house held on March 4, 2014 at Bozeman Public Library. These initiatives and the steps to implement them are the highest priorities for the next two to three years to advance the vision.

Define, fund and fill a volunteer coordinator position specifically for trails.
Coordination across organizations and agencies is needed to get the most benefit out of existing efforts and to develop a bigger volunteer base and more volunteer opportunities to further grow and sustain the system. Though the Gallatin National Forest has established and filled a new volunteer coordinator position in 2014, the role of this position is to focus only on USFS projects. While this new position is an important asset for the region, a broader cross-organization and cross-agency coordinating role is needed. This volunteer coordinator needs to be a paid position, and at minimum should be a quarter time position for at least one year.

> *This initiative will advance actions 3.3c, 3.3d and 5.1b*

Steps to achieving a volunteer coordinator are:

1. Develop a funding target and seek funding commitments/sponsorships from multiple entities for at least a one-year pilot project. Designate a fiscal agent to receive the funds and manage payment of the volunteer coordinator and associated expenses.
2. Determine a supervising agency or organization that will be responsible for oversight of the volunteer coordinator.
3. Develop a job description that lists expectations, desired outcomes, and needed skills.
4. Recruit a volunteer coordinator. This person must be viewed as a neutral party yet should also ideally have local connections.
5. Task the volunteer coordinator with the following:
   a. Establishing an email address and point of contact for trail volunteers that can be used in perpetuity (it should not be a person's name);
   b. Using the contact list developed for this Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning effort as starting point to identify existing volunteer opportunities (planned work days, longer term commitments);
   c. Developing a searchable comprehensive volunteer roster that includes name and contact information, areas of interest in volunteering, and any special certifications (e.g., chainsaw training);
   d. Preparing an online calendar identifying upcoming trail-related volunteer opportunities and trainings, and establishing a calendar update process/protocol;
   e. Coordinating with existing organizations and agencies with active volunteer pools; and

> f. Preparing one page quarterly reports on progress in achieving the desired outcomes.
6. Evaluate progress quarterly.

Create an umbrella trails organization that includes a Round Table representing different trail uses, similar in concept to the Round Table sponsored by the Grand Valley Trails Alliance in Fruita, Colorado.
Participants agree that an umbrella group will be critically important, and that this organization be seen as a neutral party convening the Round Table as a neutral space for all stakeholders. The Volunteer Coordinator could serve also as serve as the director/facilitator of the umbrella organization, if that person had the right skill set. This also requires a paid employee, and a commitment of enough resources (financial and human) for two to three years of establishment. During that time, the umbrella group's employee should be tasked with developing a funding stream for ongoing support. To be successful, this umbrella group needs collaboration from public agencies (Gallatin NF, the counties, the cities) and non-profits including the Big Sky Community Corporation, as well as the participation of individuals and organizations.

This initiative will advance actions 1.2a, 1.2b, 4.1a, 5.3a, 5.3b and 5.3c

Steps to developing an umbrella trails organization are:

1. Identify a convener to establish the Round Table. If an established organization or entity is interested in taking on this role, they must be perceived as a neutral party by all participants.
2. If no established entity is able to fill this role, develop a funding target and seek funding commitments from multiple entities for a two to three year pilot project (a quarter or half time employee for two to three years) and identify the fiscal agent for managing the funding.
3. Convene representatives of the user groups, public agencies, and non-profits specifically for the purpose of defining the structure and role of the Round Table, as well as frequency of meeting.
4. Develop a specified composition of the Round Table, ground rules, and process for decision-making.
5. Define agendas and a work plan for the first year of the Round Table. The trail etiquette guide (see below) may be a good starting initiative for the Round Table to work on.
6. Evaluate success in one year in to determine whether establishment of a formalized non-profit organization is warranted, to include a mission, a board of directors, etc.

Develop a trail etiquette guide as the first step of a user education program.
Participants in the visioning process consider user education as a high
priority to reduce trail user conflicts, though most believe that trail users are
generally interested in doing the right thing. Local trails stakeholders should
define a simple and clear set of guidelines. These should be presented in a
graphically attractive format that can be incorporated into a print trails map,
that is downloadable, and that can be also easily printed as a standalone
pamphlet or brochure.

This initiative will advance action 3.1d

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest trail etiquette guidelines
(http://mtstandard.com/rules-of-the-trail/article_52de1e0a-693e-11df-bdb7-
001cc4c002e0.html) provide a good starting point, as do the trails etiquette
guidelines for Curt Gowdy State Park in Wyoming (http://www.uwyo.edu/rec/outdoor-
program/_files/docs/curt-gowdy-trail-map.pdf).

Steps to developing a trail etiquette guide are:

1. Convene stakeholders to agree to a set of guidelines that address trail issues
   in the Greater Gallatin Area, and that can fit on a single sheet of paper. Use
   the suggested Beaverhead-Deerlodge or Curt Gowdy guidelines as a starting
   point, and ask participants to bring other models they like. This can occur
   through the Round Table.
2. Draft the set of guidelines and circulate amongst the stakeholders. This can
   occur through the Round Table.
3. Secure graphic design assistance, by hiring a graphic designer or securing in-
   kind assistance.
4. Once the guide is designed, provide the pdf document to local organizations,
   outdoor-oriented businesses, and public agencies.
5. Publicize the guidelines by seeking an article in local media and through
   postings on local websites and social media sites.

Develop and sustain an easy-to-access online portal/website for trails information.
A one-stop information portal, similar in concept to the mammothtrails.org
online interface, is a high priority. Based on discussions to date, this
interface should include at minimum an interactive map, up-to-date
information on trail closures, and a means for users to report trail issues and
concerns (e.g., washouts, missing signs, trail etiquette issues). The existing
conditions mapping completed as part of the Visioning process, which built
upon work completed earlier in 2013 by Gallatin County, offers a starting
point in terms of base data. However, development of a web interface is a
complex endeavor and requires organizational infrastructure to ensure
continued hosting, ongoing website maintenance, addressing user feedback
regarding trail issues, and maintaining data sets, among other long-term
commitments. While this is a priority, it requires a major commitment to be
successfully executed.

This initiative will advance actions 1.1d, 3.3e, 4.2a, 4.2b and 5.3c

Steps toward a one-stop trails resource and online map:

1. Identify the designated repository for digital data, and for data maintenance responsibilities.
2. Develop website specifications, including target audiences, desired functions, content, sketched out site structure/architecture, domain name, content management system).
3. Identify a cost to create the website and a cost or level of effort to maintain it.
4. Explore partnerships with businesses around a website.

Prepare an analytically based trails master plan that identifies specific routes for maintenance, enhancement and development in support of the Greater Gallatin Trails Vision.

This is a significant analytical effort that must incorporate geographic, biologic, and topography/slope/geologic data. It should focused on evaluating all existing trail and unimproved road networks within the Greater Gallatin Area, assessing general condition of each route, identifying gaps in the existing network, and recommending and prioritizing specific routes for improvement and construction to complete the network. The effort should include a detailed feasibility analysis (with a wildlife biological assessment) of the trail envisioned from Triple Tree to Bear Canyon using State school lands.

This initiative will advance strategy 2.1

Steps toward an analytically based trails master plan are:

1. Develop an inventory of available digital data and environmental studies.
2. Encourage public agencies to seek budget allocations to contribute to a study of the entire Greater Gallatin area, rather than to an agency-specific study.
3. Advocate for this project as a regional priority.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The following documents, plans and concept pieces were cited as relevant to this process by GGTV participants. This list is not exhaustive and additional items are encouraged. Each document is described in how it informs the Greater Gallatin Trails Visioning.

Bozeman Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) Plan (2007)

> The PROST plan includes a chapter on existing trails in the Bozeman area, including history and background information, recognized trail classifications, an existing trails map, a description of the process for public land acquisition for trails in Bozeman, community survey results and trail groups information. Appendix G includes design guidelines for park and trail signage.

Dillon Resource Management Plan (2006)

> This plan pertains to public lands managed by the BLM's Dillon Field Office, located in the southwest corner of Montana. Included is a map of backcountry byways and national trails of the Dillon Field Office. Goals and actions for both national trail management and recreation are included, as well as travel management information for motorized and non-motorized uses.

Gallatin County Park and Trails Comprehensive Plan (2010)

> The Gallatin County Parks and Trails Plan takes into account all the types of recreation provided by different user groups, agencies and governments throughout the County. The intent of this Plan is to provide quality recreational experiences for those who live in and visit Gallatin County. Both private and public entities were engaged to develop a comprehensively plan for future recreation the facilities and resource provided by the County.

Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan (2006)

> The Forest Service developed the Travel Plan because they felt demand for recreation opportunities could be reaching the point of exceeding the capability of the land to provide them. A Travel Management Plan helps to effectively offer a variety of quality recreation opportunities consistent with achieving management goals and objectives for other resources.

Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT) Main Street to the Mountains Trails Concept

The GVLT has developed, promoted and helped realize a concept that they have named Main Street to the Mountains. The concept is based around the goal of creating trail connections from neighborhoods and commercial centers in town to the surrounding recreational areas. The effort includes better mapping and signage of existing trails, as well as identification, design and development of new trails.

Greater Bozeman Area Transportation Plan (2007 update)

The Transportation Plan Update is intended to document changes and progress since the last Greater Bozeman Area Transportation Plan (2001 Update) was completed. This Plan Update strives to elevate non-motorized transportation planning in the community from both mobility and livability perspectives. The Plan attempts to address motorized and non-motorized transportation needs by placing both on equal playing fields.

Hyalite Canyon Winter Use Study (2013)

The study report provides the USFS and the partner group, Friends of Hyalite with concrete winter use data that was previously unavailable. The report includes data collected in Hyalite Canyon during the 2012 winter season related to user perceptions of road plowing management decisions and use patterns within the Hyalite drainage. Road counters were placed at five locations throughout the canyon and vehicle movement was captured throughout the survey period.

Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn (HPBH) Wilderness Study Area Overview

In 1977 Congress passed a law, S393, protecting the HPBH and eight other Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in Montana. The legislation was designed as an interim step to protect these areas until Congress decides whether or not to designate them as Wilderness. The Forest Service studied each of these areas and made recommendations back to Congress on their suitability for inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System. Some activities not permissible in designated Wilderness areas are allowed to continue in WSAs until Congress takes action.

Livingston Park County Trails Plan (2007-08)

The Livingston City Commission and Park County Commission jointly created a task force in January 2005 to develop a trails plan for the city and the immediately surrounding area. A survey indicated frequent use of existing trails as well as strong support for an expanded trail system in the area. The task force's efforts resulted in the Livingston/Park County Trails and Greenways Plan.

Montana State Trails Plan (2001)

The Montana State Trails Plan is a first attempt to provide long-term, interagency direction for the statewide public trail system, including both motorized and non-motorized trails. The focus is statewide, rather than on local or trail-specific issues, with primary emphasis on common values shared by most trail users and areas of agreement within and between managing agencies and other interested parties.