

The logo features a stylized mountain range with green peaks and a blue-to-orange gradient base. The text "HUERFANO COUNTY" is in a large, black, serif font, with "COUNTY" in italics. Below it, "Trails Master Plan" is in a smaller, black, serif font.

HUERFANO COUNTY

Trails Master Plan

Final Draft
June 2011



Acknowledgments

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Introduction



Purpose and Process



This Trails Master Plan for Huerfano County is intended to serve as a guide for decision-makers about where trails should be developed in the future and will serve as a resource against which to measure future development and projects that could benefit from trails or could impact the vision for trails in the county.

Beginning in 2008, a working group comprised of an array of entities engaged in a planning process that included:

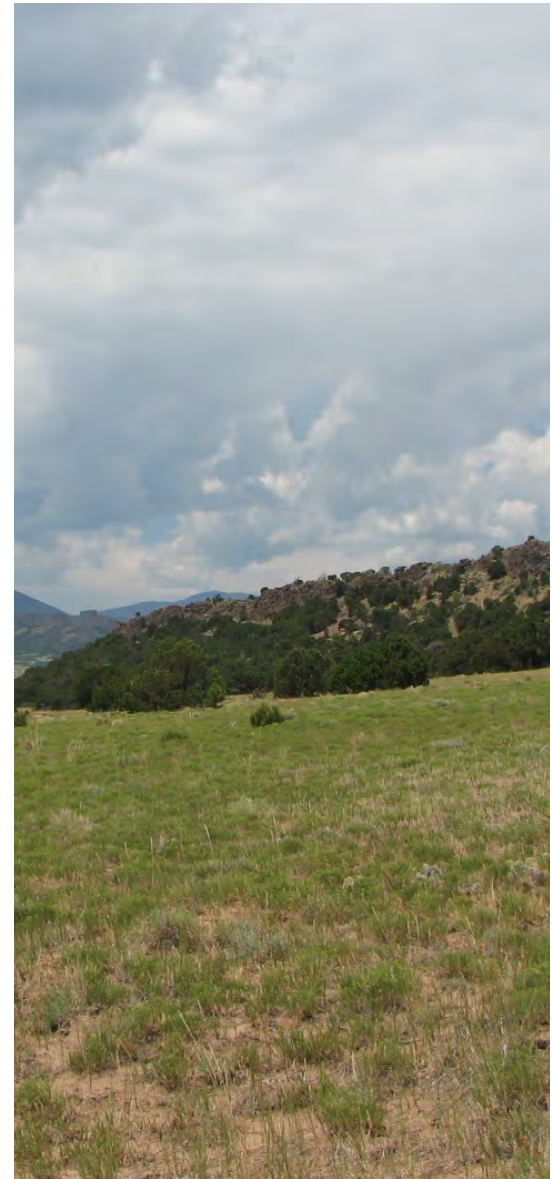
- Creation of a vision for the future of a trails network in Huerfano County
- Research of existing information that could help define where trail development would be most appropriate
- With the assistance of the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Office Geographic Information Division, compiling existing information into a single GIS resource and an online interactive map which can now be accessed through Huerfano County's website.
- Gathering public input at a series of community events in La Veta, Walsenburg & Gardner, about where people currently recreate and where they would like to see trails and trail-related facilities developed
- Exploration and analysis of maps to understand existing conditions
- Development of a set of alternatives for the location of new trails based on criteria developed by the working group
- Public open houses in La Veta and Walsenburg to get input on the trail alignment alternatives proposed by the working group
- Revision of trail alignments based on community feedback
- Development of recommendations for the preferred alignments based on agreed-upon criteria

Project Background

Huerfano County's natural beauty, unique geology, wonderful history, and array of wildlife make the county a wonderful place to live and visit. Providing expanded recreational access to the County's resources will help provide a myriad of outdoor opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Much of the County is accessible only from roads and remote trails. Even though many trails currently exist, they are not interconnected and there is still a need for many other trails.



Lewis Carroll wrote in 'Alice in Wonderland' "If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there", but if you know where you want to go and can't find a route, the obstacles can be daunting. Creating a blueprint for the future that will result in a network of trails that connect the beauty, history, geology, population centers and wildlife in Huerfano County is the purpose of this Trails Master Plan. Recognizing that a trails master plan would ensure a cohesive approach to trail development and provide a context within which to apply for trails grants, Huerfano requested the assistance of the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) for a technical assistance with the process of developing a master plan.



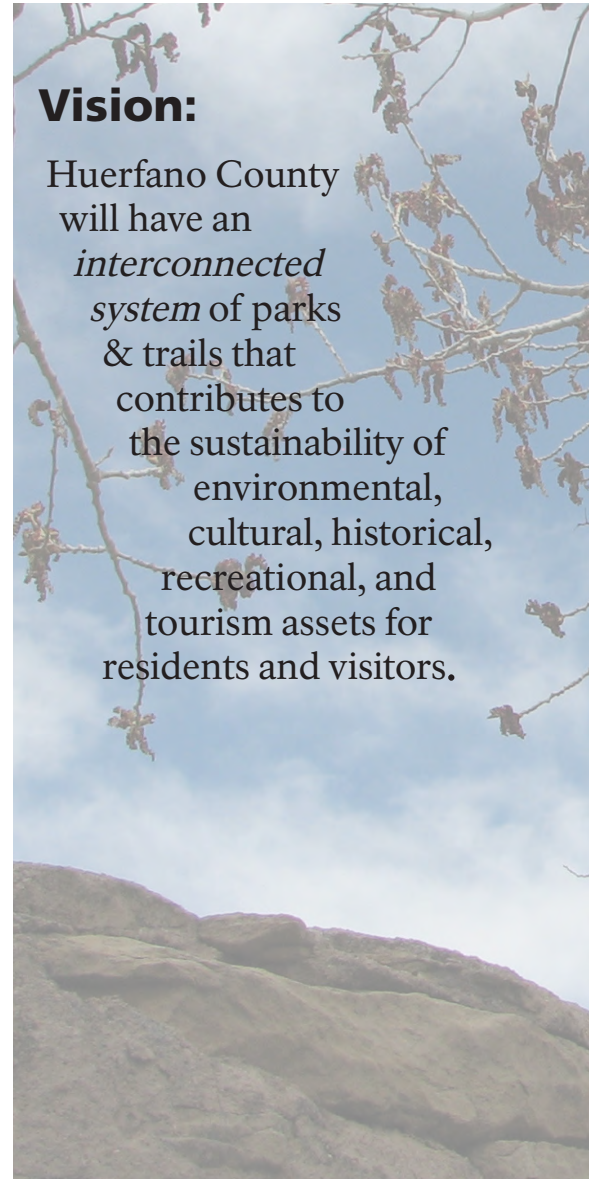
In 2008 the National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) accepted the Huerfano County trails effort as a project. RTCA has assisted Huerfano County with a thorough and collaborative planning process. The process included identifying types of trail users, identifying resources that should be shared with visitors to the county, expanding access to recreational opportunities and providing alternatives to motorized travel.

A great deal of data from many different sources was collected in the planning process and has been condensed into this plan. Maps illustrating some of the information collected can be found in Appendix B of this document. Using that information as a basis for discussion, the planning group created a set of guiding principles and common goals to develop a high quality, long range plan that will serve the best interest of future generations of trail users.



Vision:

Huerfano County
will have an
interconnected
system of parks
& trails that
contributes to
the sustainability of
environmental,
cultural, historical,
recreational, and
tourism assets for
residents and visitors.



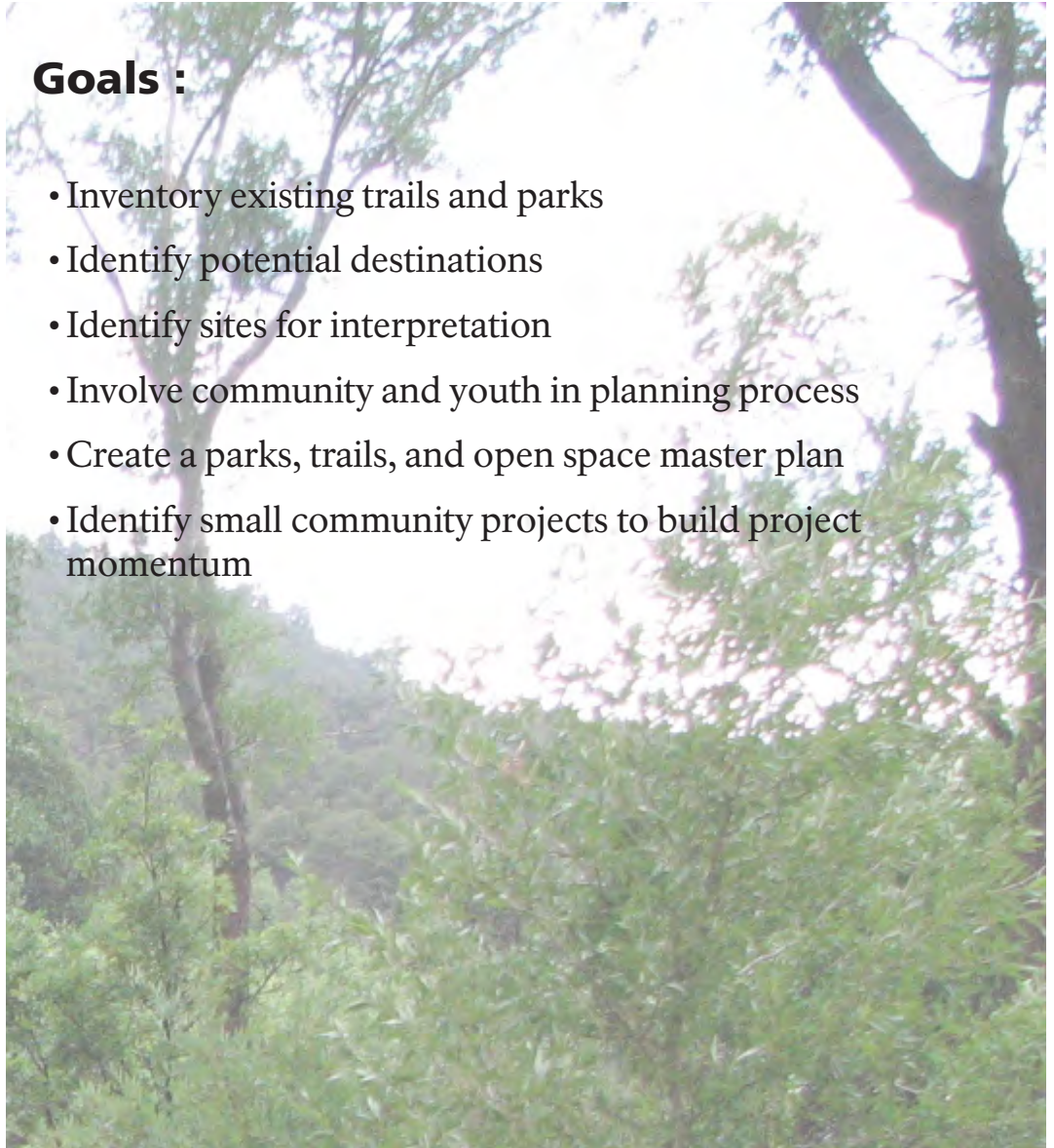
Opportunities:

- Provide close-to-home places for people to be physically active
- Create a signature hiking, road bicycling, and mountain biking destination for tourists which will have county-wide economic benefits
- Interpret and protect some of Huerfano County's historic, natural, and cultural resources



Goals :

- Inventory existing trails and parks
- Identify potential destinations
- Identify sites for interpretation
- Involve community and youth in planning process
- Create a parks, trails, and open space master plan
- Identify small community projects to build project momentum





Trends in Outdoor Recreation

An important component of American life continues to be the various forms of outdoor recreation. Research has shown that the quantity, availability, quality, and accessibility of outdoor recreation opportunities affect the degree to which individuals will participate in outdoor activities. Activities such as walking, hiking, birding, wildlife viewing, biking, and horseback riding require access to public and private forests and ranges. As more and more of the population participate in these activities, the greater the need for areas developed and defined to accommodate them. With all of its outstanding resources and opportunities for recreation, Huerfano could become a recreation destination.

Watchable Wildlife

Observation of wildlife in their natural setting is a popular recreational activity. According to Bowker, English, and Cordell, participation in wildlife activities is expected to grow by more than 60% over the next several decades, increasing more rapidly than population growth. This activity is favored more by women than by men and the growth is attributed to the probability that wildlife viewing complements other forms of outdoor recreation, including backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, biking, and off-road driving.

Backpacking, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Biking, Off-Road Driving

Approximately 12% of the population participates in backpacking, an activity largely associated with undeveloped areas. Backpacking is expected to increase by 26% over the next several decades with much of that growth in the Rocky Mountain region.

Hiking is the most popular of all outdoor recreation activities. While more metropolitan areas have developed walking paths within their jurisdictions, hiking in more rural environments is closely associated with backpacking in that it is done in largely undeveloped areas. In the year 2000, about 50 million people nationwide participated in hiking and that number is expected to increase faster than the growth in population.



Horseback riding takes place in diverse locations including suburban areas, rural farms and ranches, and back country forest areas. This activity has roughly the same number of enthusiasts nationwide as does backpacking and is behind only hiking and off-road driving in its popularity. Horseback riding, too, is expected to increase faster than population growth in the coming decades. The mitigating factor that could slow the growth of this activity is the relative scarcity and availability of riding trails.

The projected biggest growth in participation in **off-road driving** is in the Rocky Mountain Region which is forecast to increase by 54% over the next few decades. The use of All-terrain Vehicles (ATVs) over mountainous trails is most popular among people who are younger than the average American. Again, a mitigating factor is the availability of trails conducive to the use of ATVs.

Participation in **bicycling** is expected to grow by about 70% in the next several decades. Day trips and vacations based on biking are anticipated to grow throughout the country and those areas with defined and developed biking trails are expected to become vacation and day trip destinations.

All of these activities add to the attractiveness of an area as a destination when availability and accessibility are present. They are complementary to activities such as bird watching, wildlife viewing, and wildlife photography. Additionally, availability of developed trails increases the opportunities for primitive and developed camping, family gatherings, picnicking, and visiting places of historic, cultural, and geologic interest. Moreover, development, mapping, and promoting trails throughout an area increases use and participation and impact the local and regional economy.

Sources

Bowker, J.M., English, Donald B.K., Cordell, H. Ken; Projections of Outdoor Recreation Participation to 2050.
Cordell, McDonald, Teasley, Bergstrom, Martin, Bason, and Leeworthy, Outdoor Recreation Participation Trends.





Economic Impacts of Recreation Tourism

A great deal of research was done during the writing of the Colorado Front Range Trail Comprehensive Implementation Plan in 2007. Among the things studied were National Recreational and Leisure Trends including which types of recreation activities people participate in. Significant increases in activities like exercise walking, bicycling and day hiking continue today and are a strong indicator of the demand for trails. The CFRT Implementation Plan shows that Coloradoans consistently rate walking, bicycling, running and horseback riding activities as highly important to their family's quality of life. Trails within and near towns and cities are also rated as having a high importance to quality of life in a community. Coloradoans also believe that in terms of allocation of resources, better protection of natural features and wildlife habitat, maintaining and rebuilding existing trails, and improving access to trails are highly important.

Colorado has long been recognized as one of the premier destinations in North America for recreation and tourism. Tourism is a major economic generator for the state with millions of visitors annually who spend billions of dollars in tourism expenditures.

Huerfano County has an opportunity to respond to some of these trends by creating or enhancing trails and trail-related facilities that meet the needs of visitors who are increasingly looking for recreational opportunities.

Recreational Preferences of Huerfano County Residents

Residents and visitors who visited the Huerfano County Trails Master Plan booth at the Black Diamond Jubilee, Art in the Park, and Hippy Days community events in the summer of 2009 were offered the opportunity to take a survey to inform the Working Group of current recreation trends, and preferred types of recreation. A small number of people responded and the combined results showed that respondents:

- Traveled long distances to attend a community event
- Would prefer to travel to parks, wilderness areas, cultural areas, and high-elevation areas during recreation activities
- Would most prefer to see footpaths and backcountry trails, and bicycle routes and bicycle lanes developed
- Generally prefer mid- to long- distance trails to recreate on (3-10 miles)

The survey and its full results can be found in Appendix A: Public Input.





Existing Information



Existing Information

In the Huerfano County Trails Master Plan planning process, Working Group members identified several types of County resources that should be considered and potentially protected and enhanced through the creation of a county-wide trails system. These resources drove the research, data collection, and resource assessment phases of the planning process. The National Park Service Intermountain Region Geographic Resources Program (NPS GIS) gathered and compiled data from a variety of sources related to the County's environmental, recreational, and community resources. Maps that illustrate the data collected can be found in Appendix B. Detailed versions of all of the maps in this document can be accessed from Huerfano County's website: <http://www.huerfano.us/>.

Topography & Terrain

NPS GIS obtained topographic and terrain data in Huerfano County that included:

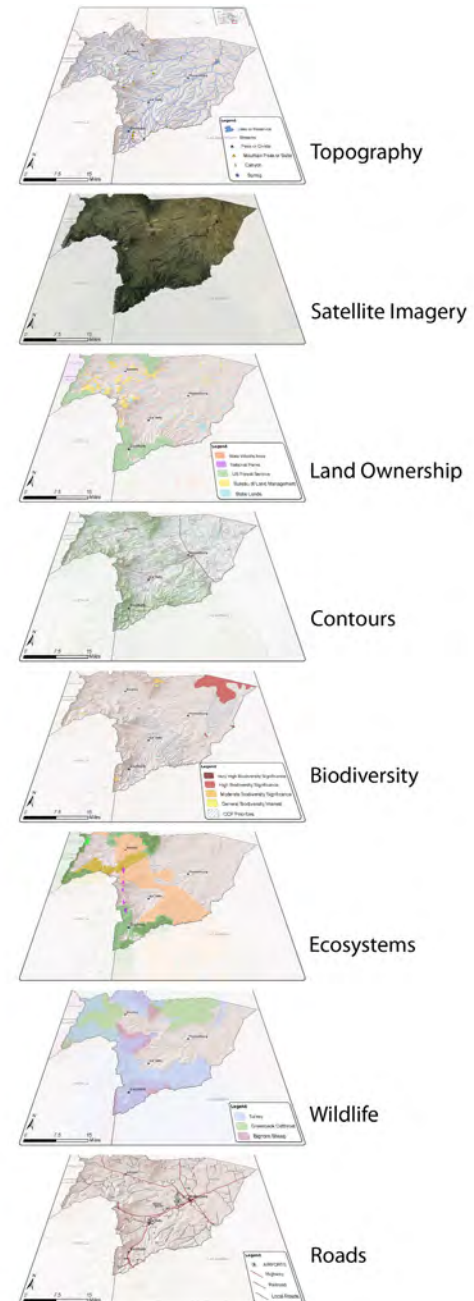
- Mountains, buttes, mountain passes, reservoirs, streams, and springs
- Topographic layers with contour lines
- Ortho-imagery and satellite imagery

Land Ownership

Land ownership data refer to surface ownership by several land managers: NPS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), United States Forest Service (USFS), the State of Colorado, and local governments.

Conservation Priorities

Colorado Open Lands (COL) is a state-wide land trust focused on conservation easement acquisition and access negotiation. COL provided information related to conservation priority areas. Throughout the state of Colorado, COL has identified several conservation priority areas, one of which is the Southern Sangre de Cristo region. This area encompasses portions of Las Animas and Costilla counties, and the southern half of Huerfano County, including the towns of Walsenburg, La Veta, and Cuchara.



COL has several conservation easements already in place in the county, particularly near the Spanish Peaks, La Veta, and Cuchara. Several significant natural resources have been designated as part of their continuing conservation priority in the area:

- The majestic Spanish Peaks, rising nearly 7,000 feet above the Great Plains of south-central Colorado,
- “The Big Wall” - a 100-foot high volcanic, granite dike that extends for three miles from the base of the Spanish Peaks like a great rampart,
- A rich diversity of ecotypes, from alpine tundra to subalpine forests, piñon-juniper, and cottonwood riparian systems,
- Critical winter range for elk and deer, as well as year-round habitat for black bear, mountain lion, wild turkey, and other wildlife, and
- A strong agricultural community.



Wildlife & Ecology

To ensure the protection & sustainability of Huerfano County’s wildlife and ecologies, information was gathered from the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) as well as from the Center for Native Ecosystems (CNE). CDOW provided data on wildlife habitat in the county, particularly those of big horn sheep, prairie dogs, and sage grouse. CNE provided data specifically regarding their Southern Rockies Wildlands Network (SRWN), whose aim is to “protect and rewild the regional landscape”. Its scope is approximately 63,654 square miles, and stretches roughly 500 miles from southern Wyoming to northern New Mexico.

CNE's vision proposes (1) to protect all remaining natural habitats, native species, and natural processes; and (2) to heal the region’s ecological wounds by developing and implementing a conservation vision for the region. The SRWN also proposes specific recommendations for particular types of ecologies they’ve identified throughout the ecoregion:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Core Agency | • Medium Use Compatible |
| • Core Wilderness | • Private/Tribal High Value |
| • Low Use Compatible | • Wildlife Linkage |



These ecology types are based on the scientific approach of rewilding, which recognizes the fundamental role of top-down regulation of ecosystems by large carnivores, and large carnivores' need for secure core habitats, largely roadless, and for habitat connectivity between core wild areas.

Huerfano County contains all types of the SRWN ecologies (see Appendix B: Existing Information) and is at a prime opportunistic stage to pursue these conservation priorities. According to SRWN's criteria the USFS and BLM lands offer excellent opportunities for core wild areas, compatible use lands, and ecological linkages due to their continuity throughout the county.

Infrastructure

The Colorado Division of Transportation (CDOT) provided datasets including airports, cities, local roads, county roads, highways, railroads, and other transportation routes.

Source:

Southern Sangre de Cristo: Preserving Agricultural and Natural Landscapes

<http://www.coloradoopenlands.org/site/ourWork/landProtection/southernSangre/index.php>





Existing Trails





Existing Trails

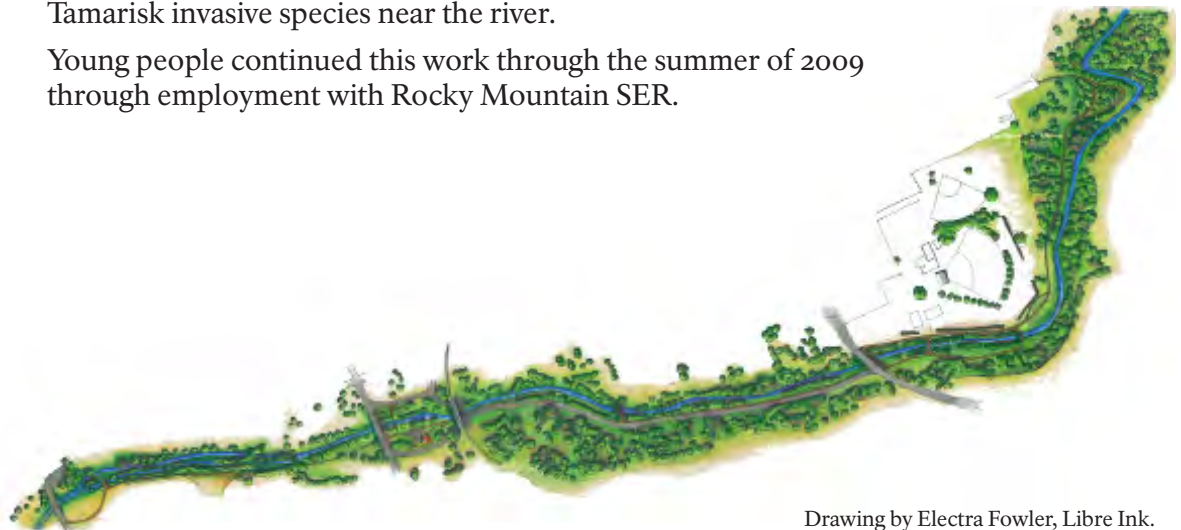
NPS GIS compiled information about existing trails in Huerfano County including trails at Lathrop State Park and local trails in and around Walsenburg.

Cucharas Riverwalk

The Cucharas Riverwalk is envisioned to offer Huerfano County residents and visitors a pleasant walk through picnic areas, amphitheater entertainment, and natural beauty. The trail will run just east of Fiesta Park along the Cucharas River to Bear Creek Road. This trail can be an integral piece of the county-wide trails network.

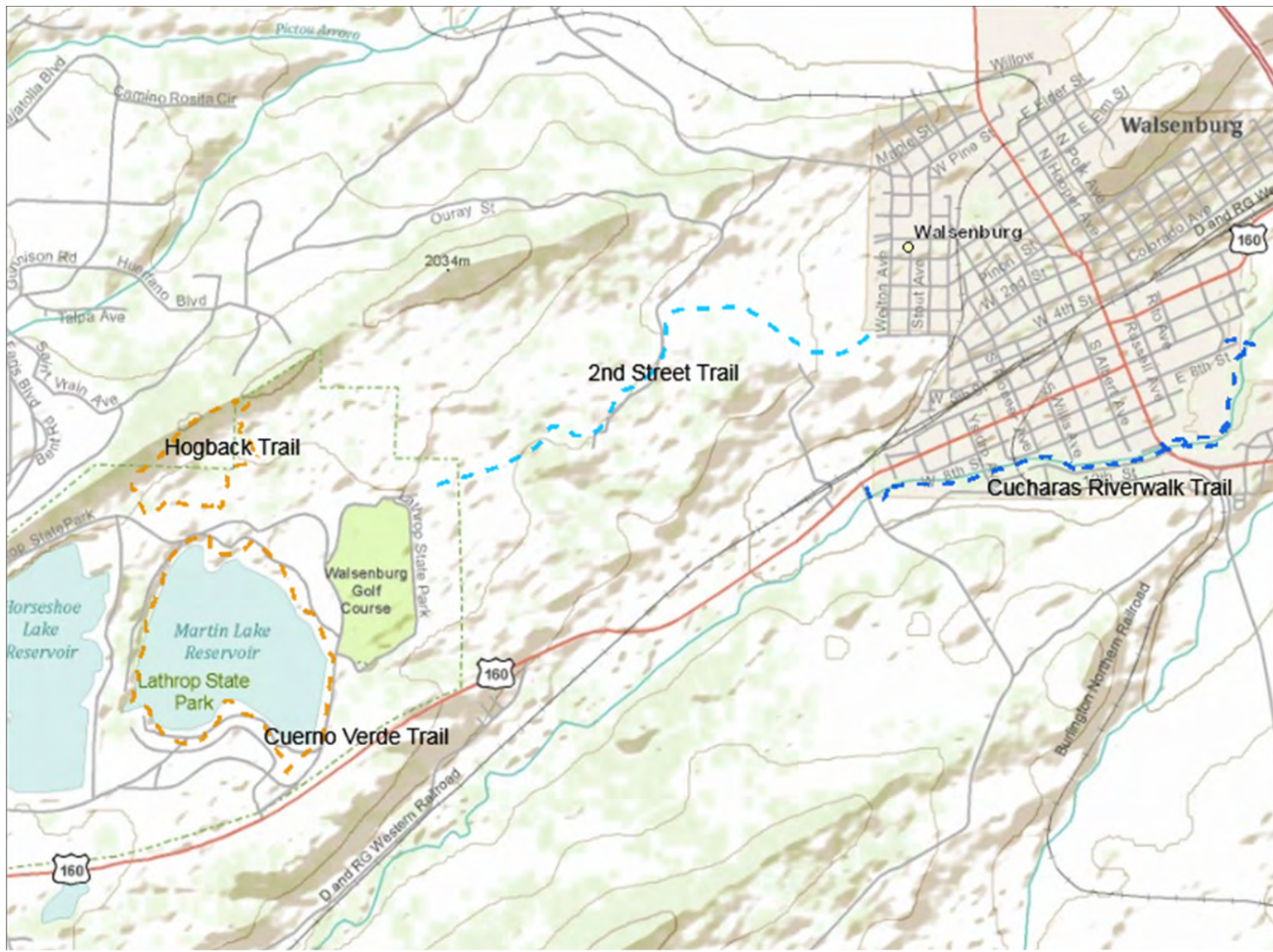
In April of 2009, more than 80 local youth joined Huerfano County, youth sports groups, the Department of Social Services, Parks & Trails Advisory group and the National Park Service to improve this trail - the first of many steps toward a transformed Cucharas River experience through Walsenburg. Youth and crew leaders worked to level more than 1000 feet of trail, build a rock wall to prevent trail erosion, clean up trash in Fiesta Park and eradicate the Russian Olive and Tamarisk invasive species near the river.

Young people continued this work through the summer of 2009 through employment with Rocky Mountain SER.



Drawing by Electra Fowler, Libre Ink.

Existing Trails: Walsenburg & Lathrop State Park



Legend

- Cities
- - - Cucharas River Trail
- - - 2nd Street Trail
- - - Lathrop State Park Trails



2nd Street Trail

The 2nd Street Trail connects the City of Walsenburg to the Walsenburg Golf Course & Lathrop State Park, serving pedestrian, bike, and equestrian users through both paved and unpaved sections of trail. The Veteran's Nursing home will link to the trail via a pedestrian bridge over Highway 160. The trail can serve as a test to see how well-used a trail is from a town to a destination. A volume counter will reside on the trail to track usage.

Other Local Trails & Park

- Lathrop State Park trails
- La Veta Town Park

Regional Trails

- Old Spanish National Historic Trail
- Colorado Front Range Trail

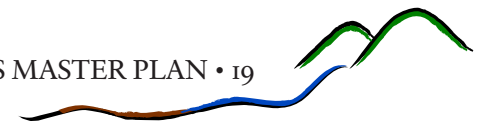
United States Forest Service Trails

- Greenhorn Wilderness
- Spanish Peaks Wilderness

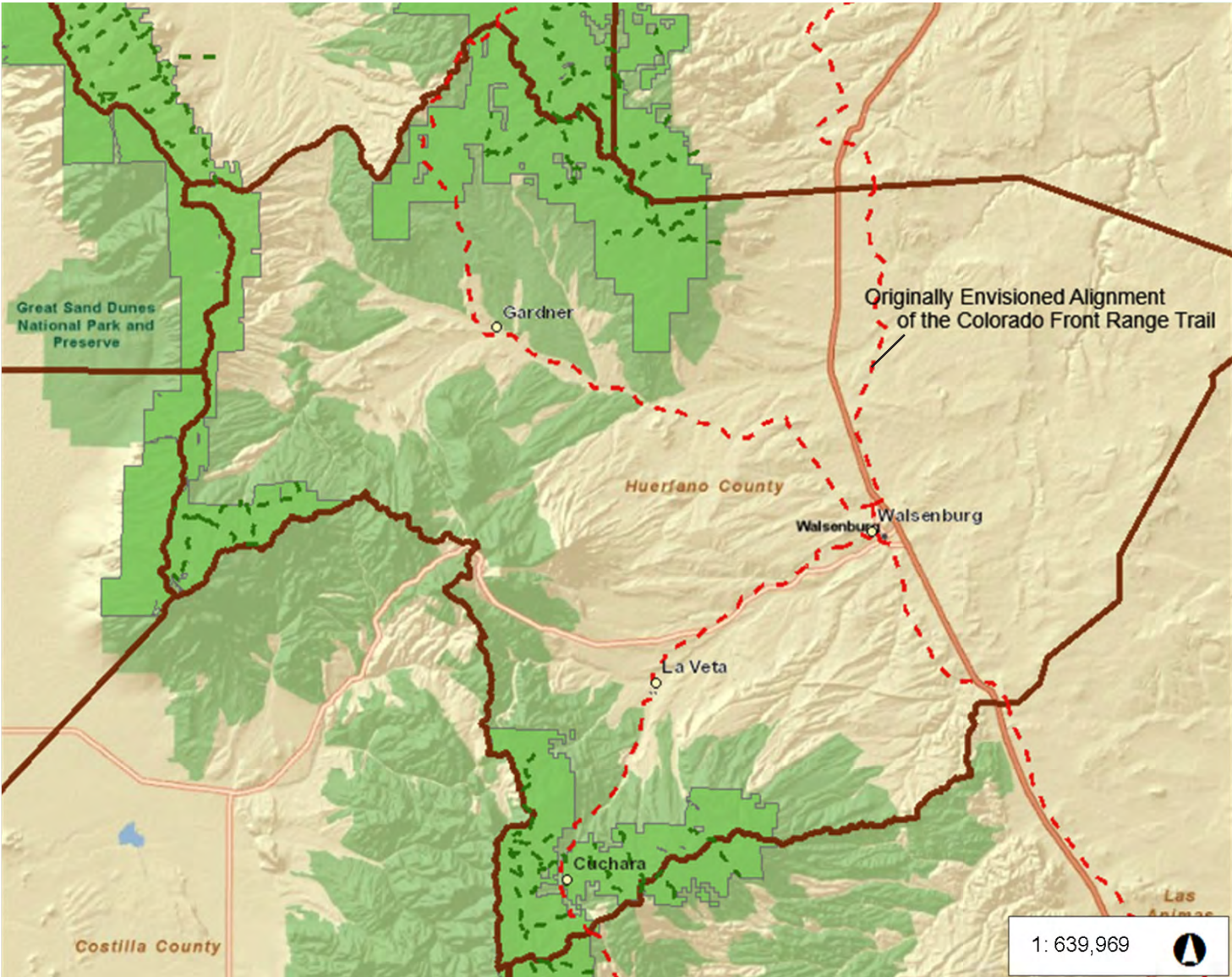
Community-identified Trails

The Working Group set up booths at the Black Diamond Jubilee in Walsenburg, Art in the Park in La Veta, and Hippy Days in Gardner in the summer of 2009 to collect community input from the three largest communities in Huerfano County. Residents provided information about where trails may currently exist and where they would like to travel via trails.

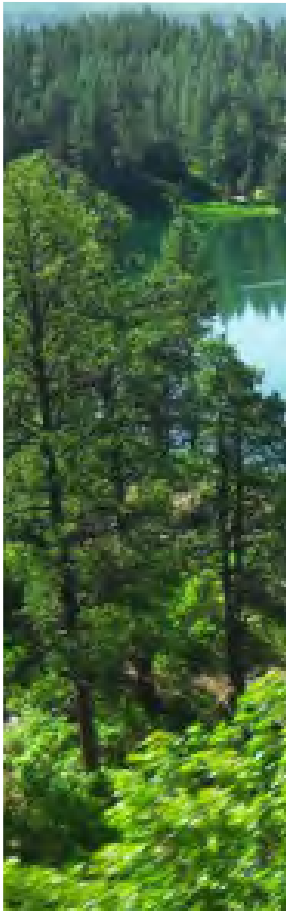
Existing Trails: La Veta Town Park & Colorado Front Range Trail



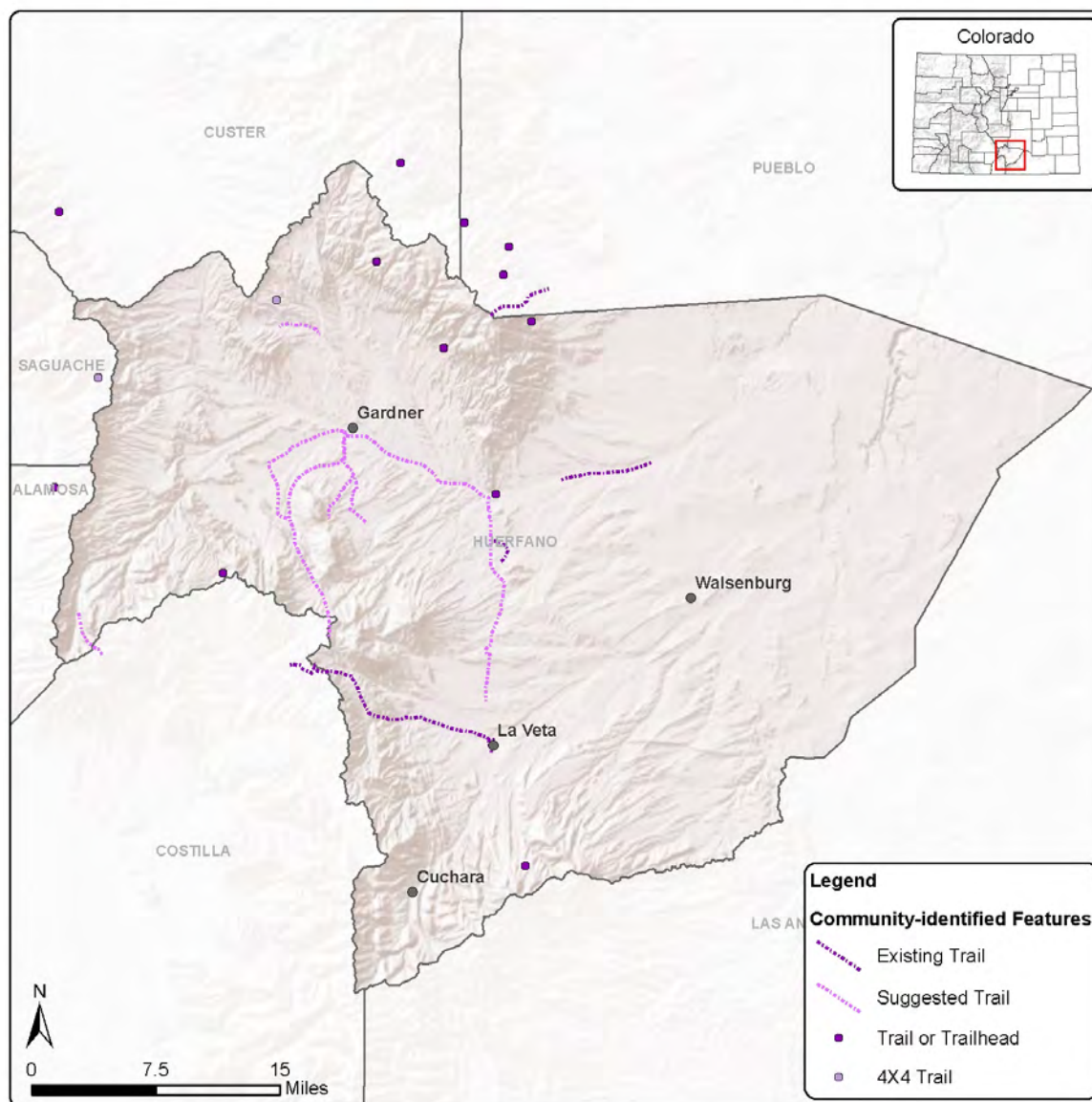
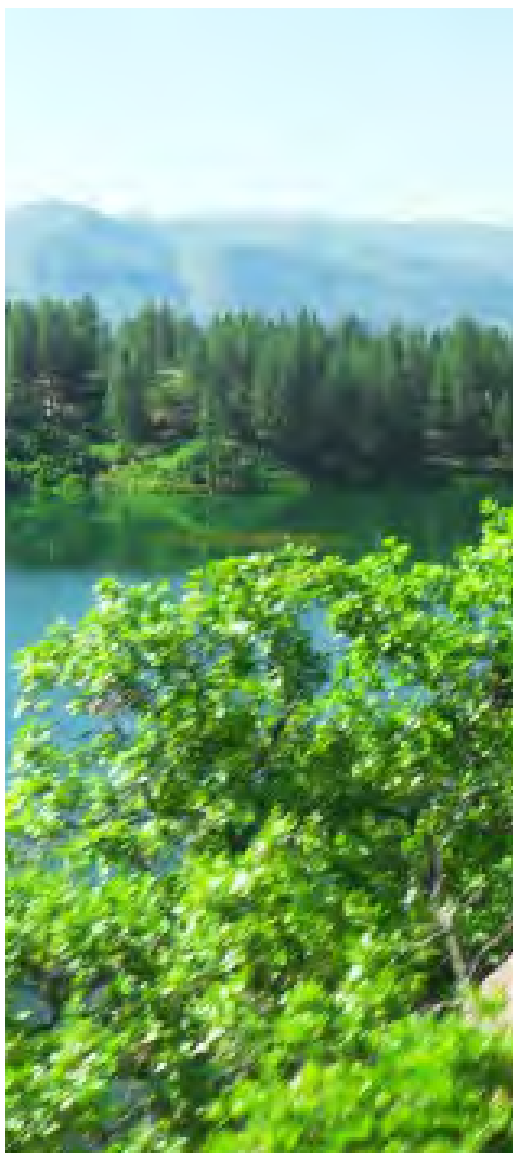
Existing Trails: Regional & US Forest Service Trails



- Legend**
- Cities
 - - - U.S. Forest Service Trails
 - - - Front Range Trail
 - Counties
 - USFS Surface Ownership



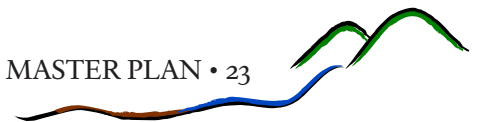
Existing Trails: Community-Identified





A landscape photograph showing a mountain range in the background under a cloudy sky. In the foreground, there is a field of dry grass and some trees. A solid green horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

Preferred Trail Alignments



Developing Trail Alignment Alternatives & Choosing Preferred Alignments

In April of 2010, Working Group members convened several other Huerfano County community members to develop draft trail alignment alternatives. This meeting consisted of people from Huerfano County, Lathrop State Park, the Huerfano World Journal, the Huerfano County Tourism Board, Huerfano County Parks & Recreation, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Department of Transportation, Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center, and the Huerfano County Historical Society.

Five groups were formed, each focusing on trail alignments in different areas of Huerfano County:

1. Walsenburg - Gardner
2. Gardner - La Veta
3. La Veta - Walsenburg
4. Colorado Front Range Trail
5. County-wide Trails

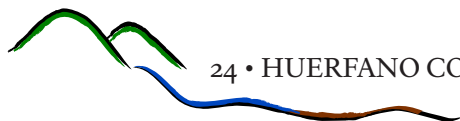
To guide the development of trail alignments, all groups were given three criteria that were inspired by the Working Group's goals as well as previous NPS RTCA trails projects. Each group developed trail alignments using three different maps, created by NPS GIS Specialists, showing specific information based on the trail alignment criteria:

- Topography
- Land Ownership
- Community Resources

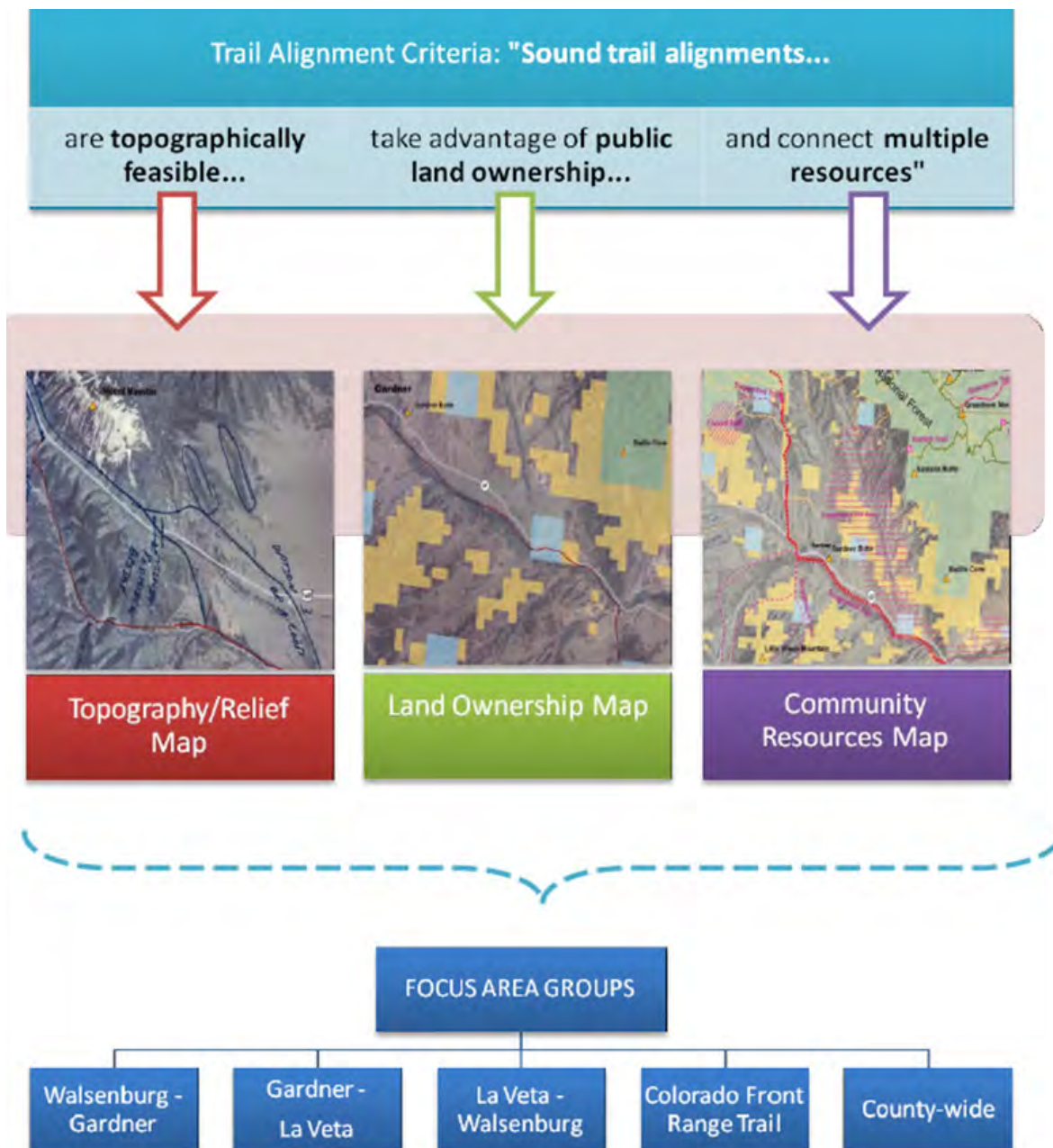
NPS GIS Specialists also had other maps available for the groups to reference:

- Infrastructure (county roads, railroad corridors, etc.)
- Land conservation priorities
- Wildlife
- Recreation (parks, trails, etc.)
- Utility corridors
- Highway of Legends scenic & historic resources

Nearly 20 trail options and alternatives were proposed by meeting participants, most of which used a composite of all three criteria as well as additional knowledge from group participants. The trail alignment alternatives are described in detail on the following pages.



Trail Alignment Criteria



La Veta to Gardner



This segment of proposed trail begins at the La Veta City Park and ends in downtown Gardner.

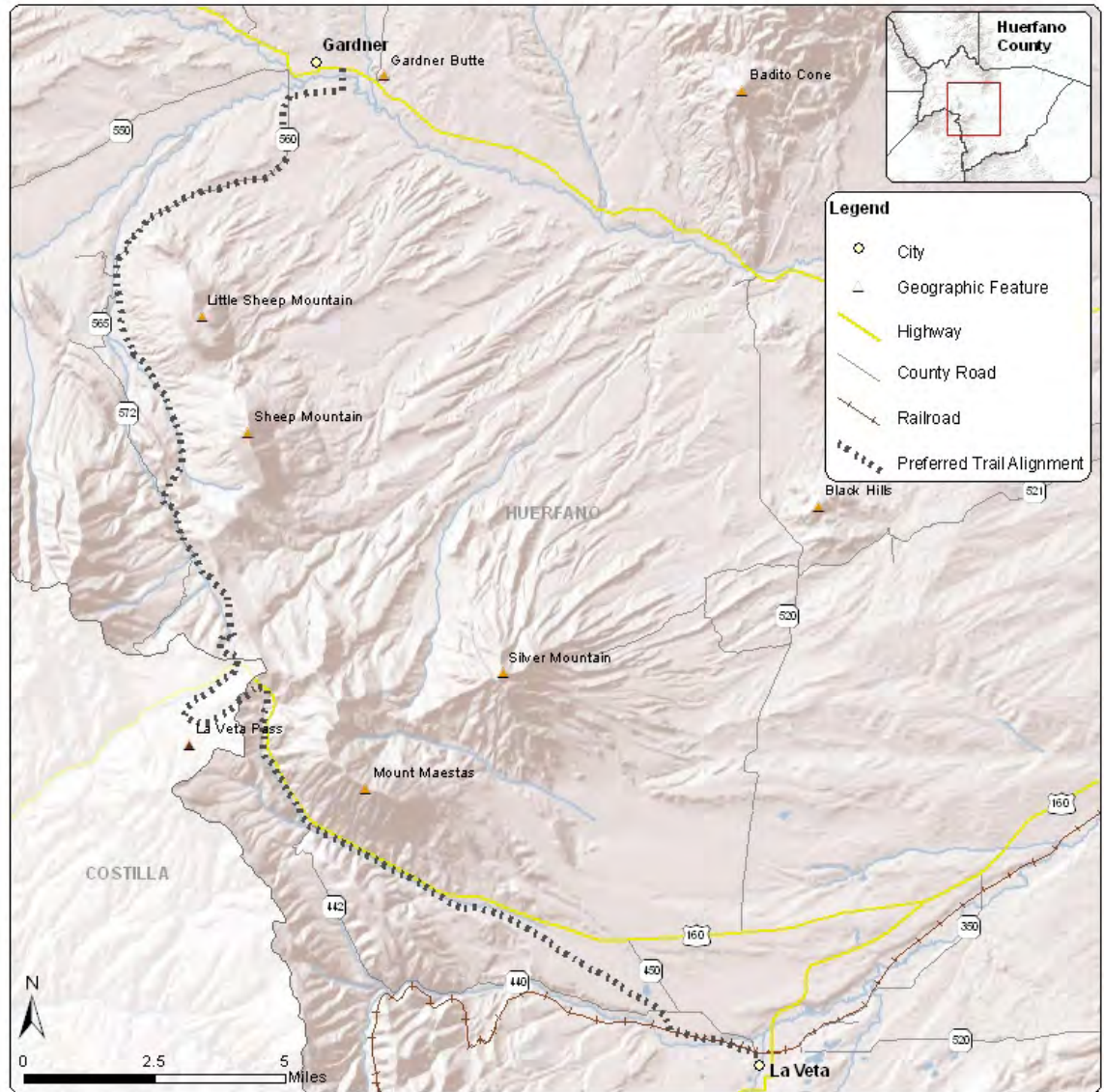
As the trail alignment exits La Veta City park, it continues west for 2 miles on County Road 450 then turns left on County Road 440 for ½ mile where it junctions onto the roadbed of an abandoned railroad. The trail then moves 3.5 miles northwest on an abandoned railroad roadbed where the roadbed melds on County Road 441 and continues on for 1 mile. The surrounding vegetation is farm and grass land with scattered bushes. There is a short section of paved road at the beginning of this trail and the balance is graveled. South of the trail are the Spanish Peaks and just ahead is Mt. Maestas, with Silver Mountain to the right. The mountains are huge igneous stocks that are enormous bubbles of lava that hardened before they broke through the overburden layers. They tend to erode into large shale chunks which make it difficult to ascend their slopes.



County Road 440 ends at US 160 and the trail follows abandoned roads that could be old US 450, and private roads that follow South Abeyta Creek below US 160 for 3 miles. 1/8 mile of the trail then crosses County Road 442. About a mile from this point, a trail user would find themselves in the impressive place of being so close to Mt. Maestas that a user may think the rocks could easily tumble down upon them. Most of the south slope is 35-50% grade. The trail sections along South Abeyta Creek contain shrubland, piñon, ponderosa pine, gamble oak, sumac and bushes with berries. Some road may be graveled or packed soil/rock from eroded debris, red beds and igneous, from higher terrain. Leaving CR 442, the trail continues 1.0 mile on abandoned roads that could be old US 450, and private roads, then reaches County Road 443 and continues 3/8 mile arriving at group of abandoned buildings that comprised Muleshoe. The buildings at Muleshoe consisted of a motel and restaurant. The trees in this area are subalpine fir, lodge pole pine and aspen with some grasses and wildflowers. The red soil is from the geological red beds layer and occasionally small igneous near US 160. Mt. Maestas continues to dominate the skyline.

The trail continues from Muleshoe northward on a jeep road and briefly onto an abandoned road that is very likely old US 450. After $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles, the trail arrives at a north/south fence. This is the county line between Huerfano County and Costilla County. Across the fence, into Costilla County, and following a clearing for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, the trail then heads in a westerly direction, while the jeep trail turning northward. The jeep trail curves for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile at which point a faint trail is visible coming in from the southwest.

That faint trail is the abandoned Old Spanish Trail discovered by Don Juan Bautista de Anza in 1779 after defeating Comanche Chief Cuerno Verde in a battle north of Greenhorn Mountain. Our preferred trail alignment now follows the Old Spanish Trail at this point. In $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the route turns northeast then curves northward to cross US 160 and eventually crosses the Huerfano County Line fence. It then curves northwesterly down a valley until arriving at a trail that goes northeast up a steep hill. The spur trail is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile round trip to the summit of Sangre de Cristo Pass, and igneous dike that was the initial discovery of Don Juan Bautista de Anza after his victory of Chief Cuerno Verde. The route in Costilla County is on deep rich soil outside the tree line due to the prevailing wind bringing in dust. The grass can be four feet high in some areas. Near the Huerfano County Line, the visible rock



Detailed versions of all of the maps in this document can be accessed from Huerfano County's website: <http://www.huerfano.us/>



is igneous that eroded from an igneous dike, and the fence line itself is the top of the dike. Every ridge that is visible west and north from the top of that dike is an igneous dike. Engelmann spruce is added to the woodland mix. All soil and foundation rock from this point to near the south of Little Sheep Mountain is igneous.

Returning to the main route, the trail continues down the jeep road $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles to the junction with Pass Creek Road. The trail follows Pass Creek $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to another jeep road that goes northeast up the slope of Sheep Mountain and follows the jeep road $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles until it junctions with County Road 562.

The trail traverses quarried gravel county roads from this point into Gardner, except for a short length of pavement in Gardner. The first county road traverses Sheep Mountain and then Little Sheep Mountain. These mountains are also enormous igneous stocks. Most of the roads are for the industrial structures to service the drilling and transporting of carbon dioxide.



The trail then travels County Road 562 for 3.0 miles, and then County Road 565 for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Then County Road 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, and then County Road 543 for $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile into Gardner and the last 100+ yards is Colorado Highway 69. South of the Little Sheep Mountain area, there is a transition into the montane forest that feature ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and juniper and then piñon and juniper as the land levels out. The floodplain is mostly gravels of granite gneiss and schist. The ridges you see nearby and west of Pass Creek Road are igneous dikes. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are visible south of the Crestone Range, Gardner Butte an igneous plug, and Greenhorn Mountain.





Gardner to Walsenburg

This trail begins in Walsenburg on the Cucharas River Trail. Beyond the Cucharas River Trail, there are several connections that start with a spur trail to Lathrop State Park, Cuerno Verde Trail, 2nd Street Trail, historic Meriam Lake Ditch, abandoned Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad roadbed, various paths and farm roads, and the Huerfano River floodplain. The trails are made up of silt, clay, and gravel accumulation washed in from higher terrain, with few exceptions. In this area, the woodlands are comprised of juniper, piñon, cottonwood, and various riparian brushes.

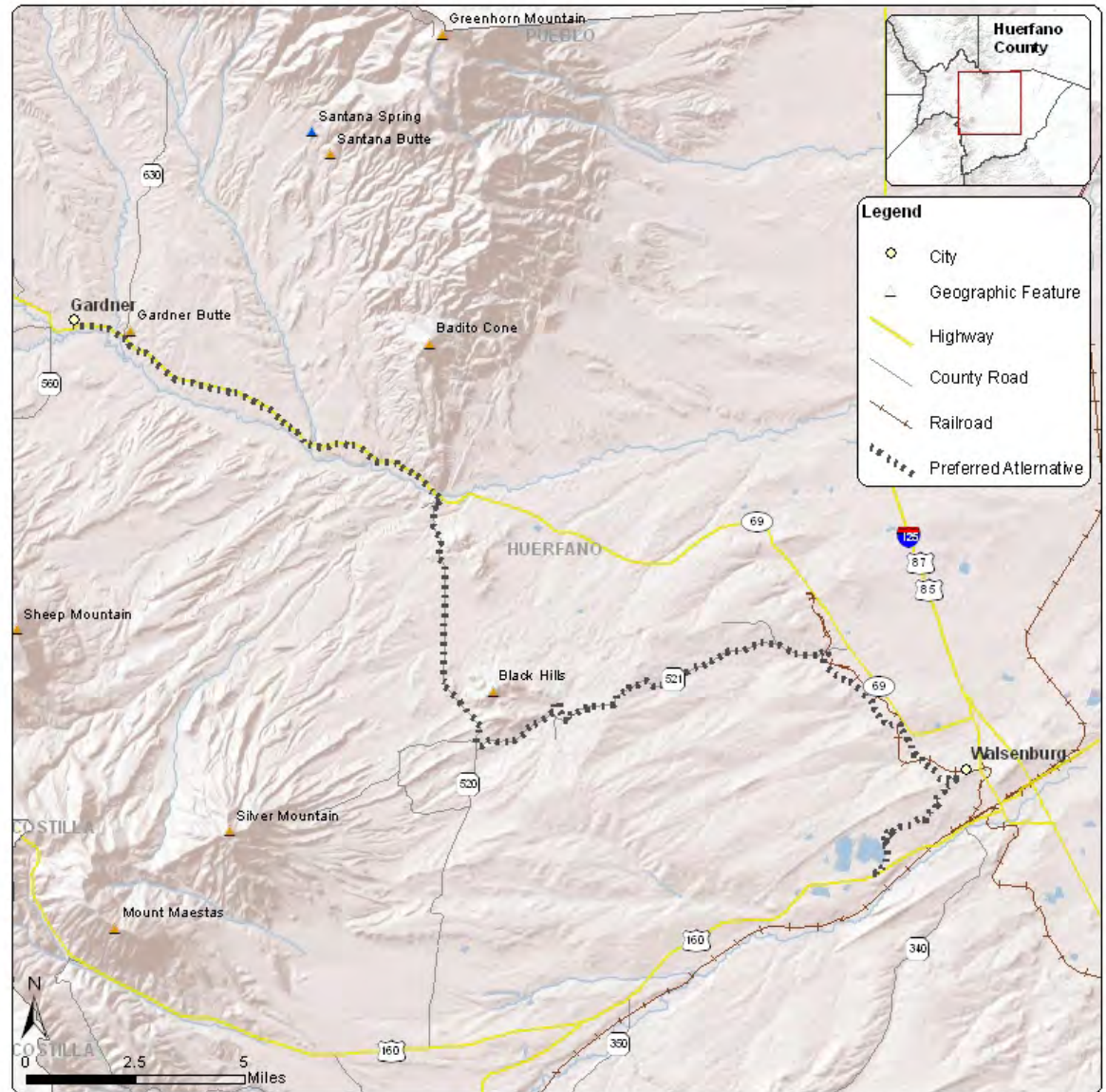
The route on the Cucharas River Trail runs 3 ½ miles through cottonwoods, juniper and piñon. The spur trail of ½ mile to Lathrop travels through juniper and piñon for the balance of the route. Once in Lathrop State Park, the trail continues eastward ¾ mile on the paved Cuerno Verde Trail. The trail then junctions onto a Lathrop State Park gravel trail for ½ mile to the 2nd Street Trail. This is the location of the local golf course. 1 ¼ miles farther down the trail is the historic Meriam Lake ditch. The ditch route continues 1 mile up and over the Hogback to the historic roadbed. The top of the Hogback offers a panoramic view to the surrounding mountains. To the eyes' delight, there are the East Spanish Peak and West Spanish Peak, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Mt. Maestas, Rough Mt. Silver Mt. Sheep Mountain, Little Sheep Mountain, Crestone Range of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain, Badito Cone, Greenhorn Mt., and Pikes Peak.

The abandoned Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad roadbed once carried coal trains to unload the tipples that are part of every mine along the rail line. A tippie is a structure that stores coal and is over or adjacent to the rail road track and dumps the coal in railcars for shipment to many destinations. Not much exists today except a few slag dumps, concrete foundations, and cut down steel girders.

Traveling 7 ¾ miles on the abandoned Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad roadbed provides an opportunity to absorb its history accompanied by the piñon and juniper trees on the nearby slopes and hills occasionally cut by arroyos. Coal miners in Huerfano County experienced a harsh and deadly life mining coal in the mines along the trail.



Leaving the abandoned roadbed, the route crosses Highway US 160 onto prairie where the route travels paths and farm roads 7 ½ miles to the abandoned village of Badito. The latter mile or two of this route follows the Huerfano River. Badito was the original incorporated county seat in Huerfano County. At Badito, the route follows the Huerfano River and floodplain paths for the remaining 8 ¾ miles to Gardner. The majority of this portion of the trail is in the riparian zone of cottonwood and various bushes and, occasionally, in farm field and on the prairie. Slopes and hills with piñon and juniper are to the south. To the west, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains south of the Crestone Mountains Range are visible. On Mosca Pass, below timberline, is a National Park trail that descends directly to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. This trail offers an unparalleled experience of the Huerfano River Basin.



Detailed versions of all of the maps in this document can be accessed from Huerfano County's website: <http://www.huerfano.us/>



Walsenburg to La Veta

This trail also begins on the Cucharas River Trail in Walsenburg and shortly junctions with the Bear Creek Road route that runs all the way to La Veta. The trail is made up of silt and clay accumulation washed in from higher terrain, except for some areas of gravel. The surrounding woodlands are comprised of juniper, piñon and occasional groves of scrub oak.

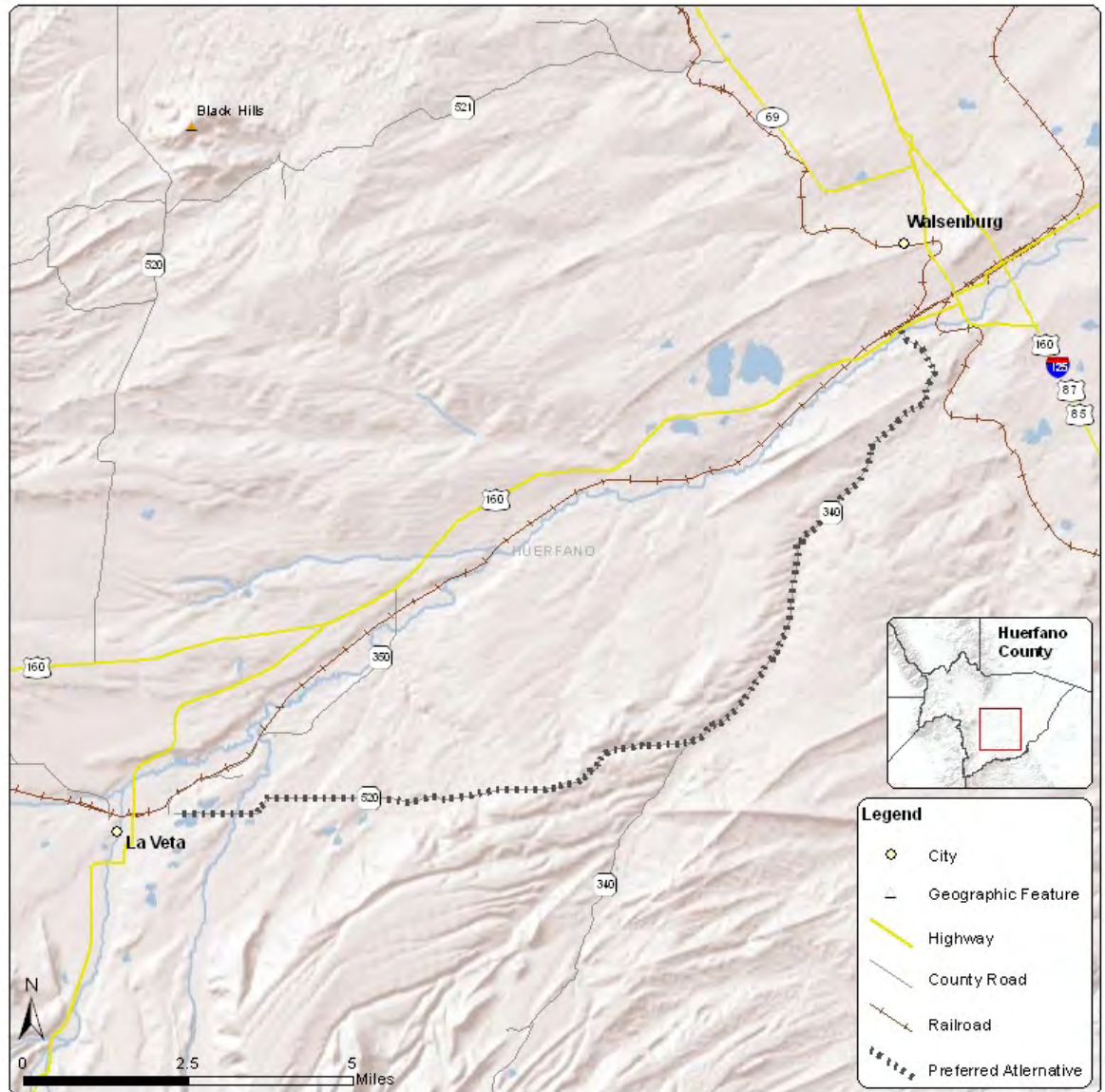
Along the Cucharas River, the trail runs 1 ¼ miles through cottonwoods, juniper and piñon until the junction with County Road 340 known as the Bear Creek Road. The Bear Creek Road route is also comprised of silt and clay accumulation washed in from higher terrain. ¾ mile up Bear Creek Road, is the abandoned coal mine and camp of Cameron. Bear Creek is 2 miles farther down the road where hikers can begin to see the East and West Spanish Peaks. Occasionally there are short sandstone cliffs and boulders to see along the route.

An igneous dike originating from the Spanish Peaks is seen a short distance to the southwest 3 miles later. Old abandoned houses and ranches are to be seen on either side of the route. 2 ¼ miles later, the trail follows a fork to the right which is County Road 358.

The route now begins ascending and 1 ½ miles later the East and West Spanish Peak and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains are visible to the southwest. Trinchera Peak is the highest. 1 mile farther, a spectacular view of several mountains emerges. The view begins intermittently three quarters of a mile back and the mountains can be seen panoramically from the west and circling to the east. They are the Blanca Massif, Mt. Maestas, Silver Mountain, the Crestone Range of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Badito Cone, Greenhorn Mountain, Pikes Peak, Almagre, Cheyenne Mt., and the igneous crags near Walsenburg. This is quite an expanse of high elevation mountains that contain 14,000 foot and igneous mountains. 1 ½ miles farther along the trail, a view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains extends south to the west edge of the Spanish Peaks.



2 ½ miles later, the trail arrives at flat ranch land and housing where more of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the East and West Spanish Peaks are visible. 1 ½ miles more brings a trail user to Daigre Reservoir to the north and ¼ mile more brings you to Wahatoya Lake Reservoir to the south. Here, the trail is in close proximity to La Veta and another mile of travel via Moore St. brings the trail to La Veta City Park.



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Wildlife





Wildlife

Huerfano County is fortunate to have an abundance of wildlife. Protection of wildlife is a concern when determining where trails should go. It is also an opportunity for people to view wildlife, to learn about species in this area and for potential habitat interpretation and preservation efforts. Each trail segment in this plan offers a unique wildlife experience. Those experiences are described on the following pages.

La Veta to Gardner

Of the three separate legs of the trail, this particular leg represents the most diversity in habitat types from start to finish. Our starting point, at the community of Gardner, begins the journey along a well known riparian area, the Huerfano River. Traveling south will take a trail user through pinion-juniper woodlands, montane forests, sub-alpine forests and montane shrublands before once again reaching other riparian areas and eventually the quaint community of La Veta.

Riparian areas are those lands that border bodies of water and can be found at any elevation. With an average of less than 16 inches of annual precipitation statewide, it is easy to recognize the significance of the riparian zones. These lands are the most vital of all the landscapes to wildlife and will hold a greater diversity of species than any other habitat type. This leg of the trail will give recreationalists opportunity to view several of these riparian areas including portions of the Huerfano River, Pass Creek, South Abeyta Creek, Middle Creek and the Cucharas River.

Wildlife species that one can expect to find in riparian areas are vast and start with the smallest animals in the food chain, macroinvertebrates. These are critters without backbones and may be aquatic-based like water gliders and some beetles, or more commonly known insects such as bees, mayflies and mosquitoes. Fish species such as brown, rainbow and brook trout will be present, as well as a few suckers and small minnows. Various reptiles and amphibians will be here including garter snakes, lizards, tiger salamanders, Western chorus frogs and possibly the northern leopard frog. Many avian species will likely be present during different times of the year. Birders may see warblers, blackbirds, fitches, flycatchers, woodpeckers,



an American dipper, ducks, geese, great blue herons, Cooper's hawks, American kestrels, great horned owls, Merriam's turkey and even the occasional golden or bald eagle. These are important areas for many mammals to feed and drink as well, such as various rodents, muskrat, beaver, bats, rabbits, raccoons, skunks, coyotes, red fox, bobcats, black bear, white-tailed deer, mule deer and even elk.

Pinon-juniper woodlands will be the next habitat type encountered after leaving the banks of the Huerfano River. Pinon-juniper woodlands lie in the transition zone between grasslands or shrublands and lower montane forest, at elevations from 5,000–7,000 feet. This ecosystem flaunts a variety of small trees including Gambel (scrub) oak, Douglas fir and mountain mahogany, but the predominant trees are the pinon pine. Pinon is more cold tolerant, and prevails at the higher, wetter elevations. The more drought-tolerant juniper is favored at lower, drier sites. While groundcover between trees in the pinon-juniper woodland is sparse, there are smatterings of grasses, shrubs and flowering plants.

Wildlife species that can be expected to be found in these pinon-juniper woodlands are numerous. Avian species such as pinon jays, canyon towhee, lark sparrow, common raven, great horned owl, red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, prairie falcons and American kestrels may be seen. The climate of the pinon-juniper woodland is still warm enough for reptiles. Two lizards that might be found here are the side-blotched lizard and the collared lizard. Other reptiles would include the striped whipsnake, bullsnake, red racer and the occasional western rattlesnake. Be on the lookout for an elusive mammal known as a ringtail cat. Other mammals include packrats, squirrels, rabbits, gray fox, coyotes, bobcats, black bear, mountain lions, pronghorn, mule deer and elk.

South of the Sheep Mountain area, there is a transition into the montane forest environment. Montane forests are found on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains at elevations between 5,500 and 9,000 feet. Not surprisingly, the major feature seen in the montane forest is trees! Ponderosa pines, Douglas firs and juniper will blend together. At higher elevations, lodgepole pine and spruce become more common. Other trees and shrubs in the montane forest include aspen, kinnikinnik, and mountain mahogany.





Montane forests are home to wildlife species including birds like the turkey vulture, dark-eyed junco, spotted towhee, rock wren, white-breasted nuthatch, Steller's jay, black-billed magpie, great horned owls, hummingbirds and chickadees. The Abert's squirrel is a mammal that makes his living almost solely on montane forests wherever ponderosa pines are found. Other mammals include bats, pine marten, porcupine, black bear, mule deer, elk and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

Nearing La Veta Pass and for a portion of the trail descent, a trail user will be in an area known as the sub-alpine forest. Subalpine forests begin at about 9,000 feet and spread upward to about 11,400 feet, where fierce, icy winds and shallow soils make tree survival impossible. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir dominate the subalpine forest. If an aspen grove or stand of lodgepole pines breaks the uniform pattern of green, this means there has been some disturbance in the area. Fire, forest thinning, avalanche, and other events open the forest and allow sunlight to sprout "early successional" pioneer plants such as aspen, grasses, and wildflowers. After the aspen and lodgepole have established a canopy, shade-loving spruce and fir re-emerge and eventually crowd them out.

Subalpine forests are a tangle of robust trees, old snags and downed logs. This particular mix of habitat in these old forests provides food and shelter for a wide variety of wildlife. Birds such as the Ruby-crowned kinglet, golden-crowned kinglet, mountain chickadees, dark-eyed juncos, pine grosbeaks, hummingbirds, Cassin's finches, red-breasted nuthatches, Western tanager, gray jays, Clark's nutcrackers, woodpeckers, dusky grouse, northern goshawks and ravens can all be found here. Mammals present include golden-mantled ground squirrels, chipmunks, yellow-bellied marmots, pine squirrels, snowshoe hares, ermine, short-tailed weasel, pine marten, bobcat, mountain lion, black bear, mule deer, elk and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

At the bottom of La Veta Pass the terrain quickly transitions into a habitat community known as a montane shrubland before reaching the town of La Veta. Montane shrublands represent a transitional zone between grasslands and montane forest. Usually found on dry, rocky foothill sites, montane shrublands have a mix of vegetation, from grasses to scattered pinon or ponderosa pine trees. Mountain

mahogany and Gambel oak are the most important plants in the montane shrubland, along with sumac and serviceberry, other deciduous shrubs whose leaves turn red and orange before being dropped, it adds to Colorado's beautiful fall color display. Wild gooseberries, raspberries, currants, and other fruit-bearing shrubs add to this ecosystem's reputation as a cornucopia for wildlife.

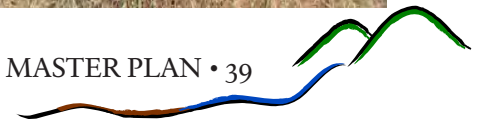
Wildlife that might be encountered here would again include avian species such as Steller's jay, scrub jays, indigo buntings, western tanagers, black-headed grosbeaks, spotted towhees, dusky flycatchers, Virginia warbler, black-billed magpies, common raven, great horned owl, red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks, sharp-shinned hawk, golden eagles and Merriam's turkey. Reptiles likely to be seen would be the eastern fence lizard, northern side-blotched lizard, bullsnakes, and western rattlesnakes. Mammals are numerous and include mice, squirrels, ground squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, skunks, cottontail rabbits, red fox, gray fox, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, black bear, mule deer and elk.

Gardner to Walsenburg

The final leg of this journey encompasses much of the same habitat types as the previous leg. The starting point is at the community of Walsenburg and the trail leads to the north and west. This area of travel would primarily be within the pinion-juniper woodland community again. Special attention should be paid to avoiding conflict with wildlife in the Black Hills region as this is a particularly important habitat area and even holds populations of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep during the winter months. Proceeding north from the Black Hills leads into a small portion of grassland once again until the Huerfano River is reached. The riparian Huerfano River corridor is followed west until trail users once again find themselves back at their original starting point of Gardner.

Similar to the trail between La Veta and Gardner, pinon-juniper woodlands will be the habitat type encountered north and west of Walsenburg, up to and including the Black Hills region.

In the area in between the Black Hills and an area known as Badito on Huerfano River to the north, lies a small portion of grassland. Grasslands containing historical mixes of native grasses are now rare in Colorado because of changes in land use, fire cycles,



and grazing patterns. Sod-forming grasses such as buffalo grass and our state grass, blue gramma, provide the foundation for grassland ecosystems. Deep vertical roots, along with a widespread network of fine lateral roots just below the surface help these grasses quickly absorb scarce rainwater. They reproduce by sending out shoots and runners above and below the ground. The result is a turf-like mat of vegetation ideal for grazing.

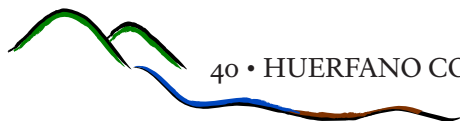
Wildlife you might discover in grasslands include numerous avian species including, but not limited to, our state bird the lark bunting, Western meadowlark, Swainson's hawk, red-tailed hawk, prairie falcon, and golden eagle. Reptiles include Texas horned lizard, eastern fence lizard, skunks, bullsnakes and western rattlesnakes. Mammals likely to be present are prairie dogs, thirteen-lined ground squirrels, white-tailed jackrabbit, badgers, swift fox, coyotes and pronghorn.

The portion of trail remaining will take you from Badito to Gardner, along the Huerfano River. We know this area to be a riparian area; those lands that border bodies of water and can be found at any elevation. With an average of less than 16 inches of annual precipitation statewide, it is easy to recognize the significance of the riparian zones. These lands are the most vital of all the landscapes to wildlife and will hold a greater diversity of species than any other habitat type.

Walsenburg to La Veta

Starting in the community of La Veta, the trail once again follows along a well known riparian area, the Cucharas River. Traveling east, a trail user will pass through a small portion of habitat not seen in other trail segments - grasslands. The trail then moves back into a riparian area before entering Walsenburg. If one were to complete the loop and proceed from Walsenburg back to La Veta, their travel would primarily be within the pinion-juniper woodland community.

Riparian areas are those lands that border bodies of water and can be found at any elevation. With an average of less than 16 inches of annual precipitation statewide, it is easy to recognize the significance of the riparian zones. These lands are the most vital of all the landscapes to wildlife and will hold a greater diversity of species than any other habitat type. This leg of the trail will give recreationalists an opportunity to view two different portions of a riparian area known as the Cucharas River.





Wildlife species that can be found in this riparian area are similar to those found in the riparian areas along these envisioned trail alignments.

In the area in between these two portions of riparian habitat, near River Ridge ranch, lies a small portion of grassland. Grasslands containing historical mixes of native grasses are now rare in Colorado because of changes in land use, fire cycles, and grazing patterns. Sod-forming grasses such as buffalo grass and our state grass, blue gramma, provide the foundation for grassland ecosystems. Deep vertical roots, along with a widespread network of fine lateral roots just below the surface help these grasses quickly absorb scarce rainwater. They reproduce by sending out shoots and runners above and below the ground. The result is a turf-like mat of vegetation ideal for grazing.

Grassland wildlife include numerous avian species such as our state bird the lark bunting, Western meadowlark, Swainson's hawk, red-tailed hawk, prairie falcon, and golden eagle. Reptiles include Texas horned lizard, eastern fence lizard, skunks, bullsnares and western rattlesnakes. Mammals likely to be present are prairie dogs, thirteen-lined ground squirrels, white-tailed jackrabbit, badgers, swift fox, coyotes and pronghorn.

Pinon-juniper woodlands will be the habitat type encountered if you proceed south out of Walsenburg, along the Bear Creek drainage, and then continuing west into La Veta.

Wildlife Protection Strategies for Trail Development

- Create opportunities for people to access public lands that may be landlocked or otherwise unavailable, for both consumptive and non-consumptive use.
- Create opportunities for people to access private lands for non-consumptive uses.
- Implement interpretive and educational signage in designated areas to create awareness of wildlife.
- Coordinate a strategy with CDOT to minimize loss of wildlife and animal vehicle collisions along State Highway 160, in the area of mile markers 284-288, such as a wildlife/pedestrian overpass.
- Keep as many trails out of riparian areas, and other high use areas, as possible to minimize conflict with wildlife.
- Keep as many trails away from dike walls and Silver Mountain as possible to minimize conflict with bighorn sheep.







Trail Alignment Alternatives



Trail Alignment Alternatives

While the trails working group has identified preferred trail alignments, many alignments were considered in the process. If for any reason, the preferred alignment is not buildable, these alternatives are suggested:



La Veta to Gardner

Those in the La Veta to Gardner group agreed that most of the trails in this corridor should be either foot or horseback only and non-motorized unless they are already designated as a motorized trail. This would benefit wildlife in the area because they wouldn't have a constant disturbance of noise. Usually motorized trails attract more traffic from dirt bikes and ATV users and different user groups. Any negative impacts should be minimized and mitigated.

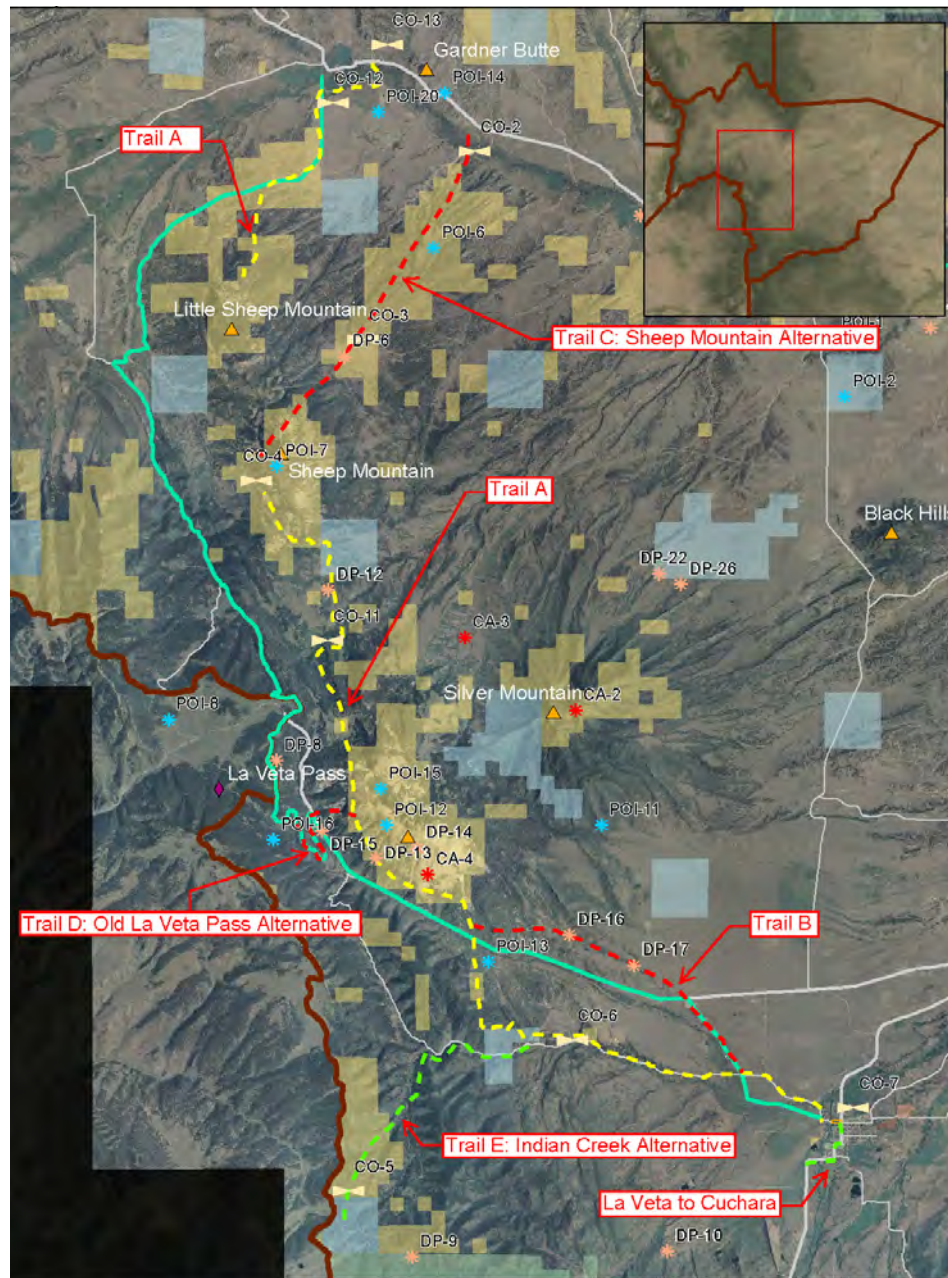
Trail A

- Alignment description: Follows a county road west from La Veta, connecting with the existing Rail Road/Middle Creek Trail, and eventually crossing Highway 160 via a wildlife & pedestrian bridge. Traveling mostly within BLM & State Trust land, the trail travels north, consistently following a low elevation of the mountains. Crosses the Huerfano River, and follows a county road directly into Gardner
- Users: non-motorized, foot & horseback
- Benefits: High use of public lands (BLM & State Trust), reduction in road kills, wildlife viewing, scenic views of dike walls
- Potential setbacks: wildlife conflicts, private property issues, private road access issues

Trail B

- Alignment description: Taking Trail A west of La Veta, the trail turns right at a fork in the county road, heads northwest to cross Highway 160, travels through the Tres Valles subdivision, and connects once more with the Primary Trail
- Users: non-motorized, foot & horseback
- Benefits: Takes trail users closer to views of the dike walls, connects to and creates a loop option with the Trail A.

Trail Alternatives: La Veta to Gardner



Detailed high-resolution interactive maps can be accessed through Huerfano County's website: <http://www.huerfano.us/>

Trail C: Sheep Mountain Alternative

- Alignment description: Connecting with Trail A in BLM land southwest of Sheep Mountain, the trail travels northeast through a long stretch of BLM land all the way to the Huerfano River, and possibly to the proposed Colorado Front Range Trail.
- Users: non-motorized, foot & horseback
- Benefits: High level of connectivity: connects to and creates a loop option with Trail A, leads into Huerfano River, possible connection to the Colorado Front Range Trail. Could serve as an alternative route in the case that easements cannot be attained for the Primary Trail.

Trail D: Old La Veta Pass Alternative

- Alignment description: Connecting with Trail A in BLM land west of Mount Maestas, this trail crosses Highway 160 then goes around a little pinhole switchback called Old La Veta Pass. Historical buildings and sites can be accessed at Old La Veta Pass.
- Dead end option: trail stays in Huerfano County
- Continuing option: trail continues on through Costilla County and over to Pass Creek
- Users: non-motorized, foot & horseback
- Benefits: incorporates historically significant sites & landmarks in Old La Veta Pass, connects to Trail A option
- Potential setbacks: challenges in trail alignments residing in Costilla County



Trail E: Indian Creek Alternative

- Alignment description: Heading south out of La Veta, the trail would travel past Grandote Golf Course, up Highway 12 for approximately 1-2 miles, then onto a county road/U.S. Forest Service road and lead to Indian Creek drainage, Fountain/Middle Creek State Trust land, Forbes Park and the Costilla County line. The trail then connects with an existing USFS trail, follows a ridge line down to the Trail A/Middle Creek Trail option described in the La Veta to Gardner map.
- Users: non-motorized, foot & horseback
- Benefits: High use of public lands (USFS & State Trust), possible loop option connecting La Veta to Indian Creek to Middle Creek Trail

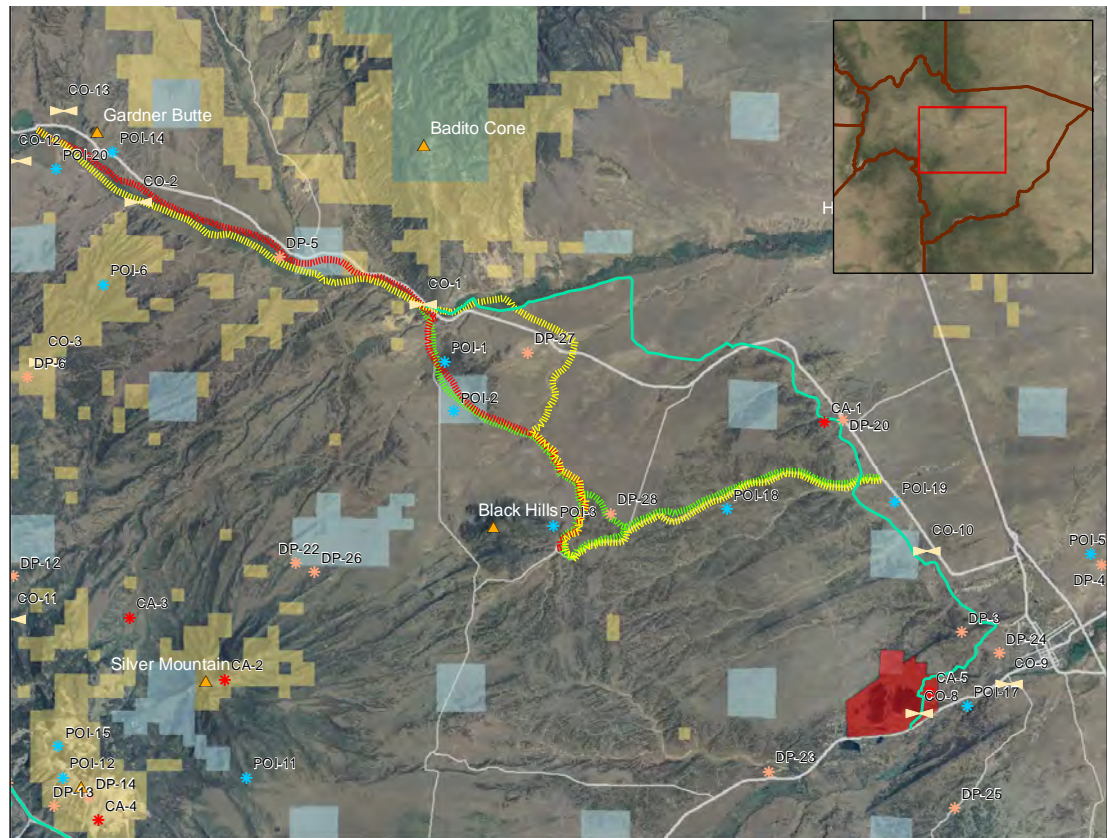




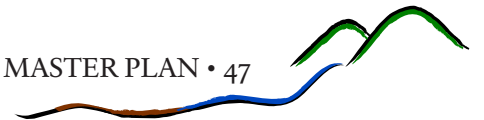
Gardner to Walsenburg

The Gardner to Walsenburg trail mostly follows Highway 69, which has several coal mines along its corridor. Traveling west past the coal mines and old rail bed, the trail continues to Gardner following the Huerfano River.

- Benefits: strong historical connection - potential to pass by coal mines in the area, connection to the older 17th century Spanish trails, no technical or obvious hazards



Detailed high-resolution interactive maps can be accessed through Huerfano County's website: <http://www.huerfano.us/>





Walsenburg to La Veta

This group had an interest in the original 1870s railroad that was punched in to Walsenburg to take care of the coal mining industry. The train track used to run due south approximately 5 miles east of Walsenburg and straight down into Trinidad. The line was then cut in to reach the coal mines. The old rail bed is still visible as one gets closer to Walsenburg and other viewing opportunities may still exist along this trail alignment.

Trail A

- Alignment description: runs within the Rio Grande Scenic & Burlington Northern railroad easements from Walsenburg to La Veta
- Benefits: Fairly flat & more accessible to more people - possibility of creating a handicap accessible trail, scenic: views of the Cucharas river & canyon, the Spanish Peaks, the Sangre de Cristos, Mount Maestas, and Sheep Mountain, many wildlife opportunities, trail passes by coal camps, Highway 160 out of sight due to lower elevation of trail, may be easier to get trail on the ground because of the existing easement (Rio Grande seems agreeable; may need to negotiate with Burlington Northern (but may not be a problem)
- Potential setbacks: adjacent land owners may object

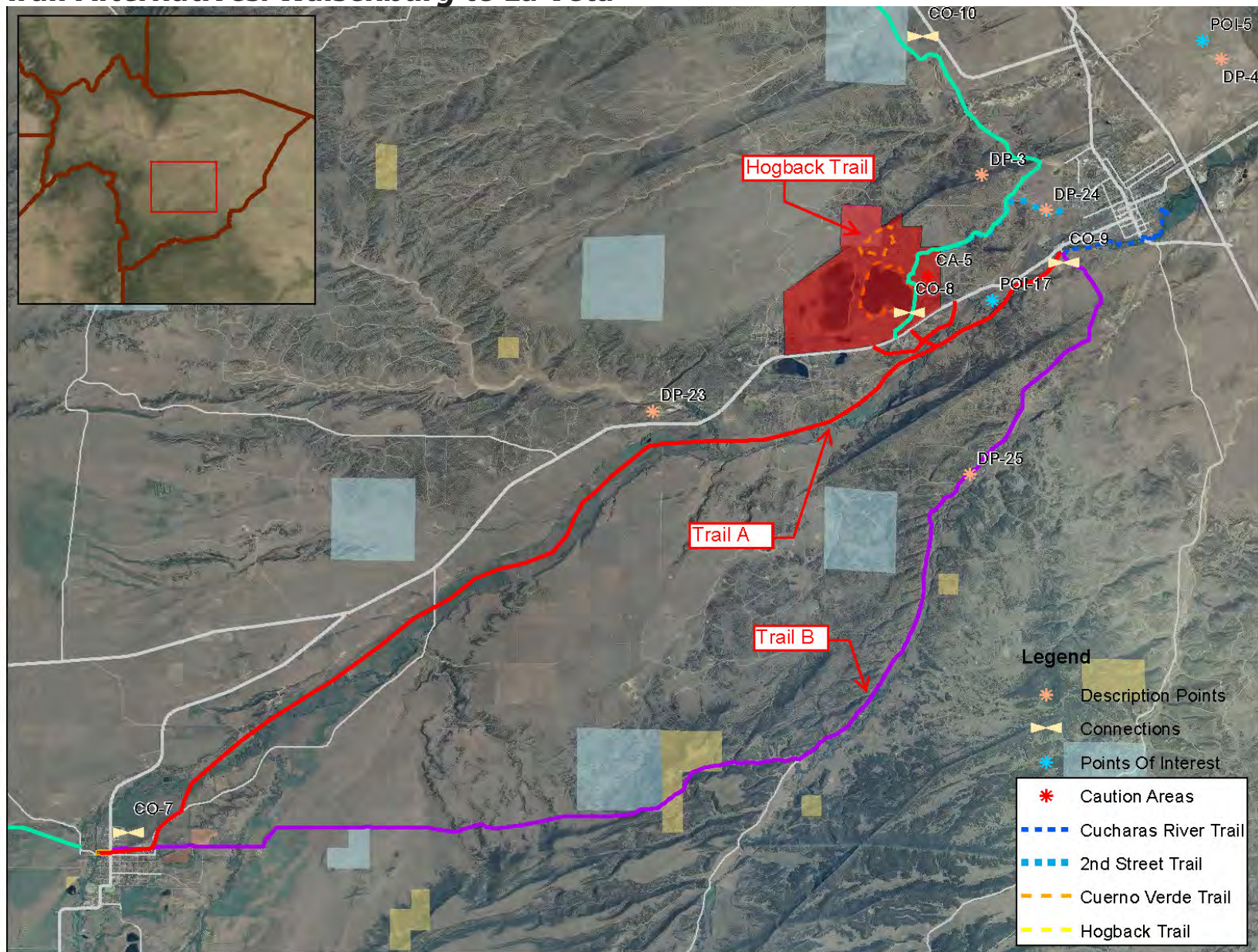
Trail B

- Alignment description: Follows Bear Creek Road, more difficult than Trail A, some rigorous climbs reach a high elevation
- Surface Type: Road base of Bear Creek Road
- Benefits: scenic views of beautiful country: trail runs up to some of the dike walls that come off of the Spanish Peaks, Cucharas River

Hogback Trail

- Lathrop State Park may be installing mountain bike trails of varying degrees of difficulty that crosses over the hogback within public land (the little blue square).

Trail Alternatives: Walsenburg to La Veta



Detailed high-resolution interactive maps can be accessed through Huerfano County's website: <http://www.huerfano.us/>

County-wide Trails

The Ridge Trail: Greenhorn & Badito

- Alignment description: a rugged trail sharing a trail head with the Badito Trail. This may be an existing trail.
- Users: foot only
- Potential setbacks: If the trail does not currently exist, private property issues may arise when trying to re-create the trail.
- Apishipa Trail
- Potential to connect to Cucharas Canyon by traveling down Highway 10 and arriving at existing trail head

Mining Camp Trail

- Alignment description: The main trail would follow Highway 69 through Walsenburg and south to Rouse Road.
- Benefits: Visitors can view the remnants & foundations of the mining camps. Trail heads could include kiosks or placards with photos, descriptions, and significant events of the mining camps.

Lovers' Leap Trail

- Alignment description: an out-and-back trail that follows Wahatoya Canyon
- Users: mountain bike, foot

Old La Veta Pass to Ft. Garland

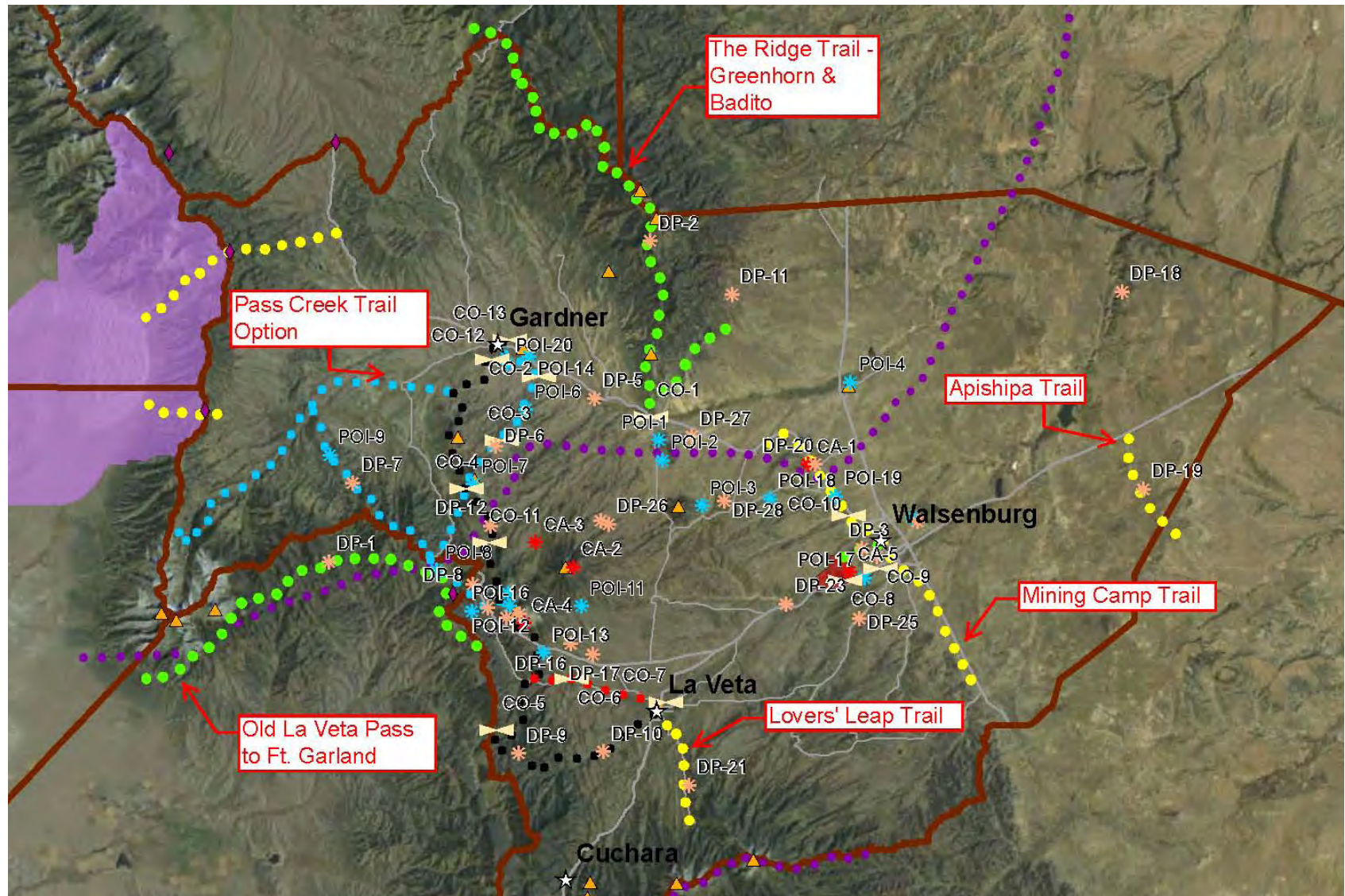
- Alignment description: see map
- Users: bicycle, mountain bike, equestrian
- Potential setbacks: Railroad right-of-way is very tight

Pass Creek Trail Option

- Alignment description: from La Veta Pass, through Pass Creek and then connecting to different trails that already exist near Manzanares Creek & the Huerfano State Wildlife Area. The trail will continue on to Lily Lake and connect with a network of existing trails in the Red Wing area.
- Users: non-motorized, foot & horseback
- Benefits: a single trail that connects so many important parts of the county



Trail Alternatives: County-wide



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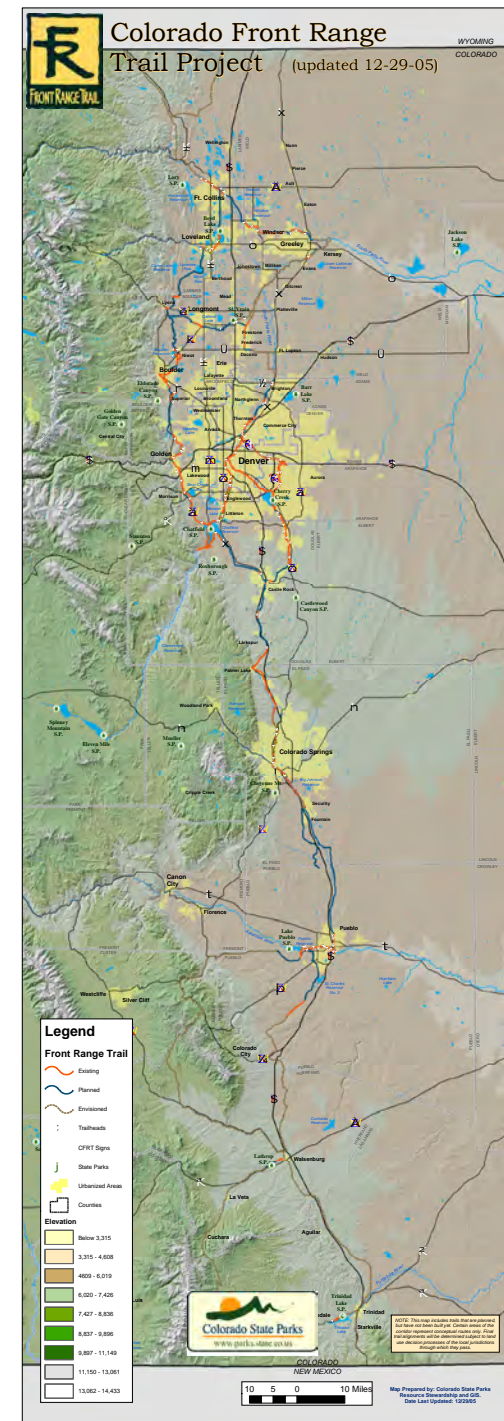
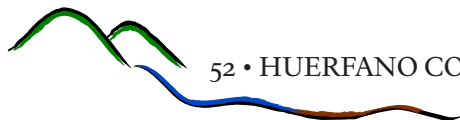


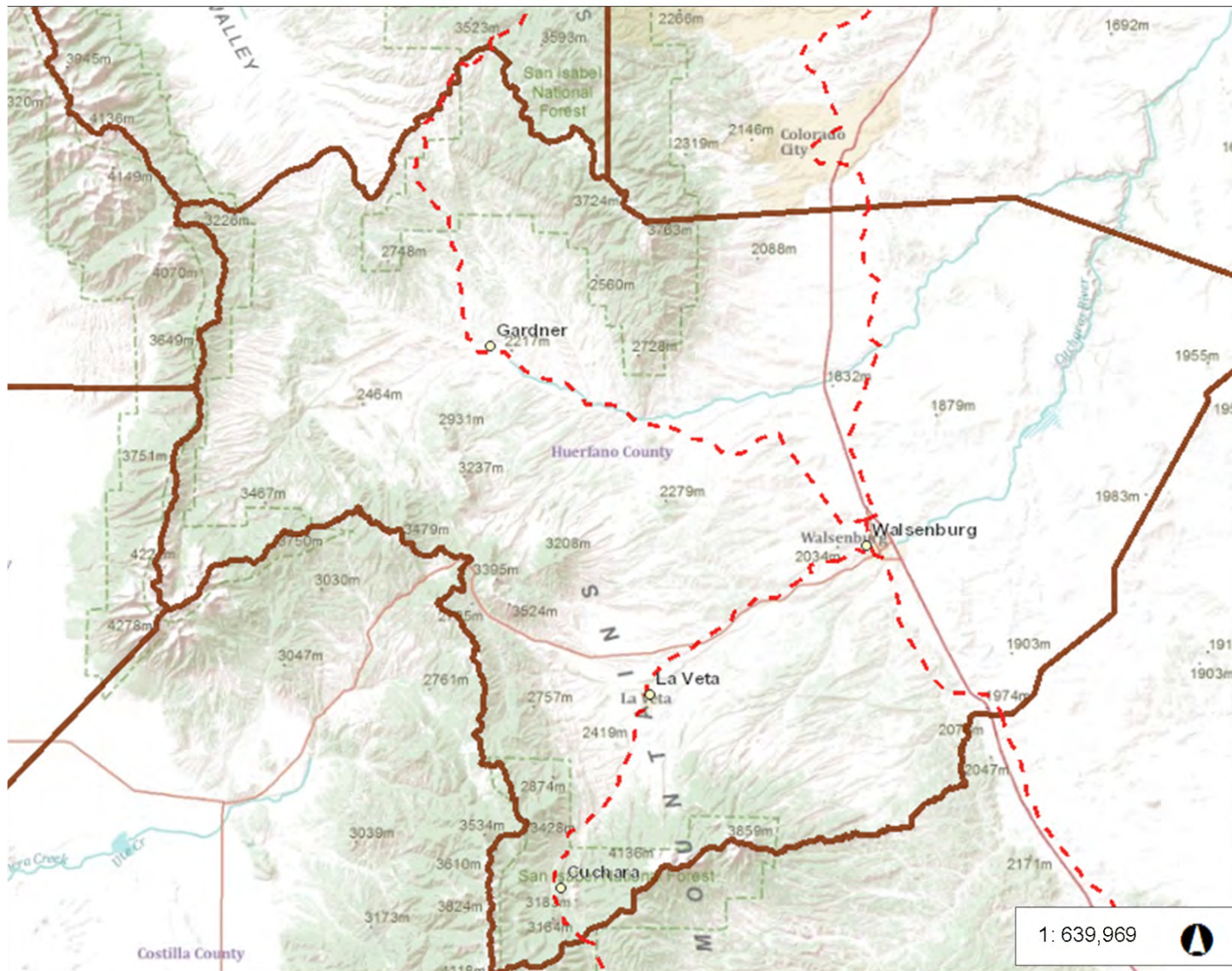
Colorado Front Range Trail

The Colorado Front Range Trail is a Colorado State Parks effort to collaborate with communities to create a multi-purpose trail from Wyoming to New Mexico along Colorado's Front Range. The envisioned Colorado Front Range Trail enters Huerfano County from the north in 2 places, then converges in Walsenburg and from there diverges again and exits the county in 2 places. Although Colorado State Parks is leading the effort and has developed the conceptual trail alignment, it is the responsibility of each county or community affected by the CFRT to determine the exact alignment of the trail in their area. In planning the Huerfano County trails system, the working group determined that the best location of the CFRT in Huerfano County corresponds with the Preferred Trail Alignments that have been identified in this plan between Gardner and Walsenburg and between Walsenburg and La Veta. The exact alignment of the eastern portions of the CFRT in Huerfano County have yet to be determined.

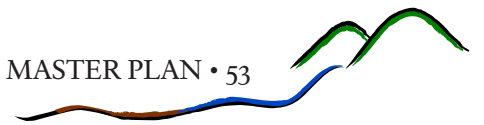
La Veta to Cuchara

- **Alignment description:** Heading south out of La Veta, the trail would travel past Grandote Golf Course, up Highway 12 for approximately 1-2 miles, then onto a county road/U.S. Forest Service road and lead to Goemmer's Buttes & the Indian Creek drainage. Visitors can link into a network of U.S. Forest Service trails that lead to Bonnet Creek, Cuchara, Bear & Blue Lakes, Trinchera Peak, and even into the North Fork of the Purgatoire in Las Animas County.
- **Users:** non-motorized, foot & horseback
- **Benefits:** Numerous destinations, connections to existing trails on U.S. Forest Service land, high use of public lands (USFS, State Trust), possible connection to Colorado Front Range Trail





Detailed high-resolution interactive maps can be accessed through Huerfano County's website: <http://www.huerfano.us/>







Future Possibilities



County-Wide Priorities for the Future

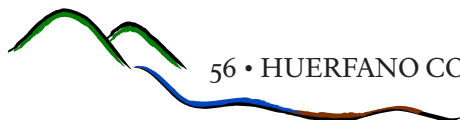
Community Priorities

Given the trail alignment options outlined in this document, it was important to the working group to determine which of the preferred trail alignment possibilities to focus on first. To answer this question, a community survey was conducted asking people to help prioritize trail improvements. The following options were presented for consideration:

1. Cucharas River Trail – will run just east of Fiesta Park in Walsenburg along the Cucharas River to Walsenburg Wild Waters. This trail will offer Huerfano County residents & visitors a pleasant walk through picnic areas, amphitheater entertainment, and natural beauty.
2. Fitness Trail – within Fiesta Park
3. 2nd Street Trail - the 2nd Street Trail connects the City of Walsenburg to the Walsenburg Golf Course & Lathrop State Park, serving pedestrian, bike, and equestrian users through both paved and unpaved trail.
4. Lathrop to Walsenburg (Hwy 160) – this trail will travel from the Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center to Walsenburg Wild Waters.
5. Walsenburg to La Veta trail – easy to moderate hiking & biking trail along Bear Creek Road. Trail users will enjoy scenic views of the dike walls near the Spanish Peaks, the Cucharas River, and beautiful scenery.
6. Hwy 160 Overpass and Scenic Overlook – a pedestrian bridge over Highway 160 will connect the Veterans' Hospital to Lathrop State Park.
7. La Veta to Gardner – moderate to difficult hiking & backpacking trail using mostly public lands.
8. Walsenburg to Gardner – this trail mostly follows Highway 69. Traveling west past the coal mines and old rail bed, the trail continues to Gardner following the Huerfano River.
9. La Veta to Cuchara – this trail would be created by widening Hwy 12 to include a bike lane.
10. ATV Trails on the west side of the Greenhorn
11. Improved Trailheads for existing hiking and wilderness trails
12. Improved Trail Signage on existing trails.
13. Continue Rainbow Trail through Huerfano County

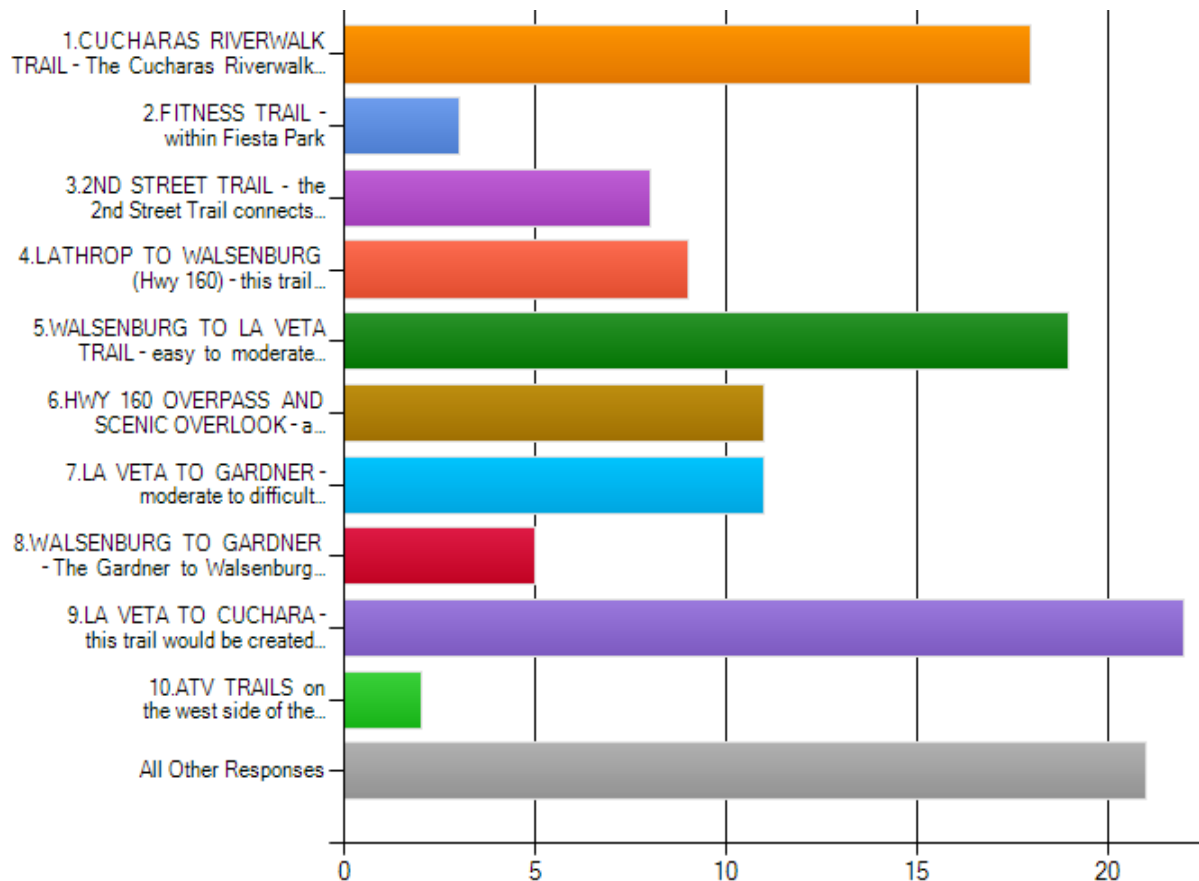
Priorities from the Working Group

- Connect Walsenburg to both La Veta and Gardner via the Colorado Front Range Trail (CFRT), which already proposes that the towns be connected via trail.
- Direct trail users to the trail locations that are most appropriate for their use
- Create maps and brochures for the public
- Locate trails for tourism enhancements
- Develop a list of priorities for capital improvements



The survey was disseminated electronically through e-mail lists and paper copies were placed in public offices and other locations. 33 total responses were collected between August 4, 2011 and September 13, 2011. Results indicate that the respondents would like the County to first consider improving or building:

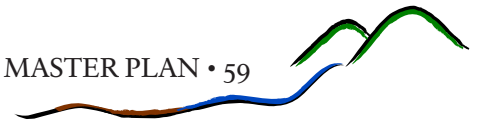
1. trail between La Veta and Cuchara
2. trail between Walsenburg and La Veta
3. the Cucharas Riverwalk trail in Walsenburg







Implementation



Implementation

This plan calls for the creation or expansion of many miles of trails as well as trail amenities. This work will occur over a 15 to 25 year period or longer, beginning in 2012, and will involve a number of partners and stakeholders taking advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. This shall include requiring building trails in new developments, mining reclamation, and highway improvements.

Realization of this plan will require:

- Sustained involvement of project partners and community leadership to champion the plan.
- Understanding the cost implications of the plan—both capital and maintenance.
- Securing necessary land and interconnected right-of-way for trails, related corridors and trailheads.
- Identifying specific financing tools, funding sources and partners to help implement the plan.
- Building and maintaining strong long-term community support for the plan.
- Coordinating with surrounding communities and partners including the Colorado Front Range Trail Development Council.

Cost projections for implementation of trails and trailheads, as well as operation and maintenance, can be found in the Colorado Front Range Trail Comprehensive Implementation Plan at: <http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/ColoradoFrontRangeTrail/ImplementationPlan/>

Consideration of This Plan in County Planning Decisions

Huerfano County can facilitate the implementation of this plan by referring to it when making other planning decisions.

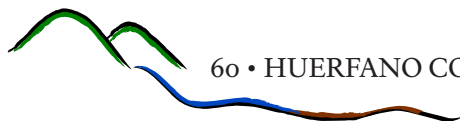
When making decisions regarding road maintenance and improvements, the County should consider:

- right-of-way acquisition, when appropriate, in order to accommodate potential trails in the road right-of-way.
- width, shoulder stability and surface types to accommodate trail users
- amenities for trails including restrooms, trailheads, storm shelters, lighting and signage

In subdivision planning, change in land use permitting, or conditional use permitting in the County, negotiation for additional right-of-way for trail development should be part of the process.

Leadership to Champion the Plan

The continued commitment of Huerfano County government will be vital to the success of this plan. This means sustained leadership by staff, elected officials and community members. Because staff changes over time and some elements of this plan could take 15-25 years to complete, the working group recommends that communities individually adopt this plan and incorporate it into



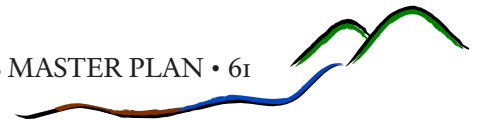
future planning and development. The working group also recommends that:

- The Working Group should continue to meet quarterly to strategize and to oversee this effort addressing such issues as acquisition of right-of-way, volunteer projects, fundraising, design, construction, and maintenance of facilities.
- The County should regularly review its development regulation ordinances including subdivision, storm drainage, and utility policies to ensure they are in conformance with, and supportive of, the plan.
- Communities should work individually and as a group to garner resources and funds for trail development including grant writing, a collaborative financial strategy and partnership building.
- Expand and maintain effective partnerships among agencies, jurisdictions and stakeholders. This will help optimize funds and resources, strengthening the position of all the partners in securing grants, and promoting policies and programs that support the plan. Coordination will also help promote an integrated system of trails, parks and open space corridors that transcend jurisdictional lines.
- Citizen advocacy to champion the plan— identify community leaders and groups willing to step forward and champion this plan. Sub-committees chaired by dedicated individuals should also be created to work with staff to oversee and promote the implementation of the various identified priority projects. At some point, if private sector funds are raised, this group might incorporate as a non-profit under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Building and Maintaining Community Support

Solid community support for the project is critical. Citizens, developers, business people and land owners must not only be inspired by the plan, but also embrace it over the long term as it will ultimately serve them. Stakeholders should be kept informed, involved and realize a direct benefit to them and their communities. This can be accomplished by:

- Having an effective public information program including clear, easy-to-read reports, brochures, web site updates, posters, and progress presentations. Prominently located “status boards” should be maintained at strategic locations such as recreation centers, post offices, and libraries. The boards should be regularly updated to show progress and need for additional support or funds.
- Prioritizing projects that will benefit county residents and visitors, providing linkage to the larger Colorado Front Range Trail system.
- Immediately moving forward with pilot projects that demonstrate the plan’s vision as well as completing and dedicating additional projects and project elements year-by-year.
- Having a quality management and maintenance program that includes an effective citizen/user feedback mechanism to provide a responsive ear for each user concern.

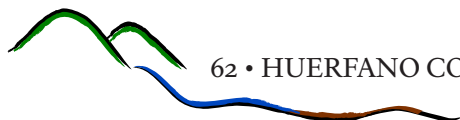


Phasing

This plan identifies multiple alignment alternatives for each segment of the Huerfano County trail system. The working group's preferred alternatives may not be the fastest or easiest to get on the ground. The main objective is to create trails to connect Huerfano County communities. Therefore, if there are alternatives that are easier to build, they may be implemented ahead of the preferred trail alignments. There are several important criteria that may guide project phasing, including:

- The project is consistent with preferred alignments identified in this plan.
- When realization of preferred alignment is not a short-term possibility, the project is consistent with an alternative alignment identified in this plan
- Verify availability of funds, resources or regulatory tools to complete the project.
- Consider critical properties, natural resources and key right-of-way that might be lost.
- Select high visibility projects with broad community benefit.
- The project demonstrates the plan's vision.
- Emphasize connections and logical segments.
- The project takes advantage of special funding, acquisition or partnering opportunities.

Using these criteria and input by community, staff, elected officials, stakeholders, user groups and the Colorado Front Range Development Council, a number of projects can be identified for immediate team action.



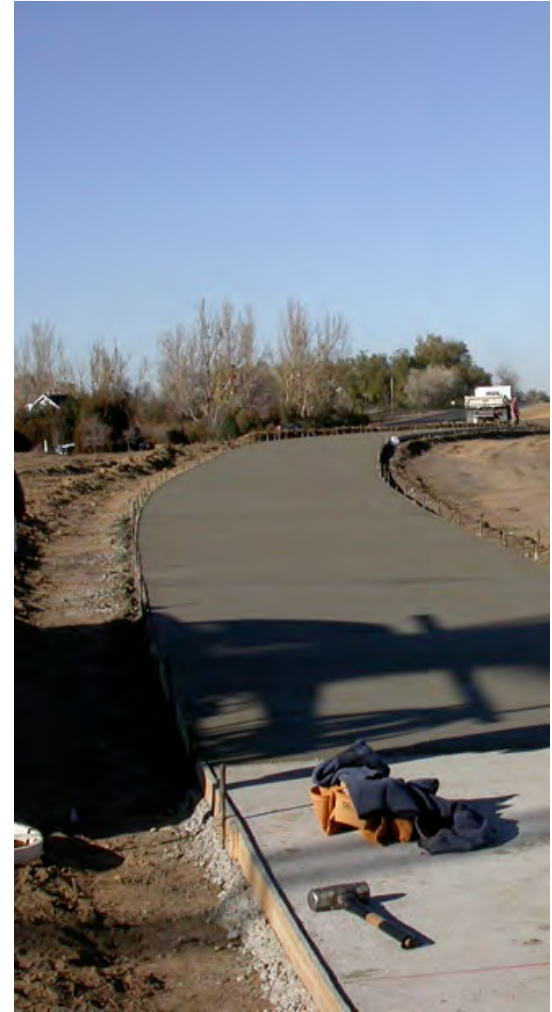
Design Considerations

Huerfano County Trail Development Guidelines

This trail system is intended to provide opportunities for multiple uses, serving a variety of trail users including: walking, hiking, road bicycling, mountain bicycling and horseback riding(?). Different trail user groups prefer different types of trail surface. A variety of trail types may be necessary to support multiple uses. This section of the Huerfano County Trail Master Plan outlines what some of those trail types are and offers guidelines for the design of these trails.

General Trail Design Goals and Concepts

- Trails should follow the contours of the land and natural drainage patterns. A trail should not appear to be carved out of a hillside.
- Trail design practices encourage making trails “invisible to water”, meaning that trails should be designed in a way that diverts water off of the trail as quickly as possible to avoid water running down the trail and causing damage from erosion. Techniques for diverting water include designing trails with an “outslope”, using dips and swales near drainages
- Protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat are of great importance. At the recommendation of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, trails should mostly stay out of riparian areas to avoid damage to resources and disruption to wildlife.
- Integrate subtle, attractive buffers where necessary to protect privacy.
- Occasional rest areas should be located along the trail. Integrate these with focal points, water features and public areas.
- Provide adequate sight distance for curves.

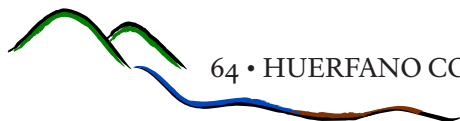


Hard Surface Trails (concrete)

The majority of this trail network will be rural or mountain trails. Any hard surface trails will likely appear in towns. Hard surface trails are designed to withstand higher usage... Hard surface “urban” trails should have minimum impact on the land and to nearby landowners, yet be visually pleasing and provide a variety of views and experiences. Town trails, like all trails, should take advantage of the natural terrain and vegetation, and be designed to require minimum maintenance.

Design Guidelines

- 10 feet minimum trail width where bicyclists and pedestrians share the trail.
- Landscape treatment within 3 feet adjacent to trails must conform to the following standards:
- New plant material shall not be woody or bare thorns.
- Existing thorny plants shall be trimmed back.
- Temporary irrigation systems shall be designed to avoid spraying path.
- Subgrade preparations include a compacted roadbase or use on-site gravel material where approved by an engineer. Over-excavate if unstable sub-soils are encountered and replace with suitable fill material. Compact all fill areas and remove all top soil prior to subgrade preparation.
- Minimum 6 inch thick concrete. Apply broom finish to trail length. Sawcut joints at minimum of every 10 feet along trail.
- Trail must be able to support maintenance vehicles and cross traffic vehicles. Where vehicle cross traffic is present, trail thickness may need to be increased.
- Backfill edge with topsoil. Finish grade to be flush with trail edge (typical) and seed with native grasses.
- Cross-slope should allow for drainage to prevent standing water.
- Maximum 6% grade.
- Minimum 8 feet overhead clearance; 10 - 12 feet preferred.
- Standard width is 10 feet for two-way bicycle trails. A separate parallel gravel trail is recommended for pedestrians.
- Where possible, amenities can enhance the user’s experience. Amenities include: benches and wheelchair parking pads, trash receptacles, pet waste bag dispensers, lighting, restrooms, drinking fountains, shade trees or shade structures, mile markers, and signs.



Temporary Soft Surface Trails (Gravel Fines)

In high use areas farther from towns, less formal hardened trails may be appropriate. Gravel fines are a common way to harden surfaces on trails such as these.

Design Goals/concepts

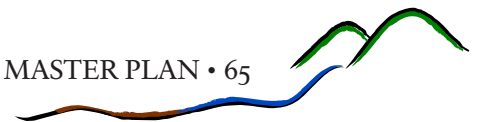
- Materials should provide stable surface and remain relatively dry.
- Color should blend with the natural environment to minimize visual impact.
- Design for wheelchair accessibility wherever reasonable, minimum 36 inch width.
- Minimize erosion of surface material through proper construction of trails
- Gradients less than 3% are preferable.
- Create meanders with gentle curve which conform to the natural topography.
- Consider providing occasional viewing and seating areas along the trail to accommodate passive recreation activities.

Design Guidelines

- Standard width is 8 feet for 2-way bike/pedestrian trails.
- For pedestrian-only hiking trails, minimum width is 8 feet.
- For grades over 4%, surface erosion protection is required in the form of dips and swales and limited use of water bars.
- 3/8 inch and smaller crushed and compacted gravel fines to are most appropriate.
- Use a geotextile fabric under the gravel fines helps to make the surface more durable.
- Where possible, amenities can enhance the user's experience. Amenities include: benches and wheelchair parking pads, trash receptacles, doggie-bag dispensers, lighting, shade trees or shade structures, mile markers, and signs.

Combined Trails, Narrow Right-of-way

Bicycle, jogging, and equestrian trails can be combined where the right-of-way is forced into a narrow space. In this case, combined trails should have a 10 foot minimum width of hard or hardened-surface trail, and an 8 foot wide soft surface trail.



Equestrian Trail Clearance

The minimum desirable width for a combined horse and jogging trail is eight feet. Vertical trail clearance for horse and bicycle trails should be 10 feet.

Equestrian and Jogging Trail Surface

Equestrian users and joggers prefer a non-paved, softer surface, although paved surfaces can be used. Where separate surfacing is possible, crusher fines should be used if there is a matrix of larger particles to resist the grinding and kicking motion of horses' hooves.

Recommended Crusher Fines Characteristics

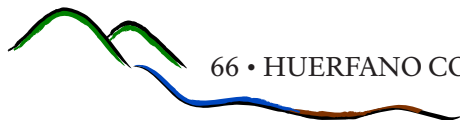
1. Irregular and angular.
2. Fines should be laid to an average depth of 6 inches.
3. Stones for crusher fines should be as hard as possible. Sandstone is not generally acceptable while granite is excellent. Fines bound with limestone provide an even stronger surface.
4. Horses should be kept off trails with crusher fines where the trail surface slope exceeds 6%. Have horses use the hard surface paving for steep sections. Horses should be kept off all boardwalks. If box culverts are large enough and have clear sightline to the opposite end, they can be used by equestrians.

Separate Crusher Fines Jogging/Nature Trails

In some areas, the available trail corridor permits a separate crusher fines jogging and/or nature trail. These trails allow access to points of interest, rest areas, vistas and wildlife viewing areas. A crusher fines trail along paved sections in this plan is 3 feet wide and has a minimum vertical clearance of 8 feet.

Trails Along County Roads

Where possible, trails should be separated horizontally from roadways for safety and aesthetics. Along existing county roads, the trail should be separated from the roadway by a ditch or raised berm with a minimum 12 foot division. When separated trails are not possible, road shoulders can be expanded or constructed to accommodate bicycle traffic. Minimum shoulder width for bicyclists is 4 ft.



Private Driveways

Where private driveway crossings occur, two situations are possible:

1. trail users yield to driveway, or
2. driveway users yield to trail users.

The first should be used at busy driveway intersections or where sight lines or site features decrease trail user's safety. Where driveways are less busy, the second can be used. Signage and pavement markings can be provided to control traffic in each scenario.

Railroad Crossings

Crossings should be adequately designed for safety and ease of crossing. A minimum 20 foot level path should be provided on each side of the tracks so that trail users have an adequate place to stop and wait while trains pass.

A gradual slope should be provided at the approach to the level resting area. Grades should be a maximum of 10% on the approaches. Track crossings should use a compressible flangeway filler to provide a safe and easy crossing. Filler material should be approved by the affected railroad.

Crossings should be designed so that they approach all roadways at a 90° angle if possible. A minimum cross angle of 45° is permitted. All crossings should be signed with appropriate railroad crossings signs. Additional signs should be provided indicating bicyclists should dismount. All signing should meet the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Standards.

Trail Underpasses

Wherever possible trail underpasses should be used to cross busy highways and roads. Underpasses can either be under an existing bridge or in a specially constructed culvert. An alternate route is necessary at all underpass crossings to allow for at-grade passage and access to the roadway.

Underpass width and height

The minimum width of the path in a box culvert should be 10 feet. Paths beneath bridges should be considered a hazard zone and widened by 2 - 4 feet, if possible. The minimum vertical clearance in the underpass is 8 feet with 10 feet being preferred. Warning/rumble strips should be placed at river edges of the trail for safety and lane markings should be provided through the approach and underpass. Wing walls may be necessary at the upstream and downstream ends of underpasses to keep stream flows off the trail surface.



Sightlines

Adequate sightlines to the entrance of an underpass are critical for user safety. Users approaching an underpass should have an unobstructed view of the center of the entrance from at least 140 feet away. From a point of 60 feet away from the entrance to the underpass, users should be able to see the center of the path at least 40 feet into the underpass.

Lighting

Lighting is problematic in underpasses. A short underpass will not need lighting and in a few of the longer ones proposed in this plan a skylight may be able to be created in the middle of the underpass as the highway above is, or may be, divided. If lights are necessary, vandal resistant fixtures should be used and placed at the ends of underpasses no more than 30 feet from entrances. Interior lights are discouraged as they tend to be destroyed quickly. Electrical supply wires should be underground or be placed in conduit painted to match the underside of the bridge.

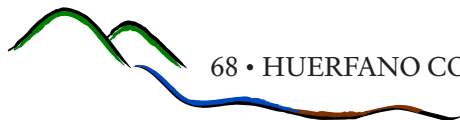
Bridges

- Consider breakaway capability to minimize flood obstruction.
- Bridges should be sturdy, safe, vandal-resistant, and easily maintained:
- Good skid-resistance on deck.
- Railings should be free of splinters and provide a smooth, clear surface.
- Railings should allow view to the creek from all heights, yet prevent anyone from falling through.
- The scale of the bridge should be in keeping with its surroundings.
- Bridge color should blend with natural environment or tie into the color scheme of any adjacent development.

Where separated crossings occur, access to cross-streets should be provided. High headwalls should also be provided in these locations to minimize snow overshoot and debris from snow plows. Culvert drains may be required at approaches. Drain pans adjacent to trail surfaces may also be required.

Trailheads

Trailheads are some of the most important facilities in the trail system. As the users' first impression of the trail system, the trailhead should be highly visible and well-maintained. It should provide trail information and be physically inviting and attractive. Each trailhead is an important place where users enter the trail system.



Major Trailhead

The primary or major trailheads located in the trail corridor serve as primary access points to the Huerfano County Trail system. These trailheads are intended for high-use and equestrian access.

This facility would include parking, handicap spaces, a trail map, a bulletin board, specific user information, benches, trash/recycle bins and possibly restrooms. Some of the major trailheads in the Huerfano County trails system could also support equestrian uses (trailer parking, tie rail, etc.).



Minor Trailhead

Minor trailheads located in the trail corridor serve as supplemental access points to the Huerfano County Trail system. These trailheads are designed for low traffic and local pedestrian and/or bicycle access. The trailheads identified below could be modified to support equestrian uses.

A minor trailhead could consist of simple access to the trail from a spur or at a bridge crossing. It would consist of a small fenced parking area, trash/recycle bins and route signage. In this plan, minor trailheads have been designated to support equestrian uses at some, but not all, of the locations. That figure includes grading, a gravel parking lot, fencing and minimal site work.

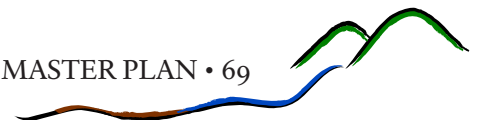
Each trailhead should be designed specifically for its own unique location. Consistency in trail image will come from the trail sign system, landscaping and site furnishings such as fencing and plantings.

Maintenance

User safety is central to all maintenance operations and a maintenance program must be in place before any trail segments are developed. This program must address not only the activities that will be undertaken to maintain a quality trail, but also identify the organizations responsible for the work. Funding sources need to be identified and committed to maintenance before trail construction begins. A strong maintenance program when combined with good trail design and adequate safety signage will remove much of the liability exposure from the trail system.

Maintenance of the trail system should include:

1. Trash pick up
2. Repairing and maintenance of site facilities such as benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, restrooms, parking areas, signage, railings, fences, etc.
3. Repairing trail surfaces.



4. Replacement of vegetation.
5. Pruning of trees, shrubs and other vegetation for plant health and trail safety.
6. Weed control.
7. Animal control.
8. Disease and insect control.
9. Maintenance of protection devices and tree staking.
10. Mowing.
11. Culvert and bridge maintenance.
12. Temporary irrigation system maintenance and operation.
13. Trail sweeping.
14. Snow clearing.

Trail maintenance is key to the longevity and lasting appeal of the Huerfano County Trail system. Maintenance can be administered either by a governmental agency, through a special maintenance district or by a well-organized volunteer effort. Some local, regional, and state organizations to consider involving in maintenance include:

- Cuchara Hiking Club
- Mile High Youth Corps
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC)
- Colorado Mountain Club
- Trails Stewardship Program (USFS, BLM, & NPS)

Maintenance of the Huerfano County Trail system should be an ongoing effort to keep the system in excellent condition. Many of the maintenance requirements for this system are seasonal. Summer requirements include trail surface repair, replacement of vegetation and mowing the margin along the trail in towns. Winter requirements could include snow removal of parking. Maintenance to be performed on a continuous basis includes:

1. Trail inspections need to be regularly scheduled. The frequency of inspections will depend on the amount of trail use, location, age of trail segment, and the type of construction. Items for consideration include documentation of inspections, the condition of railings, bridges and trail surfaces, review of signage, removal of debris, and coordination with other agencies associated with the trail maintenance. All trail inspections are to be documented.



2. Sweeping of hard surface trails is one of the most important aspects of trail maintenance and helps ensure the safety of trail users. The type of sweeping to be performed depends on trail design and location. Trails that require sweeping of the whole segment should be swept by machine. Trails that require only spot sweeping of bad areas can be swept by hand or with blowers. Some trail segments will require a combination of methods.
3. Trash removal for the trail corridor is important from health, safety and aesthetic viewpoints. Trash removal includes removing ground debris and emptying trash containers along the trails. Trash removal will take place on a regularly scheduled basis, the frequency of which will depend on trail use and location.

Maintenance to be performed on an irregular or as needed basis includes:

1. Trail repair.
2. Trail replacement.
3. Weed control.
4. Trail edging.
5. Drainage control.
6. Signage replacement.
7. Re-vegetation.
8. Habitat enhancement and control.

With good trail design that takes advantage of trail alignments that maximize sun exposure, much of the trail system should melt free of snow quickly. Snow and ice removal may be necessary in banked or shaded areas of the trail and near bridges and underpasses. Once constructed, these areas of the trail may need special attention as winter storm systems approach.



Signage

Trail signage is the system of boards or placards bearing information, regulations, or safety information along a trail. Signage is a functional element in the trail environment and necessary for safe and enjoyable trail use.

Each segment of the Huerfano County trail system is unique and has its own story to be told. Some segments of the trail system are part of the Colorado Front Range Trail (CFRT). As such, those segments should incorporate CFRT signs along the trail. Colorado State Parks will provide CFRT signage to communities. These signs can also be incorporated into existing sign standards and other trail signs.

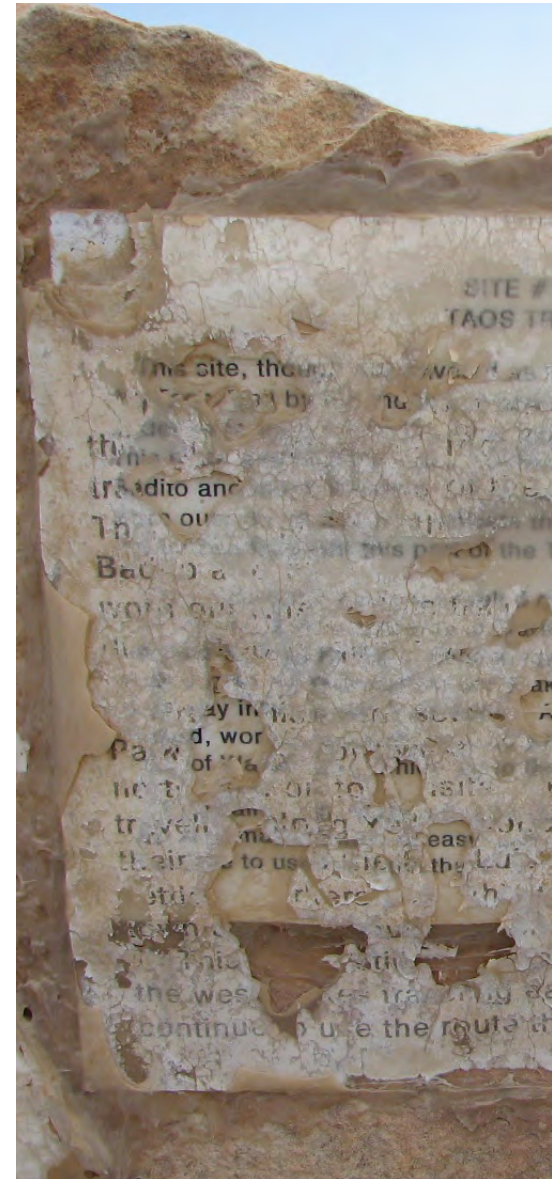


Signage along the Huerfano County trail system can provide trail users with use guidelines and information regarding the trail. Signage will help direct and control traffic and will help the user feel secure and aware of their surroundings. A consistent style of signage will create a cohesive "brand", tying the entire trails system together. Sign shapes, sizes, materials, and graphics should be consistent throughout the entire system and built in accordance with all applicable standards.

The Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), developed by the United States Department of Transportation, offers standards and basic principals regarding traffic control signage. All regulatory and warning signs and their locations should meet the MUTCD standards for sign dimension, style and placement.

There are five major categories of signs that may be placed within the Huerfano County trail system:

1. Interpretive signs that tell a specific story related to a trail related-feature, view, or experience.
2. Regulatory signs that communicate a demand of action on the trail user such as stop or yield.





3. Warning signs alerting users of possible or particular events such as a sharp turn or traffic crossing.
4. Directional signs that indicate the direction along a path that leads to a destination.
5. Informational signs offering useful or interesting information about the trail or surrounding area.

Interpretive Signage

Within the Huerfano County trail system, there will be many opportunities for interpretation of Huerfano County's unique geologic and historic features.

La Veta to Gardner Potential Interpretive Topics

- Cretaceous sandstone
- Debris from Tertiary igneous rock and Pennsylvanian Red Beds
- Pennsylvanian Red Beds
- Tertiary igneous dike
- Sheep Mountain Tertiary igneous stock
- Little Sheep Mountain Tertiary igneous stock
- Alluvial deposits and gravels from Precambrian schist, gneiss, granite, Cretaceous sandstone and limestone, and Tertiary igneous rock
- Gardner Butte Tertiary igneous plug

Gardner to Walsenburg Potential Interpretive Topics

- Cretaceous sandstone, limestone, mudstone (clay, shale, silt)
- Huerfano Butte Tertiary igneous plug
- Black Hills Tertiary igneous flows and stubby plugs
- Badito Cone Tertiary igneous plug
- Alluvial deposits and gravels from Precambrian schist, gneiss, granite, Cretaceous sandstone and limestone, and Tertiary igneous rock
- Gardner Butte Tertiary igneous plug



Walsenburg to La Veta Potential Interpretive Topics

- Cretaceous limestone and sandstone
- Tertiary igneous dike
- Tertiary sandstone
- Goemmer Butte Tertiary igneous plug

Pictou Coal Mine 1887-1953

Started by Jim & Bob Price. Purchased by CF&I 1890.

Produced 4,971,359 tons during its existence.

A coal camp was started in 1890 and grew to a substantial size with houses and stores.



Front Range Trail – Huerfano County Section
Walsenburg to Gardner route

An image of a historic mine could be shown on an interpretive placard along the Gardner to Walsenburg route. The sample above shows Pictou Coal Mine and a short narrative of its history. Most mining images can be found through History Colorado at the Denver Public Library Western History digital library. However, it is likely that no historic image for one or two of the other 13-15 coal mines found along this route.

A Visual Interpretive Tour of Huerfano County's Scenic Geology by Jon Sudar

Traveling along the Colorado Front Range Trail in Huerfano County offers wide wonderful vistas of plains and mountains. There are two major types of mountains. One type are intrusive igneous and the other are up-thrust Precambrian rock. The intrusive igneous rock eventually eroded and exposed peaks, dikes, sills, plugs and other lava flows. The up-thrust Precambrian rock pushed up above ground level to become snow covered peaks up to 14,000 feet of elevation. The following paragraphs describe the mountains from the Spanish Peaks clockwise to Pikes Peak and back to the Spanish Peaks.

The East and West Spanish Peaks, the Huajatolla, are huge bubbles of magna that rose from the mantle that are named stocks whose exposed area is less than 100 square kilometers. The stocks rose about 2 million years apart in the Tertiary. The stocks meeting surface resistance forced many radial dikes outward for short distances or for many miles. A large sill was forced out that is known today as the White Mountains near the village of Cuchara.

The Culebra Range of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, where Trinchera Peak is the highest, are up-thrust mountains. The mountains began rising in the Tertiary. The majority of the rock is Precambrian schist and gneiss with some granite.

Mt. Maestas, Rough Mt., Silverheels, Sheep Mountain, and Little Sheep Mountain, are igneous stocks that rose in the Tertiary.

Seen some distance away is the Crestone Range of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains that rose in the Tertiary. This group includes four 14,000 foot peaks.

Greenhorn Mountain is the southern terminus of the Wet Mountains that rose in the Tertiary. Greenhorn Mountain is an exceptional mountain. It is Precambrian granite topped with an igneous flow from the Tertiary, Cretaceous sandstone cliffs looking like fingers rise part way up the east face, and a large exposure of Pennsylvanian Red Beds can be seen low on the east and west sides of the south ridge.

In the far distance Pikes Peak can be seen to the right of Greenhorn Mountain. Pikes Peak is a huge bubble of magna that rose from the mantle that is named a batholith whose exposed area is more than 100 square kilometers. Pike Peak is granite of the Precambrian.

From Pike Peak clockwise to the Spanish Peaks most the terrain is flat, has flat topped mesas, and flat topped strata that look like mesas from a distance. The rock is Cretaceous and Tertiary that consists of sandstone, limestone and mudstone (clay, shale silt).

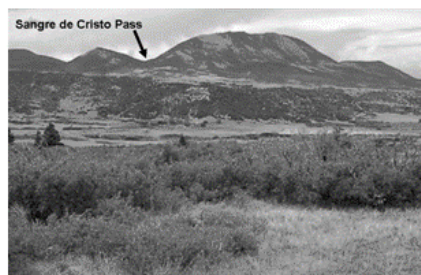




Sangre de Cristo Pass

Found 1779 by Juan Bautista De Anza returning to Taos after his battle with Chief Cuerno Verde.

The Taos Trail ran from Taos northward into the San Luis Valley to cross the mountains over Mosca Pass or Medano Pass. Sangre de Cristo Pass shortened the Taos Trail by cutting northwest from near Fort Garland following Pass Creek to the pass and then descending Oak Creek northwest to turn north once on the prairie to Badito to reconnect with original Taos Trail.



**Front Range Trail – Huerfano County Section
Walsenburg to Gardner route**





Regulatory Signs

In the absence of local sign regulations, consult MUTCD, Part IX for bicycle lane and pavement markings as well as for details on all aspects of regulatory signs for bicycle facilities. Also, consult CDOT sign standards.

1. **STOP:** Place at locations where users are required to stop. These must be placed at all intersections with vehicular traffic. Locate appropriately so signs are not visible to motorists but are clearly visible to trail users.
2. **YIELD:** Use this sign where users can see approaching traffic and must yield to the traffic. Yield signs should be used only where visibility of approaching traffic is adequate for safety.
3. **STOP AHEAD and YIELD AHEAD:** These signs should be used where the view of an intersection is obscured.
4. **WARNING:** These signs should be placed 50 feet before any unexpected or potentially dangerous condition.
5. **INTERSECTION:** use these signs to warn users of intersections with other trails or roads.

Site Specific Signs

At trailheads and access points there will be a primary kiosk/sign located at the beginning of the trail. It will have a map of the trail, information on important features, guidelines and rules of trail and land use, activities permitted on the trail, geographic information and funding acknowledgement. There will also be signs directing parking rules and other pertinent and regulatory information for each location.

On the trail, there will be directional signs located at the trail intersections and at two mile intervals along the path, warning signs at potentially dangerous locations, informational and interpretive signs at points of interest and mile markers located at each mile of trail. There will also be signs indicating the location of emergency phones.

User Safety

The four most critical safety issues on trails are speed, stopping on pathways, keeping right except to pass and mixed use issues. Faster cyclists should be directed to remain on the roads or ride at safe speeds along the pathways as they sometimes ride at speeds that do not allow time to react to other users on the pathways.

Trail maps should indicate roads for faster cyclists as alternatives to using trails. Users stopping on paved portions of the trail are also a serious safety hazard. These users block the trail when they do not pull off the trail to stop. Trailhead signs and maps should emphasize the importance of pulling off the path when stopping. Users should be informed about the importance of not blocking the trail, especially families with children.

The following actions can be taken to address safety issues and make the trail users aware of regulations and safety practices:

1. Post trail regulations, safety information, pathway ethics and updated maps at all trailheads.
2. A volunteer bike path patrol could be developed that would take on the role of educating and informing trail users of regulations and safe riding practices.
3. The distribution of trail safety information should be coordinated with bicycle rental shops, recreation centers, other businesses or city offices. This could be done by providing handouts for the shops to distribute which inform cyclists about trail regulations, peak use times on the pathways, weather patterns, and safety information.
4. The County and communities could coordinate a series of articles to be printed in visitor-oriented publications and in local newspapers. These articles could be converted to public service announcements on the local radio and/or television.



Where space allows, trail corridors should have safe shoulders that are easy to use when stopping. It is not uncommon to have bicyclist groups ride three or four abreast congesting the pathway for oncoming traffic. This happens mostly when families and other groups are riding together along the trail. Trailhead signage and maps should emphasize the importance of bicyclists staying on the right while riding. Bicycle helmets help protect riders from head injuries. Information at trail portals and on trail maps should emphasize the importance of wearing a helmet while riding.

As a result of the continued increase in the use of and interest in trail systems, emphasis should be placed on the safe management of the pathways, especially through educating users on trail system regulations and good safety practices.

United States Forest Service Sign Standards

Many future trails in Huerfano County may connect with existing Forest Service trails. For that reason, integrating US Forest Service Trail Sign Standards should be considered. Consistency with Forest Service standards may be appropriate in some places. Those standards can be found in the USFS Sign and Poster Guidelines for the Forest Service, Chapter 5: Trail Signing. <http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/htmlpubs/em7100-15/toc.htm>.



Policies

Adopting effective policies that pertain to implementation of this plan will be useful in realizing the vision of having a county-wide trails system and protecting and enhancing the county's environmental, cultural, historical, recreational and tourism assets. Within this section of the plan, examples of policies from three other counties -Pinal County, Arizona; San Mateo County, California; and Mesa County, Colorado- are offered as examples of the kinds of policies Huerfano County should consider adopting. While they all recommend policy related to both trail alignment determination and trail construction and implementation, Huerfano County's policy needs would likely be focused primarily on implementation.

The three counties mentioned above were selected as references for effective policies based on the robust nature of their parks, trails, and recreation plans, and in Pinal County specifically, the Park & Open Space section of its comprehensive plan. No county is identical to Huerfano in terms of size, land use, and budget, however each county is similar in its recreational goals and, in the case of Mesa County, its large rural areas. All counties are similar to Huerfano in their diversity of land ownership –federal, state, county, and local public land, as well as private land-, which is Huerfano County's most significant factor influencing the placement and construction of trails. San Mateo County's policies were by far the most applicable to Huerfano in comparison to Pinal and Mesa Counties.

Example policies obtained from these three county plans were compiled and organized under these four categories:

- A. Management Plan & Capital Improvement Program**
- B. Interagency Cooperation**
- C. Positive Relationships with Landowners**
- D. Rural Character Preservation**

Some of the suggested policies relate directly to implementation of the county-wide trails system. Other policies were selected for consideration to aid in the preservation of Huerfano County's rural and cultural character.



A. Management Plan & Capital Improvement Program Policies

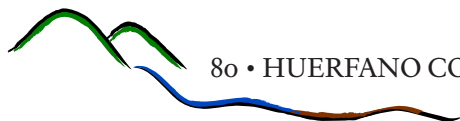
This Trails Master Plan will serve as a conceptual framework for implementing trails county-wide, however detailed direction, such as day to day management and maintenance, will not be included. A separate and supplemental management plan, like Pinal County recommends will be instrumental in ensuring maintenance of trails. In order to “meet future park and recreation demands”, San Mateo County adopted a policy to appropriate necessary funding resources (MHA Environmental Consulting, Inc., 2001, p. 22). Currently Huerfano County’s equivalent to a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is an Economic Development and Capital Improvements Subplan of their 1999 Land Use Guide. The policies listed therein are broad, as they pertain to all comprehensive plan elements county-wide (County, 1999, pp. 61-63). Adding park- and trail-specific construction and maintenance costs to the Subplan would be a responsible way to ensure that funding will be available to make maintenance a possibility. The Land Use Guide is frequently read and quoted by residents and permit applicants, therefore park and trail inclusion will also help to raise awareness about the county’s fiscal priorities.

SUGGESTED POLICIES for HUERFANO COUNTY:

- Establish a management plan for the development and maintenance of the county’s trail system and coordinate trail development and on-going maintenance as part of the county’s CIP and operational budget process (Pinal County, 2009, p. 233)
- Integrate parks and open space needs into the County’s CIP (MHA Environmental Consulting, Inc., 2001, p. 22)
- Trail routes shown on the County Trails Plan Map should be prioritized; maintain a list of priorities for trail acquisition and development through purchase, dedication, grant opportunities, or other means. (MHA Environmental Consulting, Inc., 2001, p. 22)

San Mateo County shares Huerfano’s intent for the Trails Master Plan to serve as a tool for prioritizing trails that are drawn on alignment maps. However for Huerfano County to establish this preference as a policy will not only give the Plan more teeth, but also provide the County with legal justification for the prioritized design or construction of those trails.

The availability and likelihood of securing funding is a smart way to inform those trail priorities. This approach renders any accusation of capricious prioritization unfounded, as the County has no control over grant cycles or availability of grant funds.



B. Interagency Cooperation

Cooperation as policy is mentioned in Huerfano County's Economic Development and Capital Improvements Subplan, where Huerfano County shall “cooperate and plan with regional, state and federal economic development agencies” to carry out the goals described in the Subplan. While the parks and trails system affects economic development, cooperation must be encouraged at the recreation level for implementation of the system to get the attention it needs in order to be successful.

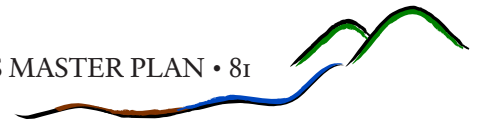
Huerfano County anticipates local municipalities, community organizations, and committees will adopt the Trails Master Plan. This policy can take adoption a step further by securing commitments of support through tangible actions, such as funding or land acquisition or maintenance. Agreements such as these will keep the Trails Master Plan from collecting dust on partners’ shelves, and ensure implementation through obligation.

Because the of the dynamic nature of partnerships and cooperation among Huerfano County, local municipalities and community organizations, this policy should be assessed for its appropriateness before being adopted. Cooperation is necessary, however contractual agreements may be too rigid for partners to remain comfortable and supportive of the trail system.

Municipal or organizational agreements could be based upon a section in a future trails management plan that indicates which parties have committed to funding, land acquisition, maintenance, or actions of a similar kind. This policy requires that these parties are identified before the management is complete, meaning dialogues with municipalities and organizations must not only start, but reach a point of agreement before that time. Parties could, alternately, volunteer to operate, maintain and patrol trails rather than signing binding agreements to continue that support.

SUGGESTED POLICIES for HUERFANO COUNTY:

- Develop agreements for funding, interagency planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance of County trails and trail segments with cities where the city has adopted relevant provisions of the County Trails Plan and is committed to implement and maintain a priority trail route. (MHA Environmental Consulting, Inc., 2001, pp. 25-26)
- Develop a management plan that identifies responsible parties for operating, maintaining and enforcing the appropriate usage of the County’s regional parks, open spaces and trail corridors (MHA Environmental Consulting, Inc., 2001, pp. 25-26)



C. Positive Relationships with Landowners

In San Mateo County's Trails Master Plan, the policies below were tools for reaching goals on environmental compatibility and providing park and recreation facilities. In the rural context of Huerfano County, these policies translate well into maintaining positive relationships with landowners whose property may be situated along prospective trail corridors.

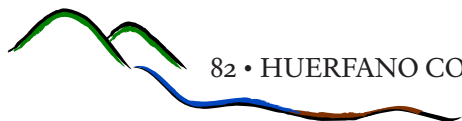
The concerns of private landowners can sometimes be obstacles in getting trails on the ground. While many private landowners are supportive of trail efforts, trespassing and liability can remain concerns. Adopting a policy requiring private property rights information to be communicated to the public, and indemnification of landowner liability sends a message to landowners that Huerfano County is looking out for them. This type of message can cultivate trust building between the County and landowners which can eventually produce landowner support of trail construction near or on their property (Broennan, 2009). Furthermore, due to this promise of coverage, Huerfano County can encourage landowners to pursue conservation easements. All states have Recreational Use Statutes (RUS) that protect private landowners. Those statutes should be considered in tandem with any discussion of potential indemnity policies.

SUGGESTED POLICIES for HUERFANO COUNTY:

- Provide private property signs where appropriate and provide trail users information regarding private property rights in order to minimize public/private use conflicts and trespassing (MHA Environmental Consulting, Inc., 2001, p. 20)
- Indemnify all grantors of trail easements from liability for injuries suffered by users of the trail easements. The indemnity shall not apply to injuries caused by a landowner's willful or malicious conduct. (MHA Environmental Consulting, Inc., 2001, pp. 22-23)

Landowner-Specific Policies

- Encourage public access to all trails by coordinating with public agencies and private developers to ensure that appropriate public trail connections and access points are planned, constructed and maintained (Pinal County, 2009, p. 233)
- During trail design, notify and coordinate with affected landowners to incorporate measures into trail design and related management policies to accommodate the privacy, security and liability concerns of the landowner and adjacent landowners. Such measures could include, but are not limited to: fencing or barrier planting that discourages trespassing; signage; scheduling of maintenance; patrol scheduling; and indemnity agreements to protect the landowner and affected landowners from liability for injuries to trail users. (MHA Environmental Consulting, Inc., 2001, p. 21)



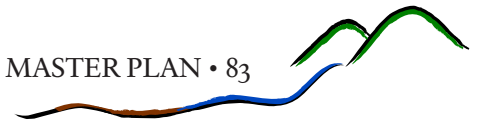
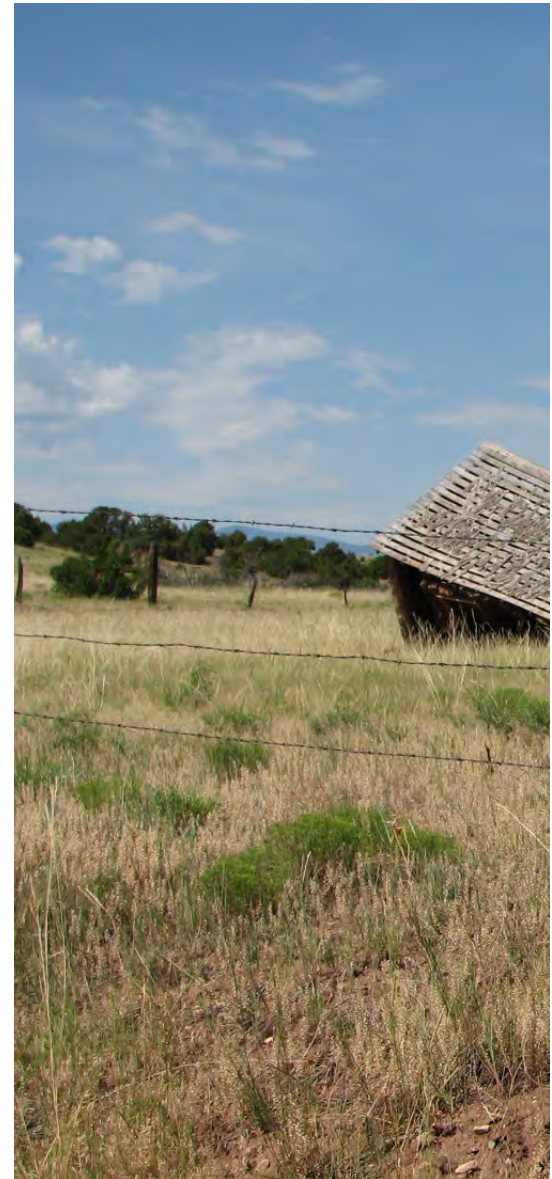
D. Rural Character Preservation

The County may consider a policy to preserve its rural character by requiring new trail development and any new building development to be preceded by rural character impact assessment and subsequent impact mitigation plan.

Trails have been the main focus of the Parks & Trails Working Group, however parks are important components of a county-wide recreation system. Parks are envisioned to be part of the existing communities –Walsenburg, Gardner, La Veta & Cuchara- and produce “well-defined community centers” as Mesa County has envisioned for their rural areas. Huerfano County may consider writing a similar policy by adding “parks” to Mesa County’s policy description.

SUGGESTED POLICY for HUERFANO COUNTY:

- New development will identify important rural features, scenic vistas/corridors, and natural areas impacted by the proposed development (e.g., large trees, waterways, historic structures, farming practices, balance of visual and traffic impacts on location of accesses, etc.) and mitigate such impacts; create and adopt a checklist of important rural features which are unique to or define/reinforce a distinct positive characteristic of the community’s image (e.g., established trees, homestead lots, historic structures, etc.) as an evaluation tool for new development. (Mesa County, 2006, p. 25)



Funding

Funding can be one of the most challenging aspects of trail implementation. Public funding is increasingly competitive and scarce. Money from foundations and other philanthropic organizations and groups can also be difficult to acquire, in part because available funds are highly sought-after. Nevertheless, all potential funding sources and financing possibilities should be explored. Having a good Trail Master Plan is the first step toward securing implementation funding.

There are a number of potential funding sources and policy measures that can aid implementation of this plan. These include resources at the local, county, regional, state and federal levels as well as private sector contributions. Huerfano County partners should investigate and track programs and explore funding potentials on an on-going basis.

The following pages offer a description of funding sources and financing strategies that can be used to support the development of trails and trail facilities for Huerfano County. The sources are organized and defined by local, state and federal resources and agencies.

Local Sources

A local, dedicated source of revenue can be established and utilized to attract state and federal funding.

Sales Tax

One potential mechanism for generating revenue for trails is collection of sales tax.

Property Tax

Typically, property taxes support a significant portion of a local government's activities. The revenues from property taxes can also be used to pay debt service on general obligation bonds issued to finance open space system acquisitions. For locally funded open space, park and trail programs, property taxes can provide a steady stream of financing while broadly distributing the tax burden. In other parts of the country, property taxes have been a popular method to pay for park and open space projects with voters as long as the increase is restricted to parks and open space.

Excise Taxes

Excise taxes are taxes on specific goods and services. Examples include lodging,

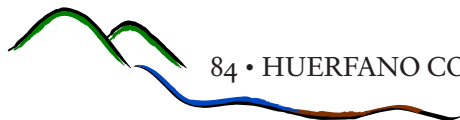
food, and beverage taxes that generate funds for promoting tourism, and the gas tax that generates revenues for transportation related activities. Excise taxes may be a viable source for funding a future regional trails program.

Bonds/Loans

Bonds have been a very popular way for communities across the country to finance their open space, parks and trails projects. A number of bond options are listed below. Since bonds rely on the support of the voting population, an education and awareness program should be implemented prior to any vote.

Revenue Bonds

Revenue bonds are bonds that are secured by a pledge of the revenues from a certain local government activity. The entity issuing bonds pledges to generate sufficient revenue annually to cover a program's operating costs, plus meet the annual debt service requirements (principal and interest payment). Revenue bonds are not constrained by the debt ceilings of general obligation bonds, but they are generally more expensive than general obligation bonds.



General Obligation Bonds

Local governments can issue general obligation (G.O.) bonds that are secured by the full faith and credit of the entity. In this case, the local government issuing the bonds pledges to raise its property taxes, or use any other sources of revenue, to generate sufficient revenues to make the debt service payments on the bonds. A general obligation pledge is stronger than a revenue pledge, and thus may carry a lower interest rate than a revenue bond. Frequently, when local governments issue G.O. bonds for public enterprise improvements, the public enterprise will make the debt service payments on the G.O. bonds with revenues generated through the public enterprise's rates and charges. However, if those rate revenues are insufficient to make the debt payment, the local government is obligated to raise taxes or use other sources of revenue to make the payments. G.O. bonds distribute the costs of open space acquisition and make funds available for immediate purchases. Voter approval is required.

Special Assessment Bonds

Special assessment bonds are secured by a lien on property that benefits by the improvements funded with the special assessment bond proceeds. Debt service payments on these bonds are funded

through annual assessments to the property owners in the assessment area.

Fees and Service Charges

- Park and Recreation User Fees
- Land Use Fees
- Impact Fees (from new development)
- Sign Permit Fees
- Business Regulation Fees
- Building Department Fees

Impact Fees

Communities may be able to assess impact fees on new development to address future trail construction and improvements.

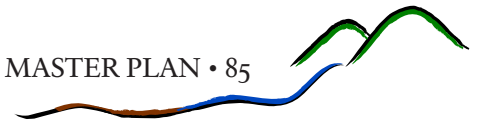
In-Lieu-Of Fees

As an alternative to requiring developers to dedicate on-site open space that would serve their development, some communities provide a choice of paying a front-end charge for off-site open space protection. Payment is generally a condition of development approval and recovers the cost of the off-site greenway land acquisition or the development's proportionate share of the cost of a regional parcel serving a larger area. Some communities prefer in-lieu-of fees.

This alternative allows community staff to purchase land worthy of protection rather than accept marginal land that meets the quantitative requirements of a developer dedication but falls a bit short of qualitative interests.

Trust Fund

Huerfano County may consider working in partnership to establish a Parks, Open Space and Trails Trust Fund. This Trust Fund would be a dedicated source of funding supporting the operation and management of portions of the trail system. The counties and communities can work with a private financial institution to set up an investment account or work with a local foundation to establish the endowment. Contributions to the fund would be solicited from parks, open space and trail advocates, businesses, civic groups, and other foundations. The goal would be to establish a capital account that would earn interest and use the interest monies to support trail maintenance and operations. Special events could be held whose sole purpose is to raise capital money for the Trust Fund. A trust fund can also be used in the acquisition of high-priority properties that may be lost if not acquired by private sector initiative. A trust fund example is the Mountains-to-Sound



Greenway Legacy Fund in Washington. The Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Legacy Fund is an endowment fund managed by The Seattle Foundation. Its purpose is to protect the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway for the public good, in perpetuity. It will be used to support restoration, enhancement, education, and advocacy programs of the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Trust.

Local Park, Open Space and Trail Sponsors

A sponsorship program for trail amenities allows smaller donations to be received from both individuals and businesses. Cash donations could be placed into a trust fund to be accessed for certain construction or acquisition projects associated with the greenways and open space system. Some recognition of the donors is appropriate and can be accomplished through the placement of a plaque, the naming of a trail segment, and/or special recognition at an opening ceremony. Types of gifts other than cash could include donations of services, equipment, labor, or reduced costs for supplies.

Volunteer Work

It is expected that many citizens will be excited about the improvement of a highway cycling route. Individual

volunteers from the community can be brought together with groups of volunteers from church groups, civic groups, scout troops, and environmental groups to work on greenway development on special community workdays. Volunteers can also be used for fundraising, maintenance, and programming needs.

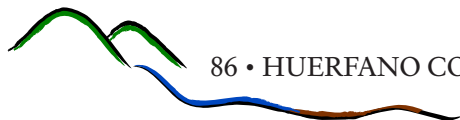
Some of the volunteer, youth and other in-kind programs that should be considered as trail improvement resources include:

- **Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado**—Organizes trail and land stewardship projects on public lands in Colorado.
- **Youth Programs**—Including Youth Corps and other programs for at risk youth.
- **In-kind Resources**—use of City, County, or donated labor and equipment to build projects.
- **Military/Corrections Labor**—use of military or corrections institution labor and equipment to build projects.
- **Military bases or Colorado National Guard**

Local Policies and Regulatory Measures

Subdivision Regulations—requires developers to submit plans for review and approval. The plans must meet certain engineering criteria (including those described above) as stipulated in the City Zoning Ordinance and municipal codes. The City can require that land unsuitable for development due to flooding, improper drainage, steep slopes, unsuitable soil conditions, utility rights-of-way and other conditions that may be harmful to public safety, health and general welfare may not be developed unless adequate methods are formulated and approved. Furthermore, the City may withhold approval of the subdivision if it is determined that increased stormwater runoff may overload existing downstream drainage facilities. In addition, developers are required to dedicate land for parks, open space and recreational facilities or make cash-in-lieu-of-land dedication and pay fees for park and recreation facilities. The developer is also required to make certain street and sidewalk improvements.

Floodplain Ordinances—requires that all structures or land modifications in the designated floodway and floodplain comply with certain



requirements. Specifically, a permit is required before any construction can take place in the floodplain. Any encroachment in the floodway is prohibited unless a licensed professional engineer or architect can demonstrate that encroachment will not increase the flood level of the 100-year flood by more than one foot in the floodway fringe and result in no flood level increase in the floodway. Floodplain corridors may be ideal for trail use with multiple benefits including drainageway maintenance.

Buffer Zones— requires the developer to dedicate open space and/or setbacks along the edges of stream corridors, wetlands, and other places where potentially incompatible land use may abut. The goals may include preserving water quality, protecting groundwater discharge, attenuating stormwater runoff, and other general health, safety and welfare benefits. If appropriately designed, trails may be suitable in some buffer zone areas.

Land and Right-of-Way Acquisition

Note: Colorado has a Recreational Use Statute (RUS) (Sec.33-41-101 thru -105, C.R.S.) meaning the liability of property owners and adjacent property owners who grant right-

of-way for recreational purposes is limited. An attorney, should be consulted to determine current status of the law and specific implications.

Fee Simple Purchase—includes the entire “bundle” of rights in perpetuity— usually the most costly acquisition

Easements—a conveyance of certain, but not all, rights associated with a property. Several types of easements may be applicable here including: public access (i.e. for trails); conservation (to protect natural resources, floodplain or water quality values); and preservation easements (to protect historic integrity or values of a property) or combinations thereof. Many easements may allow the owner to continue his use of the property for compatible purposes such as farming, while others may allow the owner to restrict public access. In some cases, the town may simply purchase the development rights.

Donation/Bargain Sale/Tax

Incentives—a willing property owner conveys the property, or right-of-way or interest in property as a charitable contribution or at a less than fair market value price (bargain sale). The donor may be

eligible for Federal, State and local tax deductions and may be able to avoid inheritance taxes, capital gains or recurring property taxes. In some cases, the owner may donate a future interest in the land or retain a life tenancy allowing the donor to remain on the property, use the property, or take income from the property for the remainder of their life or lives.

Option, Lease-Option or First Right of Refusal—This is an agreement with the owner to secure the right to acquire the property or right-of-way in the future. This protects the land in the short term until funds are found to make the purchase. Variations on this might include transaction through a third party such as a land conservancy or The Trust for Public Lands, where the third party buys and holds the land on the town’s behalf. Communities may make rent payments or installment payments on the property over an extended period of time.

License or Revocable Permit—A property owner grants the right to use the property (usually a trail right-of-way) for a period of years (usually 25 yrs. or more). In the case of a revocable permit, the grantor may



terminate the right of use or access under certain conditions. Examples include the right for a trail to pass through a State Highway right-of-way or through a property where the owner is hesitant to grant permanent access.

Cooperative Partnership Land

Management—Certain public agencies may choose to cooperate and partner in the pursuit of mutual land management benefits. Under this scenario, public land managers agree to manage the land for multiple objectives such as conservation, land treatment of wastewater, wetland banking, joint-use recreational/ maintenance trails and water quality benefits. These might be implemented through short and long term intergovernmental agreements.

Service Organizations

Many service organizations and corporations have funds available for trail facilities. Consider Rotary Clubs or corporations such as Home Depot that are often willing to partner with local communities in the development of trails and other park and recreation facilities.

Development Contributions

Development contributions are a means for requiring, as a condition

of development approval, a builder or developer to give something to the County for the development of public facilities. Contributions can range from impact fees to land dedications for public trail facilities.

Dedications

The dedication of land for trails has long been an accepted development requirement, and is another valuable tool for implementing trails. A county can require the dedication or, if larger-sized parcels are desired, can offer development “bonuses” such as increased density of development in exchange for the dedication of land for trails. In some cases, the developer may also be responsible for trail improvements, which may be maintained by a Homeowner’s Association. In such cases, it is important to determine whether the trail is private or public, and what the desired and appropriate facilities are that should be provided.

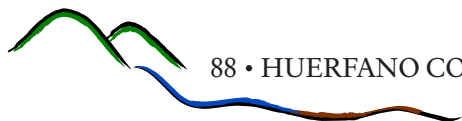
In-Kind & Donated Services or Funds

Several options for local initiatives are possible to further the implementation of the trails plan. These kinds of programs would require a proactive recruiting initiative to generate interest and sponsorship, and may include:

- Adopt-a-trail, whereby a service organization or group either raises funds or constructs a given facility with in-kind services;
- Corporate sponsorships, whereby businesses or large corporations provide funding for a particular facility, similar to adopt-a-trail;
- Public trail construction programs, in which local citizens donate their time and effort to trail facility construction and/or maintenance;
- Organizations such as the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), which have provided funds and leadership in similar situations.

Potential Private Sector Grants

- Philanthropic Funds—grants from local and national private foundations. In some cases wealthy individuals may contribute to a project
- Corporate Contributions—grants of funds or in-kind materials or services by businesses. Companies generally will expect a promotional or advertising benefit commensurate with the grant amount



Private and Public Partnerships

- Private Fundraising — While not addressed as a specific strategy for trails and trail facilities, it is not uncommon that public monies are leveraged with private donations.
- Joint Development - Joint development opportunities can occur between County and other agencies or jurisdictions. In order to make these kinds of opportunities happen, there must be on-going and constant communication between people, governments, business interests, and others.

State of Colorado Sources

Colorado SB 078-98 (Fitz-Gerald/White Act)

Huerfano County has a unique opportunity to protect water quality, natural areas, working farms and ranches, wildlife habitat, and create new parks for outdoor recreation. SB 07-98, otherwise known as the Fitz-Gerald/White Act, allows counties to ask voters to approve up to a half-cent sales and use tax to fund an open space program that can

most accurately reflect local priorities for acquisition and management. In accordance with TABOR, counties could only exceed the sales and use tax cap for the purpose of open space and parks after subjecting the measure to a vote. SB-98 is designed to be a new resource for financially constrained county governments interested in creating dedicated revenues for land conservation. A local dedicated funding source is vital to attracting matching funds from state and federal sources and for purposes of pursuing land conservation projects with interested and willing sellers. In Colorado, many counties are currently at their statutory sales tax maximum on voter-approved sales and use tax authority. SB-98 allows voters to decide for themselves whether to dedicate funds solely to fund open space protection.

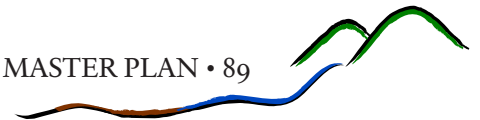
Colorado Lottery

The Colorado Lottery and Great Outdoors Colorado approved on the ballot by voters in 1980 and passed by the General Assembly in 1982, SB 119 established a state-sponsored lottery which began in January of 1983. Some proceeds go toward land conservation, 40 percent of which originally went to the Conservation Trust Fund, 10 percent to Colorado State Parks, and 50 percent

to the Capital Construction Fund for state buildings and prisons. However in 1992, a petition put a measure on the ballot to create a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Trust Fund, which was then approved with 58 percent in favor. Between 1993 and 1998 GOCO received 15 percent of the proceeds and in 1999 received 50 percent. From the creation of the lottery through FY 2000, \$1.1 billion was made available for state programs, \$98.5 million in FY 2000 alone. In 1998, legislation was enacted extending the Colorado Lottery to 2009. In 2000, a ballot measure passed that authorized the state to participate in Powerball, a multi-state lottery. The game's proceeds are divided among GOCO, CTF, and State Parks.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)

In 1992, voters placed on the ballot and approved the creation of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund. GOCO is funded by the proceeds of the Colorado Lottery. The GOCO Trust Fund is used to fund outdoor recreation, wildlife protection, and open space acquisition. State and local government agencies, including special districts, and nonprofit land conservation organizations are eligible to apply for



grants, with 25-50 percent matching funds required. Since awarding its first grants in 1994, GOCO has granted Lottery funds to more than 3,400 projects in all 64 counties across the state.

Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)

Over 400 cities, towns, counties, and special districts are eligible to receive CTF grants, distributed by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. The funds may be used to acquire open space and to purchase, maintain, or restore local facilities, equipment, and parks.

Conservation Easement Tax Credit

On May 28, 1999, Governor Bill Owens signed House Bill 1155, a law that grants an income tax credit to individuals or corporations for the donation of conservation easements to governmental entities or non-profits. On January 1, 2003, the amount of state income tax credit available for Colorado taxpayers donating perpetual conservation easements on their Colorado properties increased from \$100,000 to \$260,000. House Bill 01-1090 effectuates this increase and makes other changes to the state's conservation tax credit.

Colorado Council on the Arts

The Colorado Council on the Arts

(CCA) provides grants in two subsets: grants to artists and organizations and youth development grants. The grants to artists and organizations are designed to leverage local support for arts and cultural activities in support of CCA's goals, including activities that support and promote the state's cultural heritage. Artists, cultural organizations and community groups are eligible to apply.

Colorado Tourism Office — Marketing Matching Grant Program

The Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) administers the Statewide Marketing Matching Grant Program (which assists organizations with promotion of the state as a whole) and the Regional Matching Grant Program (which assists organizations with the promotion of specific regions in Colorado). Within the context of marketing projects, the funds may be spent on promotion, product packaging, networking and communication and education. Not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply. For every \$1 the organization allocates to the program, the CTO will provide \$2 in matching funds.

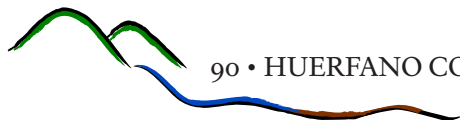
State Historical Fund

The Colorado Historical Society's State Historical Fund awards grants for

preservation projects, education projects (including heritage tourism) and survey and planning projects. All projects must focus on the built historical environment including, but not limited to, buildings, landscapes and individuals involved in the building industry. Only not-for-profit and public entities are eligible to apply. A 25 percent match is requested. The State Historical Fund assists in the writing and administration of grants through its Public Outreach Unit that reads drafts, visits sites and conducts grant workshops. Approximately 65 percent of applications receive funding.

Tourism Cares

Tourism Cares supports the efforts of tourism to "preserve, conserve and promote" the things that are our cultural and historic assets through its worldwide grant program. Grants provide money for capital improvements on important sites as well as the education of local communities and the traveling public about conservation and preservation. Only 501(3)(c) not-for-profit corporations are eligible. Grant applications that leverage other sources of funding, are endorsed by the local, state, or regional tourism office and have strong support from the local community have a better chance of being funded.



Colorado Brownfields Foundation

Through its Environmental Due Diligence Technical Assistance Grant Program, the Colorado Brownfields Foundation provides money that can be used to conduct a Phase I Environmental Assessment to cover environmental due diligence requirements and identify potential liabilities associated with the re-use of historic properties. Adaptive use planning is also provided. While the property can be either publicly or privately owned, the grant must be applied for by a government agency. A match is not required.

Colorado State Parks — State Trails Program Grant Process

Through its State Trails Program grant process, Colorado State Parks provides funds for the acquisition of land or water to be used for recreational purposes or for the construction or redevelopment of outdoor recreational facilities. Only when a project is executed through the Colorado State Parks can the funds be used for planning projects.

Municipalities, counties and special districts are eligible to apply. The grant process is competitive and requires a 50/50 fund match. Projects should attempt to be in line with the current

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Department of Local Affairs — Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Energy and Mineral Impact Grants

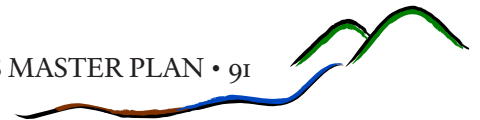
Administered by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) assist communities affected by the growth and decline of extractive industries. This money can fund improvements to public facilities and local government planning efforts where cultural heritage tourism-related goals can be furthered through economic development initiatives. Municipalities, counties, school districts, special districts and state agencies are eligible for the funds. Because these grants require matching funds, applications with higher matches receive more favor as they highlight community support.

Colorado Division of Wildlife

The Colorado Division of Wildlife provides funds to preserve, protect, and create natural habitats and landscapes. The Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (CHIP) provides financial and technical assistance to landowners for the creation and enhancement of habitat. The Pheasant Habitat Improvement Program provides funding and technical assistance for habitat restoration.

The Colorado Wetlands Partnership

(CWP) provides funding for wetland restoration and creation, and for the purchase of conservation easements and fee-titles. Private landowners, public entities and nonprofits are eligible. CHIP requires a 15-percent match in cash or in kind services by the landowner who is responsible for maintenance. CWP requires funds from other sources to be used, but sets no specific match.



Federal Sources

Most federal programs provide block grants directly to states through funding formulas. For example, if a Colorado community wants funding to support a transportation initiative, they would contact the Colorado Department of Transportation and not the US Department of Transportation to obtain a grant. Despite the fact that it is rare for a local community to obtain a funding grant directly from a federal agency, it is relevant to list the current status of federal programs and the amount of funding that is available to communities through these programs.

Surface Transportation Act (SAFETEA-LU)

(Accessed through CDOT)

The Surface Transportation Act has been the largest single source of funding for the development of bicycle, pedestrian, trail and greenway projects for many years. Prior to 1990, the nation as a whole spent approximately \$25 million on building community-based bicycle and pedestrian projects, with the vast majority of this money spent in one state. Since the passage of ISTEA, funding has been increased dramatically for bicycle, pedestrian and greenway

projects, with total spending north of \$5 billion. SAFETEA-LU will more than double the total amount of funding for bicycle/pedestrian/trail projects as compared to its predecessor TEA-21, with approximately \$800 million available each year. There are many programs within SAFETEA-LU that deserve mention. The authorizing legislation is complicated and robust. The following provides a summary of how this federal funding can be used to support the Huerfano County Corridor Plan. All of the funding within these programs would be accessed through the Colorado Department of Transportation.

1) Surface Transportation Program (STP)

This is the largest single program within legislation from a funding standpoint. Of particular interest to trail enthusiasts, 10 percent of the funding within this program is set aside for Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities. Historically, a little more than half of the TE funds have been used nationally to support bicycle/pedestrian/trail projects.

2) Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

Historically, bicycle and pedestrian

projects have accounted for one percent of this program, under SAFETEA-LU. Some of the eligible uses of these funds would include traffic calming, bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements, and installation of crossing signs. This is not a huge source of funding, but one that could be used to fund elements of a project.

3) Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

The Recreational Trails Program is specifically set up to fund both motorized and non-motorized trail development. A percentage of these funds must be spent on non-motorized trails. The Colorado State Trails Grant Program funds projects for trail planning and design, construction, maintenance, equipment, and special projects. The Colorado State Trails Committee is responsible for the review process for the trail grant applications and makes recommendations to the Colorado State Parks Board about funding for grants. This process may change every year when grant categories and policies are updated.

4) High Priority Projects

Under SAFETEA-LU thousands of transportation projects have been earmarked by Congress for development.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the largest source of federal money for park, wildlife, and open space land acquisition. The program's funding comes primarily from offshore oil and gas drilling receipts, with an authorized expenditure of \$900 million each year. However, Congress generally appropriates only a fraction of this amount. The program provides up to 50 % of the cost of a project, with the balance of the funds paid by states or municipalities. These funds can be used for outdoor recreation projects, including acquisition, renovation, and development. Projects require a 50% match.

LWCF was established by Congress in 1964 to create parks and open spaces; protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges; preserve wildlife habitat; and enhance recreational opportunities. LWCF has underwritten the development of more than 38,000 state and local park and recreation projects in nearly every county in the nation.

In Colorado, LWCF state matching grants are administered by Colorado State Parks. Since 1965, nearly 1,000 grants totaling more than \$58 million have funded local government and state park outdoors investments statewide. In recent

years, State Parks has worked with local government parks and recreation leaders to utilize the State Trails Program Grants Process to grant LWCF funds.

This process is consistent with statewide surveys that continue to rank community and regional trail systems among Colorado's highest priority outdoors needs. These priorities are documented in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which State Parks publishes every five years in order to remain eligible for annual congressional appropriations of LWCF funds.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA funds a program that enables communities to clean up polluted properties. Funding for these programs is available directly from the EPA and is administered in the form of grants to localities.

Brownfields Revitalization Assessment & Cleanup Grant Funding

- Needy communities fare better in competition
- High unemployment rates, high poverty rates, loss of jobs/

population, minority or other sensitive populations. Include demographic statistics.

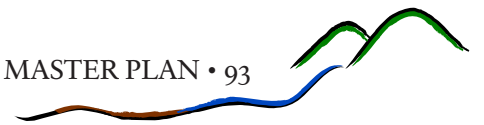
- Mention any unusually high health concerns in the area. Can any of these be tied to the site(s)?
- Present the environmental, economic, social and health impacts of brownfields on the community
- Environmental Justice concerns
- Focus on the environmental and health impacts of your project.

Recreational Trails Program

The recreational grant program through Colorado State Parks is intended to fund project including land acquisition, construction, reconstruction, maintenance or enhancements to an existing or new trail or trailhead, and purchase snow grooming equipment. Local, state and federal governments, school districts, special districts with recreational opportunities, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for projects.

Community Block Development Grant Program (HUD-CBDG)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers financial grants to communities for



neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improvements to community facilities and services, especially in low and moderate income areas. Administered by the Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Block Grants can be spent on a wide variety of projects, including property acquisition, public or private building rehabilitation, construction of public works, public services, planning activities, assistance to nonprofit organizations and assistance to private, for-profit entities to carry out economic development. At least 70 percent of the funds must go to benefit low and moderate-income populations. The funds must go to a local government unit for disbursement. A detailed citizen participation plan is required.

Economic Development Administration

Funding is available through this federal program in the form of several different grants. Two grants that may be applicable to cultural heritage tourism are the Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (which helps communities develop comprehensive redevelopment efforts that could include cultural heritage tourism programs) and the Planning Program Grant (which helps planning organizations create

comprehensive development strategies). Only governmental units are eligible.

Farm Service Administration

Two Farm Service Administration (FSA) programs help to preserve sensitive farmland and grassland. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a land retirement program for ecologically sensitive land. The Grassland Reserve Program supports working grazing operations to maintain the land's grassland appearance and ecological function. The funds are available to private farmers and ranchers, although local governments, tribes and private groups can also solicit them. These funds are intended to be combined with other funding, but there is no set match requirement.

National Trust for Historic Preservation

This endowment funds 14 different grants. The Preservation Funds Matching Grants and Intervention Funds assist nonprofit and public agencies with planning and educational projects or preservation emergencies, respectively. The Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation provides matching grants for nonprofit and public organizations whose projects contribute to preservation and/or recapturing an authentic sense of place.

Preserve America

The Preserve America grants program funds “activities related to heritage tourism and innovative approaches to the use of historic properties as educational and economic assets.” Its five categories are: research and documentation, interpretation and education, planning, marketing, and training. The grant does not fund “bricks and mortar” rehabilitation or restoration. This grant is available to State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), designated Preserve America communities and Certified Local Governments (CLGs) applying for designation as Preserve America Communities. Grants require a dollar-for-dollar nonfederal match in the form of cash or donated services.

Small Business Administration

Many cultural heritage tourism businesses are small businesses. The Small Business Administration (SBA) does not itself loan money, but guarantees loans from banks or from specially chosen small business investment companies. These loans can be used for business expenses ranging from start-up costs to real estate purchases. Rural business investment

companies target their funds toward companies located in rural areas. Eligible companies must be defined as “small” by the SBA.

USDA Community Facilities Grant Program

The purpose of USDA Community Facilities Grants is to “... assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population.” These funds can be used for facilities that house “... health care, public safety and community and public services.” As an example, New Athens, Ohio, used the funding to restore a museum. Grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties and special-purpose districts, as well as nonprofit corporations and tribal governments.

USDA Rural Development Cooperative Service Grants

These grants can be used to develop new co-ops and provide assistance to existing co-ops with the broad goal of improving rural economic conditions. The funds must be used for something co-op related, which limits their applicability to cultural heritage tourism, but as an example, a co-op farmer’s market was able to use these funds. Eligible recipients are not-

for-profit 501(c)(3) corporations and institutes of higher education. Public bodies are not eligible. A 25-percent match is required.

USDA Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

This USDA program is administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service and provides funds for the purchase of conservation easements on working lands. It requires that a management plan be produced and that the land stay in use. The funds can go to landowners, government agencies and local non-government organizations such as land trusts. A 50 percent match is required.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

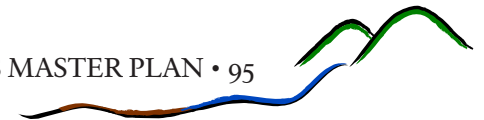
The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has a long list of grant programs that benefit the conservation or restoration of habitats. These include grants for private landowners to assist in protecting endangered species, grants to restore the sport fish population and grants for habitat conservation planning and land acquisition. The amount, matching requirements, and eligibility for each grant vary. The website also provides practical information about successful projects and conserving specific habitats.

Save America’s Treasures

The Save America’s Treasures (SAT) Historic Preservation Grant funds preservation and conservation of nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and historic structures and sites. Those eligible include federal agencies funded by the Department of the Interior, nonprofit 501(c) organizations, units of state or local government, recognized Indian tribes and active religious organizations that meet all other criteria. These grants require a dollar-for-dollar nonfederal match, which may be cash, services or equipment. Recipients must meet standards set out by SAT.

National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts organizes its grants around artistic disciplines and fields such as “folk and traditional arts,” “local arts agencies,” “state and regional” and “museums.” Within these categories, the applicable grants are listed. The grants provide funding for artistic endeavors, interpretation, marketing and planning. Not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations and units of state or local government, or a recognized tribal community are eligible. An organization must have a three-year history of programming prior to the application deadline.



National Endowment For The Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities is a federal program that issues grants to fund high-quality humanities projects. Some grant categories that may be well suited to cultural heritage tourism are: grants to preserve and create access to humanities collections, interpreting America's historic places implementation and planning grants, museums and historical organizations implementation grants, and preservation and access research and development projects grants. The grants go to organizations such as museums, libraries, archives, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations and to individual scholars. Matches are required and can consist of cash, in-kind gifts or donated services.

Private Foundations and Philanthropic Sources

The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors

This fund provides grants for professional expertise, communications, materials and education programs. Individuals and for-profit groups may apply. The latter two grants only apply to National Historic Landmark sites.

American Greenways Eastman Kodak Awards

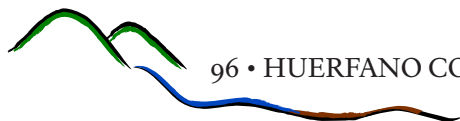
The Conservation Fund's American Greenways Program has teamed with the Eastman Kodak Corporation and the National Geographic Society to award small grants (\$250 to \$2,000) to stimulate the planning, design and development of greenways. These grants can be used for activities such as mapping, conducting ecological assessments, surveying land, holding conferences, developing brochures, producing interpretive displays, incorporating land trusts, and building trails. Grants cannot be used for academic research, institutional support, lobbying or political activities.

El Pomar Foundation

The El Pomar Foundation supports Colorado projects related to health, human services, education, arts and humanities, and civic and community initiatives. Generally, El Pomar does not fund seasonal activities, travel or media projects, but their funding has supported other aspects of cultural heritage tourism, including regional planning and development. Recipients must be not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.

W. K. Kellogg Foundation

The Kellogg Foundation provides grants in four interest areas. The Rural Development Interest Area is the most applicable to cultural heritage tourism. Grants in this area are to "... fund collaborative comprehensive and inclusive approaches to rural economic development." Many organizations are eligible, but the process is highly competitive. The process starts with the submission of a pre-proposal. Full proposals are then solicited. It is imperative that the grant proposal fall within the foundation's programmatic interests and guidelines.



Health & Physical Activity-Related Sources

Active Living Network

The Active Living program maintains a listing of funding opportunities and the Active Living Resource Center has a downloadable “Guide to Funds for Bicycling and Pedestrian Projects”.

Center for Disease Control

CDC maintains a listing of funding opportunities – some of which could support physical activity projects or programming.

Kaiser Permanente

Focus areas include health care delivery issues facing disadvantaged populations and special consideration is given to activities that convene public policy leaders and develop collaborative partnerships with local, state and national organizations.

Bikes Belong

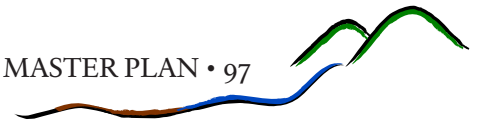
Mission of the Grants Program is to put more people on bicycles more often. Accept and fund applications for three types of bicycle projects – facilities, education, and advocacy.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

\$370 million in grants annually for projects that “improve the health and health care of all Americans”, including an emphasis on childhood obesity.

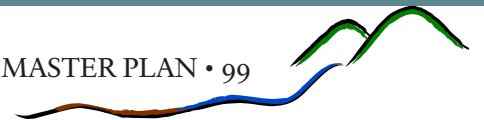
Ford Foundation

Community development grants.





Appendices



Appendix A: Public Input

In Their Words - Public Input: Art in the Park, Summer 2009

- Connect to Rainbow Trail
- Too many ATVs
- Indian Creek...Cordova Pass down to 12 into mountains – get public access
- Cuchara Hiking Club
- Silver Mountain: surrounded by private land; hunting
- Trails from:
 - La Veta to Walsenburg
 - Gardner to Walsenburg
 - La Veta to Gardner
 - Basically a triangle
- Trails for long distance running – need to be at least 6 feet wide
- Trail from La Veta to 520
- Trails connecting county roads (slow traffic)...Yellowstone
- Share the Road signage
- Pass Creek Deer trail (East La Veta Pass) – Mountain bike great view
- Runners need loops
- Aguilar county roads
- Trail system – bike & run
- Horseback – too many fences
- West county border – mining towns
- No motorized vehicles up & down USFS



Summer 2009

COUNTY-WIDE PARK & TRAIL SYSTEM SURVEY



Thank you for your interest in the Huerfano County park and trail system. Your input will help in achieving the Huerfano County Trails Master Plan vision where:

Huerfano County has an interconnected system of parks and trails that contributes to the sustainability of environmental, cultural, historical, recreational, and tourism assets for residents and visitors.

QUESTIONS

Where do you live? (please circle)

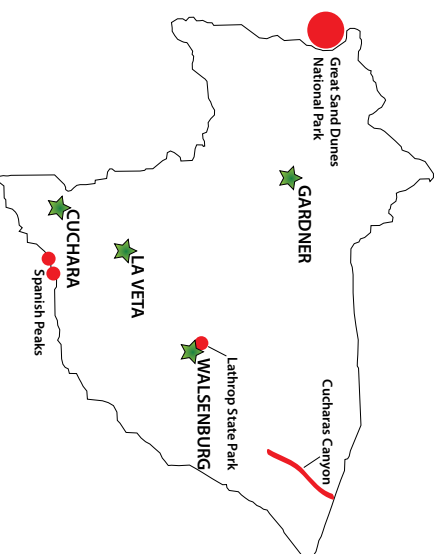
Cuchara Gardner La Veta Walsenburg
1 1 2 2
Other: Pueblo Denver

Where would you like to travel to in Huerfano County via trails (i.e. parks, towns, retail centers, schools, wilderness areas, cultural areas, etc.)?

- Highest elevation - 1 • Everywhere
- parks - 1
- wilderness areas - 2
- cultural areas - 1

What types of trails are you most interested in seeing developed? (rank your top 5 choices)

Roadside trails and sidewalks _____ 3
Bicycle routes and bicycle lanes _____ 6
Unpaved multi-use trails _____ 3
Paved multi-use trails _____ 3
Footpaths and backcountry trails _____ 7
Equestrian trails _____ 3
Paddleway trails _____ 1
Motorized trails _____ 1
Nordic and snowshoe trails _____ 2
Other: _____



What distances would you prefer to walk/hike/bike/ride horseback, etc.? (please circle all that apply)

Walk:	Less than 1 mile	1-3 miles	3-5 miles	5-10 miles	more than 10 miles
Hike:	Less than 1 mile	1-3 miles	3-5 miles	5-10 miles	more than 10 miles
Bike:	Less than 1 mile	1-3 miles	3-5 miles	5-10 miles	more than 10 miles
Equestrian:	Less than 1 mile	1-3 miles	3-5 miles	5-10 miles	more than 10 miles
Other:	Motorcycle : Less than 1 mile	1-3 miles	3-5 miles	5-10 miles	more than 10 miles
Running trails					

COUNTY-WIDE PRIORITIES: TRAIL & RECREATION PROJECTS

Huerfano County has been working with other partners on a county-wide plan for hiking, bicycling, walking and equestrian trails. In order to complete the plan, it would be helpful to understand what you see as the highest priorities for creating trails in the county.

The Huerfano County Parks & Trails Working Group has identified several trail projects that contribute to this vision. Please help us understand which of these projects you would like to see accomplished first by selecting your **top 4 projects**. Complete the short survey below or our online survey, and submit by **Friday, August 5th**.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/huerfanotrails>

TRAIL PROJECTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>A. Cucharas River Trail – The Cucharas Riverwalk trail in Walsenburg will run just east of Fiesta Park along the Cucharas River to Walsenburg Wild Waters. This trail will offer Huerfano County residents and visitors a pleasant walk through picnic areas, amphitheater entertainment, and natural beauty.</p> <p>B. Fitness Trail – within Fiesta Park</p> <p>C. 2nd Street Trail - the 2nd Street Trail connects the City of Walsenburg to the Walsenburg Golf Course & Lathrop State Park, serving pedestrian, bike, and equestrian users through both paved and unpaved trail.</p> <p>D. Lathrop to Walsenburg (Hwy 160) – this trail will travel from the Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center to Walsenburg Wild Waters.</p> <p>E. Walsenburg to La Veta trail – easy to moderate hiking & biking trail along Bear Creek Road. Trail users will enjoy scenic views of the dike walls near the Spanish Peaks, the Cucharas River, and beautiful scenery.</p> <p>F. Hwy 160 Overpass and Scenic Overlook – a pedestrian bridge over Highway 160 will connect the Veterans’ Hospital to Lathrop State Park.</p> | <p>G. La Veta to Gardner – moderate to difficult hiking and backpacking trail using mostly public lands.</p> <p>H. Walsenburg to Gardner – The Gardner to Walsenburg trail mostly follows Highway 69. Traveling west past the coal mines and old rail bed, the trail continues to Gardner following the Huerfano River.</p> <p>I. La Veta to Cuchara – this trail would be created by widening Highway 12 to include a bike lane.</p> <p>J. ATV Trails on the west side of the Greenhorn</p> <p>K. Improved Trailheads for existing hiking and wilderness trails</p> <p>L. Improved Trail Signage on existing trails.</p> <p>M. Continue Rainbow Trail through Huerfano County</p> |
|--|---|

YOUR TOP 4 TRAIL PROJECTS

Tell us your 4 top trail projects in the spaces below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

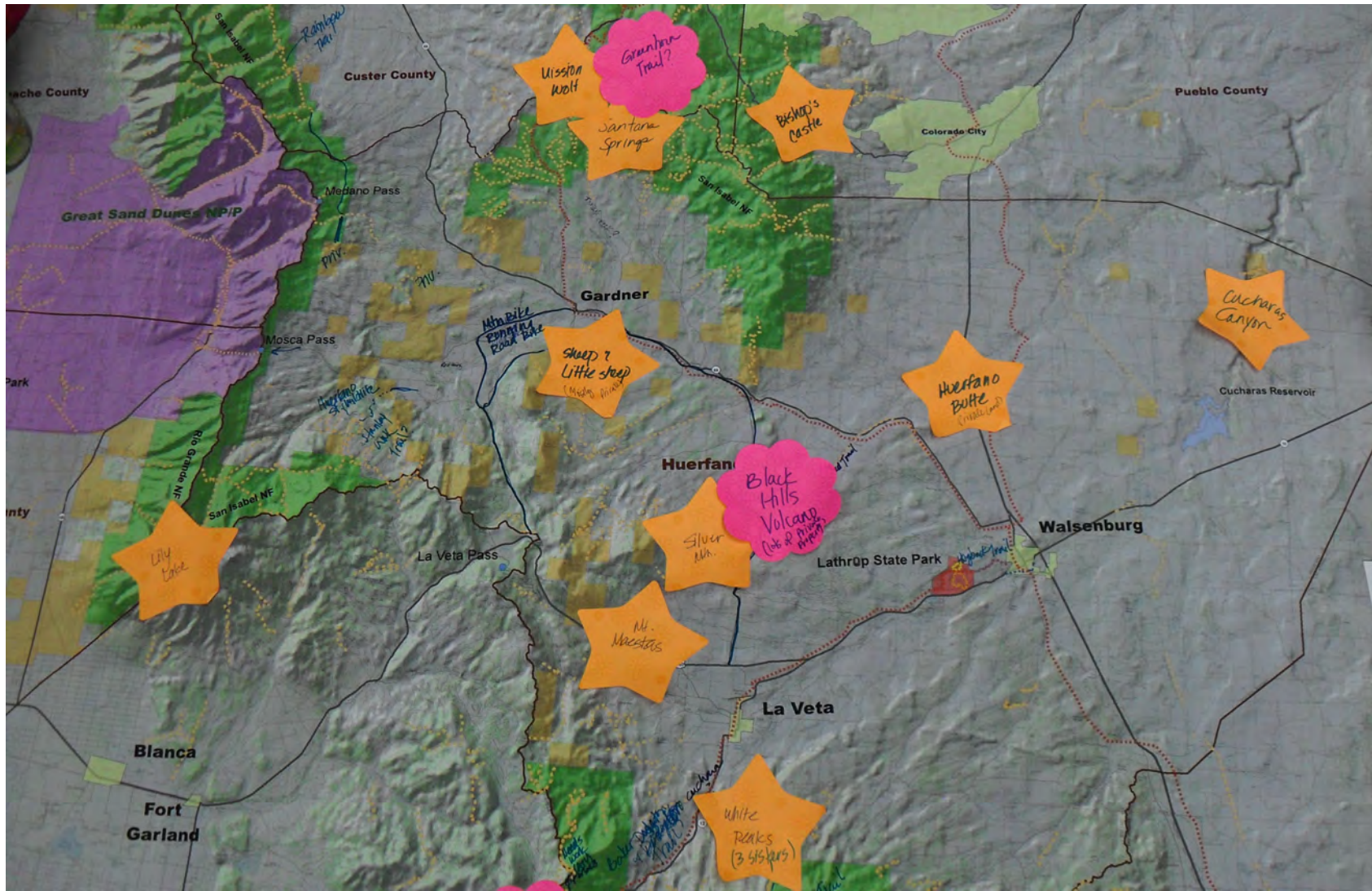
See back for mailing address and drop-off locations.

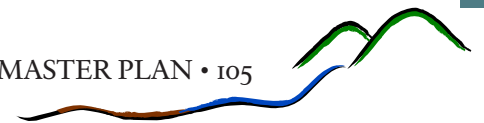
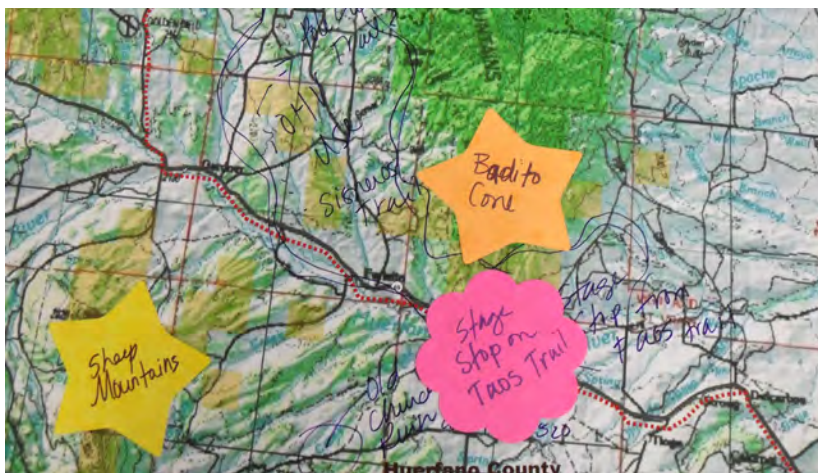
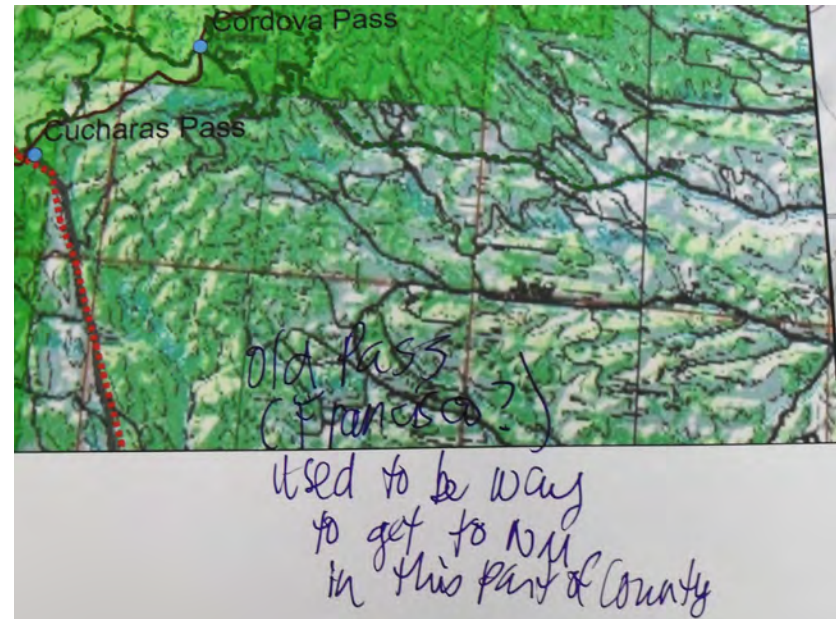
HUERFANO
COUNTY
Trails Master Plan

WHERE DO YOU WANT TRAILS
IN HUERFANO COUNTY?



Public Input: Hippy Days, Gardner 2009



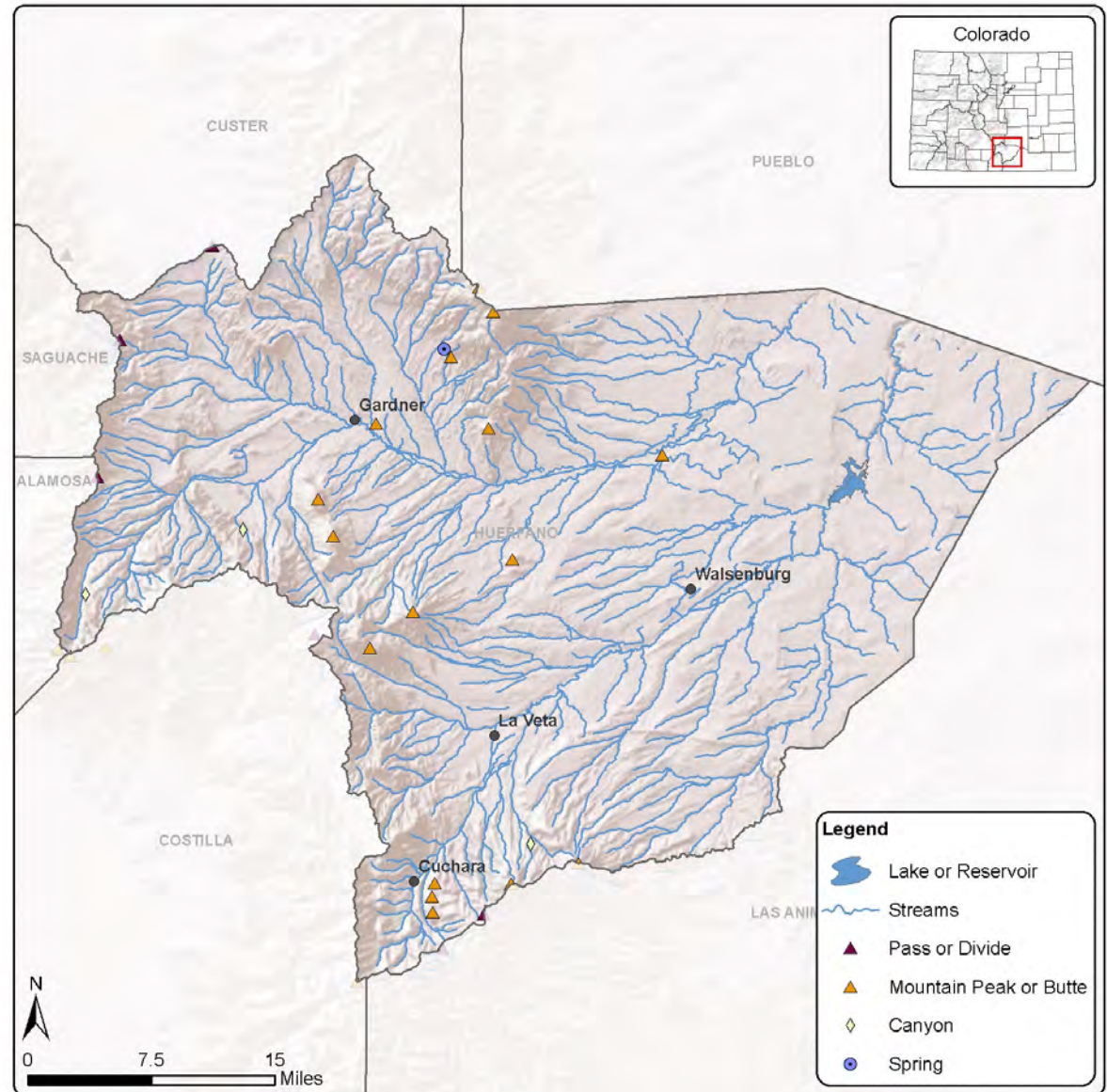


Appendix B: Existing Information Maps

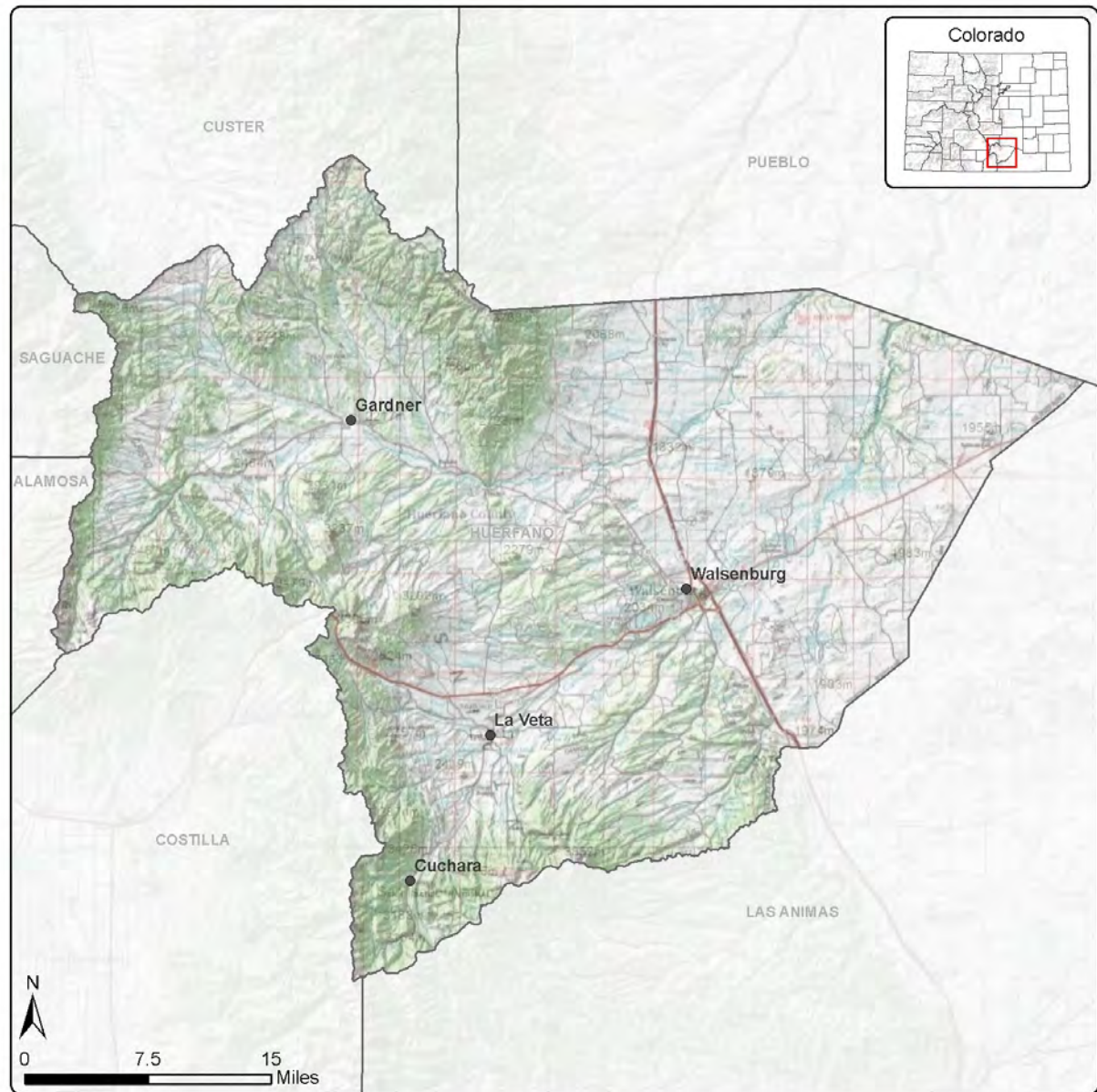
Satellite Imagery



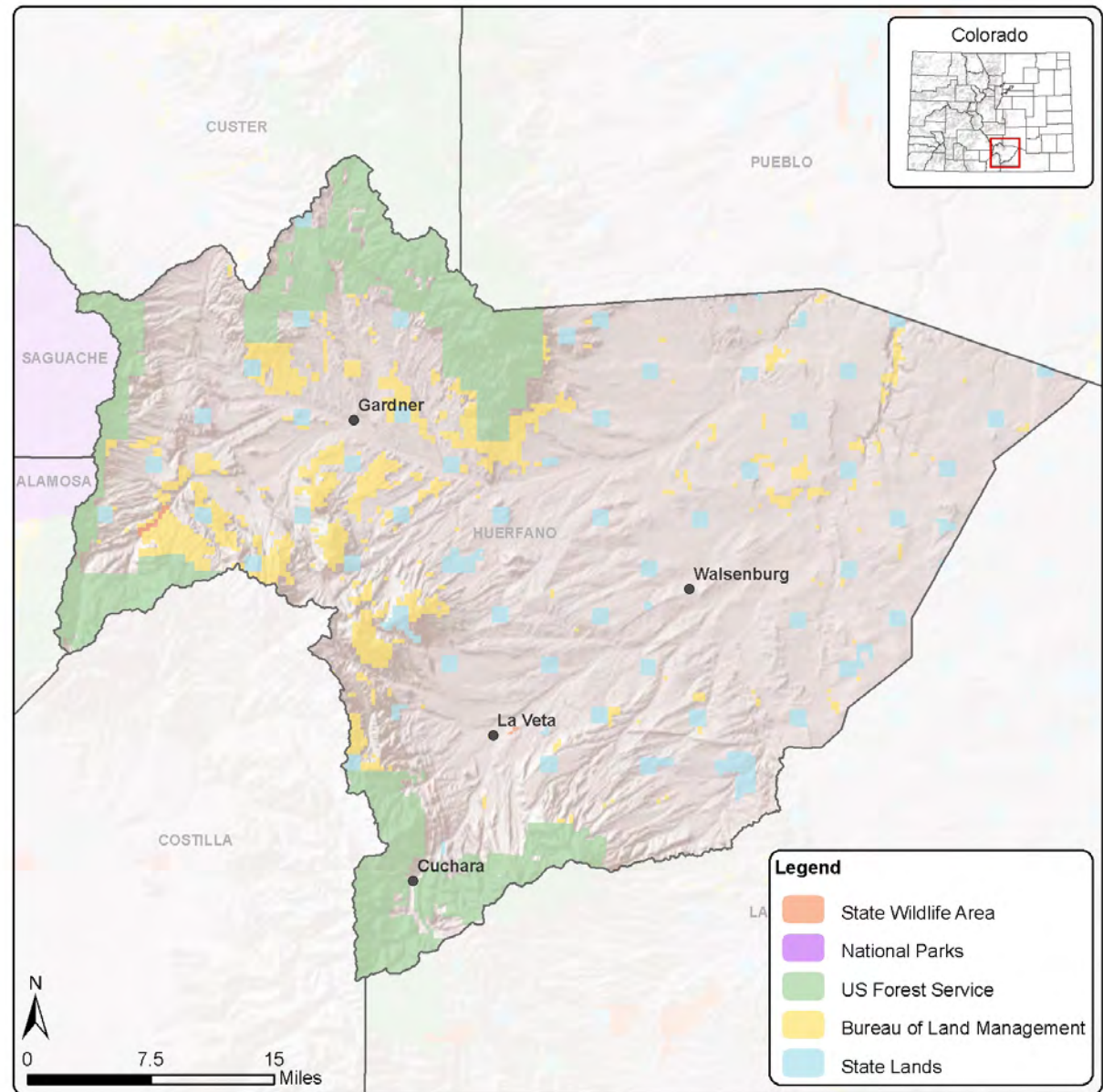
Topography



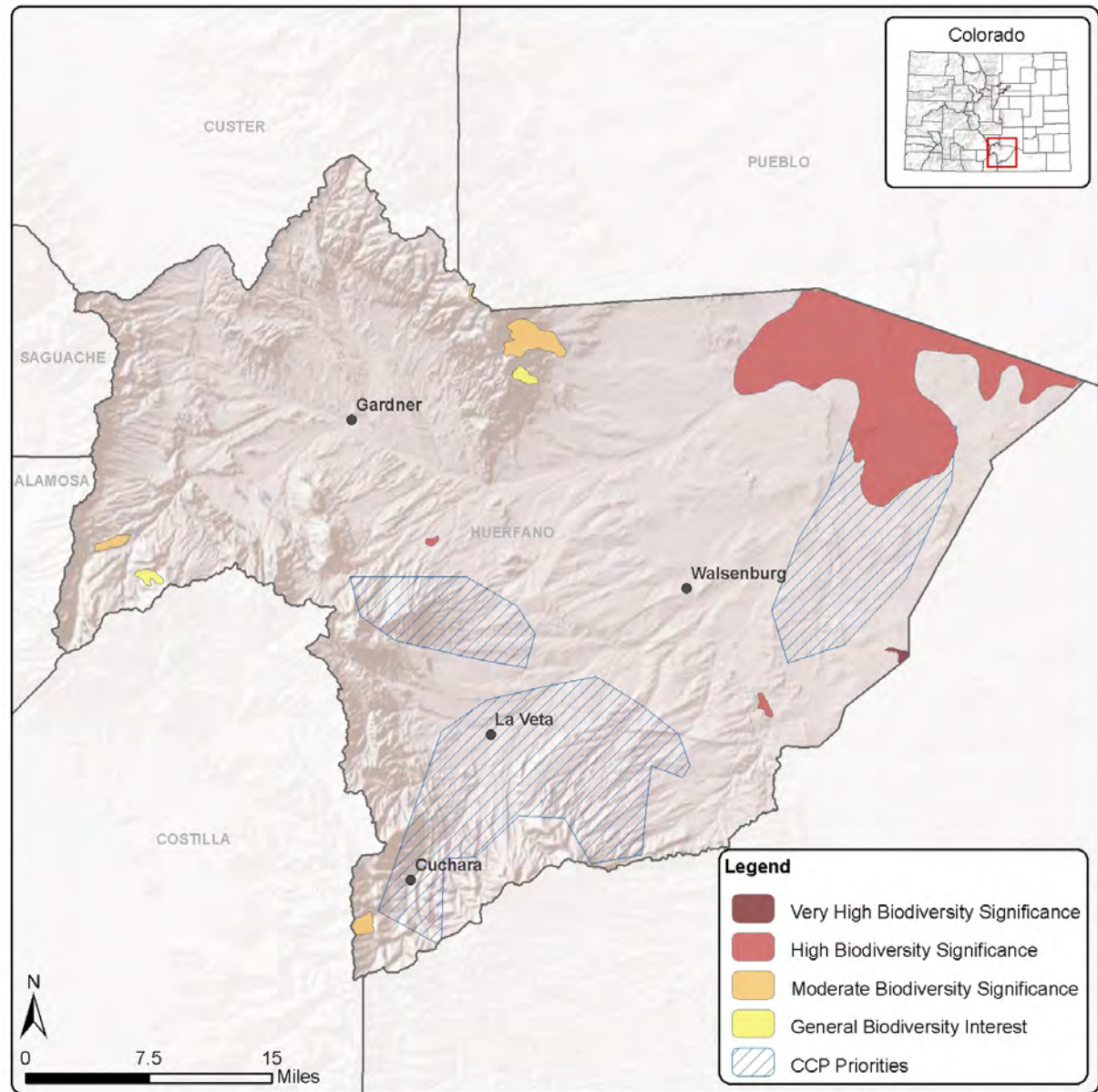
Contours



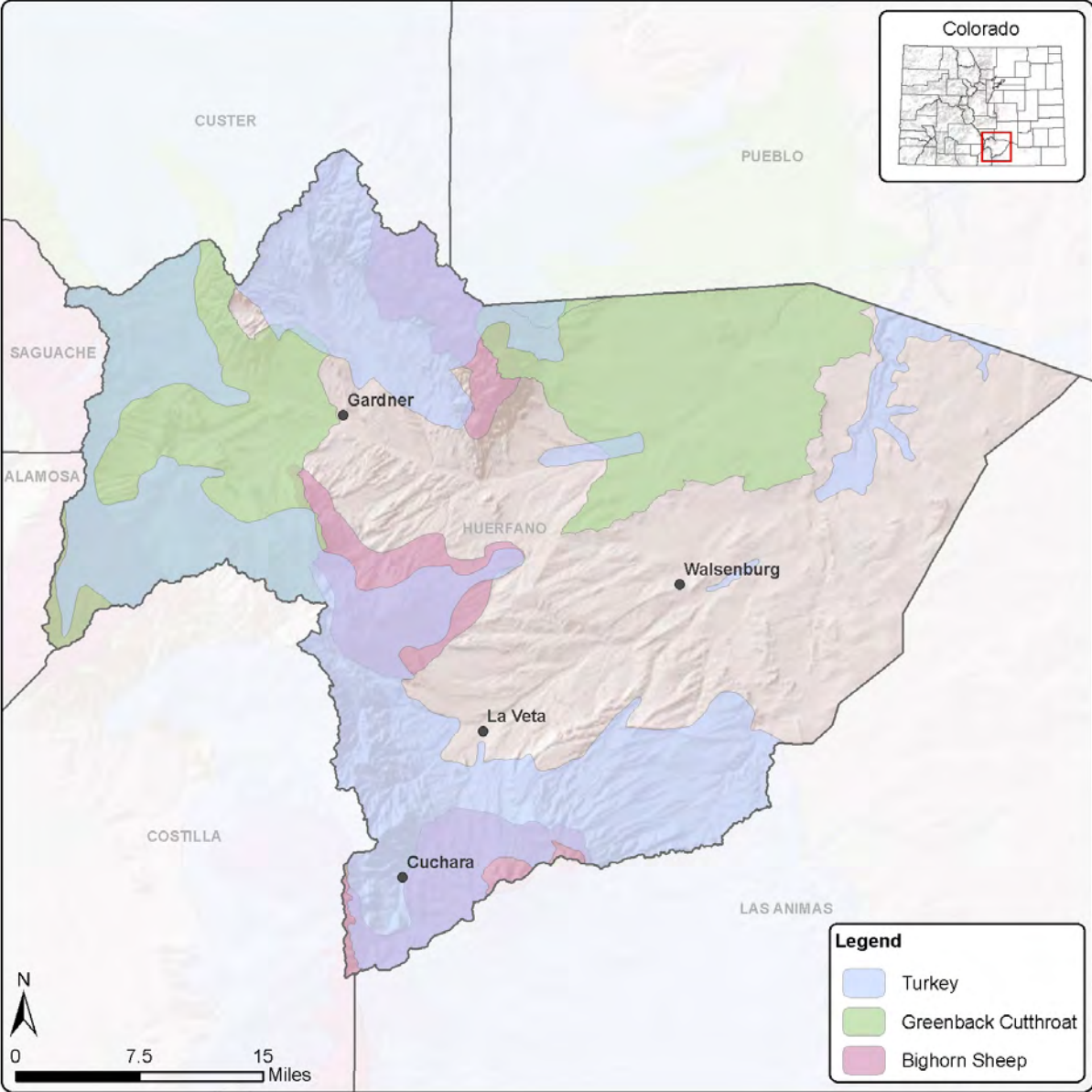
Land Ownership



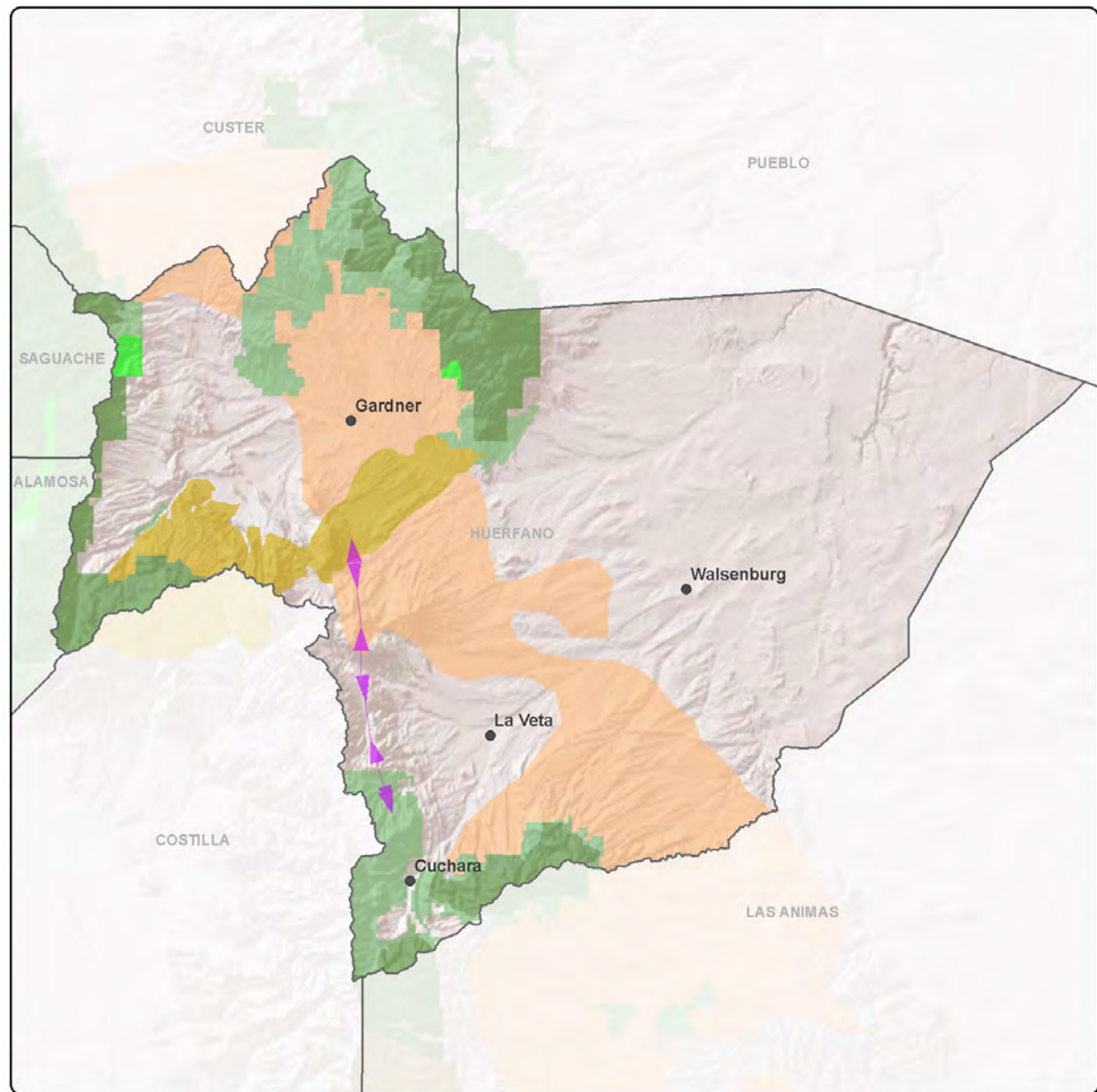
Biodiversity



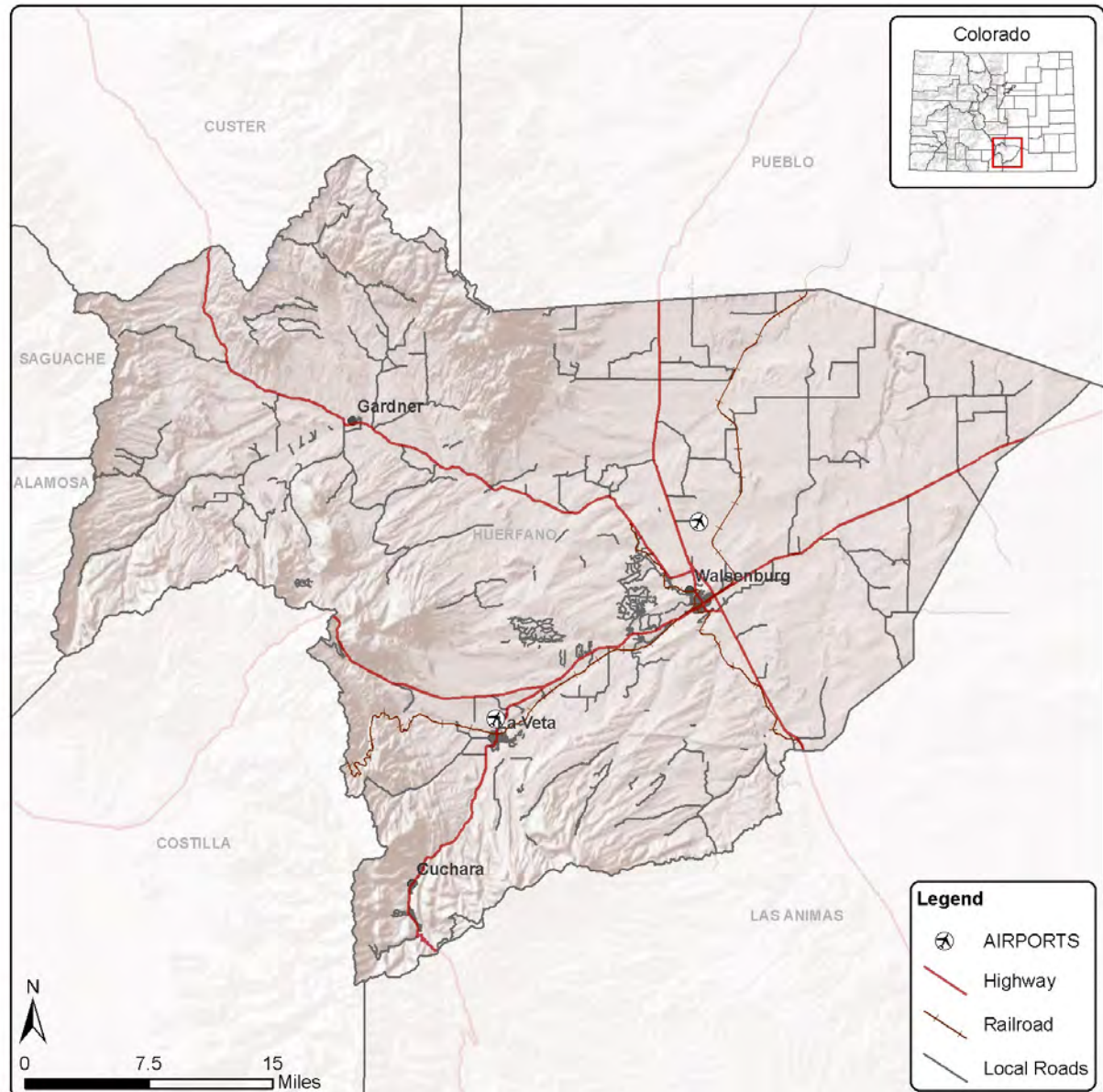
Wildlife



Ecosystems



Roads



Community-Identified Resources

