



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 7, 2015**

**Members Present:** Leslie Thomas, Joe Lavorini, Jason Alwine, PJ Anderson, Jeff Mohrmann, Jim Rees

**Members Absent:** Lee Milner, Kirk Samelson, Becky Wegner

**Alternates Present:** Cathy Grossman, Sarah Musick

**Citizens Advisory Committee Members Present:** Jackie Hilaire, Scott Hume, John Maynard

**Staff Present:** Chris Lieber, Julie Lafitte, Kurt Schroeder

\*\*\*\*\*  
Leslie Thomas brought the meeting to order at 7:41am.

**Agenda Preview**

There were no changes to the agenda as presented.

**Announcements** (Chris Lieber)

Upcoming agenda items:

- Property acquisitions (anticipated in February or March)
  - Rock Island trail corridor acquisition
  - Properties around Cheyenne Mountain
- Draft of Park System Action Plan/Department Strategic Plan presented for Committee's input
- Departmental Code Scrub – including updating the TOPS Policies and Procedures Manual (starting in early summer)

Upcoming events:

- 2 additional Mayor's Community Forums in January
- SCIP bond renewal and TABOR refund items listed on City Council work session agenda for Jan. 12; Committee members are welcomed to attend or submit a letter of support if they wish; the list of CIP projects focuses on the desire to "take care of what we have" expressed during the Master Plan public process.
- Neighborhood meeting for Monterey/Meadowlark playground meetings on Jan. 9, 5:00pm at Monterey Elementary School

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion – to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2014 meeting with the following change: "Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Liaisons" should be "Citizens Advisory Committee Members" in order to match language in the TOPS Ordinance.

- Jason Alwine/Jeff Mohrmann Approved – Unanimous

### **Citizen Discussion**

Bill Koerner (TOSC) commented on two issues:

1. The TOSC Advocacy Committee voted to support the SCIP renewal proposal. A letter and resolution in support of putting the proposal on the ballot will be sent too City Council, pending approval by the TOSC board (expected soon).
2. TOSC supports El Paso County's acquisition of Jones Park with conditions which City Council has imposed, the most important of which being a conservation easement and continued public access.

### **Action Item**

Bratton Land Acquisition – Addition to Garden of the Gods Park

Chris Lieber explained that the Bratton property, inside the City limits along Rampart Range Road at the edge of Garden of the Gods, is one of a group of lots the City has been acquiring individually over a number of years. Funds for the purchase will come from \$50,000 previously budgeted by the Committee and approved by City Council for small land acquisitions. Photos and maps are included at the end of these minutes.

Dick Bratton, property owner, thanked the committee members for their volunteer service and mentioned how pleased he is to be able to help preserve open space.

Motion – to approve the purchase of the Bratton Property for a price of \$7000 plus up to \$1500 for closing and other incidental costs.

Leslie Thomas/PJ Anderson      Approved – Unanimous

### **Presentation Item**

Committee Member Joe Lavorini (Rocky Mountain Field Institute) and Mitch Martin (Cheyenne Mountain State Park Manager) gave presentations on the trail circuit at the top of Cheyenne Mountain, including trail building plans for summer 2015. Mitch also reported on projects and improvements within CMSP. Both presentations are included at the end of these minutes.

There was a discussion of trail connections and other options concerning the top of mountain trail network, as well as a few questions about funding, training and use of volunteer sawyers for fire mitigation work in CMSP.

### **Staff Reports**

Updates (Chris Lieber):

- Ute Valley Park Master Plan Process – the final public meeting will be on Jan 27, 6:00pm at Eagleview Middle School
- Ute Valley Addition – closing on the property will be during the week of Jan. 26
- Legacy Loop – the department will resubmit the GOCO grant application for the Legacy Loop; Parks Board will consider the grant request at the Jan. 8 board meeting.
- Venezia Park – ground breaking in March or April

### **Citizen Discussion**

Bill Koerner (TOSC) had a few questions about South Shooks Run trail and the Doxey parcel. Discussions with Mr. Doxey continue and there is no new information to share at this time. The south Shooks Run Trail remains a priority for the TOPS Program and the City Parks Department.

**Adjournment**

Motion – To adjourn the meeting as no Closed Executive Session was needed.

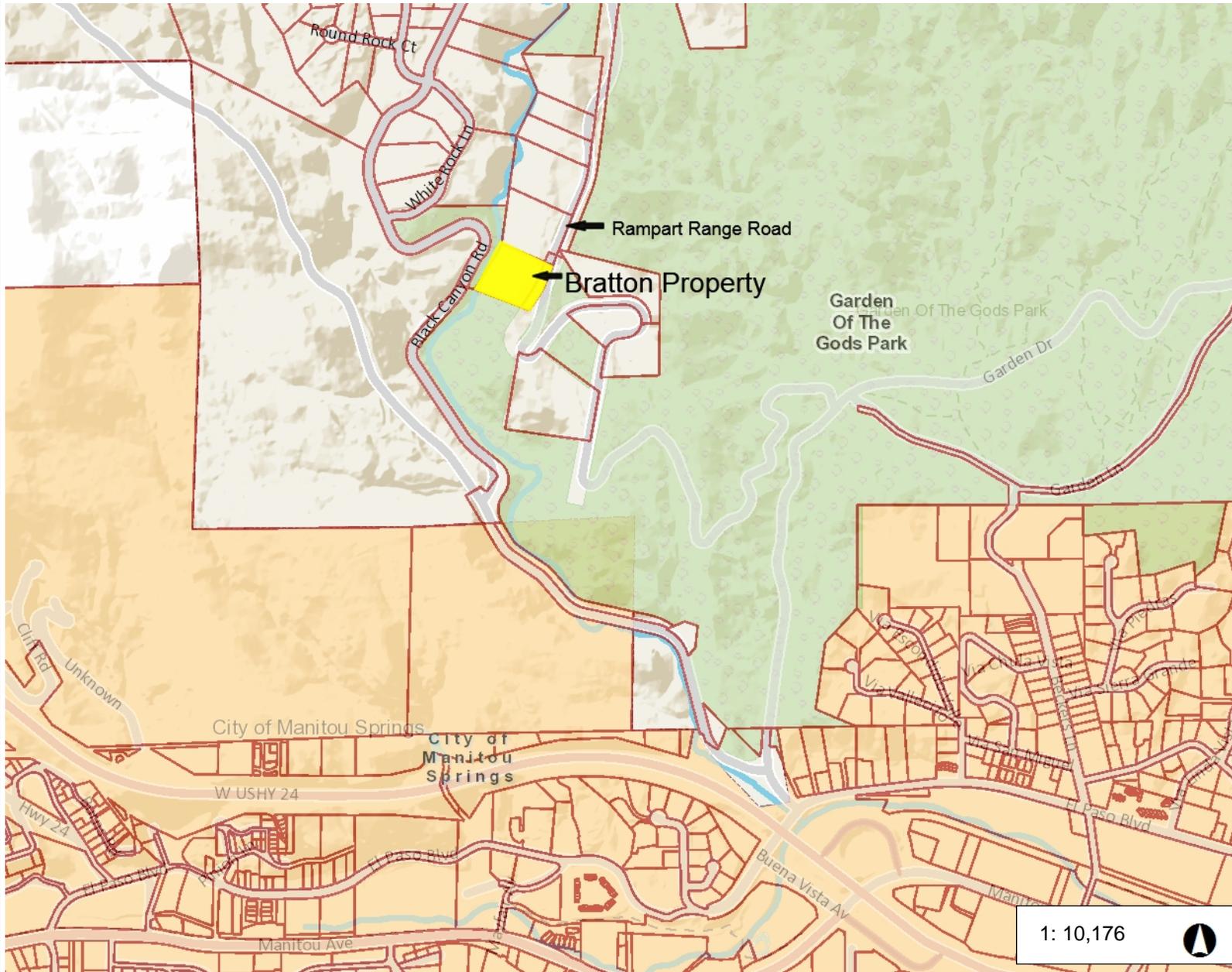
PJ Anderson/Jason Alwine      Approved – Unanimous

There being no further the business, the Working Committee adjourned at 9:06am.

DRAFT



# Bratton Property- Exhibit A



## Legend

- Parcels
- National Forest
- Parks
- Military
- Towns
- Schools
- Park Trails
- Urban Paved
- Urban Gravel
- Urban Natural
- Golf Fairways
- Place Labels
- Bus Stops
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Roadway\_Patch\_1K**
  - <all other values>
  - Interstate
  - Major Roads
  - Local Roads
  - Ramps
- Streets**
  - Interstate
  - Major Roads
  - Local Roads
  - Ramps

## Notes

1: 10,176



NAD\_1983\_StatePlane\_Colorado\_Central\_FIPS\_0502\_Feet  
© Latitude Geographics Group Ltd.

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.  
**THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION**

















# Cheyenne Mountain State Park

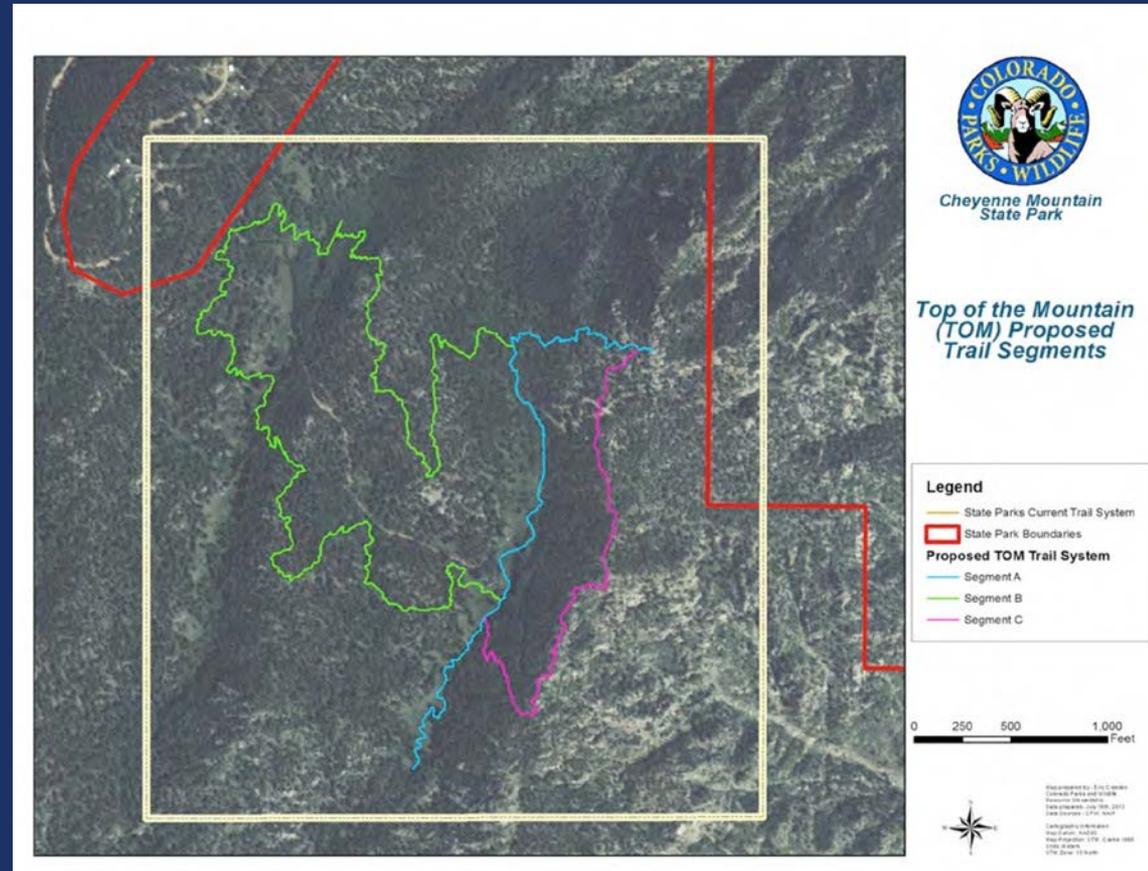
## Top of the Mountain Trail Update



December 7, 2015  
TOPS Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

## Project Background

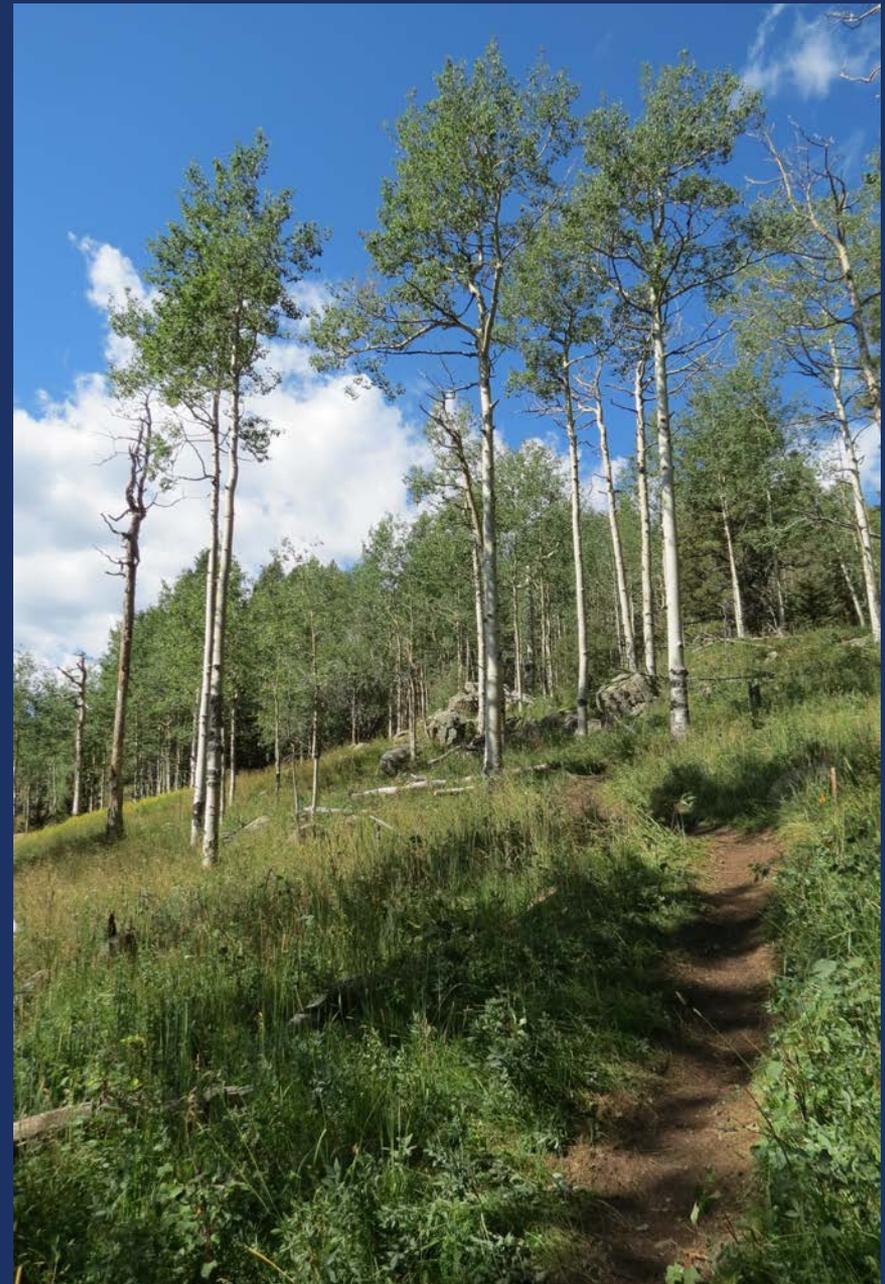
- 2000: 2,701 acres acquired
- 2006: CMSP opened to public
- 2009: 1,021 acres on TOM acquired in 2009 through partnership with COS & CPW
- 2013: Park Management Plan identified trail circuit on TOM as high priority
- 2013: Wildscapes Planning & Design contracted to design TOM trail network
- 2014: Rocky Mountain Field Institute contracted to begin trail construction



*Above: Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Proposed TOM Trail System. Prepared by E. Creedin, CP&W.*

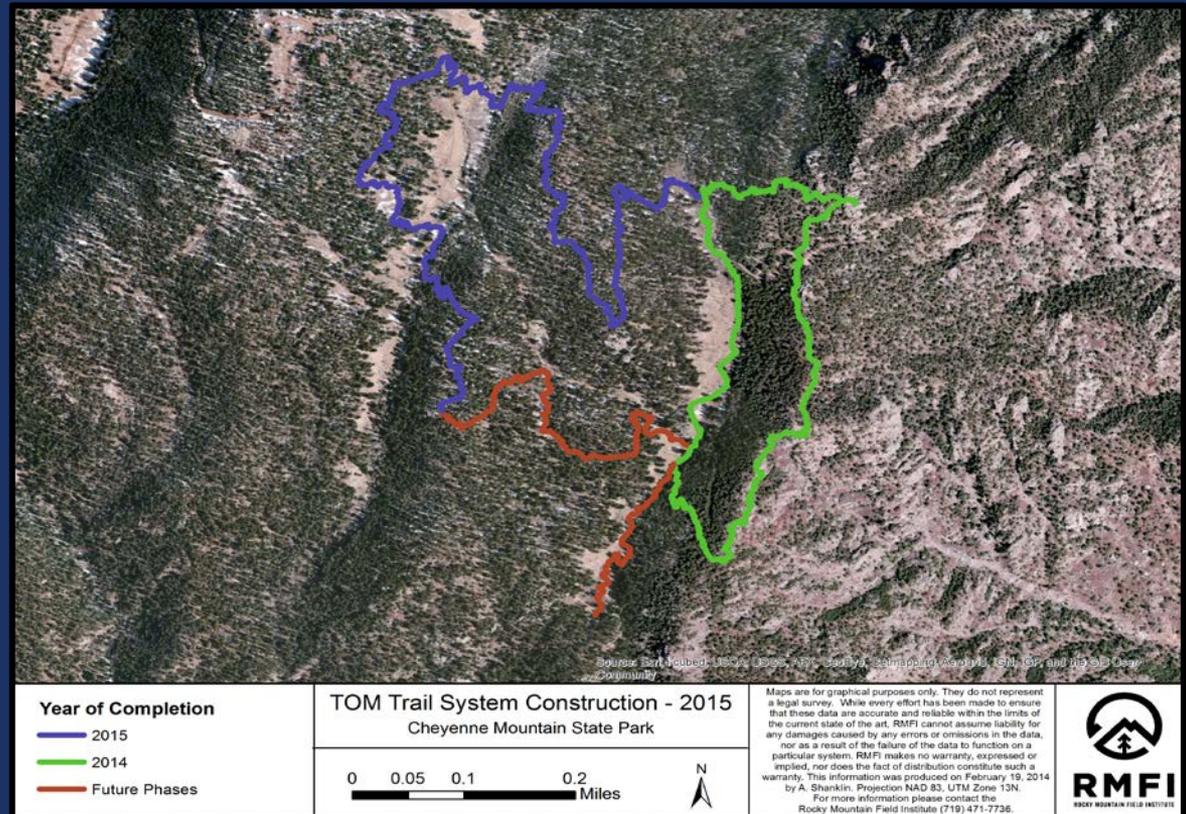
## Project Statistics

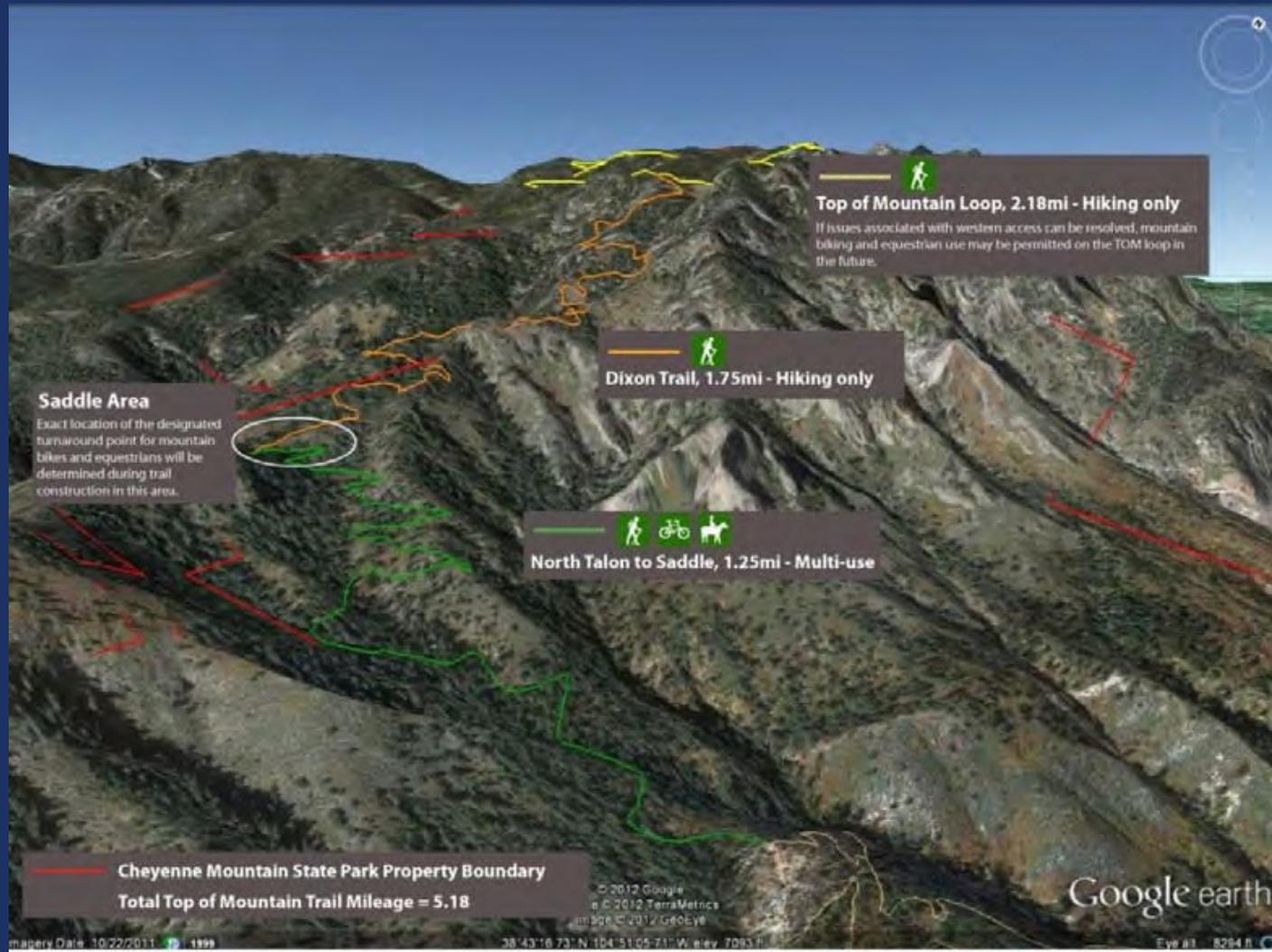
- 11,400 feet of trail corridor cleared
- 9,360 of 19,217 feet of trail completed
- 18 inch trail tread
- 169 rock steps constructed (majority built in Segment A due to steep changes in elevation)



## Project Timeline

- 2009-13: Project planning
- 2014-15: TOM trail construction
- 2015-17: Design and construction of Dixon Trail
- Ongoing: Negotiations to purchase surrounding parcels





*Above: Representation showing the proposed trail system, including the connecting Dixon Trail. (Cheyenne Mountain State Park 2013 Master Plan, pg. 6).*

A scenic landscape photograph of a mountain range. In the foreground, a dirt path winds through a valley with green and yellow foliage. The middle ground shows rolling hills with sparse trees and shrubs. In the background, a large, rugged mountain peak rises against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The text 'CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK UPDATE' is overlaid in large, bold, black capital letters in the center of the image.

**CHEYENNE  
MOUNTAIN  
STATE PARK  
UPDATE**

# GENERAL



- Staffing
  - Five FTE
    - Park Manager
    - Senior Ranger
    - Ranger (Vacant)
    - Park Resource Technician
    - Administrative Assistant

# GENERAL

## Fiscal Year to Date

- Visitation

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| – 2012 | 61,164 |
| – 2013 | 59,740 |
| – 2014 | 71,732 |

- Revenue

|        |                               |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| – 2012 | \$165,345.74                  |
| – 2013 | \$198,278.27 (increase 19.9%) |
| – 2014 | \$255,351.57 (increase 28.8%) |

# GENERAL

- Volunteers

- 2012 8,873 hours

- 2013 9,867 hours

- 2014 10,765 hours (+ December hours)

Currently just under a 10% increase

308 active volunteers

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

Approved December, 2012

- ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES
  - New Facilities and Infrastructure
  - Rehabilitation and Restoration Efforts
  - Management Initiatives

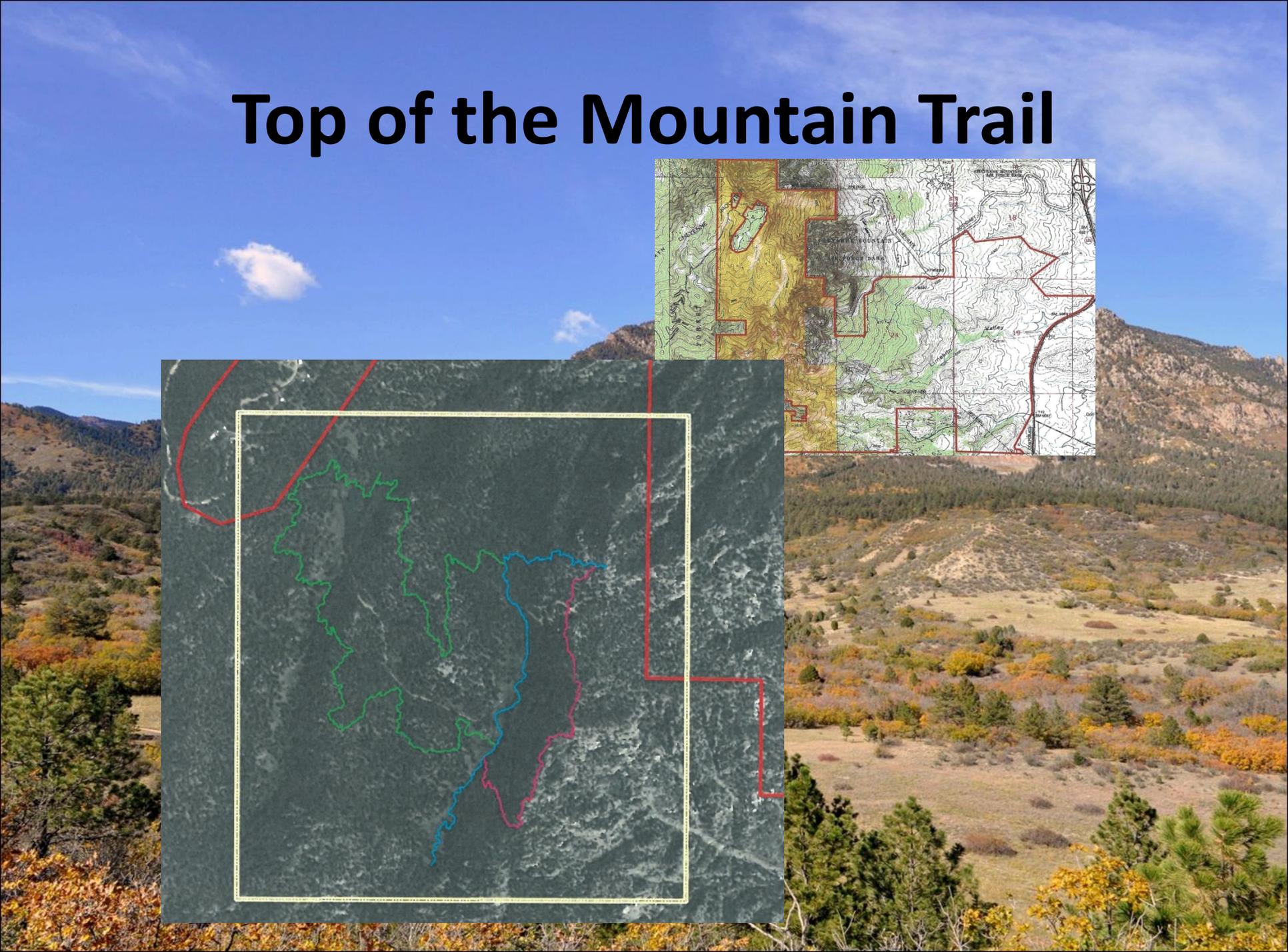
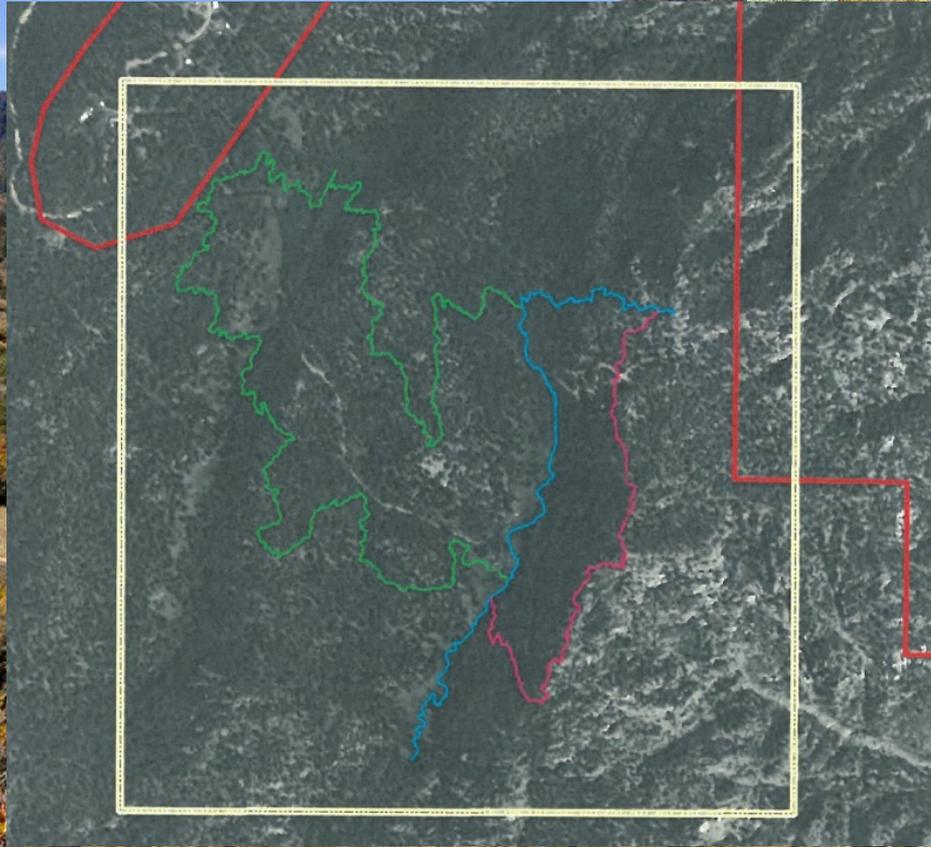
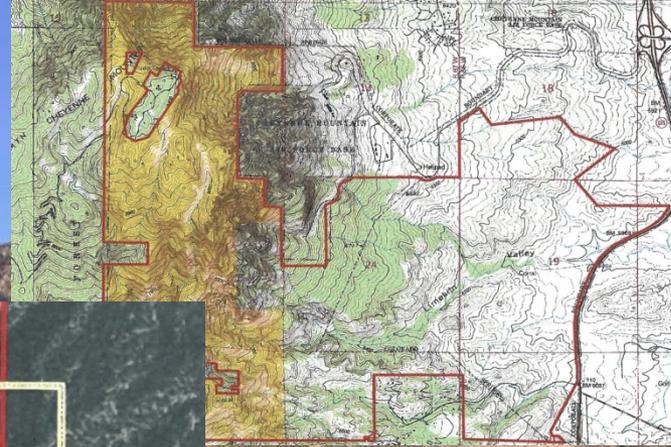
All enhancement opportunities were ranked in either a High or Medium Priority

# Top of the Mountain Trail



- December 2013
  - Wildscapes Planning & Design LLC completed the trail layout for the Top of the Mountain
  - 3 Trails in a figure 8 design
  - Totaling 3.65 miles
- July 2014
  - Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) completed approximately 1.6 miles of trail
  - RMFI is funded and scheduled to return in 2015

# Top of the Mountain Trail

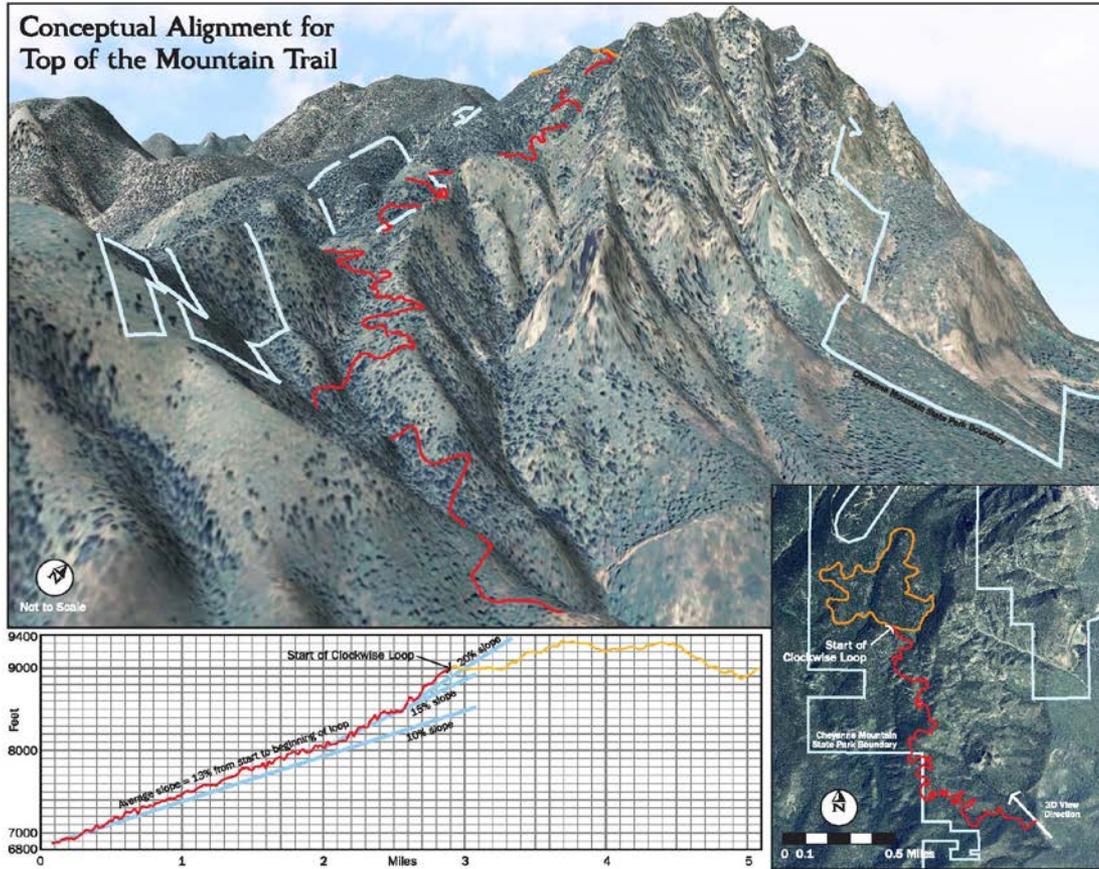


# Top of the Mountain Trail (Dixon Trail)

- Total trail is approximately 3 miles
- To date completed approximately .8 mile of trail
  - VOC in 2011 and 2012
  - Volunteer Trail Crew in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014
  - I have applied with VOC to possibly return in 2015

# Top of the Mountain Trail (Dixon Trail)

Conceptual Alignment for  
Top of the Mountain Trail

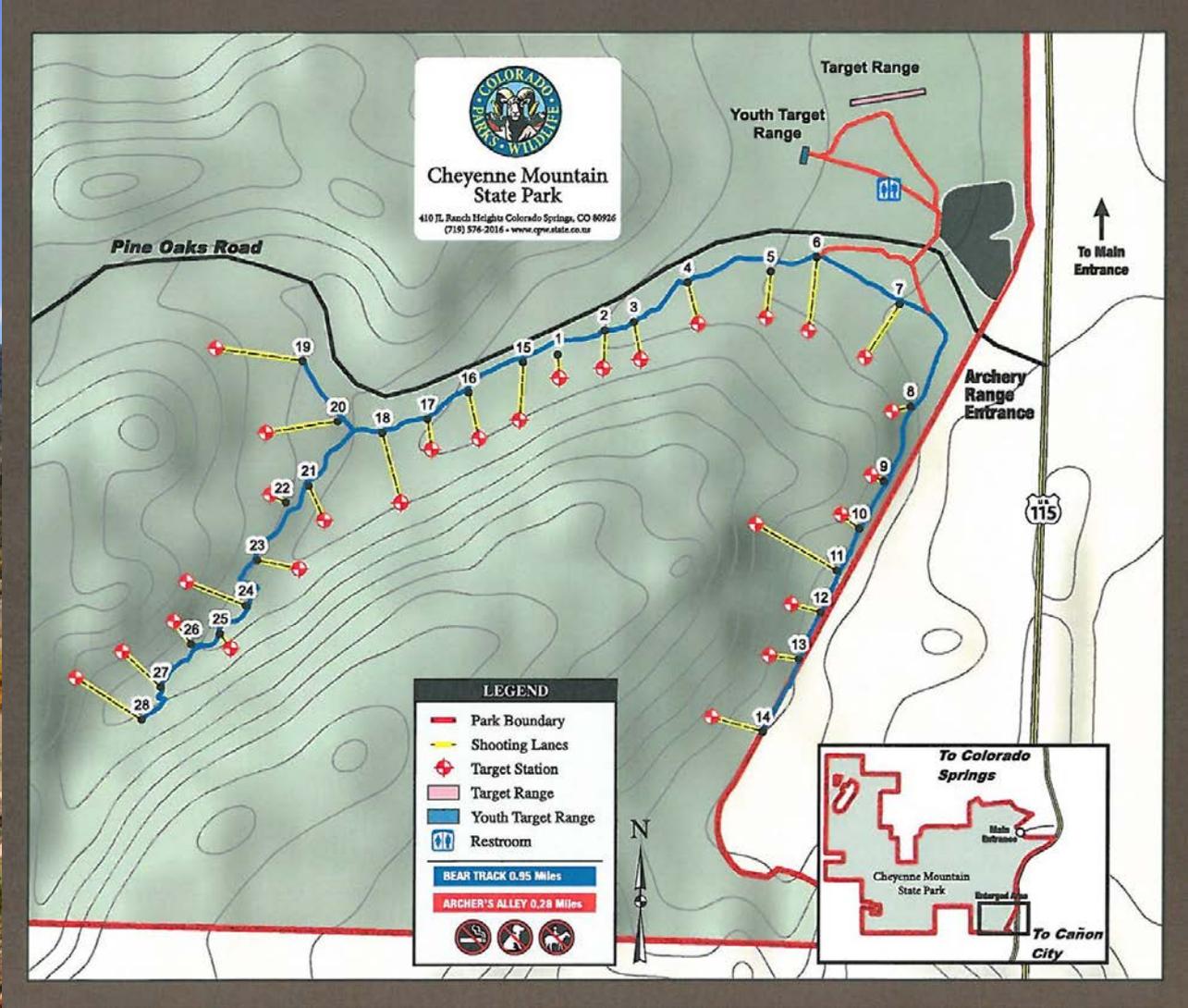


# Archery Range

- Hired Contractor to design range in January of 2013 and began construction in March 2013
- Soft Opening in October 2013
- Grand Opening April 5, 2014
- March to November 2014 collected \$31,500.00 with the highest month of August



# Archery Range



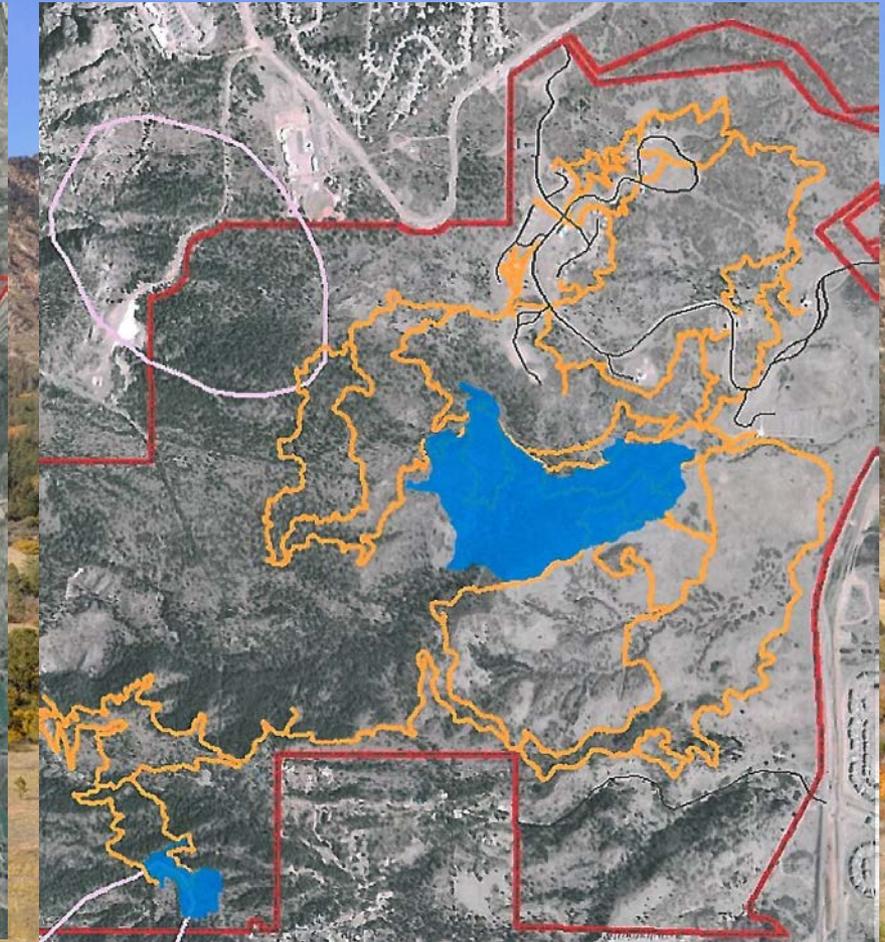
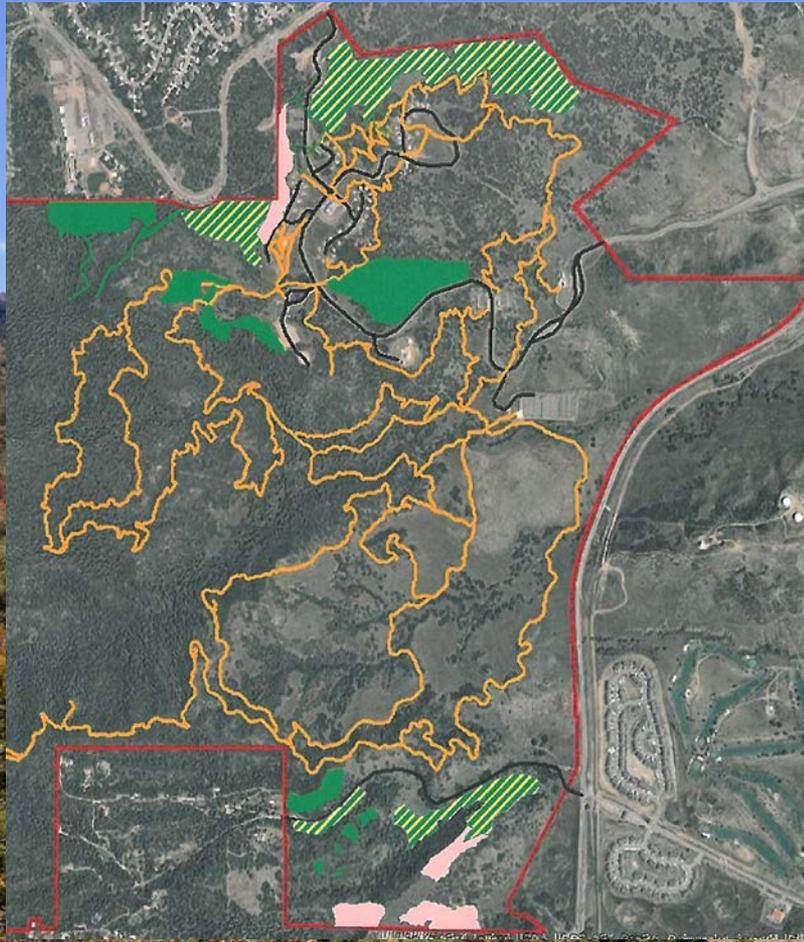
# Fuel Mitigation

- During the Management Planning Process, we had completed 100 acres of Fuel Mitigation
- As of February 2014, we re-treated 57 acres and completed 18.4 new acres
- As of December 2014, we have a contractor on the park treating 100 new acres
- In addition, during 2014 the Volunteer Crew has been hard at work

# Fuel Mitigation

**Volunteers 2013**

**current Contractor**



# Equestrian Use

- Jan 2, 2015 Opened to Equestrian Use
- Portions of Sundance Trail and Talon Trail, plus North Talon and South Talon



# Marketing of the Park

- We have increased marketing efforts for the park
  - News releases related to the Archery Range, Group Picnic Area, Rental Fees, and Interpretive Programs
- Through these efforts we have increased usage
  - Group Picnic- 2012 and 2013, 12 rentals each year  
2014, to 31 rentals

# Retail Program

- We have two Retail Stores on the park
    - Visitor Center
    - Camper Services Building (seasonal)
  - Increase of 23.4% to the Retail Program (2013 to 2014 FY to Date)
    - 2012           \$13,489.30
    - 2013           \$19,420.47
    - 2014           \$23,973.81
- Primary sales in the Clothing, Food, and Firewood categories



**QUESTIONS?**