DEVELOPING THE PLAN







Prepared for: Prepared by: The Village of Ruidoso, New Mexico

y: The International Mountain Bicycling Association Trail Solutions program PO Box 7578 Boulder, CO 80306







ZONE ANALYSIS

- After you've completed community and land manager engagement, created a vision, found available data, assessed the terrain, and identified major control points, lines, and polygons; its time to start developing the plan!
- Before you draw lines on map, pull back your view and think higher level.
- <u>Zones</u> (polygons) are a useful tool to segregate certain terrain types and the experiences they can host. Zones may include key positive control points and avoid negative ones, they may meet at important intersections or junctions, especially those driven by the landscape.
- Sketching in zones lets one assess feasibility of the project, is it possible, is it worth it?
- Conceptual zones can help determine <u>trail density</u>. Trail density often depends on the landscape setting and planned experience goals.
- Rough rules of thumb; 1 mile per 10 acres is quite dense (think city park), the less dense the system to more remote/solitude your provide visitors, single-use experience pods like mountain bike gravity zones may appeal to more dense trails, typically the densest part of the system is adjacent to the trailhead.







Stacked Loops

- Stacked loops are appealing because they offer variety. Loops let visitors enjoy trails of varying distances, difficulty, or ecosystems in the same outing. Several different types of loops can work depending on the landscape constraints; links in a chain, lollipops connected together, large outer loop with inner options, etc. Stacked loops make optimal use of available land by dispersing visitors depending on their desired experience and skill.
- In general, the easiest loops/terrain should be close to the trailhead to provide the best accessibility to new trail users or those looking for quick simple outings. The most challenging trails and terrain should be further away from the proposed parking hubs, rewarding those willing to travel longer distances. Putting the difficult segments further out of reach of beginners, and giving riders time and distance to warm up before reaching those technical segments, provides a level of self-selection in the system, a proven risk management tool.
- Connectivity is important, and loops are not always possible. Shared use corridors are common when constraints create one feasible trail alignment. Providing connectivity is important, there may only be one route to a mountain peak. But in general, loops are much preferred by all visitor types.



Connectivity

 Connectivity is important, and loops are not always possible. Shared use corridors are common when constraints create one feasible trail alignment. Providing connectivity is important, there may only be one route to a mountain peak or one way to a community access point. In general, loops are much preferred by all visitor types, minimize "out and back" experiences when possible.







Shared use & Single Use

- Shared use trails are important for building community and offering the most recreation from the landscape. Key connections between access points, trailheads, or important control points are often shared use.
- Pockets of single use can help accommodate more diverse experiences and reduce visitor conflicts. For instance, a hiking-only nature trail can offer quiet solitude for those seeking connection with nature, while a mountain bike-only descent gives riders a chance to let loose and go fast, without worry of startling other visitors.







Intersections

- Intersections are important control points, like turning locations they may not be identified until the design phase. During the planning phases, key intersections may be established to guide the interaction of experience zones and trail corridors.
- Natural intersection points may include the trailhead/access points, saddles between peaks, or key water crossings. In general, intersections on anything over mellow slopes are tough to create without some conflict potential.







Hubs & Clusters

- Hubs and clusters are enhanced purposeful intersections and associated experience zones. They
 give visitors more trail options for varying skill levels at each hub (major intersection), allowing
 for progressive skill level and trail types diversity. At many hubs, there is the option to change the
 trail difficulty or type, or continue on the same skill level/style trail.
- This practice better spreads out visitation and helps reduce visitor conflict. A "cluster" is a concentration of trails with various difficulty levels or styles. Clusters may have a theme, creating an experience zone, such as a gravity zone for bike-only descents, or a nature zone near waterfront for hikers and walkers.







<u>Trailheads</u>

- Well-placed trailheads and parking lots contribute to successful trail systems. Trailheads should be located in areas of lower elevation, as most trail visitors prefer outbound climbs with inbound descents back to the parking area. This also helps mitigate risk by allowing fatigued riders an easier route back to their starting point. This is especially true for mountain bikers, and necessary for families and beginners. Mountain bikers usually prefer to exert themselves the fullest on the first half of an outing, and enjoy a descent back to their vehicle on the second half. Trailheads can be well-developed, or primitive. They can also be focused towards one visitor type over the other.
- Determining your trailhead needs is important during planning. Trail systems intended to host competitive events may require large parking areas. Will there be camping at the trailhead? Do you need parking for 10 or 100 cars? Mountain bikers often have large racks on their cars, spaces need to be larger, while equestrians need whole trailer areas. Will there be night use of the trails? Should the trailhead be lit? Restrooms? Portable or flushing toilets?







Community Access Points

- Access points generally have no parking, often just a trail connection to existing infrastructure (bike path, road, etc.) Access points are important to promote inclusion and accessibility. Not all trail visitors have vehicles to drive to dedicated trailheads, community access points can help provide more options for a diverse population.
- Access points are difficult to manage at trail systems with gate revenue goals. Access points also
 open up more confusion in a trail system, ensuring adequate and appropriate signage throughout
 the system is vital to all visitors.







Progression & Diversity

- Progression and diversity are important concepts from planning to construction that will help create a successful trail system that offers the most recreational benefits from the landscape in a minimal way.
- Providing progressive trail difficulty levels will help visitors increase their skills and grow. This is very important for mountain bikers. Diverse trail experiences, with different trail objectives and settings, help disperse visitors and create unique options for exploration.
- When combined with stacked loops, hubs and clusters, shared use and single use pockets; these guiding principles can help produce a high quality trail system for a wide range of visitors.







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	EASIEST WHITE CIRCLE	EASY GREEN CIRCLE	MORE DIFFICULT BLUE SQUARE	VERY DIFFICULT BLACK DIAMOND	EXTREMELY DIFFICULT
TRAIL WIDTH	72" (1,800 mm) or more	36" (900 mm) or more	24" (600 mm) or more	12" (300 mm) or more	6" (150 mm) or more
TREAD SURFACE	Hardened or surfaced	Firm and stable	Mostly stable with some variability	Widely variable	Widely variable and unpredictable
AVERAGE TRAIL GRADE	Less than 5%	5% or less	10% or less	15% or less	20% or more
MAXIMUM TRAIL GRADE	Max 10%	Max 15%	Max 15% or greater	Max 15% or greater	Max 15% or greater
NATURAL OBSTACLES AND TECHNICAL TRAIL FEATURES (TTF)	None	Unavoidable obstacles 2" (50 mm) tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present Unavoidable bridges 36" (900 mm) or wider	Unavoidable obstacles 8" (200 mm) tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present Unavoidable bridges 24" (600 mm) or wider TTF's 24" (600 mm) high or less, width of deck is greater than 1/2 the height	Unavoidable obstacles 15" (380 mm) tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present May include loose rocks Unavoidable bridges 24" (600 mm) or wider TTF's 48" (1,200 mm) high or less, width of deck is less than 1/2 the height Short sections may exceed	Unavoidable obstacles 15" (380 mm) tall or less Avoidable obstacles may be present May include loose rocks Unavoidable bridges 24" (600 mm) or narrower TTF's 48" (1,200 mm) high or greater, width of deck is unpredictable Many sections may exceed criteria





CORRIDOR ANALYSIS

- Zone analysis lets you determine large conceptual ideas and feasibility. It can often be useful for selling the vision and idea to others, land managers, local businesses, politicians, neighbors, etc.
- Corridors, actual trail alignments (lines), require some level of ground truthing. No amount of data can reliably be used to create accurate trail alignments without fieldwork.
- Corridor width depends on the level of planning you completing. Generally, at some point, going into enough depth turns to design. Wide corridors should be used during the planning phase, to better assess actual trail possibility and inform the design phase. During corridor analysis <u>trail type</u> becomes important, this will be based upon the zone.
- 100- to 300-foot corridors are quite common during <u>master planning</u>, where conceptual ideas are further vetted with corridors and more trail details. Sketching corridors on maps or spatial analysis programs can help identify new issues or confirm ideas from the zone analysis. Lines on a map are only as useful as the topographic data and trail grade details. If you draw a line that is too steep, it may misrepresent your opportunities.
- For instance, if you hoped for a 1-mile descent to the trailhead in your beginner zone, you may sketch a line at appropriate grades to confirm or deny.







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- Remember, trails can have only one design user, but many managed users.
- Trail type will be dictated by the design user first and foremost.
- After the design user, managed users add "multipliers" to trails, further dictating trail type.
- Exact and detailed trail descriptions may have a wide variety of attributes (measured or defined data).
- The more detailed classification of trails will become more important during design, for now focus on broad trail types that can help define the planning phase. Using high level trail types to denote experience zones and broader goals.







HIKING TRAIL (HIKE-OPTIMIZED HIKE-ONLY TRAIL)











HIKING TRAIL (HIKE-OPTIMIZED HIKE-ONLY TRAIL)



- Hiking only trail is optimized for the design and only managed use, foot traffic.
- Hiking only trails are typically rugged or natural feeling, since obstacles and tread texture is less important to foot traffic.
- Hiking only trails often employ techniques or features unsuitable for other user types; stairs, narrow boardwalks/bridges, steep grades, and narrow turns are a few examples.





TRADITIONAL SINGLETRACK (HIKE-OPTIMIZED SHARED-USE TRAIL)











TRADITIONAL SINGLETRACK (HIKE-OPTIMIZED SHARED-USE TRAIL)



- Traditional singletrack is optimized for the design user, foot traffic, but accommodates shared-use such as mountain biking with some modifications.
- Traditional shared-use trails will often use more appropriate grades for bikes and equestrians, as well as more suitable turn radii and styles to accommodate other users.
- Traditional shared-use trails lack bike-optimized features, like insloped turns and consistent rollers/grade dips.





MTB OPTIMIZED SINGLETRACK

(BIKE-OPTIMIZED SHARED-USE TRAIL)









MTB OPTIMIZED SINGLETRACK (BIKE-OPTIMIZED SHARED-USE TRAIL)



- Bike-optimized trails are optimized for the design user, bike traffic, but accommodate shared-use such as hiking and/or equestrians with some modifications.
- Always use appropriate grades, turn radii/type, and rolling contour alignment.
- Often use insloping, especially in turns. Careful attention to how insloping and rollers/grade dips will affect user speeds and visitor interactions is important.
- Long sightlines are vital for shared-use success.







MTB GRAVITY SINGLETRACK (BIKE-OPTIMIZED BIKE-ONLY DIRECITONAL TRAIL)











MTB GRAVITY SINGLETRACK (BIKE-OPTIMIZED BIKE-ONLY DIRECITONAL TRAIL)



- Take bike-optimized trail and fine tune it for the downhill direction and you get gravity trails.
- Directionality and single-use mean these trails can be highly enhanced; this leads to a wider variety of experiences because bikes allow for a multitude of riding styles.
 - Contain all the features of bike-optimized trails;
 appropriate grades, turn radii/type, and rolling contour alignment. These are often improved for bike-only use and for the downhill direction.







ROADS, PATHS, DOUBLETRACK (NOT REALLY TRAILS, BUT IMPORTANT)









ROADS, PATHS, DOUBLETRACK (NOT REALLY TRAILS, BUT IMPORTANT)



- Roads, paths, and double track provide important connectivity for many trail systems.
- Planning, design, and construction of these wider travel ways is outside the scope of this trail build school, but its important to note these types of corridors.
- Typically, especially for mountain bikers, these travel ways do not offer high quality experiences.







FACILITY TYPES

BIKE PARKS



FACILITY TYPES









PUMPTRACKS/ TOT TRACKS

FACILITY TYPES







FACILITY TYPES SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAILS



FACILITY TYPES















Planning, Design, and Construction by:

TRAIL SOLUTIONS 2 This trail network contains both natural and man-made terrain which changes constantly due to weather, use, and maintenance.

RESPECT EACH OTHER AND SHARE THE TRAIL Respect the land, wildlife, and other guests. Watch out for each other and stay clear of landing areas.

BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS Pay attention to the weather, dress appropriately, and carry plenty

LOWER YOUR SADDLE FOR MORE FUN It is strongly recommended you lower your saddle before descents for improved bike handling. Raise your seat for the climb.

WEAR SAFETY EQUIPMENT This includes appropriate clothing, helmet, knee and elbow pads. Serious injury or death can occur even with proper precautions.

CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

You are at Tannery Knobs Bike Park Ridgetop Trailhead 18 Tannery Knobs, Johnson City, TN 37601

Identify your location to the 911 operator by using the nearest intersection and/or trail marker.

The nearest hospital is Johnson City Medical Center 400 N State of Franklin Rd #11, Johnson City, TN

Please report any non-emergencies and criminal activity to the Johnson City Police Department (423) 434-6000

PLANNING EXAMPLES

- In the next few pages we will walk through a planning example. There are two additional examples after this one.
- Read through the community and land manager goals, think about how those affect the control points and zone analysis.
- While reading these pages, skip back to the maps to better understand/verify the ideas we have presented.
- We will go through these examples in more depth during the next webinar.







COMMUNITY GOALS

HALF-DAY DRIVE DESTINATION PRIMARILY SHARED-USE (HIKE/BIKE) MODERN MOUNTAIN BIKE EXPERIENCES MAINTAIN NATURAL SETTING MINIMIZE NEIGHBOR IMPACTS LAND MANAGER GOALS

AVOID IMPACTS TO WETLANDS/STREAMS AVOID CULTURAL SITES MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO SPECIAL HABITAT MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO HUNTING MAINTAIN FIRE MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL SHARED-USE TRAILS











POSITIVE CONTROL

LAKESHORE POSSIBLE VIEWS EXISTING CULVERTS NEW PARKING AREA ROCKY AREAS

TRAILHEAD

NEGATIVE CONTROL

WETLAND STREAMS OPEN AREAS DOVE FIELD NEIGHBORS HOMESTEADS













WET AREAS AND BOUNDARIES





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File Edit View Tools Add Help

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ZONE ANALYSIS

DETERMINE ZONES OF FEASIBILITY (USEABLE AND UNUSABLE TERRAIN) IDENTIFY ZONES BASED UPON TERRAIN CONTROLLED SKILL LEVEL CONSTRAINTS (GENTLE SLOPES FOR BEGINNER TRIALS, STEEPER SLOPES FOR MORE ADVANCED) IDENTIFY ZONES BASED UPON TERRAIN CONTROLLED TRAIL TYPE OPPORTUNITIES (ROCKY AREAS FOR TECHNICAL TRAILS, OPEN MODERATE SLOPES FOR FLOW) IDENTIFY MAJOR POIS (TRAILHEAD, BUFFERS, KEY INTERSECTIONS, VIEWS, ROCKS, ETC.)









LEGEND

EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD EXISTING TRAIL PROPOSED ACCESS ROUTE VIEWSHED ROCK OUTCROP POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION KIOSK DOVE FIELD WATER

CORRIDOR ANALYSIS

CONNECT THE DOTS (AND AVOID THE NEGATIVE ONES) ALWAYS STRIVE TO SKETCH CORRIDORS AT APPROPRIATE GRADES (LEARN MORE IN DESIGN) AN EXERCISE IN DENSITY, APPROXIMATELY HOW MUCH TRAIL CAN FIT IN THESE ZONES USE ZONE ANALYSIS TO ESTIMATE SKILL LEVEL AND TRAIL TYPE TRY TO CREATE LOOPS, USE YOUR MAJOR CONTROL POINTS, THINK HUB & CLUSTER NOT AN ABSOLUTE, NOT THE END GAME REFINE, REFINE, REFINE (PLANNING IS ITERATIVE)











REFINE CORRIDORS

LAND MANAGER IDENTIFIED NEW TRAILHEAD LAND MANAGER PLANS TO PROVIDE FIRE MANAGEMENT TO SOME AREAS NEIGHBORHOOD BUFFER IS ADDED TO SOUTHERN PART OF PARCEL TORNADO DAMAGE



DRAFT Standing Boy Trails Design Table								
Segment	Flag Color	Length (ft)	Phase	Difficulty	Туре			
1	Pink	3991	2	GRN	XC			
2	Pink	9292	1	GRN	XC			
3	Pink	7476	3	GRN	XC			
4	Pink	5728	3	GRN	XC			
5	Pink	7459	3	GRN	XC			
6	Orange	3798	1	GRN	XC			
7	Orange/Black	5962	1	GRN	GRV			
8	Blue	6137	2	BLU	XC			
9	Blue	2998	2	BLU	XC			
10	Blue	5731	3	BLU	XC			
11	Blue	6936	3	BLU	XC			
12	Orange	3668	3	BLU	XC			
13	Orange	19621	3	BLU	XC			
14	Orange	4067	3	BLU	XC			
15	Orange	5771	3	BLU	XC			
16	Orange	4166	3	BLU	XC			
16	Orange	1226	3	BLU	XC			
17	Pink/Black	3158	3	BLK	GRV			
18	Orange/Black	6402	2	BLU	GRV			
19	Pink/Black	7443	2	BLU	GRV			
20	Orange/Black	3238	3	BLK	GRV			
21	Orange/Black	1712	2	BLK	GRV			

Standing Boy, GA DRAFT Trails Master Plan 190220 v1.4

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<u>SUMMARY</u>

MORE THAN 25 MILES AVAILABLE WITH LOW TO MODERATE DENSITY TO MAXIMIZE EXPERIENCES AND ENSURE A DAY'S DRIVE DESTINATION FOR MOUNTAIN BIKERS, UNIQUE EXPERIENCES FOR THE REGION WERE FOCUSED ON THESE KEY SPECIAL EXPERIENCES INCLUDE A LONG (>2HRS RIDING, >4HRS HIKING), SHARED USE, BACKCOUNTRY STYLE LOOP WITH SCENIC LAKE VIEWS AND CHALLENGING ROCKY SECTIONS A GRAVITY CLUSTER WHICH UTILIZES THE MAXIMUM AVAILABLE ELEVATION DIFFERENCE AND ENDS AT THE TRAILHEAD

A VARIETY OF BEGINNER TRAILS (SHARED USE AND BIKE-ONLY FLOW) CONFIGURED IN LOOPS ALLOW MANY NEW VISITORS TO EXPERIENCE TRAILS



COMMUNITY GOALS

HALF-DAY DRIVE DESTINATION PRIMARILY SHARED-USE (HIKE/BIKE) MODERN MOUNTAIN BIKE EXPERIENCES MAINTAIN NATURAL SETTING CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVENTS LAND MANAGER GOALS

CREATE SIGNATURE TRAIL SYSTEM SCHOLASTIC RACING VENUE FOR MOUNTAIN BIKERS SHARED USE WITH MODERN BIKE-ONLY PODS AVOID POLICE SHOOTING RANGE AVOID LEAF DISPOSAL PILE AVOID WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY







POSITIVE CONTROL

MELLOW SLOPE RIDGE TOPS EXPOSED BEDROCK STEEP SLOPES SLIGHT VIEWS NEGATIVE CONTROL RECENT TIMBER HARVEST EXPOSED BEDROCK POLICE SHOOTING RANGE LEAF DISPOSAL PILE STEEP SLOPES WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY







CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

POLICE SHOOTING RANGE TO BE AVOIDED

EXPOSED BEDROCK = HARD BUILDING BUT GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR TECHNICAL ADVANCED TRAILS

STEEP SLOPES = GOOD FOR ADVANCED TRAILS

RECENT TIMBER HARVEST ARE THICK AND GNARLY, NOT THE PRETTIEST PLACE FOR TRAILS

FLATTER SLOPES (IDENTICAL TO TIMBER HARVEST) ARE IDEAL FOR BEGINNER TRAILS

FLATTER SLOPES AT THE TOP OF THE HILLS, ACCESS?











<u>SUMMARY</u>

UNFEASIBLE

RELOCATING SHOOTING RANGE, STEEP SLOPES, AND LACK OF ROAD ACCESS TO MELLOW TERRAIN = TOO COSTLY

SAVED EFFORT IN THE LONG RUN BY ABANDONING THIS PROPERTY AND FOCUSING ON SIMILAR TERRAIN WITH BETTER ACCESS







COMMUNITY GOALS

HALF-DAY DRIVE DESTINATION PRIMARILY SHARED-USE (HIKE/BIKE) MODERN MOUNTAIN BIKE EXPERIENCES MAINTAIN NATURAL SETTING REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN ECONOMY LAND MANAGER GOALS

CREATE SIGNATURE TRAIL SYSTEM ENSURE BEGINNER/NEW TRAIL VISITOR ACCESS DEVELOP A SYSTEM LOCAL KIDS CAN APPRECIATE REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN ECONOMY







POSITIVE CONTROL

MELLOW SLOPE

ROCKY AREAS

STEEP SLOPES

RHODODENDRON THICKS

DOWNTOWN/SCHOOL NOISE

SCENIC VIEWS

NEGATIVE CONTROL

MELLOW SLOPE HAS EXPOSED BEDROCK STEEP SLOPES RHODODENDRON THICKS I-26 NOISE NEIGHBORHOOD NOISES OLD BORROW/QUARRY SITES HOMESTEADS



CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

MELLOW SLOPES ARE CLOSE TO TRAILHEAD = GOOD ACCESS

EXPOSED BEDROCK ON MELLOW SLOPES = MORE EXPENSIVE BEGINNER TRAIL, BUT WITH OPTIONAL

PROGRESSIVE SKILLS FEATURES

MODERATE SLOPES = GOOD FOR FLOW STYLE BIKE-ONLY DESCENTS

STEEP SLOPES = GOOD FOR ADVANCED TRAILS, MORE COSTLY

I-26, DOWNTOWN, AND THE SCHOOLS ECHO UP THE HOLLOW = GOOD FOR NEW VISITORS TO FEEL REASSURED

IN THE FOREST, BAD FOR THOSE SEEKING ESCAPE AND SOLITUDE

REMOTE SECTION OF PROPERTY IS BLOCKED BY RIDGE AND FAR FROM TRAILHEAD WITH BEST VIEWS = LESS

NOISE, DESTINATION FOR ALL VISITORS, ONLY ACCESSIBLE FOR MOST EXPERIENCED TRAIL USERS







<u>SUMMARY</u>

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES, BUT HIGHER THAN NORMAL COSTS IN SOME AREAS PROXIMITY TO SCHOOL (2 BLOCKS), DOWNTOWN (<1 MILE), AND I-26 (1.5 MILES) CREATE EASY COMMUNITY AND TOURISM ACCESS PROXIMITY TO DOWNTOWN CAN HELP SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH MELLOW SLOPES CLOSE TO TRAILHEAD WILL ALLOW GOOD BEGINNER ACCESSIBLE TRAILS, BUT EXPOSED BEDROCK IN THIS AREA MEANS IT'LL BE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN NORMAL MODERATE SLOPES ALLOW SHARED USE CLIMBS WITH BIKE-ONLY DESCENTS NATURAL SEPARATION OF RIDGE CREATES REMOTE AREA WITH BEST VIEWS AND LITTLE HUMAN DISTRACTION







"The mountains call and I must go." -John Muir