

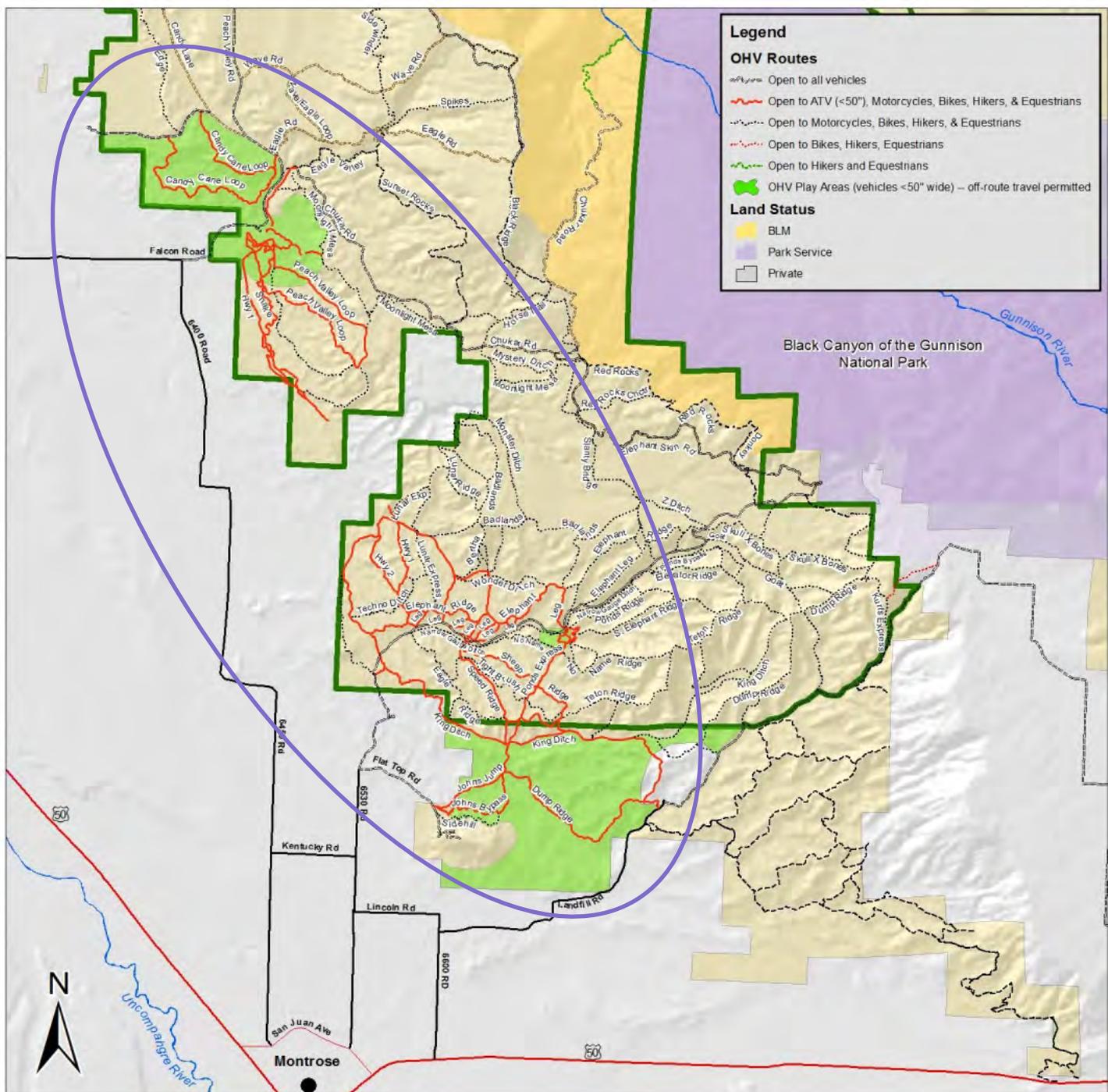
PROTECTING OHV OPPORTUNITIES IN GUNNISON GORGE NCA

Searching for Solutions to
Resource Problems in the
Elephant Skin Area

Riding the Adobes

OHV opportunities abound in the 'Dobes





Legend

OHV Routes

- Open to all vehicles
- Open to ATV (<50"), Motorcycles, Bikes, Hikers, & Equestrians
- Open to Motorcycles, Bikes, Hikers, & Equestrians
- Open to Bikes, Hikers, Equestrians
- Open to Hikers and Equestrians
- OHV Play Areas (vehicles <50" wide) -- off-route travel permitted

Land Status

- BLM
- Park Service
- Private

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park



Montrose

50

50

San Juan Ave

Lincoln Rd

Kentucky Rd

Flat Top Rd

6300 Rd

6400 Rd

Uncompahgre River

Gunnison River

Falcon Road

6400 Road

Chungo Cane Loop

Peach Valley – Flat Top OHV Area

2 Open Play Areas

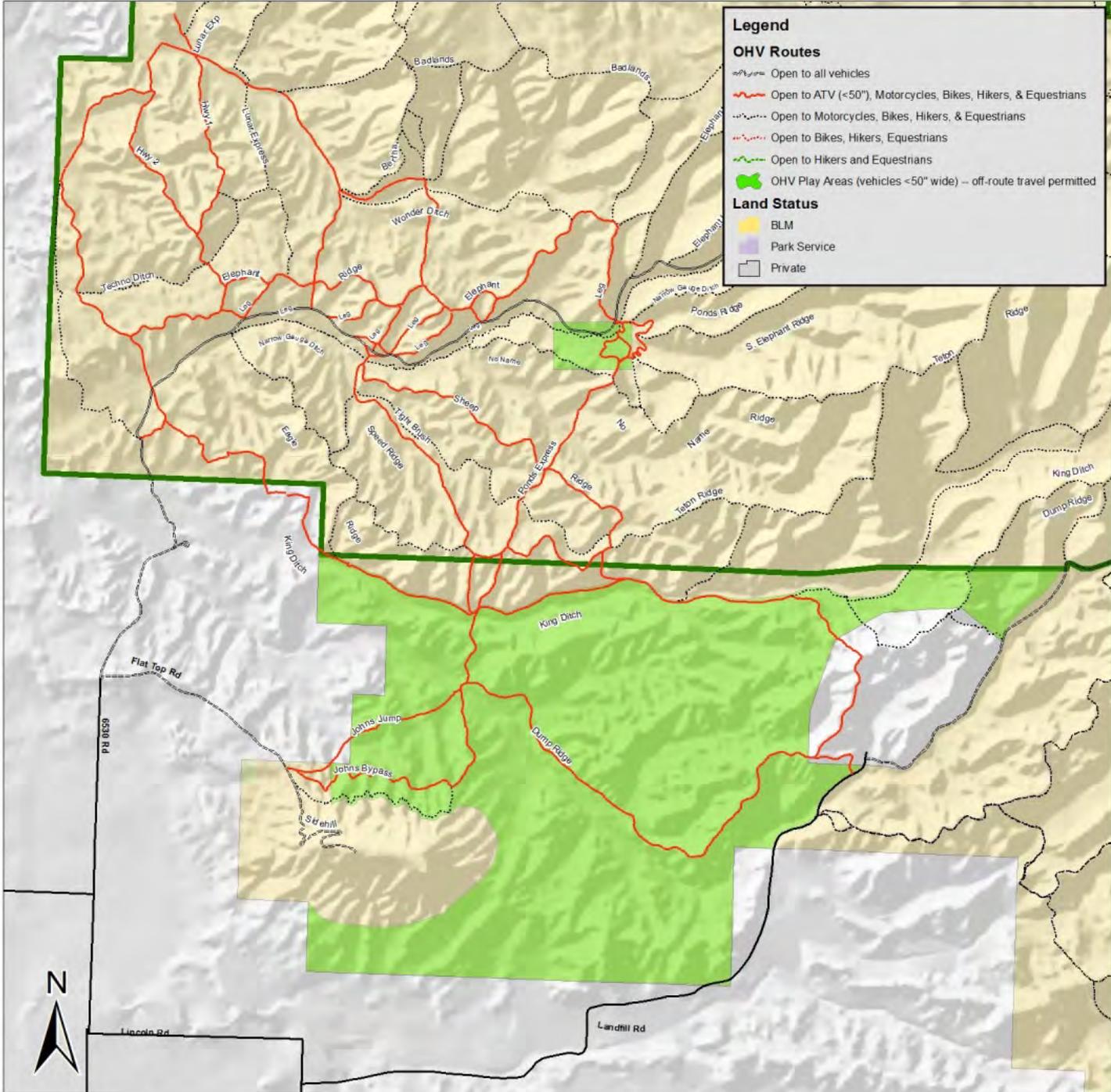
1. Peach Valley
 - 933 acre open area
 - Many miles of single-track, ATV and Jeep routes
2. Flat Top
 - 1,646 acre open area
 - Many miles of single-track and ATV routes

Peach Valley



Flat Top





Elephant Skin Area



New Bridge Provides Access for Full Size Vehicles



BLM Acquired Inholding and Built a Parking Area and Recreation Site



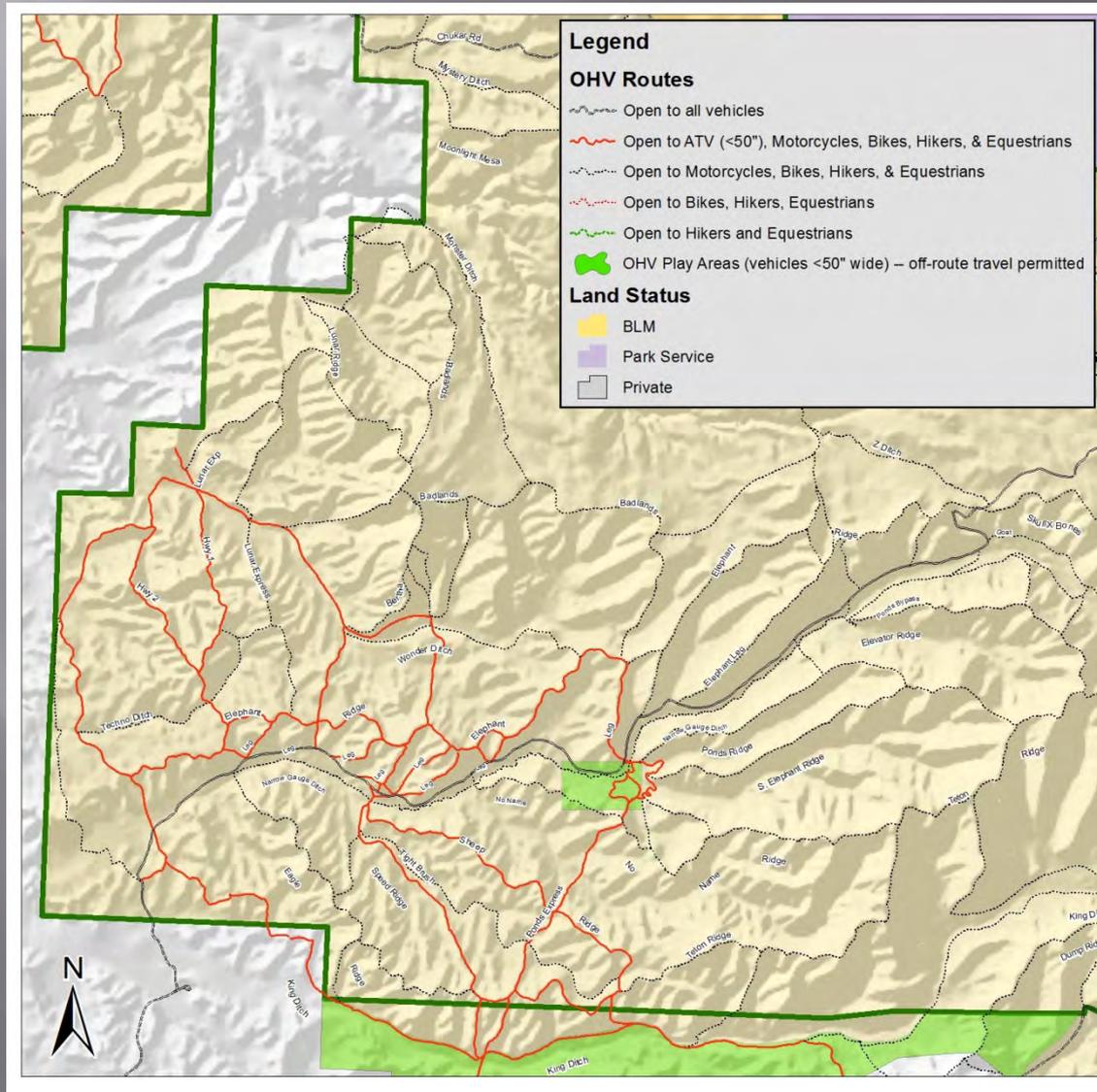


Elephant Skin is Not an Open Area

- ▣ All vehicles must stay on designated routes
 - Motorcycles, ATVs, mtn. bikes and full-size



There are many legal trail opportunities in the area.



Yet off-route use is heavy



Illegal riders are causing resource damage.

- ▣ The Mancos shale soils contain relatively high concentrations of salt and selenium. Both of these contribute to water quality problems in our rivers.
- ▣ Disturbed soils erode more quickly, adding higher concentrations to our rivers.
- ▣ There are sensitive plant species that live in this soil type. They can handle these crazy soils, but not the off-route disturbance.

We have signs in place.



The designated routes are marked.



But we are not meeting our obligation to protect resources while providing riding opportunities.

- ▣ Is OHV use in this area compatible with protection of these resources?
 - Yes, if riders stay on designated routes
 - Maybe not, if riders can't resist the urge to ride off-route. This landscape has few natural barriers, so it is tempting to ride cross-country.

Ideas

- ▣ BLM outreach to media, clubs, and organizations to get the word out
- ▣ Ask local OHV shops to post maps and fliers
- ▣ Have the “Stay the Trail” crew on-site for one or two busy weekends to help inform riders
- ▣ Increase law enforcement and OHV ranger patrols
- ▣ Post maps and downloadable route files on the BLM website



We need YOUR ideas

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