

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641

Proposed Action for Ute Park Connector Trail (Phase 1)

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0024-EA

PROJECT NAME: Ute Park Connector Trail (Phase 1)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

T1N, R94W Sections 15 & 22

APPLICANT: Eastern Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District (ERBM)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: A master plan for the new Phillip and Dorcas Jensen Memorial Park was approved by the Eastern Rio Blanco Recreation and Park Metropolitan District (ERBM) Board on August 9, 2011. As part of the master plan and the ERBM's goals for providing more system-wide connectivity to park and open space properties owned by the district, it was determined that providing access to a high point above the park and connecting along the ridge to the Town of Meeker owned Ute Park, through BLM land was a priority.

ERBM proposes to construct a non-motorized trail, open to foot and bicycle use, from Phillip and Dorcas Jensen Memorial Park, up and across the top of China Wall, and down connecting to Ute Park.

Proposed Action:

Trail Connectivity & Length

The trail will be constructed in two phases, with Phase 1 being this Proposed Action. The trail will start on ERBM land along the mountain bike flow course in Phillip and Dorcas Jensen Memorial Park. From the flow course, it is proposed that a trail to a high point above China Wall on BLM land be constructed. Many visitors to the park currently attempt to reach the high point using eroding, non-sustainable social trails. The proposed new trail would provide access to a high point above the cliff walls in a safe, sustainable manner, and provide visitors with a clear view of the Town of Meeker below.

The length of the trail on the ERBM's land is approximately 0.08 miles from the start of the trail (where it intersects with the flow course) to the property line with BLM. From the property line to the high point on BLM property is approximately 1.0 miles. Phase 1 of the trail will terminate at the high point above China Wall.

Use

The trail is proposed for non-motorized use, primarily by pedestrians and bicyclists. No motorized access will be allowed.

Trail Design & Construction Technique

The trail is proposed to be built by a professional trail contractor using the full bench method with materials found on site. The trail tread will be approximately 36 inches, with a total trail corridor width of 100 feet (50 feet on either side of the centerline). The total corridor width allows for potential variance in trail siting due to unforeseen obstacles; through areas that will require switchbacks; and in areas where there may be a need for other minor realignments. The height of the corridor will be 10'-12' to allow for mountain bike and winter skiing and snowshoeing use. Equestrian use is not permitted within Dorcas-Jensen Park. As such, equestrian use on the BLM portion of this trail is expected to be minimal, therefore specific techniques for equestrian trail construction will not be employed.

Construction will be completed primarily with the use of mechanical trail building equipment including a trail dozer and ditch witch, along with traditional hand tools. The proposed trail alignment prioritizes areas that require the least amount of disturbance to existing vegetation and natural features while maximizing the user recreation experience. The goal is to maximize long-term trail sustainability and minimize maintenance. Disturbed areas beyond the 36" trail tread will be reseeded using a BLM recommended standard seed mix.

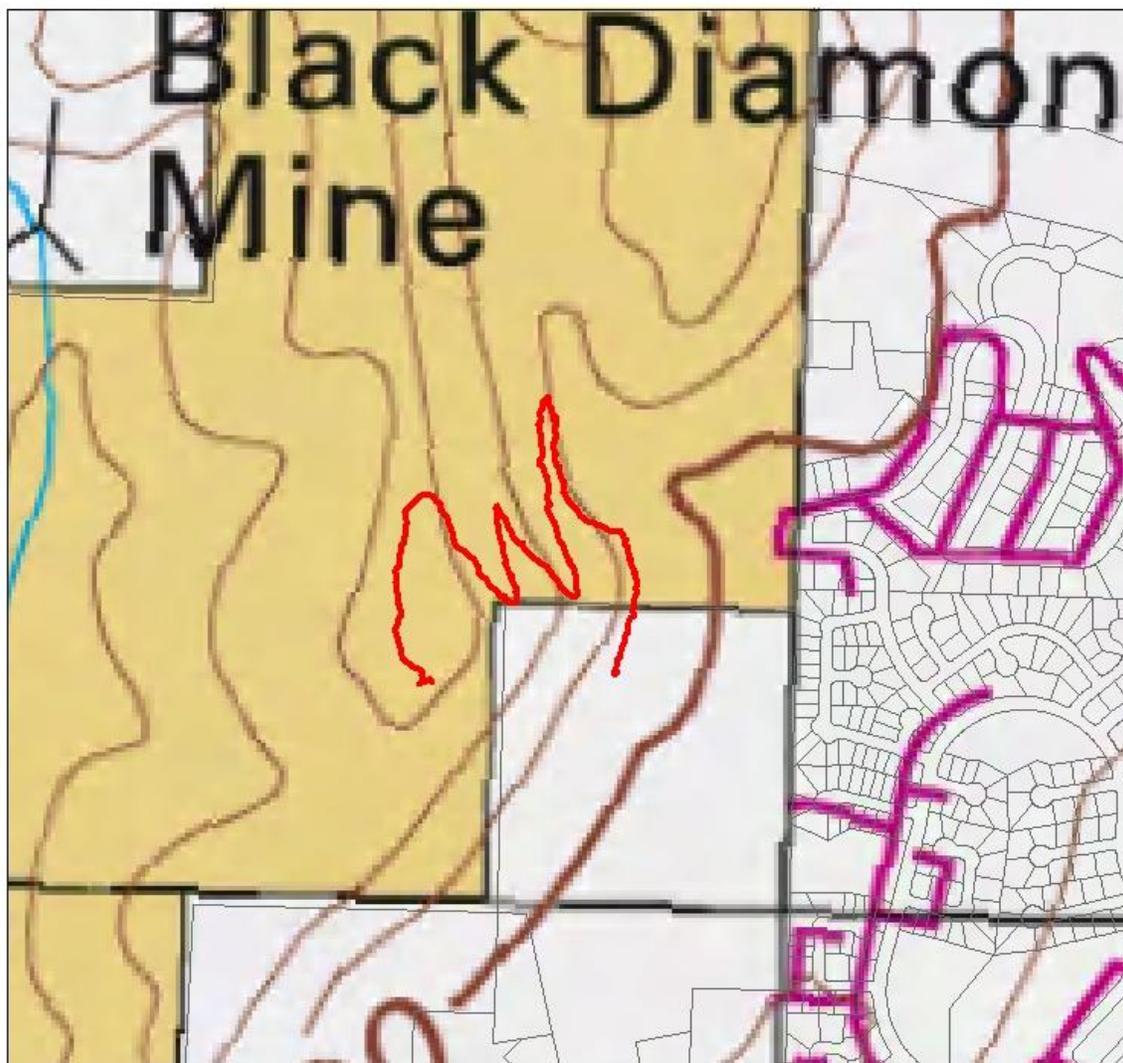
Maintenance

ERBM and the BLM WRFO will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that proposes the BLM pursue ongoing maintenance of the trail in conjunction with local partner organizations. The MOU will also address other non-motorized trail issues including planning, development, and volunteer recruitment.

No Action Alternative: The proposed trail would not be constructed.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: A trail open to motorized use was dismissed due to the desire to provide a non-motorized trail experience adjacent to the Town of Meeker. A trail open to equestrian use was dismissed due a prohibition of equestrian use in Dorcas-Jensen Park, which provides access to the Ute Park Connector.

Ute Park Connector Trail (Phase 1)
CO11020120024ea



- BLM
- CDOW
- County
- FOR
- MPG
- PRI
- CTA
- Ute Phase 1



05/08/2012

0.00204 0.08 Miles

Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.



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