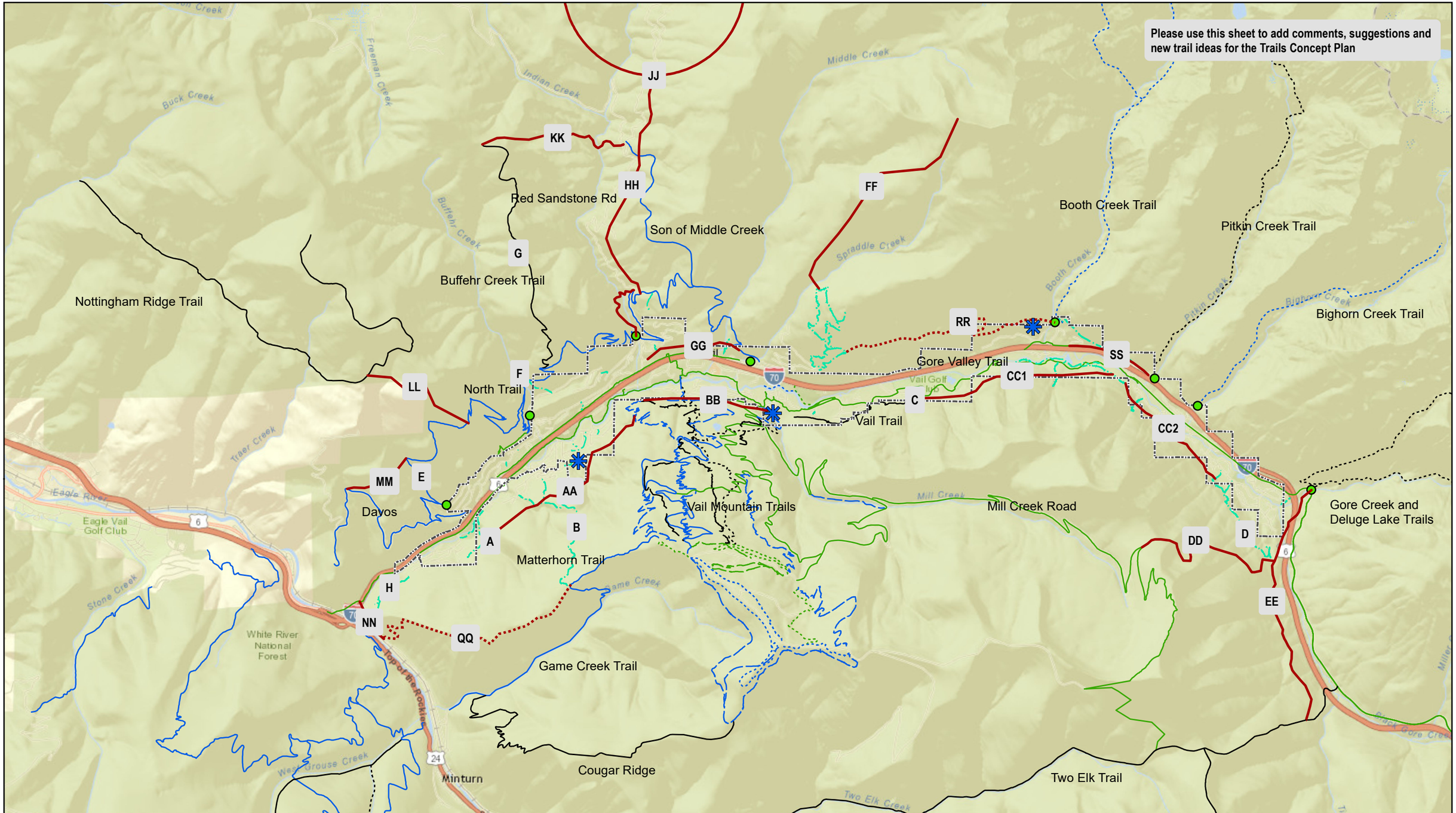

TOWN OF VAIL

Trail Concept Plan

Legend

Existing Trails: Difficulty, Use Type

- Easy, Biking
- Easy, Hiking
- Easy, Multi-Use
- Moderate, Biking
- Moderate, Hiking
- Moderate, Multi-Use
- Difficult, Biking
- Difficult, Hiking
- Difficult, Multi-Use
- Social Trails (Non-Sanctioned)
- Trailheads

Land Use/Ownership

- Town of Vail Boundary

Trail Ideas

- Trail Ideas and Suggestions
- Low-probability Trail Ideas
- Potential Children's Bike Facilities

0 0.5 1 Miles

SE GROUP

TRAILS CONCEPT PLAN

TOWN OF VAIL

TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS KEY

Adopt/Formalize:

A. Intermountain Trail

Existing social trail provides intermediate soft-surface hiking opportunity for the Intermountain neighborhood. The upper reaches could be adopted/improved as a hiking-only trail while the lower reach could provide hiking/biking access to Trail Opportunity AA.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D
Issues: Steep terrain, safety, wildlife

B. Matterhorn Trail

Existing social trail connects Eagles Nest/ Game Creek Trail down to the Matterhorn neighborhood. This trail could be formalized with the USFS, realigned in sections to improve sustainability and connected to Trail Opportunity AA.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: C D Su
Issues: Steep terrain, safety, wildlife

C. Vail Trail

Existing social trail for soft-surface hiking and limited biking between Vail Village and the Golf Course. The trail currently crosses into USFS and private property and should be formalized with the property owners. Improve sustainability where needed, reconstruct east end to improve accessibility and sustainability, recommended hiker-only

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D Su
Issues: Steep terrain, hazards, wildlife, private property

D. East Watertank Trail

Existing social trail provides intermediate soft-surface hiking and limited biking for the East Vail neighborhood. Potential to connect to Trail Opportunity DD.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D Su
Issues: Steep terrain, wildlife

Children's Facilities:

These ideas were discussed during the scoping sessions.
Some suggestions are shown on the Trail Recommendations map.

Kid's Bike Park/Pump Track

A series of short loops, dirt piles, jumps, etc designed for younger kids. The idea was raised multiple times. Suggested locations include the Booth Creek I-70 berms and Golden Peak.

Single Track Loop

A short loop trail on the upper bench of Donovan Park designed as beginner hiking and kids mountain biking.

Improve Existing:

E. North Trail

Buffehr Creek to Cortina Ln. Existing multi-use trail has several eroded/poorly constructed trail sections. Recommend working with the USFS to improve/reconstruct those sections as needed.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D Su

F. North Trail

Red Sandstone Rd to Buffehr Creek Rd. Existing multi-use trail has several eroded/poorly constructed trail sections. Recommend working with the USFS to improve/reconstruct those sections as needed.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D Su

G. Buffehr Creek Trail

Existing multi-use trail could be improved with several short realignments to improve usability and sustainability. Recommend working with the USFS to improve/reconstruct those sections as needed.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D Su

Low-Probability Trail Suggestions:

H. Basingdale to Minturn Connector Trail

This existing social trail is currently closed. It connects the Intermountain neighborhood towards Highway 24 near Minturn. The trail crosses through Colorado Parks and Wildlife property and through an important deer and elk migration corridor. CPW has indicated that no trail should cross though this area. Any trails plan should evaluate other potential connections to the Minturn area.

QQ. Minturn Ridge Trail

This trail connects the Game Creek trail to the Meadow Mountain Ranger Station. With the Basingdale and Matterhorn trail, this trail forms a loop from Intermountain and West Vail. Low probability of construction due to close proximity of Cougar Ridge Trail.

RR. Spraddle Creek to Booth Creek Connector Trail

No trail currently exists, however an extension of the North Trail has been suggested. The suggested trail is approximately The alignment shown is approximately 750-1,000 vertical feet above the valley floor. Any trail would cross through critical Bighorn Sheep habitat. CPW has indicated that no trail should cross through this area. An alternative alignment within 100-250 vertical feet of the valley floor should be discussed with CPW.

Hard Surface Trail Suggestions:

NN. Gore Valley Trail to Minturn via I-70 Underpass

Provide a hard surface connection from Vail to the town of Minturn.

SS. North Recreation Path Connection

Complete the North Recreation Path between the Vail Mountain School and the East Vail interchange.

For both trails, the user group, ability, and goals are as follows:

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C Sa

TRAILS CONCEPT PLAN

TOWN OF VAIL

TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS KEY

Trail Opportunities:

AA. Intermountain to Lionshead Connector

Proposed multi-use trail to connect the Intermountain Trail (A) to Hank's Hideaway on Vail Mountain with several neighborhood trailheads to provide access. The alignment could pass through recent timber cuts as a way of reducing environmental impacts.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D

Issues: wildlife, private property

BB. Vail Mountain Cross Connector

Potential soft-surface trail across the lower reaches of Vail Mountain utilizing existing trail where feasible. Requires planning process and approvals with Vail Resorts.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D Su

Issues: wildlife, private property

CC1. Vail Trail Extension Phase I

New trail that provides a soft-surface alternative to the paved Gore Valley Trail through the town-owned Katsos Ranch Open Space.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D

Issues: wildlife, steep terrain, peregrine nesting site, private property

CC2. Vail Trail Extension Phase II

This trail is a soft-surface option above East Vail connecting the East Watertank Trail to Memorial Park.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D

Issues: wildlife, peregrine nesting site, steep terrain, private property

DD. Mill Creek Connector

This trail could connect Mill Creek Road to East Vail over a ridge to provide 1) additional hiking option out of East Vail and 2) loop option.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D

Issues: wildlife analysis, steep terrain, Vail Resorts impacts

EE. Two Elk Connector

This new soft-surface trail would connect the lower reach of the Two Elk Trail with East Vail, a potential Vail Trail Extension and under I-70 to near the Gore Creek Campground, eliminating the need to access the Vail Pass bike path and providing East Vail with access to the Wilderness Trails. The trail would align low on the hillside south of I-70 and improving a long loop-trail for the Vail area.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D Sa

Issues: wildlife analysis, steep terrain, private property

FF. Bald Mountain Hiking

Potential new hiking-only opportunity using some existing trail/road and some new trail. Provides an alternative to the Wilderness Area trails in East Vail, and is within the proposed new Wilderness Area Boundaries. Potential access from town, reducing some of the parking issues at the existing trailheads. The trail leaves from the Son of Middle Creek trailhead, follows former trails along Spraddle Creek and ends at Bald Mountain. This trail was closed as part of the WRNF Travel Management Plan.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D

Issues: wildlife analysis

GG. Son of Middle Creek to Red Sandstone Connector

This trail connects the Son of Middle Creek trail to Red Sandstone Road through Town of Vail and USFS land above Red Sandstone School. This connector creates an intermediate loop with the North Trail and provides a loop alternative between Lionshead and Vail Village on the north side of I-70.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D

Issues: wildlife, steep terrain, private property, Town of Vail approval

HH. Red Sandstone Single Track

Proposed multi-use trail connecting Vail to existing and proposed trails in the forest north of Vail. This soft-surface trail parallels Red Sandstone Road and Piney Lake Road to provide a safe alternative for mountain bikers heading up the road. This trail could also open access to trails in the Lost Lake area.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D Sa

Issues: wildlife analysis

JJ. Lost Lake Loop System

The idea behind this system is to utilize some existing trail and decommissioned logging roads to create a nested loop system near Lost Lake. The idea would require significant study, but could provide a beginner/intermediate/expert system within several miles of Vail.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D

Issues: wildlife analysis

KK. Buffehr-Red Sandstone Connector

This trail connects Red Sandstone Road to the Buffehr Creek Trail near the confluence of the Son of Middle Creek Trail. Provides a single track loop with the new Red Sandstone Parallel trail, this could form a loop trail from the Sandstone or West Vail neighborhoods.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: A C D

Issues: wildlife analysis, steep terrain

LL. Avon/Nottingham Ridge Connector

Proposed multi-use trail to connect the North Trail to the existing Nottingham Ridge Trail and future Traer Creek development in Avon.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: C D

Issues: wildlife analysis, approval of Traer Creek Development Company, Town of Avon

MM. North Trail to Davos Connector

Proposed multi-use trail to connect segments of the North trail through Davos Ranch to create a moderate loop trail from West Vail.

User Groups:
Ability Level:
Goals: C D

Issues: wildlife analysis

Note: All proposed trails, trail improvements, and social trail adoptions must undergo a two step US Forest Service and Colorado Parks Wildlife Review