

GIRDWOOD BIKE PARK

MASTER PLAN

NOVEMBER 2018



ZONE C

4-5 TRAILS
(1,000' AVG.)

ZONE A

1-2 TRAILS
(300' AVG.)

ZONE B

2-3 TRAILS
(500' AVG.)

CPG CAT ROAD

WINNER CREEK TRAIL

TRAIL LEGEND

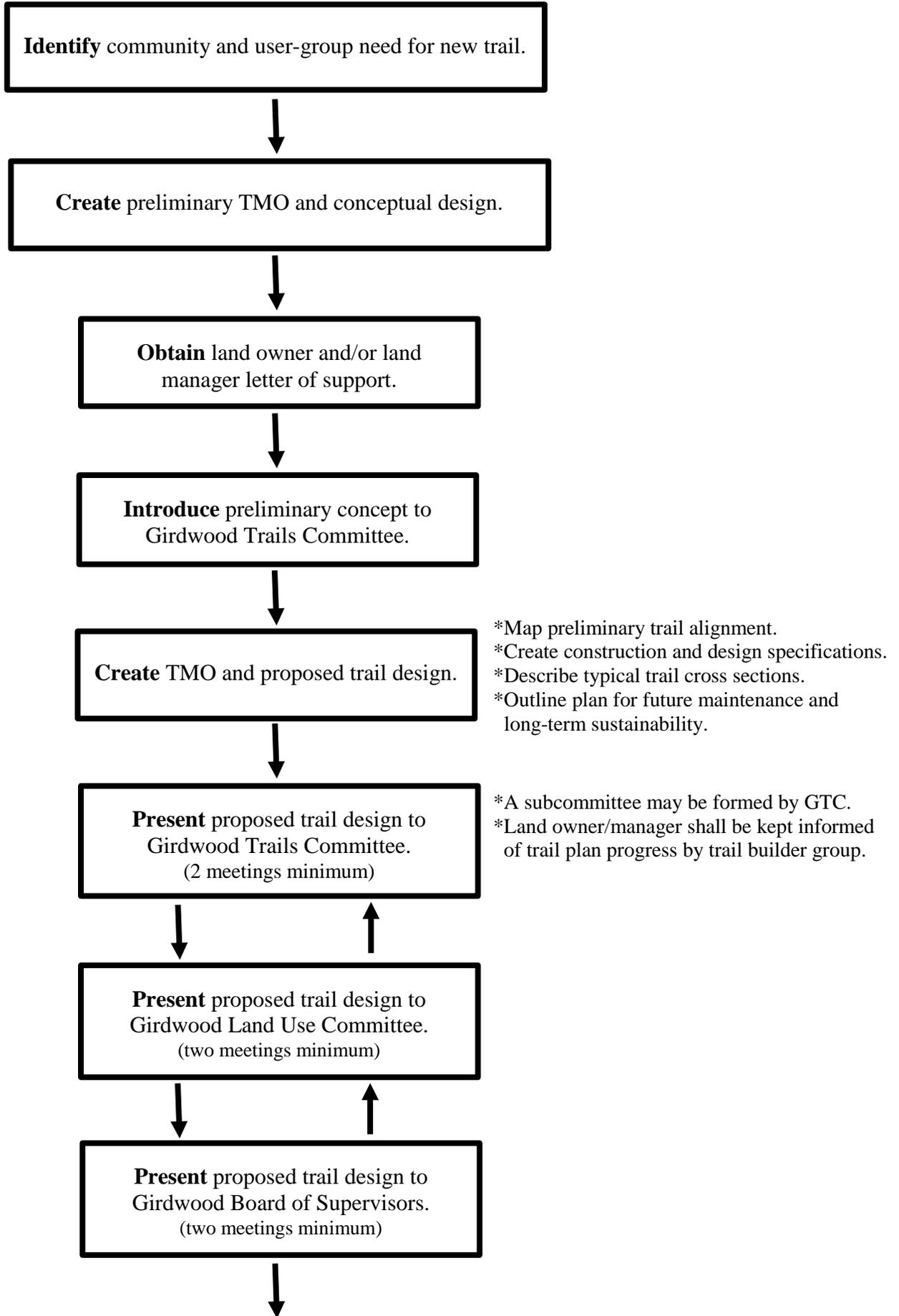
-  APPROVED MULTI-USE TRAIL (.4 MILES)
-  APPROVED SINGLE-USE BIKE TRAIL (.6 MILES)
-  PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL (1.5 MILES)
-  PROPOSED SINGLE-USE BIKE TRAIL (3.5 MILES)

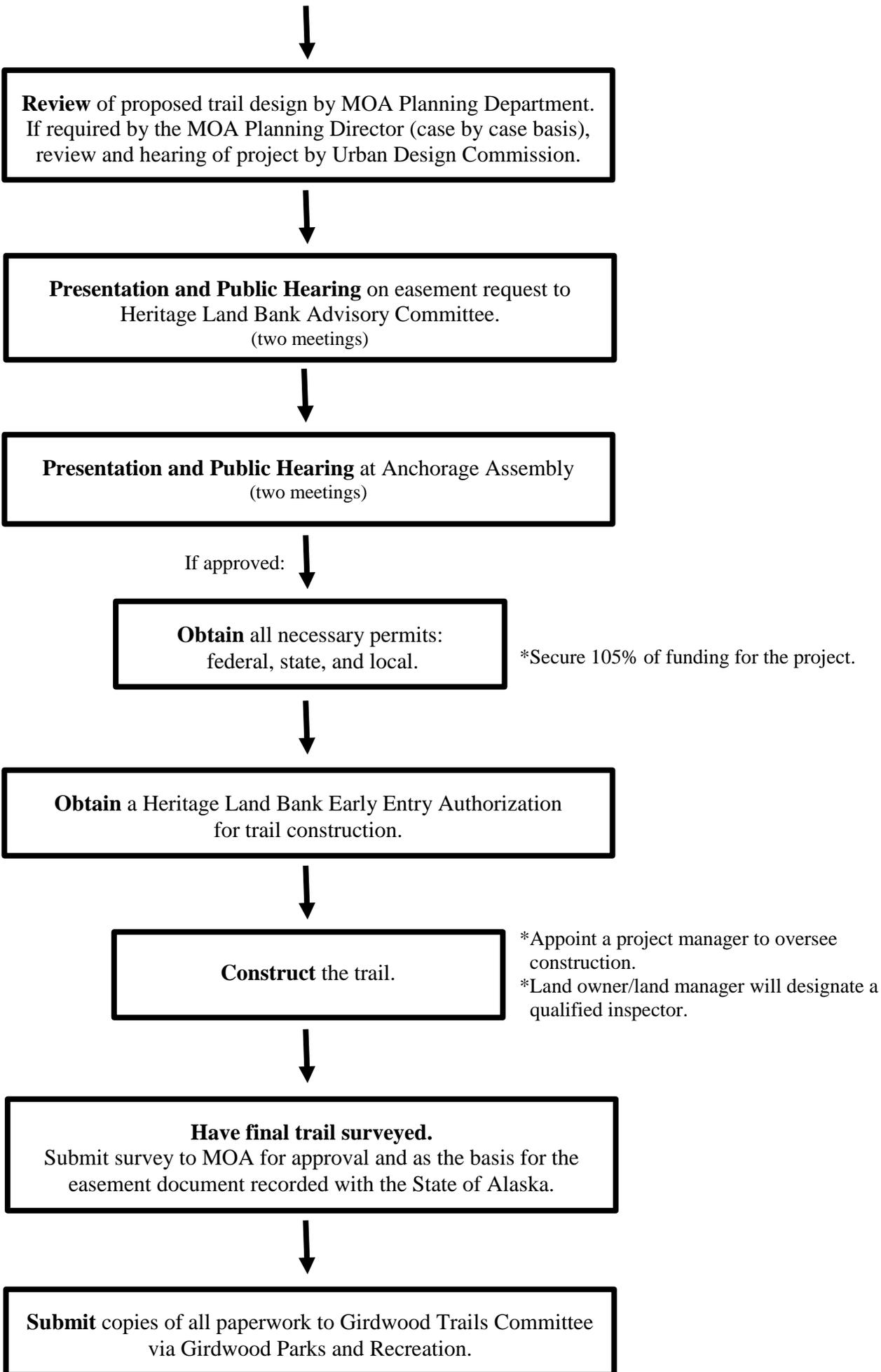
MULTI-USE TRAIL = 6'-8' TREAD, 14' CLEARANCE

SINGLE-USE BIKE TRAIL = 4'-6' TREAD, 12' CLEARANCE

PROPOSAL PROCESS FOR NEW TRAILS (Revision 7; 1.8.19)

Girdwood Trails Committee





**GirdWild: Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area proposal
For 4-December-2018 Girdwood Trails Committee**

Girdwood is fortunate in that we are able to have a wide diversity of lands and land uses, including residential, various levels of recreation development, and wild and primitive spaces. The natural character of Girdwood, and the desire for a system of open spaces, have long been held as important values to the community (see e.g. the Girdwood Area Plan). However, we are at a point where recent developments are changing the character of forest use in a way such that wild and primitive areas near the community that are easily accessible are rapidly becoming a thing of the past. The community has taken extensive steps to ensure alpine skiers, nordic skiers, and mountain bikers have ample opportunities developed near the community. However, much of this has been to the detriment of the wild forest and diminishes the opportunities for a significant segment of our community who uses that wild forest and indeed needs it for their well-being. Now is the ideal time to ensure that the wild heritage of our valley be protected for current and future generations. This proposal realizes that future and ensures that our community continues to have nearby wild and primitive areas.

We are seeking endorsement/approval at the local level (GTC, LUC, and GBOS) for this Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area plan, and then at the relevant Muni (e.g. HLB, and Assembly if necessary) and State (DOT) levels for the plan and for future actions to establish the area outlined herein. This plan will also entail making changes in local planning (e.g. changes to the Girdwood Trails Management Plan regarding prohibited uses for certain areas/trails). Additionally, minimal signage may be developed (placed at the edge of the Wild & Primitive Area), and changes at the level of zoning, land management and ownership/responsibility, and other avenues may be pursued to further establish and solidify this plan for this area.

The project area can be described generally as such: the area between Moose Meadows to the south and the Hand-Tram/Four Corners to the north, and the Cat track to the east and Glacier Creek to the west (see attached map).

The major outlines of the plan for the Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area (green and blue polygons in the attached map), and how it corresponds to different areas noted on the attached map, are as follows (see the attached map and its key as well):

1. No new development of any kind (including trails development, including class upgrades).
2. A rule of *non-mechanized usage only** applies to the entire area, with one exception: Winter grooming is allowed to the extents permitted as of the 2017-2018 winter in the blue polygon area.
3. Area to stay as it is in perpetuity.
4. Permanent easements or similar 'dedications' for Stumpy's and other existing wild/primitive trails may be sought from HLB and DOT to help additionally protect them as-is.
5. If there is a future proposal (e.g. a development proposal) which would decrease protections for or diminish the wild and primitive character of this area, before consideration of that proposal, approval must be obtained to re-open this approved Wild & Primitive Area Plan at all the bodies which approved it. Only then can the other proposal be considered at the

relevant bodies (e.g. GTC, LUC, GBOS, HLB, etc.).

6. Special Note regarding the currently-pending Forest (Park) Loop proposal: This proposed trail is noted by a gray line on the map. If fully permitted (through DOT, HLB, and Assembly levels), that trail will be managed by GNSC/GTC/HLB as permitted, and will not be considered part of the Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area. No future trail upgrades, development or expansion will be permitted to the Forest (Park) Loop trail exceeding what is outlined in the September 2018 GTC-approved motion for that proposal (with associated approved Specifications, Map, and TMO documents). If the Forest (Park) Loop proposal is fully permitted, winter grooming, trail maintenance, and other mechanized use will be allowed on that trail as outlined in its proposal. However, if the Forest (Park) Loop project is not fully permitted through the DOT, HLB, and Assembly levels, the Forest (Park) Loop will be deleted and subject to the general rules for the Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area (and trail building and maintenance, winter grooming, and other mechanized uses will not be allowed there).

One of the special things about Girdwood has been the proximity of near-community, easily accessible wild and primitive areas. Many people live in Girdwood at least in part for this reason. This proposal will ensure that that user group continues to be served, and their uses and experiences protected, by the community. This is good common sense, provides good and balanced land management, and fosters a positive sense of community. It also helps to preserve Girdwood's unique lands and unique heritage.

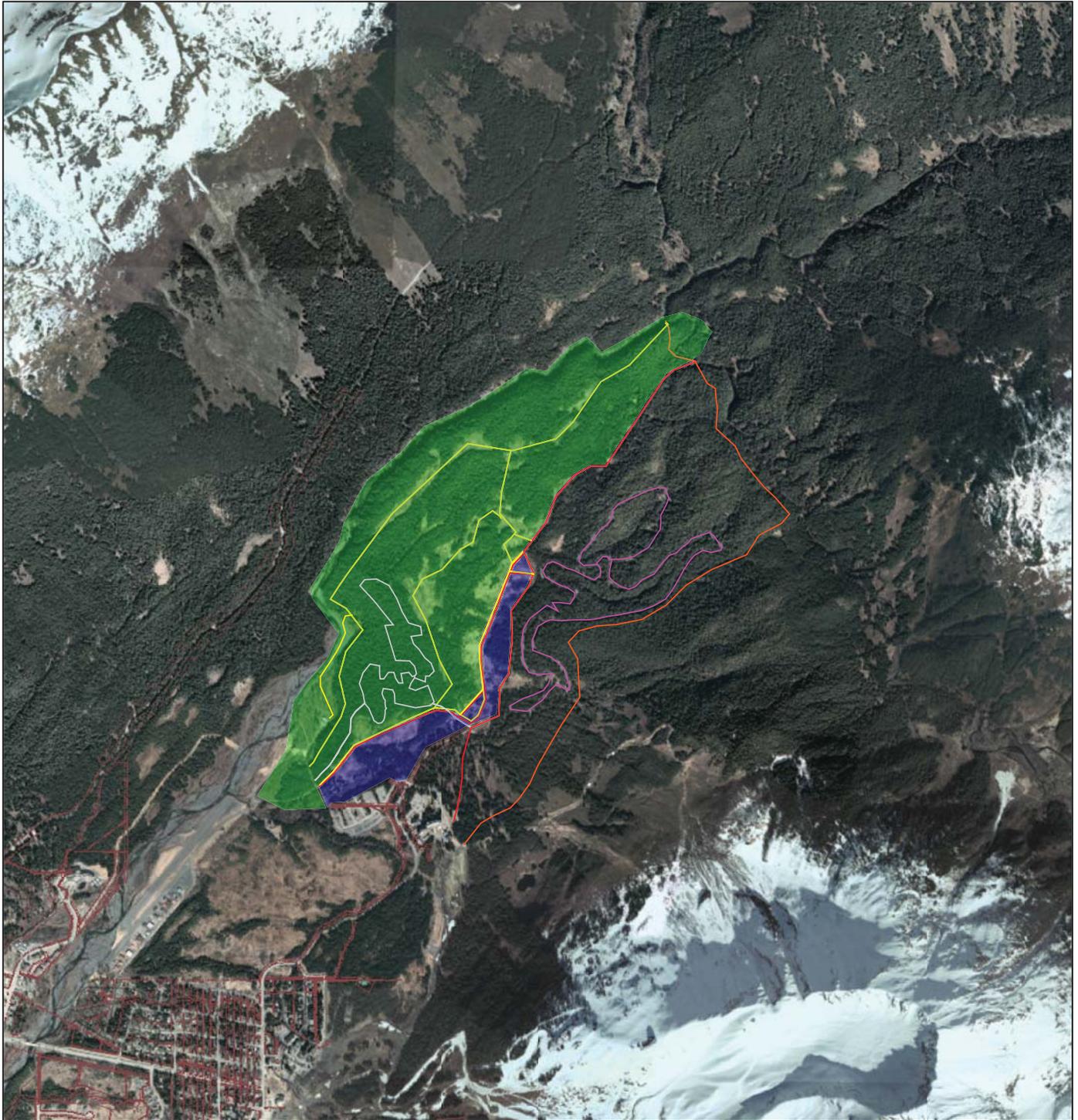
There is a strong sentiment in Girdwood – previously expressed both explicitly and implicitly – that the Stumpy's area should be protected in the ways outlined in this proposal. The forest and meadows around the Stumpy's Trails have long been viewed as the wild and primitive 'crown jewel' of Girdwood, and are held as nearly sacred for many people in our community. Additionally, the Stumpy's Trails themselves are highly valued for various attributes, such as aesthetic, primitive, ungroomed, and historical characteristics. This proposal would enshrine sentiments such as these for the future.

In addition to the values for this plan noted above, this plan also makes good economic sense. This area is and undoubtedly will be valued by Girdwood residents and visitors from across Alaska and beyond. This area would be something Girdwood will be able to market to visitors – that people are able to actually have a true wild, primitive, ungroomed, quiet spaces experience right outside your doorstep when you visit our community. Wildlands advocates, adventurers, and ungroomed enthusiasts – to name a few – will be excited at this opportunity.

We can all be served in this community – including wild and primitive space users. We have an opportunity to come together as a community and respect everyone's needs, before we lose this part of our lands heritage.

**Note: Mechanized uses include, for example, bikes, snowmachines, groomers, etc.*

GirdWild: Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area Plan



Key

- Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area &
- Allowed grooming sub-area
- Stumpy's and other wild/primitive trails
- Winner Creek Trail
- 5K Nordic Loop
- Groomed winter trails & Cat track
- Forest (Park) Loop [proposed]

Data provided courtesy of MOA

Underlying map created with MOA Map it!

Note: Map is only approximate

For 4-December-2018 Girdwood Trails Committee

Service Layer Credits:

GDIC, Property Appraisal, Land Records, MOA GDIC, Parks and Recreation, GDIC, Land Records, Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Credits Layer:

MOA, USGS, Merrick, Jamie Young | MOA, Land Records | GDIC, Property Appraisal, Land Records | GDIC, Land Records | MOA, GDIC | GICD | MOA, Planning | GICD | MOA GDIC, Parks and Recreation | MOA

MOA GDIC

Girdwood Trails Committee January 2019 Discussion

Mission Statement from May 2018 Review of Operating Procedures

The Girdwood Trails Committee (GTC) advocates for, protects, and maintains trails according to the guidelines of the Girdwood Valley Trails Management Plan. The GTC reports to the Girdwood Board of Supervisors.

Advocates

Work with Forest Service to provide basic training for trail work.

Find ways to create local volunteer opportunities for regular trail maintenance.

Hand Tram partnership with other trails organizations

Protects

Easements for a) Virgin Creek Falls, b) Lower Iditarod--Ruane to road access, and 3) existing, prominent primitive trails (3)

Discussion of protection of areas in their wild and/or primitive states.

Maintains

All trails:

- Better signage
- Brushing and down tree removal as needed

Deb's Way (2 people)

- Improved Drainage
- Add gravel as needed

Beaver Pond (2 people)

- Brushing: Twice Year
- Improve Trail tread on step side slopes as needed
- Improve vegetation setbacks in the first mile of trail from Gird to Bird path
- Eliminate boardwalk with gravel as it can be done

- Secure and support existing board walk
- Remove old metal planks with gravel
- Determine solution for slippery boardwalks
- Improve Drainage where needed
- Better signage
- Determine solution to slippery board walks, material added to low spots to maintain trail tread
- Repair/replace loose planks
- Brushing

Abe's Trail

- Improve trail in wet area in the beginning section
- Brush as needed
- Better signage

California Creek

- Better signage
- Improve tread as needed
- Obtain easement

Athabaskan Trail, from Crow Creek road to Beaver pond bridge at school: (2 people)

- Determine solution to slippery board walks
- Reroute away from pond to element boardwalk

Lower Iditarod between Alyeska highway and Ruane road connection

- Continue work up valley with the rebuild
- Repair section and improve drainage in the section completed in 2018
- Replace California Creek bridge
- Brush trail from Alyeska highway to trailhead to Lower INHT (to the side of the existing road access).

Lower Iditarod between Ruane road and Egloff:

- Brush back

Iditarod Trail between School and Crow Creek Road:

- Improve drainage as needed
- Remove boardwalk as allowable

- Improve gravel tread as possible
- Root management
- Better signage
- Obtain easement
- Determine solution to slippery board walks

Iditarod Trail between Crow Creek Road and Crow Creek Road:

- Improve trail tread as needed
- Root management
- Repair board walkway as needed
- Determine solution for slippery board walks
- Improve signage

Virgin Creek: (2 people)

- Determine sustainable trail route
- Remove and revegetate other social trails
- Build durable trail route
- Better signage
- Improve parking options and address neighborhood concerns

Shortcut from Alyeska bike path to Davos Road : (2 people)

- Remove organic layer and expose gravel
- Improve drainage
- Install culvert at the base of the hill
- Add gravel as needed.

Brush Danich & Wagon Trail & social trail up to Virgin Creek cul de sac

Discussion of rehabilitation of areas which have been damaged by trails activities (for example, Abe's Trail).

Discussion of the importance of protecting and restoring the Winner Creek forested viewshed and soundscape.

Promotes

Consistent, easy-to-read signage for all trails (3)

Digital trail location system for users

Work with Forest Service to provide basic training for trail work.

Find ways to create local volunteer opportunities for regular trail maintenance.

New Trail maps

Enhances

Create trail along gas line from Timberline to Danich Trail

Establish real trail alignment with drainage Danich trail to Alyeska Highway.

Kiosk for the Arlberg parking lot for all users at NW corner of parking lot.

Create easily identifiable trailheads, hopefully with both signs and parking.

New Trail Eagle Glacier Access Trail

Orca Bowl Access Trail

Improve cat road to Sunnyside for summer access

Groom water road behind the school for xc skiing

For Trails Committee to Discuss:

- More recognition of serving various user groups in the valley.
- More open, honest, robust, and transparent discussion of values.
- Discussion about the cumulative impacts of trails, and the ways in which trails can actually be deleterious to our environment and use of our lands, and how to prevent that. For example, we must be careful not to spider-web areas with trails, and in the process "love our valley to death".
- Where possible, less contentiousness and a better and more inclusive community spirit. This requires trail users and builders to be more attuned to community needs, and to be honest, responsible, and accountable.
- Discussion of the importance of respecting existing guidance - e.g. the Girdwood Trails Plan, Girdwood Area Plan, and Anchorage Areawide Trails Plan.