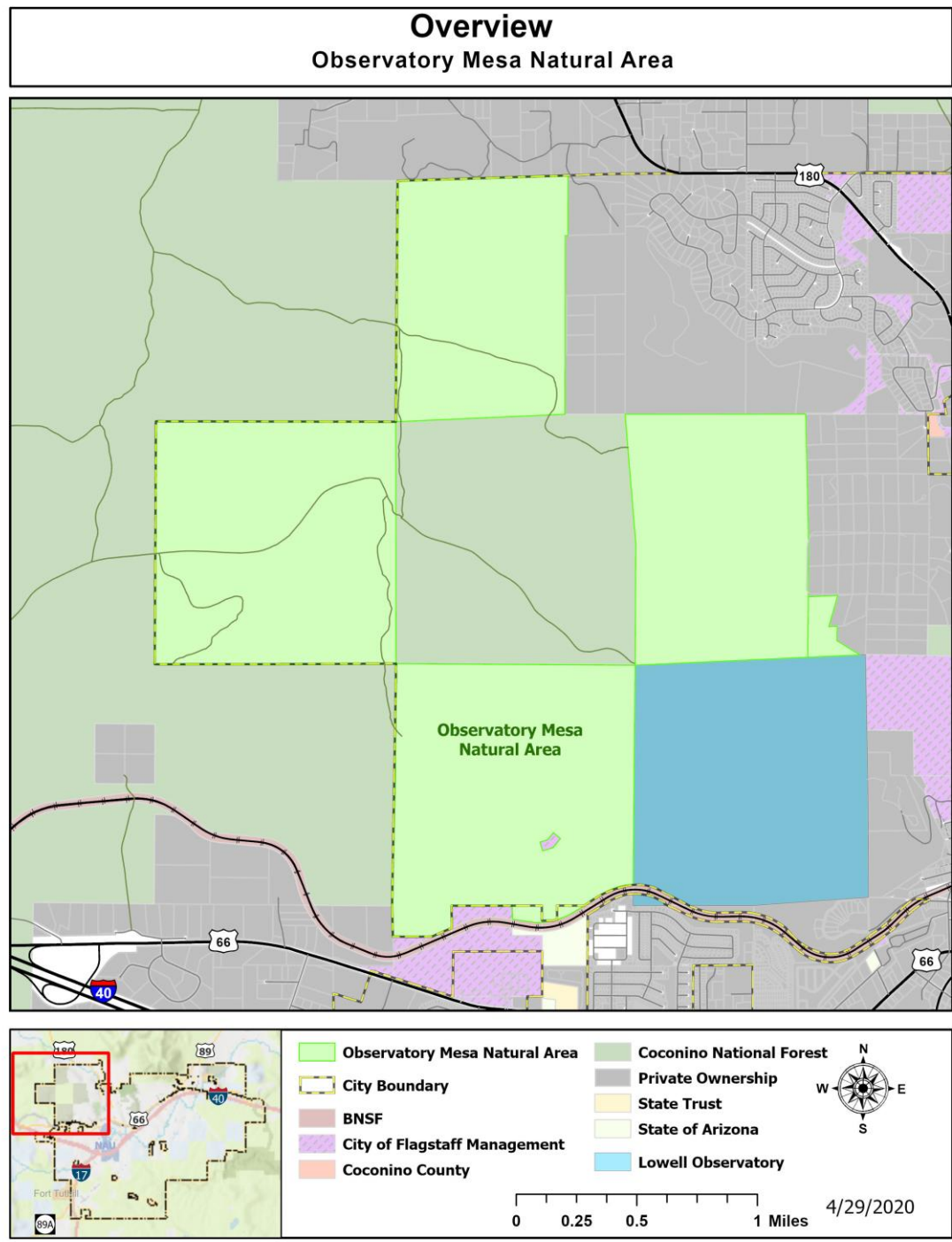


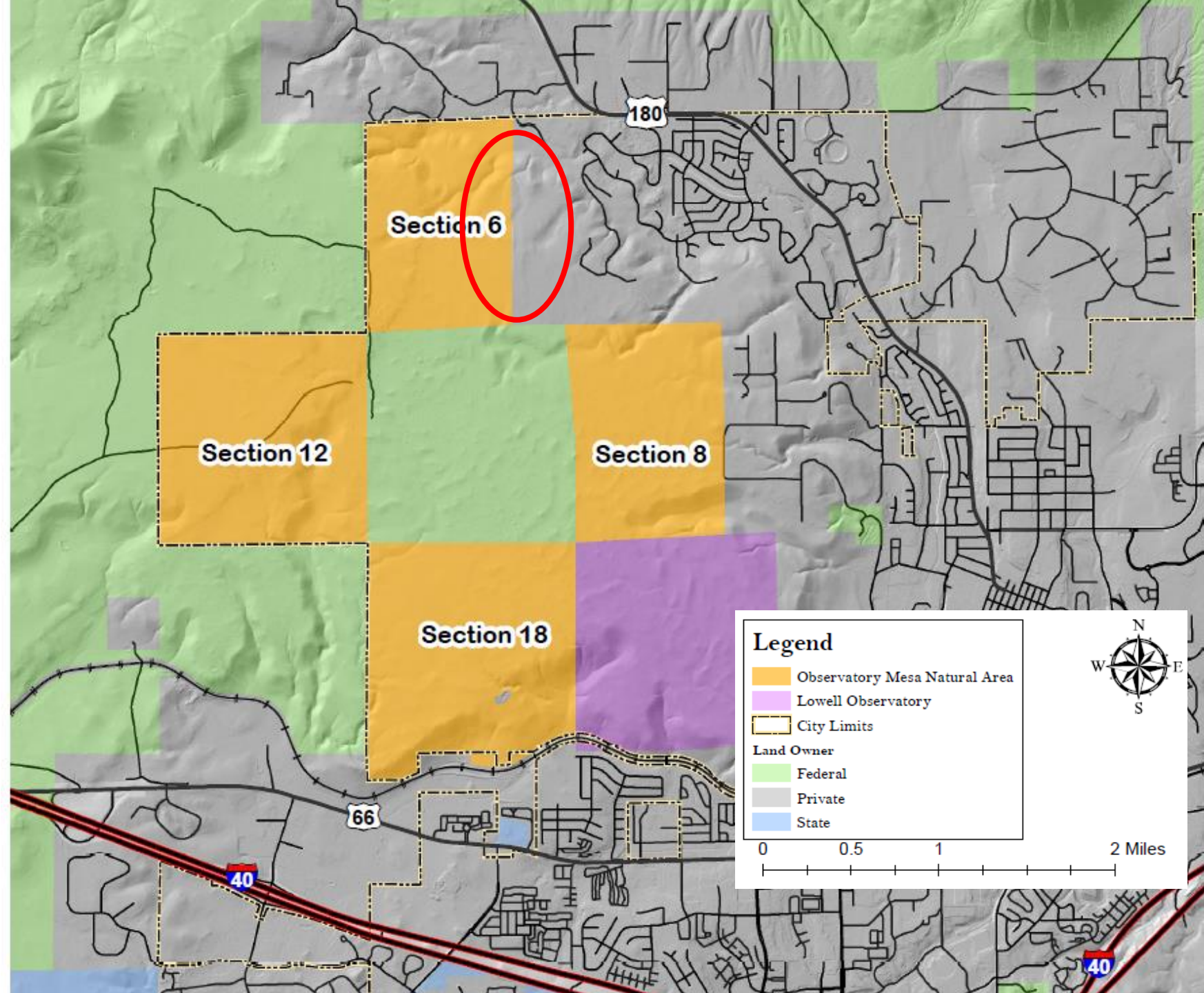
# Proposed Amendment to Observatory Mesa Access Road Right-of-Way Easement



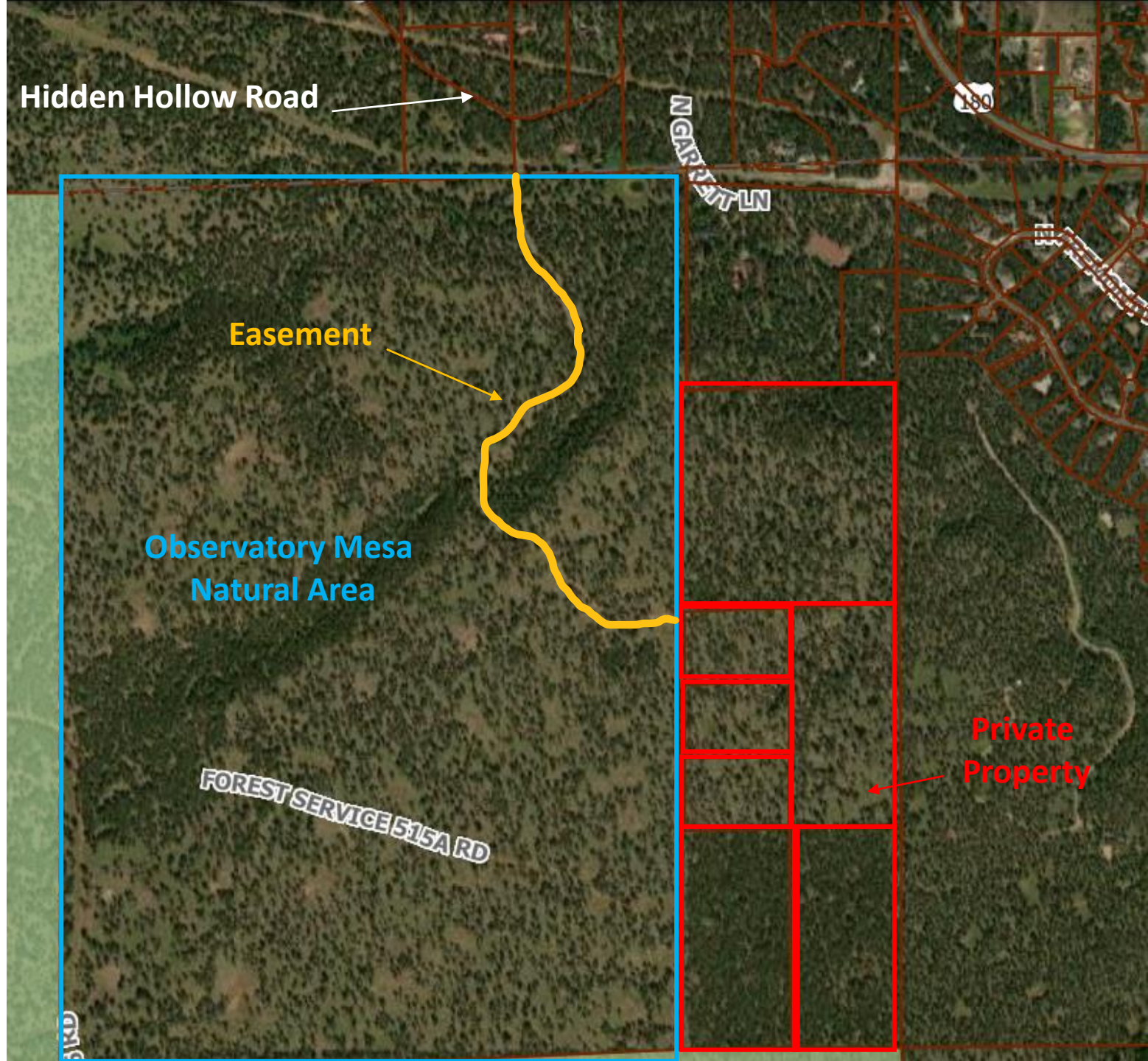
September 17, 2024



Observatory Mesa  
Natural Area  
Section 6



**Observatory Mesa  
Natural Area &  
Proposed ROW  
Amendment**





**Coming from Hidden Hollow,  
proposed to align with the  
current road outside of  
current ROW**



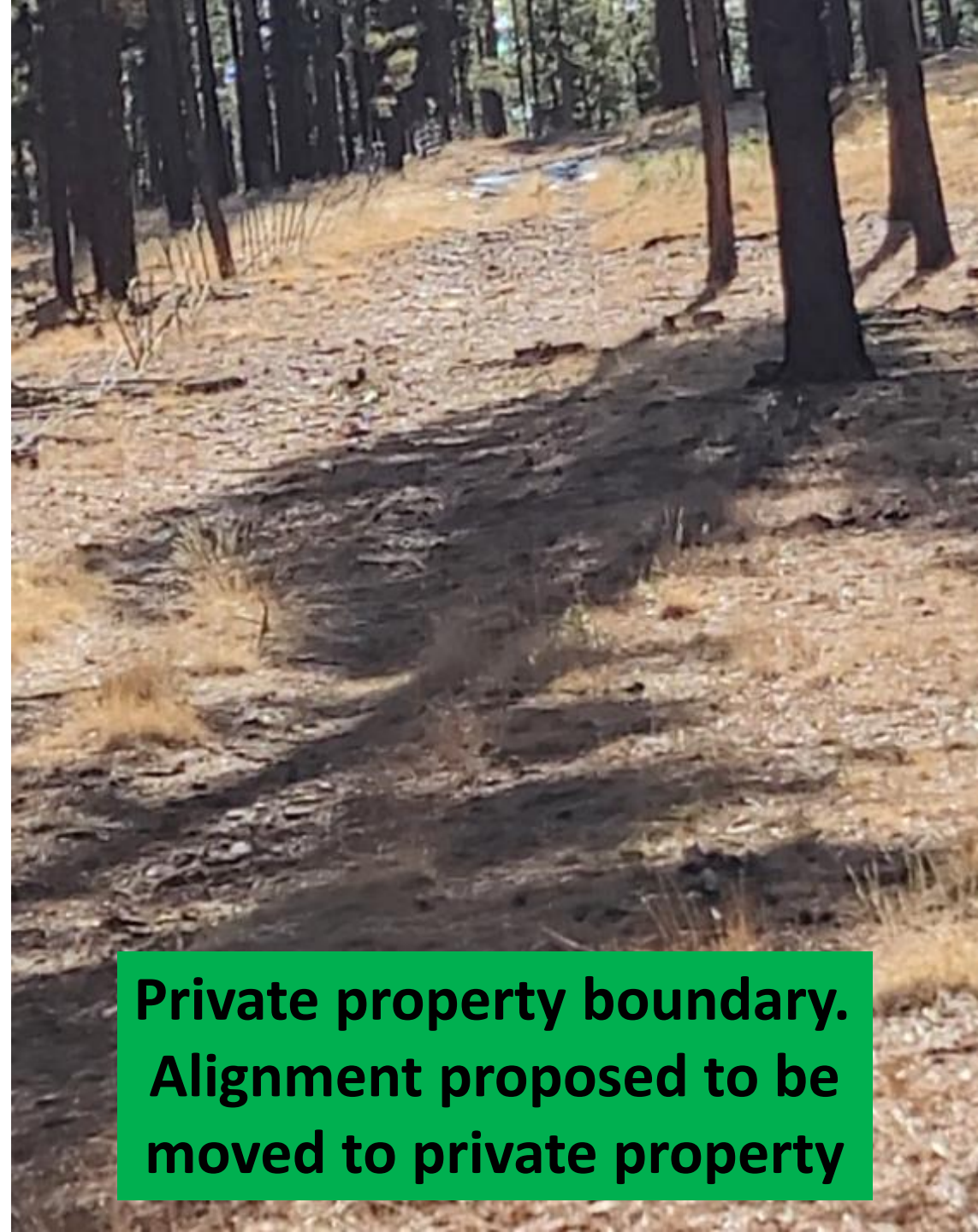
**Terrain along alignment**



**Steep grade proposed for a new alignment**



**Approaching private  
property boundary**

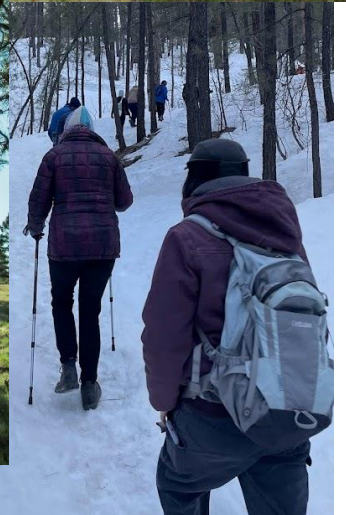


**Private property boundary.  
Alignment proposed to be  
moved to private property**



# Changes in Land Protection and Use

- Voter-approved bond funds
- Arizona Growing Smarter Grant Acceptance
- Deed of Conservation Easement





# City and State Role



- AZ State Parks and Trails has asked for initial City review
- Following City Council review an amended ROW and construction plans would need to be reviewed by Arizona State Parks and Trails and the State Historic Preservation Office





# Deed of Conservation Easement



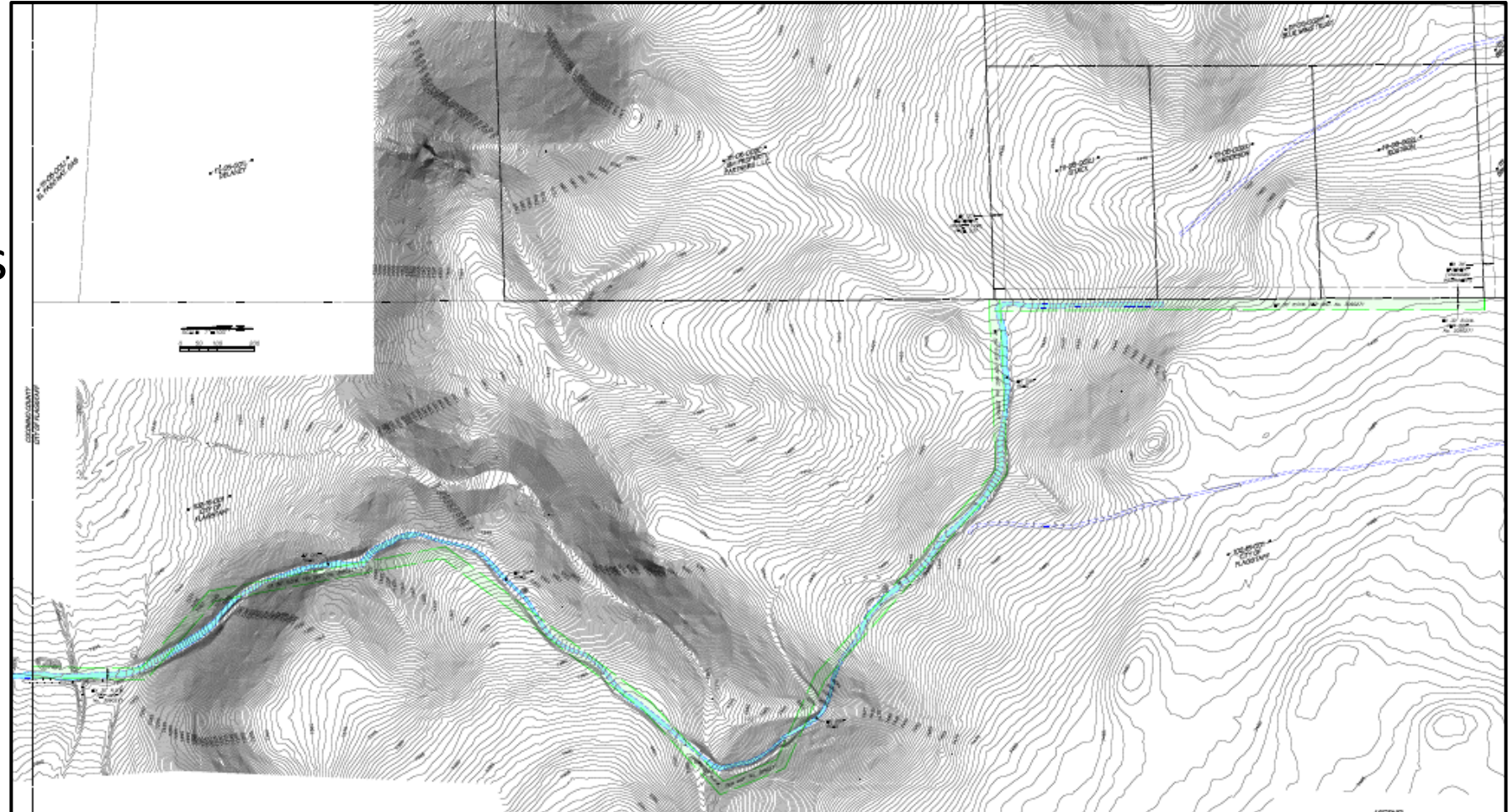
- Arizona State Parks holds a deed of conservation easement
  - This dictates types of improvement projects
  - Mechanism to protect the natural resources and baseline conditions
  - Facility development directed to consist of low-impact facilities
  - 20-acre limit on Natural Area development

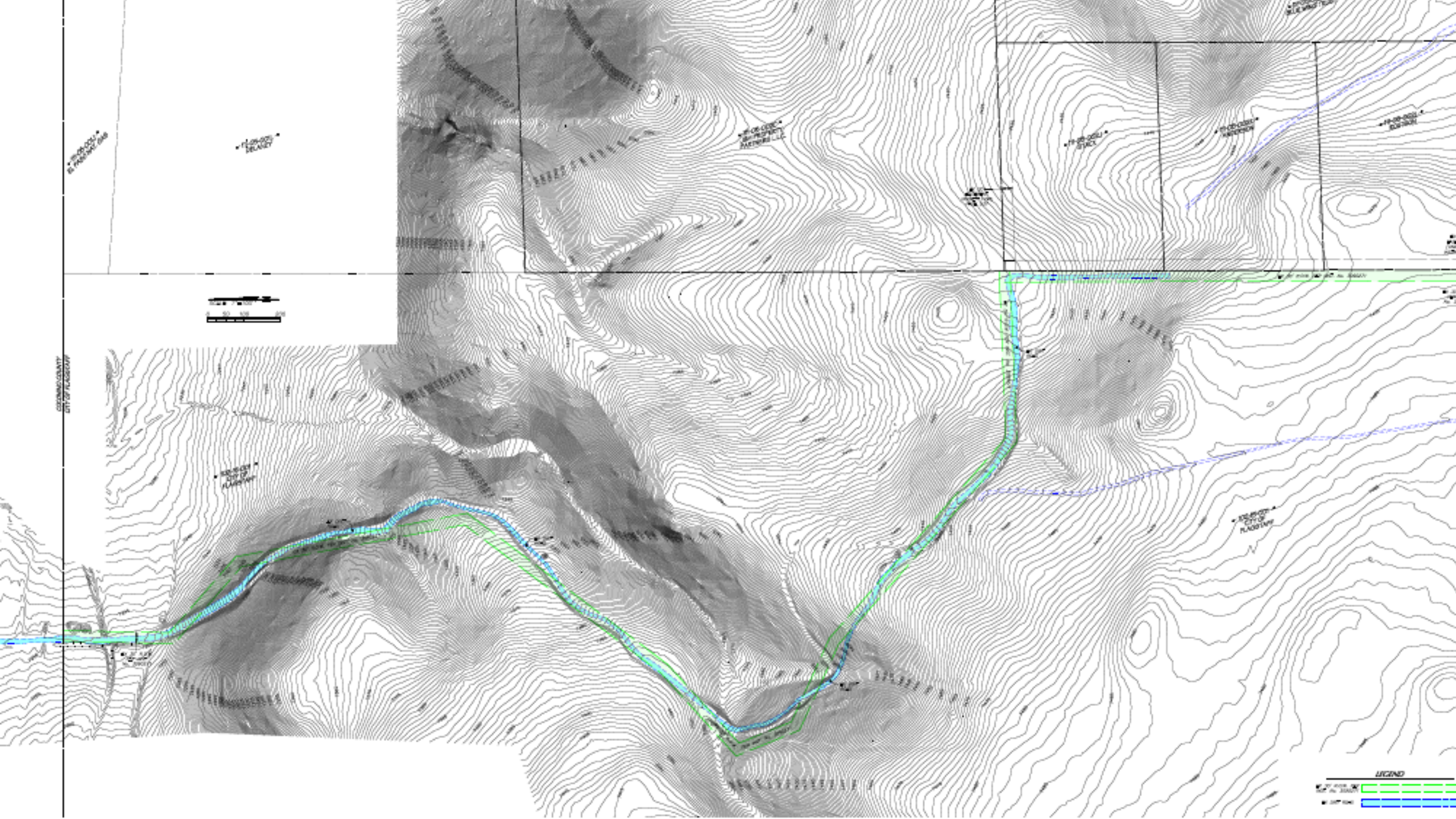




# Considerations

- Current ROW 3.52 acres
- Proposed ROW 3.75 acres, includes construction impacts to 1.05 acres
- Completed revised ROW alignment 2.7 acres
- The ROW traverses the Natural Area
- Future trail planning underway







# Open Spaces Commission Concerns



- Respecting the legal rights of existing easement
- Ensuring Deed of Conservation Easement upheld
- Road construction is not a benefit to Natural Area
- Full buildout affect the intended use
- Impacts to Hidden Hollow residents
- Impacts during construction



# Open Spaces Commission Recommendation



The Open Space Commission recommends that the request to amend the right of way easement #16-88092 be considered by the City Council subject to the conditions in the current ROW easement and some additional conditions to benefit the conservation of the city's Natural Area.



# Next Steps



- Arizona State Parks and Trails Review Process
- State Historic Preservation Office Review Process



# Options for Consideration



- Make no changes to the existing easement
- Recommend amending the easement with the conditions provided by the Open Spaces Commission
- Recommend amending the easement with Council determined conditions

