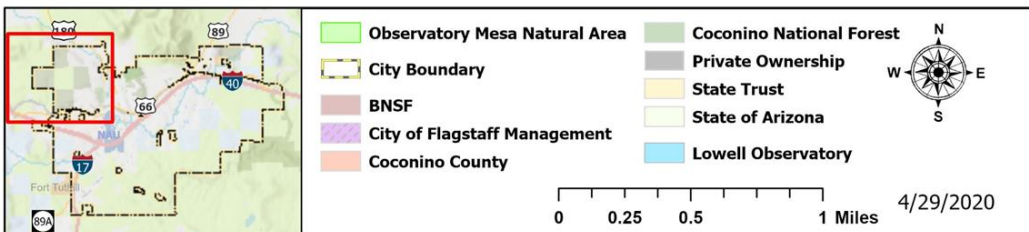
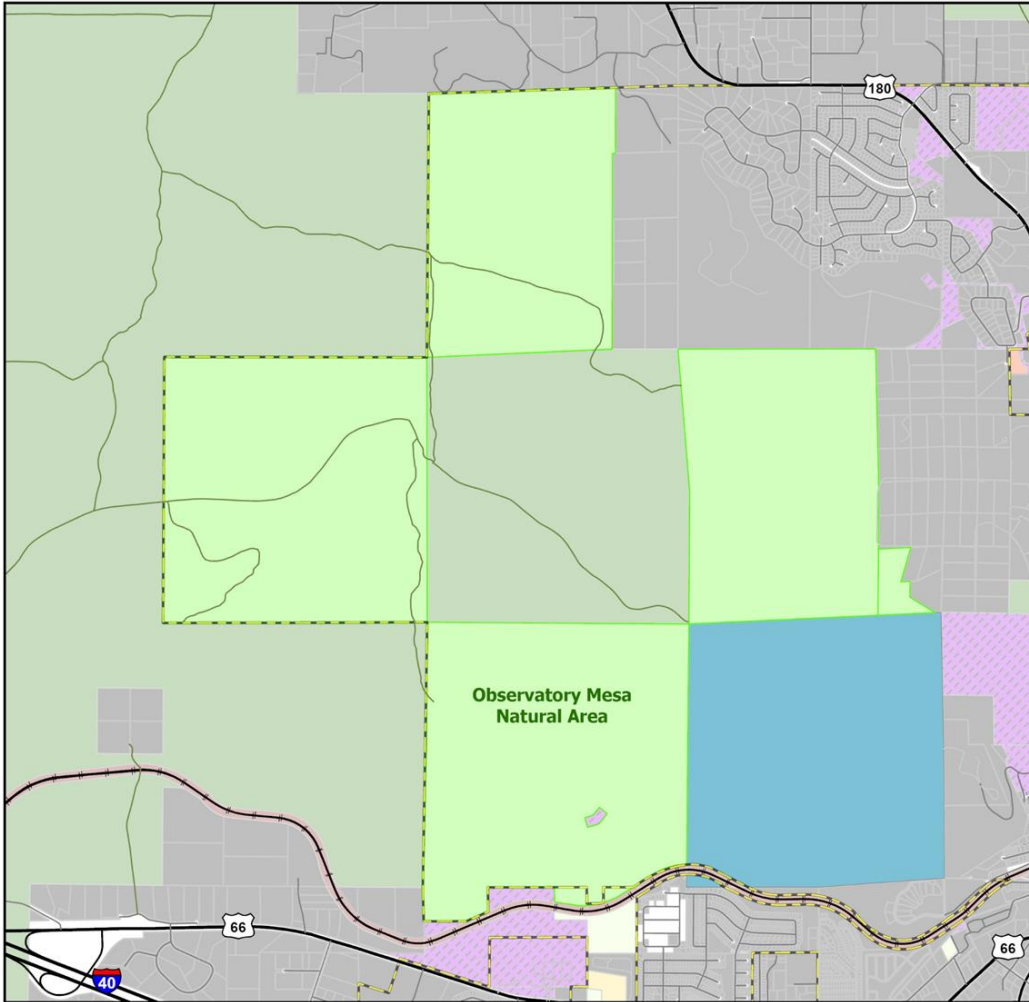


The Great Observatory Mesa Area Trail Plan - Final Draft





Overview
Observatory Mesa Natural Area



Greater Observatory Mesa Area

General Overview



- Background
- Plan Development
- Plan's Purpose
- Public Process
- Trail Plan Review
- Next steps
- Opportunity for Feedback

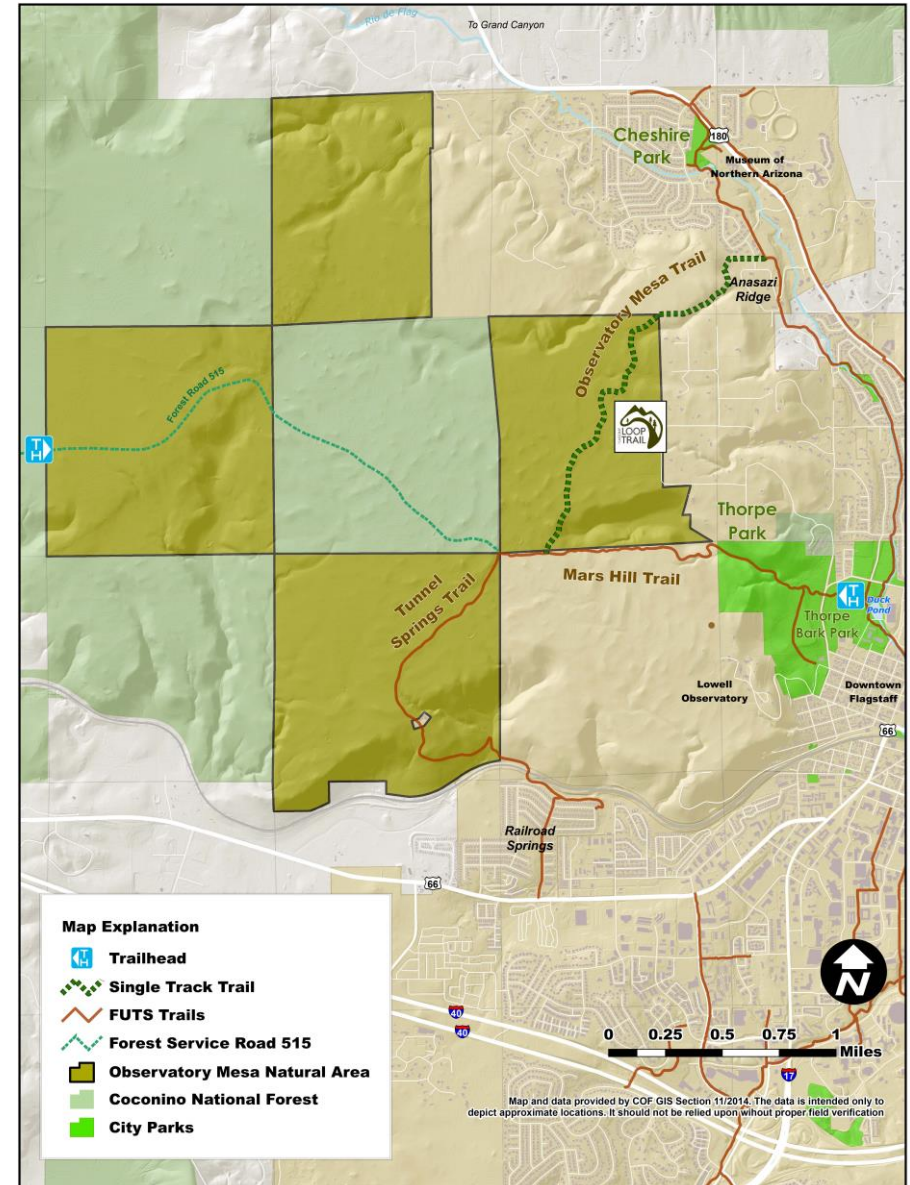




Background



- Property Purchase 2016
- Current Recreational Opportunities
- Management Plan and Partnerships





Background



- Flagstaff Trail Initiative public survey (<http://flagstafftrailsinitiative.org/>)
 - 1,700 public comments received
 - 120 of the comments were about Observatory Mesa, distilled into the following five recommendations.
 1. Construct a new stacked loop system
 1. Connect Fort Valley and Observatory Mesa
 2. Adopt unauthorized trails on Lowell Observatory property as part of trail system
 3. Evaluate unauthorized trails for closure and naturalization
 4. Connect Fort Valley to FUTS with a commuter route



Trail Plan Objectives

- Identify and incorporate strategies to benefit the preservation of the area and wildlife habitat
- Propose a trail system design for implementation for the Greater Observatory Mesa Natural Area

Goal 1: Design a trail plan for GOMA based on community feedback and input, guiding policy, and best practices of sustainable trail design

Goal 2: Reduce the impacts of motorized use in the GOMA area, and work toward a non-motorized trail system

Goal 3: Address unsustainable and unauthorized trails to improve environmental conditions in GOMA

Goal 4: Provide a variety of experiences to accommodate the desires of the community

Goal 5: Improve safety and wayfinding with increased signage and information for the formal trail system





Internal Scoping and Planning

- Cultural Site Protection
- Watersheds and Springs
- Wildlife
- Ecologically sensitive areas





Internal Scoping and Planning

- Property Management
- Fire Forest Management
- Invasive Weeds
- Guiding Documents





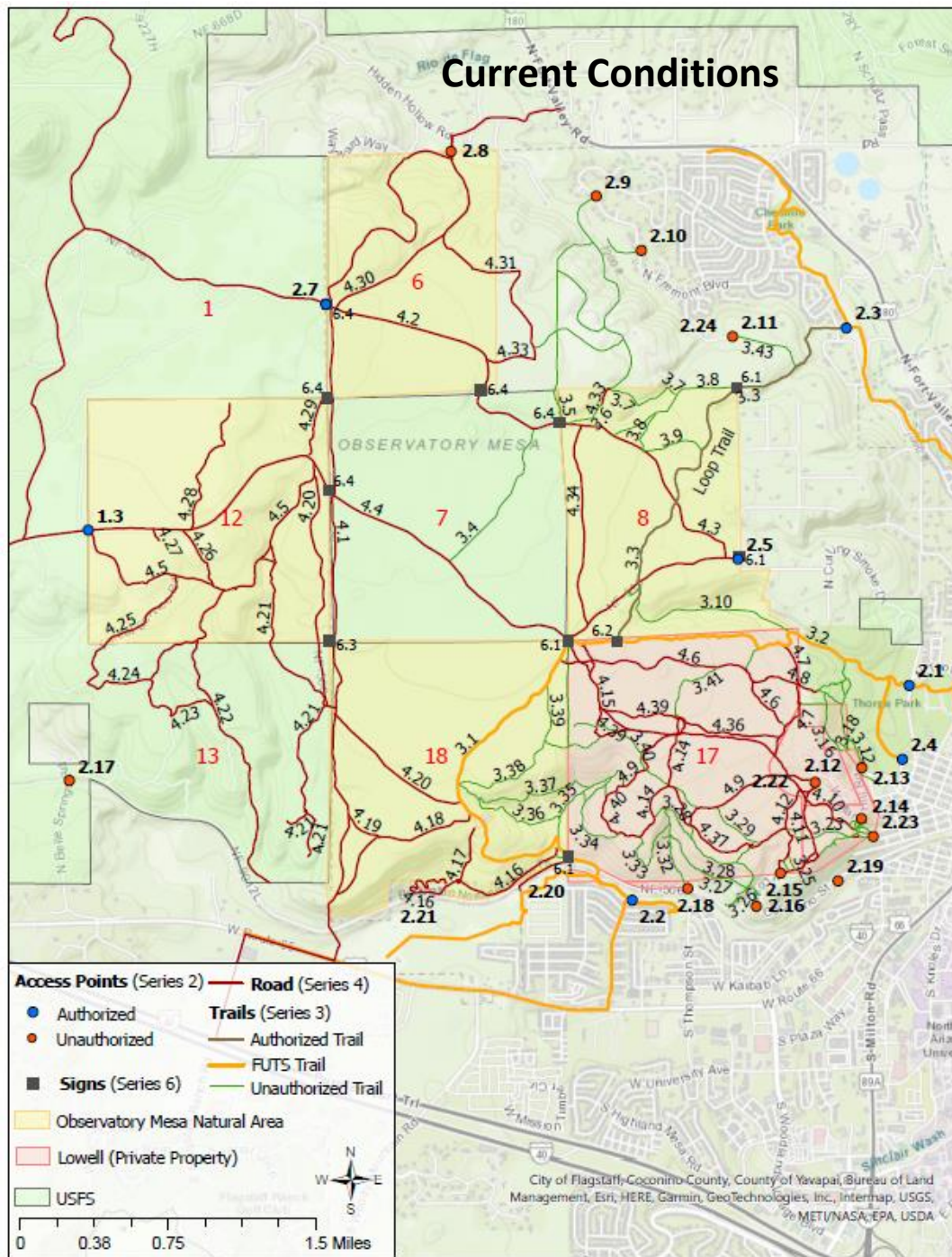
Current Conditions

- 20-30,000 users/year
- Broad array of recreation
 - hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing
- Only 5.8 miles of formal trail
- Minimal access
- Un-managed recreation and public use, including 15 miles of user-created unauthorized trails



illegally constructed trails

Current Conditions



- 5.8 miles of trail (FUTS & Loop Trail)
- ~8 miles of unauthorized trail (OMNA/USFS)
- 27 miles of existing roads (OMNA & USFS)
- 2 authorized parking areas

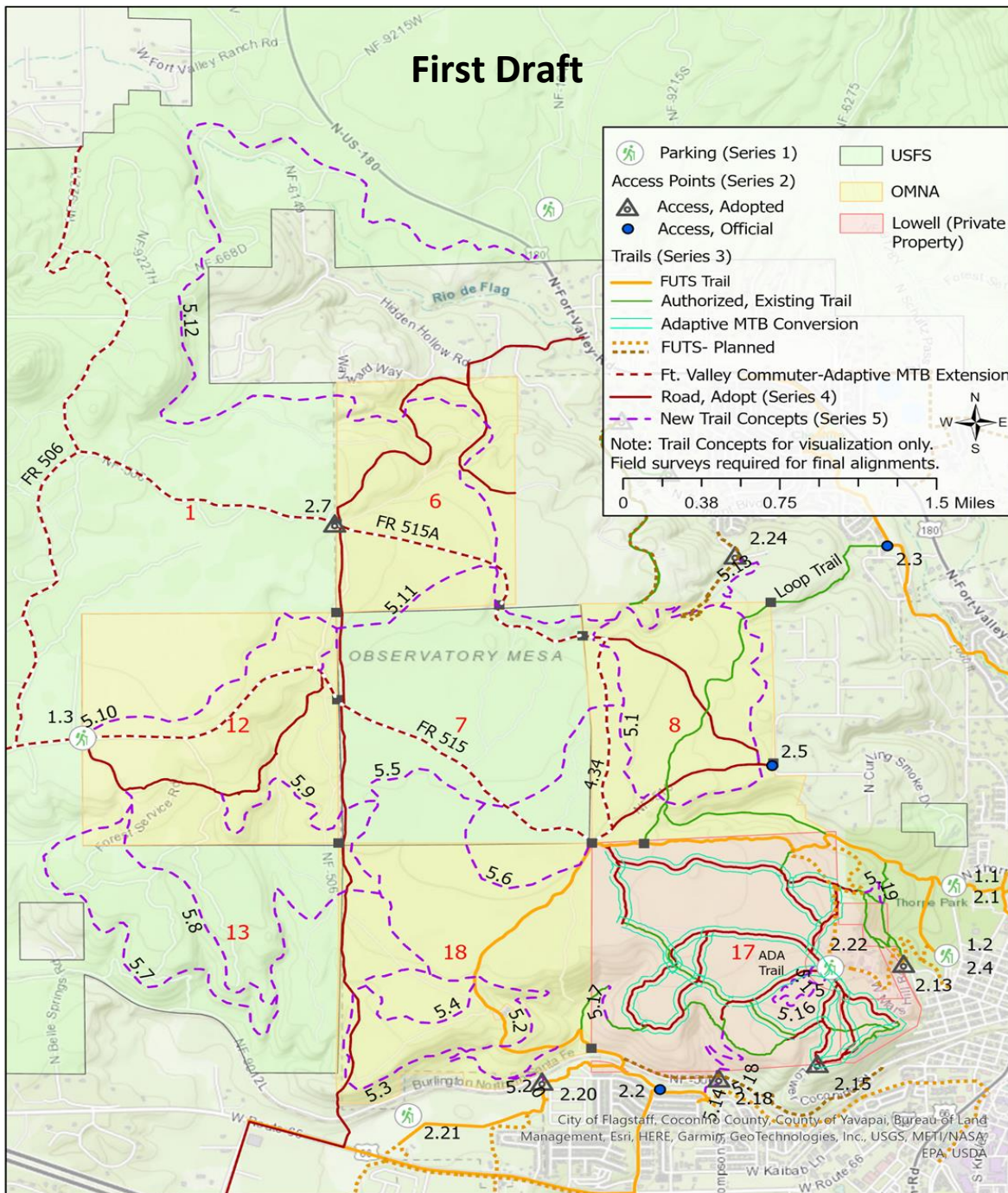


Internal Scoping and Planning

Considerations

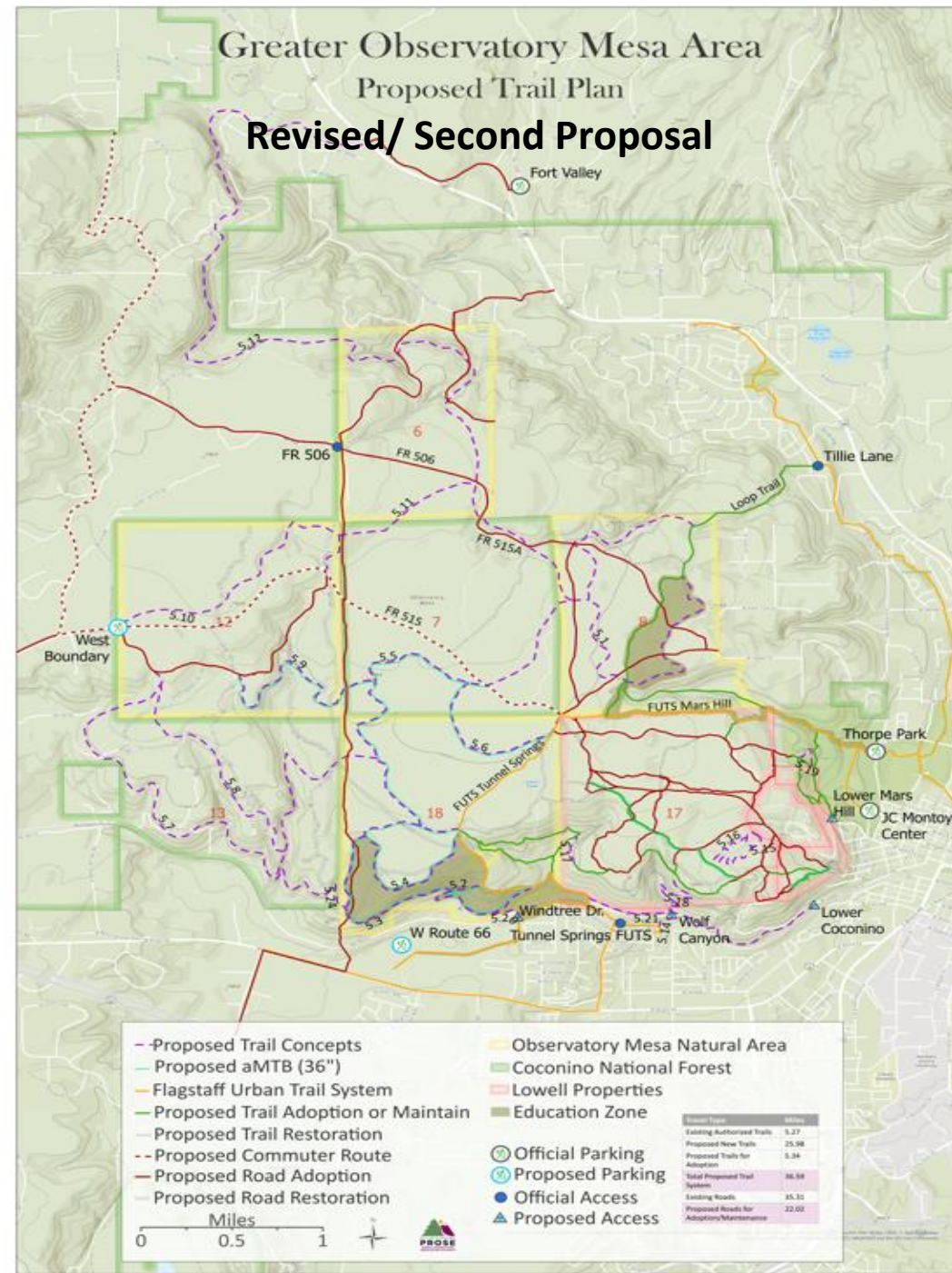
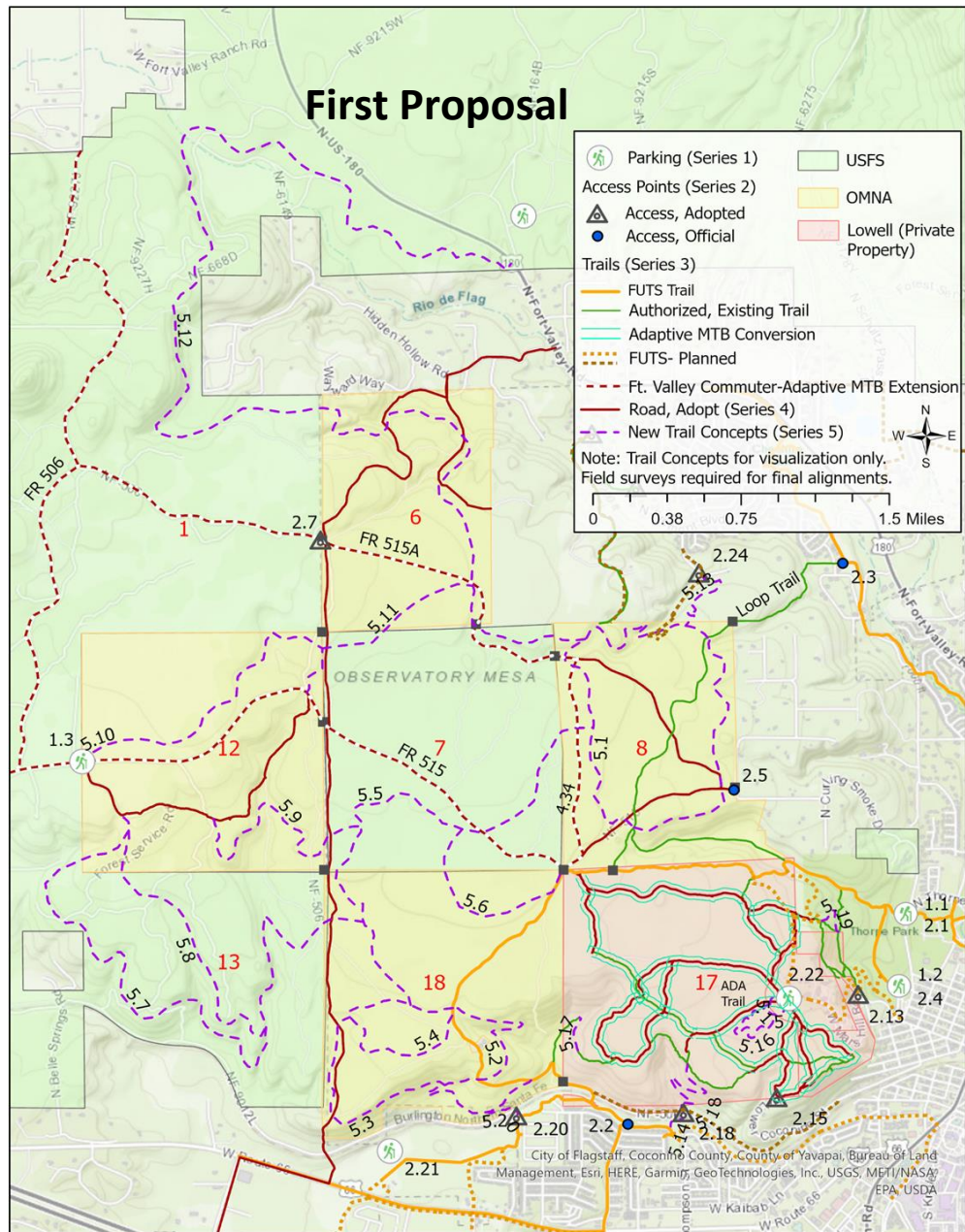
- Sustainable alignments
- Restoration
- Passive recreation
- Directional Trails
- Multi-use/single use
- E-bikes



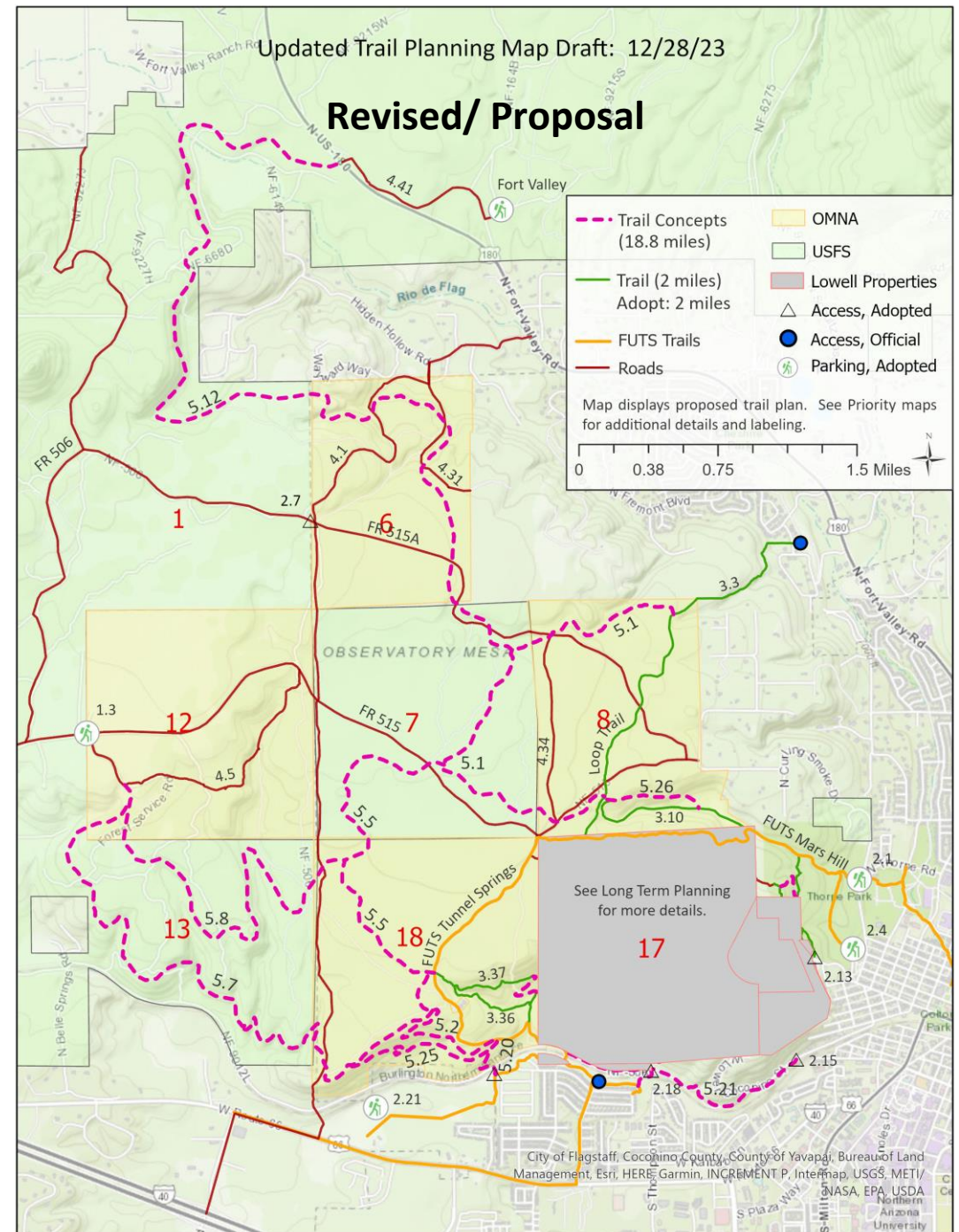
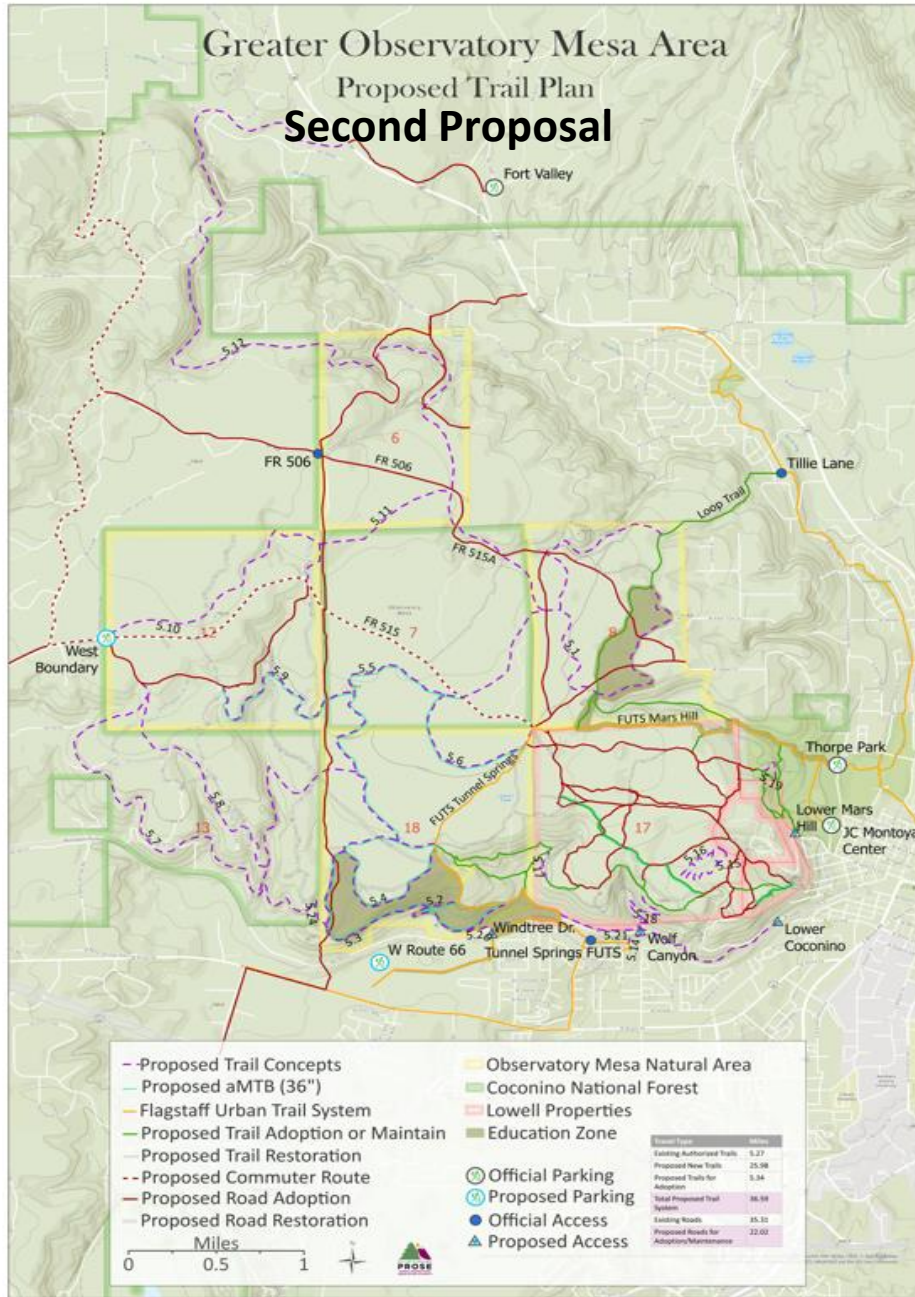


- 24 miles of new singletrack trail
- 6 miles of trail restoration
- 13 miles of road restoration (35 total)
- 4 new access points
- 2 new parking areas
- Travel Route identified
- Trails for adaptive riders

Revision from draft 1 to draft 2

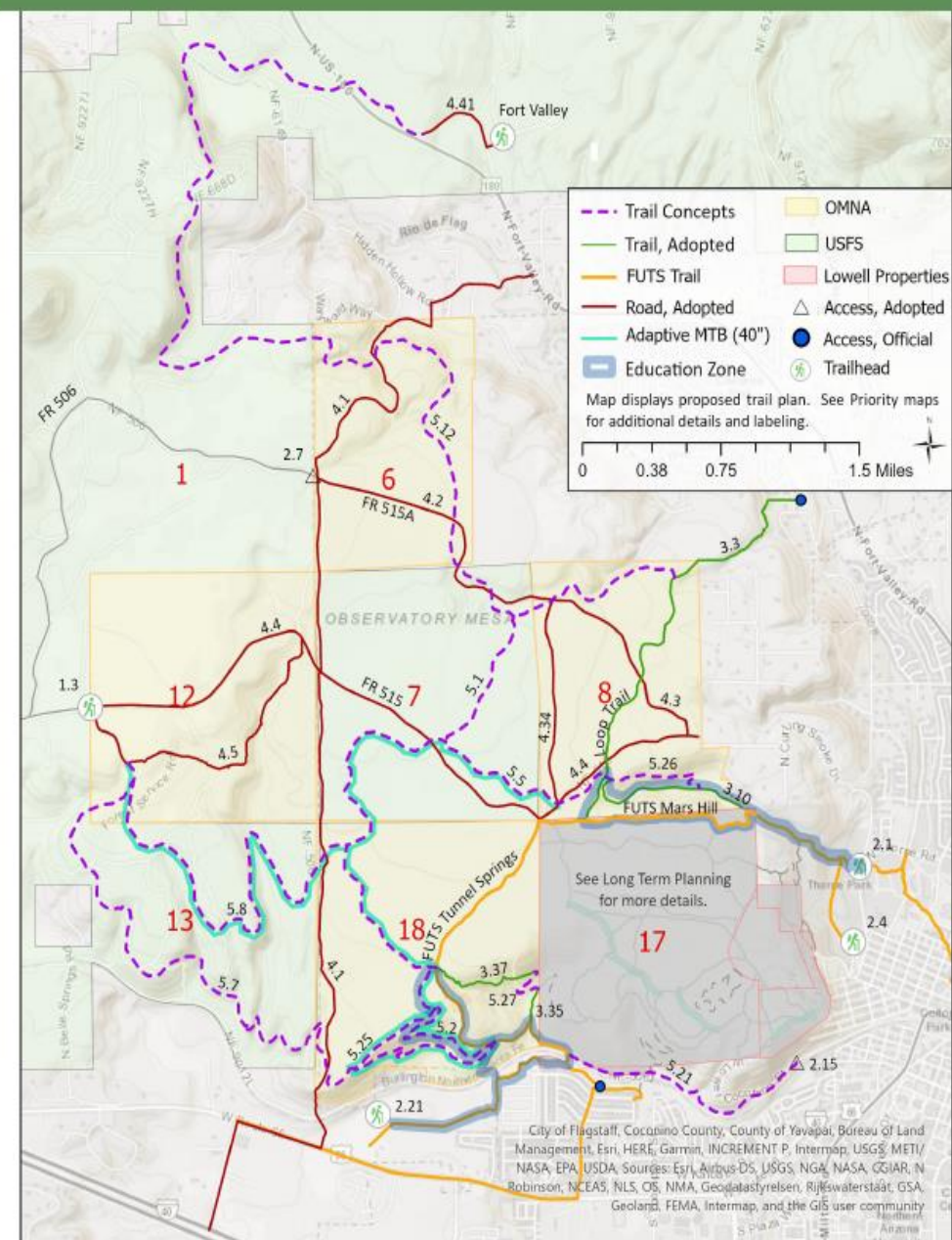
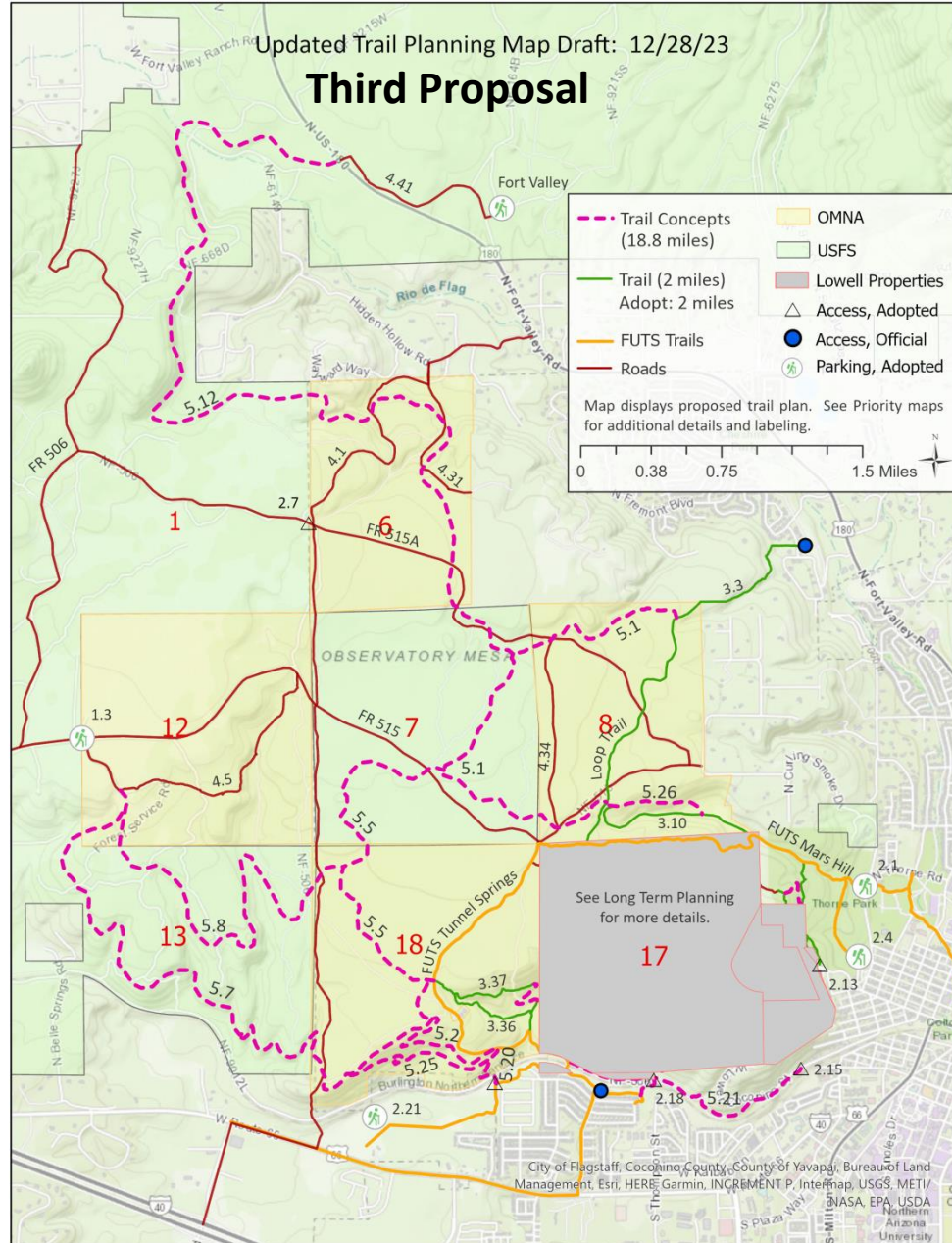


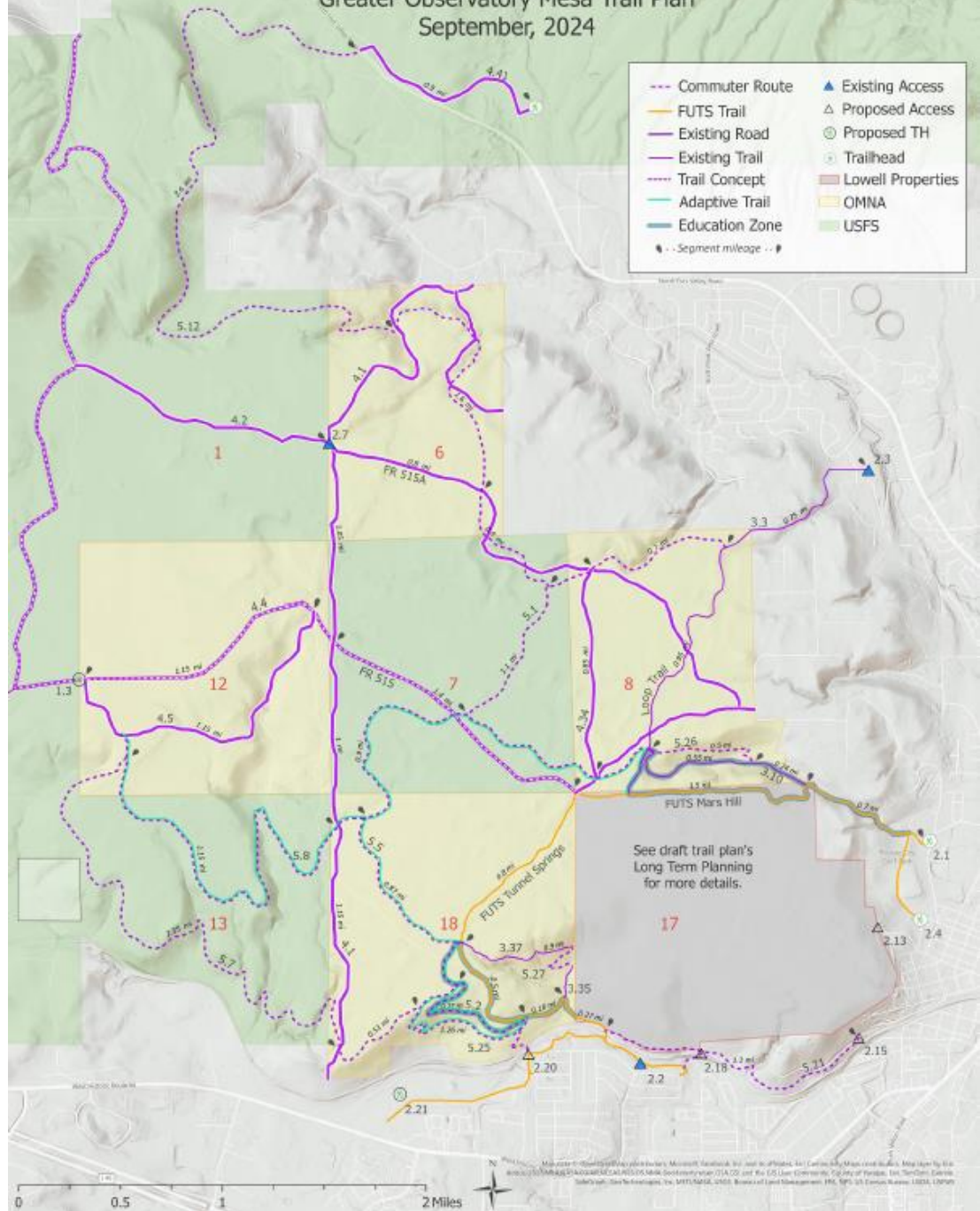
Revision from draft 2 to draft 3



Revision from draft 3 to final draft

Priority Trail System Revised/ Final Proposal





- Recreation Opportunities
- Class 1 & 2 E-bikes
- Multi-use and bi-directional
- Adaptive mountain biking
- Two trails (5.25 and 5.26) bike optimized
- Signage
- ~18.5 miles of single-track trail
- Additional formal access point
- Additional parking
- Restoration of ~4.5 miles of unauthorized trails
- Restoration of ~10.5 miles of unauthorized abandoned roads
- Two educational zones



Next Steps

2020-2022

Summer 2022

Summer 2023

Fall 2024

Fall 2024

Winter 2024

2025-2026

**Trail Plan
Drafting
with
Partners**

**Public
Comment
Stage 1**

**Public
Comment
Stage 2**

**Public
Comment
Stage 3**

**City Council
Review
and
Final Plan
Resolution
Adoption**

**Permitting,
Surveys,
State
Review**

**Funding
and
Building**

Discussion & Input

Questions, comments, ideas?

