



## **Keep Routt Wild presentation to Steamboat Springs City Council regarding 2A funding**

- **Keep Routt Wild's role**
- **Referendum 2A ballot summary**
- **2A Committee funding vs. STA proposal**
- **Request to City Council**



**Keep Routt Wild is a community organization dedicated to preserving wildlife and wild places in Routt County.**

# Conservation helps us, the wildlife, and the economy.

July 23, 2018

## The 2017 Economic Contributions of Outdoor Recreation in Colorado

A regional and county-level analysis



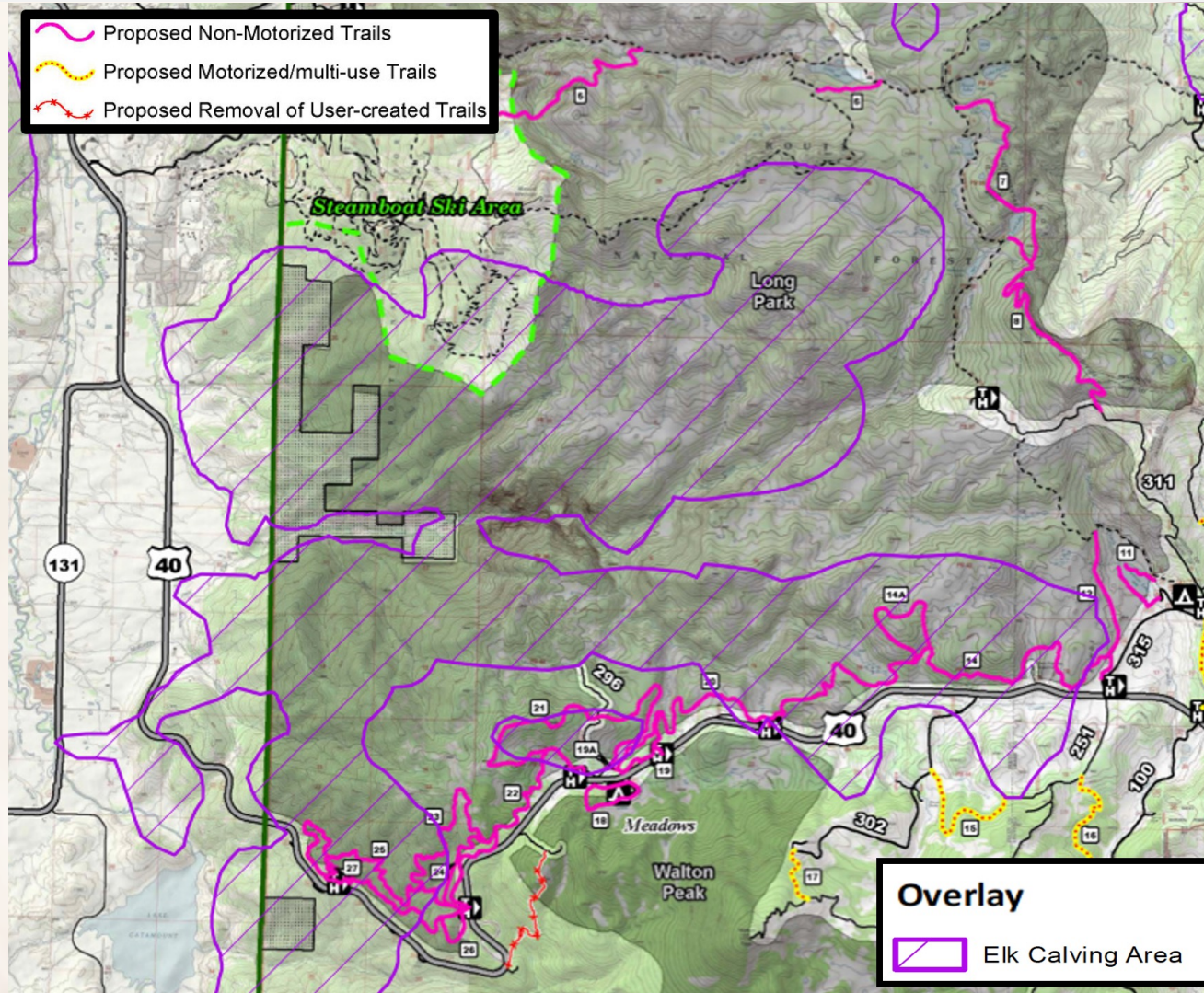
Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
Denver, CO



## \$36.8B Colorado Spending Seven major activities:

- **\$9.3B Skiing**
- **\$5.1B Hiking Backpacking**
- **\$3.3B Tent Camping**
- **\$2.5B Cabin/RV Camping**
- **\$1.9B Hunting/Fishing**
- **\$1.7B Running/Jogging**
- **\$1.5B Wildlife Viewing**

# Keep Routt Wild submits proposal to refine Mad Rabbit Trails project



**Proposed compromise that minimizes impact to wildlife while expanding recreation opportunities**

- New epic trail plus shorter distance bike/hike opportunities
- Increased motorized & e-bike opportunities
- Avoids elk calving areas and summer range
- Complies with NEPA and Colorado Roadless Rule
- May avoid an EIS

# Referendum 2A restricts funding to trails listed in STA proposal

## 2013 Referendum 2A:

### □ Referendum 2A

Shall the city of Steamboat Springs be obligated to a multiple-fiscal year obligation by allocating, for the next 10 fiscal years, the revenues from the existing public accommodations tax (tax revenues), on a fiscal year basis, as follows: A) The first \$600,000 of tax revenues to be split on a 50 percent-50 percent basis between 1. the development of trails in and around the city in accordance with the Trails Alliance proposal and 2) improvements to Yamna Street in accordance

## Funding Resolution for Mad Rabbit NEPA (6/4/19):

**WHEREAS**, the 2A ballot question in 2013 approved by voters dedicated Accommodations Tax funding of \$600,000 in 2019 to trails listed in the Trails Alliance Proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2A Trails Committee has reviewed and prioritized eligible projects in the Trails Alliance Proposal and has provided a recommendation for 2A Trails of certain projects in 2019; and

## City Council Communication Form for Mad Rabbit NEPA (6/4/19):

### V. LEGAL ISSUES:

Use of the accommodation tax funds must follow the 1986 ballot language regarding the funds and the 2A Trails Ballot question further restricted use of the 2A Trails dollars to the projects listed in the Trails Alliance proposal. The 2A Trails process provides funding to the city or partnering land managers for the development of trails as approved by the land manager. The City defers to the land manager regarding design and construction decisions and process. The 2A Trails Committee's role, or decision, is whether or not to recommend trails as proposed. Once project funding is approved, the City contracts with the land manager for the project.

# Letter to City Council from concerned citizens

Dear City Council,

“We the undersigned wish to bring an issue to the City Council’s attention that demands immediate action.”

“Up until recently, the city had been acting within the scope of the voters’ approval and STA proposal by only funding projects from the enumerated list. This changed in August 2019, when the 2A Trails Committee [voted to approve](#) nine US Forest Service (USFS) trails for funding not included in the STA proposal”

“Funding trails not in accordance with the STA proposal violates both the letter and the spirit of Referendum 2A.”

“With the EA expected as soon as May, the city must act quickly to clarify with the USFS which trails would be funded by 2A, and which trails would not. We ask that the city council deal with this issue immediately and inform us of their findings.”

Sincerely,

Larry Desjardin  
President, Keep Routt Wild

Cristina Harmon  
NWCO Chapter of Great Old Broads for  
Wilderness

Tammie Delaney  
Vision 2030 Project Manager

Cari Hermacinski

Carol Fischer

Martha Drake (Chris) Young

Harry Lambart

Diane Miller

Marilyn McCaulley  
Dr. Mark McCaulley

Sally Hertzog

Mary O’Brien

Leslie Lovejoy

Mark Ensner

Brandon LaChance

Ken Constantine

Rich Levy  
Trappers Lake Sierra Club

Doug Monger, Kyle Monger  
Monger Cattle Company

Tom Fox

Troy Brookshire

Paul Stettner

Ed Watson

Jim Hicks

Kimberly Symalla

Sharon & Jeff Sexton

Benjamin Barbier

Eric Washburn

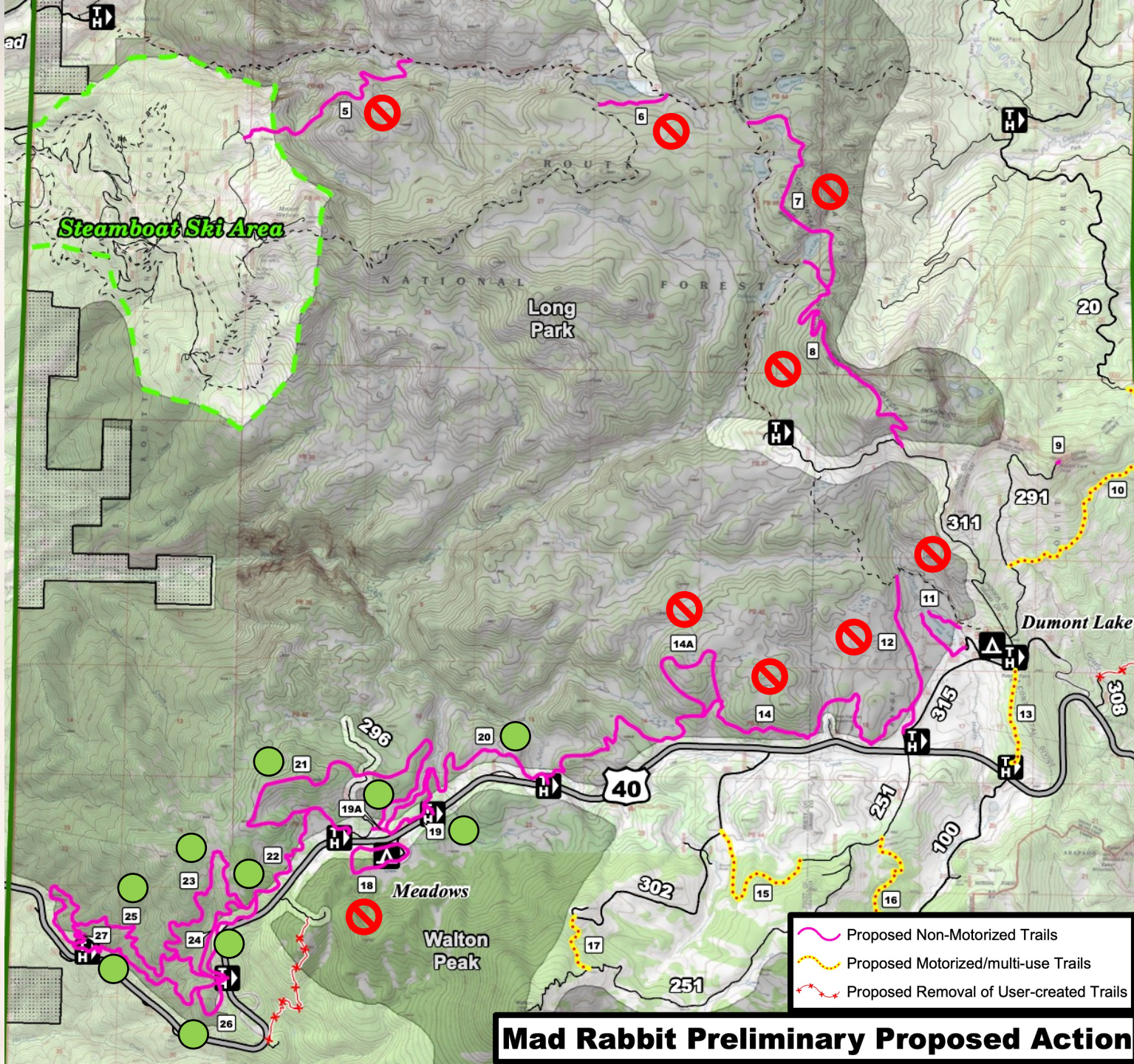
Winston Walker

Bill McKelvie

Dave Lambeth

Melissa Hampton

Scott Warner



**Mad Rabbit Preliminary Proposed Action**

USFS Document:	
Segment	In STA Proposal?
4	No
5	No
6	No
7	No
8	No
9	No
10	No
11	No
12	No
13	No
14	No
14A	No
15	No
16	No
17	No
18	No
19	Yes
19A	Yes
20	Yes
21	Yes
22	Yes
23	Yes
24	Yes
25	Yes
26	Yes
27	Yes

Added by 2A Committee

STA Trails

# 2A Trails Committee Functional Equivalents

- STA Hiking Only Trail south of Ferndale Area =  
Multiuse trails around Dumont Lake and Meadows Campground (#11, 18)
- STA Upper West Summit Network (loop begins and ends at West Summit) =  
Point-to-point trail from Fox Curve to Dumont entrance plus a midway loop (#14, 14A)
- STA Upper West Summit Loop 3 near Bruce's Trail TH =  
Point-to-point trail from Dumont Lake entrance to CDT near Dumont Lake (#12)
- STA Drunken Hogan (Dumont Lake to South side of ski area, to “reduce pressure and resource damage on the popular Continental Divide Trail”) =  
Patchwork of trails creating multiple loops on CDT, plus Long Lake bypass, plus new Fish Creek Canyon trail (#5, 6, 7, 8)

■ = Included in original STA proposal

■ = Mad Rabbit trail declared functional equivalent

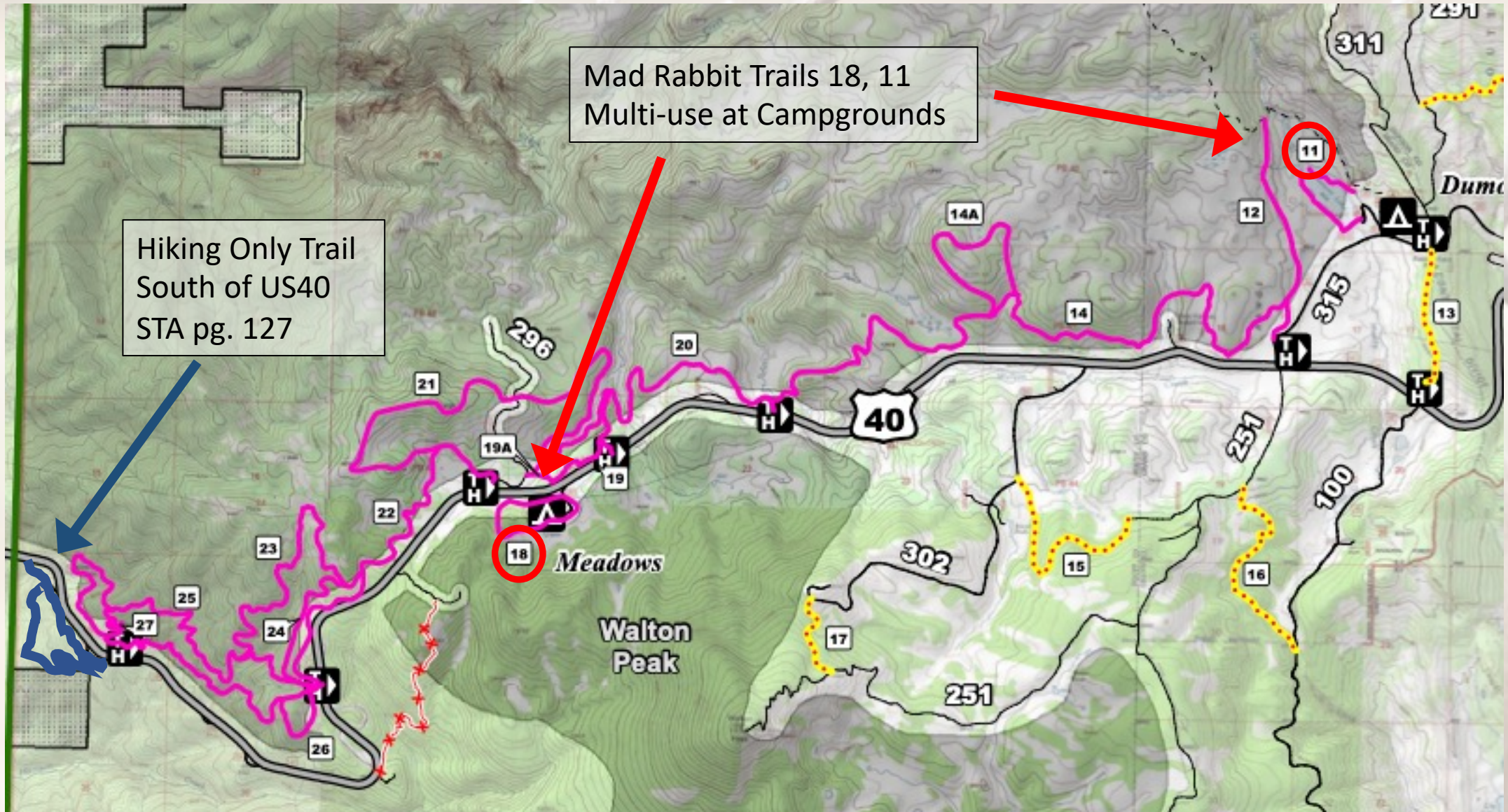


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Mad Rabbit Trails 18, 11  
Multi-use at Campgrounds

Hiking Only Trail  
South of US40  
STA pg. 127

18  
Meadows

11

40

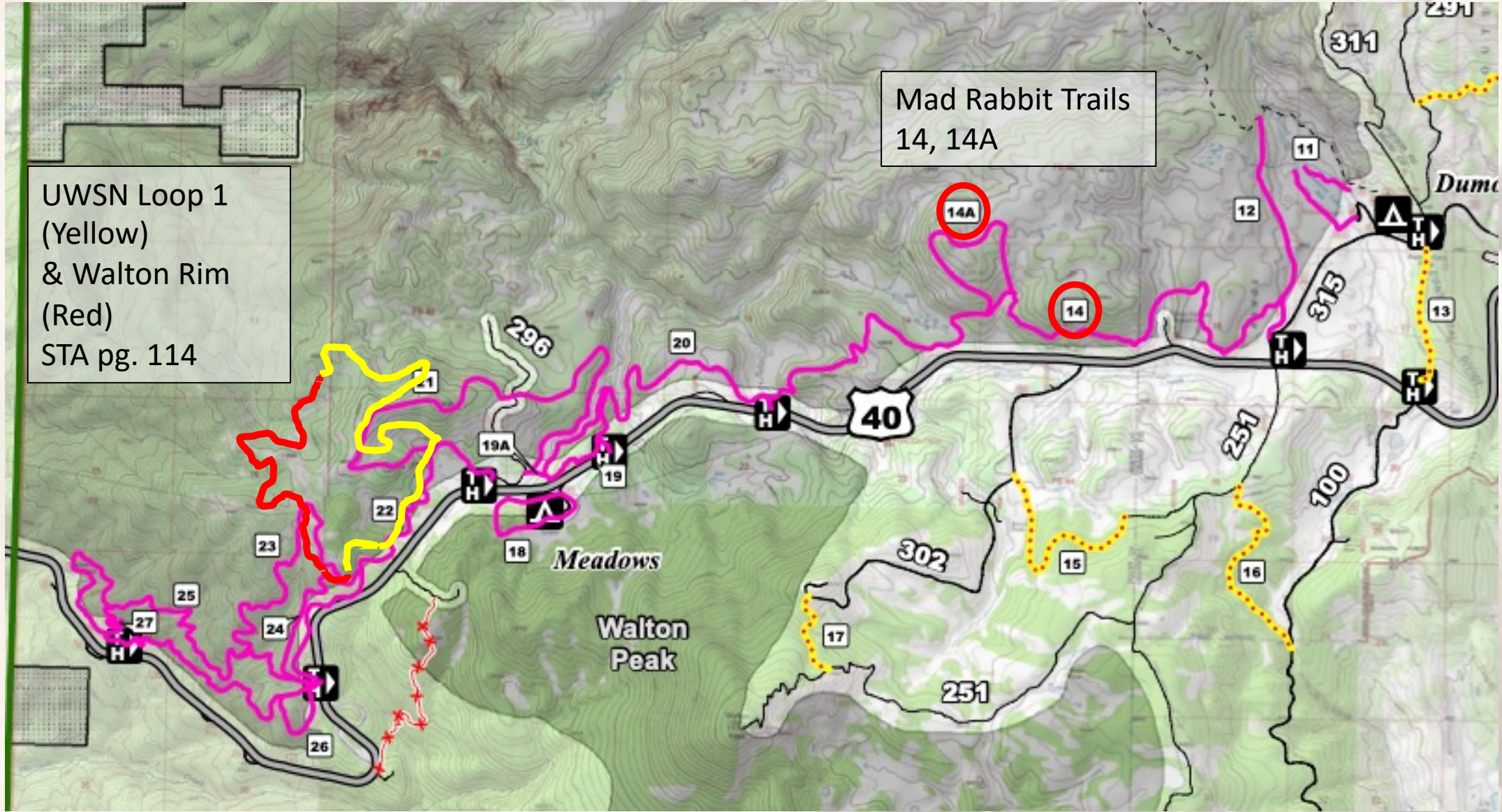
Walton  
Peak

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UWSN Loop 1  
(Yellow)  
& Walton Rim  
(Red)  
STA pg. 114

Mad Rabbit Trails  
14, 14A

# 2A Trails Committee Functional Equivalents

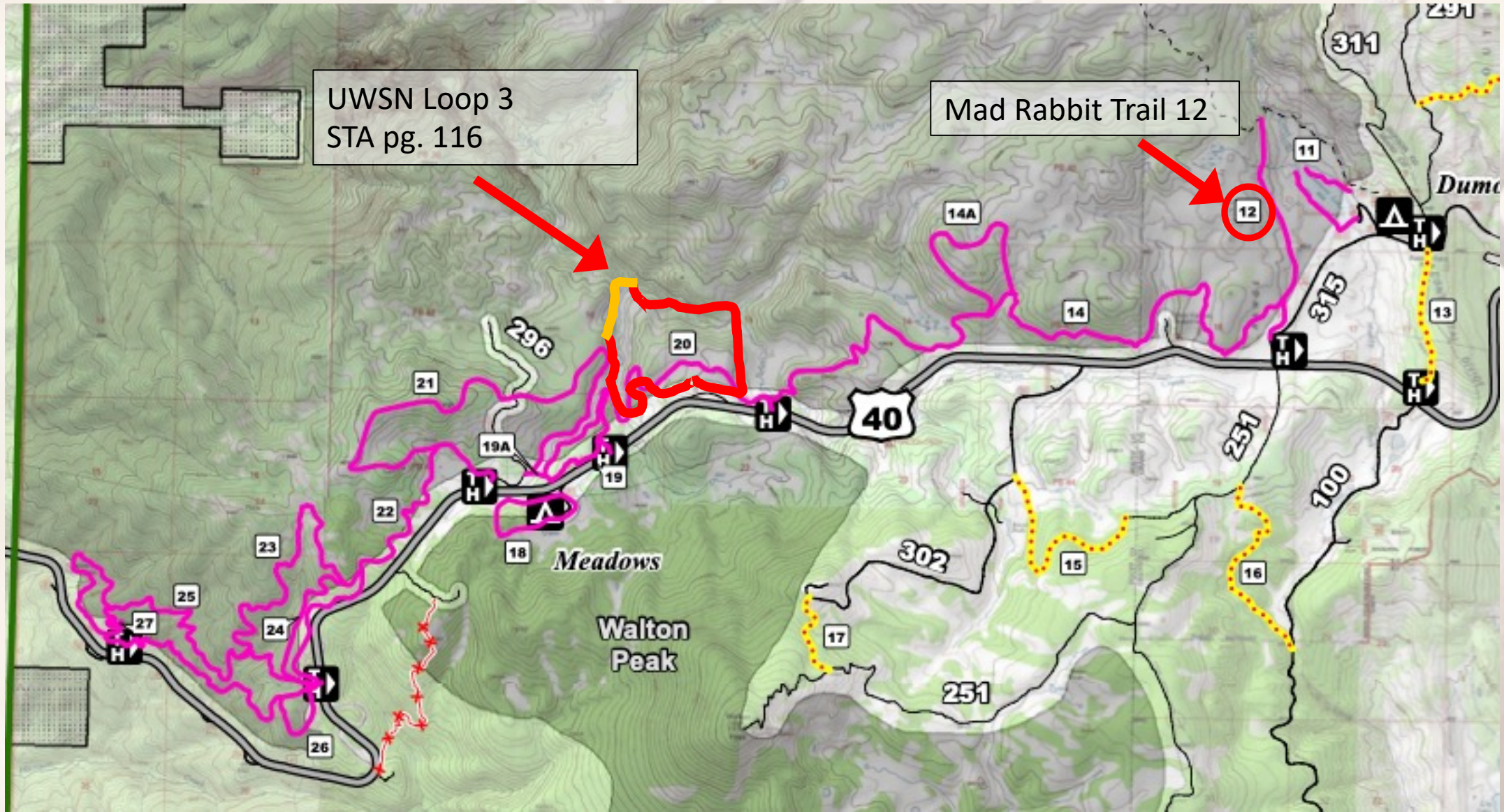
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UWSN Loop 3  
STA pg. 116

Mad Rabbit Trail 12

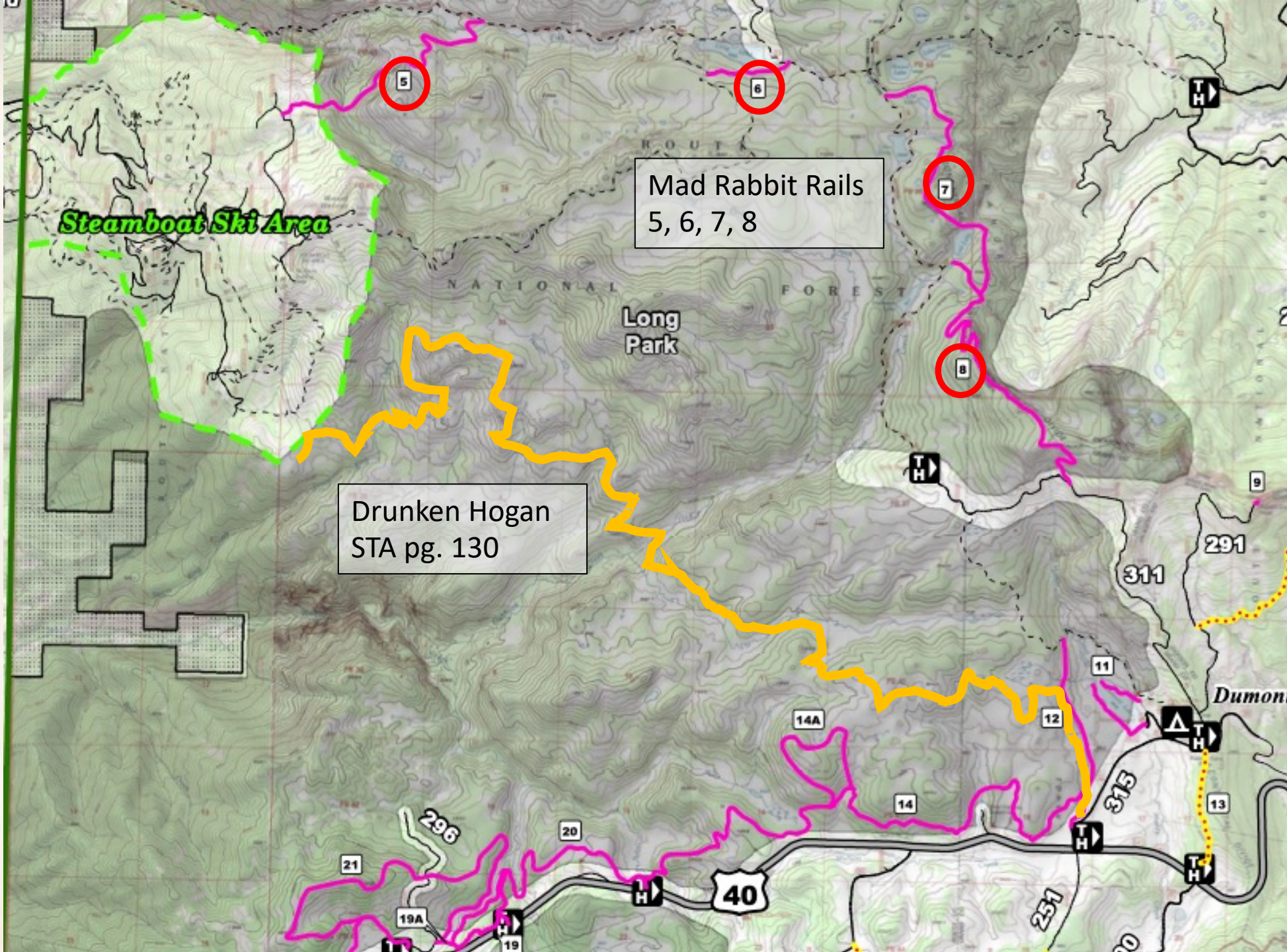


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Mad Rabbit Rails  
5, 6, 7, 8

Drunken Hogan  
STA pg. 130

**Steamboat Ski Area**

Long  
Park

NATIONAL FOREST

40

Dumon

296

20

21

19A

19

14A

14

251

11

12

311

291

13

9

TH

TH

TH

TH

TH

5

6

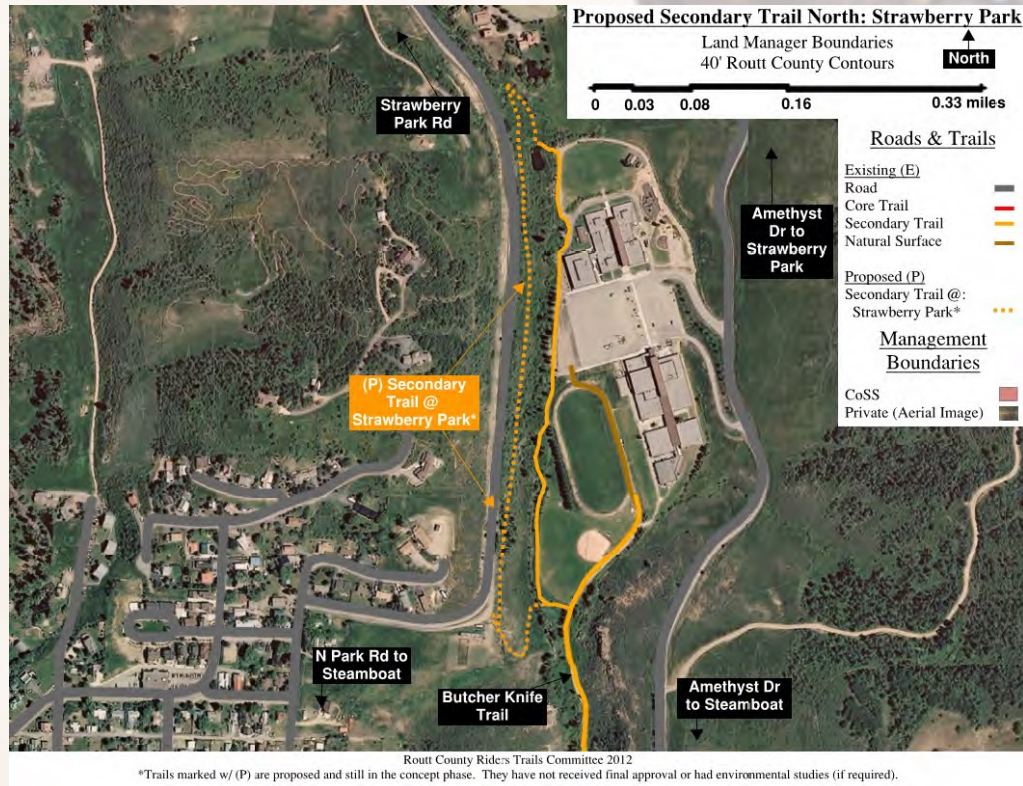
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8



**Meanwhile, there are unfunded trails explicitly approved by the voters already included in the STA proposal.**

## **Example: Core Trail North - Strawberry Park**



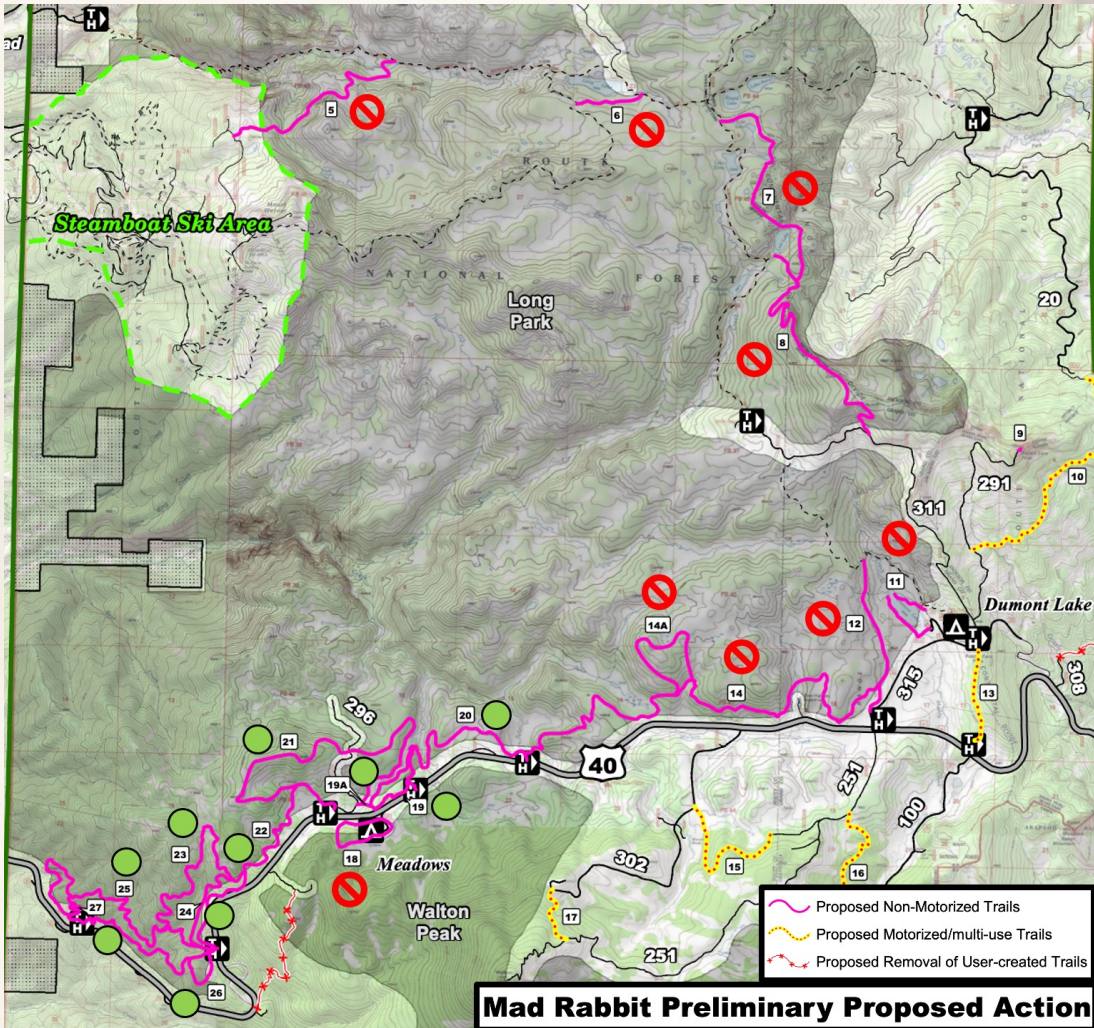
## **Example: Core Trail South - Legacy Ranch**

**”Trail surveys conducted in past years during spring, summer, and fall months indicate that as a whole, a minimum of 1,000 people utilize the core trail on any given day, with significantly higher use on weekends and holidays.”**

**“A city-wide transportation survey noted that expanding the urban trail system gets strong to moderate support from 92% of local citizens.”**

**-Steamboat Trails Alliance proposal**

# Summary:



- **Referendum 2A restricts funding only to those trails listed in the Trails Alliance proposal.**
- **The 10 Mad Rabbit trails listed by the USFS are in the Trail Alliance Proposal.**
- **The nine Mad Rabbit trails added by the 2A committee are not.**
- **Erroneous indications of funding eligibility misleads the US Forest Service for their planning.**
- **There are plenty of unfunded trails in the STA proposal desired by the community.**



## **Our Request to City Council:**

- **Unequivocal reconfirmation that only trails listed in STA proposal will be funded**
- **Commitment to review trail-by-trail eligibility after all 2A Committee recommendations**
- **Ask the 2A committee to explicitly look at in-town trails listed in the STA proposal.**



**THANK YOU**