

Grand Mesa Nordic Council



Master Development Plan

2023

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Introduction and Mission Statement

This Master Plan is intended to guide the management, development and future of the Grand Mesa Nordic Council (GMNC) to ensure sustainability and quality of the Nordic trails and programs on the Grand Mesa. The plan aims to create and maintain a high-quality skiing experience for our organization's members and the general public. It is based on direction from the Board of Directors and input from the staff, the membership and the public. The master plan aligns with GMNC's mission statement:

Grand Mesa Nordic Council is a community-supported, nonprofit organization of people who love to cross-country ski on the Grand Mesa in western Colorado. We are dedicated to promoting fun, safe cross-country skiing experiences for skiers of all ages and abilities.

GMNC pursues its mission through the maintenance and development of public winter recreational trails and facilities, cross-country ski races, and associated educational events and community advisory roles. To fulfill this vision, GMNC is dedicated to working with our partners, which include: the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Delta and Mesa Counties, The Nature Connection, Friends of Youth and Nature, Riverside Educational Center, our local school districts, and an array of volunteers and nonprofit organizations to provide high quality, safe and affordable winter recreational opportunities to the public.

All GMNC trails are located on the Grand Mesa within the Grand Mesa/Uncompahgre/Gunnison National Forest (GMUG). The GMNC holds a USFS Special Use Permit to provide grooming, events and ski lessons. We are committed to working with the USFS and other public agencies and government entities to carry out our mission.

This Master Plan seeks to proactively address the needs of trail users to accommodate future trends in visitation over the next ten years. The GMNC aims to provide facilities and amenities to account for increasing visitation, while maintaining high value user experiences and providing the qualities that people seek in their public lands, such as tranquility and solitude.

This MDP provides direction and goals for implementing the plan, and it must be flexible and dynamic to remain viable and current while maintaining its focus on the sustainability of the GMNC programs and operations. To this end, it will be reviewed annually during the summer months and re-evaluated at least every five years or upon expiration of the special use permit.

The GMNC will develop a specific Annual Operating Plan (AOP) document with associated action items annually. The AOP will be based on the stated goals and plans for implementing the Master Plan.

The GMNC is committed to being a responsible part of our community. All goals and action items will be pursued legally, ethically, and with appropriate concern for our environment. Operating within an area that the Forest Service has intensely managed to improve forest health, we also aim to be an exemplar of natural resource management and recreation.



GMNC History

Developed Nordic skiing trails have existed on the Grand Mesa since the mid-1980s. Cross-country skiers have skied the Ward Lake trails since the late 1980s, and the first snowmobile-groomed trails were developed by the USFS at County Line.

The Grand Mesa Nordic Council (GMNC) was founded in March 1990 to support and encourage public participation in the sport of cross-country skiing in Mesa and Delta Counties. In 1991, the IRS issued a determination letter that recognized GMNC as a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Machine grooming of the Ward Lake trails began in January 1991. Initially, the GMNC began grooming the Ward Lake trails under an events permit from the USFS. The GMNC was later given USFS permission to groom trails at the Skyway and County Line trailheads as the demand for groomed cross-country ski trails increased. When skate skiing became widely popular in the early 1990s, Nordic enthusiasts required wider and more thoroughly groomed trails. By the 2002-2003 season, the GMNC's system had grown to 30 kilometers of groomed trails and the organization had hired a staff of paid groomers.

Every year the region's trail conditions have improved because of better trail alignments, pre-season trail preparation, the use of more modern and appropriate grooming equipment, more skillful equipment operators, and committed volunteers and staff.

Permits

GMNC holds a Ski Trail Special Use Permit issued December 2018. This permit allows the GMNC to groom and maintain the trails at Skyway, County Line and Ward. It also allows for all activities the GMNC has done in prior seasons including: grooming, lessons, events, huts, signage, storage, trail maintenance, fuel tank storage, and a storage container located at Skyway for equipment storage.

The Annual Operating Plan is submitted by October 15 of each year and describes the details of operations authorized under this permit. The AOP is a more specific description of annual operations and the implementation of the Master Development goals.

- Ski Trail Special Use Permit expires 11/15/2028.
- The current AOP expires 10/15/2023.



Inventory of Current Conditions and Operations

The GMNC operates three separate groomed ski trail systems on Grand Mesa — Skyway, County Line and Ward Lake. These trails and facilities are within a one-hour drive from the Grand Junction and Delta County communities and are also an easy day outing for residents of Montrose, Garfield, Gunnison, Pitkin, Ouray and San Miguel counties. Our members include residents from all of these counties, as well as many beyond.

See EXHIBITS A and B for the Maps of the GMNC trail systems.

- Skyway Trails
- County Line Trails
- Ward Lake Trails

Grooming operations at all trail systems are performed by GMNC's professional grooming staff under a Special Use Permit from USFS, which allows grooming from November 15 to April 15. In the event of early snow, we may obtain USFS permission to use snowmobiles to pack trails to prepare and preserve snow in preparation for the start of grooming. During the beginning of the season and under low snow conditions, grooming is accomplished primarily with snowmobiles pulling rollers and grooming attachments. Once sufficient snow is present on the trails, GMNC uses a snowcat to groom the trails at Skyway and County Line. All grooming at Ward is done with snowmobiles and their attachments.

The Skyway and County Line trail systems typically provide some of the best early season snow conditions in Colorado and the lower 48 states. Ski teams and Nordic enthusiasts from around the state, region and beyond come to the Grand Mesa to take advantage of opportunities to train and prepare for the ski season. The Grand Mesa is also known for having some of the nation's best late season snow conditions. Over the past decade, the Grand Mesa has become a popular spring destination for recreationists who want to cross-country ski on the Mesa in the morning and bike, hike or boat at lower elevations in the afternoon.



Skyway Trailhead

The Skyway ski trails are located on the top of Grand Mesa, in Mesa County, on USFS lands. The Skyway trailhead and parking lot are located at the intersection of the Scales Lake Road (USFS Road 118) and Highway 65.

A kiosk with maps, trail etiquette signs, and a donation box are located at the trailhead. The 21.6 kilometers of trail includes a small practice loop and practice lanes maintained for lesson's areas and beginning skiers. Most of the Skyway trails are rated as easy to intermediate, but they appeal to skiers of all ability levels. The Summit Trail is the one

expert trail in the system. The trail has more turns and steep ups and downs than any other trail at Skyway or County Line. Signage indicates to users that this is an advanced trail. The Summit Trail has been popular among users, but had been too narrow to accommodate snowcat grooming. During summer of 2022, a project was undertaken to widen the trail just enough to accommodate the snowcat, while still preserving its “tucked in the woods” feel.

The Skyway parking lot was enlarged in 2018 to accommodate up to 80 vehicles, and the USFS installed two vault toilets at the same time.

The GMNC has maintained a 12'x12' soft-sided warming hut at the Skyway trailhead since 2009. During the summer of 2022, work began on a project to install a permanent cabin at Skyway. (See Goals and Priorities and Upgrade Plan later in this report.) The current (soft-sided) warming hut will be moved to County Line (and removed during the off-season, unless other plans are proposed to and agreed upon by USFS) when the new permanent building is completed. Currently, we have a metal storage container for storage at the rock quarry at Skyway, but this will be removed once the new building is in operation.

With the growth of performance-oriented skiing, Skyway has evolved as the destination for those skiers. Since 1994, the GMNC has discouraged users from bringing dogs on the Skyway trails and most users comply with this request, which has the support of the majority of users. Due to the many hills and trail intersections, dog interactions are more likely to occur on the Skyway trails. In the name of safety, the GMNC recommends that dog owners use County Line or Ward trails instead.



County Line Trailhead

The County Line trails are located on top of the Grand Mesa on USFS lands in Mesa and Delta Counties. The trailhead is located along Highway 65 at the Mesa County and Delta County line. The parking lot and toilets at the trailhead were upgraded in 2013.

A kiosk at the main trailhead entrance has maps, trail etiquette signs, dog-use signage and a donation box. A second entrance, at the north end of the parking lot, also has maps and a donation box.

Two trails, Scales Lake Road Trail and Kannah Crossing, connect the County Line and Skyway trail systems. The 15.7 kilometers of trails at County Line are rated for beginner and intermediate skiers. The Nature Connection uses the County Line trails to conduct their on-snow classroom and activities, as the terrain is better for beginners. (The Nature Connection is the hub of outdoor recreation and education for Delta County and Olathe, supported by the Delta County School District, The Great Outdoors Colorado and the Generation Wild Initiative.)

Skiers with dogs are encouraged to ski at County Line. A second entrance was created in the fall of 2019 to relieve trailhead congestion.



Ward Lake Trailhead

The Ward Lake trails are entirely within Delta County. The main Ward trailhead is located at the lower Ward Creek reservoir, as there is limited parking at the system's North terminus along Baron Lake Drive.

Numerous ungroomed backcountry trails are located within the system, with a total of 18 km of marked and signed trails, accessed from the main Ward trail, an 8 KM groomed trail that runs from the Upper Ward Lake campground on Barron Lake Drive to the lower Ward Creek reservoir. A 1 KM spur trail (East Ward) may also be groomed. Grooming is done with snowmobiles and grooming implements such as rollers, graders and Ginzu Groomers. All other trails at Ward are deliberately kept ungroomed to provide backcountry skiing. The groomed trails aid access to the backcountry trails and to hillsides where skiers enjoy telemark skiing.

During the 2021/2022 season, the GMNC conducted a user survey to collect information about what users want at this area. There was a clear consensus that people want the majority of this system to remain ungroomed to provide untracked snow for backcountry skiing. Respondents appreciated having limited grooming to improve trail access from top to bottom, but want the majority of the Ward Ski Area to remain

ungroomed. The GMNC intends to follow this guidance and maintain Ward as a mostly backcountry area.



Funding

Memberships and trail box donations are the largest source of funds for the GMNC's trail grooming and maintenance operations. Season memberships are available for individual, families and businesses, to support GMNC's operations. Donation boxes are posted at the trailheads, with a suggested \$10 per day per person donation, however these fees are administered on an honorary basis and are not obligatory.

Estimating skier visits is not easy, because we have no mandatory fees or ticketing. Based on vehicle counts and parking lot numbers, skier visits have been rapidly increasing for the past five years, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Although an increase in people seeking outdoor recreation during the pandemic explains some of the rise in skier visits, increasing numbers of outdoor enthusiasts moving to and vacationing in Western Colorado appear to be a prime source of the steep increase in trail users.

During the 2021-2022 season, GMNC received nearly 1,100 individual donations representing approximately 900 members or member families. We estimate skier visits to average about 1,500 per week with a total of about 30,000 skier visits over the 20-week core season.



Community Outreach

The GMNC works with a variety of partners to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the diverse members of our community. These partners include Delta and Mesa Counties, local School Districts, The Nature Connection, Friends of Youth and Nature, Riverside Educational Center, The Grand Valley Nordic Ski Club, the Colorado Mesa University Nordic Ski Team, Colorado Discover Ability, Veterans Affairs, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Rotary Club, and numerous other local nonprofits and social groups. The GMNC works with these partners to provide high quality, safe and affordable winter recreational opportunities to the public.

In addition to programs coordinated with these partners, the GMNC offers a variety of free and low-cost lessons and clinics to help trail users improve their skills and safety. These clinics include clinics for first-time skiers, advanced skiers, a weekly women's clinic, a masters ski program, and may include programs for older adults and snowshoers.

The GMNC website provides a wide variety of information about the Grand Mesa, including reports on snow conditions, grooming, weather and road conditions. The website also has trail maps, information on appropriate equipment and where to obtain it, lodging information, an events calendar, and sign-up information for events, donations and memberships. During the ski season, the GMNC often offers wax clinics and slide shows in the Delta and Mesa County communities. The GMNC's social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) provide regular updates on events and grooming.



GMNC Objectives

GMNC has experienced strong growth over the last 12 years, with an especially steep rise over the last 7 years (2015-2022). Membership income has increased to just over \$100,000 per year. The number of skiers has increased, along with expectations that trails will have consistent, high-quality grooming. A significant portion of the total labor required to manage and maintain well-groomed trails, grooming equipment, signage, fundraising, memberships and trail permits has been traditionally provided by the volunteer board and GMNC members. In 2021, the GMNC hired an Executive Director to manage the organization under the leadership of the board. The operations crew has also been professionalized, with the hiring of an operations manager and an expanded

grooming staff. The GMNC's move to more paid staff has been necessary to keep up with the organization's growth and increasing workload.

The GMNC Board Objectives:

- Maintain a diverse, committed group of board members representing a broad spectrum of our community.
- Identify the core competencies needed to operate this organization, then assign them to board members, employees or volunteers based on their skills. Review operational tasks currently handled by board members to ascertain those tasks that would more appropriately be delegated to paid staff.

Core competencies for GMNC:

- Permitting and reporting process with the USFS.
- Trail management (grooming and trail preparation).
- Equipment maintenance and replacement.
- Financial management and membership.
- Public relations, promotions and marketing.
- Grant writing and fundraising.
- Events organizing.
- Volunteer coordination.

The GMNC's Financial Objectives:

- Provide annual budgets for the fiscal year.
- Promote sound financial management.
- Continue to seek funding grants for operations and equipment.
- Investigate ways to expand all current sources of revenue including membership dues, event fees, government grants, private grants and voluntary donations.
- Continue the partnership with Delta and Mesa Counties for their contributions.
- Develop a long-term plan to replace capital assets such as snowmobiles and snowcats.
- Raise the funds necessary to improve infrastructure at trailheads.

Programs and Events Objectives:

- Continue to promote and hold the GMNC race series and other events at the Skyway and County Line trail systems.
- Continue to offer a variety of clinics and lessons at Skyway and County Line.
- Continue to offer social events (such as full moon skis and family fun days) at Skyway and County Line.
- Continue to work with community partners to hold events for veterans, kids, school groups, and other community organizations.

Community Presence Objectives:

- Encourage an inclusive culture of Nordic skiing for our local citizens and visitors.
- Foster community and goodwill among trail users.
- Be an available resource and provide guidance to other Nordic trail system operators and area school programs.
- Work with community partners to increase access to skiing on the Grand Mesa.

- Pursue a dialogue with the surrounding towns and counties focused on collaboration and marketing Nordic skiing and events in the GMNC region.
- Continually review and update the GMNC website to reflect current information on trail conditions, lessons, and events. Promote the website as our information portal.

Statement of Priorities

With input from the board of directors, trail users, GMNC members, and our community partners, the GMNC has identified the following long-term priorities.

-Plan for increased usage to maintain quality experiences for users.

This priority means ensuring that the GMNC's trail systems provide a variety of offerings to meet diverse user needs. We want to preserve the kinds of outdoor experiences people seek when they come to trails, and this will require managing congestion and user conflicts as well as planning to meet user expectations regarding infrastructure and operations. The GMNC will look for creative ways to increase capacity without diminishing the user experience. Some of the solutions to consider include shuttle services and ride shares, expanded trails and community partnerships to manage overcrowding.

-Reduce conflicts between various user groups

As the number of people using trails has increased, conflicts between users have become more common. User complaints about conflicts between snowshoers and skiers have become a major problem over the past five years. With increased numbers of people bringing their dogs to the trails, the potential for dog conflicts has increased. The GMNC aims to reduce these conflicts by creating dedicated areas for snowshoers and dogs (see upgrade plan) and taking steps to reduce user density on trails. We have also seen an increasing number of incursions on trails by motorized and mechanized vehicles, and we hope to work with other user groups (snowmobile clubs and biking groups) to increase education and outreach and reduce these conflicts.

-Expand the trail systems at Skyway and County Line

Trails have experienced an explosion in the number of users. The GMNC hopes to accommodate increased use while preserving the user experience by creating some new trails to reduce density and accommodate more users. These new trails will provide more space for users to spread out and will ensure that even when the parking lots are full, people can find solitude and quiet in the woods.

-Build permanent structures at the Skyway and County Line Trailheads to create community spaces and safe havens in inclement weather.

Our users have long requested a place where skiers can warm up, gather together and get out of bad weather. To meet this need, GMNC is working on plans for buildings at first Skyway and then County Line (see upgrade plan) that can serve as staging areas for events, community spaces, and refuges in bad weather.

The GMNC's trails are situated at very high elevation, where weather can change at a moment's notice. The lack of a permanent shelter at the Skyway and County Line trail

systems can increase dangers posed by bad weather or deteriorating road conditions. Having solid structures will give trail users a place to shelter if they are stranded by stormy weather.

Vision and Design Philosophy

The GMNC's overarching vision for this Master Development Plan is to refine and enhance the experiences available in the GMNC's trail systems and their surroundings in a way that best serves our local community and its diverse members. Spelling out a vision and design philosophy is an important part of the Master Development Plan process, because it establishes an overall framework and direction for all future projects.

The Master Development Plan seeks to accommodate and prepare for future trends in visitation and usage while ensuring adequate facilities and amenities to allow users to experience the joy and beauty of recreating in our public lands. User preferences can change over time (as they did with the popularization of skate skiing) and the GMNC aims to meet future user expectations while preserving qualities such as tranquility, open space and natural surroundings that make the Grand Mesa so attractive to visitors.

The GMNC's trail systems provide a unique recreational landscape. The size of the various user amenities should be designed to match the trail network and expected visitation. Future development should be designed and coordinated to maintain a balance between accommodating user needs, the capacity of activities (e.g. trails), and the supporting equipment and facilities (e.g., grooming equipment, warming hut facilities, and parking).

With increasing user numbers, we face an increased need to create strategies for reducing conflicts between different types of users (e.g. skate skiers, backcountry skiers, snowshoers, users with dogs) to ensure that all users have a positive experience. Many people come to the Grand Mesa seeking solitude and quiet, and this Master Development Plan prioritizes strategies to prevent congestion and crowding on the trails. Toward this end, we seek to ensure that new development is designed to provide the diversity of experiences trail users want. On any given day, users of the GMNC trails should be able to find the experience they seek somewhere on the trail system—whether it's backcountry skiing, classic skiing, skate skiing, sit-skiing, snowshoeing, or a group outing or lesson.

The GMNC will continue to work in partnership with the USFS, local governments, and our community members to help the GMNC nordic trail systems reach their full potential and attain a balance of amenities that serve our community and all its diversity.

Upgrade Plan

This MDP has been prepared in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Forest Service-issued permit for GMNC. Forest Service acceptance of this MDP does not convey approval of any projects contained herein. Implementation of any projects is contingent upon review and approval by USFS. The planned projects described in this MDP are conceptual and may be refined in the future, as long as the original intent of a planned project is maintained.

The upgrades in this document are presented in the order of their timelines.

Section A: Trail Upgrades

This upgrade plan focuses on enhancing the public's experience through a series of improvements to the trail networks. Unless otherwise stated, any new trails presented here are conceptual and are subject to change during site-specific planning and layout.



1- Expanded use of the race loop

For the last 13 years, the GMNC has been granted permission to temporarily groom a short course for the annual CMU sprint race. This event is popular for spectators and a big draw for racers. The West race loop that was temporarily groomed in 2019 and 2022 was immensely popular with racers and spectators, and the GMNC seeks permission to groom it for other events as well. The loop would only be groomed when conditions allow and as user needs warrant.

Using this course for events (college race, kids programs, other races) provides more options for courses and allows these events to take place with less impact on the

regular trails. Holding the sprint race on the West Spring Loop allows GMNC to hold this event and accommodate both spectators and racers while keeping all other trails open to other users. This approach confines the event to a small area near the trailhead (between the Scales Lake Trail and Highway 65), allowing non-participants to enjoy a quiet outing elsewhere on the trails.



2- Expanded Trail Network

As the number of skiers and snowshoers has skyrocketed, the GMNC is looking to expand trail network within ski pod to accommodate more users and preserve the outdoor experience. We are beginning to scope possible locations for new trails at Skyway and County Line that would provide new loops and routes for skiers of all types and abilities.

Logging projects create new routes that may be adapted into ski trails. In the 2021/2022 AOP, the GMNC was granted permission to groom an old logging road that connects Scales Lake Road to the Kannah Crossing Trail. The GMNC had groomed this trail previously (with permission) and we are seeking to make this a permanent route, so that we can give skiers with dogs a longer loop that will help us reduce skier density. We are also seeking a way to re-route the crossing through the snowmobile corridor so that it goes straight across, rather than partially following the corridor.

We are also interested in examining the feasibility of creating a short connector trail between Dog Loop and Scales Lake Road, in order to reduce skier density on trails and offer longer loops.

The GMNC is receiving an increased number of complains about conflicts between skiers and snowshoers. (This issue is the number one complaint that we receive.) Skiers express to GMNC that snowshoers and boot walkers destroy the ski trail grooming, and the problem has become much more serious as trail usage has increased. The deep divots walkers leave in the snow can pose a safety risk to skiers. Snowshoers complain that they are constantly dodging skiers who overtake them on the trails. The difference in speed and mobility of walkers versus skiers poses a safety hazard to all parties, and also creates conflicts between users. The GMNC wants to provide fun, safe, peaceful experiences for all trail users and we propose to do so by creating a dedicated system of trails for walkers (with and without snowshoes).

Many ski areas direct skiers and snowshoers to use separate trails, and most do not allow boot walking on any trails. With user numbers continuing to increase on the Grand Mesa, it is time to take steps to reduce conflicts between skiers and snowshoers and walkers and ensure that both types of users can have an enjoyable experience on the Grand Mesa.

To this end, the GMNC proposes creating a series of snowshoe trails within the non-motorized “ski pod.” These trails will be signed and mapped, and a portion of them will be narrowly groomed by snowmobile. The trails will be designed and created with input from snowshoers to be sure that the trails provide the enjoyable experience they are seeking. Our survey of Ward users during the 2021/2022 season showed that there is a large demand for dedicated snowshoe trails there as well. These trails would provide access to snowshoers and walkers, while also preserving the skier experience.

Exhibit C: Map of proposed Skyway-County Line snowshoe connector trail

3-New Ski Trails Outside the Current Pod

The Kannah logging project is creating a new route just beyond (to the east of) the GMNC’s County Line ski pod. Previous discussions with USFS (Bill Edwards) have suggested that it could be possible to use this route to extend the GMNC trails and create some new terrain for skiers. Doing so would help to meet the GMNC’s goal to reduce user congestion and increase capacity by creating more terrain in which users could spread out. The GMNC would like to partner with USFS to study the feasibility and environmental impacts of adding these new trails to the GMNC system.



Section B: Facilities Upgrades

1-Picnic tables and benches

In early 2022, the GMNC raised money to place picnic tables at the trailheads and at key intersections at Skyway and County Line. We also placed benches at the overlooks at each trail head. These rest stops were hugely popular with users, as they provided safe and comfortable places for skiers to stop for a picnic or a rest break. To meet popular demand, we'd like to raise funds to add several tables or benches at Ward and a few additional tables at Skyway/County Line. The tables and benches are removed and stored off-site in the off season.



2-Permanent Building at Skyway

The GMNC has never had a permanent structure at any of the trailheads, despite the extreme weather conditions that are often present at the sites. For many years, the GMNC has wanted to build a more robust and permanent structure that can serve as a community space for events, socializing and shelter from bad weather. The building being planned will not only provide these amenities, but will also feature a lower level where snowmobiles and other equipment can be stored out of the weather in all seasons.

Exhibit D: Sketch of proposed building at Skyway



3-Improved Ward Ski Area Trailhead/Parking Lot

Parking at the Ward Lake trailhead is limited to 25 vehicles and is located adjacent to Highway 65 in a stretch where high speeds are common. The GMNC has been working with the USFS to evaluate options for redesigning the parking at this trailhead and reconfiguring the trailhead. The consensus is that ski parking should be separated from sledding parking in order to avoid pedestrians crossing the highway and provide a safe way to cross the highway. Both parking areas should also be separated from the highway. We hope to work with USFS to develop a plan and secure funding for the project.



County Line Parking lot on April 24, 2022

4-Increased parking capacity at Skyway/County Line Trailheads

Parking at the County Line and Skyway trailheads are reaching capacity and were at or beyond capacity during the busiest days of the 2021/2022 season. Monitoring usage will be critical to plan for expansion of the parking area. Parking lot expansion may be possible at existing parking lots. We look forward to working with USFS to identify ideal locations for parking expansion and design increased capacity.

5- County Line Community Building

When the building at Skyway is completed in 2023, the 12'x12' soft-sided warming hut currently at the Skyway trailhead will be moved to near the County Line trailhead and taken down in the off-season, unless other plans are proposed to and approved by USFS. This will provide stop gap shelter, but with trail usage at County Line increasing at a rapid pace, the need for a trailhead building is critical. This building will not house grooming equipment, but instead serve as the GMNC's central hub for lessons, events, wax facilities and perhaps gear rentals too. This project is at the far end of our ten-year planning, so our plans are still taking shape. We hope that after the Skyway building has been in use for several years, we will gain a better understanding of user needs at County Line.

Exhibit A: Map of the GMNC Skyway and County Line trail systems.

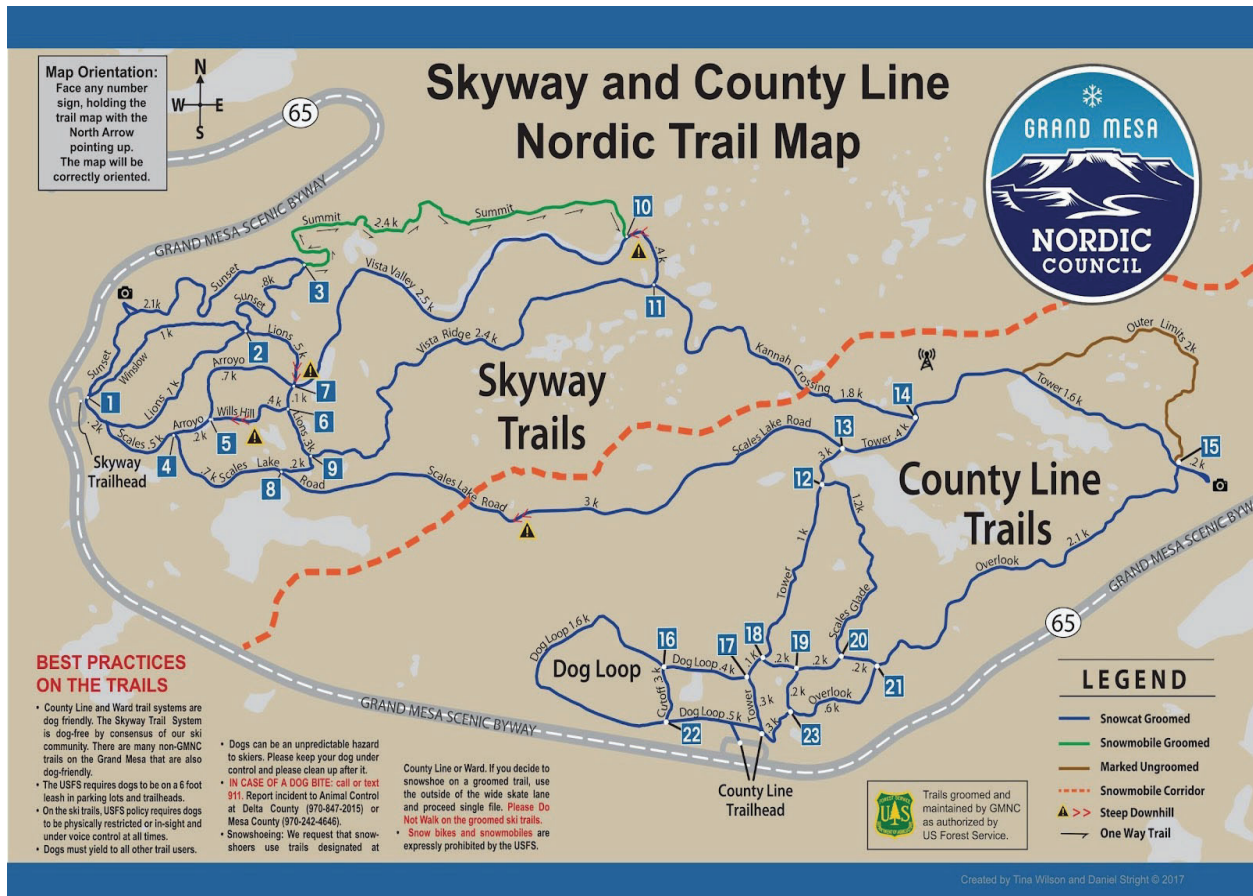


Exhibit B: Connector trail from Scales Lake Road to Kannah Crossing.



Exhibit C: A short (<1Km) loop and staging area south of the Skyway parking lot for sprint races, kids races and other events.

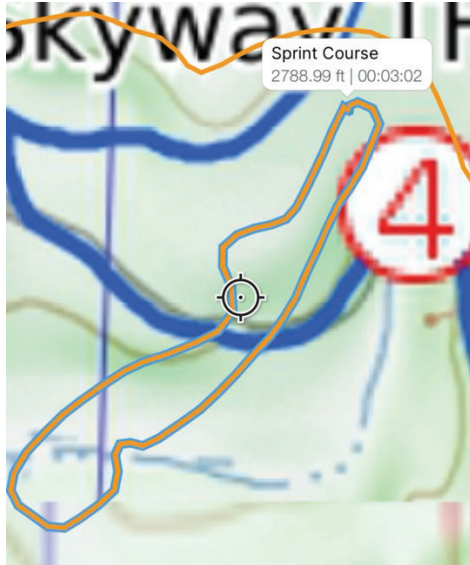


Exhibit D: Map of the GMNC Ward Ski Area



Exhibit E: Map of proposed Skyway-County Line snowshoe connector trail

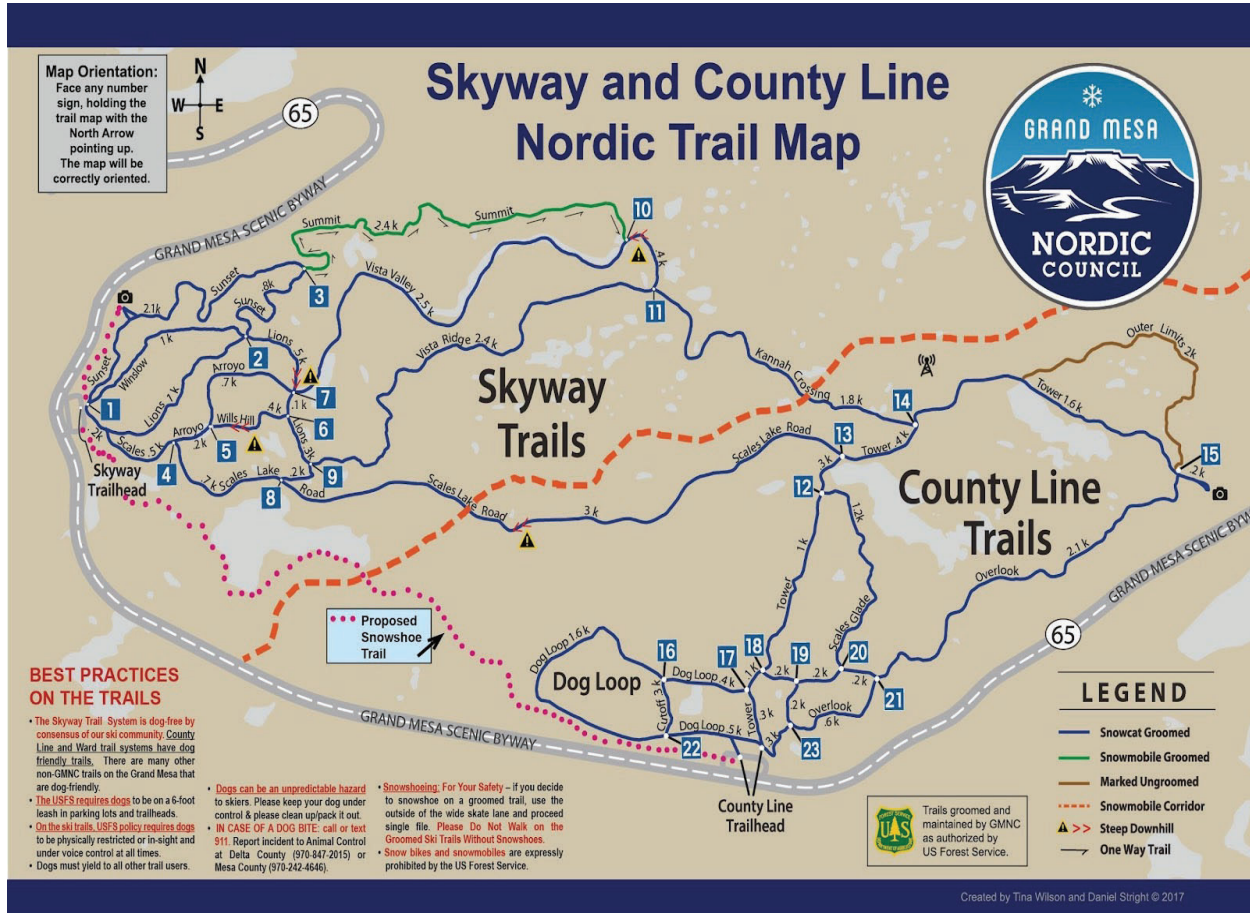


Exhibit F: Sketch of proposed building at Skyway

