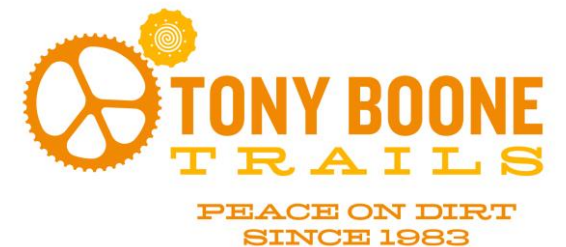


# Jones Park Master Plan

Community Meeting #1

November 29, 2018





# Project Team

## Team Member

## Project Role

- Jeff Webb - *Altitude Land Consultants, Inc.* .....Project Lead, Landscape Architecture & Planning
- John Olson - *Altitude Land Consultants, Inc.* .....Landscape Architecture & Planning
- Ryan Bowman- *Altitude Land Consultants, Inc.* .....Landscape Architecture & Planning
- Amanda Taylor- *Altitude Land Consultants, Inc.* .....Landscape Architecture & Planning
- Tony Boone - *Tony Boone Trails, Inc.* .....Trail Planning and Design
- Tim Wolken - *El Paso County Community Services Director* .....El Paso County Project Manger



# Meeting Agenda

- Master Plan Introduction
- Jones Park History
- How We Got to Where We are Today
- Project Givens
- Public Input and Questions
- Wrap-up and Next Steps

Anticipated Meeting Time: 1.5 Hours





# Project Contributors



Trails and Open Space Coalition





# Project Purpose

## What is a Master Plan?

A guiding document that provides recommendations on future improvements; lays out plans for sustainable management of natural, historic, and cultural assets; and helps shape visitor use and experience

## Purpose of Jones Park Master Plan

### Long-Term Planning Focused On:

- **Protection** of Environmental, Cultural and Historic Resources
- **Recreation** Planning and User Experience
- **Education** and Interpretation
- Open Space **Stewardship**
- **Implementation**, Partnerships and Funding

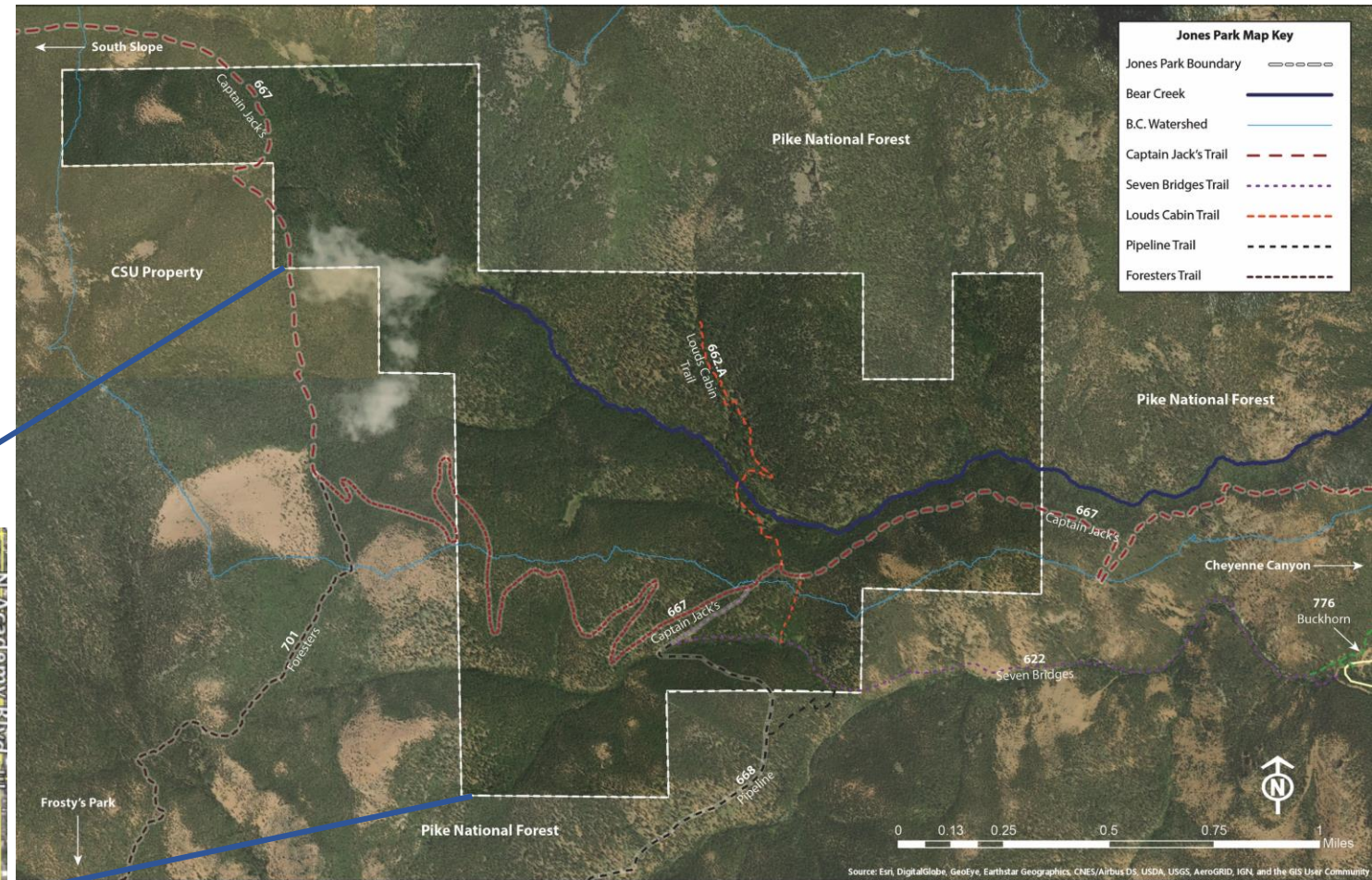
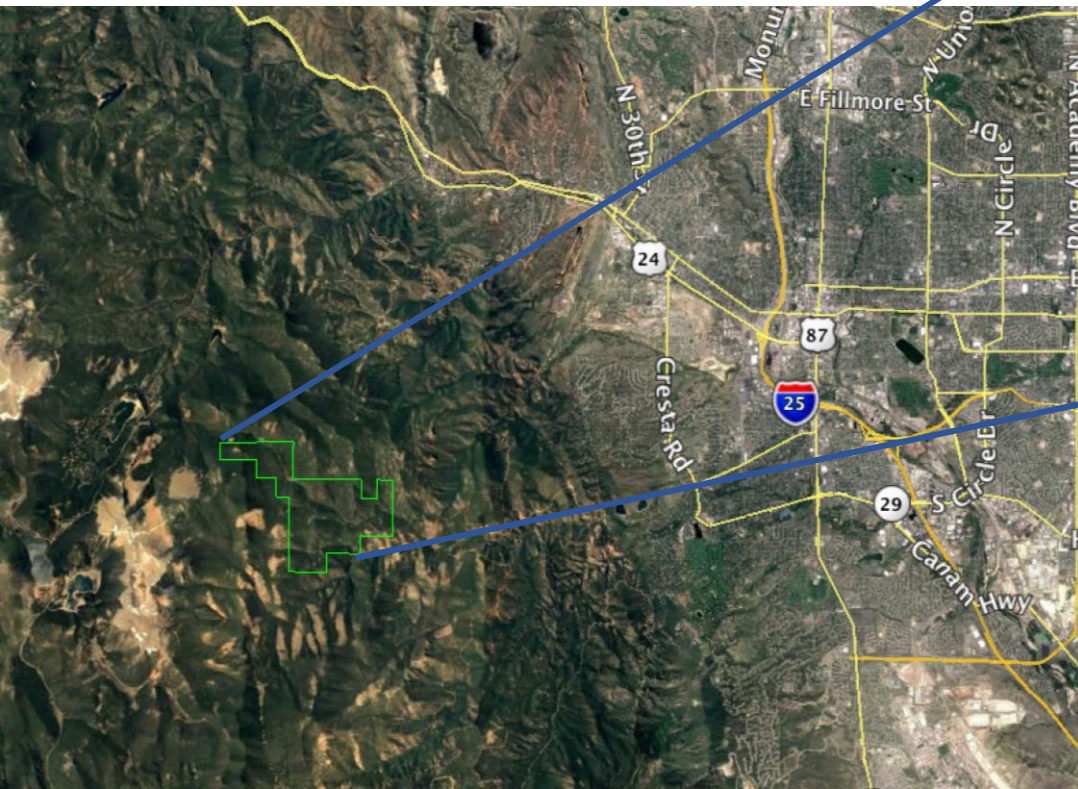
### Build on Prior Planning Initiatives Including:

- NEPA Process
- US Forest Service Final Decision
- Bear Creek Watershed Environmental Assessment
- Jones Park Conservation Easement
- 6+ Years of Public Input



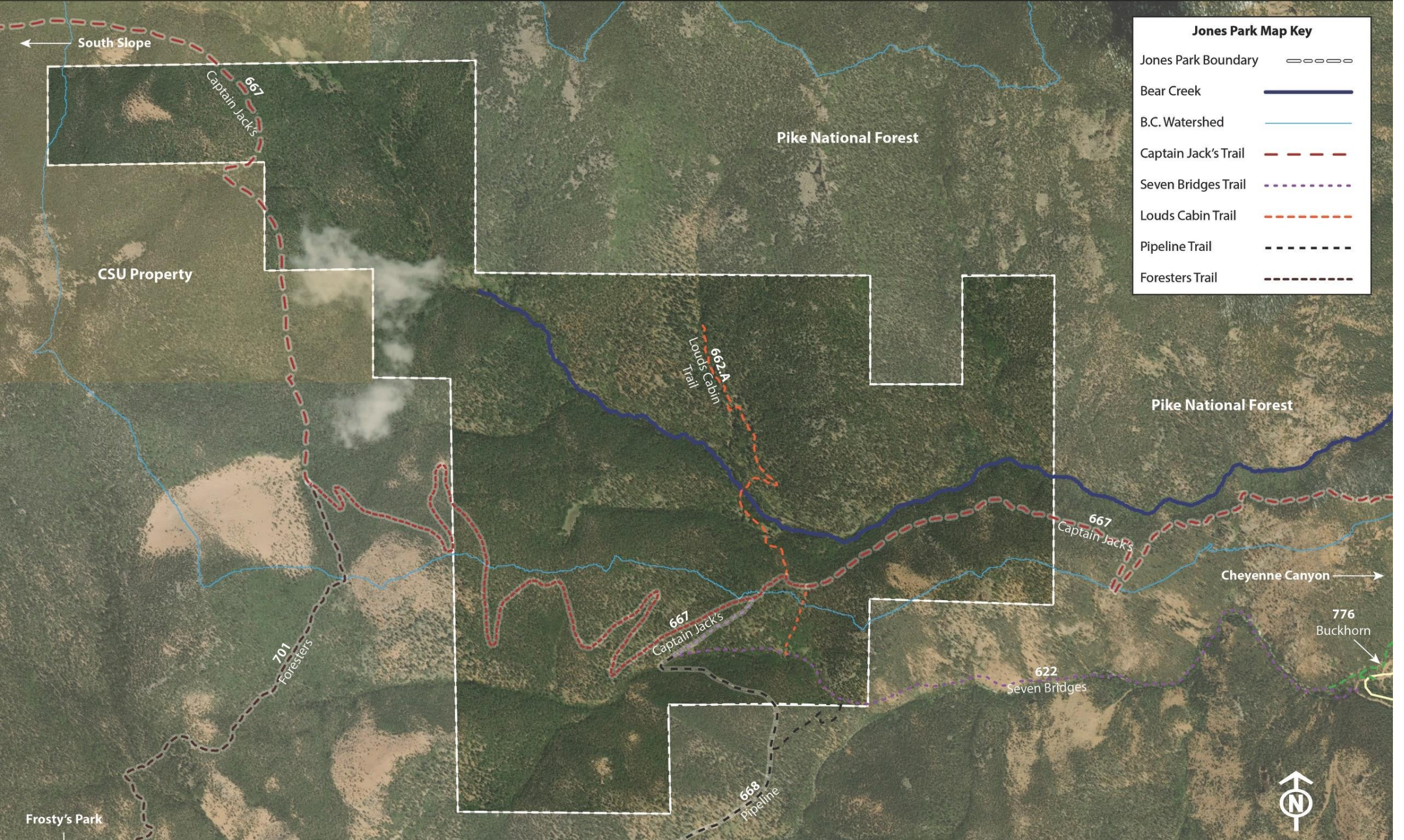
# Jones Park Info

- Approximately 1,191 acres
- Owned and managed by El Paso County (since early 2015)
- Home to the only genetically pure population of Greenback Cutthroat Trout on earth
- Governed by Conservation Easement, E.A. and USFS Final Decision



- 3 ¼ miles as a crow flies from Bear Creek Nature Center
- Bordered by USFS, CSU, and COS lands
- Located in the Bear Creek Watershed, Bisected by Bear Creek
- Home to 4.9 miles of existing trails
- Hiking, MTB, Motorcycle, and Equestrian use



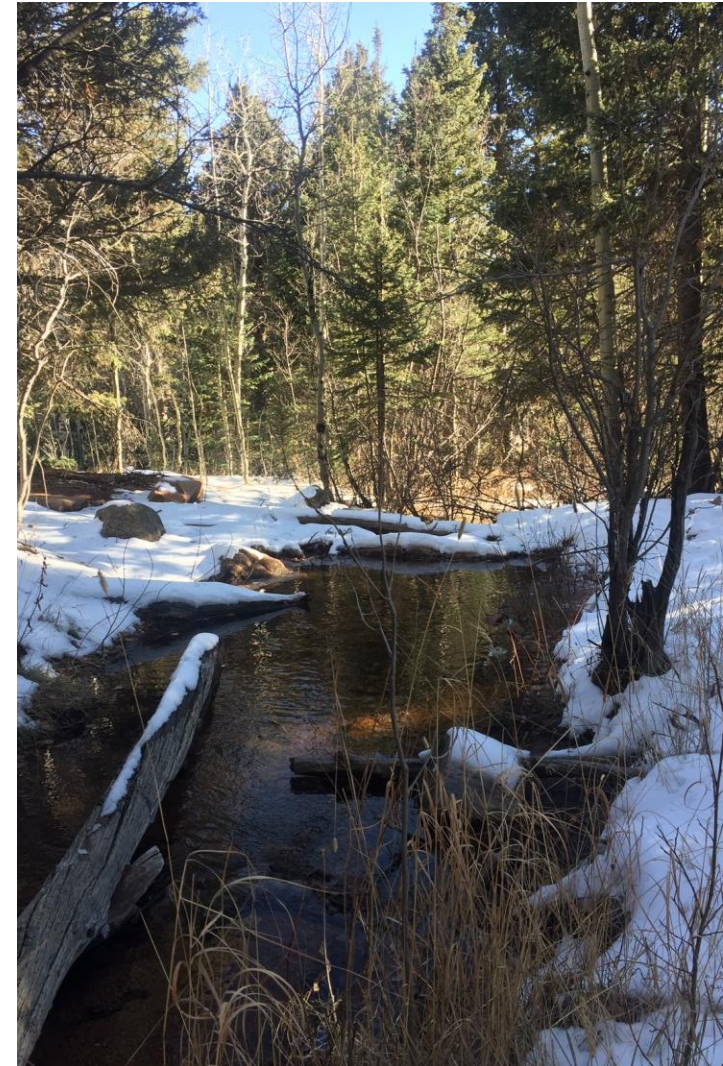
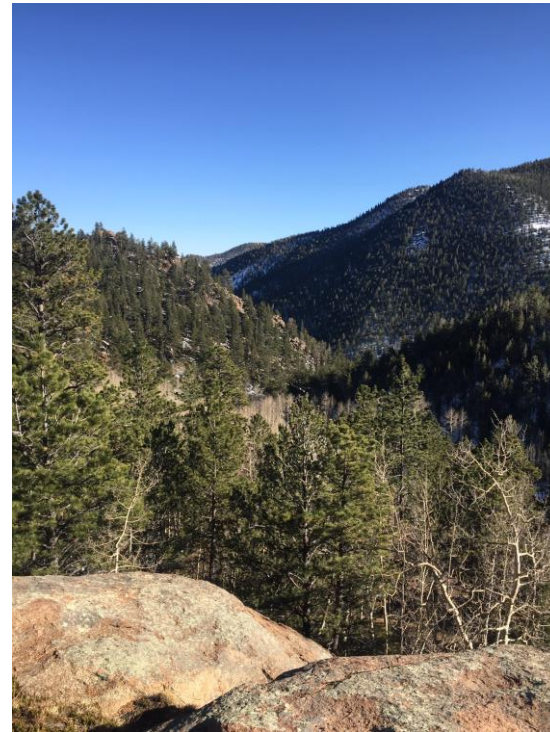


**Jones Park Map Key**

Jones Park Boundary	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Bear Creek	—————
B.C. Watershed	—————
Captain Jack's Trail	- - - - -
Seven Bridges Trail	- · - · -
Louds Cabin Trail	- · - · -
Pipeline Trail	- - - - -
Foresters Trail	- - - - -



# Jones Park Scenery





# Jones Park Trails





# Jones Park History







# Jones Park History

## Early-1800's

- Area appears to have been frequently visited by Ute Indians. The Ute band living in our region referred to themselves as 'Tabeguache', or the People of the Sun Mountain.
- **1868:** Many Tabeguache Utes were forcibly removed from the region and relocated to the Western Slope.

## Later 1800's

- **1858:** Pikes Peak Gold Rush Begins.
- **1860's:** An *"unconstructed but clearly defined route up Bear Creek"* was first noted.
- **1873:** Formal construction of a wagon road along Bear Creek was completed to support construction of Pikes Peak Weather Observatory.
- **1873:** Joseph C. Jones establishes a *"hotel and restaurant for the convenience of persons ascending the Peak"* in what is now known as Jones Park.
- **1870's:** 150 people a week were passing along the Bear Creek route (the only improved wagon road to the summit of Pikes Peak).
- **Mid 1870's:** Joseph C. Jones builds ponds that he stocked with Greenback Cutthroat Trout from the South Platte River.





# Jones Park History

## Later-1800's

- **1878:** The Seven Lakes Hotel (2-story log cabin) opens in Jones Park
- **1880's:** Frank H. Loud, Colorado College's first head of Mathematics builds a cabin
- **1889:** The Bear Creek Inn opens in Jones Park
- **1890:** Gold is discovered in Cripple Creek
- **1891:** Bear Creek Canyon Toll Road constructed to Seven Lakes Hotel
- **1902:** Edward S. Giles proposes a summer resort in Jones Park and constructs multiple cabins in support of his vision

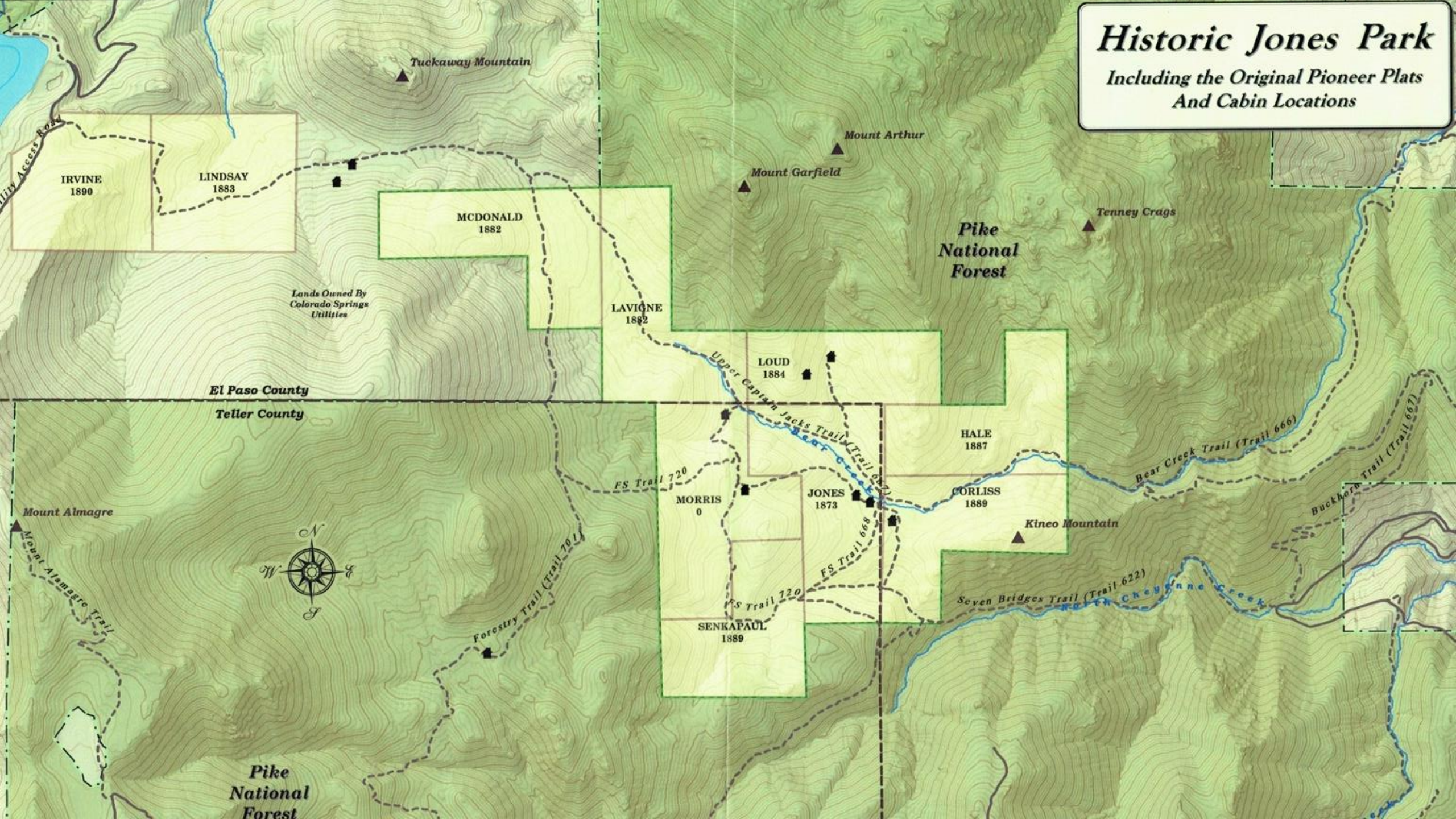
## 1900's to Today

- **1904:** USFS Leased land for a short-lived experimental nursery
- **1900's-1910's:** Competing routes to Pikes Peak, periodic flooding, fires and snow slides reduce visitors, damage and destroy structures in Jones Park
- **1948:** The City of Colorado Springs purchases the last private landholding in Jones Park
- **1950's-2012:** CSU manages Jones Park for watershed/water supply purposes.  
Recreation including hiking, equestrian use, motorcycle and mountain biking become popular.



# Historic Jones Park

Including the Original Pioneer Plats  
And Cabin Locations





# Green Back Cutthroat Trout

- The State fish of Colorado
- First thought to be extinct in the 1930's
- Falsely rediscovered in multiple Colorado streams in the 1950's
- Discovered as the only known population of genetically pure GBCT in 2012
- Federally listed as a "Threatened" species





# Green Back Cutthroat Trout

## Impact of Discovery

- Celebrated as a remarkable story of survival and immediately made the Bear Creek Watershed an area of immense focus
- Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) filed suit to protect the GBCT
- CBD suit, coupled with unique discovery, triggered a Federal NEPA process and Environmental Assessment
- 2015: Ownership and management of Jones Park transferred from CSU to El Paso County
  - Condition of transfer include completing and implementing EA, NEPA and USFS Final Decision recommendations
  - Trail Closures and trail reroutes were required to protect GBCT habitat
- 2016: Environmental Assessment Complete
- 2016: USFS Final Decision Completed
- 2016-2017: Non-System Trails and Bear Creek Trail Decommissioned
- 2017: Captain Jacks Trail rerouted and opened to Public
- 2017: Jones Park Conservation Easement Created





# Project Givens

## The Jones Park Master Plan Will:

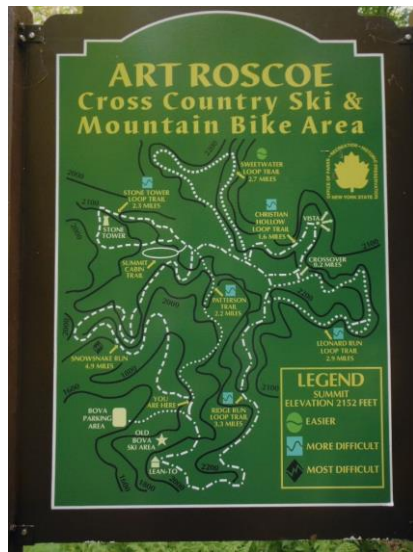
- Take no action that may adversely impact the Greenback Cutthroat Trout
- Honor and abide by USFS Forest Service Final Decision, NEPA Process, and Jones Park Conservation Easement
- Provide balanced planning for 1) sustainable recreation and 2) lasting environmental and cultural resource preservation
- Provide recommendations that complement prior planning efforts
- Allow for multi-use recreation
- Support goals of the El Paso County Parks Master Plan, including:
  - Enhance Quality of Life in El Paso County
  - Provide responsible resource management for open space lands
  - Provide natural resource and cultural history interpretation and education
  - Provide and manage visitor destinations and experiences



# Master Plan Opportunities

## Wayfinding Signage

- Will help improve visitor experience in Jones Park
- Provides information on routes, distances, and allowed uses
- One of the primary ways users interface with Jones Park





# Master Plan Opportunities

## Education and Interpretation

- Helps to tell the environmental, historic, and cultural ‘story’ of Jones Park
- Can greatly enrich a visit to Jones Park
- Support a primary goal of El Paso County’s Parks Master Plan
- In telling why Jones Park is special, may reduce user conflict, protect critical habitat and preserve historic relics



# Master Plan Opportunities

## Sustainable Management

- Guidance on long-term sustainable management of Jones Park
- Helps ensure continued protection of critical habitat while allow for continued recreation
- Essential for the continued success of Jones Park





# Master Plan Opportunities

## Trail Planning

- An opportunity to consider potential new trails in Jones Park
- Discuss the characteristics, qualities, and uses of potential new trails
- Explore potential new routes in Jones Park
- Balance desire for trails with need for GBCT protection, guidance of EA, Conservation Easement and Final Decision





# Public Input

## What Makes Jones Park Special

1. What is unique and special about Jones Park?
2. What works well today in Jones Park?
3. From your perspective, what can be improved in Jones Park?





# Public Input

## Balanced Planning

How would you balance a **desire for new trails** with a **need to preserve and protect** the environment, history, and trout of Jones Park?





# Public Input

## Wayfinding and Interpretation

1. What are the stories, assets, or qualities that should be highlighted?
2. What information would you like to see on wayfinding and interpretation signage?





# Public Input

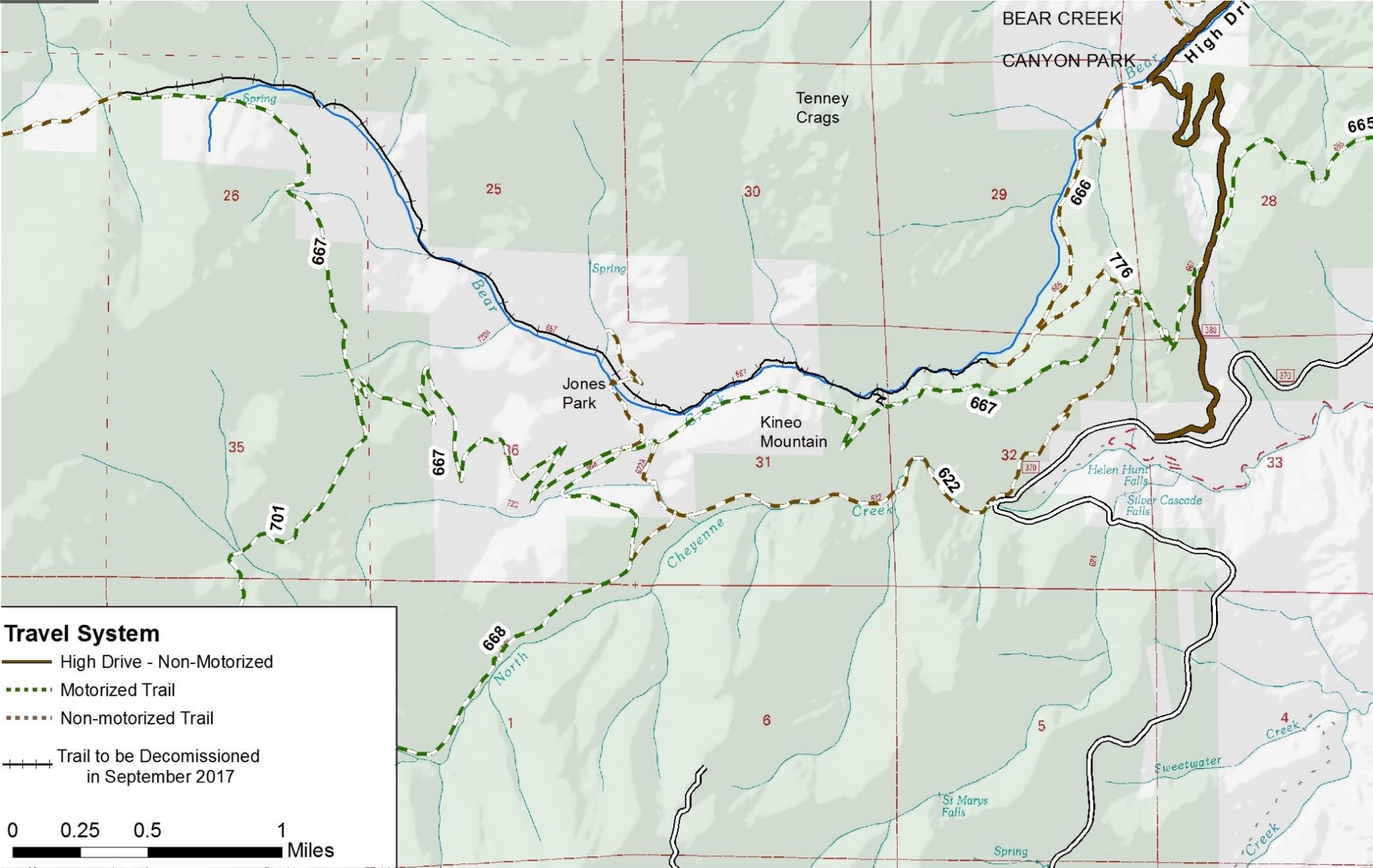
## Trail Planning

1. How well do existing trails meet your needs/desires?
2. What would improve your trail experience?
3. If new trails are proposed, what connections, destinations and characteristics are important?





# What potential routes would you like to see in Jones Park?







## Next Steps

- On-line Community Survey
- Additional Public Meeting
- Website with Project Progress and opportunity for Public Input
- Consultation with Bear Creek Roundtable
- Presentation to El Paso County Park Advisory Board
- Adoption by El Paso County Board of County Commissioners