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The Old Spanish National Historic Trail

Recreation and Development Strategy

Emery County, Utah

March 2017





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**Old Spanish
National Historic Trail
Recreation and Development Strategy**

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Utah State Office

Prepared For :

The Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office
Emery County, Utah
The Old Spanish Trail Association, San Rafael Chapter

Prepared By :

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Funded By :

The Bureau of Land Management
Emery County, Utah
National Trust for Historic Preservation

March 2017



Above: View of Head Rock from Cottonwood Wash Road
Cover photo: Buckhorn Information Center

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Note to the Reader

National Historic Trails

National Historic Trails are trails that have a historic significance to the nation and can only be designated by an act of Congress. There are currently 19 in the United States.

In 1968, the National Trails System Act opened the door to federal involvement in all types of trails. Today, the Bureau of Land Management, along with the National Park Service (NPS), the National Forest Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are responsible for the administration and management of National Historic Trails.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to guide decision makers in bringing the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (NHT) to life in Emery County so that it becomes a valuable educational and recreational asset for residents and visitors alike. It is not a decisional document, but a guiding document for future efforts to mark, improve, interpret, and utilize the trail.

In order to accomplish this goal, professionals and private parties from various backgrounds have met to discuss and visit the trail and identify a recreation route through Emery County. A public meeting was held on July 19, 2016, where draft maps were presented and feedback was collected. On August 30th, 2016, SITLA, OSTA, National Park Service, Emery County, and partners met for a field visit to the sites along the trail.

Although the recreation route in some cases is not the exact path traveled by traders and pioneers, it follows the route as closely as possible. Prime locations along this route were identified for the addition of trailheads, waysides, overlooks, and kiosks. The addition of these elements will make the trail accessible to the public and provide opportunities to interact with and learn about the Old Spanish NHT. As the only NHT in the county, the OST serves as an artery which also highlights other historic and cultural sites and events in its proximity. This strategy includes sites that illuminate local history and add to the overall recreational experience for the public.

Recreation & Development Strategy Participants



Emery County

Tina Carter, Emery County Travel Bureau
Ed Geary, Emery County Historic Preservation Commission
Ray Petersen, Emery County Public Lands Director



Old Spanish Trail Association

Ed Geary, President of the San Rafael Chapter
John Hiscock, Association Manager
Al Matheson, Utah Director
Stephanie Moulton, President of the Fish Lake Chapter



National Park Service

Jill Jensen, Cultural Resource Specialist
Kristin Van Fleet, Landscape Architect



Bureau of Land Management

Amber Koski, Assistant Field Manager
Jaydon Mead, Realty Specialist, Price Field Office
Ellis Powelson, Archaeologist Technician, Price Field Office
Rob Sweeten, Old Spanish Trail Co-Administrator
Carmen Taylor, American Conservation Experience, Landscape Arch. Intern



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Explanation of Document Sections

Summary of the Process

The **Project Overview** section gives background information about the trail and defines project boundaries. It describes typical trail elements, as well as the range of alternative development, from primitive to rustic to developed. It also illustrates how the portion of the trail running through Emery County is divided into two zones.

The **Zone 1 and Zone 2** sections of the document study each trail segment individually. Each segment is shown on a map and then described in detail. Existing and proposed trail elements, such as inscriptions, trailheads, and waysides, are shown. Connections to other recreational and cultural resources in close proximity to the trail are also identified.

The **Appendix** section contains a trail chart and a sign plan example for reference.

Photo: Old Spanish NHT overlook at Walker Flat





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Project Historical Context

Today, the Old Spanish NHT is widely known as the "longest, most arduous, and crookedest pack mule route in America."

From 1829 to 1848, the 2,700-mile trail was known as the most feasible path between Los Angeles and Santa Fe for traveling Mexican caravans.

The trail provided a trade route for quality woolen goods produced in New Mexico, traded for a surplus supply of horses and mules raised on California's ranchos. Trade with American Indians was also prominent, including an extensive slave trade of American Indian women and children who were forced to become domestic servants for ranchers in New Mexico and California.

The route was established along a loose network of American Indian footpaths that crossed the wide expanse of the Colorado Plateau and the Mojave Desert.

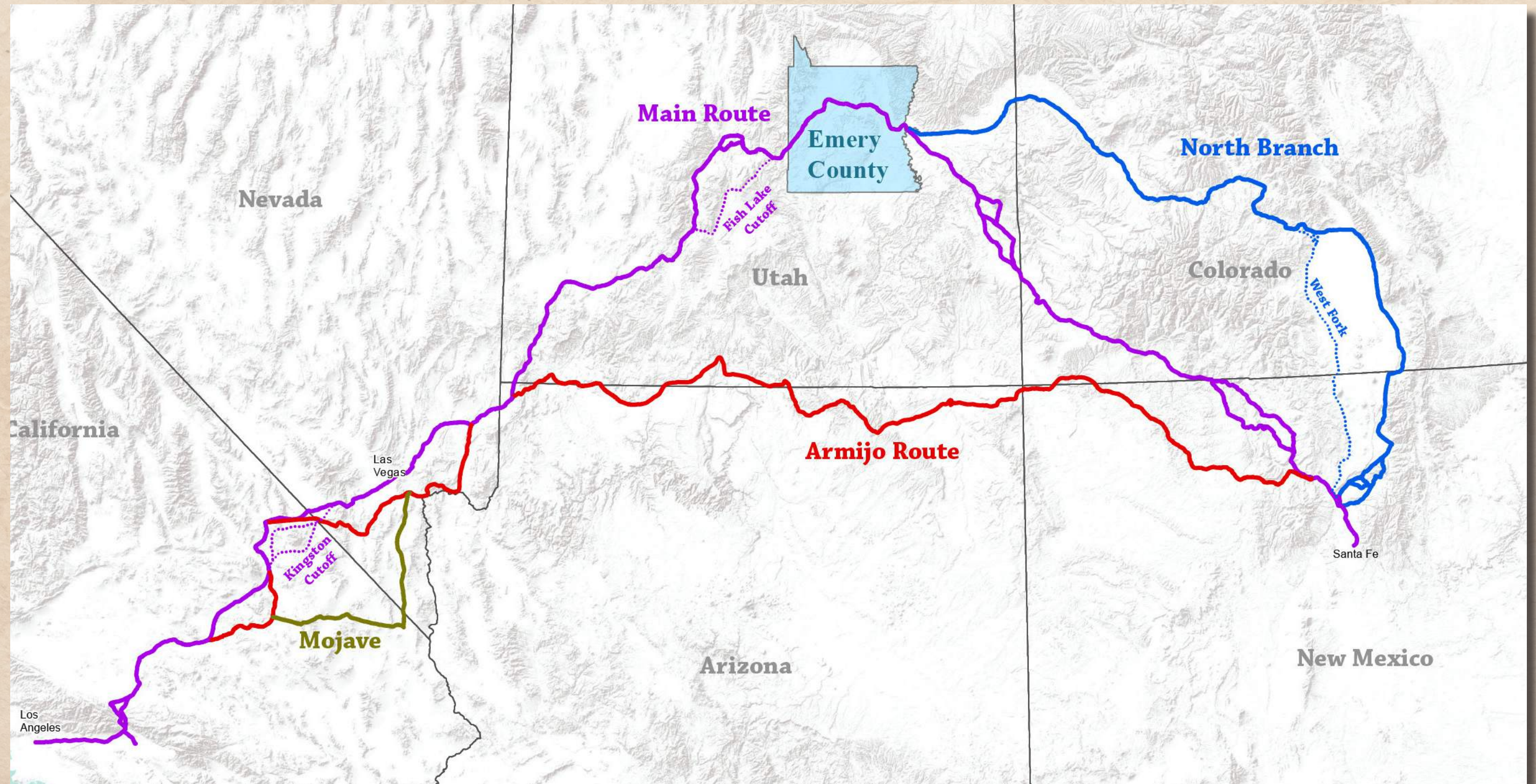
Photo: Montage of historic and modern day uses of the trail





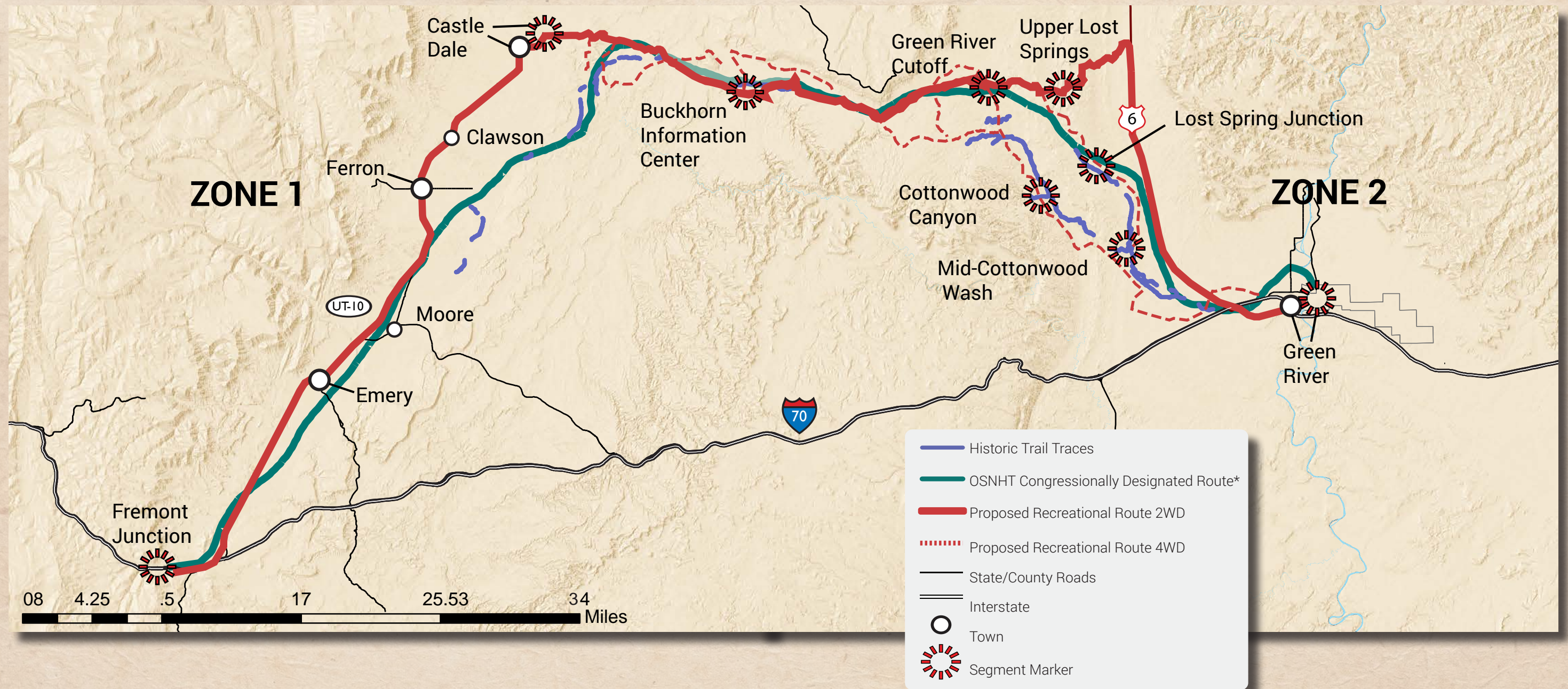
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Old Spanish NHT Overview Map





Overview Map of Project Area



The project area was divided into two zones and subsequent segments for mapping and scale ease of analysis. The overview map does not include all trails within each project area; it highlights the major motorized recreational routes.

Segment markers signify the beginning or end of a project segment.

* As designated in the 2002 OSNHT Feasibility Study



Typical Trail Elements and Alternatives

The following typical trail elements can help bring the trail to life. There are five categories that the elements fall under: **trailheads, waysides/overlooks, campgrounds, kiosks/interpretive structures, and visitor centers/museums.** All of these elements help make the trail and its history accessible, enabling people to explore the Old Spanish NHT and the surrounding landscape. The graphics represent what a typical facility may look like when labeled on a map, not what would be built at each location specifically.

Trailheads

Trailheads are placed at the beginning of a trail. They typically include parking, restrooms, and directional signage. They may also include staging areas, interpretive structures, shade structures, benches, picnic tables, etc. Trailheads differ depending on the type and usage frequency of the trail they are built for.

For the Old Spanish NHT in Emery County, trailheads should be placed at points along the trail where someone could park their vehicle and then experience the trail by hiking, biking, OHV riding, on horseback, etc.



Simple Trailhead concept appropriate for non-motorized trails.



Fisher Towers Trailhead, Moab, Utah



Multi-Use Trailhead concept appropriate for OHV, Hiking, Biking, Equestrian, etc., trails.

Waysides and Overlooks

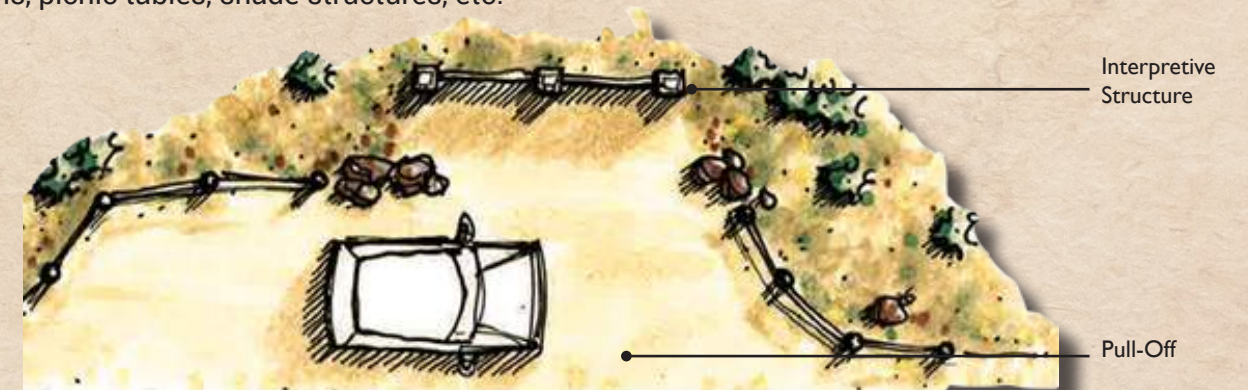
Waysides and overlooks are places along the trail where people can stop and learn about trail history or get information that will help them find and follow the trail.

The Old Spanish NHT has a unique and interesting history, and waysides and overlooks provide an opportunity to share this history with the public in the setting where the events took place.

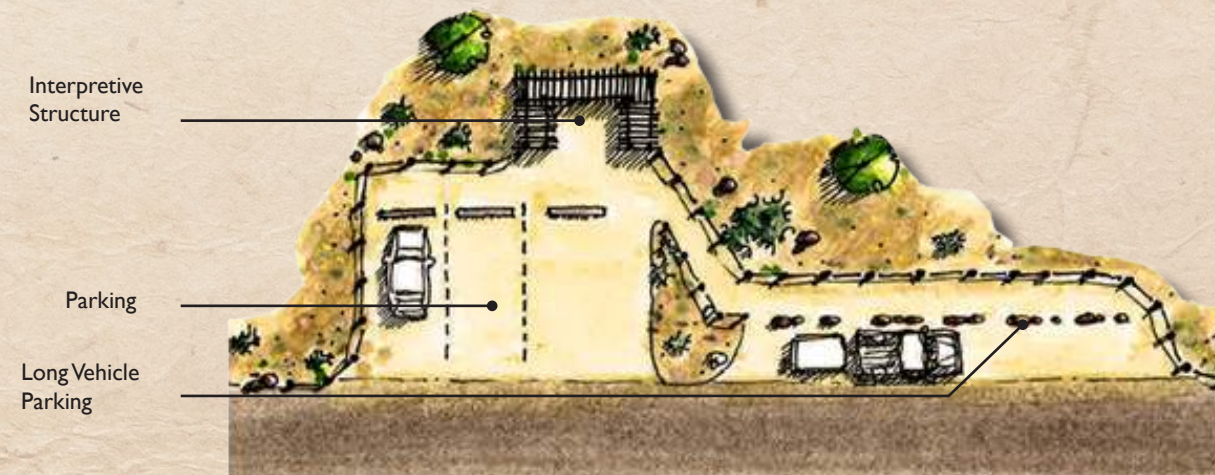
Waysides/overlooks should be placed at locations that are easy to access from the main route of travel. Ideally, they should be placed at locations where the vantage point relates to the story included on the exhibits. They can be as simple as a parking spot and a sign, or may be more of a day-use area and include other elements such as restrooms, picnic tables, shade structures, etc.



Colorado River Corridor, Moab, Utah



Small wayside concept



Large wayside concept



Campgrounds and Day Use Areas

Campgrounds provide the opportunity to stay at a location overnight. They may be very simple—a designated area without amenities, or more established—with benches, fire-pits, tent pads, water, restrooms, picnic tables, etc.

There are several locations along the Old Spanish NHT in Emery County where campgrounds could be established. These could be tied into the proposed recreational route of the trail.



Horse Thief Campground, Moab, Utah

Kiosks and Interpretive Structures

Kiosks and interpretive structures provide the opportunity to educate people about history and the landscape that they are experiencing.

The Old Spanish NHT has a unique history that creates many opportunities to bring the trail to life through interpretation and kiosks.

These may be placed anywhere along the trail individually, or as features of trailheads, waysides, overlooks and campgrounds. Ideally, they interpret a visible resource.



Highway 12, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, Utah.



Campground and Day-Use area concept plan



Simple sign example



Wayside sign example



Kiosk example



Interpretive Exhibit example



Sandstone Interpretive Structure



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Visitor Centers, Museums and Rest Stops

Visitor Centers and Museums along the Old Spanish NHT in Emery County give travelers access to historic collections and detailed trail information. There are several museums and visitor centers in Emery County that could act as excellent information sources and travel hubs.



Museum of the San Rafael, Castle Dale, Utah

Buckhorn Wash Information Center, Green River, Utah



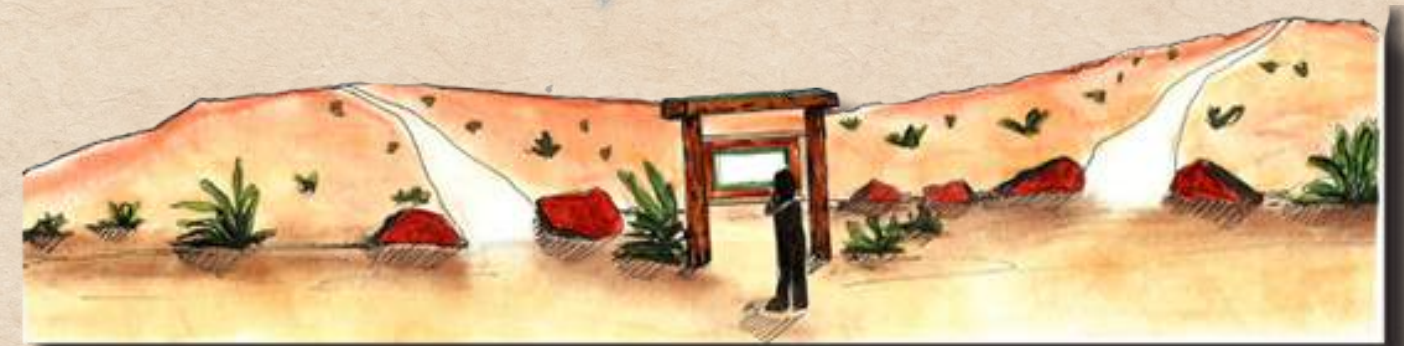
The John Wesley Powell River History Museum, Green River, Utah

Town of Emery Rest Stop

Trail Element Alternatives

If development of a trail element is planned, each of the typical trail elements could have three levels of development: primitive, rustic, or developed. The following graphics show possible concepts for this range of development. Factors that could drive the level of development include the usage and location of the trail elements.

Trailhead Alternatives



Primitive



Rustic



Developed



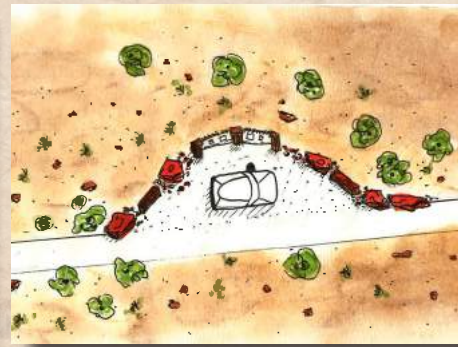
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Trail Element Alternatives continued

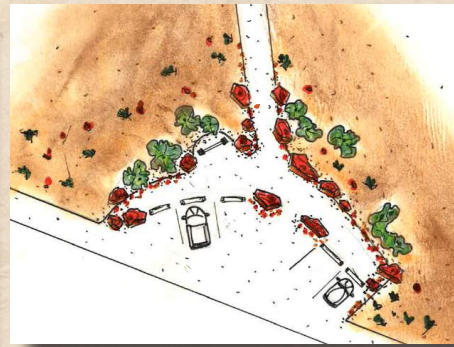
Wayside Alternatives



Primitive



Rustic



Developed

Kiosks and Interpretive Structures Alternatives



Primitive

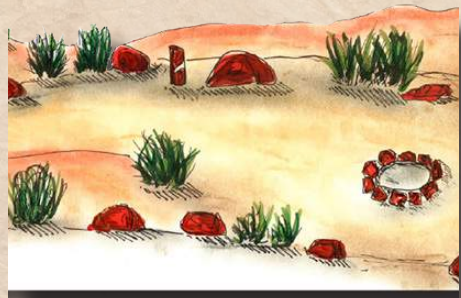


Rustic



Developed

Campground Alternatives



Primitive



Rustic



Developed

Visitor Centers and Museums Alternatives



Primitive



Rustic



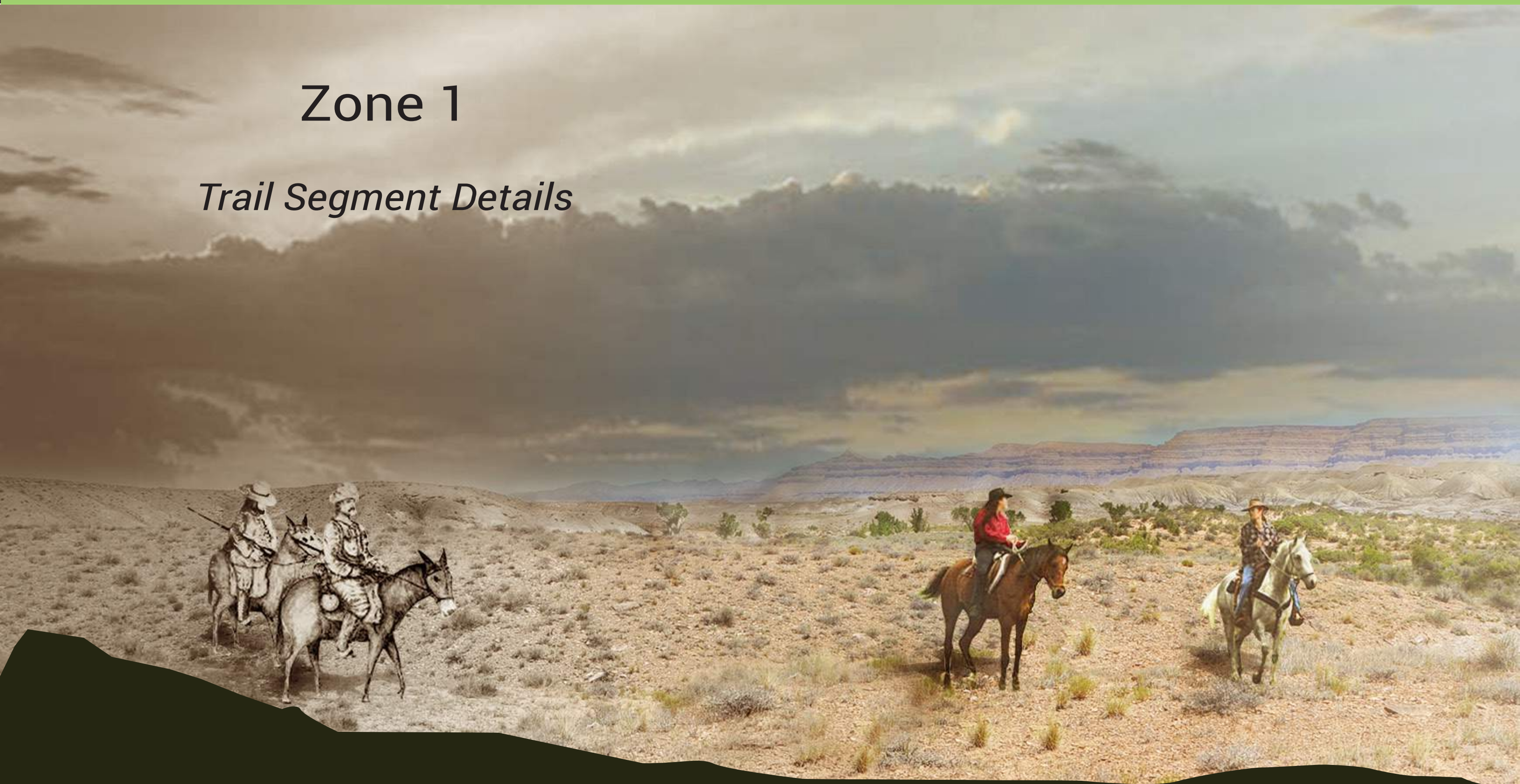
Developed



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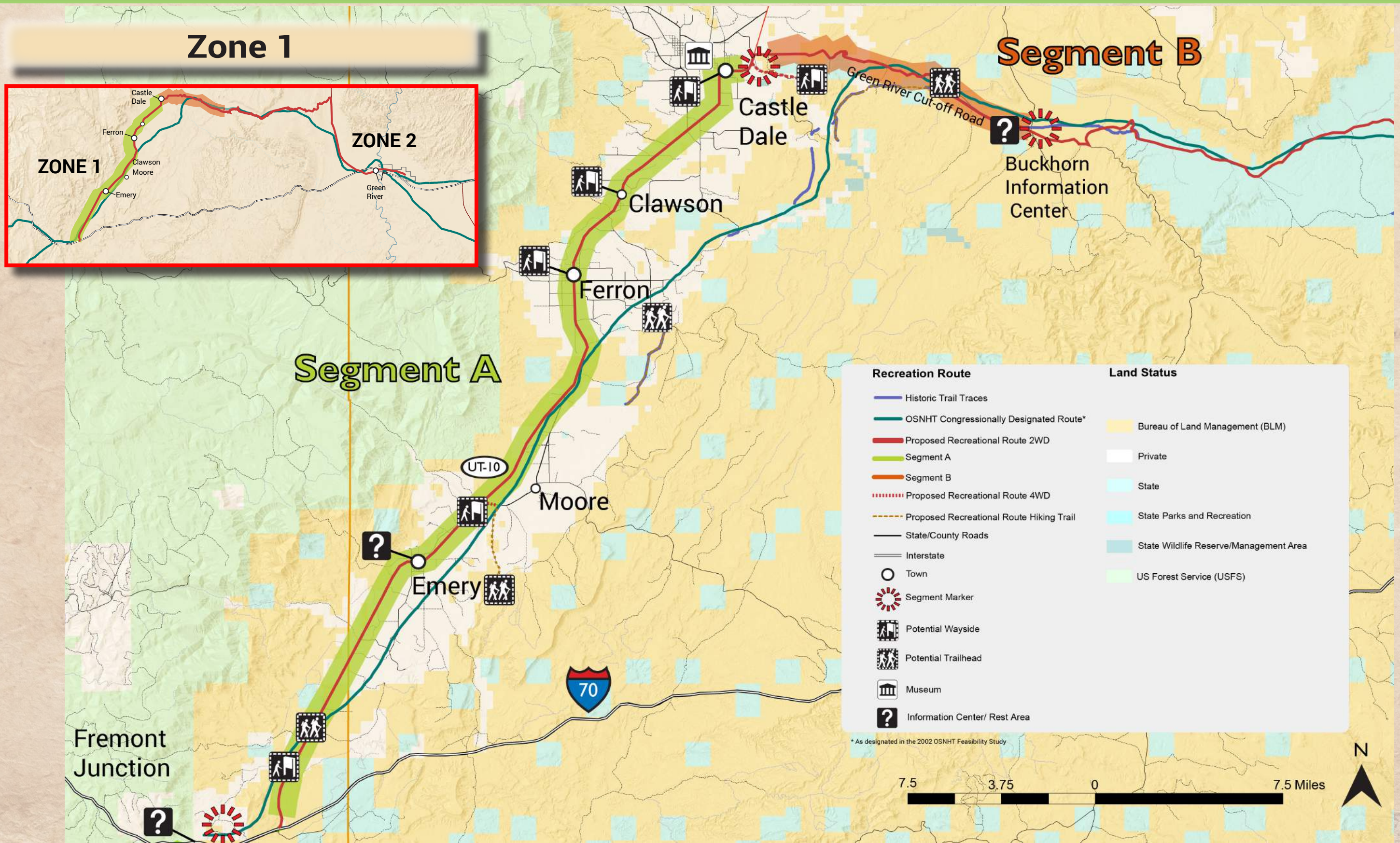
Zone 1

Trail Segment Details





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Recreation Route	Land Status
Historic Trail Traces	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
OSNHT Congressionally Designated Route*	Private
Proposed Recreational Route 2WD	State
Segment A	State Parks and Recreation
Segment B	State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area
Proposed Recreational Route 4WD	US Forest Service (USFS)
Proposed Recreational Route Hiking Trail	
State/County Roads	
Interstate	
Town	
Segment Marker	
Potential Wayside	
Potential Trailhead	
Museum	
Information Center/ Rest Area	

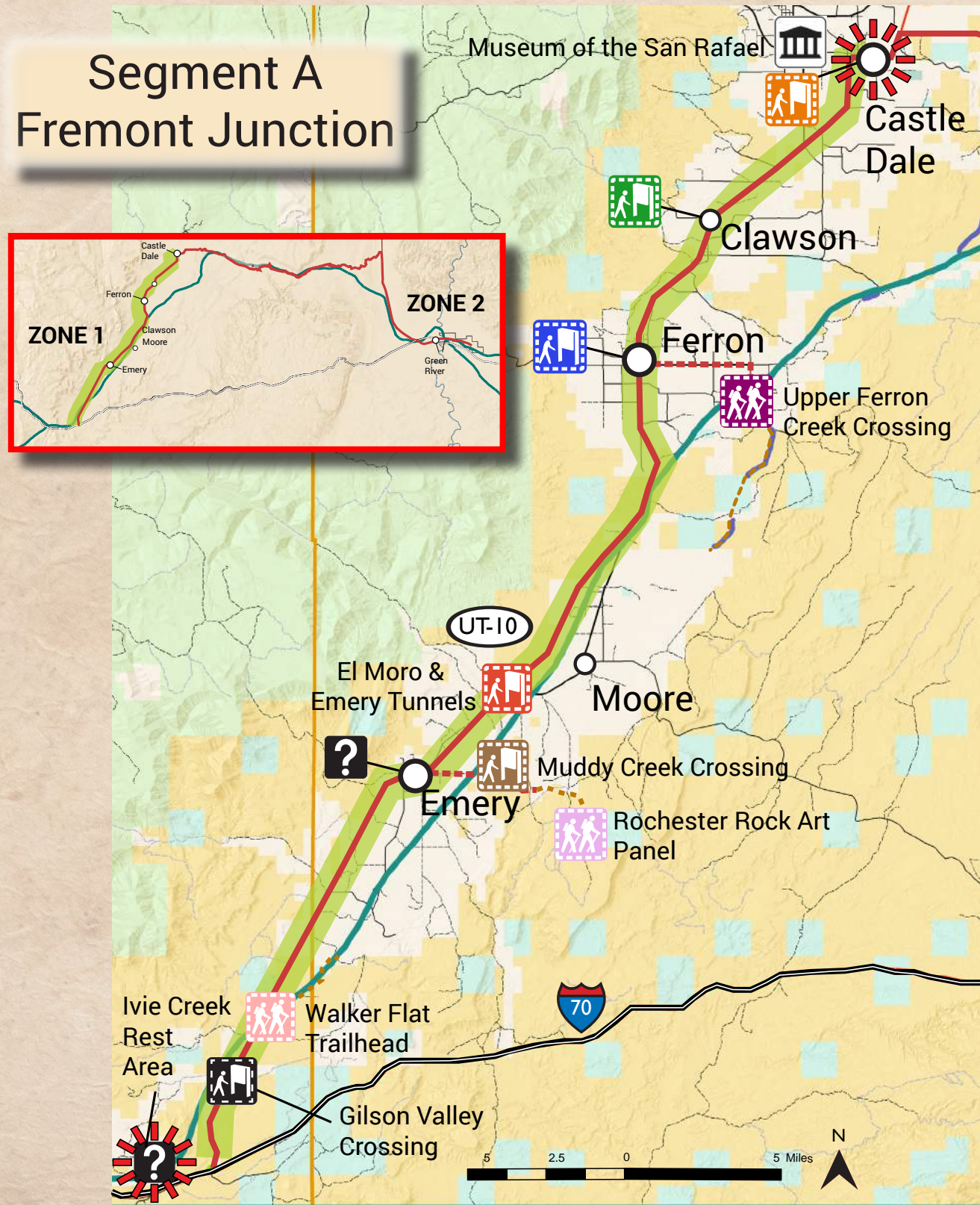
* As designated in the 2002 OSNHT Feasibility Study





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Segment A Fremont Junction



Segment A Trail Elements



Waysides

- Gilson Valley Crossing
- Muddy Creek Crossing
- El Moro and Emery Tunnels
- Ferron
- Clawson
- Castle Dale

Most of the waysides in Segment A are centered around the towns that the trail pass by. Each community has the opportunity to engage with its local history and interpretation of the Old Spanish NHT's significance in the area. Ideas for potential installations/exhibits in each town include: a kiosk or sign, a mural, sculpture, or other public artwork.



Trailheads

- Walker Flat Trailhead
- Rochester Rock Art Panel
- Upper Ferron Creek Crossing

Segment A provides the opportunity to develop trailheads in connection with towns that the trail passes near by. Trail trace exists in proximity to many towns so collaboration with local organizations could be made to build the trailheads and provide educational opportunities.



Museums and Information Centers

- Ivie Creek Rest Area
- Emery Town Visitor Center
- Museum of the San Rafael

The Museum of the San Rafael in Castle Dale is an excellent source for trail information, history, and for people to connect with the local community.



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Gilson Valley Crossing Wayside



Looking north on UT-10 toward Emery, Utah

Travelers along the Old Spanish NHT used Gilson Valley to move across the land from east to west and vice versa. Modern travelers driving along Highway 10 can vicariously experience the trail travelers' journey through the landscape's open views and visual connections to landmarks in both directions. At this site, a wayside interpreting the significance of this area could be developed. Also, silhouette sculptures could be placed on either side of the highway to remind modern day highway travelers of the trail at the approximate location the trail route would have crossed the highway.



Silhouette sculptures outside of Green River, Utah

Muddy Creek Crossing Wayside and Rochester Rock Art Panel



Looking toward Gilson Valley with a view of Muddy Creek

Traders on the Old Spanish NHT crossed the Muddy Creek on their way to and from Gilson Valley. A proposed wayside at an overlook of the Muddy Creek could provide interpretation about the crossing. Silhouette sculptures could also be installed to create a view reminiscent of the path that the traders took. The overlook would be located on a graded road about 2.5 miles east of Emery, which also provides access to the Rochester Rock Art Panel.



The trail to the Rochester Panel



Detail of the panel

The Rochester Rock Art Panel is three miles east of the town of Emery. It displays a large number of petroglyphs unique to the area. Much of the artwork is prehistoric, probably of the Fremont culture. There are also inscriptions of more recent origin.



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Walker Flat Trailhead and Ferron Creek Crossing Wayside



View of Walker Flat

The proposed Walker Flat trail would follow trail trace across the open landscape east of UT-10 and south of the town of Emery. Currently, a constraint to this development would be access to private property that the trail crosses through.



Bridge over Ferron Creek outside of Ferron, Utah

The proposed wayside at Ferron Creek would interpret the creek crossing undertaken by Old Spanish NHT travelers.

El Morro and Emery Tunnels and Church Wayside



'El Morro' formation

This castle-like formation was referred to in Old Spanish NHT travel journals as 'El Morro,' presumably used as a landmark as the mule trains headed toward Gilson Valley.



Remnants of the Emery Tunnel

Early pioneers near Emery, Utah, needed a canal to carry water onto the flats south and west of the Muddy Creek. In 1886, 58 men began building a tunnel through a hill which would shorten the canal several miles and also enable irrigation of much more land. The tunnel was completed in 1888 and the water ran through onto the townsite.



Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Emery, Utah



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Town Waysides

The Old Spanish NHT trace is in close proximity to the towns of Emery, Ferron, and Clawson. Each town has the opportunity to develop a wayside to share the history of the trail with residents and visitors. Examples of projects include murals, sculptures, and interpretive signs.

Emery



Information Kiosk



Simulation of Possible Mural

Emery has an established information kiosk where more interpretation of the Old Spanish NHT could be added. A community-supported mural could also add a vibrant depiction of the trail on a building adjacent to the kiosk, like the Emery Town Office.

Ferron



Public Park in Ferron, Utah



Old Spanish Trail Sculpture near Del Norte, Colorado

Ferron's town park could become linked to the Old Spanish NHT interpretation through a public art installation, like a stone sculpture or an information kiosk like the already established kiosk in Emery.

Clawson



Example of a site specific sculpture. Pictured: Sculpture by Ricardo Breceda in Borrego Springs, California

The town of Clawson could also take part in the trail through a sculptural installation, like the metal sculptures created by Ricardo Breceda in Borrego Springs, California.

Castle Dale



Interpretive Sign, Grand Staircase-Escalante Nat. Monument



Museum of the San Rafael

As home to the Museum of the San Rafael, Castle Dale has a great opportunity to create an informative and creative hub for residents and visitors to learn about the trail. Castle Dale could install an interpretive sign outside of the museum to give general trail information and encourage passersby to come into the museum and learn more through its exhibits.



Museum of the San Rafael



Museum of the San Rafael Swell

Located one block off of Main Street in Castle Dale, the Museum of the San Rafael could act as an important information hub for visitors to the Old Spanish NHT.

Currently, the museum features dioramas of many of the San Rafael Country's wildlife in lifelike poses, American Indian artifacts, area rock and minerals that fluoresce in an ultraviolet room, a unique depiction of the geologic layers that comprise the San Rafael Swell, numerous dinosaur footprints preserved and recovered from local coal, reconstructed dinosaur skeletons, and a cast of a Tyrannosaurus skull. These exhibits give visitors a sense of the varied natural and cultural history of the San Rafael Country.



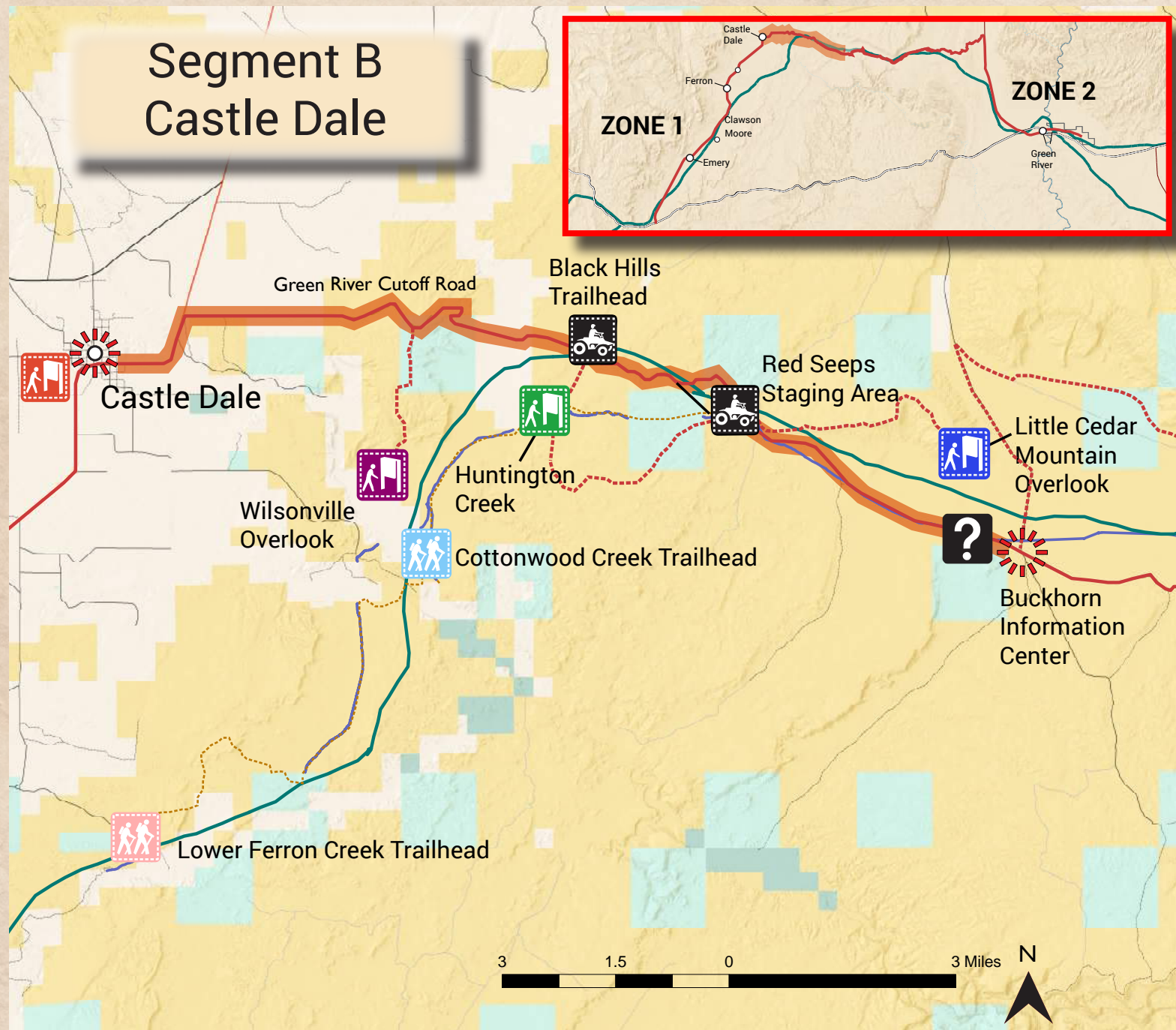
Exhibit at the Museum of the San Rafael

The museum also hosts an existing exhibit featuring the Old Spanish NHT. This exhibit could be expanded in partnership with the museum to highlight the history of the trail in Emery County.

There is a staffed visitor information center at the entrance to the museum where maps of recreation opportunities along the trail could be stocked. This would serve visitors interested in engaging in a vicarious experience of the trail, as well as providing a place to collect valuable information before setting out on their journey.



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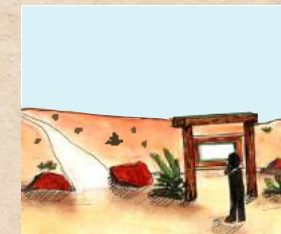
Segment B Trail Elements



Waysides

-  Castle Dale
-  Wilsonville Overlook
-  Little Cedar Mountain Overlook
-  Huntington Creek Trailhead

The wayside in Castle Dale could be located outside of the Museum of the San Rafael Swell, drawing travelers into the museum to learn more about the trail through museum exhibits. It could also be located elsewhere in town and take the form of a mural, public art piece, etc.




Trailheads

-  Red Seeps Staging Area
-  Black Hills Trailhead
-  Cottonwood Creek Trailhead
-  Lower Ferron Creek Trailhead

These trailheads between the town of Castle Dale and the Buckhorn Information Center would offer hikers and OHV riders an opportunity to view trail trace and immerse themselves in the desert environment.



Information Centers

-  Buckhorn Information Center

The Buckhorn Information Center is an existing site with ample opportunities for Old Spanish NHT interpretation and educational opportunities.



Wilsonville Overlook



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Wilsonville Overlook



Wilsonville Overlook



Wilsonville Overlook

Just outside of Castle Dale, the Wilsonville Overlook offers a stunning view of the route taken by Old Spanish NHT travelers across the San Rafael Country. From the overlook, the old townsite of Wilsonville is visible, as well as close to 50 miles of the route of the Old Spanish NHT. The area could include an interpretive sign, giving automobile and OHV travelers an opportunity to learn more about the area's history and offering an excellent vantage point.

Buckhorn Information Center



Buckhorn Information Center

The Buckhorn Information Center is comprised of several structures built by the county. The main building has information about local recreation areas and trails. More opportunity at the site exists for interpretation of the Old Spanish NHT. The site could also include displays of proposed trailheads and information for visitors about discovering the trail and its cultural sites. The main building also has space to accommodate a volunteer who can direct travelers to recreation opportunities and provide information about trails, local history, and the surrounding area.

The center has a large parking area, which could be used as a staging area for horseback riders, OHV riders, and the like.

Across from the information center, existing silhouettes reminiscent of Old Spanish NHT travelers draw the eye to the vast surrounding landscape and the formations of Cedar Mountain on the horizon. The sculptures awaken the imagination and invite viewers to consider the arduous journey undertaken by both voluntary and enslaved people across the trail.



Silhouette Sculptures outside of the Buckhorn Information Center



Huntington Creek Crossing



Huntington Creek Crossing

The Huntington Creek Crossing is noted as the northernmost portion of the entire Old Spanish NHT. From this location, the trail changes direction. The proposed wayside at this crossing would provide a map and interpretation of the site for visitors.

Black Hills OHV Loop



Old Spanish Trail Sign at Black Hills

The Black Hills OHV Loop is a short recreational OHV loop that provides the public with a good idea and experience of what the Black Hills terrain is like and why it is called the Black Hills.

Red Seeps Staging Area



Springs at Red Seeps

The Red Seeps Staging Area can be used as a staging area for multiple uses, and could possibly be developed for camping in the future. For this plan, this staging area would be a good place for a wayside with Old Spanish Trail information to provide a stop along the auto tour route. This staging area could also act as a large trailhead and would serve as a good place to offload an OHV and begin exploring the nearby trails. The main purpose of this staging area would potentially be for use as a beginning point for a re-enactment type adventure to follow trail trace for either a day hike or multi-day hike. Equestrian users would also be interested in using this as a trailhead for a re-enactment experience along the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.



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Little Cedar Mountain Overlook



Little Cedar Mountain Overlook

This overlook offers a bird's eye view of the direction that the Old Spanish Trail takes, and why it goes where it does. From this overlook, visitors can see all of the canyons that were avoided and can easily understand why the OST route was the easiest route to take.

Cottonwood Creek Trailhead



Trail trace outside of Wilsonville

The Cottonwood Creek trailhead would be targeted toward non-motorized users. This trailhead would begin half way along the re-trace trail and would make for a great spot to either start or end a day hike re-enactment experience. There is a main road that goes directly from the trailhead into the town of Castle Dale, so it would also provide a great opportunity to connect with that community. This would also be a good area to provide another wayside about the history of Castle Dale, or the history behind the creek crossing.



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Zone 2

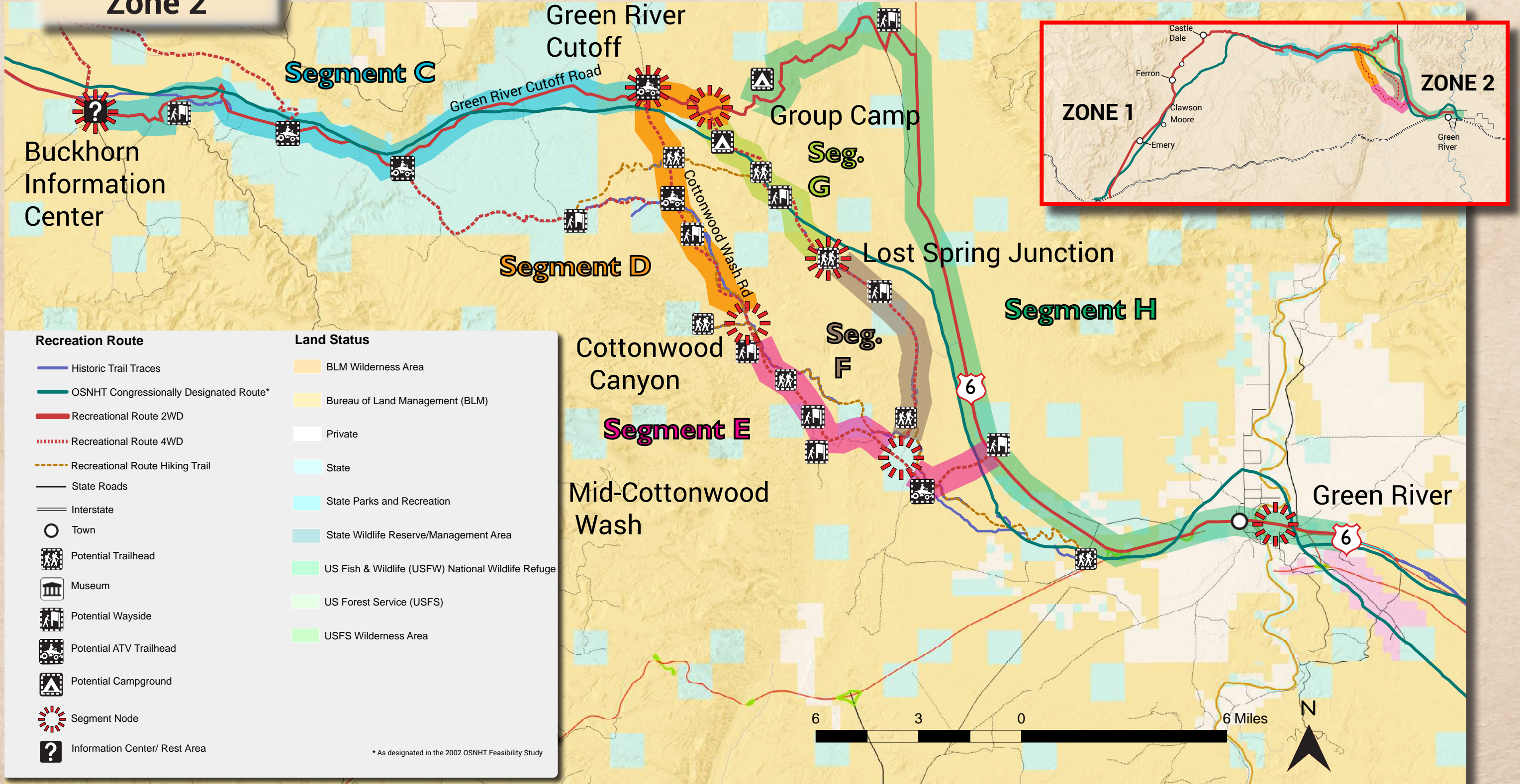
Trail Segment Details





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Zone 2

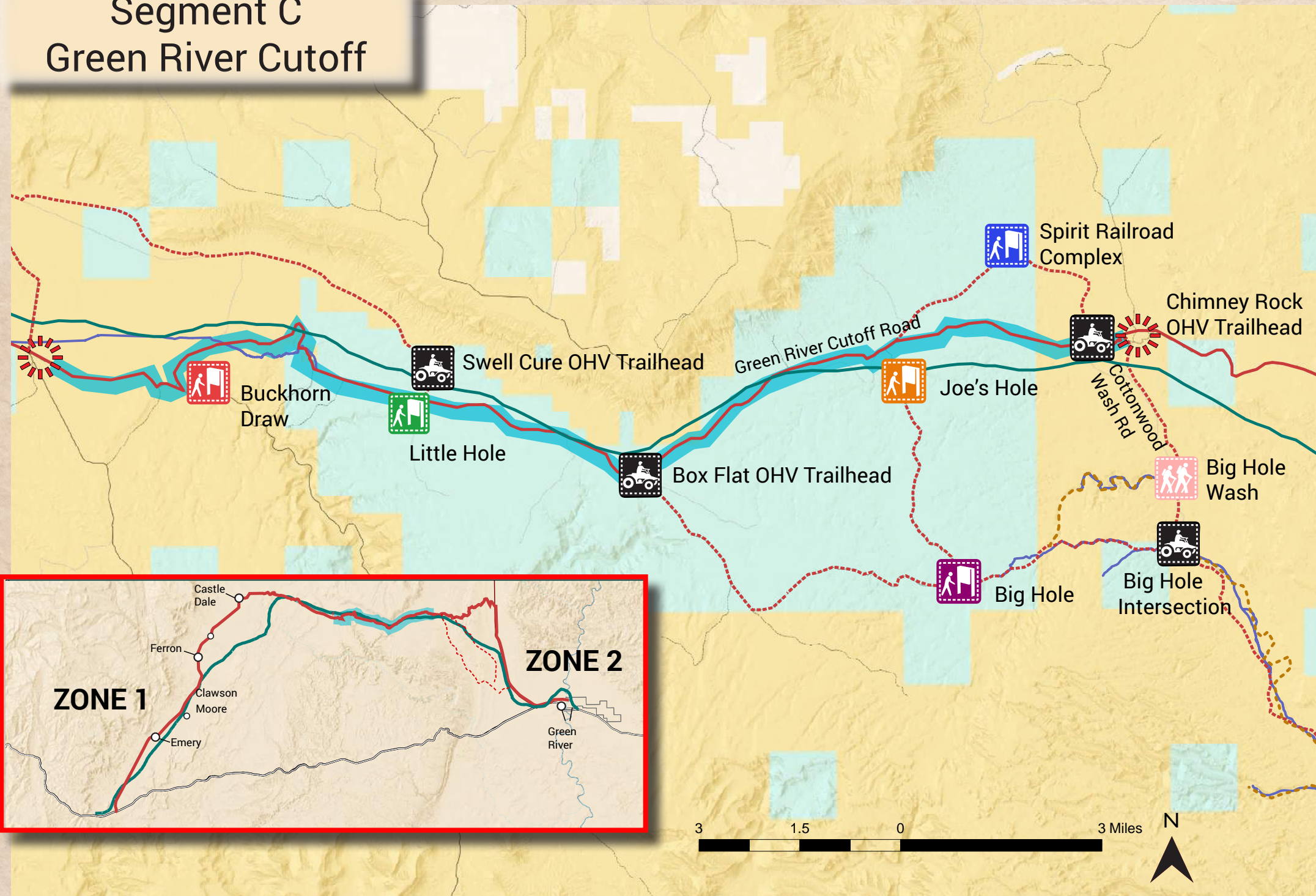


* As designated in the 2002 OSNHT Feasibility Study



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Segment C Green River Cutoff



Segment C Trail Elements



Waysides



Buckhorn Draw

Buckhorn Draw is the main northern gateway to the San Rafael Swell. Sites in the canyon include the interpreted Buckhorn Draw rock art site.



Spirit Railroad Complex

The Spirit Railroad Complex is one of several sites in Emery County where remnants of the unfinished Rio Grande Railway can be viewed.



Joe's Hole



Big Hole



Little Hole



Trailheads



Box Flat OHV Trail



Chimney Rock OHV Trailhead

This trailhead is at a major intersection of the auto tour route with 4WD, OHV, hiking, and horseback riding opportunities.



Big Hole Intersection

Big Hole Intersection provides access to the Big Hole spring site.



Big Hole Wash



Swell Cure OHV Trail



Buckhorn Draw Wayside

Buckhorn Draw is the main northern gateway to the San Rafael Swell. The wayside can provide information about the canyon's geologic, historic, and cultural features to visitors along the trail.



Buckhorn Draw Rock Art Panel

Buckhorn Draw rock art includes pictographs and petroglyphs made by prehistoric cultures.



Buckhorn Draw Wayside

Chimney Rock OHV Trailhead

The Chimney Rock OHV Trailhead is at a major intersection of the auto tour route with 4WD, OHV, hiking, and horseback riding opportunities on the Green River Cut-off Road. It serves as an important connection to the Cottonwood Wash and Canyon, which houses many cultural sites along the Old Spanish NHT.



Green River Cutoff Road



Detail of Chimney Rock OHV Trailhead



Potential Staging Area at Chimney Rock OHV Trailhead



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Spirit Railroad Complex

The Spirit Railroad Complex is 35 miles east of Castle Dale on the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration's (SITLA) 31,000-acre Cedar Mountain block. The site has recently been improved with rail fencing and a kiosk to provide historic interpretation for visitors.

This section is part of a railroad line that was never completed. In 1880, the Denver and Rio Grande Railway began building a narrow-gauge rail line through the Rocky Mountains from Colorado to Utah. The remains of the route can be traced across Buckhorn Flat and down Cottonwood Wash. At the Spirit Railroad Complex site, remnants of the efforts include stone buildings, chimneys and dugouts.



View of Chimney Rock from the Spirit Railroad Complex



Remnants of railroad grade construction



Spirit Railroad Complex kiosk and rail fencing



Wooden trough on site



Stone buildings on site



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Big Hole Intersection Trailhead and Wayside



Detail Map of Big Hole Site and Trailhead



Existing site at Big Hole Trailhead

Big Hole was a crucial water source along the Old Spanish NHT. The trail to Big Hole is currently used by OHV riders and is proposed as a multi-use trail. The proposed trailhead would offer interpretation and information about the trail leading to the watering hole.

Box Flat and Swell Cure OHV Trailheads



Detail Map of Box Flat and Swell Cure Trailheads



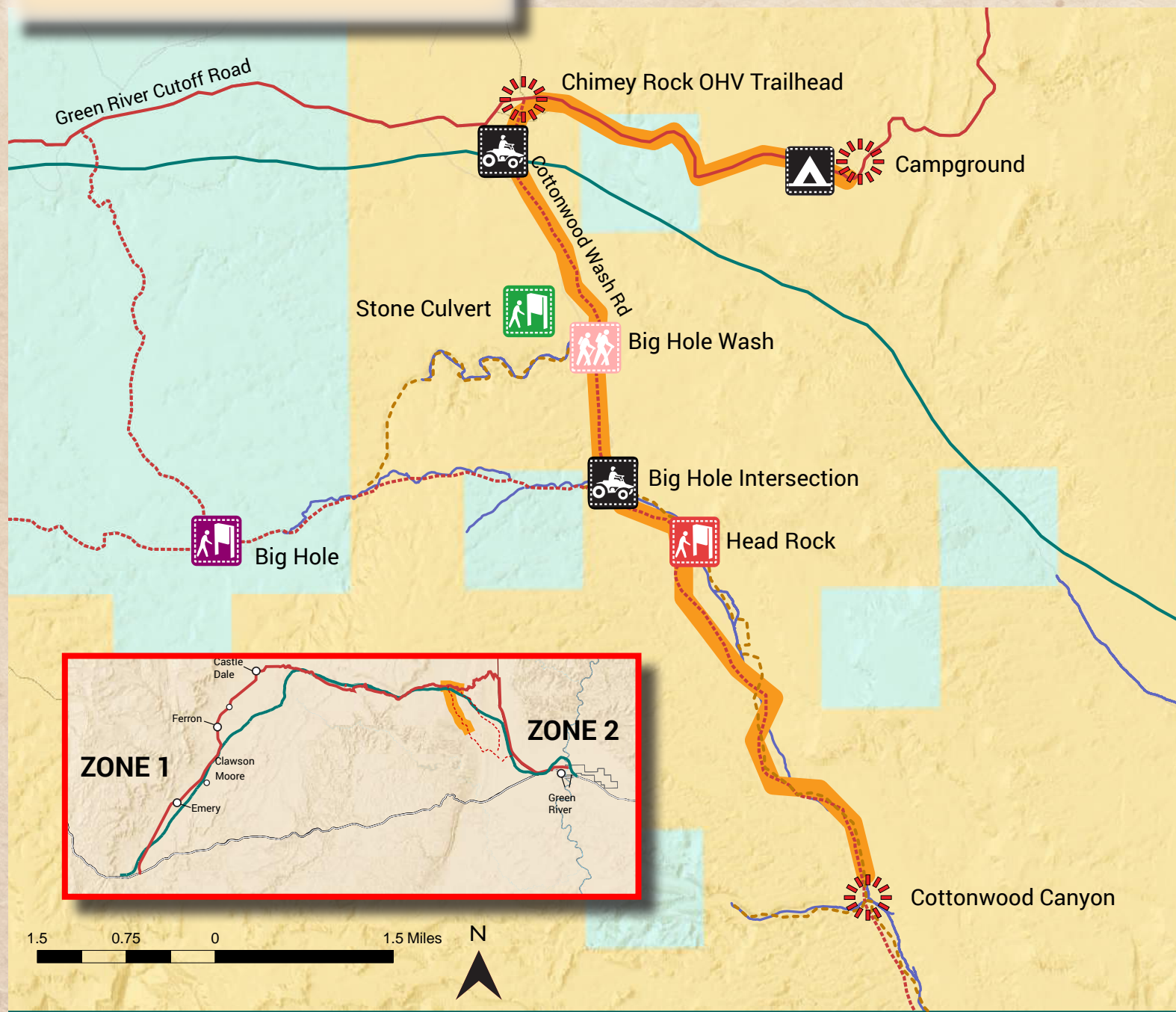
Typical landscape near Box Flat and Swell Cure Trailheads

These trailheads would both be great areas on SITLA land to provide information about the OST, and the recreation opportunities that exist. Both of these areas would be a good place to offload an OHV and begin an adventure.



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Segment D Head Rock



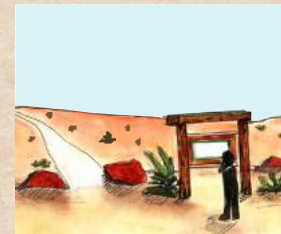
Segment D Trail Elements



Waysides

- Head Rock and Railroad Grade
- Big Hole
- Stone Culvert

Head Rock was an important landmark for the Gunnison Expedition, which followed portions of the Old Spanish NHT route. The railroad grade from the unfinished transcontinental railroad can also be seen from this wayside.



Trailheads

- Big Hole Wash
- Big Hole Intersection
- Chimney Rock OHV Trailhead

The Green River Cutoff trailhead provides access to Cottonwood Wash Road and the Old Spanish Trail Loop (see page 74).



Campgrounds

- Campground

The proposed group campground is near the northern terminus of the Lost Spring Road and would offer dispersed campsites.

Head Rock Wayside



Head Rock



Sketch of Head Rock

Head Rock was an important landmark for the Gunnison Expedition. The Gunnison Expedition took place only five years after the end of the official period of significance. The explorers noted that they were following the Old Spanish NHT through the area.

Wade Allinson of Emery County made the connection between this rock formation and a sketch of its form made during Gunnison's time on the trail.

The proposed wayside could be developed in a location that would provide a view of the formation comparable to that represented by the sketch.

Stone Culvert Wayside



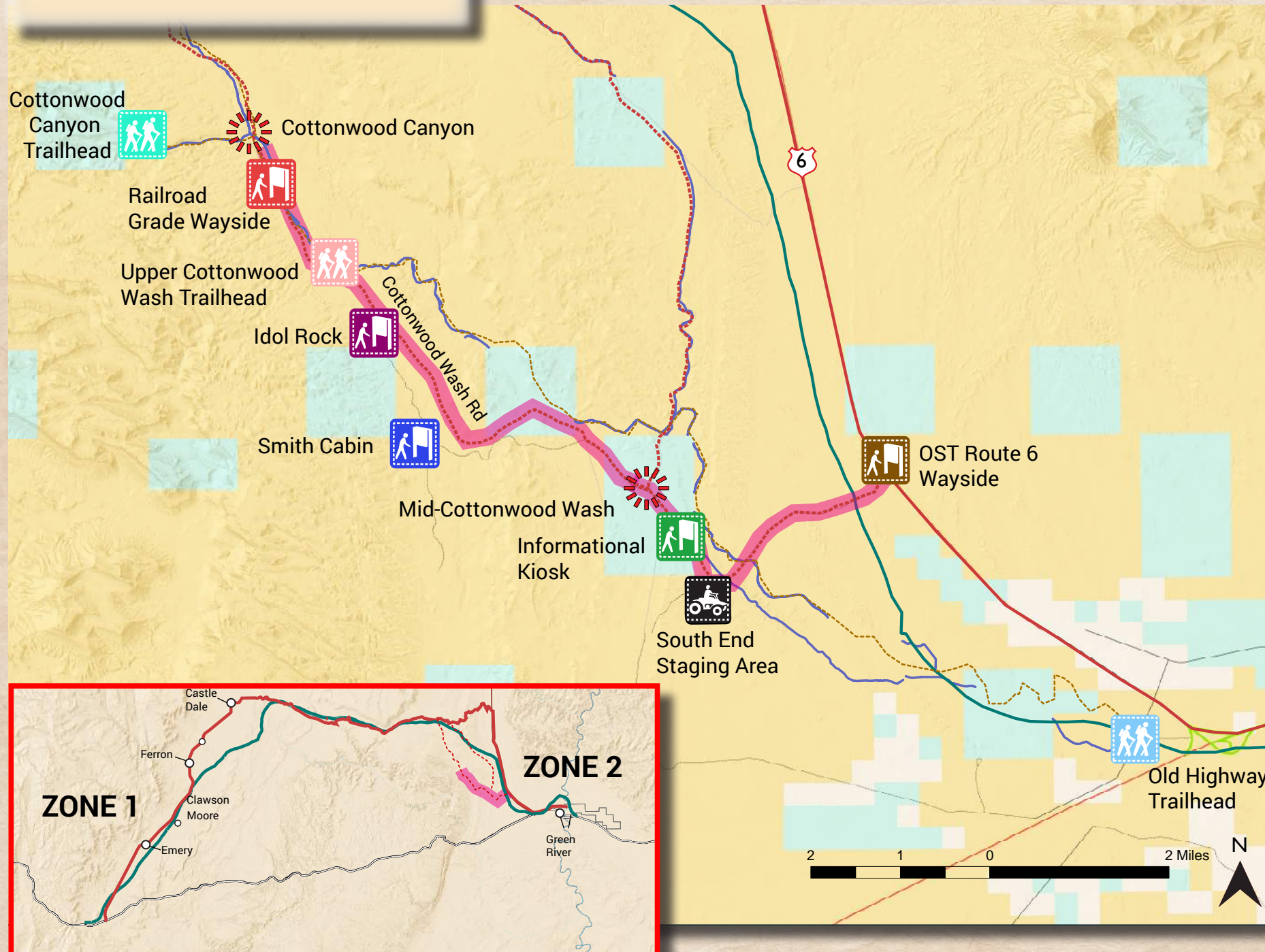
Exposed stone culvert

This is a fully exposed stone culvert along the historic Rio Grande Railroad Grade. This stone culvert was built by hand and because it is fully exposed rather than buried, visitors can appreciate the hard work that was put into constructing these historic culverts. The wayside could offer interpretation of the Rio Grande Railroad's history and construction.



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Segment E Cottonwood Wash



Segment E Trail Elements



Waysides



Railroad Grade

This wayside could interpret the history of the railroad grade in Emery County



Idol Rock

Idol Rock was an important landmark for the Gunnison Expedition.



Smith Cabin

Smith Cabin is an old ranching homestead and water source.



Information Kiosk

The information kiosk would provide trail and travel details for visitors.



OST Route 6 Wayside



South End Staging Area



Trailheads



Cottonwood Canyon

The Cottonwood Canyon trail follows Old Spanish NHT trace and offers hikers the opportunity to view rock art.



Upper Cottonwood Wash

The Upper Cottonwood Wash trail hosts many intact historical inscriptions.

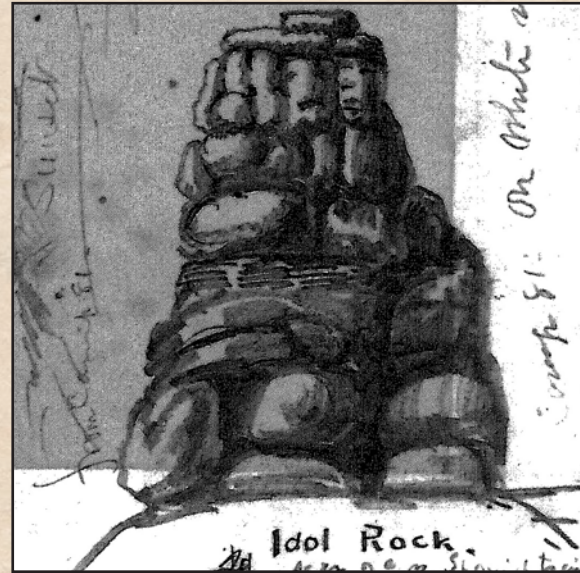


Old Highway Trailhead

Idol Rock Wayside



Idol Rock



Sketch of Idol Rock

Idol Rock was an important landmark for the Gunnison Expedition.

Wade Allinson of Emery County made the connection between this rock formation and a sketch of its form made during Gunnison's time on the trail.

The proposed wayside could be developed in a location that would provide a view of the formation comparable to that represented by the sketch.

Smith Cabin Wayside



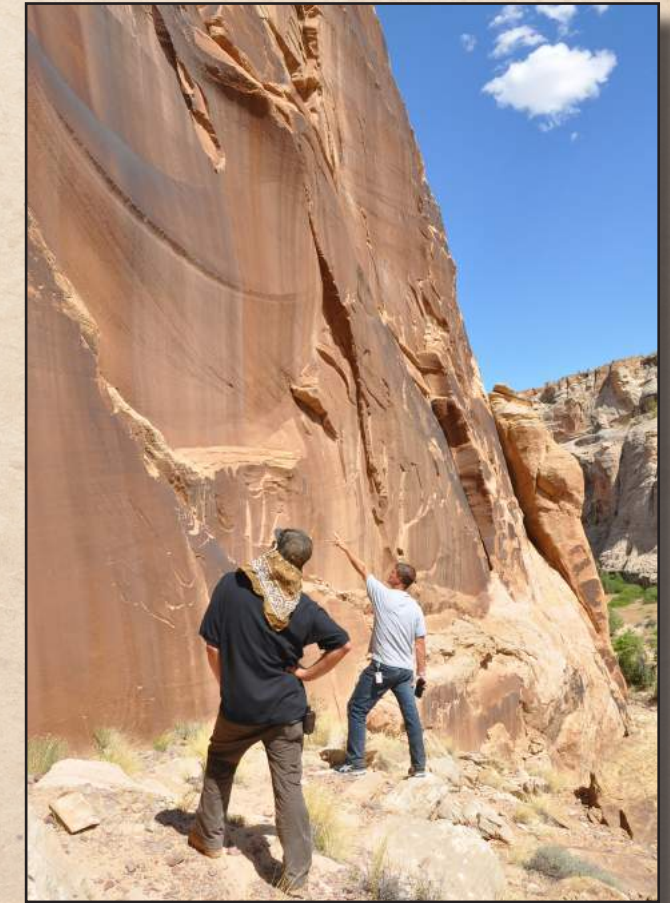
Smith Cabin

Smith Cabin is an old ranching cabin built in the 1930s by Wayne and Betty Smith. A wayside could be developed at this site to interpret its history.

Cottonwood Canyon Trailhead



View up Cottonwood Canyon



Rock art site, Cottonwood Canyon



Detail of Cottonwood Canyon Trailhead

The Cottonwood Canyon trail follows Old Spanish NHT trace and offers hikers the opportunity to view rock art and a beautiful canyon.



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Upper Cottonwood Wash Trailhead



Hiker viewing an inscription in Upper Cottonwood Wash

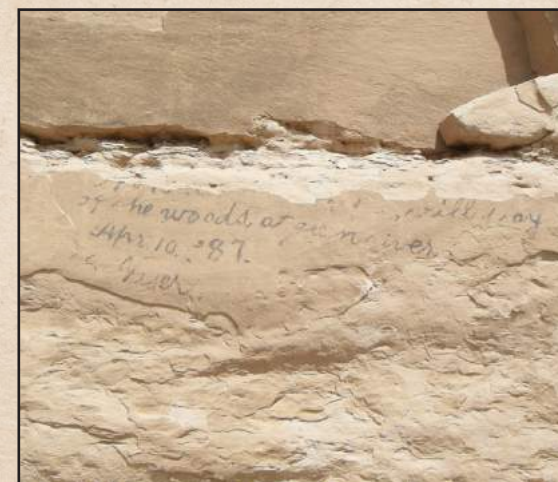


Cottonwood Wash Road near the proposed trailhead

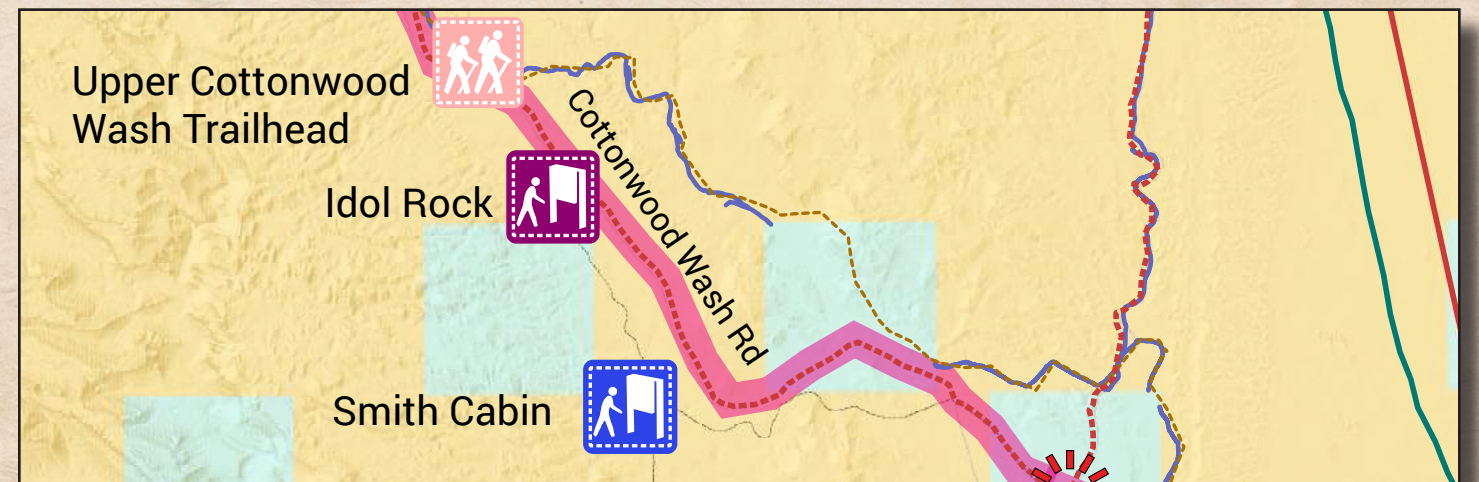
Axle grease inscriptions can be seen along the rock walls on the Upper Cottonwood Wash trail.



Axle grease inscription



Axle grease inscription

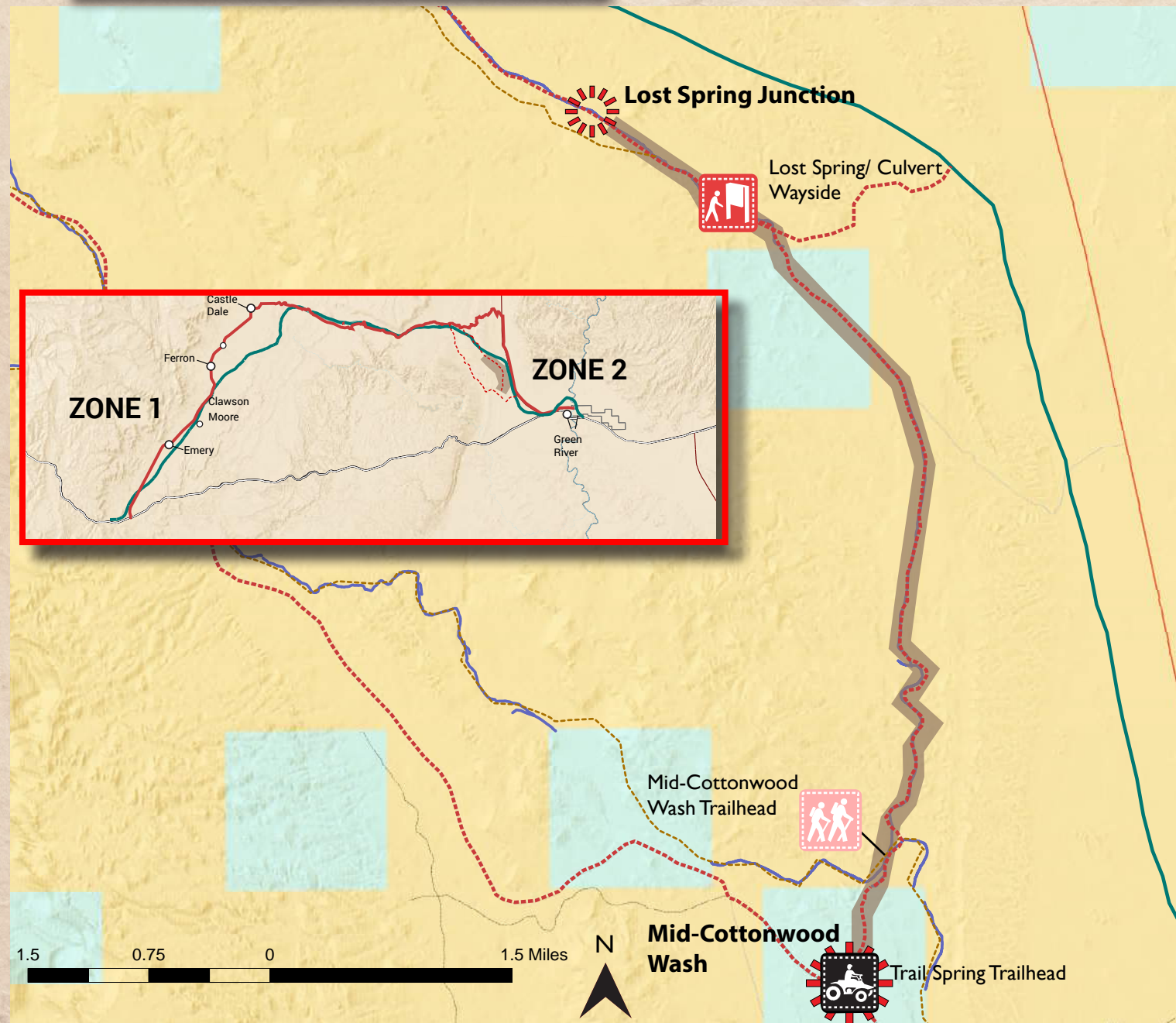


Detail of Upper Cottonwood Wash Trailhead



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Segment F Trail Spring Draw



Segment F Trail Elements

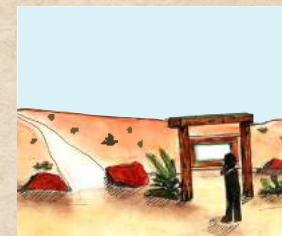


Waysides



Lost Spring and Culvert

The Trail Spring Draw segment is rich with pioneer road construction, dugways, cairns, and culverts.



Trailheads



Trail Spring



Mid-Cottonwood Wash

The Mid-Cottonwood Wash trail follows Old Spanish NHT trace to the Upper Cottonwood Wash. The Lost Spring Wash trail begins at the Lost Spring Junction and follows the wash to Upper Lost Spring Trailhead.



Dugway built from Juniper trees on Lost Springs Road.

Lost Spring Wayside



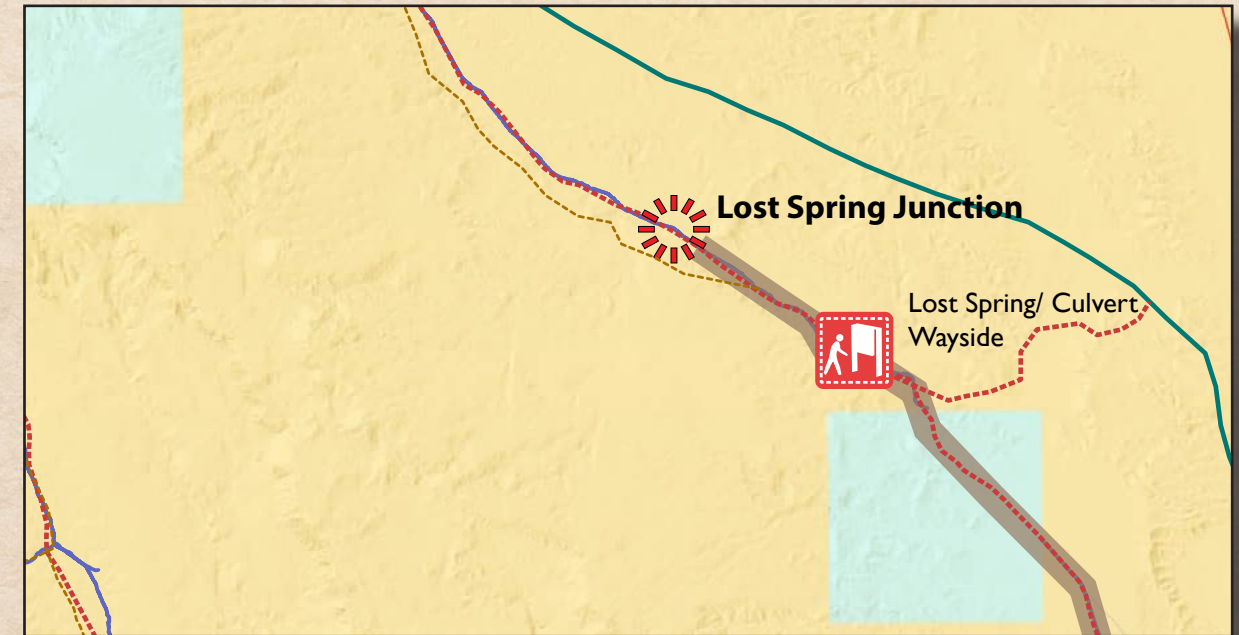
Culvert on Lost Springs Road



View of Lost Springs Road

The proposed wayside could offer interpretation of the culverts found along Lost Springs Road.

Lost Spring Junction



Detail of Lost Spring Junction



Dugway on Lost Springs Road



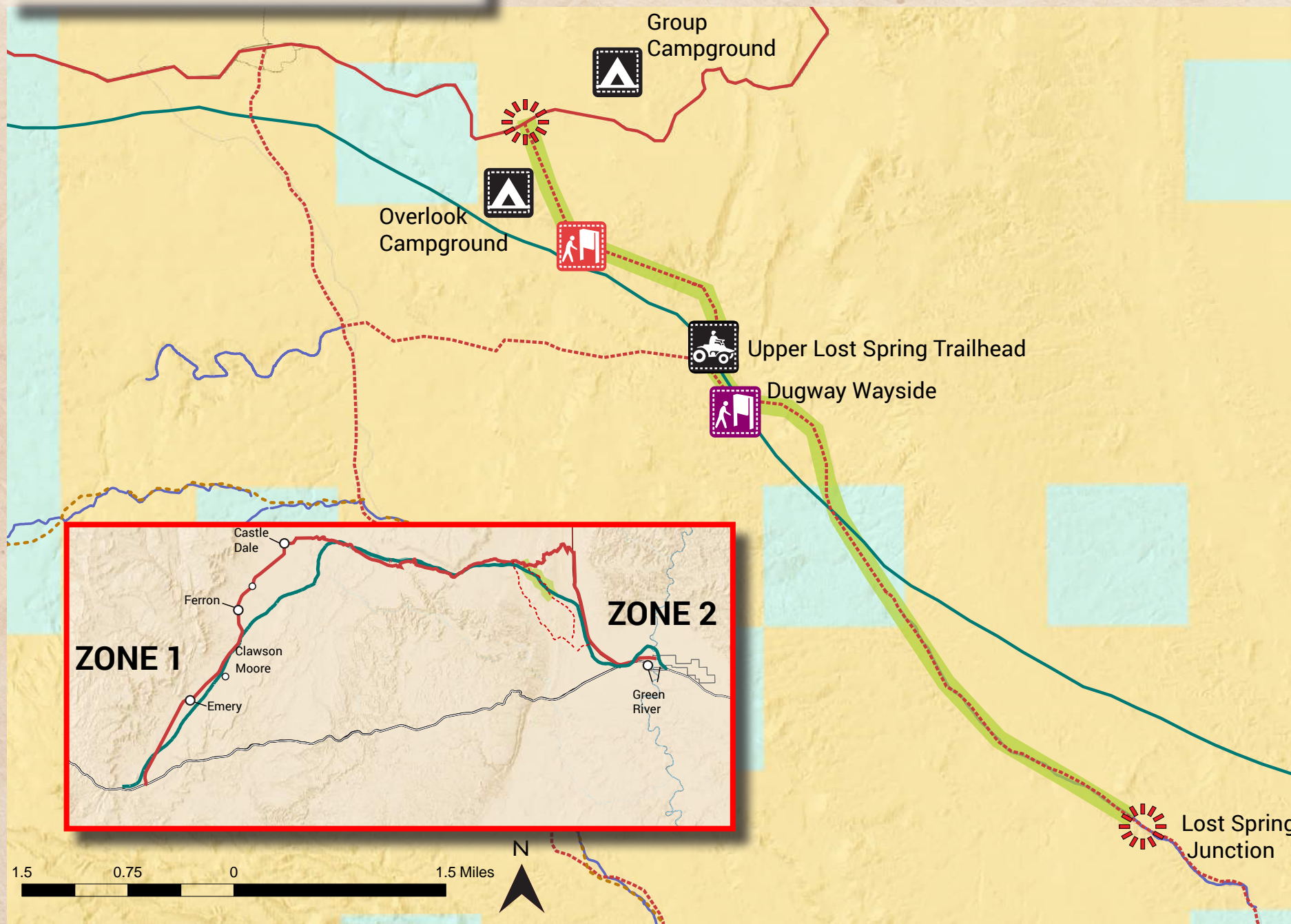
Cairn overlooking Lost Springs Road

Lost Spring Junction is a convergence of OHV, motorcycle, and hiking trails. It connects these trails to opportunities on Lost Springs Road to view historic dugways and Old Spanish NHT trace.



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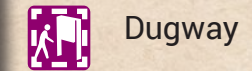
Segment G Upper Lost Springs



Segment G Trail Elements

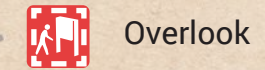


Waysides



Dugway

Historic dugways built to traverse the difficult terrain of the San Rafael Country.

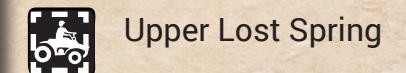


Overlook

This overlook offers a striking view of the rugged country that the Old Spanish NHT travelers crossed.



Trailheads

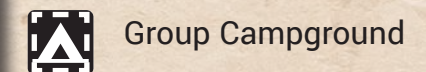


Upper Lost Spring

The Upper Lost Spring trail begins on Lost Springs Road and connects to Cottonwood Wash.

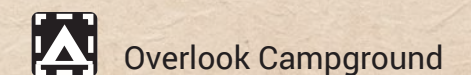


Campgrounds



Group Campground

The group campground would accommodate camping for large groups off of Green River Cut off Road



Overlook Campground

The overlook campground would offer dispersed camping and an overlook of both Cottonwood and Lost Spring washes.

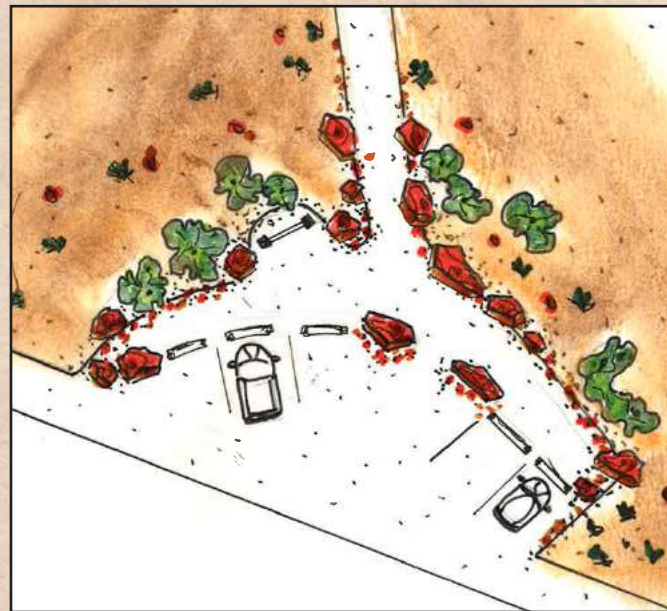


Upper Lost Spring Trailhead

The Upper Lost Spring Trailhead begins off of Lost Springs Road and connects to Cottonwood Wash Road. It is currently open to ATV and motorcycle travel.



Trailhead Concept, Perspective



Trailhead Concept, Plan View



Existing Site

Overlook and Group Campground

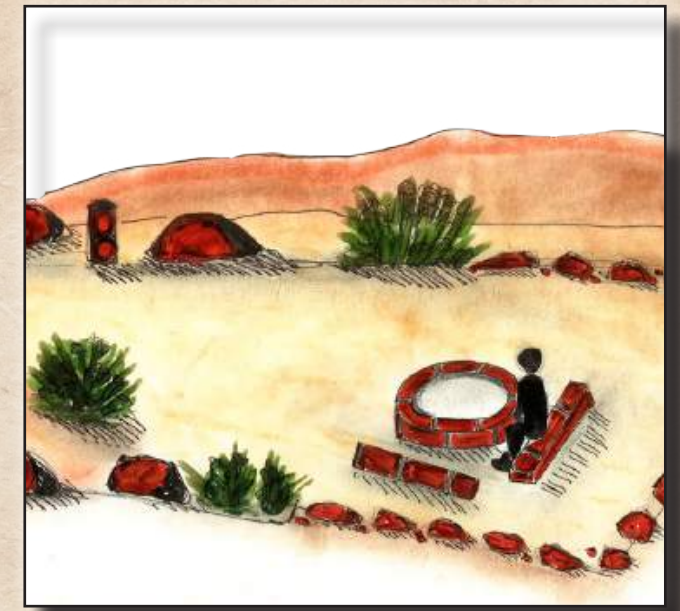
The proposed Overlook Campground would provide dispersed camping and act as a launching point for hikers, OHV riders, etc to begin their exploration of the trail. The campground would also offer a view of both Cottonwood Wash and Lost Spring Wash where Old Spanish Trail travelers crossed.



Wash overlook



Existing site at proposed Overlook Campground



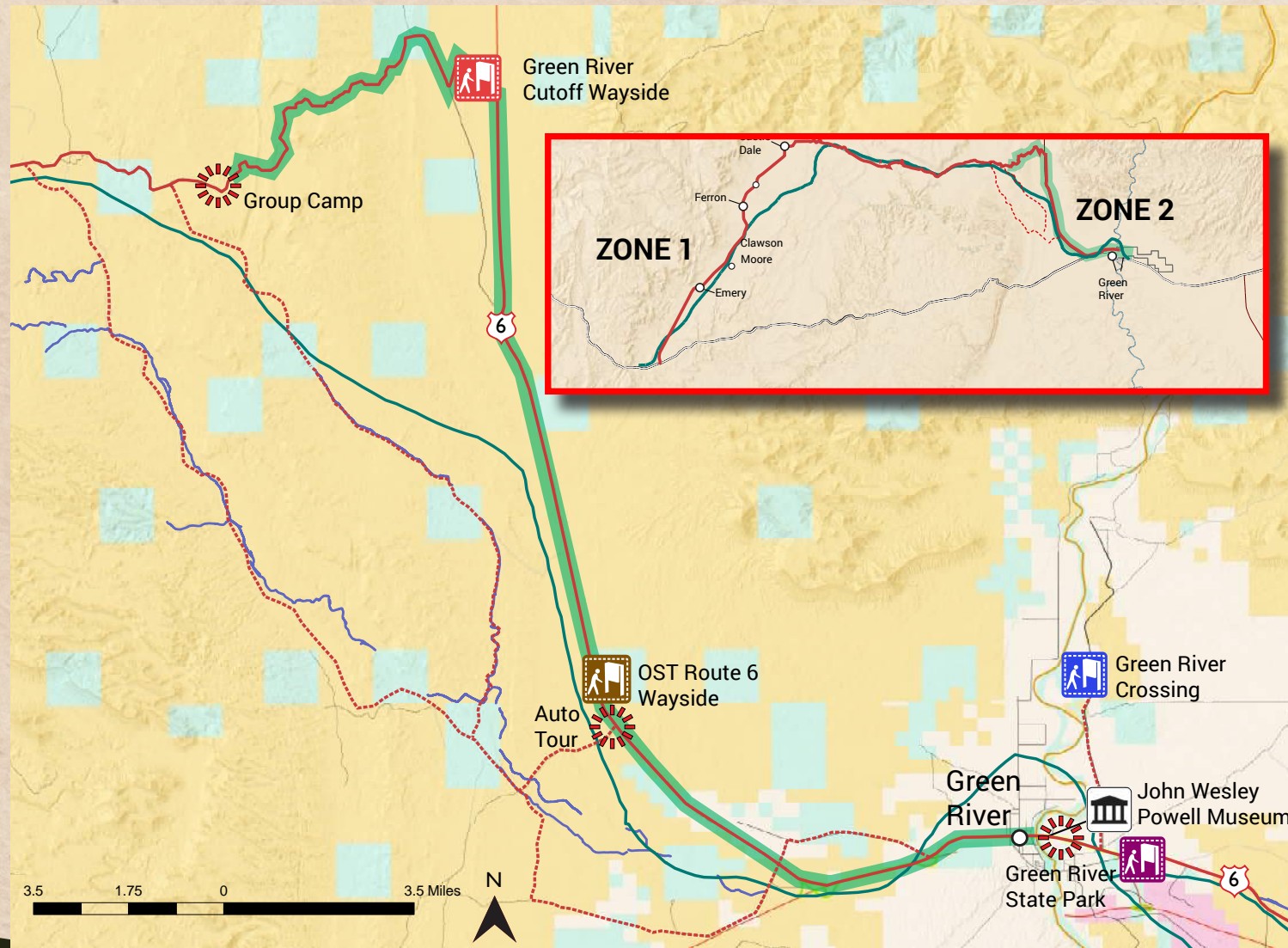
Sketch of rustic campground design

The group campground could provide camping areas that accommodate larger camping parties with group sites.



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Segment H Auto Tour



Segment H Trail Elements



WAYSIDES



Green River Cutoff



Green River State Park/
City Park



Green River Crossing



OST Route 6 Wayside

At the junction of Highway 6, the Green River Cutoff wayside will give information about the Old Spanish NHT and direct visitors to the trail's opportunities. The Green River State Park could act as an interpretation site and staging area. The Green River crossing wayside could interpret the trail crossing at Green River.



MUSEUMS



John Wesley Powell
River History Museum

The John Wesley Powell River History Museum is an excellent partner for bringing the Old Spanish NHT to life through exhibits and travel information.



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Green River State Park/Golf Course



Green River State Park Golf Course



Green River State Park

Green River State Park/Golf Course could act as a staging area for exploration of the Old Spanish NHT. It has a large parking area and campground with tall, shady cottonwood trees. Located along the Green River, it also offers recreational opportunities including boating, golfing, and fishing. The park is the put-in point for the 120-mile float through Labyrinth and Stillwater Canyons.

The Green River has catfish, carp, and four unique native fish that are threatened with extinction and protected: Colorado Pike Minnow (Squawfish), Razorback Sucker, Humpback Chub, and Bonytail Chub.

John Wesley Powell River History Museum



John Wesley Powell River History Museum



Display at John Wesley Powell River History Museum

The John Wesley Powell River History Museum (in Green River, Utah, connects people and communities to the significance of river history by celebrating the landscapes and cultures in the Colorado Plateau. Located on the banks of the Green River, the museum currently offers a unique opportunity to supplement personal experience on the Green and Colorado rivers by accessing the cultural history and regional context of the Colorado Plateau via artifacts, interpretive exhibits, and museum programming. River runners and commercial passengers visit the museum to learn about their history, and they leave having gained personal knowledge about their heritage. Through the work of the museum, travelers leave more prepared to have meaningful experiences on the river. This same opportunity is available for tourists on the Old Spanish NHT, and the museum is uniquely poised to deliver it.



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John Wesley Powell River History Museum



As an organization that seeks to highlight the history and the unique landscapes of the Colorado Plateau, the museum views the Old Spanish NHT as a substantial chapter in that story. The Gunnison Valley was an important stretch of the trail, and the only place where travelers were able to cross the Green River safely. A deep history of power, control, and access developed in the region, all based around the ability to cross the river. This reality as a crossing point is still an important part of the history and shared identity for the residents of Green River, and an important element to the historical narrative of the region.

With ample outdoor space for parking and wayside exhibits, and the capacity to house and care for historic artifacts, the museum is a natural partner for the Old Spanish NHT. The museum is one of few cultural institutions that sits on both the Old Spanish NHT and Interstate 70. It sees more than 25,000 visitors annually, and serves as an information center for the multitude of tourists in southeast Utah. It has the ability to provide broad interpretive messaging for the Old Spanish NHT to a large audience, and can introduce the history and national relevance of the trail to tourists in the region. As a potential official travel hub for the Old Spanish NHT, the museum hopes to do the same for the trail that it does for river runners in the Colorado Plateau. It can provide access to context, history, and programming, and serve as a resource for travelers who are prepared to embark on their own trail journey.

In some ways, the museum already has a head start. In recent years, the City of Green River has developed preliminary plans to improve the design and functionality of the museum's grounds, and many of the ideas in that proposal would work seamlessly with the goals of the Old Spanish NHT Recreation and Development Strategy. Proposals for a small on-site nature trail with interpretive signage, or a simple river overlook that highlights the valley's landscape and history, would create a perfect opportunity to bring the trail to life for visitors who are unable or unlikely to visit the trail in the backcountry.

Likewise, the museum is dedicated to place-based learning for local children, and the opportunity to teach the history of the region to young students who are not yet able to visit the trail immediately will be invaluable to the mission of the organization.

Improvements to the interpretive exhibits would likely be necessary, but the museum is an interested and willing partner who is already serving as a travel hub for the region (the organization offers interpretive exhibits on the Old Spanish NHT and passport stamps for collectors). With a vested interest in promoting the landscapes and cultural history of the region, and with institutional experience as an information center, the John Wesley Powell River History Museum is a model partner for bringing the Old Spanish NHT to life.



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APPENDIX





Trail Chart

Non-motorized Hiking Trails

Name	Location	Distance	Description	Difficulty
Walker Flat Trail	Trailhead off of UT-10 south of Emery	4.5 miles one way	Trailhead and stream crossing	Easy
Big Hole Wash	Trailhead off of Cottonwood Wash Rd.	4 miles one way	Trailhead and Big Hole site	Moderate
Cottonwood Creek Trail	Trailhead off of Green River Cut-off Road	6.5 miles one way	Trailhead and hike along trail trace.	Moderate to Difficult
Old Highway Trail	Trailhead west of Highway 6.	6.75 miles one way	Ends at the South End Staging Area	Moderate to Difficult
Upper Cottonwood Wash Trail	Begins on Cottonwood Wash Rd.	6 miles one way	Ends at Big Hole Intersection	Moderate
Mid- Cottonwood Wash Trail	Begins at Mid-Cottonwood Wash Trailhead	8.75 miles one way	Ends at Upper Cottonwood Wash Trailhead	Difficult
Rochester Rock Art Panel	Trailhead off of UT-10. East of Emery.	1/4 mile one way	Short hike to the Rochester Rock Art Panel	Easy
Upper Ferron Creek Crossing	Trailhead off of UT-10. East of Ferron.	3 miles one way	Trailhead and hike along trail trace.	Moderate
Lower Ferron Creek Trailhead	Trailhead south of Cottonwood Creek Trailhead	6.5 miles one way	Hike along trail trace.	Moderate to Difficult
Cottonwood Canyon Trailhead	Trailhead off of Cottonwood Wash Rd.	1.5 miles one way	Hike along trail trace.	Easy

Auto Tour Routes

Name	Location	Distance	Description	Difficulty
Castle Valley Auto Tour	Begins at the junction of I-70 and UT-10	38 miles	Paved highway	Easy
Castle Dale Auto Tour	Route from Castle Dale to the Highway 6 junction.	45 miles	Gravel road	Moderate
Route 6 Auto Tour	Route from the Green River Cut-off to Green River	22 miles	Paved highway	Easy

Multiple Use Trails

Name	Location	Distance	Description	Difficulty
Wilsonville Overlook	Begins off of UT-10 outside of Castle Dale	1.25 miles one way	Dirt road. Overlook of Wilsonville and OST	Moderate
Old Spanish Trail Loop	Begins and ends off of Green River Cut-off Rd.	30 miles round-trip	Dirt road. Loop trail. Access at Trail Spring and Green River Cut-off	Moderate to Hard
Upper Lost Spring Trail	Begins on Lost Springs Road	3 miles one way	Connects to Cottonwood Wash	Moderate
Trail Spring Trailhead	Begins at Mid-Cottonwood Wash	30 miles round-trip	Southern access to the Old Spanish Trail Loop	Moderate to Hard
Black Hills Trail	Begins between the town of Castle Dale and the Buckhorn Information Center	8 mile loop	Loop off of Green River Cut-off Road. East of Castle Dale	Easy
Red Seeps Trail	Begins off of Green River Cut-off Rd.	3.5 miles one way	Access to Little Cedar Mountain Overlook	Easy
Big Hole Intersection	Begins on Cottonwood Wash Rd. South of Green River Cut-off	3.25 miles one way	Dirt road to Big Hole spring site	Easy
Chimney Rock Trailhead	Begins on Green River Cut-off Rd.	30 miles round-trip	Northern access to the Old Spanish Trail Loop	Moderate to Hard
Box Flat Trail	Begins off of Green River Cut-off Rd.	14.5 miles round-trip	Loop off of Green River Cut-off Rd.	Moderate