

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

8/20/2024 6:00 PM |

Meeting called by	Matt Rehani	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Sharon Brown, Cindi deCapiteau, Gerry Engel, Dave Imler, Rawlings Lemon, Matt Rehani, Cheryl Roth, Donna Tillmann, Deborah Wittemore
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

AGENDA TOPICS

Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

Income \$30,150.93
Expenses \$37,318.47
Current balance checking & savings \$93,479.18
Current membership 47

Public Service | Presenter Gerry Engel

Melissa and her crew are up in the woods working on trails now. Cheryl Roth helped pack in the hikers. The trail crew has addressed the Railroad Trail #96 (aka: Apache Creek trail & Military Trail) & Gila Flat Trail #97). The trail work volunteers are doing well. We had enough workers to address the trail from Clayton Mesa to the Middle Fork and Apache Creek. (see map on page 4).

Melissa's next project is the Sawmill Wagon Road Trail #243 and the Continental Divide Trail (map on page 5).

The Tadpole Ridge trail was in poor condition following the 2020 wildfire up there. The trail has been worked on, but needs to be checked out. (Map on page 6.)

We have completed a good deal of work on the Woodhaul Wagon Road, which is now cleared from Lockney Road to Bear Creek. (Map on page 7.)

USFS Update | Presenter Gerry Engel

Gerry reported that the most recent draft of the forest plan for the Gila has been released. The planning process began in 2019 and now is in the "objection period," which seems to imply that if you don't like what's in the document, you can appeal it to the District Ranger, who evaluates your comments. Gerry added that there have been many significant changes on Gila trails since the draft of 2019. For example, we are now allowed to clear trails in Railroad Canyon.

In the just-released plan, many things have been abbreviated and are now oriented toward partnerships, which seems to be an improvement. The plan is 390 pages. You can review it at

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gila/home/?cid=STELPRD3828671>

The last Gila forest plan was released in 1986. The 2024 draft version is not so specific as the 1986 one. The latest iteration doesn't set priorities, but does describe desired conditions (utopia) and might not make much difference.

Grant County SAR update | Presenter Dave Imler

Grant County Search and Rescue had a two-day mission to find a young autistic/schizophrenic hiker who was reported to be off his medications. He was reported mission on Saturday. His car was found on Sunday. GCSAR searched Monday and Tuesday with help from from his friends and family, who had good drone equipment to help with the search. The subject walked into camp around midnight on Tuesday. At the time of Dave's report, the young man was hospitalized in Springerville AZ and reported to be in bad shape. His family expressed gratitude to GCSAR and everybody else who helped in the search.

US Air Force training flights over the Gila | Presenter Cheryl Roth

Once again, the Air Force is planning low-level training flights over the Gila. The meeting where the USAF defends its indefensible proposal is scheduled for September 11, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at WNMU's Global Resource Center. Meetings will also be held in Reserve, Lordsburg, and Arizona during the week of August 27, as described in in the Silver City Daily Press at <https://www.scdailypress.com/2024/08/20/air-force-sets-meetings-low-level-flight-plans/>

BCHNM 2024 Rendezvous at Ft. Bayard | Presenter Cheryl Roth

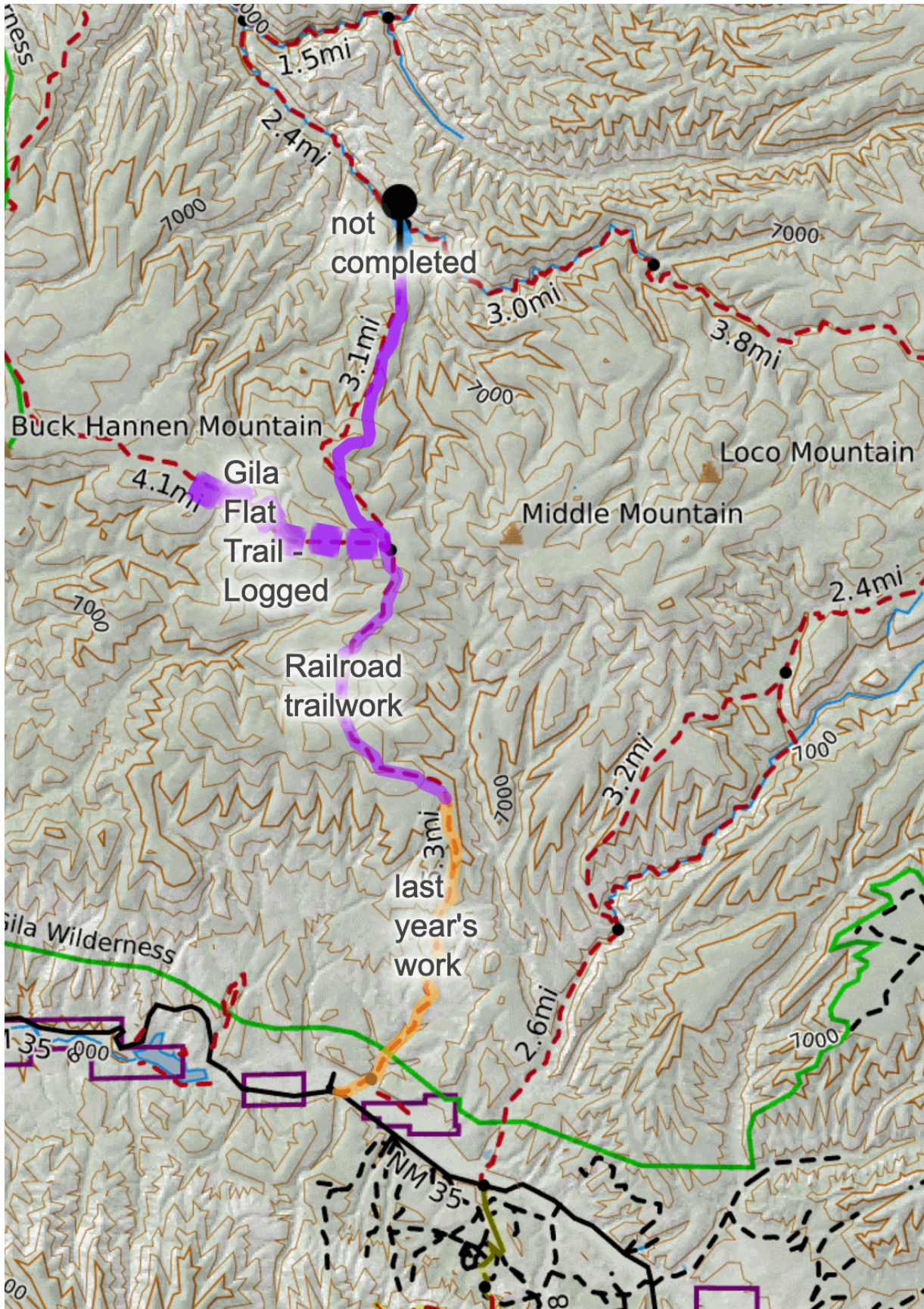
Cheryl Roth, who is the Rendezvous Big Boss has been planning and getting all the bases covered for the September 19-22 gathering of the BCH chapters of New Mexico, to be held at Ft. Bayard. The highlights of this event are these:

- All monetary transactions will be in cash or check. No credit cards will be accepted.
- Dave and Nancy Imler are handling money matters for the Rendezvous.
- GCSAR has a new training tool, a life-sized mannequin affectionally known as Rigormortis Randy, whose purpose in life is to give search and rescue types training in packing a deceased person out of the wilderness on horseback. A training session will occur at the Rendezvous on Sunday morning, September 22.
- Morningstar, Silver City's go-to for all things related to sporty apparel, will offer the Forest Service's Gila Centennial t-shirts for sale.
- Joan Bacon will conduct a walk-around tour of Ft. Bayard
- A cookie jar, one of the fundraisers, will be available for attendees to guess the number of horse cookies therein for the price of \$1 per guess plus the jar of cookies. For a \$5 bid, the correct guesser can receive 50% of proceeds from bidding plus the jar of cookies. (Who can resist THAT?)
- Another jar will receive bids to guess the weight of each of two horses.
- Flagging tape will be posted around the Rendezvous camp site to mark hazards and obstacles.
- Gerry Engel and Rawlings Lemon will trim limbs from the various trees around camp, at which participants can highline equines.
- There will be a silent auction for items donated by the various New Mexico BCH chapters.
- Officials from Santa Clara, the esteemed village that is letting GBCH use the Ft. Bayard property at no charge, will be around to answer questions.
- Kristen Munsen is putting together a donation jar so participants can express appreciation to Santa Clara.
- Bill Kapke will talk about Ft. Bayard's history.
- The Forest Service will give a presentation about the Gila Centennial.
- Appetizers provided by Rendezvous participants will be offered in the Rendezvous headquarters (the Ft. Bayard New Deal Theater).
- Dinner on Friday evening (along with all other meals except Saturday evening) is "on your own," but you can consume your food at the tables set up in the theater.
- The Gila chapter will pay cooks to provide food for a meal on Saturday.
- Coffee and donuts will be available on Sunday morning, using a coffee urn provided by Mickey and Rawlings Lemon.
- Joan Bacon has ordered a dumpster for Rendezvous trash, the policing of which will be the responsibility of each participant.

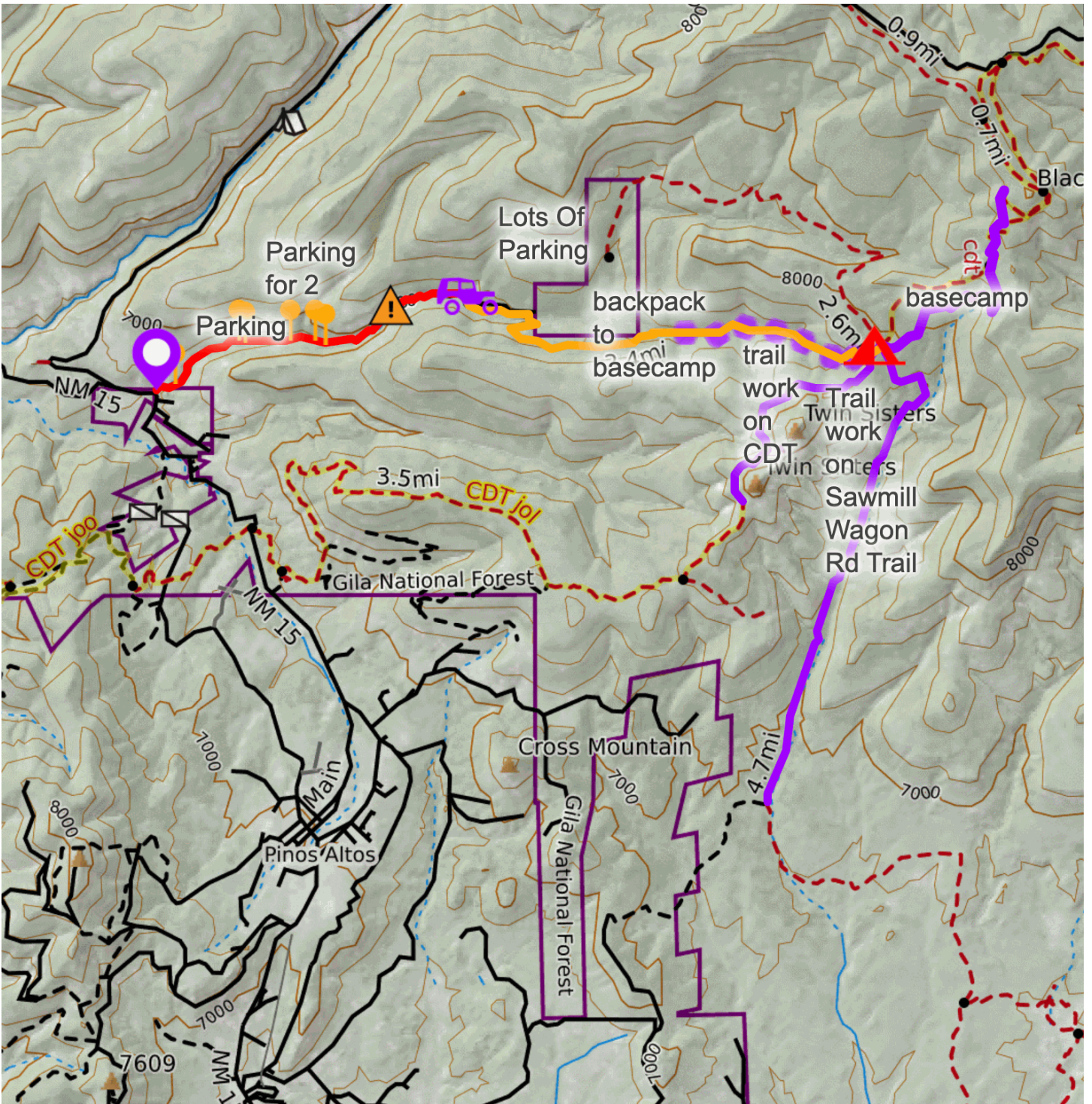
- The Ft. Bayard fire department will deliver water to fill several big troughs to assuage the thirst of stock. Potable water must be supplied by participants.
- Fun rides will be conducted Friday and Saturday. Cindi is coordinating ride plans.
- A meeting of the BCHNM will occur on Saturday, along with a 50/50 raffle.
- Cheryl has arranged for staff to oversee trailer parking.
- Somebody (?) will procure coffee, cream, sugar, etc. for morning coffee.
- Although attendees are expected to supply their own serving and eating supplies, Gerry Engel and the Imlers have supplies of utensils and paper plates left over from various GBCH picnics and parties and will provide them for Rendezvous use.
- Cheryl will schedule a follow-up meeting to ensure all the food arrangements are in order. The meeting can occur on Zoom.

Announcements |

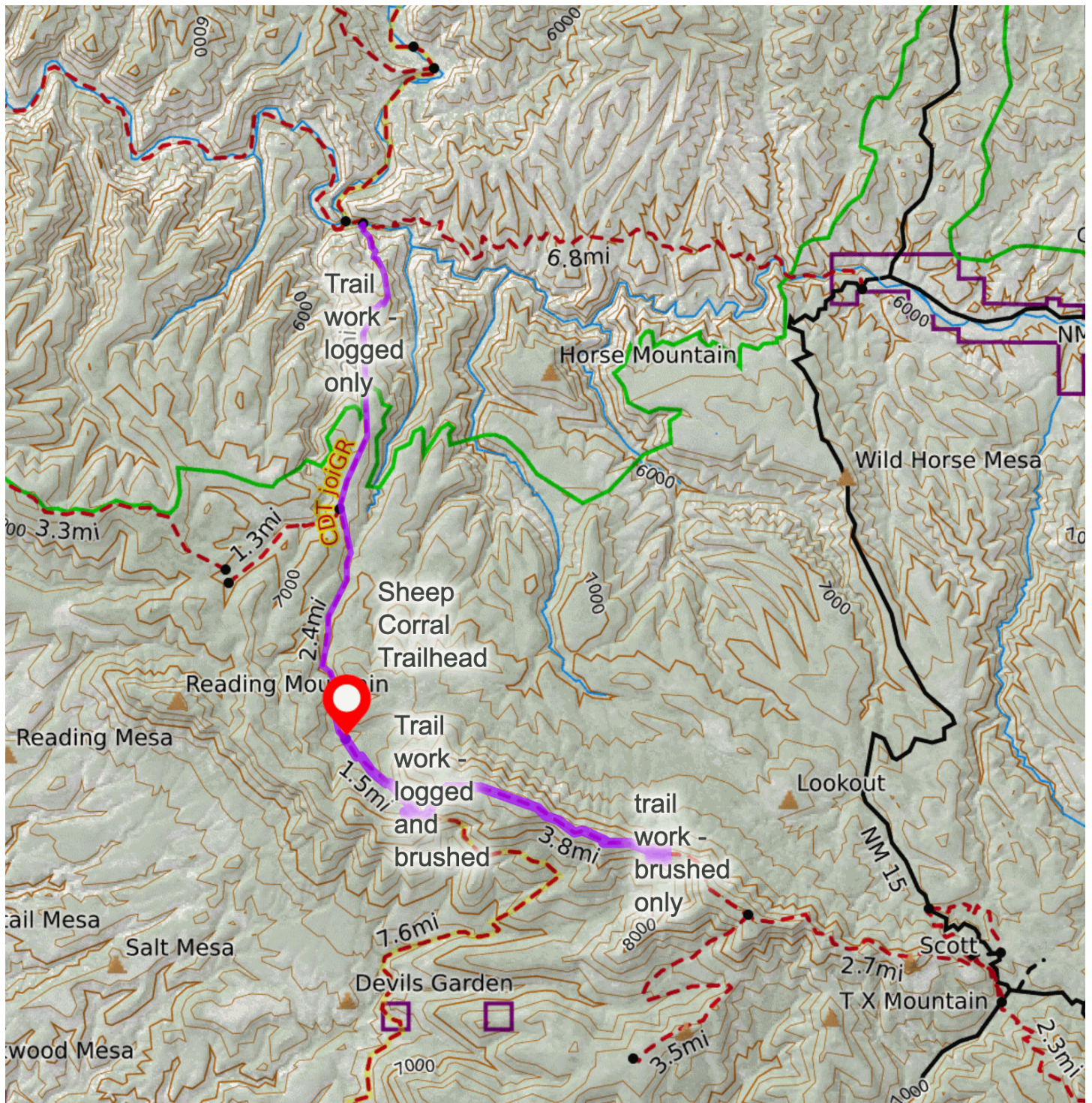
Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 19, 6:00 p.m. Grant County Extension Office



Sawmill Wagon Road Trail #243 & CDT



Tadpole Ridge Trail



Woodhaul Wagon Road Trail

