



TAP: Trails Analysis Process

Finger Lakes National Forest

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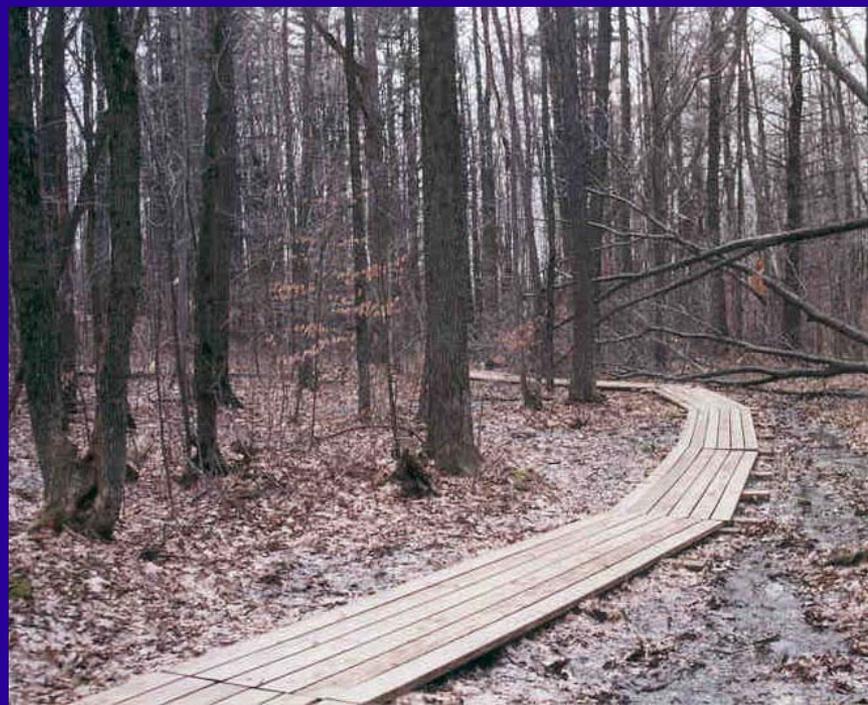
Trails Analysis Process (TAP)

Agenda

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Hector, NY

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 6:30 | Welcome |
| 6:40 – 7:40 | Trails Presentation |
| 7:40 – 8:30 | Open House |
| 8:30 – 9:00 | Closing |



Overview and goals of the meeting

- Forest Plan Revision
- Trails Analysis Process (TAP)
- Public Involvement
- Schedule
- Working Session (Maps)



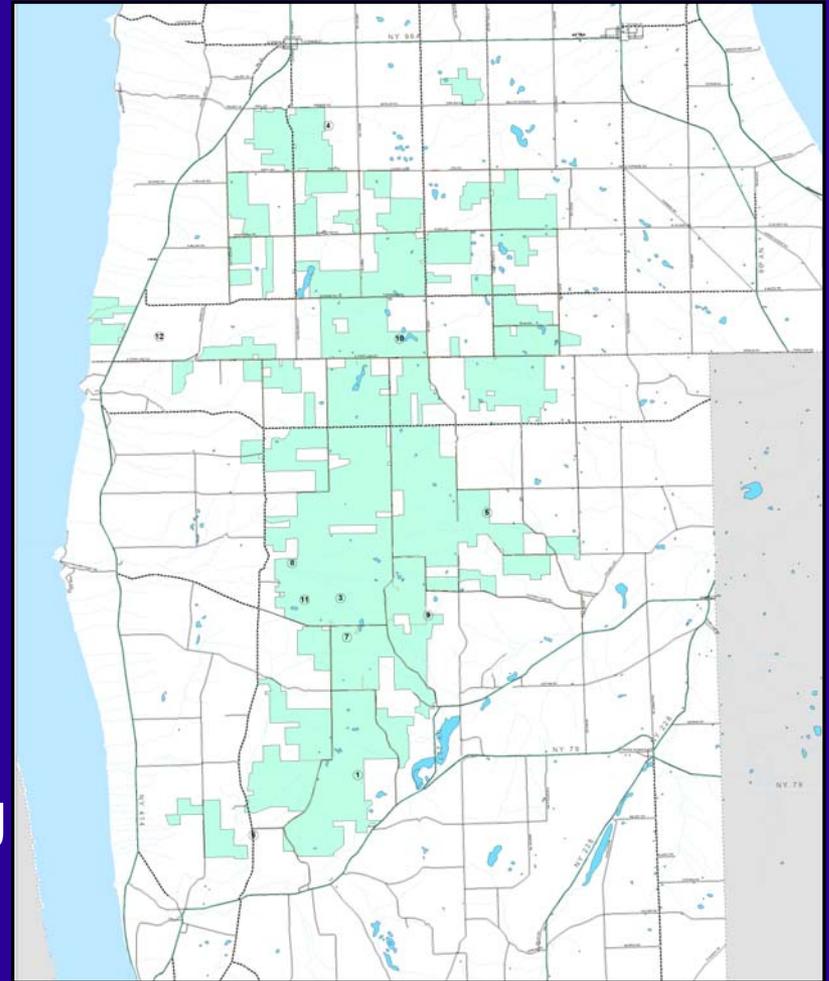
Announcements

- Meeting notes and information from past meetings
- Past issues or other issues
- Public meetings to share information and comments – No Decisions



Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forest

- Established in 1983
- ~16,000 Acres
- Developed Campgrounds
- Blueberry Picking
- Hunting & Fishing
- Wildlife viewing
- Hiking, Skiing, Horseback Riding and Snowmobiling

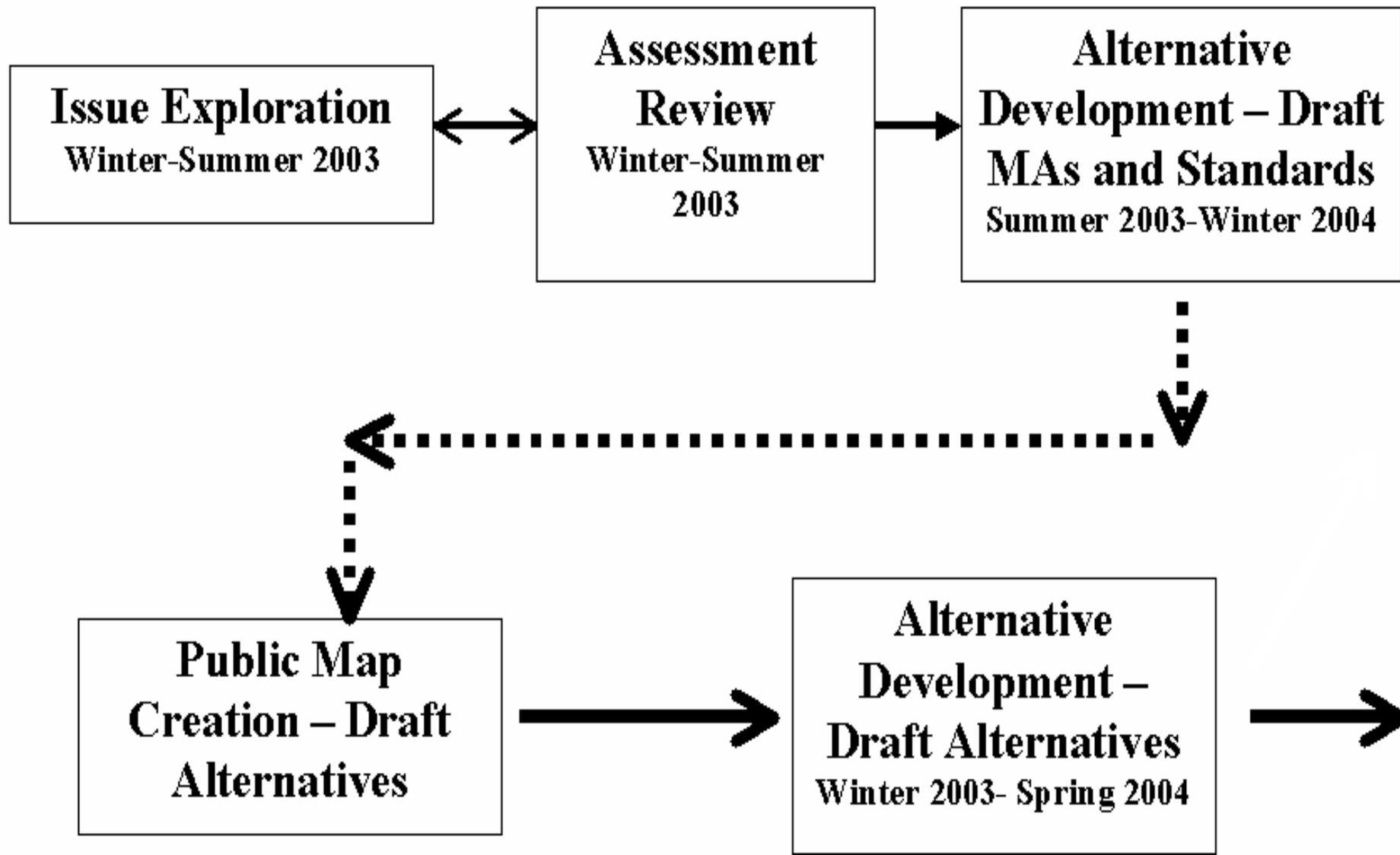


Plan Revision

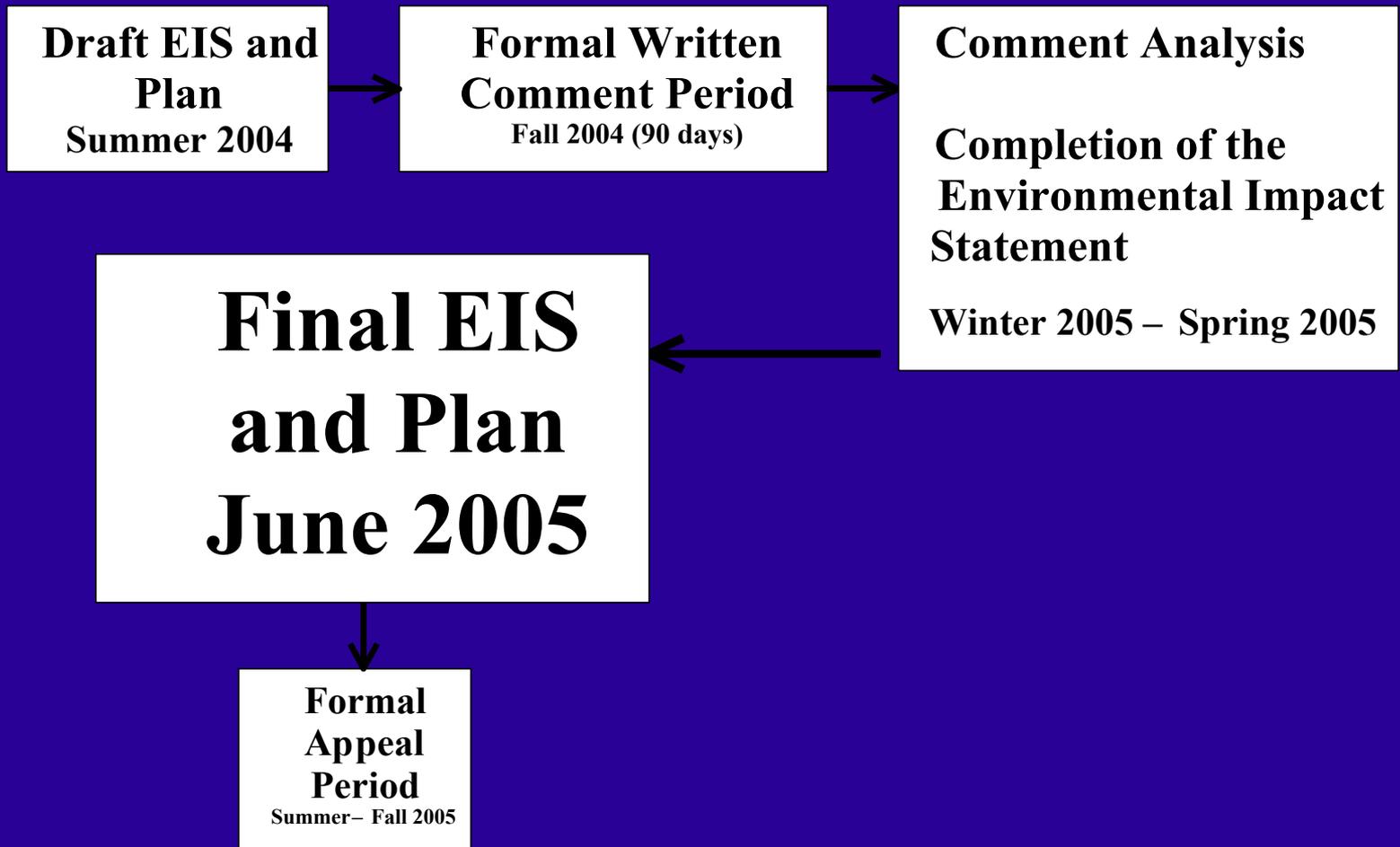
- Why are we revising the plan?
- How can you get involved?
- Where are we in the process?



Public Involvement Timeline Winter 2003 - Spring 2004



Formal Public Involvement Timeline Summer 2004 - June 2005



Trails Analysis Process (TAP)

- Planning to ensure the Trail System is...
 - Safe
 - Responsive to public needs
 - Affordable (economically balanced)
 - Efficiently managed
 - With minimal ecological effect



The Six Step Process

1. Setup the analysis

- Interdisciplinary Team Members
- Developing the Process

2. Describe the situation

- Describe the Trail System (existing and proposed)
- Identifying data needs

3. Identifying issues

- Identify trail-related issues
- Develop screening questions

4. Assessing benefits problems and risks

- Apply screening questions to all trails
- Identify values and sensitivities of un-trailed areas

5. Describing opportunities and setting priorities

- Make recommendations on findings

6. Reporting



The Interdisciplinary Team

- Law Enforcement Officer
- Lands Specialist
- Silviculturist
- Ecologist\Botanist
- Civil Engineer
- Forest Planner
- Fire Specialist
- Public Affairs Officer
- District Ranger
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist
- Recreation Planner
- Soil Scientist
- Hydrologist
- Wildlife Biologist
- Archaeologist
- Fisheries Biologist

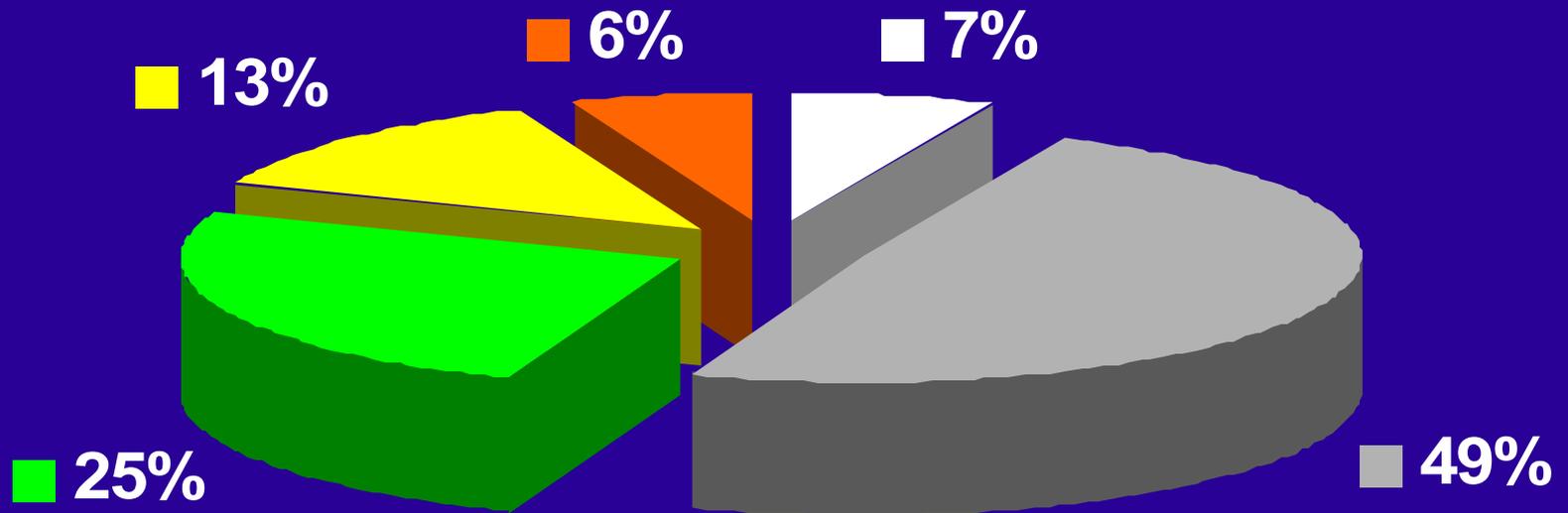


Describing the Existing Trail System

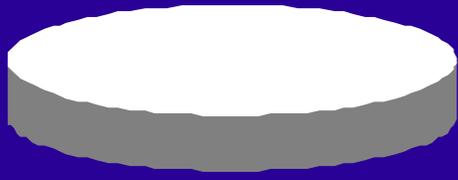
- About 38 Miles of trail
 - ◆ 56% hiking and skiing (about 20 miles)
 - ◆ 44% Multiple-use for horse, snowmobile, hike, ski, some mountain bike (about 15 miles)
 - ◆ About 7 miles of multiple use include mountain bikes



Trail Use



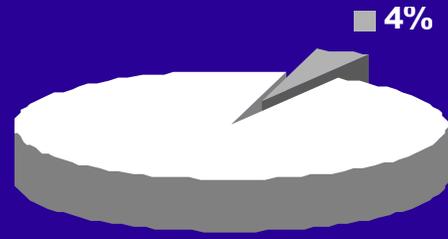
- Hiking (2.5 Miles)
- Hiking and Skiing (18.8 Miles)
- Hiking, Skiing, Snowmobiling and Horses (9.7 Miles)
- Hiking, Skiing, Snowmobiling, Horses and Mountain Bikes (5.1 Miles)
- Hiking, Skiing, Horses and Mountain Bikes (2.2 Miles)



■ 100%

Hiking

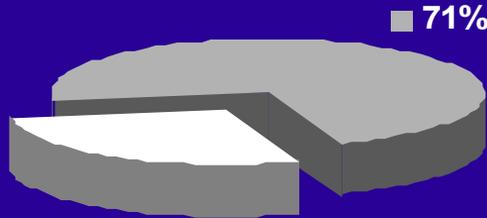
(38.3 Miles)



■ 96%

Skiing

(36.8 Miles)

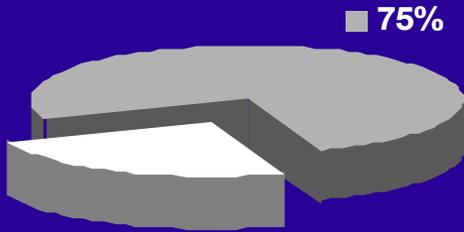


■ 29%

■ 71%

Horses

(11.1 Miles)

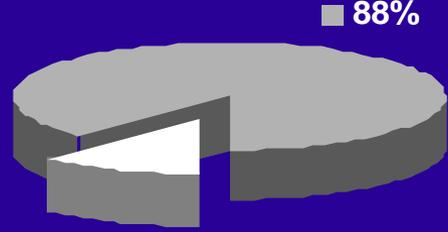


■ 25%

■ 75%

Snowmobiling

(9.6 Miles)



■ 12%

■ 88%

**Mountain
Bikes**

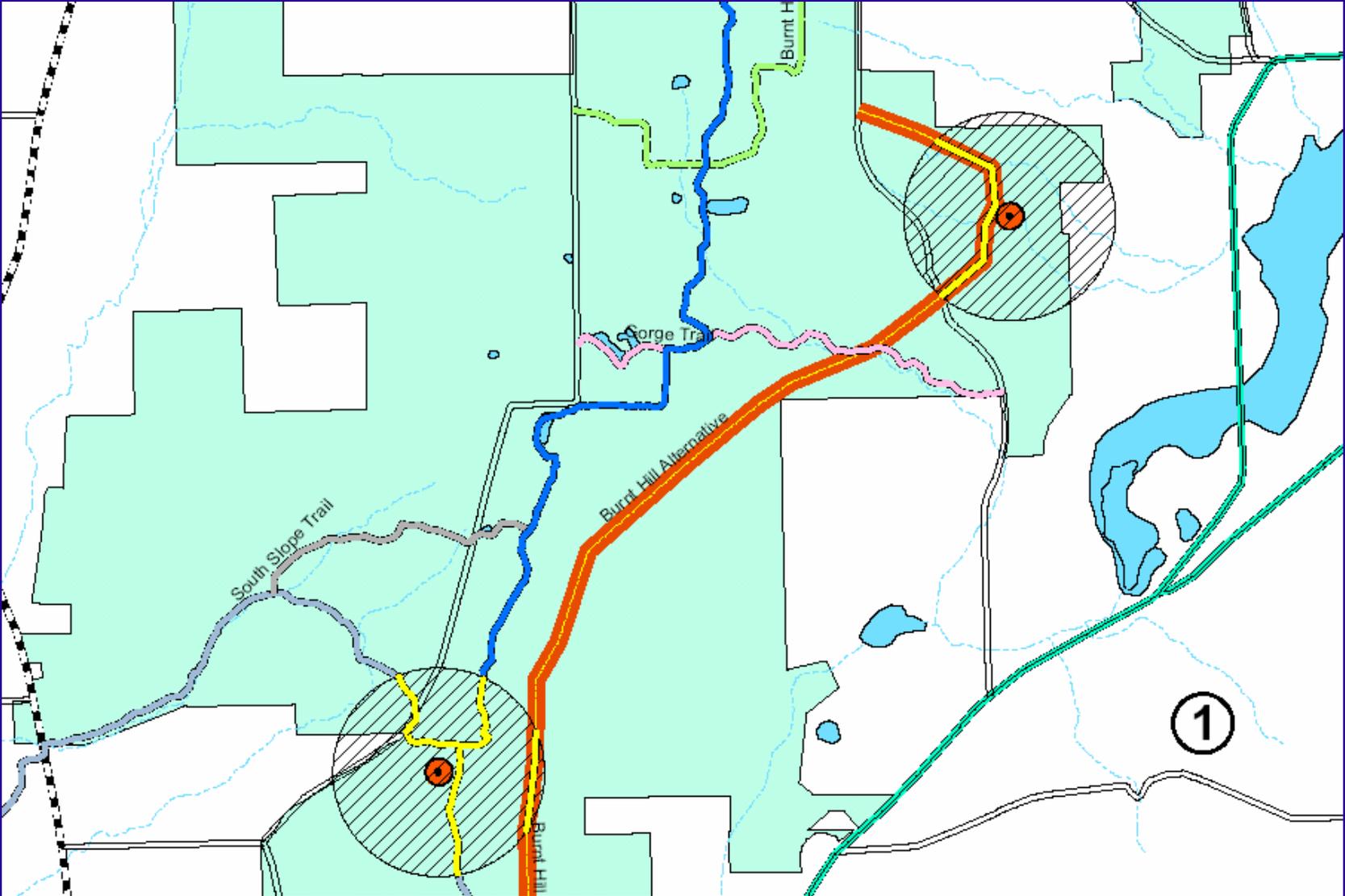
(4.6 Miles)

What are the Issues?

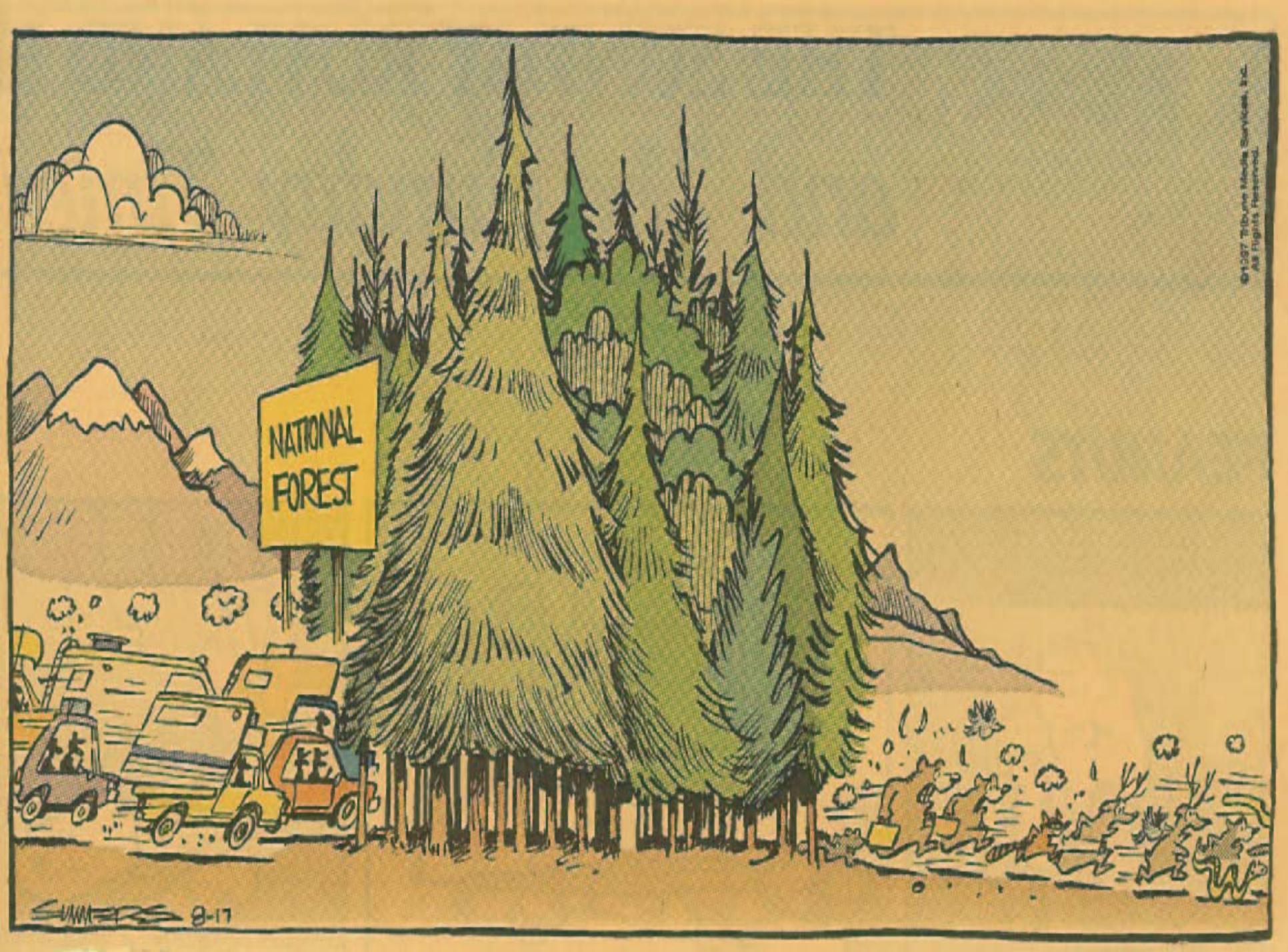
- Erosion
- Stream Crossings
- Water Quality
- Wetlands
- Non-native Species
- The Goshawk
- Special Areas
- Research Natural Areas
- Historic Sites
- Private Property
- District Priorities
- Local Priorities
- Loops
- Solitude
- Safety
- Pastures
- Parking



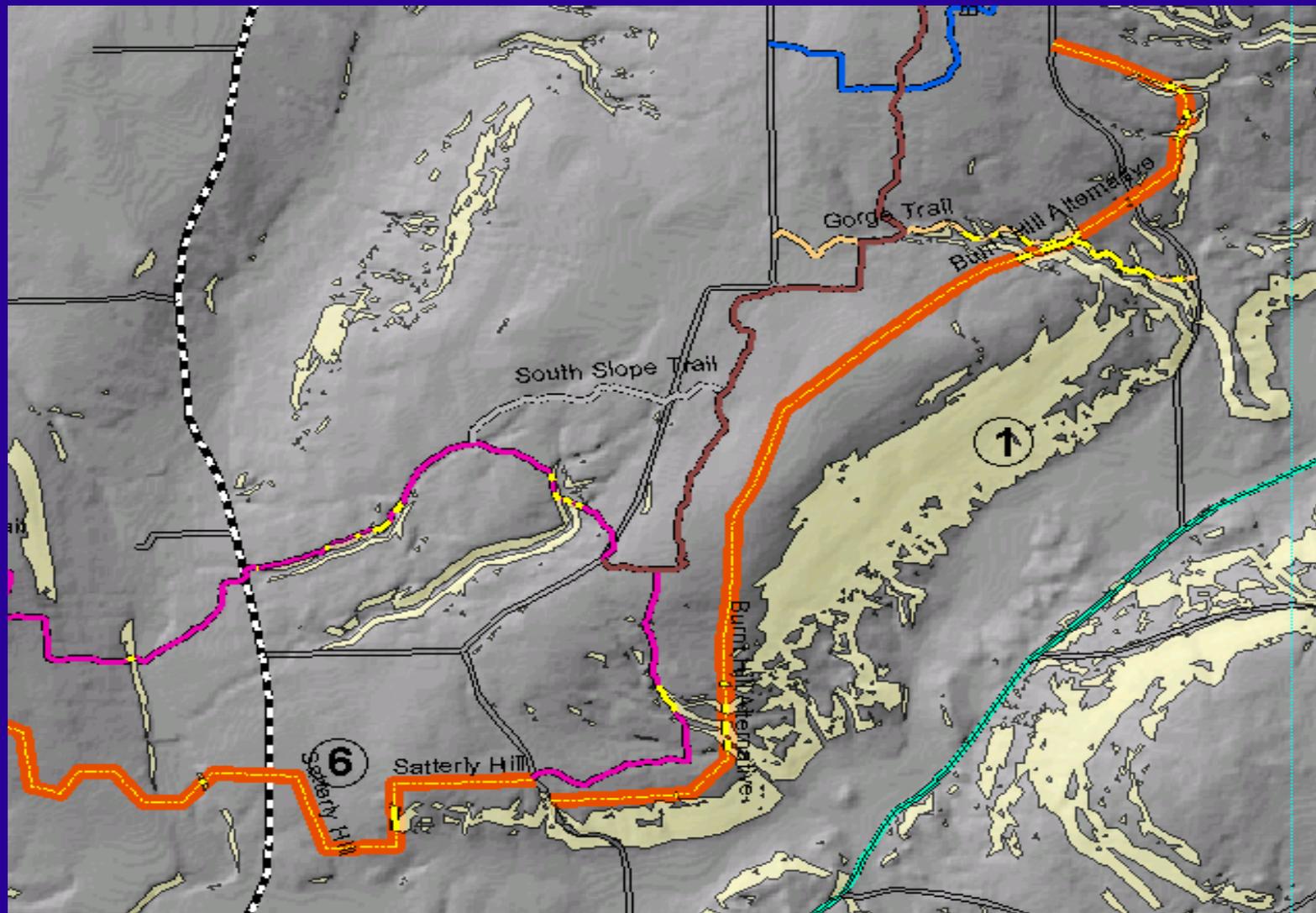
Goshawk Nesting Sites



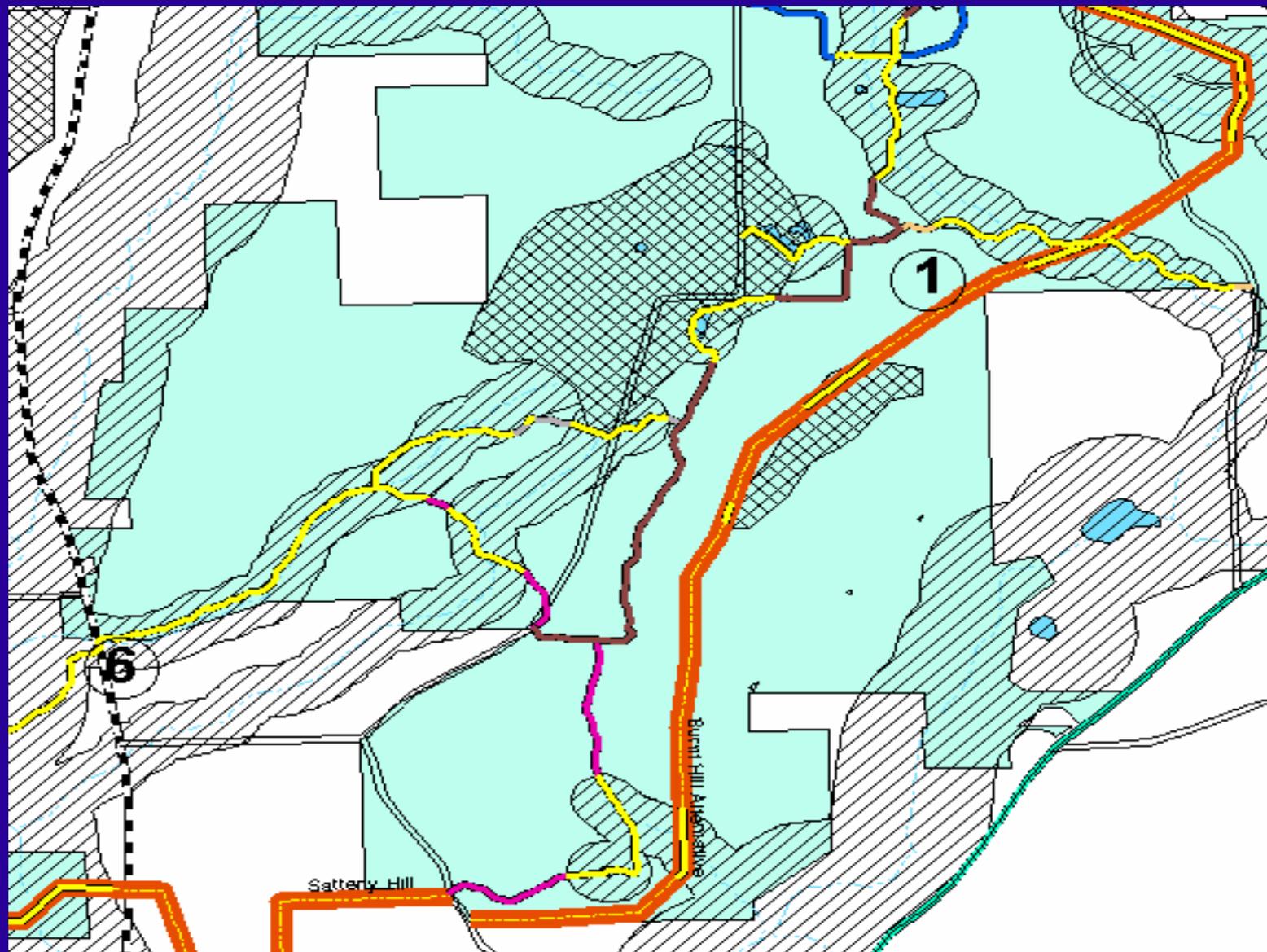




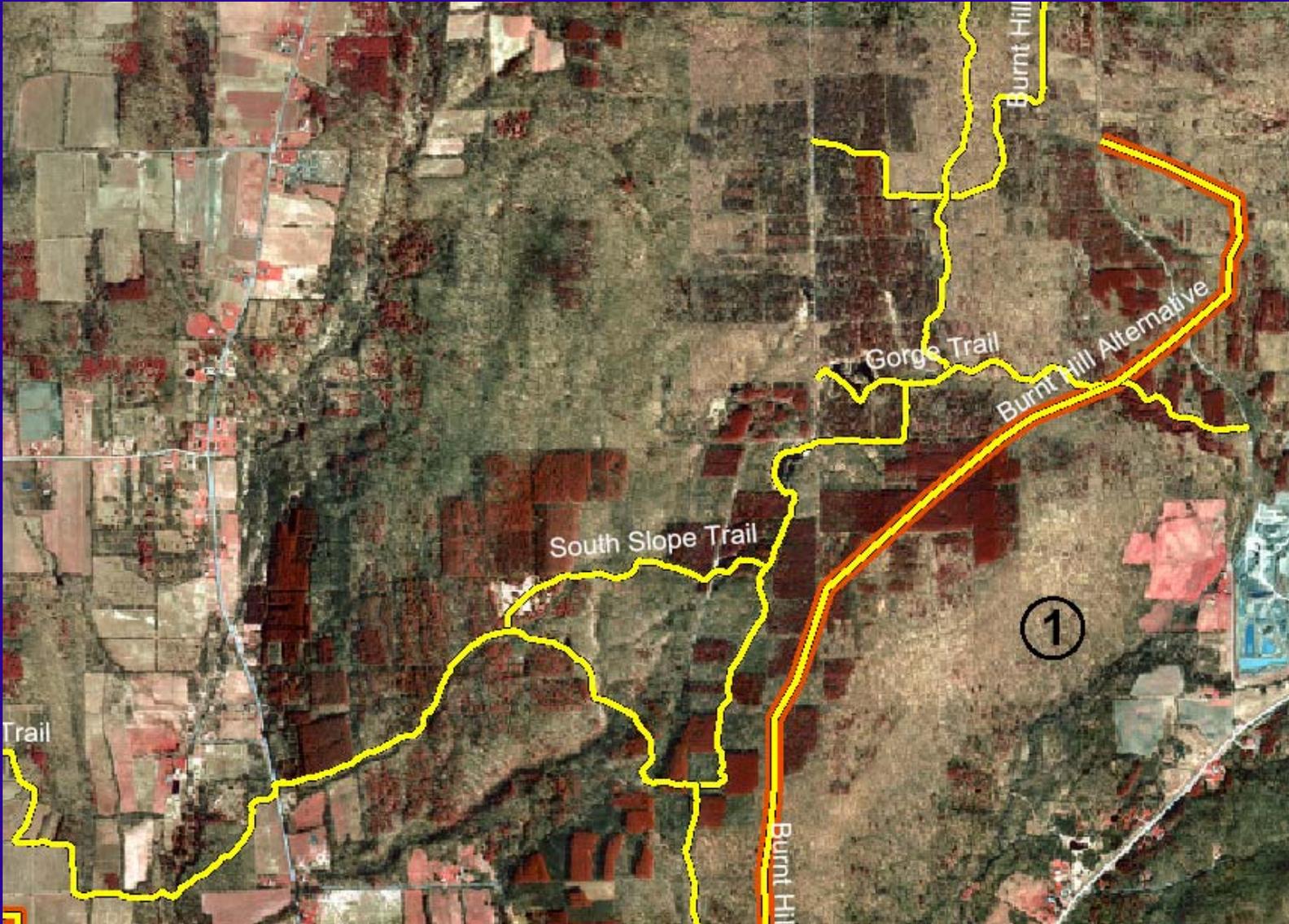
Slope Grades Higher than 25%



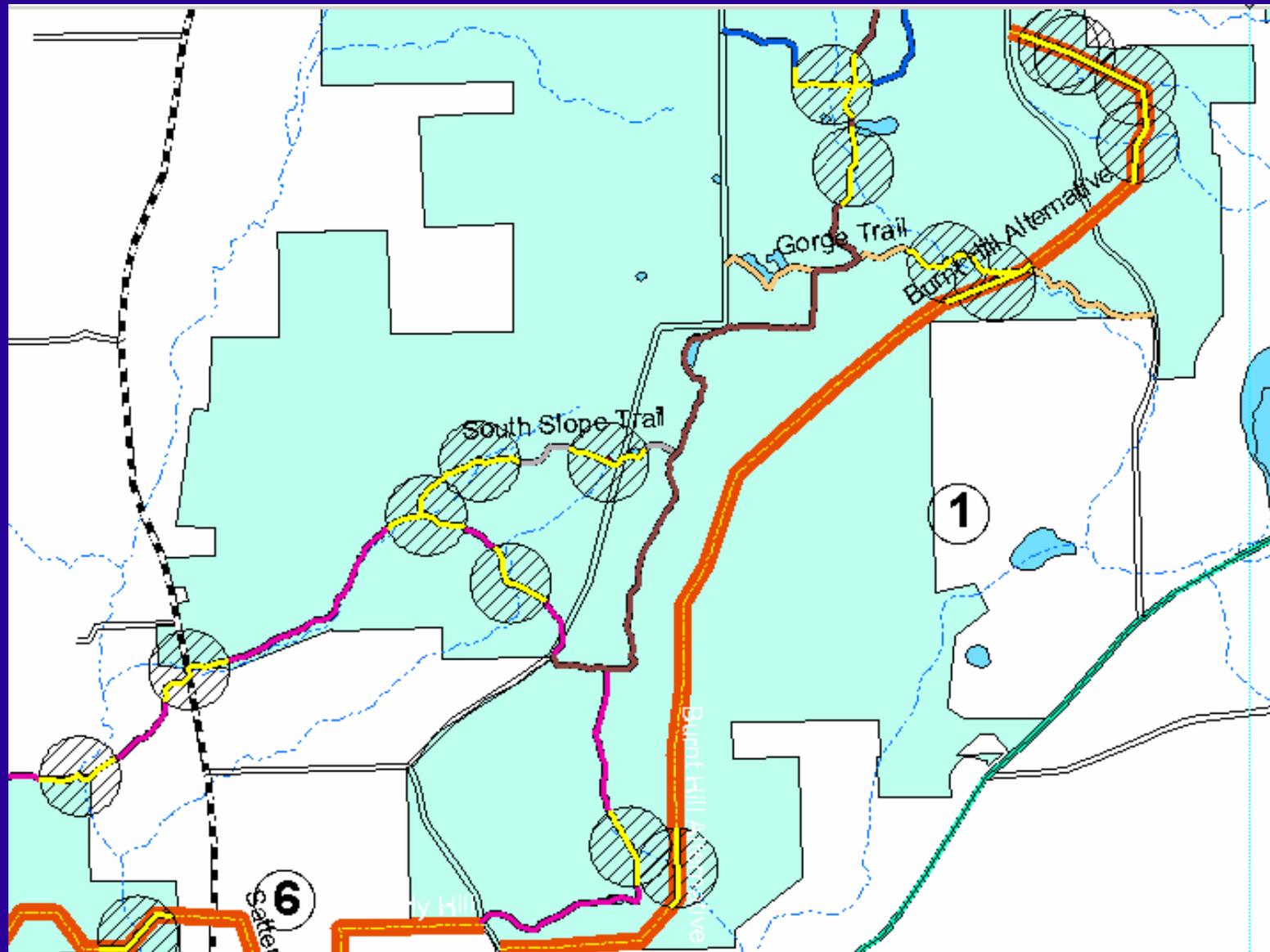
Trails Near Historic Areas



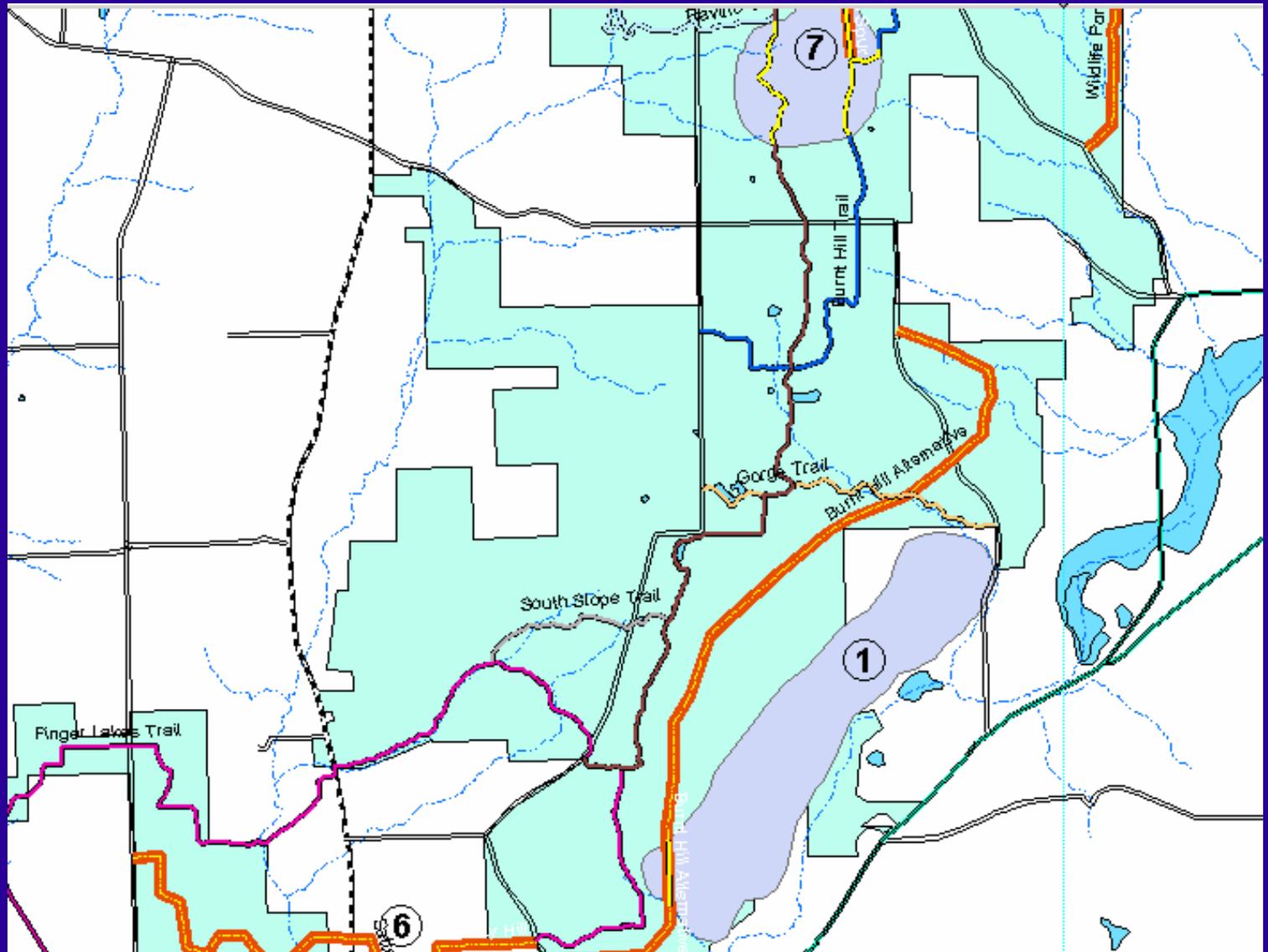
Ortho Photo



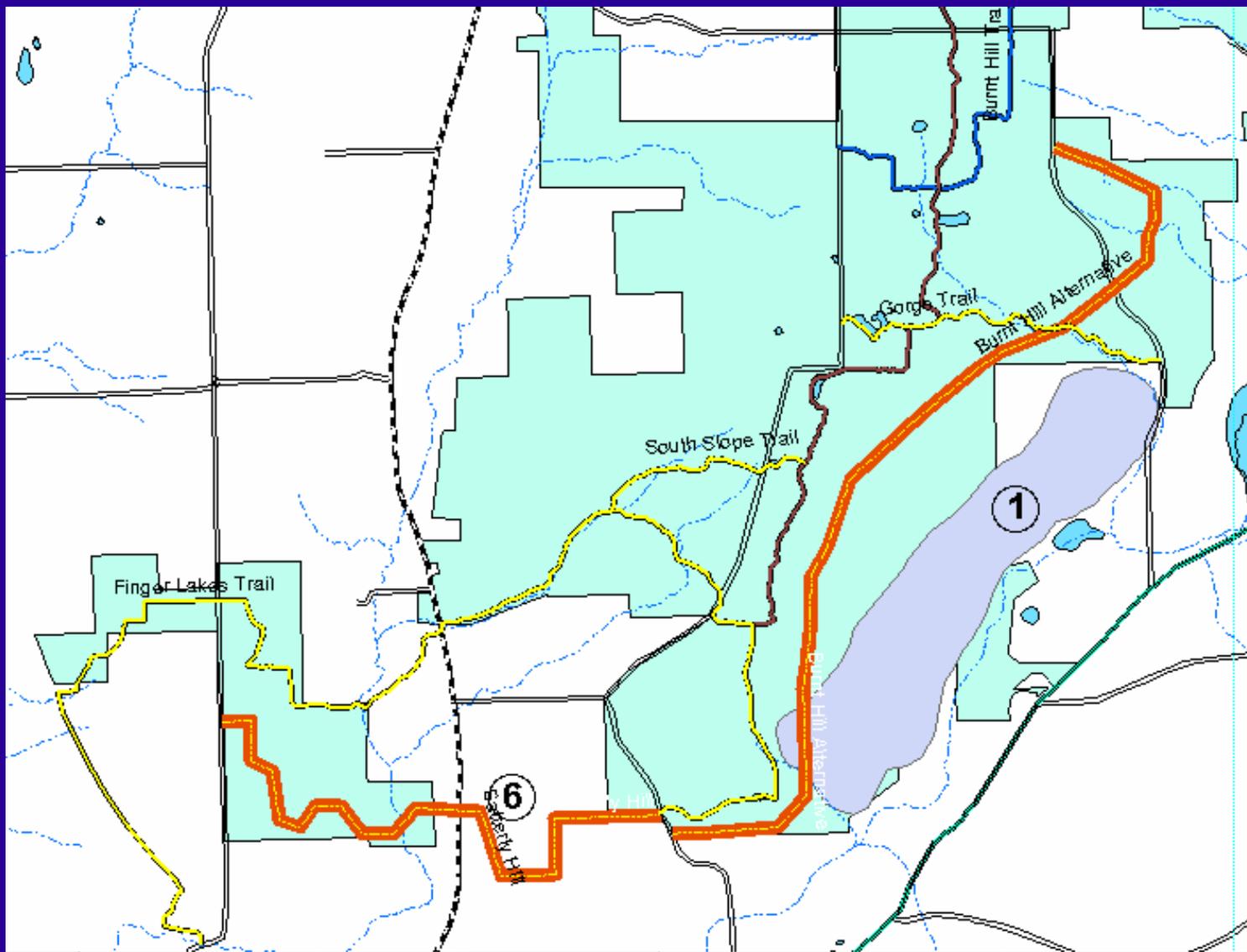
Trails Crossing Streams



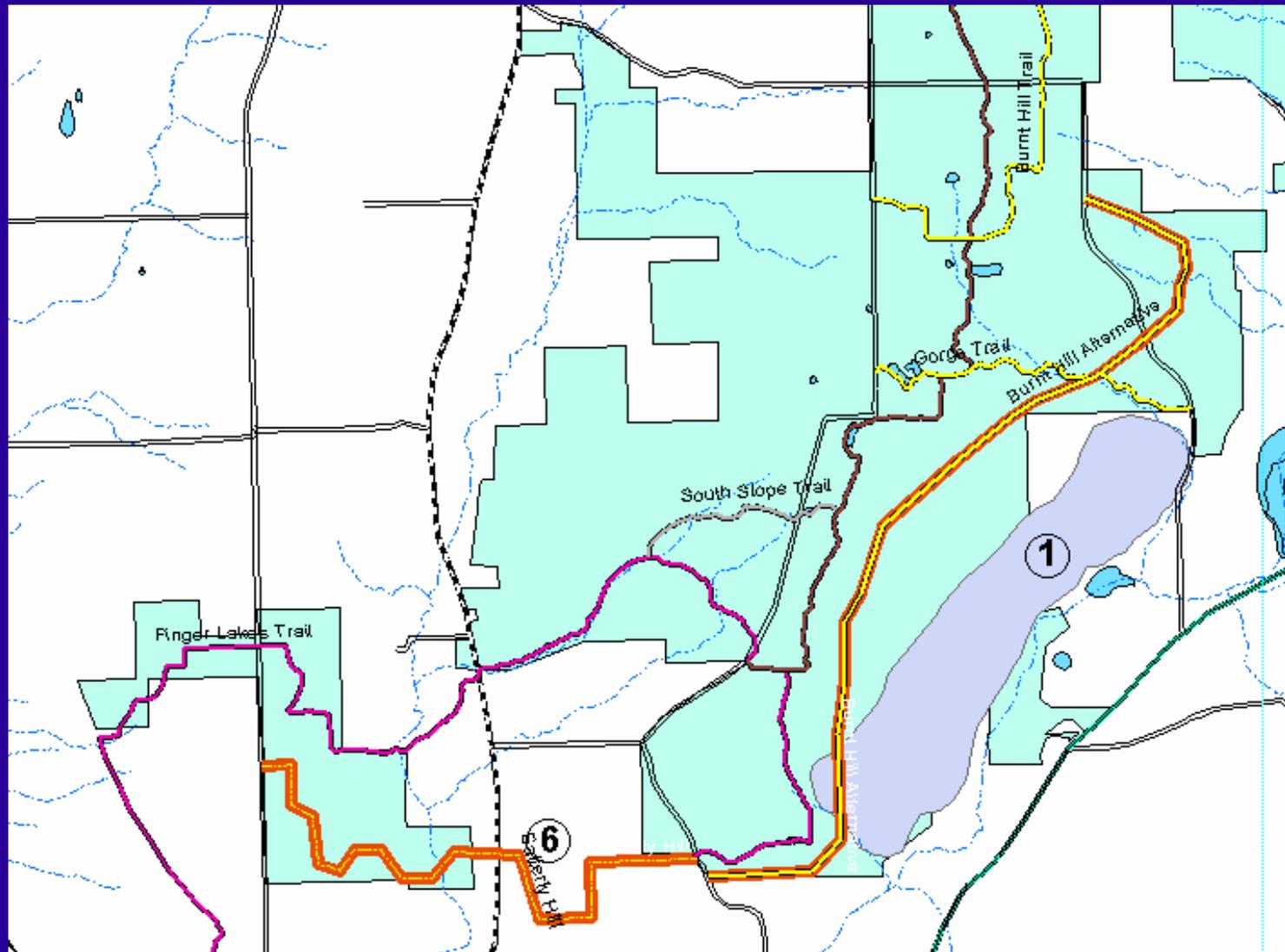
Trails and Special Areas



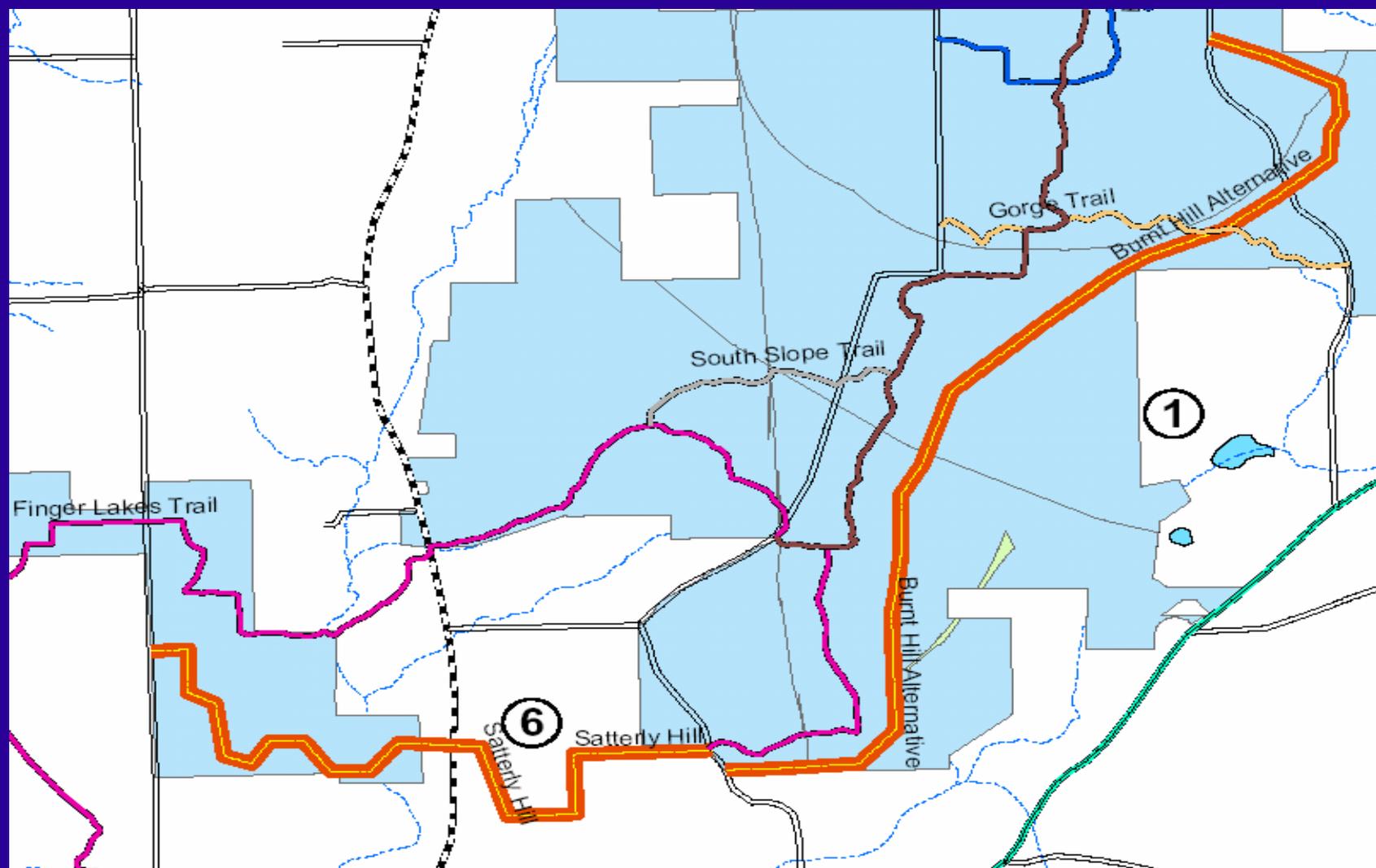
User Group Supported Trails



Trails with User Conflicts

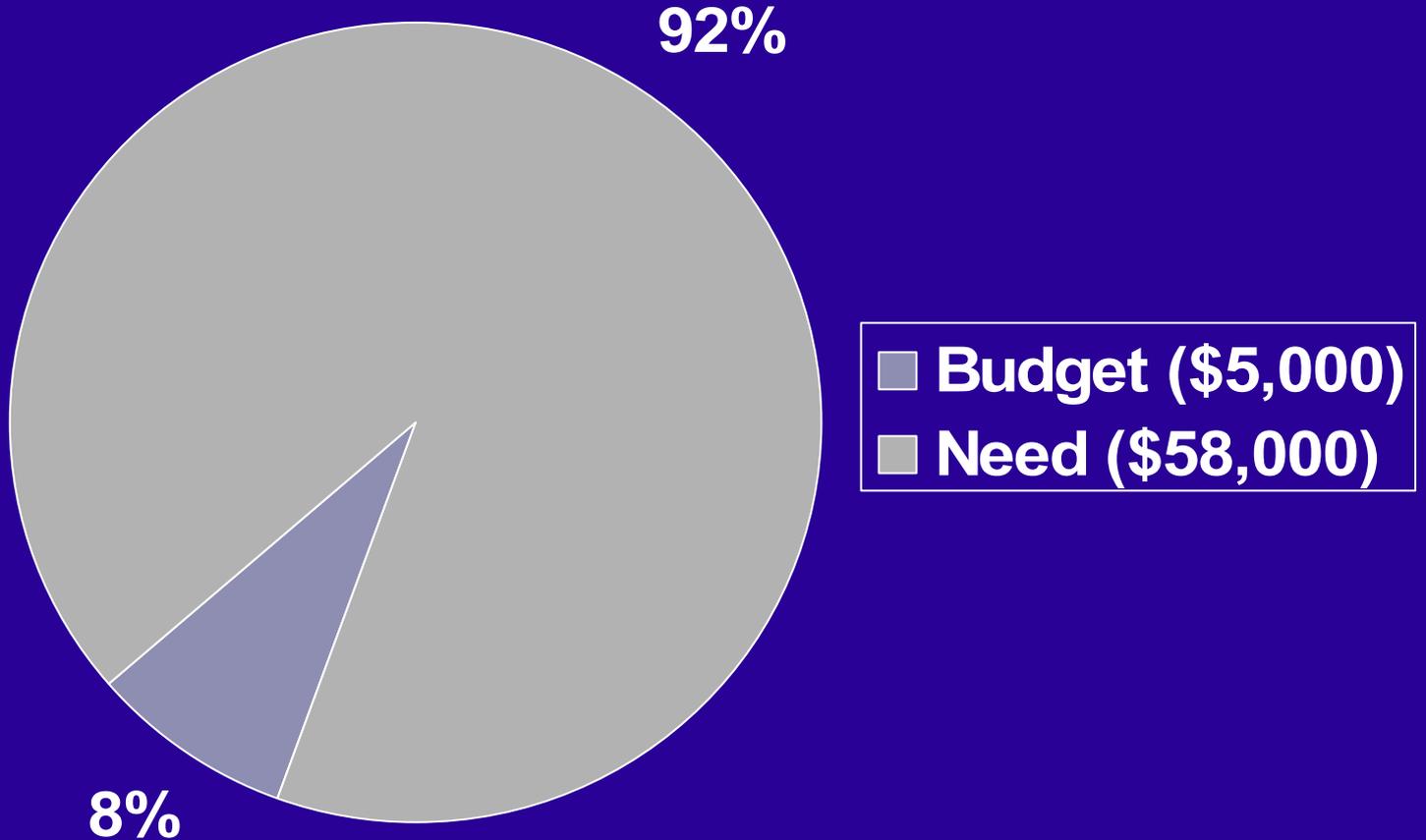


Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

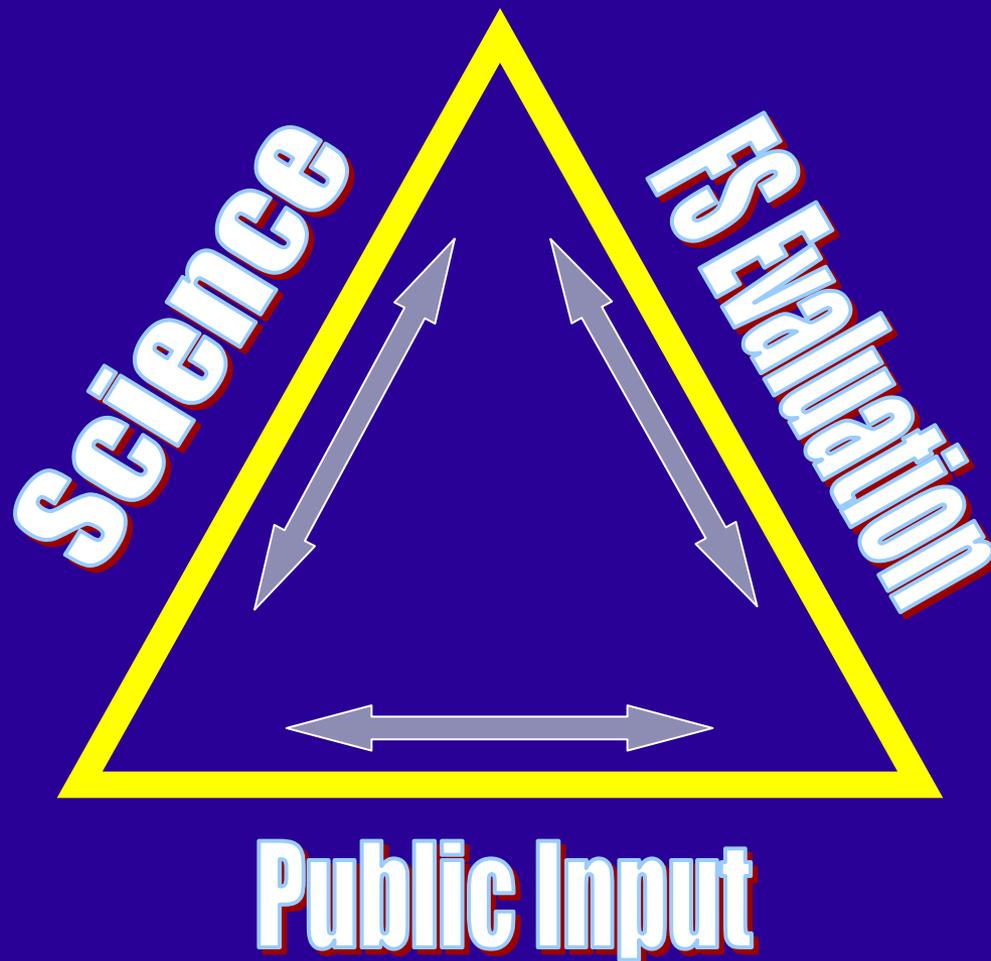


Budget

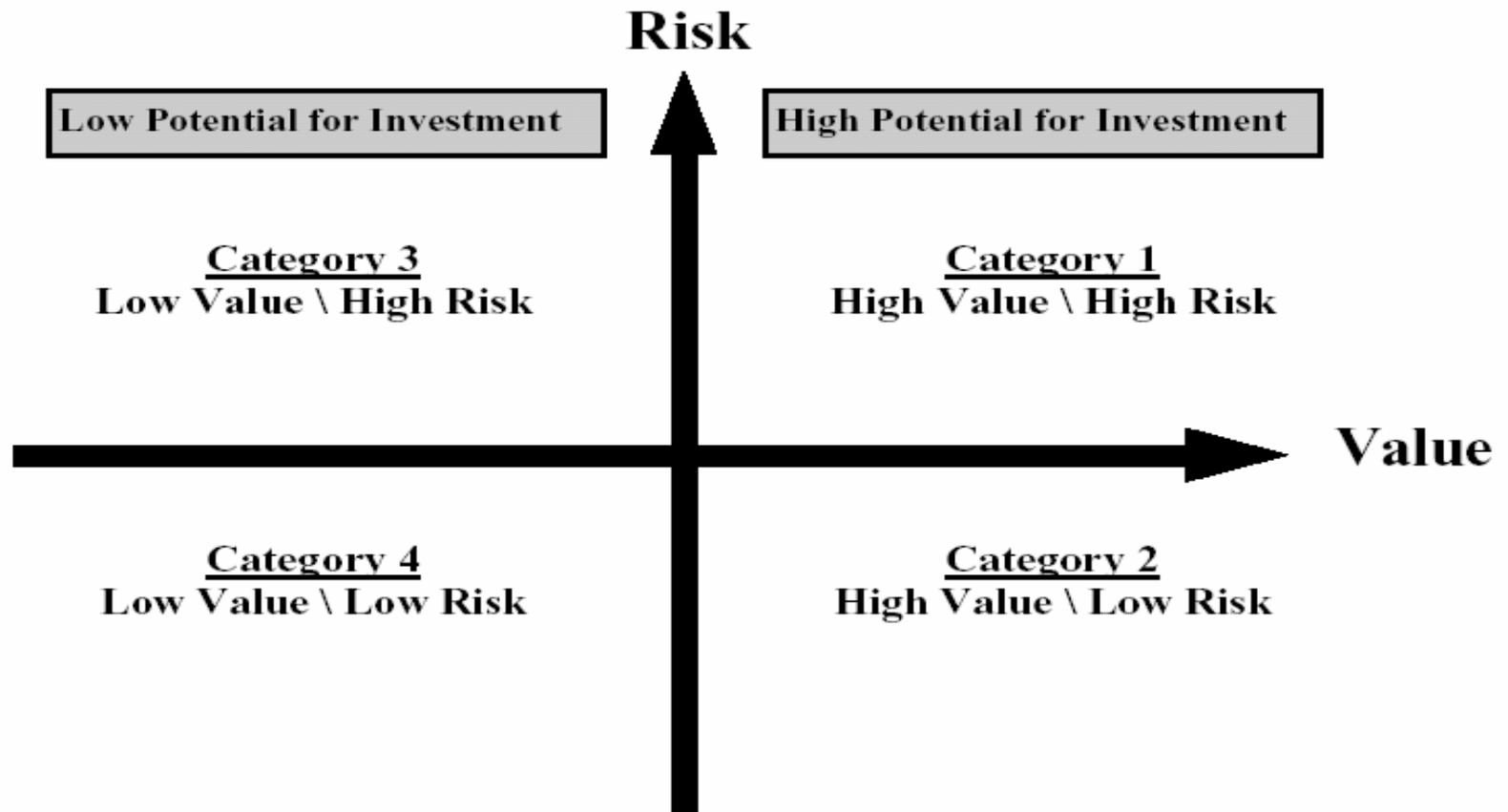
Finger Lakes Budget



The Decision Process



Risk and Value



What We Found

1. The existing trail network has many areas with high Risk
 - No trail closures at this time.
 - This list will help direct our improvement program
 - Detailed analysis is still needed
2. Of the new proposed trails, three rose to top.
 - Burnt Hill Alternative trail
 - Horse Camp Connector trail
 - Pearsall loop trail
3. We are currently under-funded by approximately \$52,000 annually for maintenance and operations
 - New projects will require partners
 - Existing trails also need partners
 - Multiple use becomes even more important



What We Found

4. Mountain Bikes allowed on all Multiple Use trail
 - ❑ Compatible with other uses with educational signage

5. ATV's – Maintain the present management condition
 - ❑ 40 miles needed for a viable system
 - ❑ The small narrow shape of the forest doesn't allow separate for use
 - ❑ Safety concerns with incompatible use
 - ❑ Not allowed on the roads so shared use or crossing is an issue

6. Potential for improved systems
 - ❑ Linking trails like Sassafras and Terry Berry improve value
 - ❑ Relocating trails to minimize impacts and improve value
 - ❑ We need our partners!



What's next?

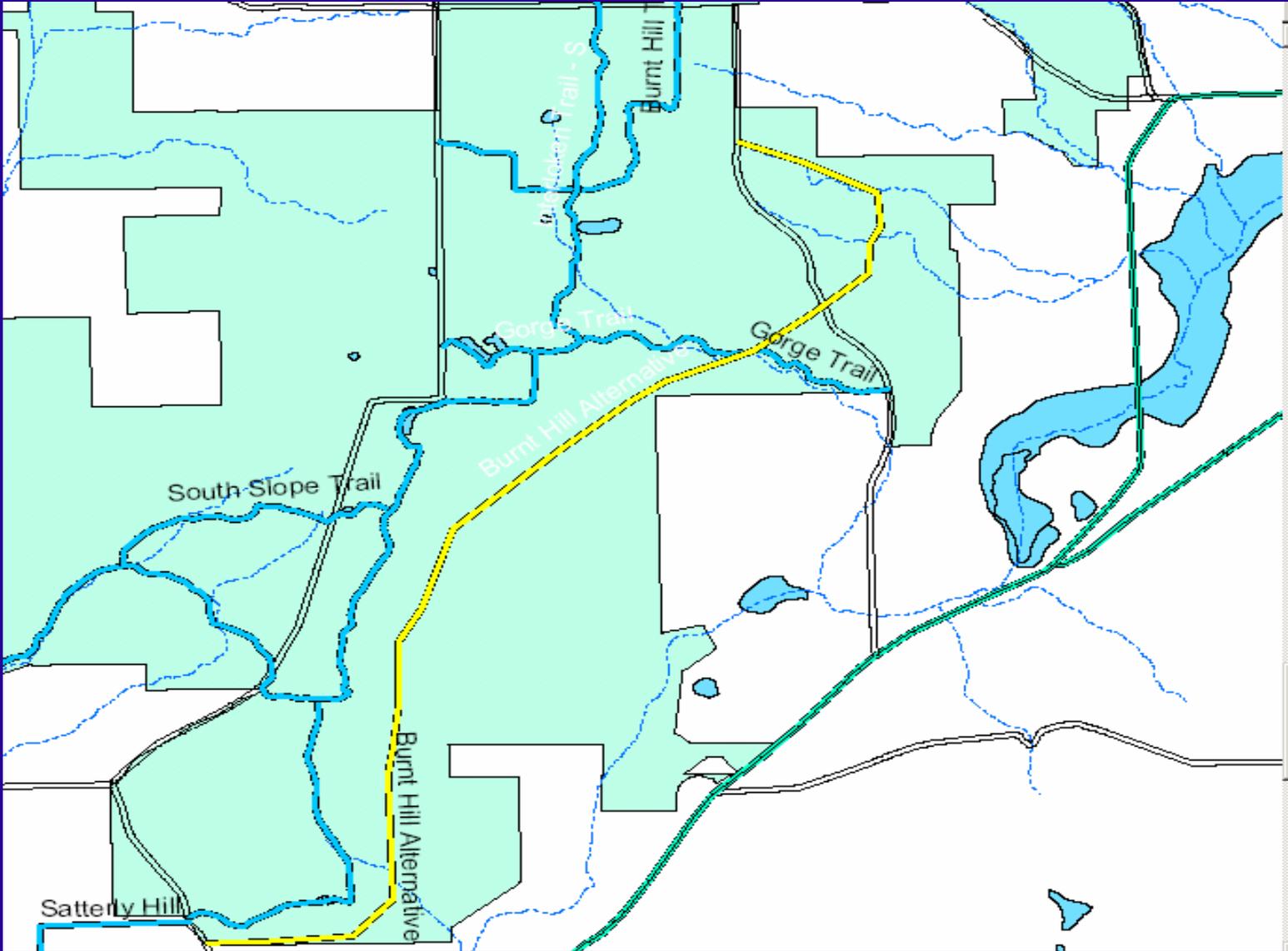
- Existing trails - FS staff will review the findings and prioritize any mitigation efforts
- Plan revision – Finish Draft and Final Plan
- Implement revised Plan -
 - ◆ New trails - Phase II Planning
 - Form partners
 - Evaluate resources
 - Redesign and improve each proposal
 - Creatively seek a solution
 - Seek funding (FS, Grants, Partnerships, etc)



Questions?



Burnt Hill Alternative

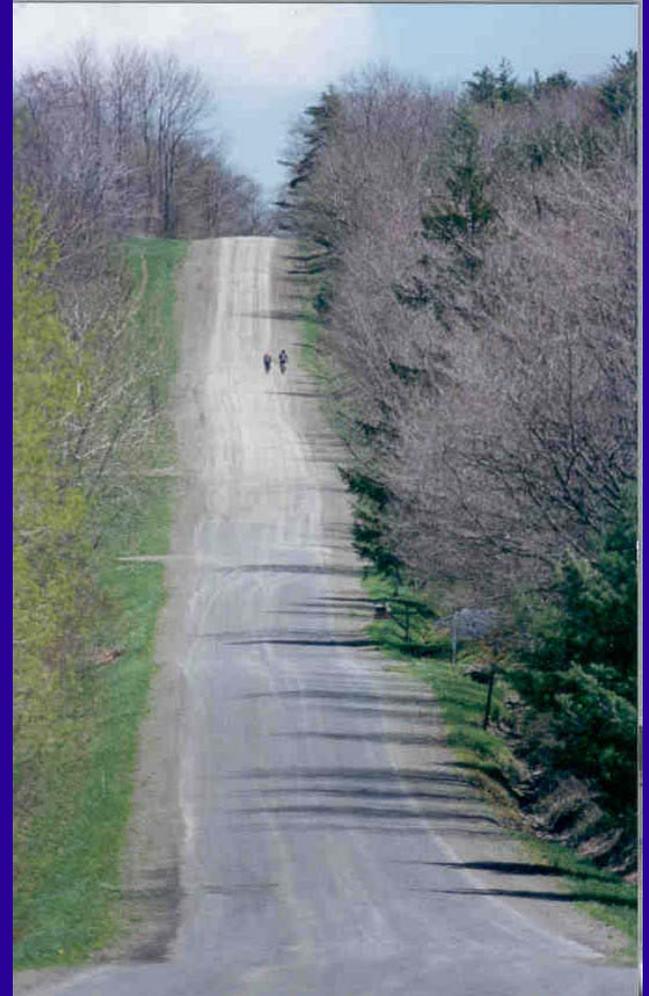


Horse Camp Connector



Categories

- Category 1 – High Value, High Risk
 - ◆ Finger Lakes Trail
 - ◆ Ravine Trail
 - ◆ Burnt Hill Trail
 - ◆ South Slope Trail
 - ◆ Gorge Trail
 - ◆ Interloken Trail- N
 - ◆ Interloken Trail - S
 - ◆ No-Tan-Takto
 - ◆ Backbone Trail
 - ◆ Backbone Trail
 - ◆ Burnt Hill Alternative
 - ◆ Pearsall Loop



Categories

- Category 2 – High Value, Low Risk
 - ◆ The Horse Trail
 - ◆ Potomac
 - ◆ Horse Camp Connector



Categories

- Category 3 – Low Value, High Risk
 - ◆ East Side
 - ◆ Vesa Road
 - ◆ Caywood Point
 - ◆ Satterly Hill
 - ◆ Wildlife Pond



Categories

- Category 4 – Low Value, Low Risk
 - ◆ Backbone Trail
 - ◆ Terry Berry Road
 - ◆ Burnt Hill Spur
 - ◆ Sassafras Pond

