Rock Bottom Ranch Eco-Trail Connections

The RFTA Board of Directors Meeting
September 10, 2015

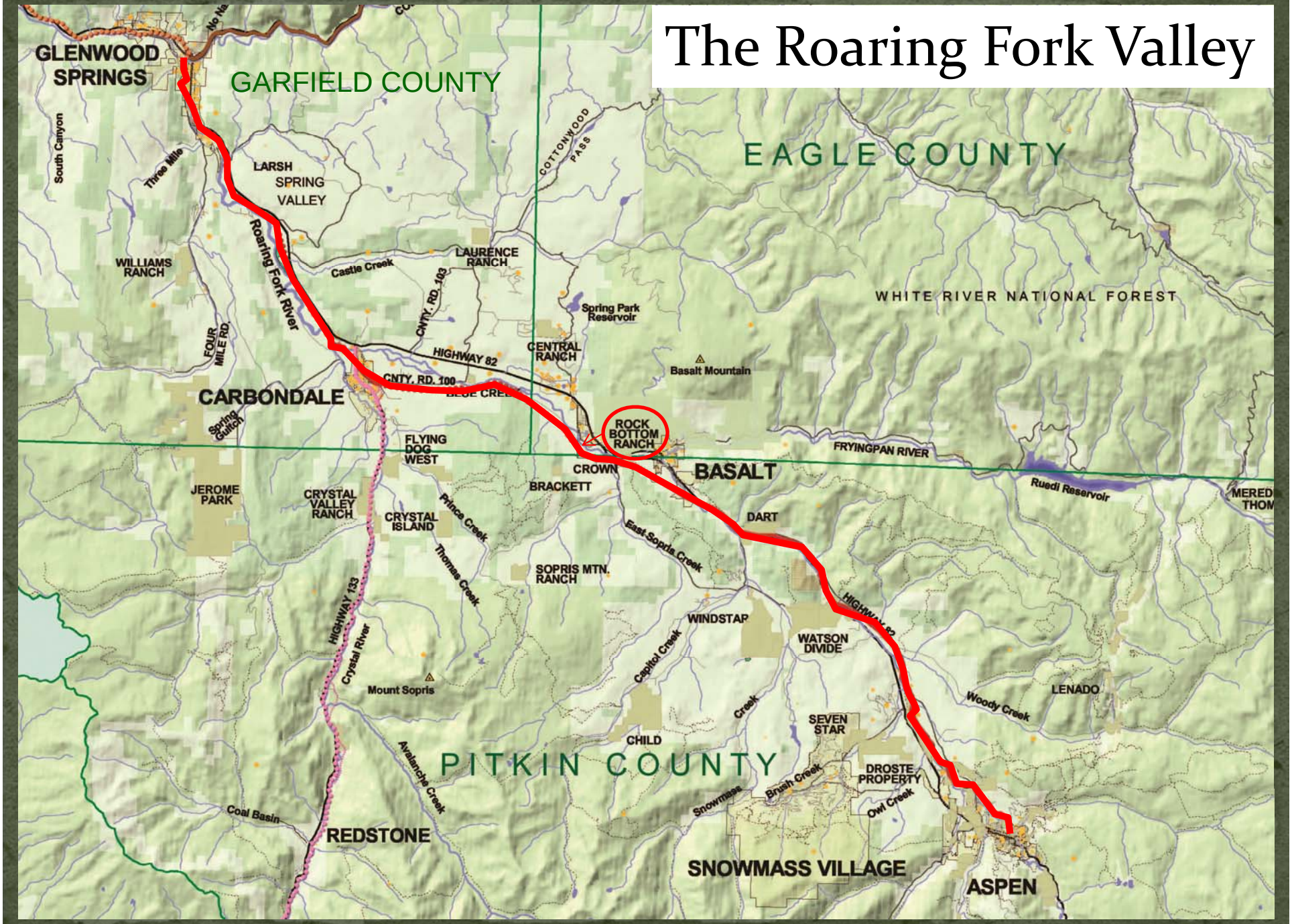
Aspen Center for Environmental Sciences

Rock Bottom Ranch Eco-Trail Connections

Today's Presentation

- Brief Project Introduction
- Response to Concerns Raised at 8/13/15 Mtg.
  - Safety of Intersections
    - Sight Distance at Intersections
    - Proposed Intersection Design to enhance safety
  - Conformance with Access Control Plan & Other RFTA Policy Documents
  - Need for Two "portals"
- Request to construct and maintain two intersections with the Rio Grande Trail for the Rock Bottom Ranch Eco-Trail System.

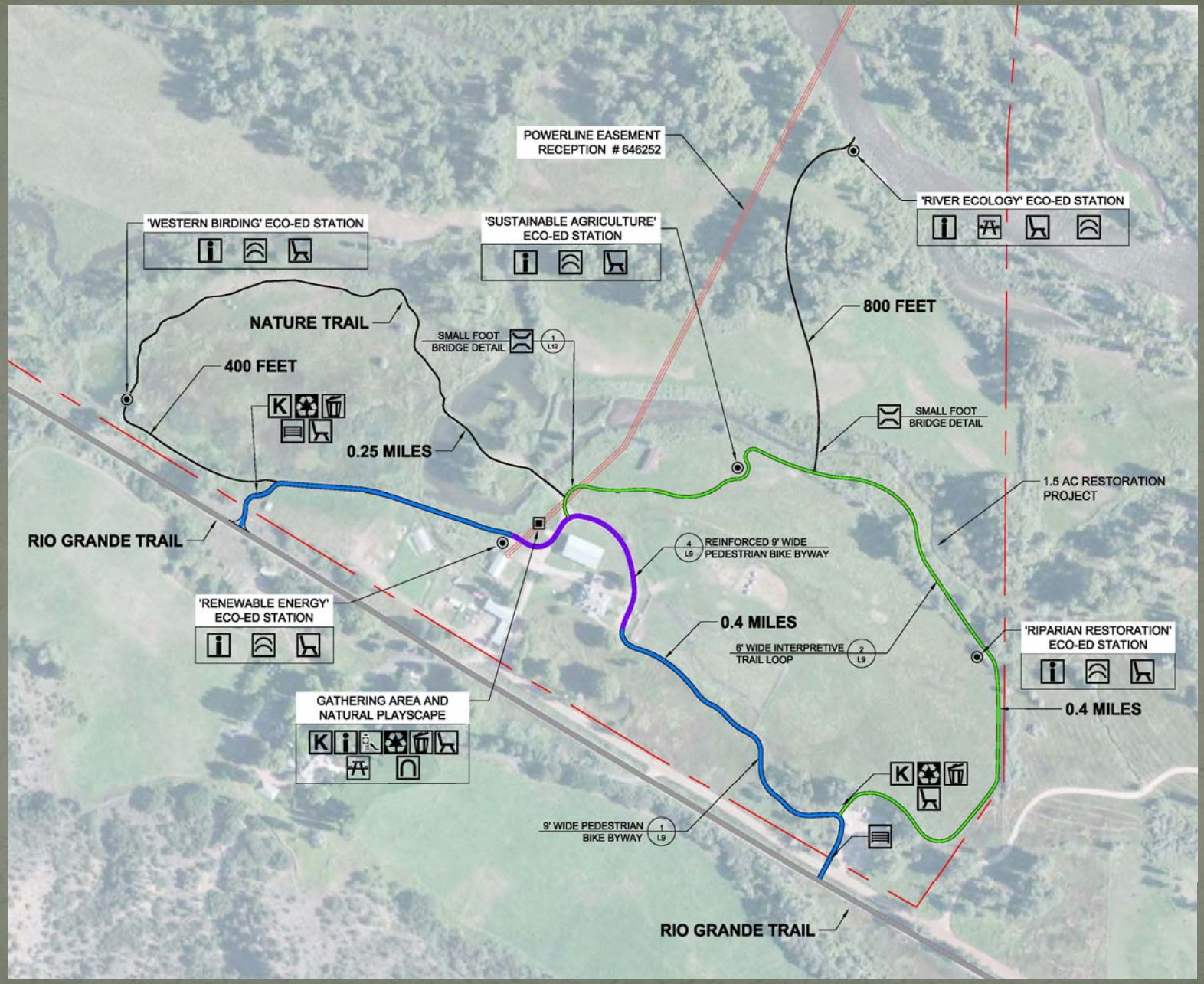
The Roaring Fork Valley

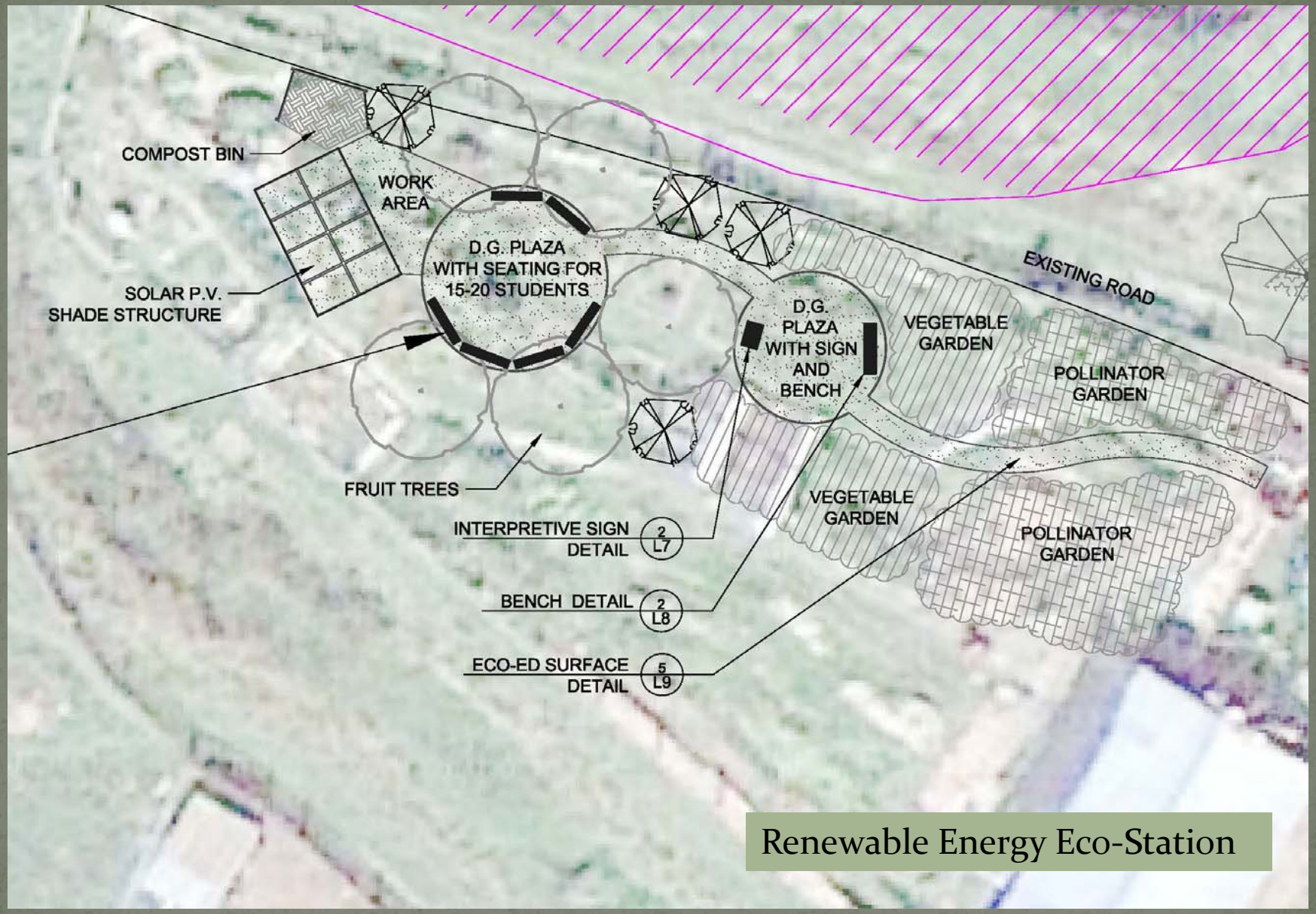


Rock Bottom Ranch Eco-Trail Connections

Eco-Trail System Project Purpose

- "Eco-Ed" trail that will feature educational stations, a natural playscape and gathering area.
- Permits RBR to expand its curriculum and allow more users to visit the ranch.
- The ranch's location adjacent to the Rio Grande Trail will allow many recreational users to utilize the ranch car-free.


POWERLINE EASEMENT
RECEPTION # 646252
'RIVER ECOLOGY' ECO-ED STATION
'WESTERN BIRDING' ECO-ED STATION
'SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE'
ECO-ED STATION
800 FEET
NATURE TRAIL
SMALL FOOT
BRIDGE DETAIL
1
L12
400 FEET
SMALL FOOT
BRIDGE DETAIL
0.25 MILES
1.5 AC RESTORATION
PROJECT
RIO GRANDE TRAIL
4
L9
REINFORCED 9' WIDE
PEDESTRIAN BIKE BYWAY
'RENEWABLE ENERGY'
ECO-ED STATION
0.4 MILES
6' WIDE INTERPRETIVE
TRAIL LOOP
2
L9
'RIPARIAN RESTORATION'
ECO-ED STATION
GATHERING AREA AND
NATURAL PLAYSCAPE
0.4 MILES
9' WIDE PEDESTRIAN
BIKE BYWAY
1
L9
RIO GRANDE TRAIL



Renewable Energy Eco-Station

Rock Bottom Ranch Eco-Trail Connections

Concerns Raised at the last RFTA Meeting

- Conformance with RFTA Access Control Plan and other Corridor Plans
  - Access Control Plan specific to corridor crossings, defines trail intersections as encroachments
    - Meant as a tool to manage crossings (typically roads and driveways) and encraohments
    - ACES trail intersections compliant with status as a railbanked corridor and Notice of Interim Trail Use

Rock Bottom Ranch Eco-Trail Connections

Conformance with RFTA Plans (cont.)

- Comprehensive Plan for the Corridor allows for and encourages trail connections like those proposed by ACES
  - Trails are exempt from Conservation Area restrictions
  - Linkages with existing and proposed trails is encouraged in Comp Plan

Rock Bottom Ranch Eco-Trail Connections

Concerns Raised at the last RFTA Meeting

- Need for Two Connections (Portals)
  - Two portals allow the ACES trail to be a continual trail as opposed to an "out-and-back" trail
    - Gives the potential user the feeling that no trip time will be lost using the trail
    - Allows for a "drive through" experience that is easily negotiated
    - The side trip to Rock Bottom Ranch becomes part of the trip as opposed to an additional excursion to the trip
    - Makes it easier for people to experience RBR without backtracking

Rock Bottom Ranch Eco-Trail Connections

Concerns Raised at the last RFTA Meeting

- Safety at the Intersections

Existing Intersections

WILDLIFE
PRESERVE

West Intersection Looking East

West Intersection Looking West

East Intersection Looking East

East Intersection Looking West

Sight Distance at the Intersections:

Google earth

feet 700

meters 200

Google earth

feet 700

meters 200

Google earth

feet 700

meters 200

Google earth

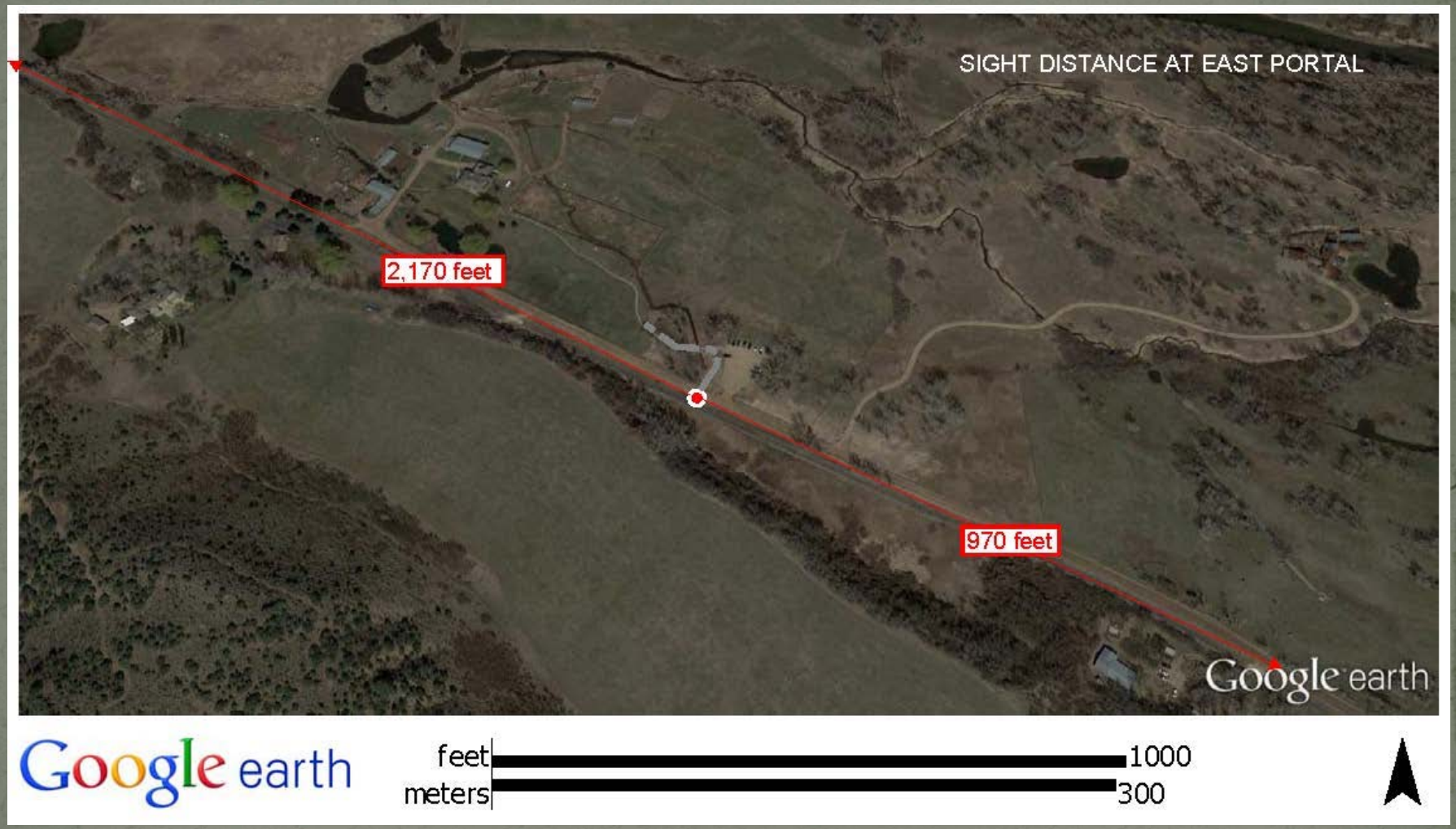
feet 1000

meters 300

Google earth

feet 1000

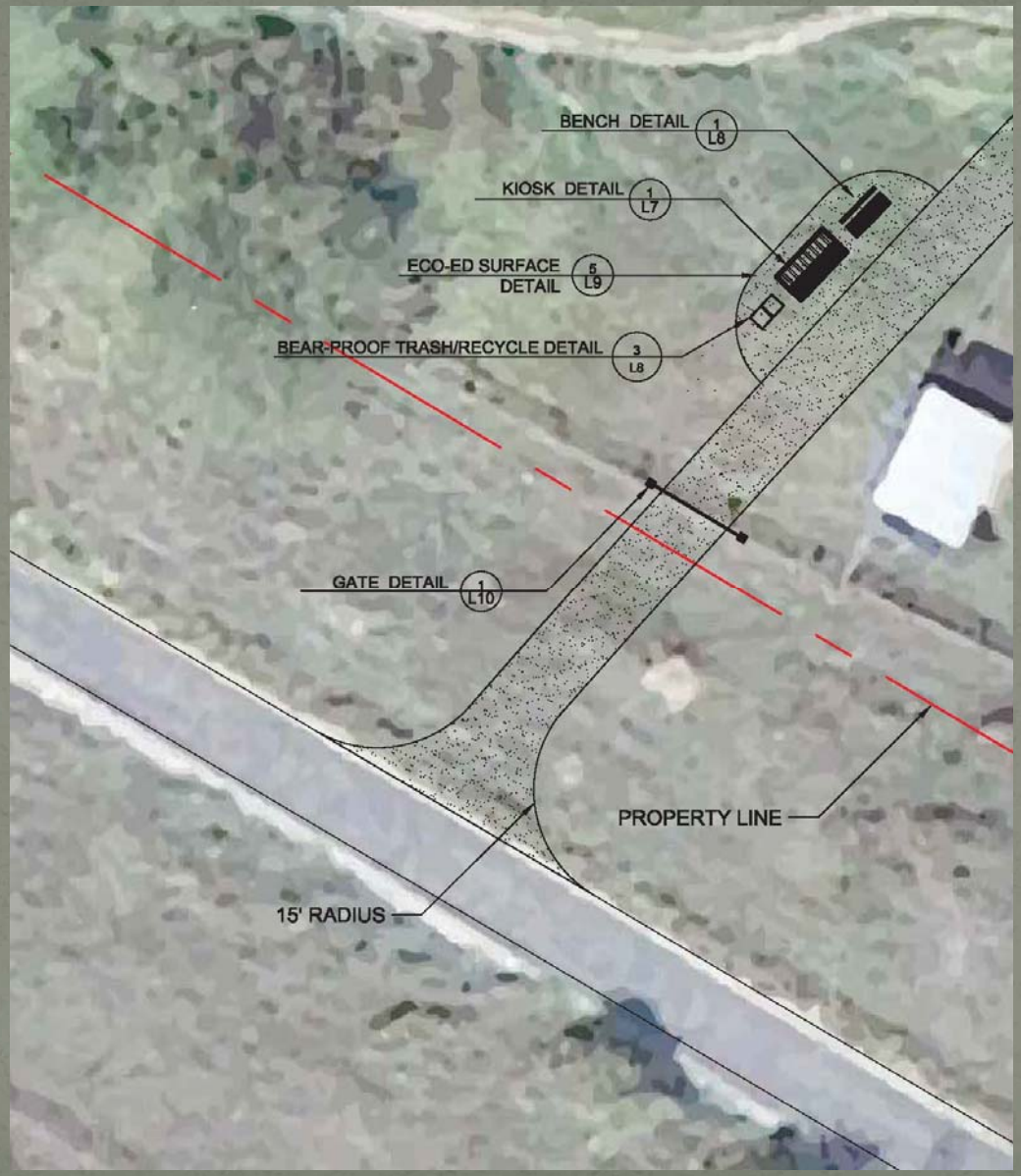
meters 300



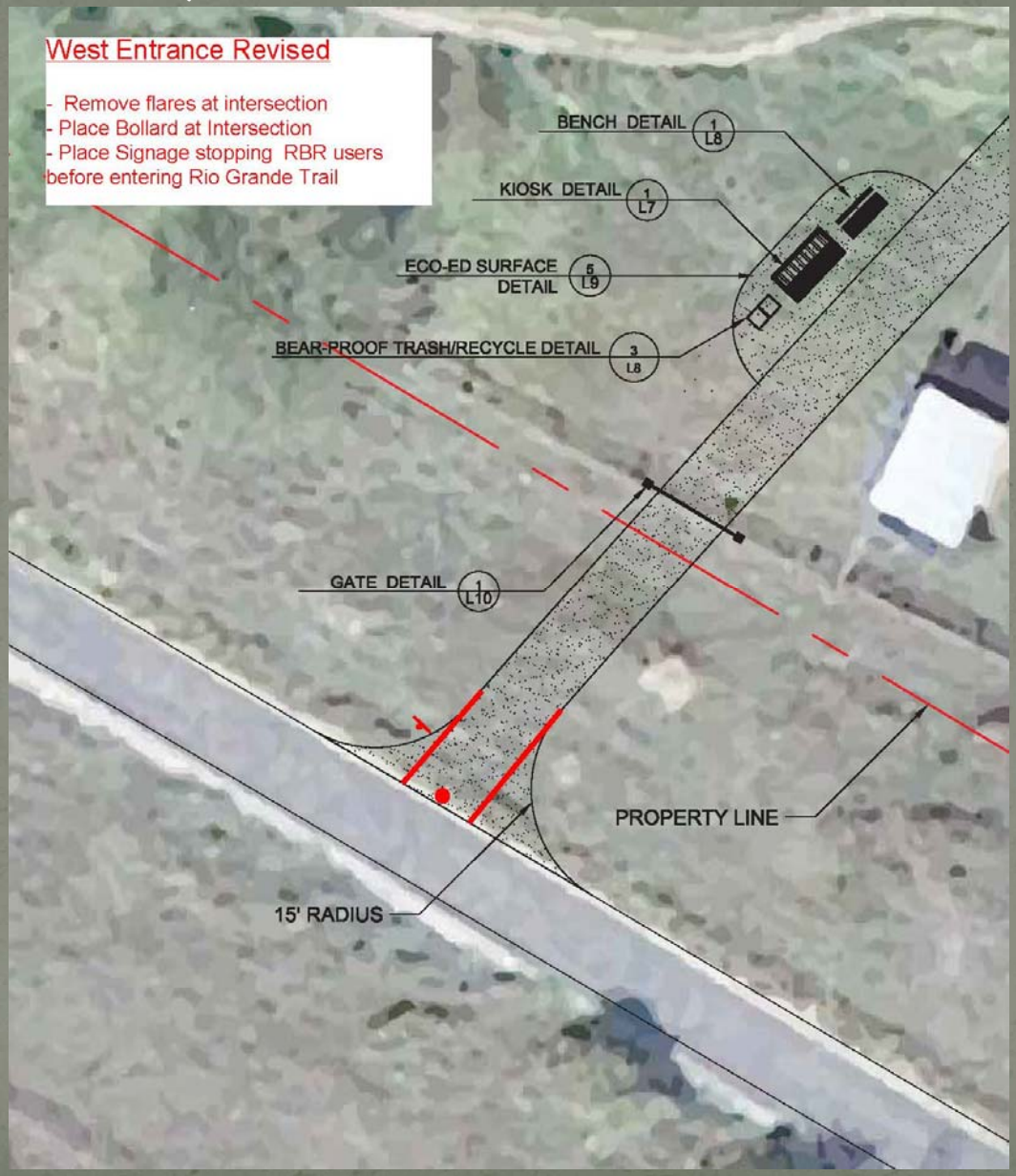
Google earth

feet 1000
meters 300

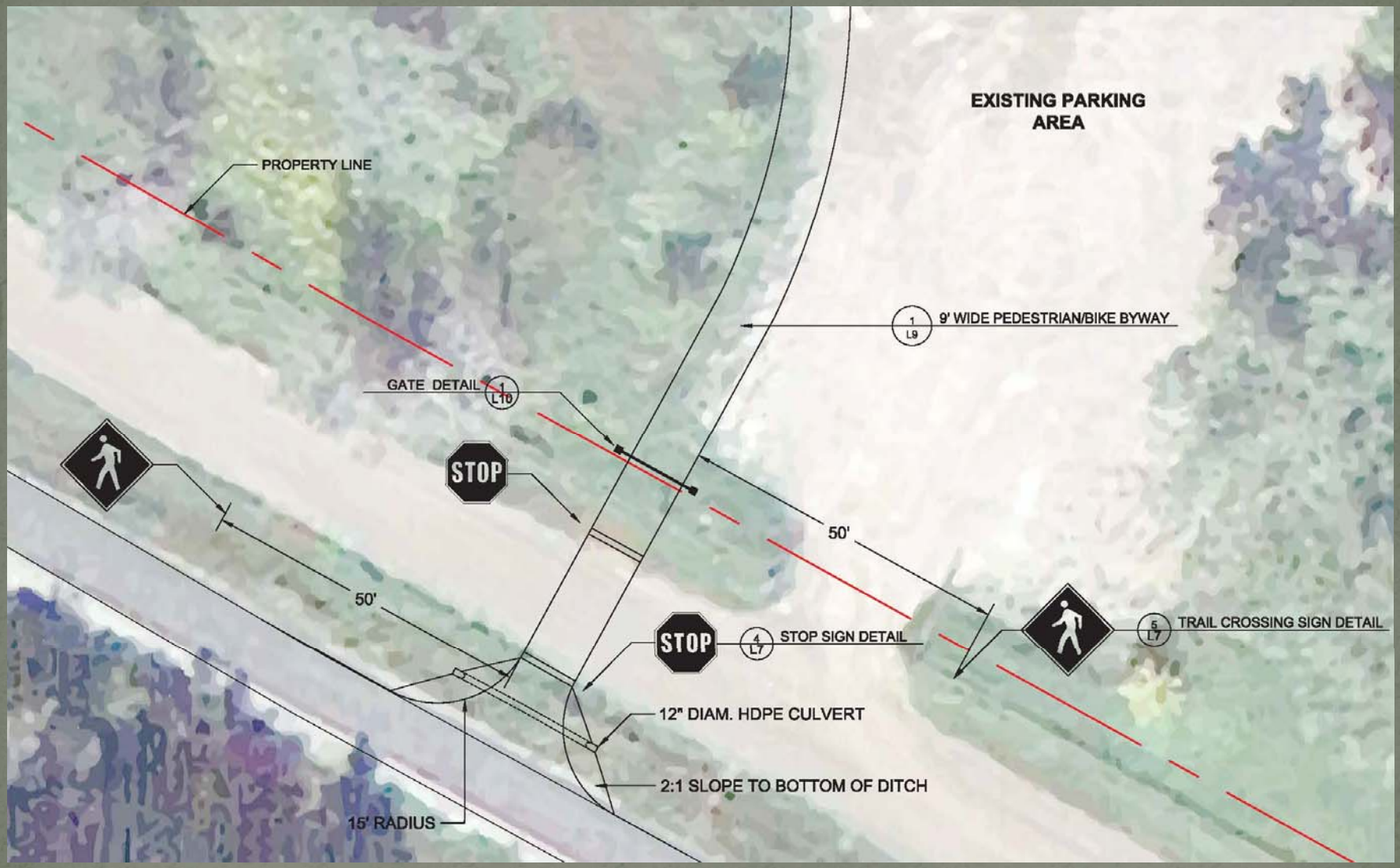
Original West Intersection Design



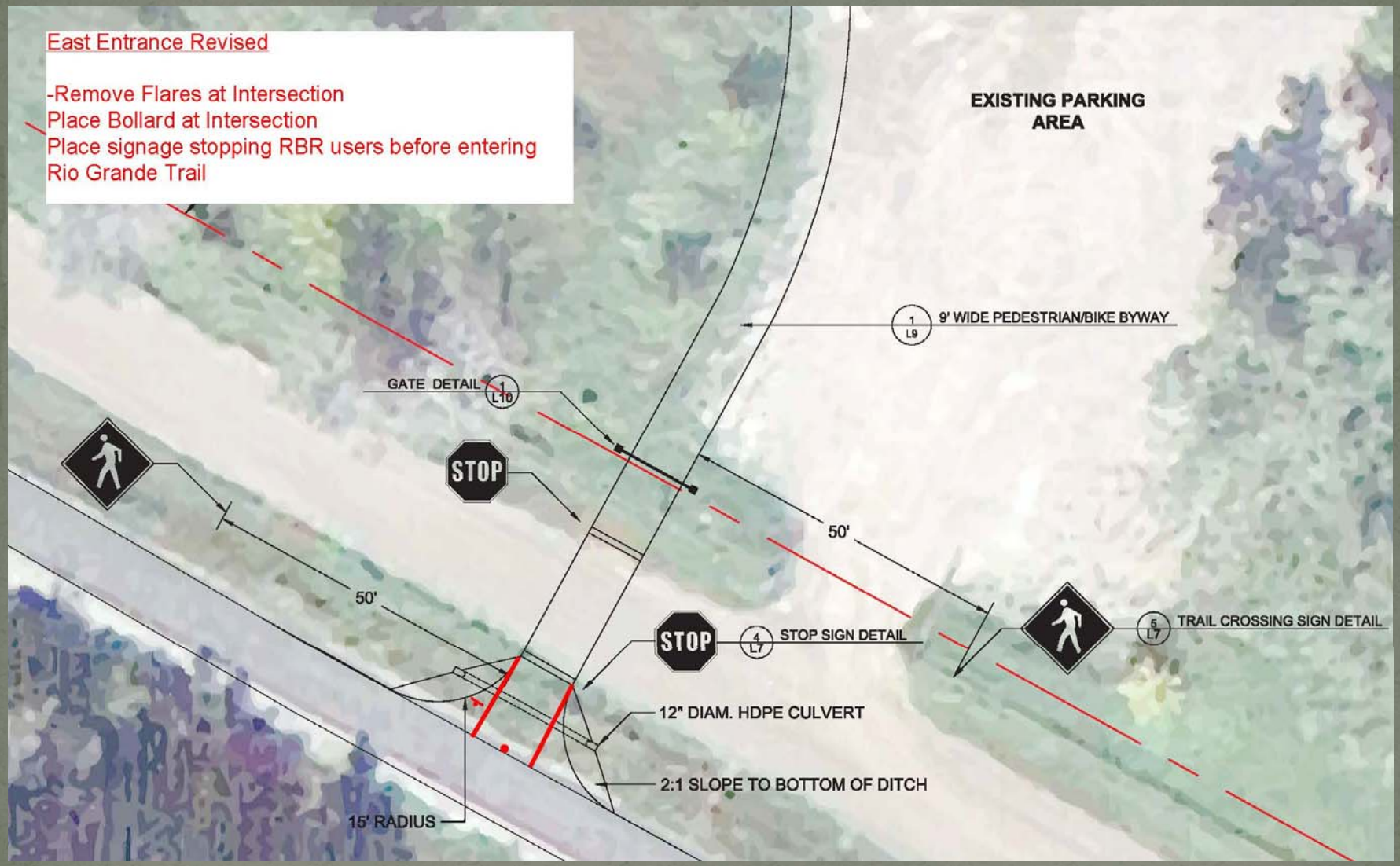
Proposed West Intersection Design



Original East Intersection Design



Proposed East Intersection Design



Proposed Exit Sign Detail

Rock Bottom Ranch Eco-Trail Connections

Summary

- The Eco-Trail Connections conform to RFTA policy documents, including Access Control Plan and Comprehensive Plan
- Two portals to the ACES Eco-Trail will provide users with ease of use and greater connectivity
- ACES will enhance safety at the intersections with cordons, signage and vegetation management