

SAN JUAN SKYWAY



A National Forest and State of Colorado
Scenic and Historic Byway



One of Only 9 All-American Roads



The San Juan
and Uncompahgre National Forests

Tourism Initiative

May 2000

Special Places Fact Sheet

General Information:

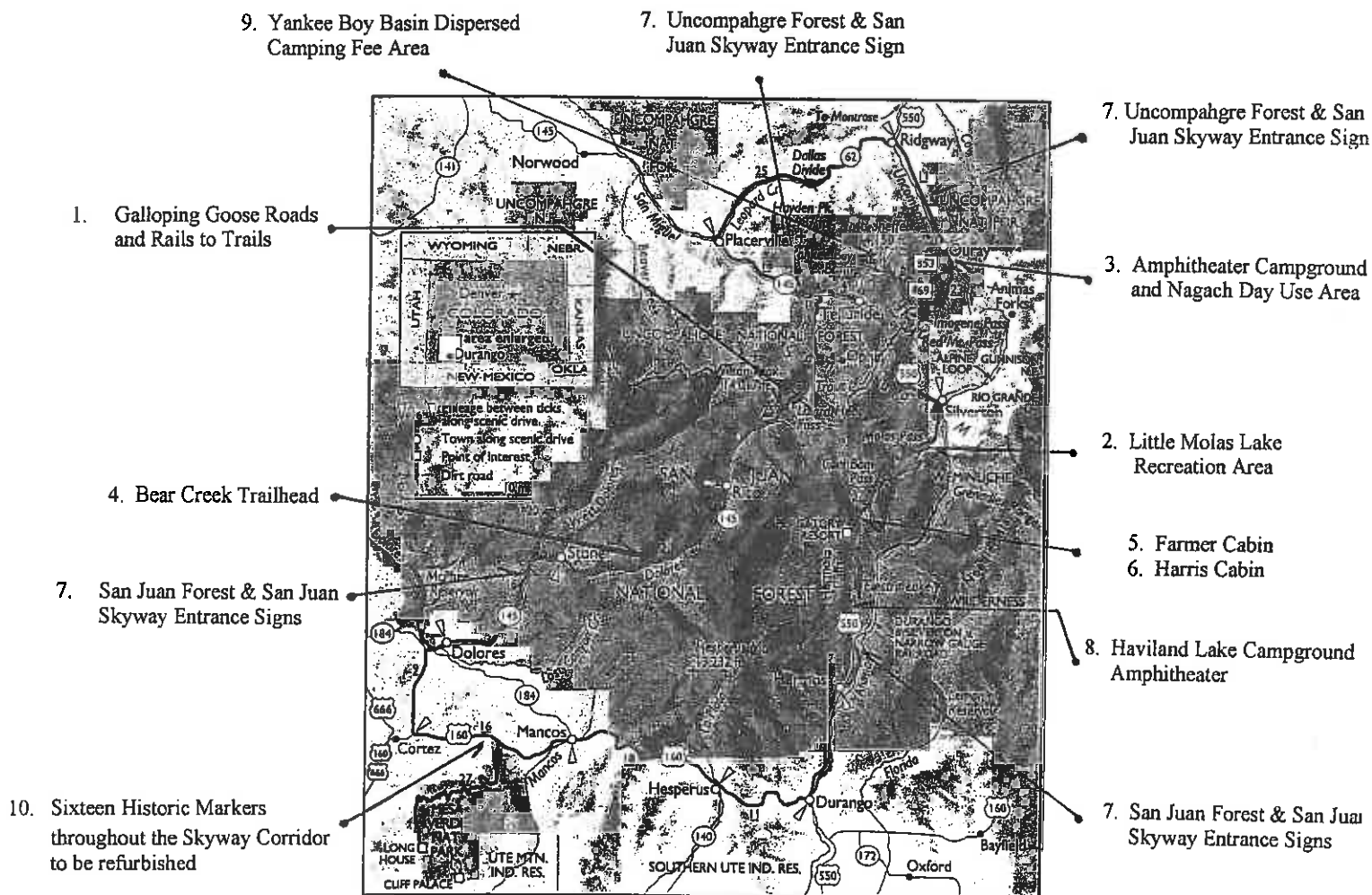
Project Name: San Juan Skyway

Admin. Unit: Region 2/San Juan and Uncompahgre National Forests

State/County/Congressional District: Colorado/San Juan, Montezuma, Dolores and San Miguel Counties, Colorado/Third Congressional District

General Location: See the following map. The projects are located along the San Juan Skyway as follows: 1) Galloping Goose Trail, located on Lizard Head Pass between Rico and Telluride; 2) Little Molas Lake Recreation Area, located on Molas Pass south of Silverton; 3) Amphitheater Campground and Nagache Day Use Area, overlooks the south Uncompahgre Valley and City of Ouray; 4) Bear Creek Trailhead, located at the confluence of the Dolores River and Bear Creek north of the Town of Dolores; 5)&6) Farmer and Harris Cabins, located near Purgatory Ski Area north of Durango; 7) Forest Service & San Juan Skyway Entrance Signs, located at four key locations along the byway; 8) Haviland Lake Campground Amphitheater, located 15 miles north of Durango; 9) Yankee Boy Basin Dispersed Camping Fee Area, located southwest of Ouray; 10) Historic Markers, located at 16 sites throughout the byway corridor.

Congressional Members: Senators Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Wayne Allard; Representative Scott McInnis.



SAN JUAN SKYWAY PROJECT LOCATIONS

Description/Purpose of the Projects:

1. Galloping Goose Roads and Rails to Trails. Utilizing a combination of the abandoned Rio Grande Southern Railroad grade and a historic road, four "missing components" will be constructed to provide visitors with a 22 mile continuous recreational and heritage trail connecting Lizard Head Pass with the Telluride bike path at Society Turn (see Attachment 1). With funding already committed from the Colorado State Trails Program and ISTEA Enhancement Funds, the requested tourism initiative funding is necessary in order to complete the following:
 - provide visitors with a convenient trailhead with parking for 15 vehicles (5 oversize spaces), and a bridge at the intersection of the Galloping Goose and Cross Mountain Trails;
 - stabilize and interpret for the visitors' enjoyment the 146' long historic Trout Lake RR Trestle (the only one of 143 bridges/trestles remaining of the Rio Grande Southern RR);
 - construct 8/10 mile of "missing link" trail section in an area where the railroad grade is not available, but is necessary to provide a continuous trail connection between the historic railroad grade and a recently constructed Forest Service highway underpass; and,
 - construct a retaining wall (300' by 3") on the Galloping Goose Trail near Illium.

2. Little Molas Lake Recreation Area. Located near the top of Molas Pass, this recreation area has become very popular due to the exceptional scenery, summer and winter recreational opportunities, and immediate access off the San Juan Skyway. This popularity has created a parking/traffic safety problem. The proposed improvements include:
 - the reconstruction of the trailhead to accommodate 15 vehicles (including 5 oversize) for users of the adjacent Colorado Trail, and winter parking for the growing popularity of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling on Molas Pass;
 - reconstructing the one-mile access road to the Little Molas Campground, including reconditioning, drainage improvements and aggregate surfacing; and,
 - upgrading the antiquated campground with a new water system, loop roads, signing and improved campsites (see Attachment 2).

3. Amphitheater Campground and Nagach Day Use Area. With spectacular vistas of the historic Uncompahgre Valley and City of Ouray, the easily accessible and very popular Amphitheater Campground will be upgraded to enhance the visitors' enjoyment (see Attachment 3). This proposal represents the final funding needed to reconstruct these 1960's era facilities which are heavily used in the summer. The campground improvements include:
 - replacement of the '60's era water system;
 - replace the antiquated toilet with an accessible facility;
 - interpretive signage;
 - safety railings;
 - trail accessibility improvements;
 - rehabilitate the 33 existing campsites; and,

- reconstructing the amphitheater facility where evening programs are provided.

The adjacent Nagach Day Use Area, located between the highway and the campground was partially constructed in 1996 in order to reduce the number of day use visitors traveling and disturbing visitors staying in the campground in order to picnic or access the existing scenic overlook and/or adjacent trails. The current site contains a roughly graded parking area with picnic sites. This site will be improved to include:

- a paved six-space parking area;
- water hydrant;
- accessible toilet;
- a new scenic overlook with an accessible trail and interpretive signage; and,
- a new short trail which will connect to an existing hiking trail.

4. Bear Creek Trailhead. Due to the heavy use of the Bear Creek Trail by motorized and non-motorized users, the present trailhead is unsafe, undersized, and has private property conflicts. Trail users must ingress and egress to and from the San Juan Skyway on a sight-restricted curve, and then park on the shoulder of the highway or on private property due to inadequate space. Additionally, the first ½ mile of the trail uses an easement (originally a stock drive) through private property. Parking and hiking on private property and the lack of toilet facilities has caused an increase in conflicts among trail users and private property owners.

Utilizing committed grants from the National Scenic Byway Program and State Trails program, and services of the Southwest Youth Corps, this request will complete the necessary funding in order to address these safety, capacity and private property problems by moving the trailhead immediately north onto available Forest Service lands (see Attachment 4). Project components include:

- a new .20 mile gravel access road located on a straight section of S.H. 145 with very good line-of-sight;
- a gravel parking lot with fourteen parking spaces (including six oversize spaces);
- a vault toilet,
- orientation, interpretive and resource protection signage;
- a new bridge over the Dolores River;
- .8 miles of new and reconstructed trail that will reconnect trail users onto the existing Bear Creek Trail just beyond the private property; and,
- replacement of a dilapidated trail bridge at Bear Creek.

5. Farmer Cabin. Constructed in 1959 in conjunction with a sheep grazing allotment, this log structure with a metal roof will be remodeled for use as an educational retreat facility for groups, area schools and non-profits (see Attachment 5). A special use permit will be issued to the San Juan Mountains Association, a non-profit organization to manage the facility. User fees will be charged to cover operation and maintenance costs. Specific work needed to upgrade this cabin for an adaptive reuse include:

- construct an accessible toilet;
- repair/replace foundation logs on north side of building;

- construct an accessible deck and entrance;
- replace doors;
- reinforce stairs to second floor;
- install another window in the upstairs area; and,
- provide an overall clean up.

6. Harris Cabin. The historic Harris Cabin was constructed in the 1880's and probably served initially as a toll cabin on the Scotch Creek Toll Road (also known as the Rico Rockwood Wagon Road). Later, it served as a cabin for ranch hands. Brands from all over the San Juan Mountains were blazed onto different parts of the cabin, as ranch hands passed through on cattle drives. Subsequently, the cabin served as a summer range for three different ranchers, the latest being the Harris family. It is an excellent example of a standing cabin with associated buildings representing a ranch from the 1890's and has been recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (see Attachment 6).

Located in a beautiful mountain meadow, the requested funding will be used to renovate the structure and use it as a rental cabin. All renovations will maintain the historical integrity of the structure, while making the facility attractive and comfortable for visitors seeking a rustic lodging experience. Improvements to the cabin include:

- redirect drainage away from cabin;
- repair and replace where needed the foundation and sills;
- repair the roof;
- reinforce the cabin corners/framework;
- reglaze interior and exterior sides of the windows;
- provide furnishings for the cabin;
- construct a new exterior toilet with a "historic façade;"
- furnish the cabin;
- stabilize the adjacent tack/tool shed;
- install interpretive signage; and,
- grade and gravel cabin's driveway and parking area.

7. Forest Service and San Juan Skyway Entrance Signs. Four key locations have been picked along the San Juan Skyway to upgrade antiquated Forest Service entry signs with attractive Forest Service and San Juan Skyway identification entry markers. The attached conceptual plans illustrate the two design styles that will be used for this purpose. These very attractive markers will be constructed with a masonry base and utilize computer routed acrylic fiberglass for the San Juan Skyway/All-American Road signs. Brass letters with the Forest Service shield will be used on the markers to identify the San Juan and Uncompahgre National Forests (see Attachment 7).

8. Haviland Lake Campground Amphitheater. The Haviland Lake Campground has just been reconstructed, minus the amphitheater due to a shortage of funding. The amphitheater is planned to provide interpretive services for up to 40 people visiting this very popular recreation area. Amphitheater construction elements include:

- site grading and leveling;
- installing electric utilities and hookups;
- installing a stage with benches;
- erecting signage; and,
- building connecting trails.

9. Yankee Boy Basin Dispersed Camping Fee Area. In cooperation with the Ouray County Board of Commissioners, this project will implement a fee camping project in the very popular Yankee Boy Basin in an effort to manage the heavy recreational use. A joint Forest Service and County Yankee Boy Basin Committee will be appointed to collaboratively decide how to spend the money generated from this fee demonstration project. Project components include:

- constructing an entrance and fee station;
- installing 20 small dispersed camping identification markers;
- hardening the 20 sites;
- grading and gravel for parking spurs at each site;
- installing fire rings; and,
- installing a centrally located toilet among the 20 sites.

10. Historic Markers. The Forests, in partnership with the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, installed several historic markers from 1982 to 1992. Many of these signs are weathered, damaged, have fallen into disrepair, or have outdated graphics and interpretive information (see Attachment 8). This project will:

- Upgrade and rehabilitate sixteen markers that are along the Skyway, or within a short drive of the byway. The existing mounting structures will continue to be used.
- Develop a web-based Historic Markers Tour that can be downloaded for visitors' use in the field.
- Prepare plans, assessments, and partnerships for implementing an additional series of historic markers for 2002.

11. Lizard Head Interpretive Pull-Out. Magnificent views of the Lizard Head and Sheep Mountain range, and several very informative interpretive panels has made this Forest Service pull-out on the San Juan Skyway very popular. Consequently, the present toilet is inadequate to meet the existing demand. Maintenance on the parking lot has also been deferred due to a lack of funding. This project will:

- Replace the inadequate toilet; and,
- Seal the asphalt parking lot in order to extend its use.

12. Alta Lakes Campground Toilet Replacement. Located in proximity to Telluride, the Alta Lakes Recreation Area has and continues to experience increased use. The present toilet is of an earlier vintage that has both operational and accessibility problems that need correction. This project will:

- Replace the inadequate toilet.

13. Ouray Area Trailheads and Bridge. The Uncompahgre National Forest surrounds the City of Ouray, known as the Switzerland of America. Because of the spectacular setting, Ouray has become a very popular destination for visitors touring the San Juan Skyway. Hiking in particular has particularly experienced significant increases. In partnership with the Ouray community and tourism partners, the Forest Service needs to:

- Construct four new trailheads to handle increased parking; and,
- Construct one new bridge.

Special Area Connection: The projects listed in this proposal are all located along the San Juan Skyway; one of only nine byways in the U.S. that have been given the prestigious title of *All-American Road*. Representing the *best of the best* byways in the country, this recreational touring route travels through five distinct life zones – equivalent of traveling from Alaska to northern Mexico. This diverse landscape has provided a landscape of national importance, rich in recreational opportunities.

Community Connection: The San Juan Skyway passes through six counties and eleven communities. Historically, the economies of these communities have been tied closely to mining, logging, and agriculture – all of which are declining economic sectors throughout southwest Colorado. The two communities that are closest to the project locations – Silverton and Rico, are also the most economically distressed communities with persistent high levels of unemployment and underemployment (Silverton has a 19% unemployment rate). The tourism and recreation sectors of the economy continue to grow in importance for all communities along the Skyway.

Gateway/Tourism Community Connection: The San Juan Skyway is recognized as a very important regional attraction that not only draws thousands of visitors to southwest Colorado every year, but also helps distribute visitors to even the smallest of communities located along the byway. Most of these communities all have community plans that have incorporated tourism as a key component of their overall community development efforts. All communities along the Skyway serve as gateways to the multiple recreational opportunities available on public lands.

The corridor management plan for the San Juan Skyway has as its two main goals the protection of the byway's intrinsic qualities (scenic, cultural, natural and recreational), and the enhancement of the recreational and interpretive opportunities throughout the corridor. The projects included in this proposal are consistent with this plan, and help implement key projects that are either under funded or in need of significant upgrades.

External Partnership Potential:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>PARTNERSHIP</u>	<u>FUNDING & STATUS</u>
1. Galloping Goose Trail	Colorado State Trails	\$124,384 - Committed
	Colo. DOT/Enhancement	\$24,000 - Committed
2. Little Molas Rec. Area	Purgatory Ski Corporation	\$320,000 - Committed
3. Bear Creek Trailhead	Colo. DOT Nat. Sc. Byway	\$233,200 - Committed
	Colorado State Trails	\$69,300 - Committed
	SW Colo. Youth Corps	\$8,400 - Committed
4. Farmer Cabin	San Juan Mts. Association	\$12,000 - Committed
5. Harris Cabin	State Historical Fund	\$6,000 - Pending
	Sub-total	\$797,284

Internal Staffs That Will Be Engaged: Heritage, Recreation, Engineering, Conservation Education, S&PF-RCA, Partnerships & Agreements, Wilderness

Other Agency Interaction: This San Juan Skyway proposal is a cooperative initiative between the San Juan and Uncompahgre National Forests. The San Juan National Forest and the San Juan Resource Area of the BLM have merged under the *Service First* program and are currently working on joint projects and programs with an integrated staffing pattern.

Number of Visits Per Use Season the Area Receives Now: The major season for visitation on the San Juan Skyway is summer, followed by fall and winter. Over one million visitors utilize this nationally recognized byway and the adjacent recreational resources each year as part of their vacation experience.

Capacity Currently Utilized: It is difficult to estimate the capacity of the San Juan Skyway as a 232 mile recreational touring route with dozens of recreational opportunities throughout the corridor. Aside from some traffic congestion within some of the larger communities along the Skyway, and some of the campgrounds filling up during peak summer times, no significant capacity problems have been identified.

Estimated Number of Visits the Project Will Generate When Work is Completed: It is estimated that the improvements that will be completed under this proposal will increase use at the respective sites by 10% per year for the next 3-5 years. The exceptions to this are the cabins proposed for renovation. These are currently not used by any visitors. The Farmer Cabin, due to its size and ability to handle groups is expected to accommodate 18 - 22 groups in its first year of operation, and as the awareness of the availability of the cabin grows, a 12 - 15% annual growth in use can be expected over the next few years. The historic Harris Cabin, due to its prime location and ease of access, is expected to experience a rental rate comparable to the San Juan's Jersey Jim Fire Tower, which is consistently fully rented during the summer and fall months.

Project Promotion: The proposed projects along the San Juan Skyway will provide significantly improved outdoor and heritage recreational choices for the one million plus

annual visitors seeking easily accessible experiences for their friends and families within their National Forest. Adjacent communities will capture increased tourist expenditures as visitors spend more time along the Skyway. These improvements will also help reduce dispersed camping/recreation impacts and relieve some of the pressures currently being experienced with adjacent wilderness areas.

Is this project phased?

If funding is provided, all project components are expected to begin construction during the 2001 summer construction season. Due to the high elevation of most of these projects, the short construction season may require some parts of the larger projects be carried over to the 2002 summer construction season in order to fully complete.

Will the completion of this work make the site/area more cost effective? How will it effect outyear O&M costs and FTE's? Will it make it ready for future fees?

In general, all projects contained within this proposal will improve the cost effectiveness of operation and maintenance.

- The renovation of the cabins and their use as rentals (with management by non-profit groups) will actually reduce net costs as these structures provide no current revenue, while requiring some maintenance.
- The upgraded Little Molas and Nagach/Amphitheater recreation sites/campgrounds will reduce operation and maintenance costs required of older facilities, and generate increased fee revenues due to the improved facilities.
- Reconstruction of the Bear Creek Trailhead will reduce administrative costs associated with on-going property owner and legal issues, and reduce the Forests' potential liability for maintaining an unsafe facility.
- The completion of the partially developed Galloping Goose Rails to Trails project will save maintenance costs associated with the stabilization of the Trout Lake Railroad Trestle. The construction of 9/10 of a mile of new trail where the railroad grade is not useable will actually slightly increase maintenance costs. The joint Galloping Goose/Cross Mountain Trailhead will actually replace an unsightly and poorly located trailhead, with minimal if any additional maintenance costs expected.

Type of Project:

Capital Improvement \$ _____ (Construction)

Repair/Rehab \$ _____ (Maintenance)

Amount that addresses deferred maintenance \$ _____.

Expected amount to be contracted out \$ _____.

Funding Mix Required in FY 2001:

NFRM	\$ _____
NFWM	\$ _____
PAFC	\$ _____
PAMF	\$ _____
PACT	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Other FS funding being partnered: The San Juan Skyway communities of Silverton, Rico, Dolores and Mancos have all specifically received State and Private Forestry (S&PF) funding for community planning and the development of tourism/recreation projects. Additionally, S&PF is currently funding a Four Corners Gateway Tourism Assessment which has identified several projects and programs for tourism development involving Skyway communities.

Tourism Initiative/Recreation Agenda: Project Proposal

Project Summaries and Highlights:

The San Juan Skyway project will reconstruct and upgrade several outdoors and heritage recreation projects along this nationally recognized *All-American Road*. These improvements will enhance the public's opportunities to experience exceptional activities on their National Forest. The highlights of the San Juan Skyway project components are described below.

1. Gallopig Goose Rails to Trails.
 - Will provide the final funding required to complete four key elements of what is a partially complete **22-mile heritage and recreational trail** that utilizes historic railroad and road alignments.
 - **\$148,384 in committed partnership funding will be leveraged.**
 - The **Trout Lake Trestle** that will be preserved and interpreted with this project is the **only one of 143 such structures still standing** on this historic railroad route.
2. Little Molas Lake Recreation Area.
 - **Very popular summer and winter recreation area** with sub-standard facilities to be upgraded.
 - **\$320,000 in partnership funding will be leveraged.**
3. Amphitheater Campground and Nagach Day Use Area.
 - Will provide a **first-class Forest Service campground and day-use area** at **one of the more popular scenic vistas** along the San Juan Skyway.
 - The day use area will **reduce impacts** currently experienced by users of the **campground** that now put up with a significant volume of traffic from day use visitors.
 - **Significant accessibility and safety improvements** will be installed.
4. Bear Creek Trailhead.
 - **\$310,900 of partnership funding will be leveraged** to complete this project.
 - **Private property conflicts, safety and capacity problems** will be addressed.
5. Farmer Cabin.
 - **Environmental education opportunities** for groups and non-profits will be **enhanced.**
 - **User fees** will generate revenue to cover on-going operation and maintenance costs.
 - **\$12,000 in partnership funding will be leveraged.**
6. Harris Cabin.
 - Will help **preserve and interpret an outstanding example of a historic ranching cabin** dating from the 1880's.
 - Expected to function as a popular rental cabin due to its historic character and very scenic location.

- Revenue from the rental should cover future operation and maintenance costs.
7. Forest Service and San Juan Skyway Entrance Markers.
 - Will upgrade 1960's era markers identifying the San Juan and Uncompahgre National Forests as they drive one of only nine All-American Roads.
 8. Haviland Lake Campground Amphitheater.
 - Will construct the last planned facility that due to insufficient funding, was left out of the recently completed construction to renovate this recreation area.
 9. Yankee Boy Basin Dispersed Camping Fee Area.
 - Will generate revenue to cover resource management costs associated with this very popular recreation area that needs additional resources to manage significant dispersed camping practices.
 - Project has strong county commissioner leadership and support.
 10. Historic Markers.
 - Will enhance visitors' experiences through upgraded interpretive markers and easily accessible field guide.
 - Expanded interpretive opportunities will be planned for 2002 implementation.
 11. Lizard Head Interpretive Pull-Out.
 - Replace an inadequate toilet at a very popular Forest Service facility.
 - Extend the life of the parking lot by sealing the asphalt.
 12. Alta Lakes Campground.
 - Replace the inadequate toilet.
 13. Ouray Area Trail Network.
 - In partnership with the Ouray community, install 4 trailheads and one bridge to meet the growing demand for hiking in the Switzerland of America.

Project Role in Implementing the Tourism Initiative / Forest Service National Recreation Agenda:

The Skyway Tourism proposal responds to these key issues and opportunities:
Settings

- The proposal helps protect the long-term productivity and integrity of the landscape setting.
- It enhances the enjoyment of scenery, recreation experiences and travel/tourism opportunities.
- Upgraded and well-designed structures and signing will work in harmony to enhance and protect quality natural settings. The proposal will:
 - protect, enhance, and restore the natural, social and built environments essential for ecological sustainability and recreation opportunity.

Investment in Facilities

This project:

- **Upgrades a backlog in repair and deferred maintenance** of existing recreation and heritage facilities;
- **Improves health, sanitation and accessibility standards, while reducing adverse resource impacts;**
- **Addresses public demand** for enhanced historic and natural resource interpretation;
- **Improves conservation education;**
- **Enables the Forest to be a quality partner in diversifying local economies; and,**
- **Leverages committed partnership dollars.**

Showcase Nationally Designated Areas

The Skyway is:

- **A National Forest and Colorado Scenic & Historic Byway, and one of only 9 All-American Roads;**
- **Adjacent to the Weminuche, Mt. Sneffels, and Lizard Head Wilderness areas, plus the McPhee Archeological District and the Red Mountain Historic Mining District;**
- **The main travel route to trailheads, trails, campgrounds, and interpretive facilities that provide information and/or access to these nationally designated areas;**
- **Bisected by the Colorado Trail, and three National Recreational Trails:**
 - **the Highline Loop, Calico and Bear Creek Trails;**
- **A link to other nationally designated areas, such as Mesa Verde National Park, Anasazi Heritage Center, the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, the Trail of the Ancients Historic and Scenic Byway, Alpine Loop and four National Historic Districts and four National Historic Landmarks.**

Ensure Safety and Security

Upgrades, in this proposal, will:

- **Improve public health and safety at current facilities;**
- **Expand/shift unsafe parking along major highways into safe parking areas adjacent to the highway;**
- **Upgrade the health and safety standards of historic cabins for occupancy;**
- **Use materials focused upon preventing problems due to natural conditions;**
- **Be constructed to withstand vandalism and long-term use.**

Use Social Science and Market Based Research

Research shows that tourists want:

- **A diverse mix of recreation opportunities in a quality natural setting;**
- **Opportunities to learn about the environment in a natural setting;**

- To learn and experience authentic historic/cultural opportunities;
- To have good quality basic services provided in convenient locations;
- Local research shows that most tourists seek opportunities related to archeology, history, viewing scenery, mountain biking, and hiking.

Ensure Services for All Americans

The proposed facilities are designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities and diverse segments of our society.

Create Partnerships for Quality Service Delivery

The San Juan and Uncompahgre National Forests have partnerships with the SW Colorado Travel Region, local Chambers of Commerce, the Four Corners Heritage Council, the Four Corners Tourism Council, Grand Circle, and the Montezuma County Tourism Umbrella Committee. Partnership goals include:

- Providing customers/visitors with quality information and services;
- Improving the availability of information so customers can select settings to match the experiences they desire and know what to expect before they arrive;
- Monitoring customer satisfaction and share findings;
- Providing visitors natural resource interpretation and conservation education, so impacts on the land can be reduced.

Enhance Conservation Education/Interpretation

This proposal will enhance conservation education and interpretation. Tourism marketing, related to this proposal, and all interpretive facilities will include user etiquette information and low-impact techniques that engage the tourist in helping care for their public lands. The partners listed above already include etiquette information in brochures, mailings, and web sites.

Communities

The San Juan National Forest has institutionalized community collaboration for ecosystem planning, economic development and leveraging funds to balance both resource and community sustainability. Constituents served by this proposal are Hispanic, Indian, and disabled populations, plus the two of the most economically depressed counties in the State - Dolores and San Juan.

Utilize Connections for Community Sustainability

The Forest Service is a vital partner in community sustainability. USFS Rural Community Assistance (RCA) funds have been used to develop Community Action Plans that include social, environmental, economic and quality of life goals. Each community and county in southwest Colorado has an Action Plan. USFS RCA funds have also been used to implement projects from the Action Plans. Recreation, tourism, heritage expeditions, and environmental stewardship are integral parts of economic diversification and economic stability in each community.

Conduct Planning Across Boundaries

The Skyway is a project that was planned and is being implemented across boundaries. It involves two national Forests, several state agencies, six counties, eleven communities, the National Park Service, BLM, Indian educational institutions, plus numerous tourism and non-profit organizations.

Planning and implementation of this proposal is a collaborative process. The significant partner match to these projects demonstrates the high degree of support and collaboration. The Skyway is also linked to the Forest Planning process and to regional tourism plans, such as the Four Corners Gateway Tourism Assessment and the Four Corners Heritage Trails Project.

Relationships

- The Skyway exemplifies strong partnerships and intergovernmental cooperative efforts as a significant means to accomplish the recreation, public service, and stewardship job.
- In addition to the partners listed elsewhere, The SW Youth Corps, the San Juan Mountains Association, and SW Outdoor Volunteers are partners in implementing portions of this proposal related to interpretation, conservation education, construction, and maintenance.
- This proposal promotes strong relationships with communities, counties, and state and federal agencies.
The Forest maintains close working relationships with 26 individual Tribal governments. They are involved in all aspects of planning, including forest planning, strategic planning, tourism planning, and project level consultation.

PART IV

MISSION STATEMENT

Taking into consideration the needs and desires of existing, traditional and emerging recreation activities, we will strive to accommodate these needs and desires within the limits of the land. We will provide enjoyable recreation experiences, reflecting diverse recreation and cultural interests for all people, "the owners of the land."

6 POINT ACTION PLAN 2000-2006

This tourism initiative addresses the "Action Plan" as follow

1. Market Research- "Know The People We Serve"

These Skyway projects are consistent with public values, expectations, and perceptions that have been identified among visitors to SW Colorado.

2. Invest In Special Places Valued by People- Our Nationally Designated Areas

The San Juan Skyway has been designated as a special place – being one of only nine All-American Roads in the U.S. Several proposed projects along this byway are underdeveloped to meet the public demand.

3. Reduce Deferred Maintenance Using A "Toolbox" of Investment Techniques for Long Term Financial Sustainability

Funding to implement and maintain these Skyway projects represent a variety of financing techniques, including state and federal grants, non-profit contributions, and negotiated private corporation payments. Fees will be used at each of the three campground projects and the two historic cabin rental sites to cover operation and maintenance costs.

4. Partnerships for Natural Resource Conservation Education and Interpretive Services

The San Juan Mountains Association will manage the Farmer Cabin as an environmental education facility. A yet-to-be-named organization, will manage the use of the historic Harris Cabin.

5. Business Opportunity and Services for Underserved and Low Income People.

Concessionaires will be used at each of the three campgrounds that will be improved with this proposal. The improvements will increase the use and revenues from these facilities, and Forest Service will continue to try and identify business opportunities for underserved and low income people of SW Colorado.

6. Access America.

All facilities proposed for improvements with funding from the Tourism Initiative have been designed with accessibility needs in mind.

Project Role in Meeting Regional Recreation Goals or Objectives:

As described above, this San Juan Skyway proposal also addresses Regional Goals and Objectives in the following ways:

- ***Rewarding and Satisfying Recreation Experiences.*** These projects recognize customer desires and expectations for enhanced recreational experiences while visiting SW Colorado.
- ***Investment in Maintaining Settings, Operations and Maintenance.*** The projects listed in this proposal will enhance past Forest Service investments in facilities that are now in need of renovation and needed in order to meet customer expectations.
- ***Collaborative Stewardship and Partnership.*** The San Juan Skyway projects represent significant commitments from partners that also want to see these projects developed. Funding from partnerships represent 31% of the total project costs.
- ***Sustainable Recreation.*** All of these projects have been developed in an effort to balance customer demands while not compromising the integrity of the effected resources.
- ***Marketing.*** Customers' needs for information about recreational experiences along this byway are being provided in a collaborative effort with communities and the Southwest Colorado Travel Region. These brochures, maps and web sites contain resource protection messages, and direct visitors to resource areas capable of handling increased visitation.

Financial Information for FY 2001:

AMOUNT REQUESTED	TOTAL PARTNER/ FOREST SERVICE CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL
Galloping Goose Trail, Trailhead and Trestle		
\$554,624	\$148,384	\$703,008
Little Molas Lake Recreation Area		
\$938,000	\$320,000	\$1,258,000
Amphitheater Campgrd. & Nagache Day Use Area		
\$202,123	\$665,500	\$867,623
Bear Creek Trailhead		
\$80,000	\$310,900	\$390,900
Farmer Cabin		
\$43,000	\$12,000	\$55,000
Harris Cabin		
\$69,000	\$6,000	\$75,000
Forest Service & San Juan Skyway Entrance Signs		
\$40,000		\$40,000
Haviland Lake CG Amphitheater		
\$150,000		\$150,000
Yankee Boy Basin Camp- ing Fee Area		
\$270,000	\$10,000	\$280,000
Historic Markers		
\$27,000		\$27,000
Lizard Head Interpretive Pull-Out		
\$70,000		\$70,000
Alta Lakes Campground Toilet Replacement		
\$50,000		\$50,000
Ouray Area Trailheads and Bridges		
\$130,000		\$130,000
TOTALS	TOTALS**	TOTALS
\$2,623,747	\$1,472,784	\$4,096,531

**See Attachment I for Partners and Grant Contributions.

WWW Links:

The Southwest Colorado Travel Region includes the San Juan Skyway in their regional brochure/map that is mailed as a fulfillment piece to visitors calling the region's toll free phone number. The Skyway is also included in the region's web page. A \$30,000 National Scenic Byway Grant that has been approved for the Skyway, which will be used to provide a significantly enhanced web page in order to enhance the recreation, interpretive and resource protection information for this All-American Road.

Attachment I: Partner Contributions

NAME/PROJECT	YEAR	CONTRIBUTION
Colorado State Trails: Galloping Goose Trail	2001	\$124,384
Colo./DOT/Enhancement Galloping Goose Trail	2001	\$24,000
Purgatory Ski-Corporation Little Molas Rec. Area	2001	\$320,000
Colorado State Trails: Bear Creek Trail/Trailhead	2001	\$69,300
SW Colorado Youth Corps Bear Creek Trail/Trailhead	2001	\$8,400
Colo./DOT Nat. Scenic By. Bear Creek Trail/Trailhead	2001	\$233,200
San Juan Mountains Assoc. Farmer Cabin	2000/2001	\$12,000
Colo. Historical Society Harris Cabin	2001	\$6,000
TOTALS		\$797,284

Attachment II: Project Schedule

All projects are scheduled for completion of construction during the 2001 construction season.

ATTACHMENT 1.

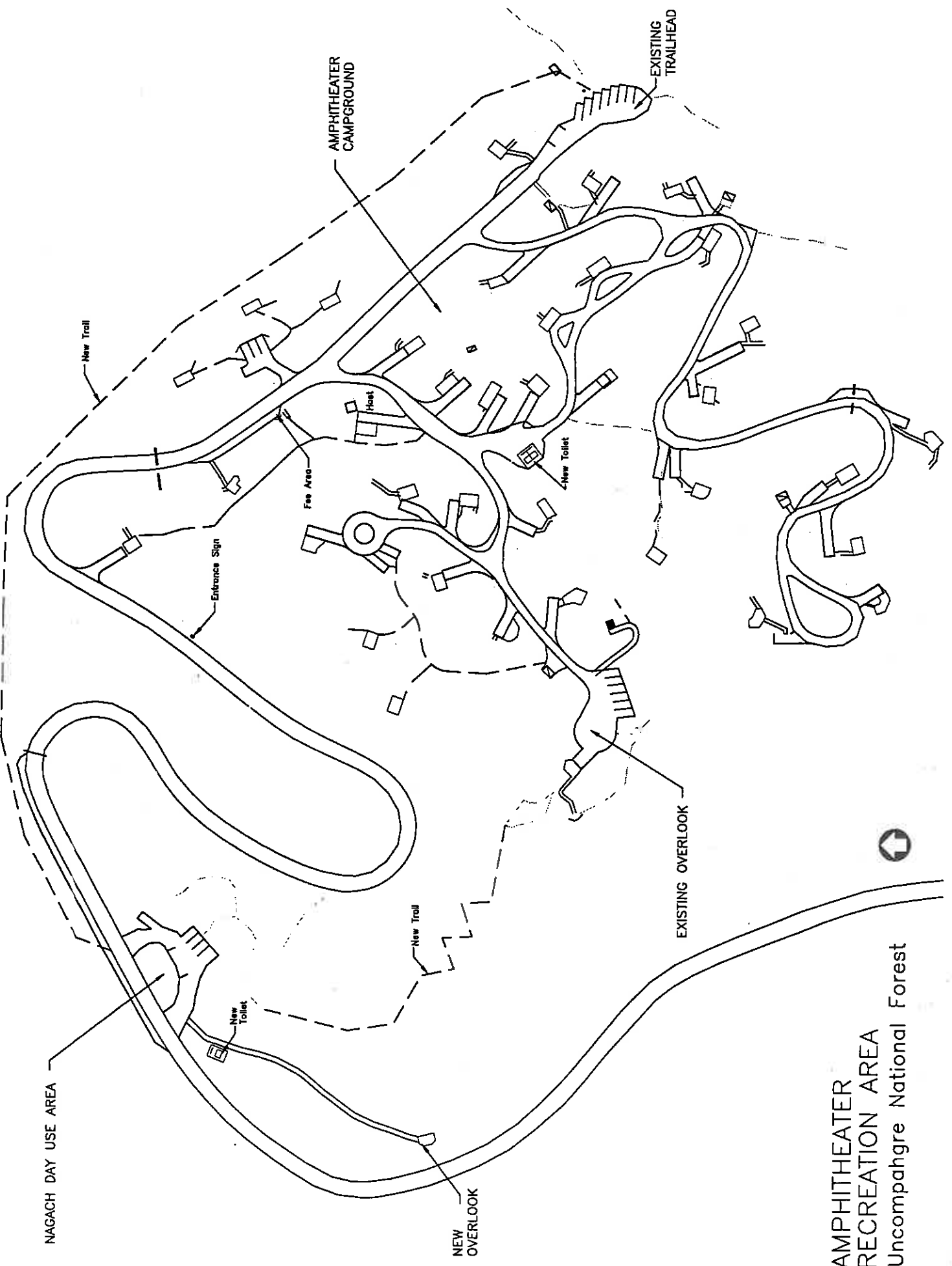
**GALLOPING GOOSE ROADS AND RAILS TO
TRAILS**

ATTACHMENT 2.

LITTLE MOLAS LAKE RECREATION SITE

ATTACHMENT 3.

**AMPHITHEATER CAMPGROUND AND
NAGACH DAY USE AREA**



NAGACH DAY USE AREA

AMPHITHEATER CAMPGROUND

EXISTING TRAILHEAD

New Trail

Entrance Sign

Fee Area

Post

New Toilet

New Trail

NEW OVERLOOK

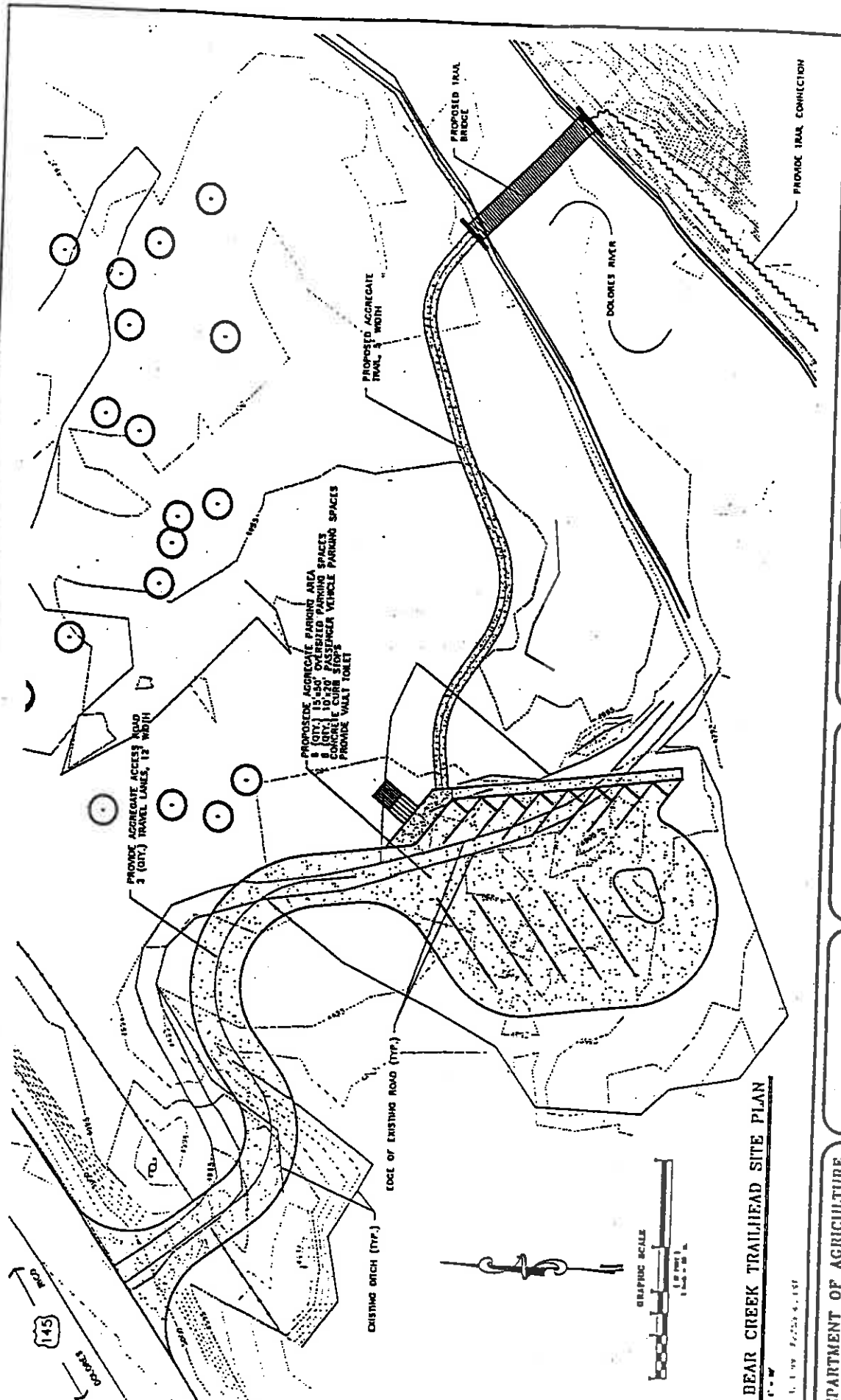
EXISTING OVERLOOK

AMPHITHEATER RECREATION AREA
Uncompahgre National Forest



ATTACHMENT 4.

BEAR CREEK TRAILHEAD



1 BEAR CREEK TRAILHEAD SITE PLAN
1-2-W

DATE: 11/17/2004

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
R-2
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**



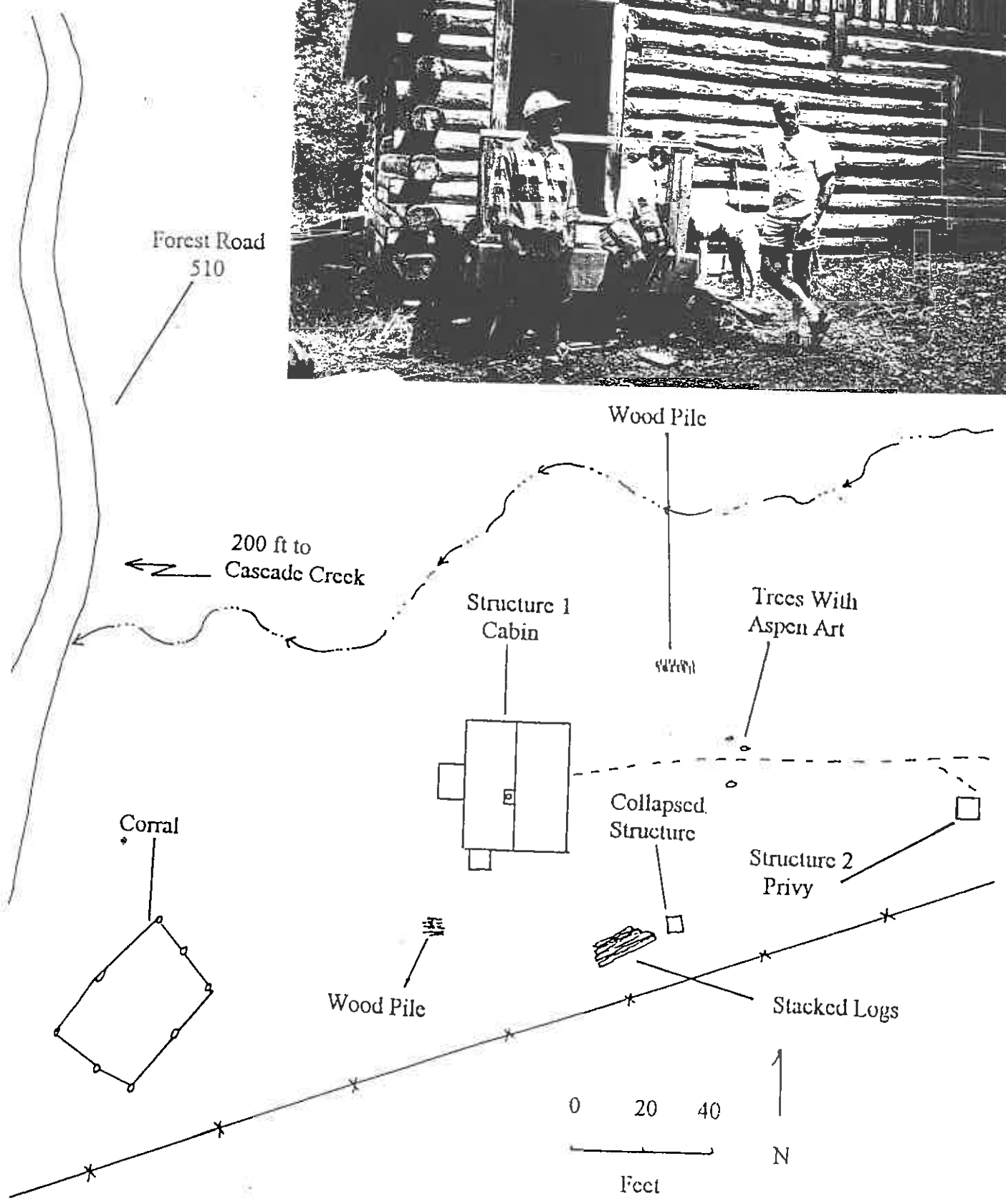
Drawn: S.M.F.
 Bridge: S.M.F.
 Checked: S.M.F.
 Reduced: S.M.F.

Forest: **San Juan National Forest**
 Project Name: **Bear Creek Trailhead**

Sheet Title: **Site Plan**
 Scale: **AS SHOWN**
 Sheet: **1** of **1**

ATTACHMENT 5.

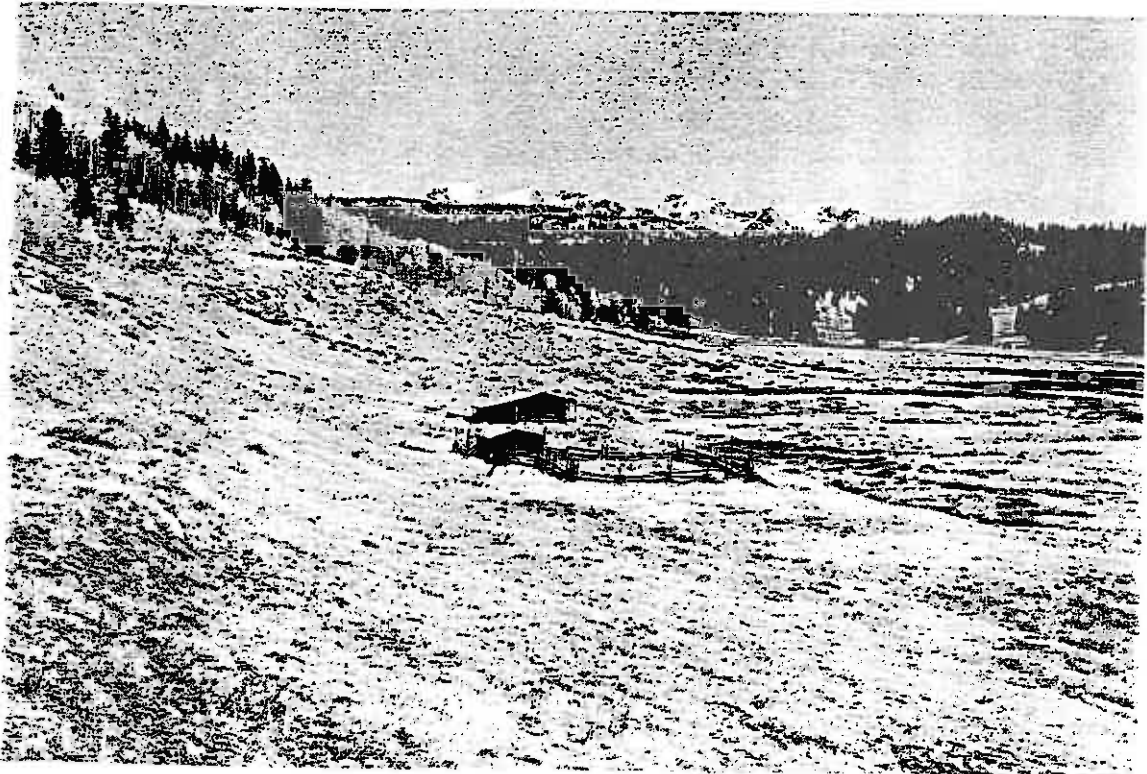
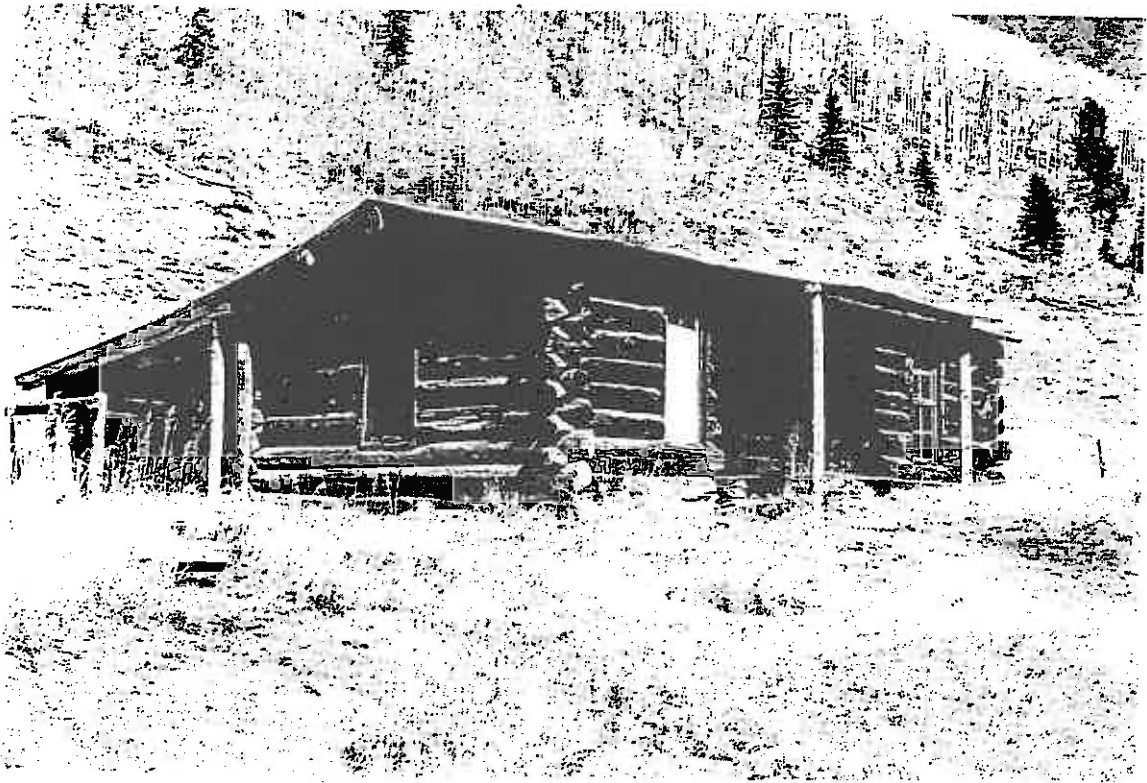
FARMER CABIN



THE FARMER CABIN

ATTACHMENT 6.

HARRIS CABIN

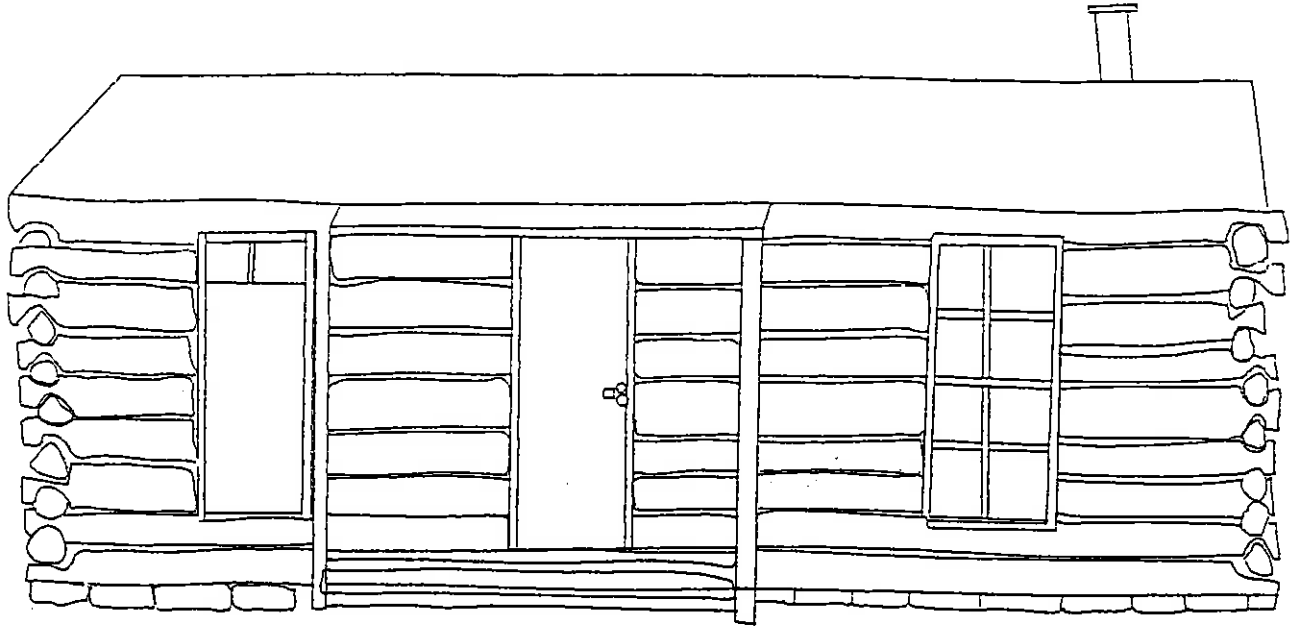


HARRIS CABIN

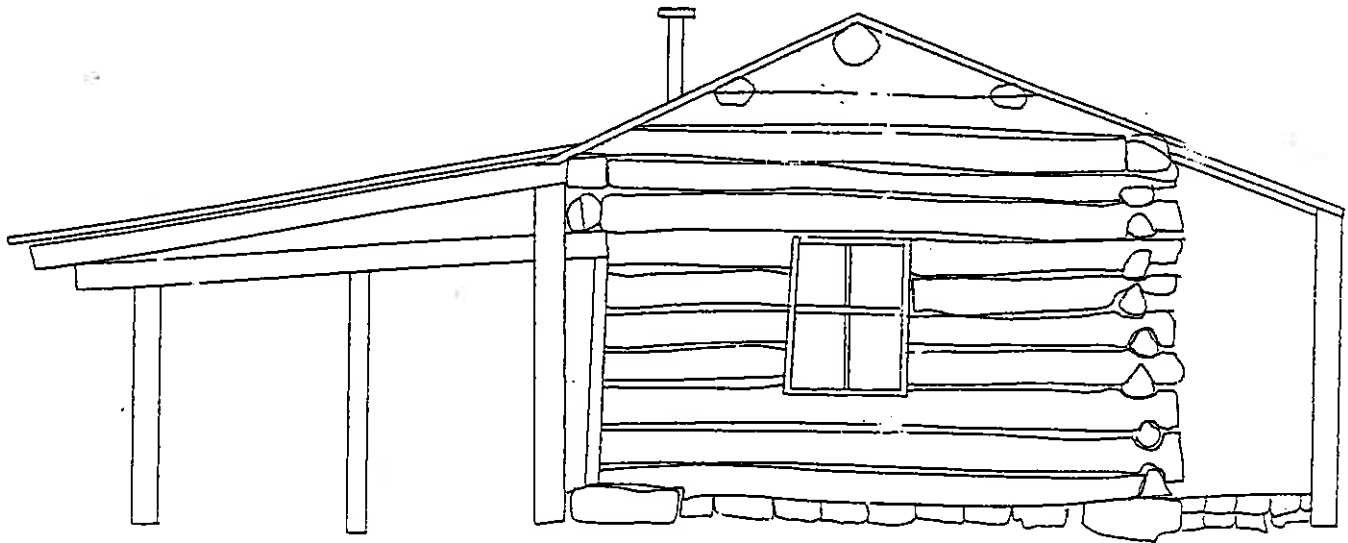
0' 5'

Scale: 1" = 5 feet

5LP-2722 elevations



South elevation

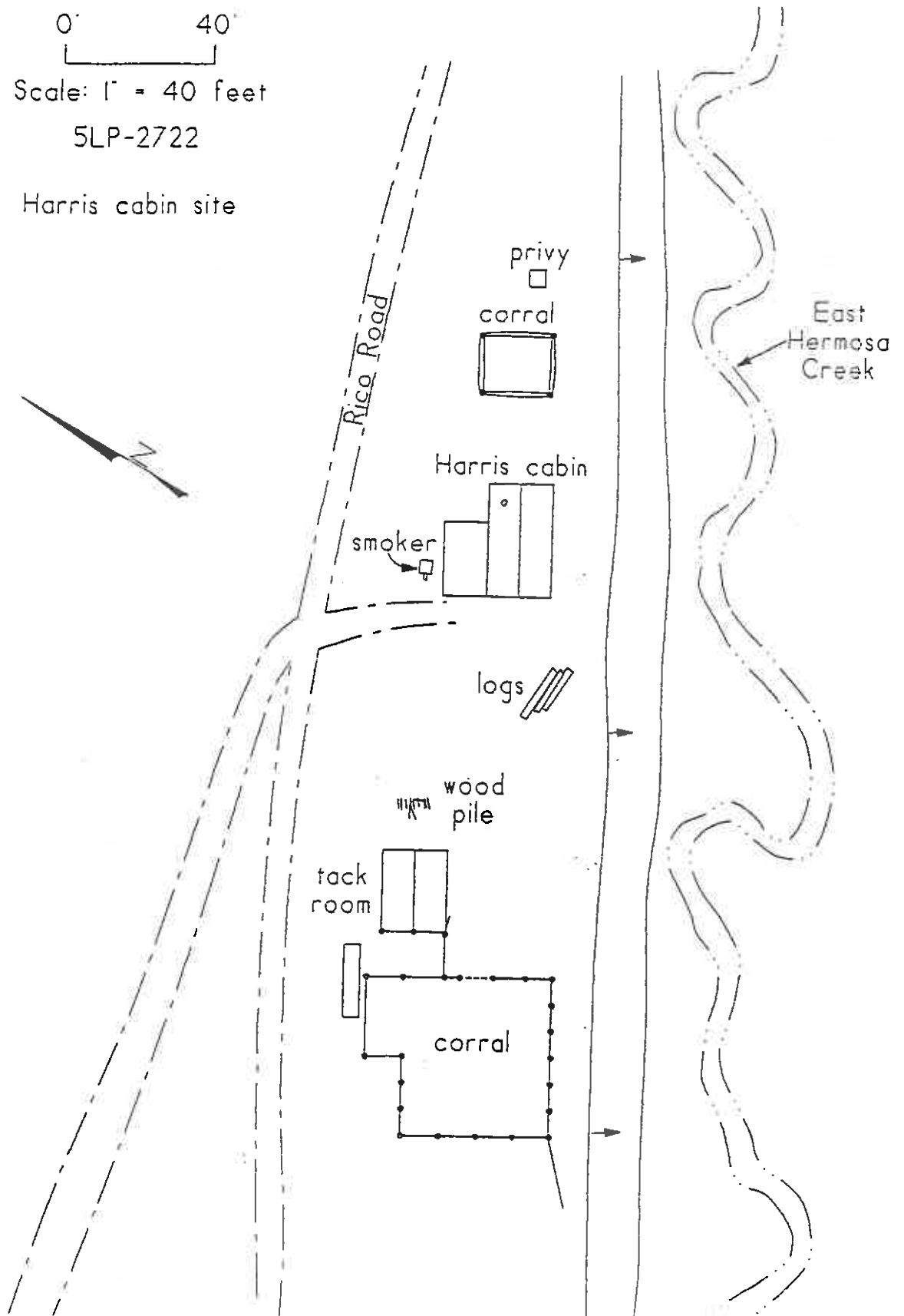


West elevation

HARRIS CABIN

0' 40'
Scale: 1" = 40 feet
5LP-2722

Harris cabin site



HARRIS CABIN

ATTACHMENT 7.

**FOREST SERVICE AND SAN JUAN SKYWAY
ENTRANCE SIGNS**

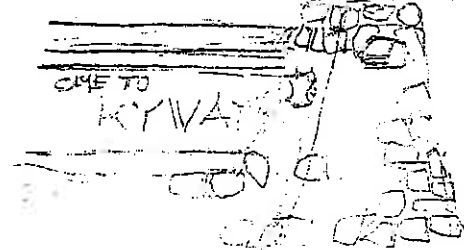
BRASS LETTERS & SHIELD

16" ± LOG



MASONARY BASE

SIGN FACE
COMPUTER ROUTED
ACRYLIC FIBERGLASS



SKYWAY/FOREST ENTRY MARKER

- CONCEPT - RFD 5/00

ATTACHMENT 8.

HISTORIC MARKERS

7. Historic Markers. The Forests, in partnership with the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, installed several historic markers from 1982 to 1992. Many of these signs are weathered, damaged, have fallen into disrepair, or have outdated graphics and interpretive information. This project will: 1) upgrade, rehabilitate, and freshen up the following signs and maintain the mounting structures. All signs are located on, or within a short drive of, the SKYWAY; 2) Develop a web-based Historic Markers Tour that can be downloaded for field use. This will be accomplished with tourism marketing partners; 3) Complete planning, design, NEPA, and partnership development for additional Historic Markers to be installed in 2002.

Lizard Head Pass historic panel. (damaged porcelain panel.)	\$2,500
Lizard Head Interpretive sign. (wooden kiosk sign.)	\$1,000
Scotch Creek Toll Road and Pinkerton Site. (near Rico)	\$1,000
Scotch Creek Toll Road and Pinkerton Site. (Hermosa Park)	\$1,000
Graysill Mine Site.	\$1,000
Rust Sawmill & Railroad Site.	\$1,000
McPhee Park Logging and Old Growth Site.	\$1,000
Beaver Creek Massacre National Register Site.	\$1,000
Beaver Corrals Community Grazing Site.	\$1,000
Horse Camp Railroad Logging Site.	\$1,000
Ridge Point Overlook Indian History Site. (four panels)	\$2,000
Ivikukuch Ute History Site. (Target Tree Campground)	\$1,000
La Plata Canyon/La Plata City Mining History Site.	\$1,000
Animas-Silverton Wagon Road Site (Chris Park CG)	\$1,000
Lime Creek Burn Site	\$1,000
Lime Creek Wagon Road	\$1,000
Internet web-based Historic Markers Tour.	\$2,500
FY 2002 Historic Markers planning, design, NEPA, partnership development.	<u>\$5,000</u>
TOTAL	\$26,000