

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 4/13/2016 6:00 PM | Meeting location Gila Regional Medical Center

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Jean Hill, Andrea Imler, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Russ Imler, Judy Brown Lawson, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Mara Miles, Ted Miles, Kathy Murch, Cheryl Roth, Randy Roth, Becky Shumway (guest)

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic *Call to order* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Attendance seemed light this evening, to which Doug attributed confusion about the meeting location. We enjoyed meeting at the EMS conference room so much that about half the attendees gathered there instead of up at the hospital's conference room. Doug apologized for any miscommunication about the meeting location. Turns out we can't rent the ems room after hours.

Agenda topic *Recognize guests and new members [Name]*

Becky Shumway, long-time friend and acquaintance of many in this body of public-service-minded equestrians, joined us this evening. If we have any new members, they failed to show up tonight.

Agenda topic *Additions or changes to agenda*

Apparently exhausted from our recent hullabaloo at NAN Ranch, or perhaps terrified of bringing new responsibilities to the Gila BCHA chapter, nobody offered any changes to the agenda for this meeting.

Agenda topic *Additions or changes to minutes*

All the members present obviously read the minutes from the March meeting, but due to our aging brains nobody could remember what they said, so there were no additions or changes to the minutes. The secretary is grateful.

Agenda topic *Financial report* | Presenter *Jean Hill*

See attached report (page 9).

Some of the money in our bulging coffers came from NAN Ranch Ride sponsorship donations made by an affectionate community. Vicki Dowd has agreed to put out a public thank you to recognize donors.

Doug asked that the donor list gets circulated among us so that when we visit a donating business, each of us can announce our affiliation with GBCH and express gratitude for the donation.

Action items

Person responsible

Compile list of NAN Ranch Ride donors and circulate to the GBCH membership

Vicki Dowd

Agenda topic *Membership* | Presenter *Jean Hill*

The Gila chapter still has 65 members. Somebody noted ruefully that while although is a laudable condition for an impoverished public service consortium, it means we get to pay insurance for 65 people. You'd think that everybody would be so grateful for this benefit of membership that even the EMS conference room wouldn't be big enough to hold us at our monthly meetings.

One might also note that the \$10 per hour we pay for the GRMC conference room, for which funds are raised by the monthly production of a 50/50 raffle (its accompanying contribution to the waste stream of numerous "KEEP THIS TICKET" tickets), is a huge bargain if all 65 members attend the meetings, during which all could gain compassion for the plight of sardines.

Agenda topic *Publicity* | Presenter *Ted Miles*

Ted reports that two good articles were published recently about chapter activities. Ted hopes to get published follow-up articles about the NAN Ranch Ride in *Desert Exposure*, *The Independent*, the National BCH newsletter, and any other content-hungry rag.

Vicki Dowd will email a bunch of stuff to Ted. Cindi will do an article for May issue of *The Independent*. Vicki noted that ride photos are online at www.cowtrailphotography.com. She suggested that photos should be posted on our website and sent to the state.

Any articles on the NAN Ranch Ride topic need to state who was there, from which states participants hailed, and what happened out there in that windy landscape, full of cows and trail-flag snagging cacti.

Agenda topic *Public Service/Communications* | Presenter *Gerry Engel*

The chapter's 2016 trail work has begun. The trail along Little Cherry Creek up to the junction of the Continental Divide Trail and on the CDT up to Black Peak has been cleared of 11 annoying downed trees. See map on page 10.

The second project, which is planned for the day after this meeting, will clear trail blockages from Snow Creek, which is located off Sheep Corral Road. See map on page 11.

Following complaints from Donna and Cindi that the Tadpole Ridge trail was, um, odious, Gerry cleared the first three miles one day recently. He went up to the snow line and decided that the hazards of getting through the patches of drifted snow eight or nine inches deep warranted waiting for a thaw up there. Tadpole Ridge is shown along with Snow Creek on the map on page 11.

Gerry noted that several trails around Woody's Corral (see map on page 12) are rideable, so if anybody goes up there, give Gerry a report about what you find.

Agenda topic RAC Application and Commitment | Presenter Gerry Engel

Every year or so, Gerry applies for trail work funds from the Las Cruces Resource Advisory Council (RAC). New Mexico's four councils comprise an interesting outfit, based on collaboration among those who oversee federal funds provided by Title II. Learn more about the RACs at http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/info/resource_advisory.html.

Gerry commented that Title II money for RAC requests was not available last year, but now is. He has submitted two proposals, one for trail work in Catron County (where several trails we use are located) and one for Grant County. The proposals request reimbursement for mileage and food for trail projects where we camp out.

If the proposals are approved, the funds will be available over a three-year period, which is new—RAC money was good for only two years in the past. The funds requested total over \$16,000, of which \$6969 would support work in Grant County and \$8340 would help us maintain trails in Catron County. Furthermore, the proposals request \$1600 for an automatic external defibrillator (AED), a device the chapter has considered adding to our tools because we aren't getting any younger, because trail work is vigorous, and because having an AED at the ready is good policy and practice for a bunch of old, ahem, farts on horses.

In addition to the big bucks, Gerry's proposals commit the chapter to maintain a total of 135 trail miles over the three-year allocation period. The mileage is divided up as 80 miles in Catron County and 55 miles in Grant County. Gerry commented that the mileage proposed is conservative because we always do more than we commit to, but that the proposals commit to a minimum number when they are presented to the RAC. He noted that we always get funded, but if we don't get the work done, we have to give the money back.

The Catron County work will go out of Woody's Corral and targets trails along Little Creek to McKenna Park, as well as Woodland and Lilly Parks. The proposals don't include Pueblo Park, but Gerry would like to work up there as well. Catron County work will involve day trips from Woody's Corral as well as a pack-in or two.

Proposed trails were specified on the basis of priorities expressed by the Forest Service over the three-year period.

During the last round of available Title II money from the RAC, Gerry put in a two-year proposal, but as government budgets and other inscrutable matters worked out, the Gila chapter ended up having to spend all the money and complete all proposed projects in one year. Even at that, we achieved the proposed mileage plus some more.

Work on trails in the Gila Wilderness costs the chapter more money because of the inconvenient necessity of feeding the workers, but even in the wilderness, much of the work ends up being practically free because the trails are relatively close to home; many of them don't require packing in. Gerry said he considered hiring a cook for pack trips, but didn't put it in the RAC proposal. The

Woodland Park project offers the challenge of packing in horse feed. It might be possible to pay Becky Campbell (a guide in the Gila area) to pack in the horse feed. Gerry noted that he approached Mike Carr (trail supervisor for the Gila National Forest) about packing the feed into Woodland Park, and Mike "didn't say no." Gerry added that he could pack in the feed himself if it didn't wear out his horse too much (note that a couple of GBCH members would be willing to help with this effort if necessary).

Donna Tillmann mentioned the number of downed trees she found while riding the 2013 Silver Fire-affected Hillsboro Peak trail heading north from Emory Pass (map on page 13). Gerry noted that he hopes to work on that, although it's not included in the RAC proposal. He added that the Rocky Mountain trail group is working through the burned area on the trail going south.

Gerry noted that also included in the proposal is work on our old friends, McKnight Canyon and Powderhorn Ridge (see map on page 14), both of which sustained heat from the Silver Fire in 2013.

Doug asked Gerry if there is a dialog with Pat Buls (Lower Rio Grande BCH Chapter) about the Rocky Canyon portion of the Continental Divide Trail (map on page 15). Gerry responded that we would co-adopt that chunk of trail, with the expectation that both chapters will do their part to maintain it. He added that the trail likely needs brushing and some logging; brushing will be a bit part of the work on a lot of these trails. Gerry expressed that it would be good for us to connect up with hiking groups, since hikers can do lopping work much more easily than riders can. Doug noted that we could come up with a plan to get folks from college to help, to which Gerry suggested contacting the Wilderness Alliance folks, as well as another independent group that could follow us with brushing after we log out.

Vicki Dowd commented that NATRC gives \$1500 grants for trail clearing. NATRC asks only that on paths cleared with NATRC money, trailer parking exists so people can ride those trails. If we get RAC money we'll be in good shape for 3 years.

Action items

Person responsible

Look for WNMU and Wilderness Alliance people to help with brushing on trail projects. Doug/Gerry

Figure out how to get feed packed in to Woodland Park Gerry

Agenda topic *NAN Ranch Ride* | **Presenter** *Vicki Dowd*

After the recent competitive trail ride at NAN Ranch, Vicki mentioned that she received a letter from the NATRC region 3 president, who expressed thanks for the ride and had a fabulous time at the event. The president had expressed personally to many of us that we have set the bar higher for region 3 trail rides. Vicki noted that the greater part of the compliment is that club members were friendly and did their jobs well. NATRC region 3 will sing the praises of the Back Country Horsemen—and she thinks we will probably get 40-45 riders if GBCH decides to host the ride again in 2017).

Doug reported that the ride's horsemanship judge expressed compliments at the awards ceremony, saying he'd never been to a ride that offered greater hospitality. Accordingly, Doug mentioned that we'll rattle the matter of a 2017 ride around at the next meeting.

Donna Tillmann, who designed the ceramic tiles given out as awards for first-place riders, noted that SYZYGY Tile would produce another run of the highly-coveted objet d'art so that anybody who wants one can have one, although we'll have to pay for them. At the moment, we don't know how much they'll cost because we don't know how many SYZYGY will have to produce or what they will charge.

Doug suggested that we collect the numbers at our May meeting; Donna agreed, but admonished that we should send an advance email message about this matter and that the message should contain a photograph of the tile.

Doug reported on a ride debriefing held earlier in this week. At that meeting, the group of tired but exuberant attendees fussed a bit about a few things that didn't work as well as they might have, but also expressed considerable satisfaction with everything that went right, which outnumbered the foibles of the ride.

Doug noted that the Gila chapter needs to vote on whether or not to do the ride again and suggested that a vote could be taken by email, since attendance at tonight's meeting was low.

Some confusion exists about the dates for a potential 2017 NAN Ranch Ride; the dates must be cast in stone before any vote is taken. Mara Miles asked if the ride would be a potential moneymaker for the chapter, as it seems to have been this year. Doug noted that the matter of dollars is risky; we need commitments from 40 riders, especially if community donations don't continue for a 2017 ride. If we had 30 riders and received no donations, the revenue would be about the same as in 2016.

Mara protested that conducting a vote on an activity that requires so much organization and work from chapter members is deserving of a thorough discussion and isn't terribly well-suited to an email vote. Doug agreed with Mara and noted that the discussion and vote are good agenda items for the chapter's May meeting.

Action items	Person responsible
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Email communication (with photograph) to membership about NAN Ranch tiles	Doug/Donna
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Add NAN Ranch Ride discussion and vote to May meeting agenda	Doug
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Agenda topic Equine evacuation | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug reported that progress is occurring on the maps that are part of the GBCH evacuation plan. (These maps show the location where GBCH members keep their horses, as well as noting how many equines could be accommodated at a given location in the event members in an adjacent area need to evacuate their animals.)

He advised that Laurie Wlosinski and Marc Levesque have produced maps bearing the names, addresses, gps coordinates, and number of equines each location can accept. An ever-present challenge with an effort of this nature is the need to keep the information up-to-date, and the maps already need information for the 10 new GBCH members. Doug has contacted these folks to get their information and has heard back from some of them.

The Gila chapter now has a current address list and a current call tree, accompanied by a call tree protocol. Doug will compile the maps, address list, call tree diagram and call tree protocol in plastic folders so that members can keep it handy in their trailers.

Laurie asked if the chapter's new members are aware of the evacuation plan, to which Doug responded that he has advised them to visit the GBCH website for a copy of the document (<https://gilabchnm.com/2015/04/28/equine-evacuation-manual-2015/>)

Action items	Person responsible
Get evacuation map information from new members	Doug or his designee
Create evacuation packets	Doug or his designee
Figure out a way to keep evacuation information updated so that Doug doesn't have to do all the work.	Doug or his designee

Agenda topic GCSAR | **Presenter** Laurie Wlosinski

Laurie reports that search and rescue (SAR) activity has been quiet. Grant County SAR held a training session over the weekend, but none of the mounted unit members attended, being otherwise occupied out at NAN Ranch.

Laurie imagines that with the monsoon and summer vacation looming, rescue calls will pick up. She also reports that the regular column in April's issue of *The Independent* covered the topic of mounted search and rescue in Grant County.

Agenda topic Fundraising at Rodeo | **Presenter** Doug Dexter

The Southwest Horseman's Association puts on an annual rodeo during the first week in June. The association invited GBCH to oversee parking for the mobs that attend the popular four-night event, which earned the chapter 400 smackers in 2015. Doug is meeting with the association this Thursday to discuss parking for the 2016 rodeo.

Dates are June 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Wednesday through Saturday). The job involves stuff like making sure the parking areas get filled in a systematic way, that VIP parking is filled only by VIP permit holders, and directing cars to the appropriate area. Some traffic directors get to wave safety flags around!

Doug says we need up to eight people each night, so there's plenty of opportunity to stand around in a safety vest and wave a flag, eyeball VIP permits, or just look important. If enough of us step up, the work can be spread out so that nobody has to attend every night.

Doug will put out a message to the membership requesting participation and providing further details. After that, he'll set up a schedule.

Action items	Person responsible
Prepare email message to GBCH membership announcing the rodeo and requesting parking attendants.	Doug Dexter
Develop parking attendant schedule.	Doug Dexter

Agenda topic *State Summary Update* | **Presenter** *Rawlings Lemon*

Rawlings reported that the state BCHA has requested that every chapter posts on the state website any activities so that visitors from other chapters can find out about events and join in if they want to. Cindi deCapiteau will organize the information and send it to Ted Miles, who will forward it up the line.

Action items	Person responsible
Send info about known GBCH activities to Ted Miles	Cindi deCapiteau

Agenda topic *May 11 Potluck Picnic* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

Next month's chapter meeting will be held at the Gomez Peak pavilion (the pavilion is located at the Forest Service's Gomez Peak Large Group Area, about 4.73 miles up and on the left side of Little Walnut Road from US 180 on the west side of Silver City).

The meeting will feature the exceptional potluck cuisine of chapter members, so bring your favorite covered dish and be prepared to be delighted at the offerings of others. Also bring your own plates, eating and serving utensils, your favorite beverages, drinkware, and napkins.

Forest service bigwigs Amy Hartell and Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton are eyeballing the forest for trails that can be ignored or decommissioned. They will attend the picnic, equipped with maps we can examine to find out what they have in mind.

The picnic starts at 4:00 p.m. Doug believes the pavilion has electricity, but will verify the assumption with the Forest Service. The event will be purely potluck (no cooking or chapter-provided juicy burgers) and the chapter will provide bottled water left over from the NAN Ranch ride and Doug will bring ice. Alcoholic beverages are allowed, so it's ok to bring your beer and wine, but please consume it responsibly.

Cheryl Roth will coordinate the food by way of an email requesting submissions by category (salads, pasta, bread, etc.) and will send message to Gerry for distribution to the membership.

Family members and potential new chapter members are welcome.

In addition to discussions about the Forest Service's plans to downsize trails, the picnic agenda will include discussion about the NAN Ranch project and whether to do it again next year. (Doug and Vicki will have confirmation of the date by then.)

Action items	Person responsible
Get ice and facility key for Gomez Peak meeting	Doug Dexter
Prepare email announcing the meeting and its venue	Doug Dexter
Coordinate food so that we don't end up with everybody bringing tortilla chips.	Cheryl Roth
Firm up the date for a proposed 2017 NAN Ranch Ride	Doug Dexter/Vicki Dowd

Agenda topic *Announcements*

Silver City's second annual Continental Divide Trail Days festivities are happening this Saturday, starting at 10:00 a.m. downtown. A block of Bullard Street will be closed. The Gila BCH chapter will be represented by a couple of donkeys (that doesn't sound right, but it's too funny to omit), a decked-out packhorse, and maybe a dog or two. Anybody who wants to support the effort is welcome. Just show up at the strip mall parking lot on the north side of the San Vicente Creek bridge on Highway 91, where chapter members will meet around 1:00 p.m.

Agenda topic *Adopt-a-highway* | *Presenter* *Cindi deCapiteau*

US 180 between mile markers 108 and 109 is ripe with roadside trash. Gerry mused that it would be nice to clean it up before the Tour of the Gila rolls through the first week in May. Cindi and Cheryl passed out a sign-up sheet that nabbed 12 trash pickers (you know who you are).

The cleanup crew will assemble at the Wind Canyon fire station (US 180 and the Truck Bypass Road) at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20. As always, you can keep anything you pick up out there.

(bank statements available at meeting)

Bank Balance February 16, 2016 \$4,372.79

Deposits

six deposits \$ 1,757.57 Rider fees Nan, March 50/50, donations

Withdrawals

1 check \$ 31.83 Trvl reimb, State Meeting

Bank Balance March 15, 2015 \$6,098.53

Transactions after March 15, 2016:

Deposits

twelve \$ 3,068.00 Natrc donations, dinner payments & rider fees

Withdrawals

11 checks \$ 3,986.00 natrc expenses, state dues, reimb state reps
 cash out \$ 200.00 natrc expenses

Online Balance April 12, 2016 \$4,980.53

Membership:

2016 membership No new members since last meeting, 65 members, 21 families and 21 singles.

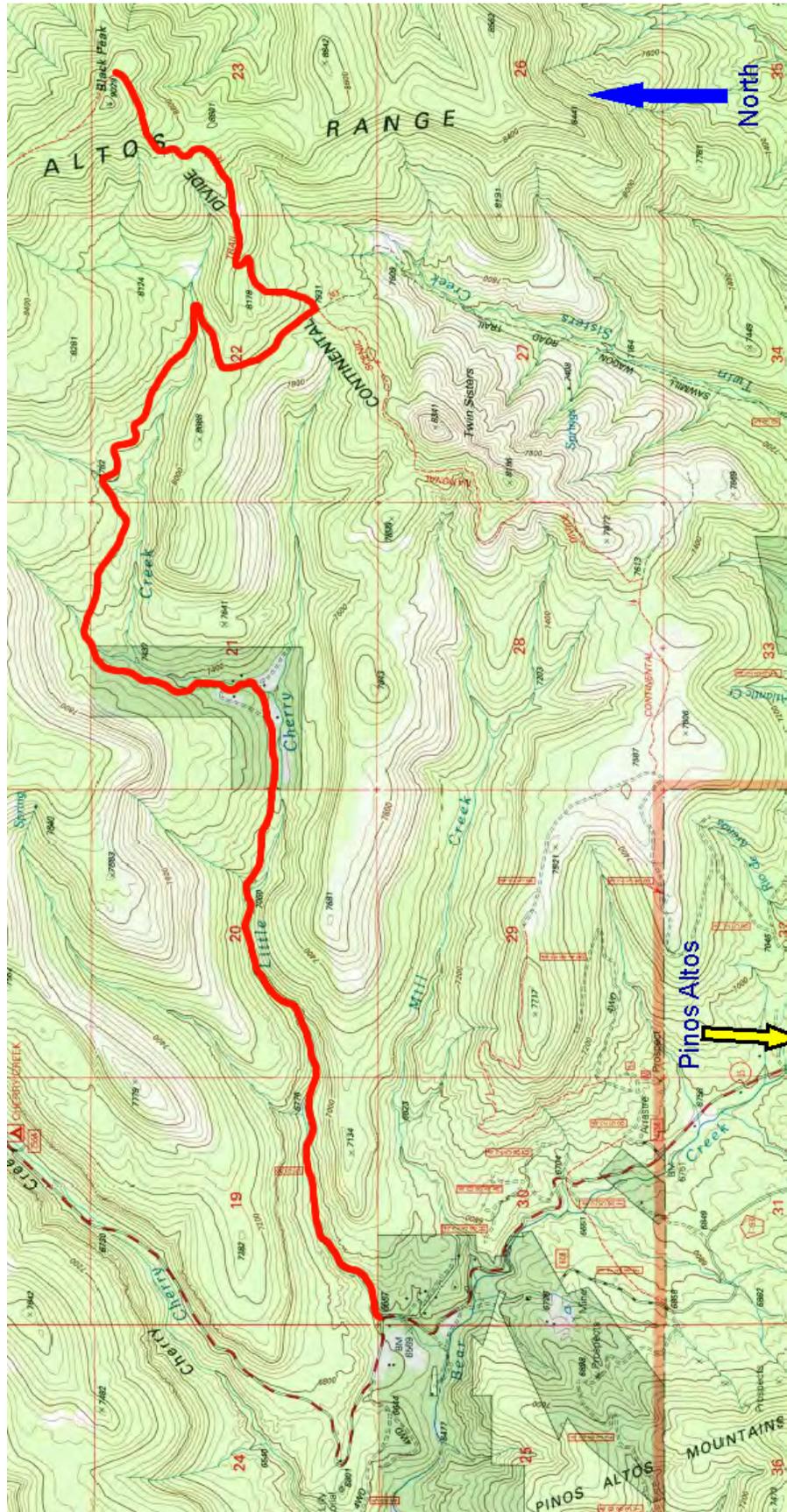
We sent dues with Lemons to State meeting on March 19, total of \$1,008.00, check cleared April 12.

NATRC Income/Expenses Totals through April 12, 2016.

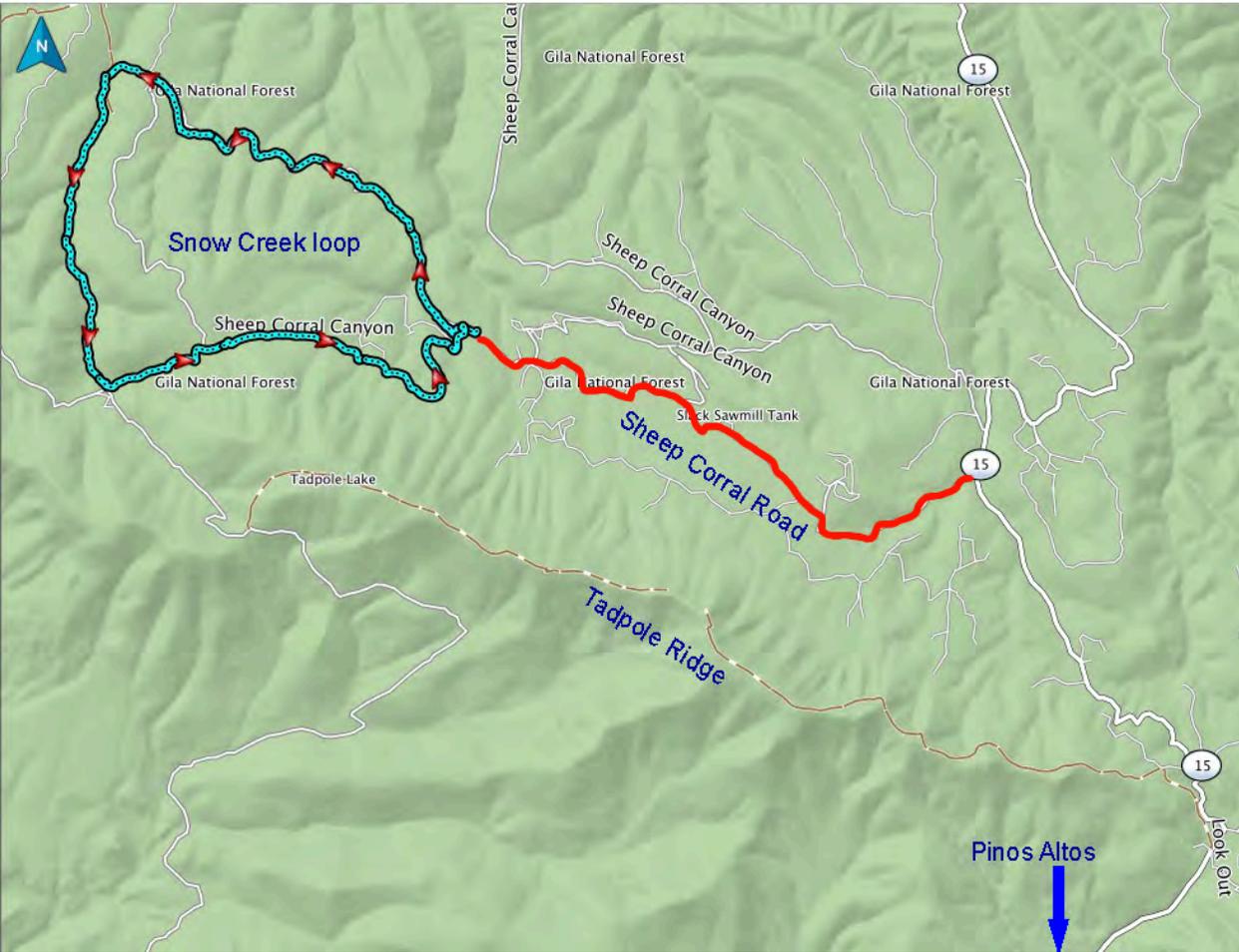
<input type="checkbox"/> INCOME	5,356.00
<input type="checkbox"/> NATRC Donation	2,382.00
<input type="checkbox"/> NATRC income-other	92.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ride Fee-NATRC	2,882.00
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPENSES	-3,307.92
<input type="checkbox"/> Natrc Expense	-3,307.92
OVERALL ...	2,048.08

Final NATRC numbers are not all in, but above is fairly close. Many non-monetary donations were made that helped this event to be profitable.

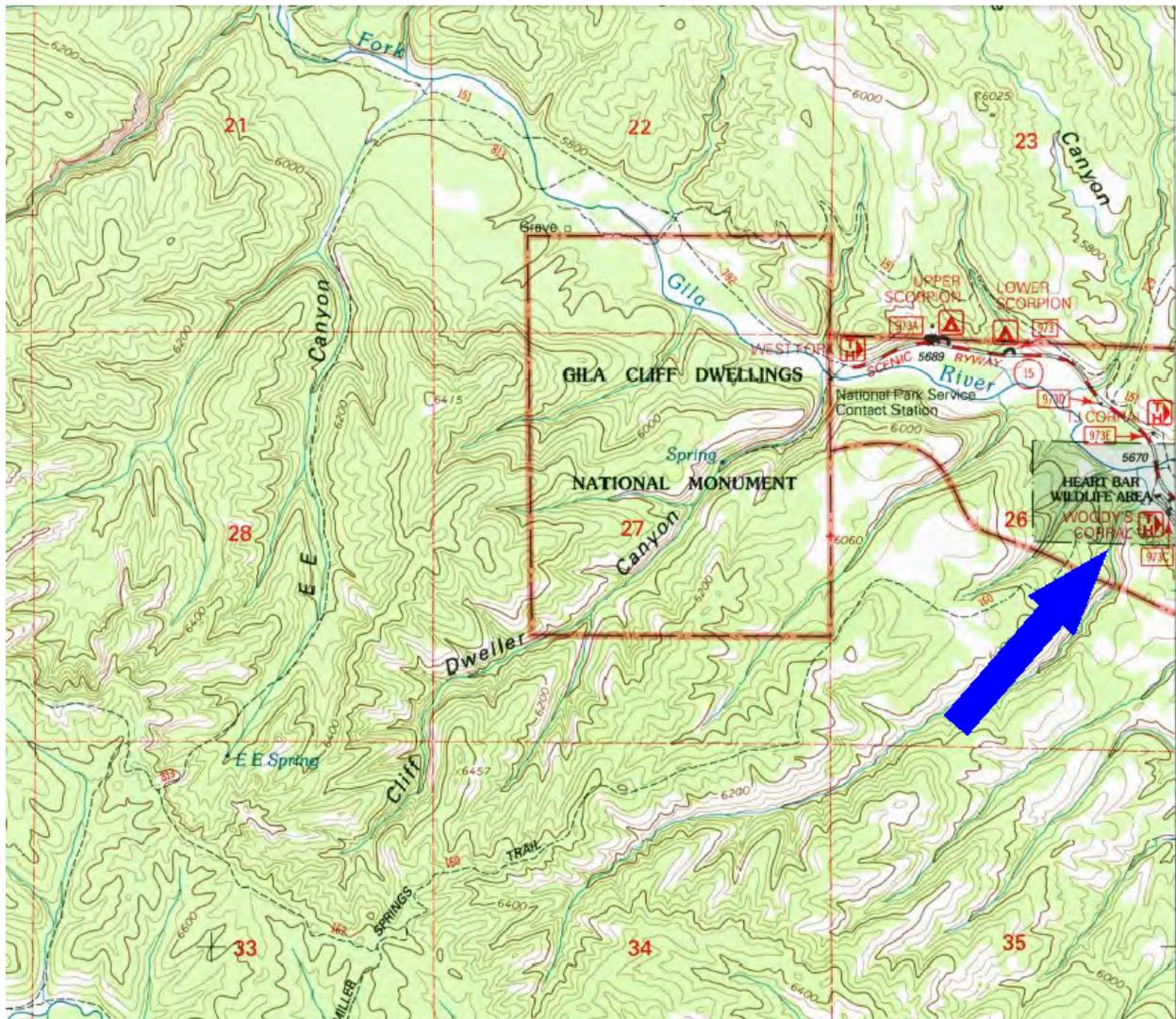
Little Cherry Creek Trail Project, April 11, 2016 (source 1999 USGS Twin Sisters map)



Snow Creek and Tadpole Ridge (Source: Garmin BaseCamp)



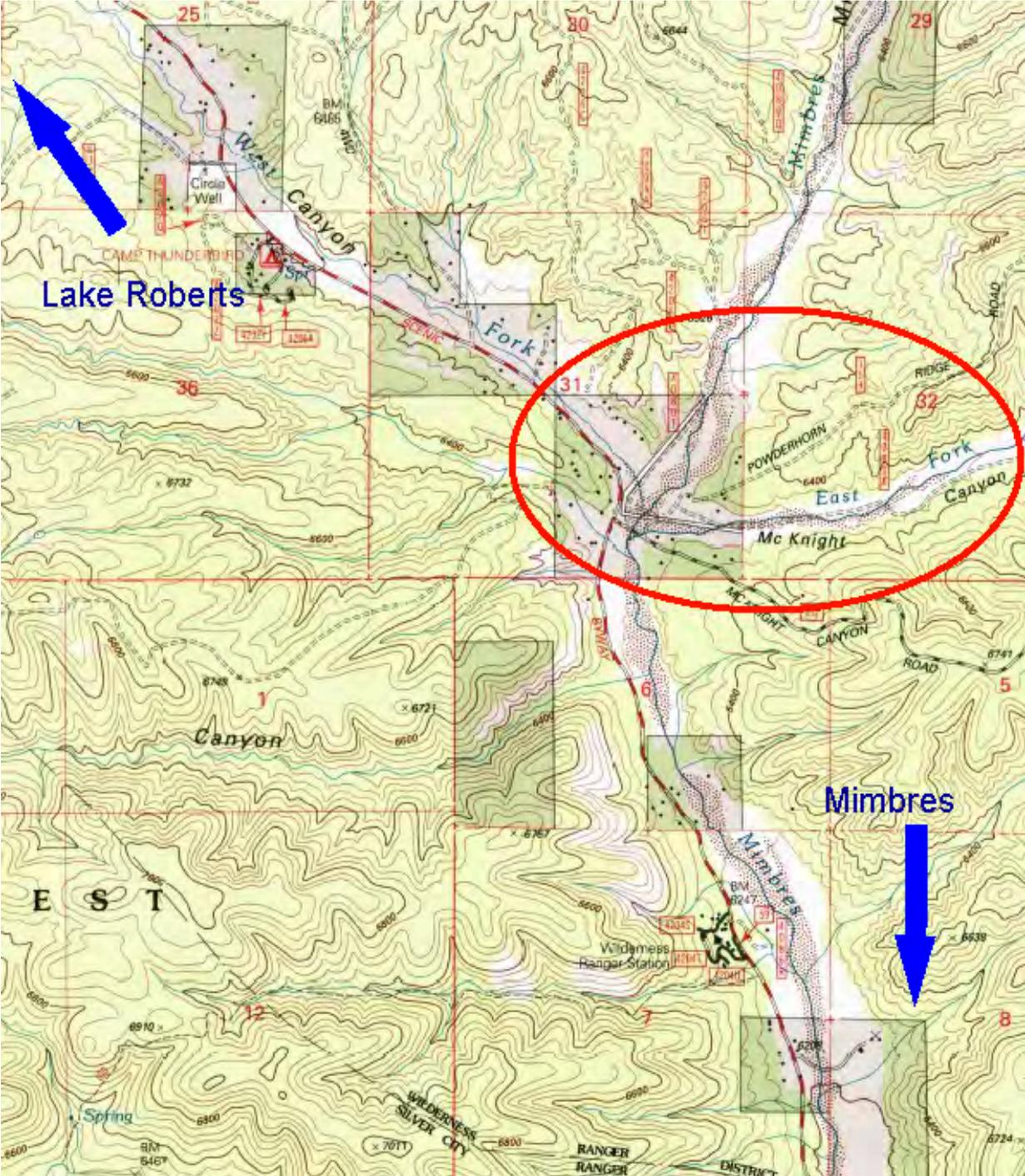
Woody's Corral (source: 1999 USGS Little Turkey Park map)



Hillsboro Peak
Trail north
from Emory
Pass (source:
1999 USGS
Hillsboro Peak
map)



Powderhorn Ridge and McKnight Canyon (source 1999 USGS Allie Canyon map)



Rocky Canyon (source: 1999 USGS North Star Mesa map)

