



North Slope Recreation Area Recreational Access Plan Public Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Welcome & Introductions

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Background Information
 - *Where is the North Slope Recreation Area?*
 - *Previous Commercial Survey*
- Current Project
 - *Project Scope and Process*
 - *Existing Conditions*
 - *Goals*
 - *Areas of Focus*
- Next Steps
 - *Virtual Public Meeting*
 - *Surveys*
 - *Further Stakeholder Engagement*



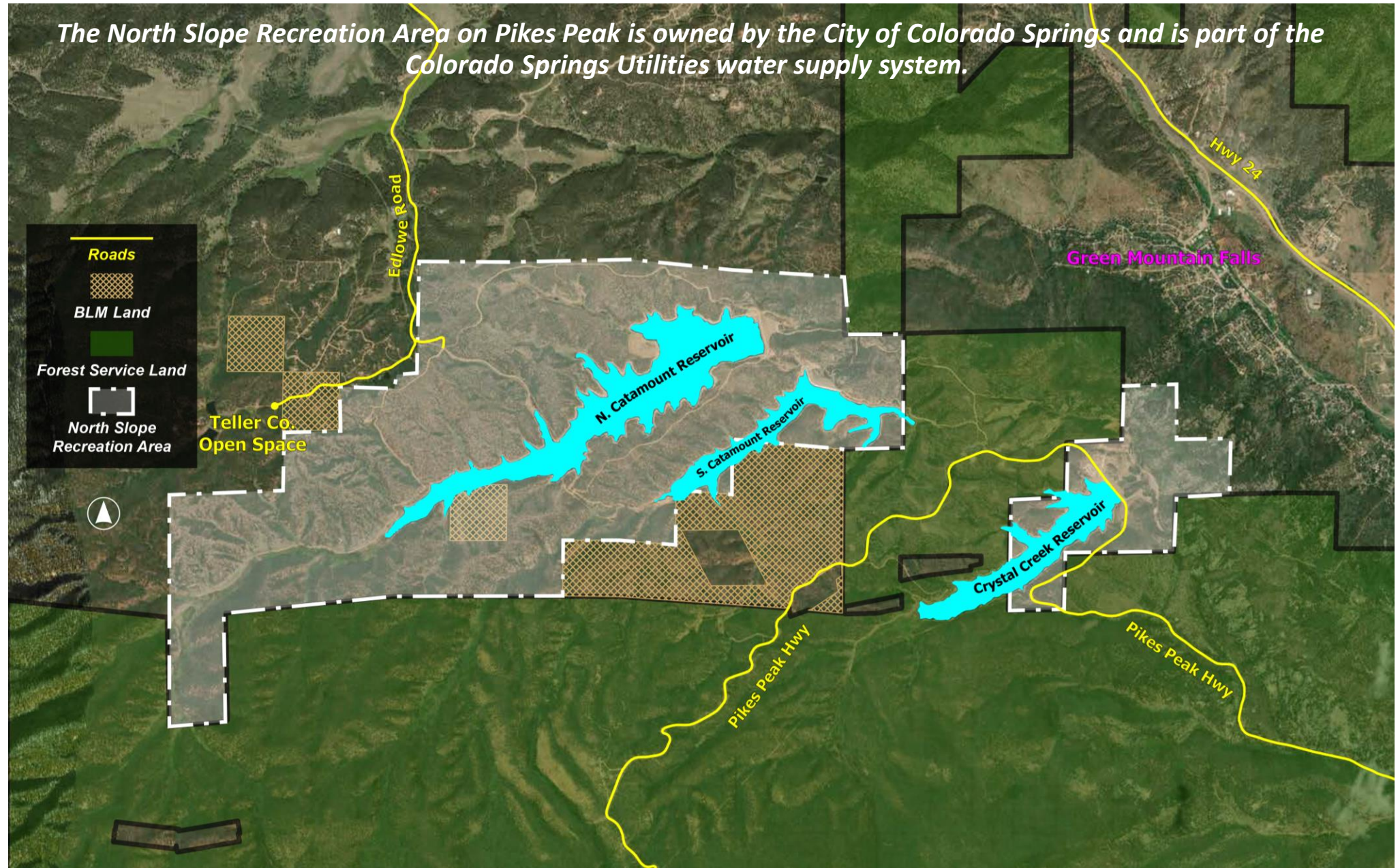
Interactive Mentimeter Question

What recreational activity do you participate in regularly?

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Background Information

North Slope Recreation Area



Interactive Mentimeter Question

***What do you like best about the North Slope Recreation Area?
(in a word or two)***

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Previous North Slope Review (2023)

- Gathered feedback on commercially guided tours and the potential effects on Colorado Springs Utilities' managed watershed lands
- Surveys sent to Colorado Springs Utilities' customers and recreational users of the NSRA
- Included review of benchmark programs from experienced agencies
- Researched best management practices to consider for sustainable program implementation

Key Findings

The public values the North Slope Recreation Area for its watershed and recreational uses.

Opinion is split about whether commercially guided activities affect the quality of the general public's experience or should be allowed.

If commercially guided activities are permitted, the public wants the process to be managed fairly and for the outfitters to help with staffing costs, litter cleanup, stewardship education, and other amenities.

The issue deserves appropriate consideration within the context of existing recreation, as a policy decision.

North Slope Recreation Area Recreational Access Plan

Goals

- Enhance security measures and strengthen infrastructure protection to safeguard critical drinking water assets.
- Develop and enforce clear rules, regulations, and procedures to ensure the safety of the public, staff, and infrastructure.
- Support public access and recreational activities that align with Colorado Springs Utilities' core operations and are financially and environmentally sustainable.
- Ensure adequate resource allocation for the sustainable management of the North Slope Recreation Area (NSRA), now and in the future.

Scope

- Analyze current public access and recreation activities in the North Slope Recreation Area (NSRA).
- Assess existing trails and access points for improvement opportunities.
- Recommend enhancements that prioritize infrastructure protection and security, public safety, and sustainability.
- Develop alternatives that reduce impacts on existing operations, drinking water sources, natural resources, and visitor experience.

Process

Summer/Fall/Winter
2024

Data Collection and Analysis

- Initiate Project
- Technical Team
- Existing Conditions Analysis
- Desired Futures

Winter/Spring/Summer
2024-2025

Develop and Analyze Access Alternatives

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Field Work
- Develop Alternatives
- Evaluate Alternatives

Fall/Winter
2025-2026

Draft Report

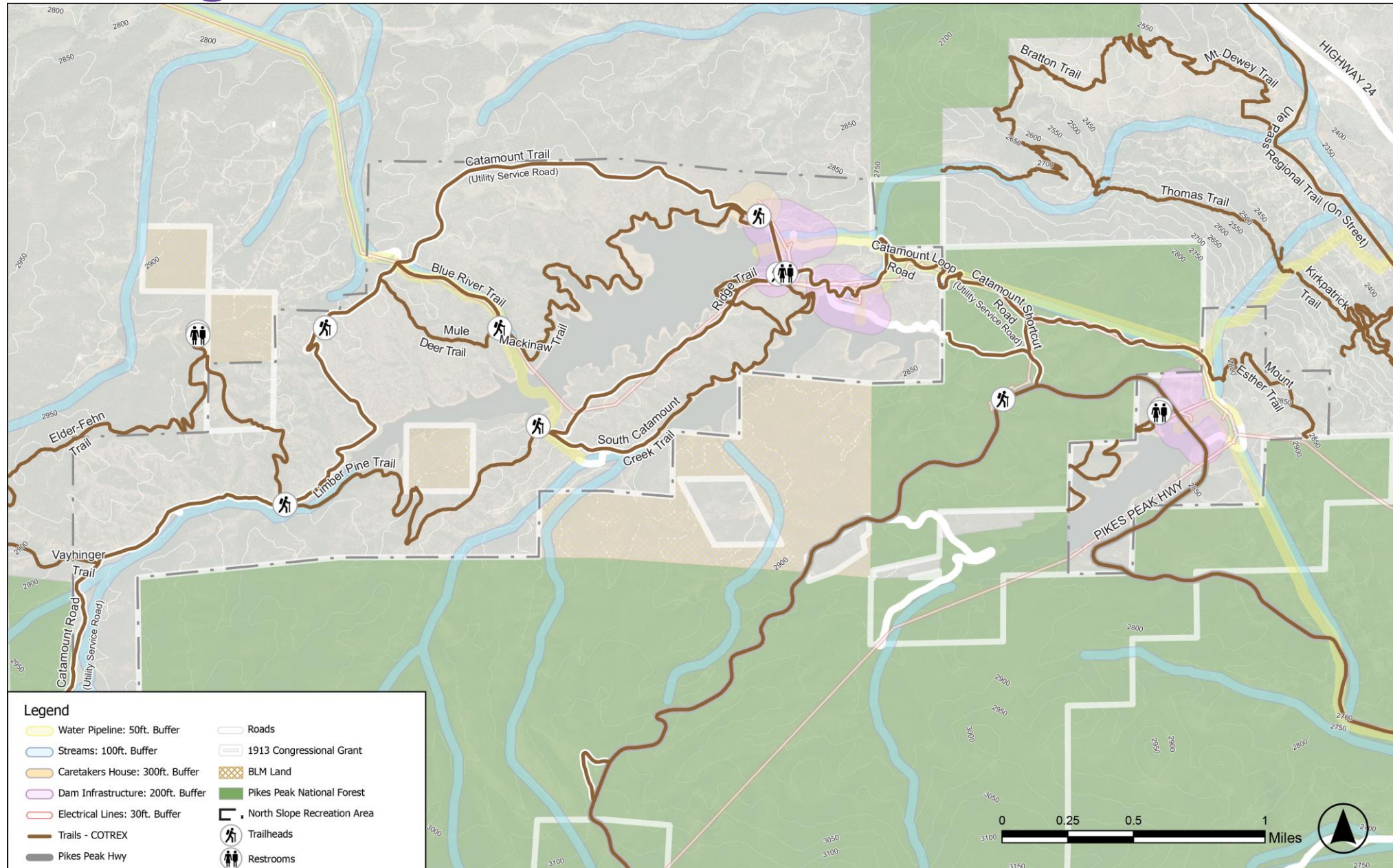
- Preliminary Draft Recommendations
- Review & Coordination
- Refined Draft Recommendations

Spring/Summer
2026

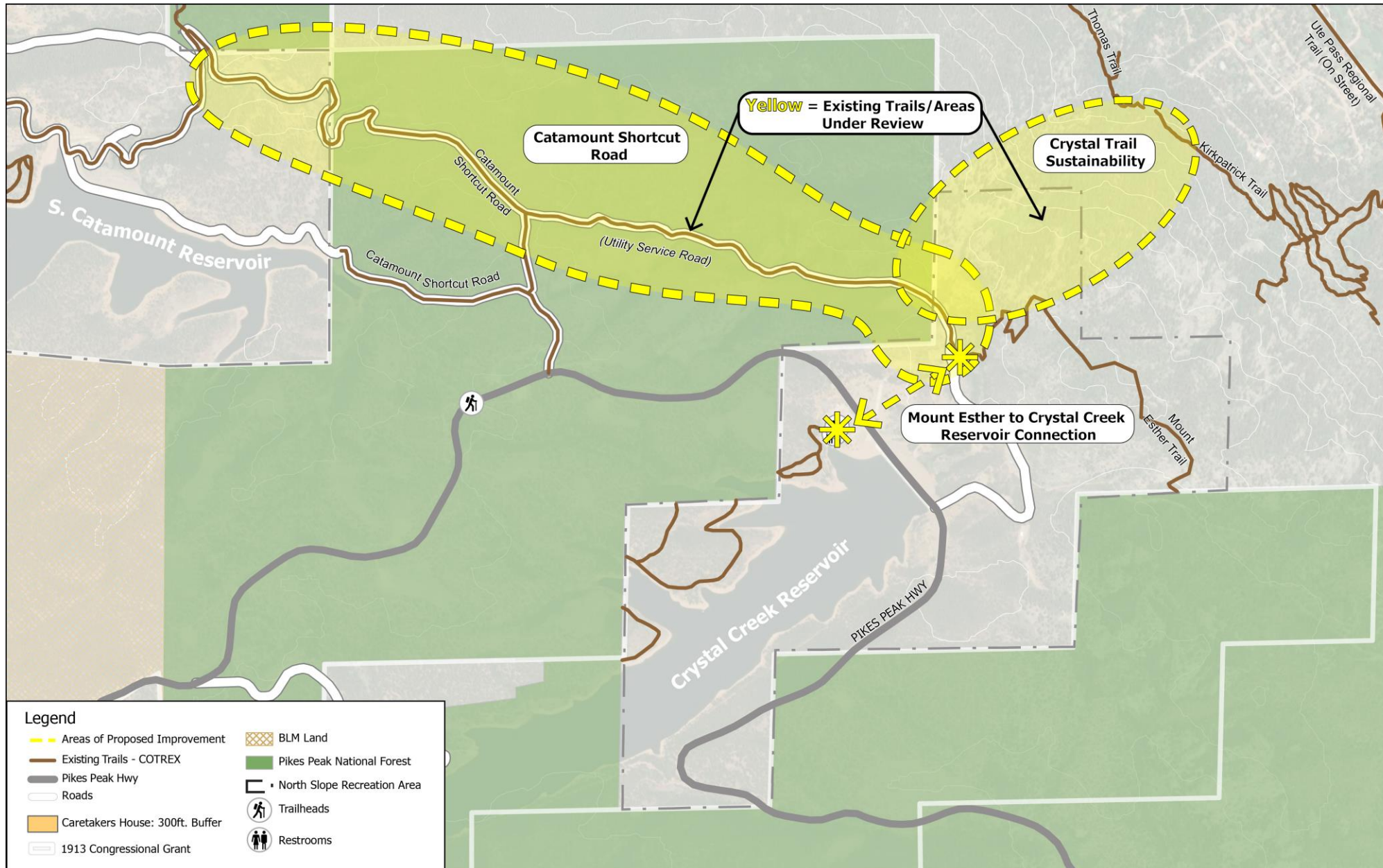
Final Report

- Final Recommendations
- Launch Implementation & Ongoing Coordination Efforts

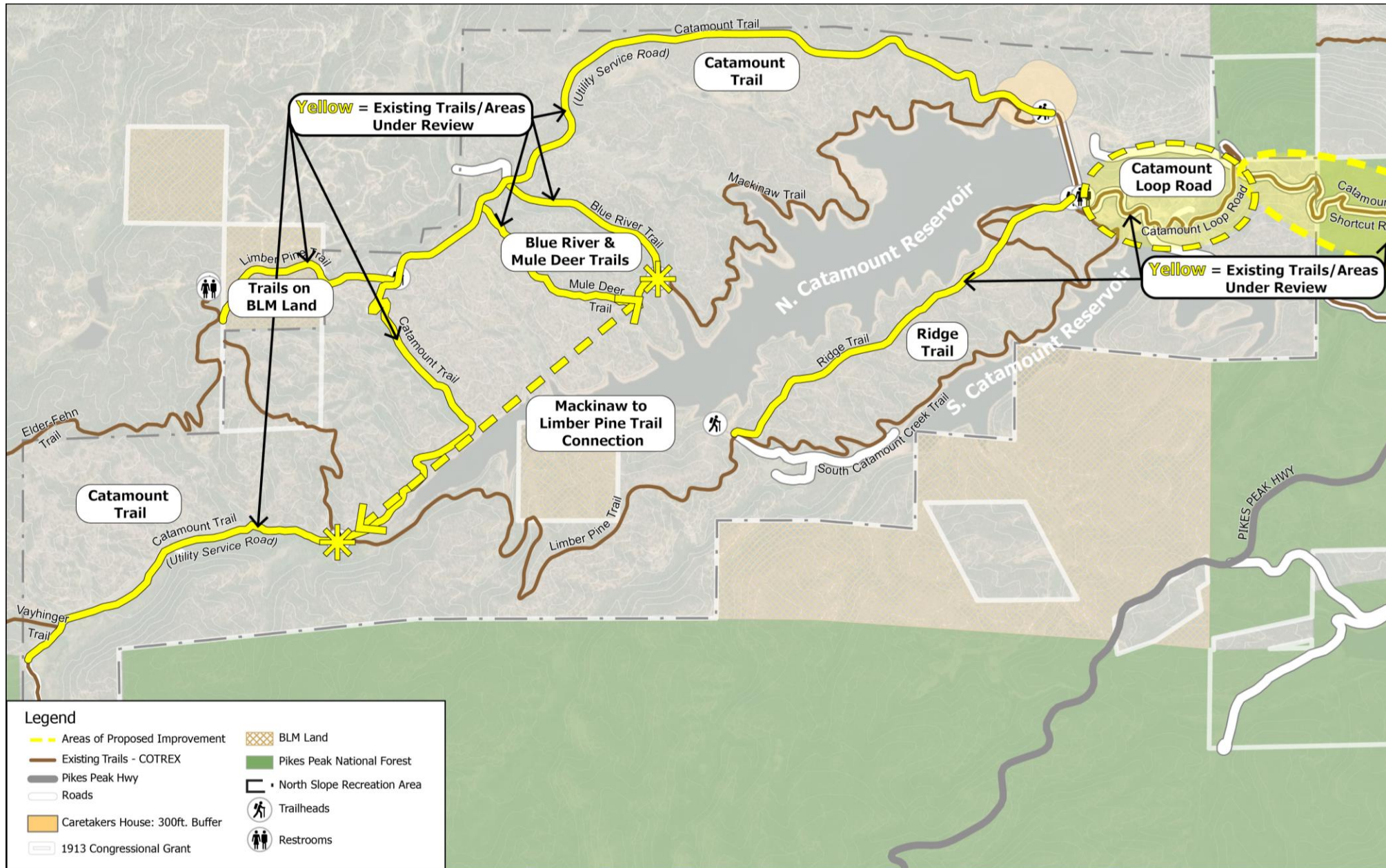
Existing Conditions Overview



Areas of Focus - Crystal



Areas of Focus - Catamounts



Interactive Mentimeter Question

***Are there any additional issues, challenges,
or concerns to note?***

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Interactive Mentimeter Question

Within the goals that Colorado Springs Utilities has outlined for this project, are there any additional opportunities to explore?

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DRAFT Evaluation Considerations

- Potential for relocation of trails off service roads
- Potential to move trails away from utility infrastructure
- Potential to improve or avoid areas with existing conflicts
- Consider necessary partner coordination and permitting
- Opportunity for improved or additional recreation access
- Opportunity for improved trail sustainability and maintenance
- Estimated cost

Interactive Mentimeter Question

***What are we missing?
(related to evaluation considerations)***

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Next Steps

Upcoming Dates & Events

- Virtual Public Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 2025
- Recreation Survey: Spring 2025 – Summer 2025
 - Link: [CSUrec.org/online](https://csurec.org/online)
- Further Stakeholder Engagement/Involvement
 - Next In Person and Virtual Public Meetings – October 2025
 - Visit website for further information
 - Link: csu.org/NSRAreview
 - Phone #: 719-668-7765
 - Email: engage@csu.org

Questions?



Colorado Springs Utilities

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