

DAMB ANNUAL REPORT: 2016 IN REVIEW

12/11/16

DAMB has had an active year, with a number of group activities, and ongoing work on background and political support development for future trail planning.

#### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

The Delta Area chapter started its calendar year activities with one of its signature social group rides, with several individuals and families enjoying a beautiful February day in Moab, with food, beverage, and riding a variety of trails, from beginning to expert. The second annual Smith Mountain Bash that followed was a great success, despite inclement weather. The event is designed to introduce new riders and the general public to the Smith Mountain area, which is on the front burner of the groups' plans for trail development. Other group rides have followed, including Phil's World, Crested Butte trails, and a well organized multi-day ride on the Kokopelli Trail.

While actual new trail development work in the Delta County area is addressed below, DAMB members have again been active in trail building and maintenance throughout the COPMOBA area, including work on the new Norwood trails, the Uncompahgre Plateau, and on the Grand Mesa. DAMB again sponsored the Uncompahgre Bash, with several workers from various COPMOBA chapters enjoying a day of hard work maintenance on Atkinson Bench Trail, and camping and camaraderie following.

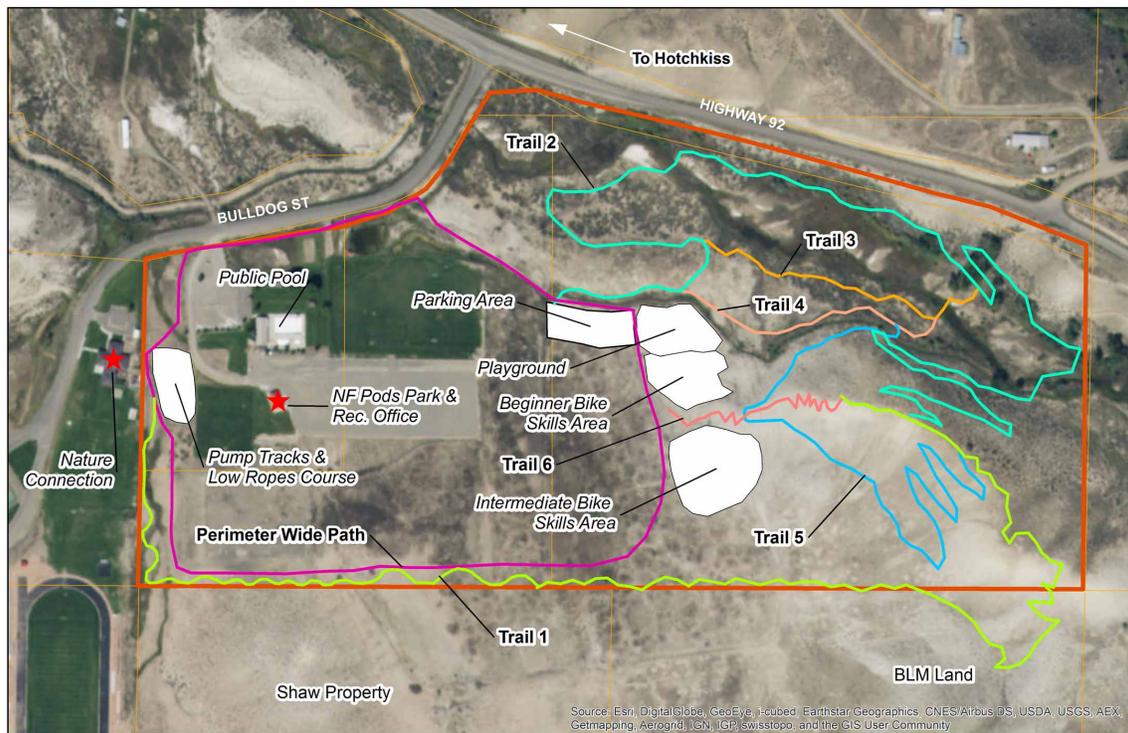
More close to home, the group has kept the DAMB and COPMOBA names in the public eye by taking an active part in local community events. The group received strong public appreciation for its participation in the Outdoor Heritage event, with its well planned, constructed, and operated Mountain Bike Skills Park entry, where an outdoor area was created to allow children and adults try out their skills on bike challenges created for various age and skill levels, from balancing, to jumping. The community's Pea Green Pedal fundraiser for the local hospital again relied on DAMB to provide an aid station for their road bike event, with DAMB again getting high accolades for having the most fun and entertaining aid station. The station was used to promote DAMB and COPMOBA, and to provide information on future mountain bike development plans. The group finished up its year with its always well-received entry in the Delta Parade of Lights, with many members and their children participating.

DAMB members Sven and Tim took the show on road, and did multiple COPMOBA outreach meetings in Paonia, ultimately helping cyclists from the area create the North Fork Trail Advocacy Group (NFTAG). For the time being, this group will work under the umbrella of DAMB, but in the future may propose to become their own chapter if commitment persists. COPMOBA membership increased by 14 members from this groups formation. From this group, some DAMB members have embraced relationships with other MTB advocacy groups in the area, including the Crested Butte MBA and Roaring Fork MBA. In the North Fork region, members are exploring trail opportunities that haven't been explored in a long time, if ever, i.e. Raggeds Trail, West Elk Region, and Eastern Grand Mesa. More to come on this in 2017.

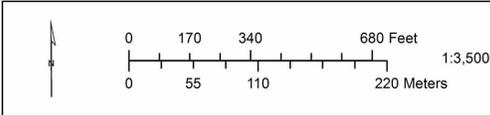
**TRAIL DEVELOPMENT:**

While new trail development is still reserved for the future, group members continue doing the political groundwork by keeping the needs of the mountain bike community in front of various civic, political and governmental entities.

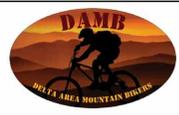
Recently, a DAMB proposal for new mountain bike skills park and singletrack on North Fork Recreation District property in Hotchkiss, Colorado, has received preliminary approval, with construction of pumptracks planned to begin in the Spring of 2017. This project is significant, because it is the first mountain bike specific project approved by a public entity in Delta County.



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar, GeoGraphics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, Swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

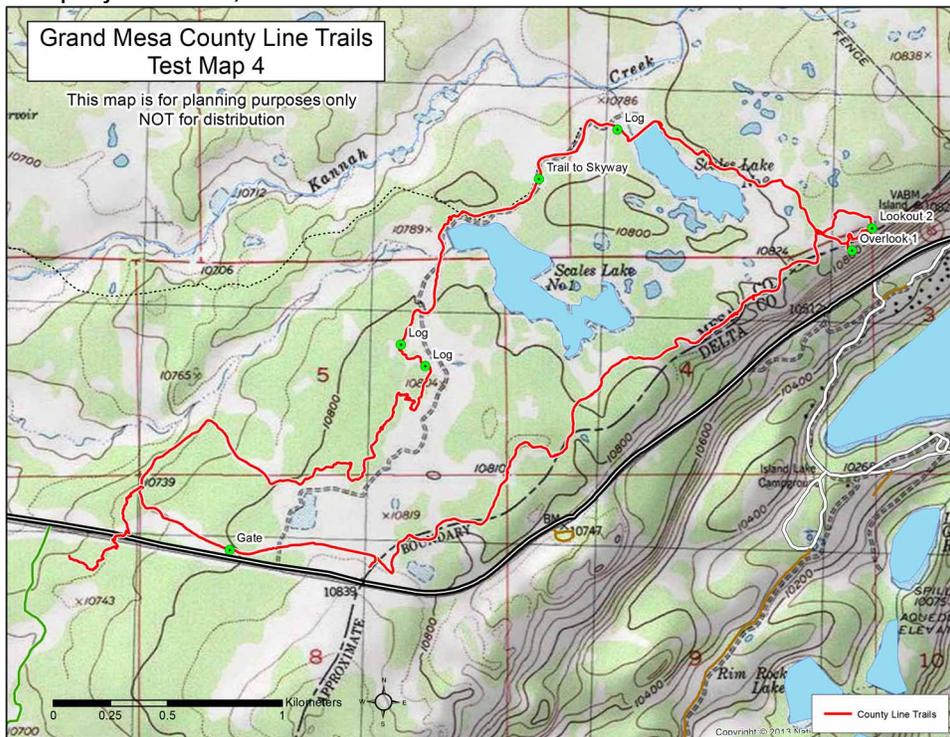


**North Fork Nature Connection  
Proposed Trails  
Delta County, Colorado**



Group members have also individually continued to work on maintaining the Stone Basin trail, which is a BLM approved motorized single track trail west of Delta, with little or no motorized use. While no group approved actions have taken place on this trail, it has become a popular trail ride for local riders since its discovery, and many people have pitched in to remove debris and help clarify the trail route.

The group's work on the Grand Mesa's County Line trail system has met with good success, with the first loop of the trail completed this summer, after several group construction work events, some of which drew trail builders from outside of the county. Forest Service personnel continue to work with DAMB and COPMOBA, and additions and extensions to this trail system are expected in the future. Total volunteer hours for this project is 123, with Alan Ace Brown as lead Trail Boss.



As mentioned above, new Smith Mountain Trails continue to be on the forefront of the group's efforts and activities. Cooperation and assistance from BLM has encouraged the group to put a substantial amount of time and effort into laying out many proposed trails in the Smith Mountain area, and the area adjoining the legendary Sidewinder Trail. The Montrose office of BLM informs us that they have recently hired a recreational planner that will help further the group's efforts for the next steps necessary to continue this effort. Meanwhile, the group continues in its efforts to keep Smith Mountain in the eye of the public. Total volunteer hours for this project exceed 200 hours, with Sven Edstrom as Trail Boss.

DAMB has also begun work with the Grand Junction office of the BLM on future trail development in the Dominguez Escalante NCA, and specifically in what is called the

Escalante Triangle, just west of Delta. There has been a preliminary review of the area with DAMB and BLM personnel and it is expected that future developmental work will begin spring/summer 2017.

Other volunteer efforts include Alan Ace Brown and Sven Edstrom receiving trail leadership certification through two-day course hosted by Volunteers of Colorado. Also, many volunteer hours were required to draft and submit extensive comment to BLM Uncompahgre Field Office for Resource Management Plan Draft. Extensive energy was put forth in this effort, with hopes of directing the BLM RMP final document to embrace more recreational opportunities in the district for generations to come.

Composed and Submitted by Sven Edstrom & Tim Gallegos