

# Gila Chapter

## Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

---

Meeting date | time 10/13/2021 12:00 AM | Meeting location Watts Hall

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Joan Bacon, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Cheryl Roth, Donna Tillmann, Laurie Wlosinski

### AGENDA TOPICS

---

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

Doug called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

---

Agenda topic *Additions or changes to agenda* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Doug was pretty sure he would have material to add to the agenda, but he couldn't think of any at the moment.

---

Agenda topic *Approval of minutes* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Minutes from the September meeting were approved.

---

Agenda topic *Financial & membership report* | Presenter *Dave Imler*

There's sufficient money in the bank for the Gila Chapter to carry on for a while. Grant money for trail projects is still coming in and there were a couple of donations. For details, contact Dave directly.

Dave has set up an account for GBCH with Amazon Smile<sup>1</sup>, so anybody who shops on Amazon should do so with this URL<sup>2</sup>.

GBCH has 66 members, same as last month.

---

Agenda topic *Publicity* | Presenter *Vicki Dowd*

An article is in the works but hasn't been published.

---

<sup>1</sup> AmazonSmile is a simple and cost-free way to support a charitable organization every time you shop. AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

<sup>2</sup> To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone (found under settings on your app).

## Trail updates:

Want to participate? Sign up at <https://www.gilabch.org/get-involved>.

- Oct 2 – 7 Flying V/Homestead – Trail hikers from [New Mexico Wild](#), as coordinated by Melissa Green, have reopened the trails shown on page 6. More awaited your hiking footsteps earlier in October. Veni, vidi, vichi. Melissa reports that the views up there are expansive, but the tread isn't particularly happy for equestrians. This trail is accessed up toward Aeroplane Mesa. Eventually, the Flying V trail will reconnect with the Middle Fork as a result of a pack-in project in the spring of 2022.
- Allie Canyon (map on page 7) – Brushing needed in Allie Canyon. Gerry has already taken out 20 logs. Good project for next year.
- Bear Canyon Trail (map on page 8) – The Bear Canyon Trail, entered from Fierro, has been cleared.
- Oct 14th -19th Turkey Creek (details [here](#)) – subject to local river conditions.
- Oct 27 – 31 Mogollon Creek (details [here](#)) – subject to local river conditions.

## Trail Spondulicks

- The final report is underway for funding provided by the National Forest Foundation (*you remember — the grant we matched 50/50 from money that came with Melissa from Heart of the Gila*).
- The Forest Stewardship grant is about all spent.
- We still have \$50K from the Forest Service grant and we will spend some of it on projects in October and November this year.
- Our funding request from the NM state tourism decisionmakers (for \$15,750) will probably come thru.
- We also have ackers from the Great American Outdoors Act money for next year and beyond.
- The local Forest Service supervisor is leaning toward giving us everything we ask for.
- Seems like there's adequate funding to carry on for a while.

## Trail Capers

The much-anticipated horse camp at Willow Creek cancelled due to (oh, the irony!) rain and the risk of flooding.

Hunting seasons now in progress. Information is out there for those who want to squeeze in a wilderness trail ride on the days between the various hunts. The information is buried deep within the published bowels of NM Game & Fish's edict, downloadable from [2020\\_2021-New-Mexico-Hunting-Rules-and-Info.pdf](#). Here's what you have to know to get started:

- How to fold an old-fashioned road map.
- The Game Management Unit where you want to ride (the Rules & Info booklet has a map on page its page 63. Study it carefully).
- The animal (e.g., elk) (a.k.a. "License" as in "Elk License") targeted in the hunt(s) you want to avoid. The (Animal) License info starts on about page 64 in the guide.



## Other Stuff

- The GBCH trail forces of nature are aiming to publish a *Desert Exposure* article about every month.
- There was mention of a GBCH feature in a publication called *Life Is Good in Silver City*. You can read it [here](#). Scroll to page 46 when you get there.
- Melissa said that the business interest associated with Gerry’s distinctive tent ([Seek Outside](#)) is donating an eight-person tent (with a woodstove) to GBCH . . .
- . . . AND they will be coming out to do a video about the Gila Chapter and all the fun we have.
- Remember [Horses & Heroes](#)? Their horse guy is going to put on a one-day packing session for GBCH next spring. Anybody can attend, so we can advertise the event, which will occur in March or April. Needs to be coordinated with Vicki Dowd.
- We are going to put up a trail kiosk at the Cliff Dwellings. The kiosk will have the GBCH name on it. (*The Cliff Dwellings lives within the administrative accommodations of the National Park Service and therefore, being outside the complicated confines of the US Forest Service, we have a bit more flexibility.*)

## Action items

## Person responsible

---

Get down to brass tacks about Horses & Heroes event. (NAN Ranch Ride is scheduled for April.)	All interested parties, especially Vicki Dowd
---	---

---

Agenda topic GCSAR Activity | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski/Russ Imler

## The Meadows Adventures

The Cliff Dwellings called out an emergency at The Meadows (map on page 9). The call identified the problem as a hiker with nausea. The next day the hiker reported vertigo and couldn’t stand or walk. Gerry Engel, the only available GCSAR horseman around that day, drove in with two or three horses. Gerry put Brent Bibles, a GCSAR ground pounder, up on one of Gerry’s horses. At about 4:00 p.m., the two guys roared up to the northwest from Woody’s Corral, with an inevitable dark and chilly ride ahead of them.

Brent, a wilderness first responder, and Gerry roared up the trail to The Meadows. Brent made contact with the ailing hiker and provided the appropriate medical attention for dehydration (which is what everybody rescued in the Gila is dealing with). The hiker, her husband, and Brent were able to walk out by the next morning.

Meanwhile, Gerry and Brent separated. Brent turned his horse over to Gerry and hiked down the notorious steep trail that connects the Woodland Park trail with The Meadow Trail).

Gerry was coming out by himself with the three horses, two of which tumbled down a slope. In that curious incident, Gerry was off his horse and leading the other two horses over a log or two. The steadfast packhorse “True” was standing on stacked rock at edge of the trail with “Rio” tethered to True. Both horses piled up against a tree. Gerry unhooked Rio from True and got Rio up. Gerry arranged the horse so he was parallel to the tree against which True was apparently cast. Gerry then cut out a couple of trees and a log that was underneath True. Then True tried to get up, but went over the log and cartwheeled down the slope and just kept going. The horse finally stopped with the gymnastics and got up, but Gerry said True was really tired when they walked back up the trail after retrieving True’s pack, which was part of the way down the trail. The other two horses were missing in action by then.

Gerry had hoped to load the impish horse Joey with tree’s packs. True hollered for his friends. Rio came back, but not Joey. So Gerry loaded the pack back onto True and broadcast a radio message to the other members of the search team that if they see Joey, they should stop him. The Gerry-True-and-Rio show resumed walking out. They found Joey about 10 yards down the trail, towing and tangled up in an oak bush.

The wreck seemed to produce no evil results for the horses. Gerry and the horses all came out ok. Gerry gleefully reported that the cool thing about riding a

Somebody (at the meeting tonight) suggested that the Forest Service or somebody like them should establish the Gerry Engle Outpost up there, so Gerry can just stay up there and be on site when needed.

---

**Action items****Person responsible**

---

Write up the event in The Crosscut Log and mention that sometimes a trail project Cindi involves search and rescue

---

**Agenda topic** *BCHNM Update | Presenter Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon*

**Rendezvous.** The BCH-New Mexico Rendezvous has been cancelled due to lack of interest. Only 15 people signed up and weather was going to be. Plans for next year? Ft. Stanton will be open next year.

A gracious Linda Brewer (Bear Mountain Lodge) donated two paintings by way of Mickey, who says they are interesting works of art. We can auction them off or sell them outright; the artist doesn't want them back. One of them, a horse's head with a flowing mane (thought to be worth around \$50), was destined for the Rendezvous auction, but the paragraph above shows how that turned out.

The other one has a \$400 frame. It is a fabulous reproduction of a painting and well framed. Kind of mystic, like cave paintings. The donator probably paid a couple of thousand bucks for it, so it is worth some money and maybe would sell on eBay. On the other hand, the painting can be returned to the donator.

Cindi deCapiteau moved to send the paintings back. Donna Tillmann seconded. Motion carried.

---

**Action items****Person responsible**

---

Return the donated artwork

Mickey Lemon

---

**Agenda topic** *NATRC Update | Presenter Vicki Dowd*

4/22-4/24 2022 (weekend after Easter).

Vicki has contacted a vet and two judges to staff the April 2022 NAN Ranch Ride. The judges can get here from Phoenix.

When last we met, we pondered about voting to authorize the NAN Ranch Ride. Doug asked for a list of volunteers so he could determine if we had enough help to put the ride on. Vicki has started preparing that list, noting that if she started sooner, say in August, the only people who know what they'll be doing in nine months are pregnant, so the ever-discerning Vicki decided to start gathering bodies a bit closer to the ride date. She says she expects to have volunteer information compiled by the end of November.

---

**Action items****Person responsible**

---

Prepare list of volunteers for NAN Ranch Ride

Vicki Dowd

---

**Agenda topic** *Elections | Presenter Doug Dexter*

Self-nominations are coming in to fill various positions on the GBCH leadership roster. Joan Bacon and Cheryl Roth will replace Mickey and Rawlings Lemon as chapter representatives to the Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico. Cindi deCapiteau will continue as chapter secretary. Obviously, these people are power-hungry.

If you too desire to hold the reins of wilderness trail maintenance and enjoy the thrill of spending money from a budget of \$10K or so, AND the satisfaction of knowing what's going on before everybody else does, step up to the electoral plate and take on one of the offices still open.

Doug will put out a list of the open board positions.

Note: According to Treasurer Dave Imler, our 501(c)(3) status does not affect our election process. Dave also notes that all officers serve as members of the Board of Directors

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Publish list of open chapter offices.	Doug Dexter	Right soon now. Just sayin'.

---

**Agenda topic** *Christmas Party* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

Assuming GBCH members are hungry for a chance to slap leather during the holidays, the good people who attend meetings are busy figuring out where (and if!) to hold the Christmas party. (Note: The Buckhorn Saloon in Piños Altos doesn't want to do parties anymore.)

Under consideration at tonight's meeting: White Signal Community Center, Woman's Club, Grant County Conference Center. We considered options for each venue and eventually decided the Conference Center was a good bet. Doug has spoken with the officials in charge of the Conference Center. Here's the deal:

- We'll pay \$125 to rent the facility.
- A \$250 cleaning deposit is required (presumably returnable because we're unlikely to destroy anything while we're there).
- The space is available the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in December.
- We have to pay extra for alcohol and waitstaff.
- The Conference Center is centrally located and has plenty of parking.
- Folks from the Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery are potential alcohol and waitstaff

Doug will confirm the Conference Center and the Toad and then poll the GBCH membership to see who's interested in partying there on December 12, 2021.

(Note: For those who have grown weary of the secretary's harping about attending meetings, the Christmas Party will substitute as the GBCH meeting for December. Plus, there's food because we'll do pot luck). Second Sunday is good.

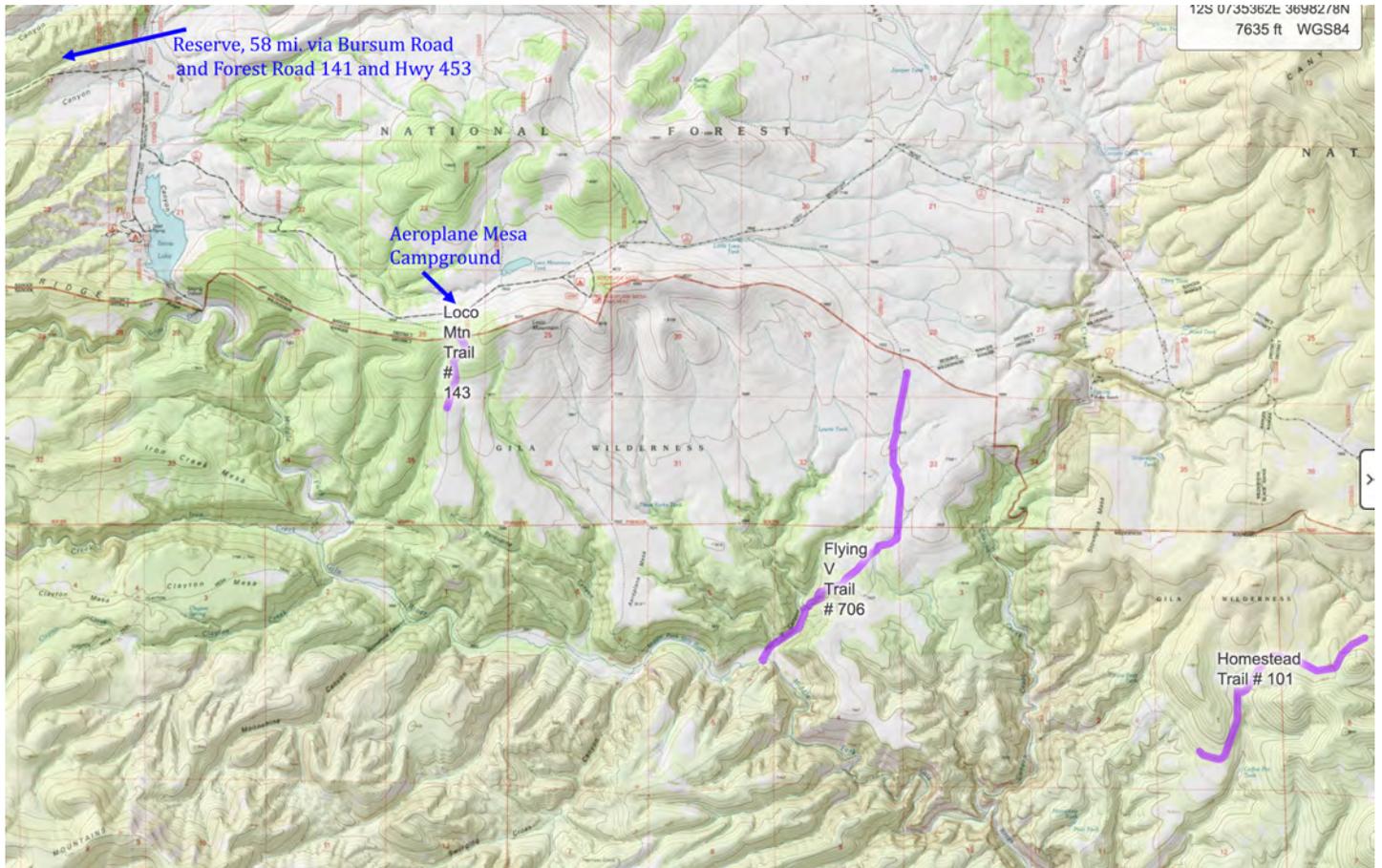
Action items	Person responsible
Poll membership about Christmas Party	Doug Dexter

---

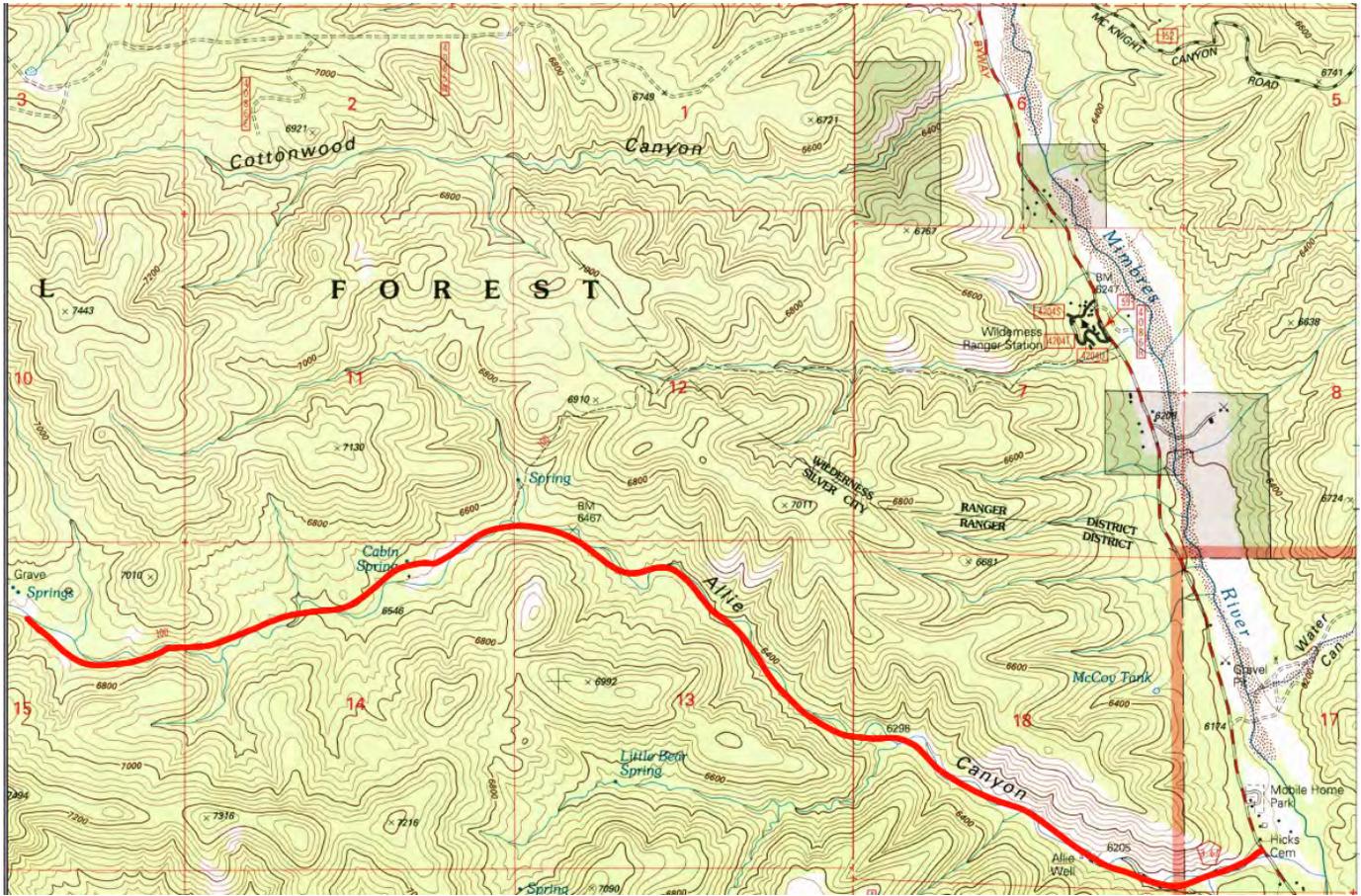
**Agenda topic** *Announcements* |

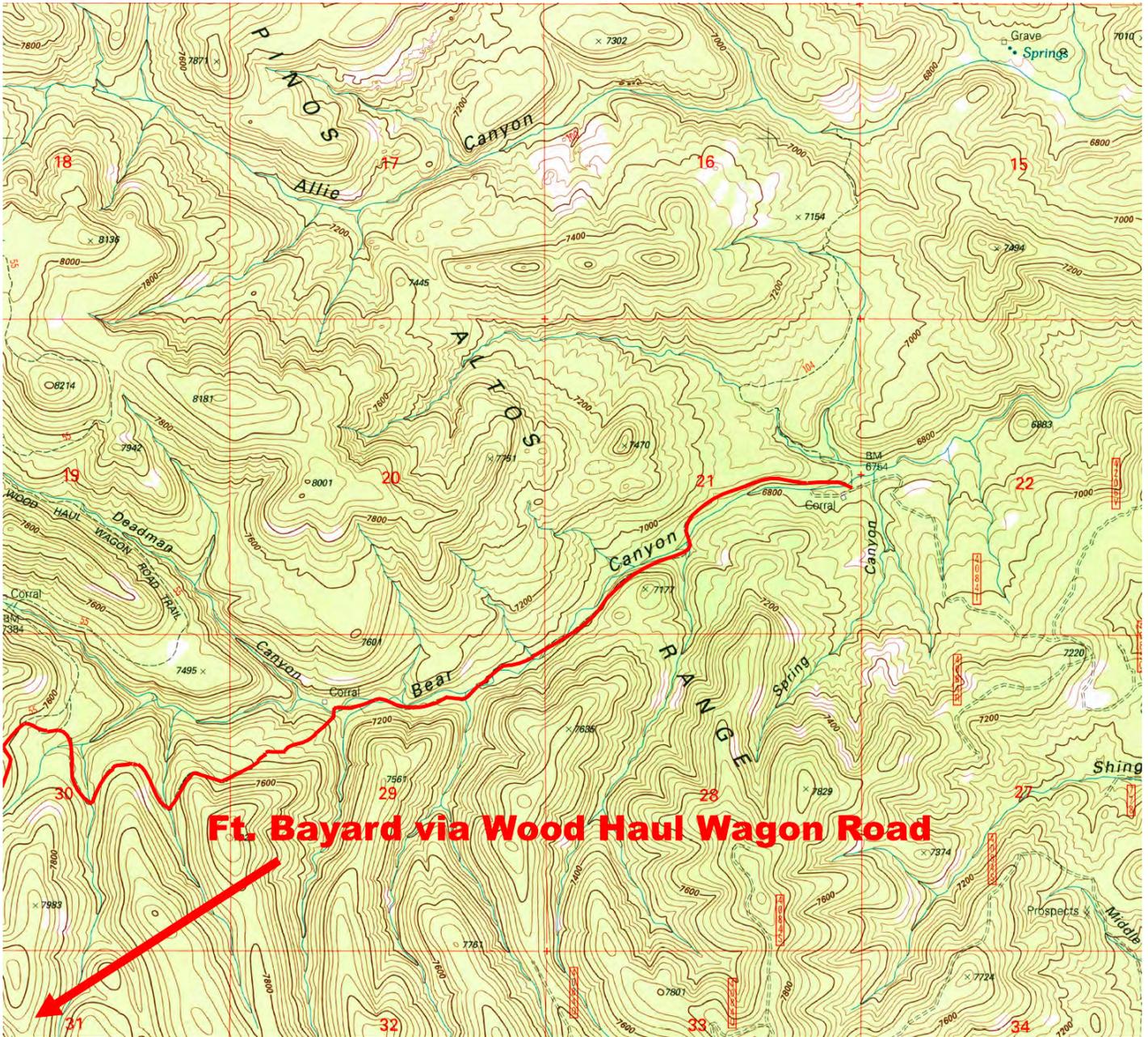
Next Meeting: November 13, 2021

Homestead/Flying V Trails (source: Melissa Green)



# Allie Canyon





# The Meadows

