

2.1.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action (Salt Lake County Proposed Alignment)

Alternative 2 is the proposed alignment for the BST from Parley’s Canyon to Hidden Valley Park in Sandy. This alignment uses Salt Lake County’s Alignment Plan as a blueprint. The BST between these two points is approximately 27 miles long, with approximately 11 miles occurring on NFS lands (see table 2).

Table 2. Project-wide Summary of Alternative 2.

Total Miles	National Forest Miles	Access Points		Trailheads		Elevation
		Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	
27.05	11	1	6	9	3	Beginning: 4948 End: 5238 Highest: 6145 Lowest: 4948

There are a number of existing and proposed trailheads and access points along this alignment. Trailheads and access points are summarized in table 2 and are used as termini for trail segments. For ease of analysis and comparison between Action Alternatives, the project area was divided into four segments:

1. Parley’s Canyon to Mount Olympus Trailhead
2. Mount Olympus Trailhead to Big Cottonwood Canyon
3. Big Cottonwood Canyon to Little Cottonwood Canyon
4. Little Cottonwood Canyon to Hidden Valley Park

A map and a description of each segment are provided below.

Segment 1: Parley’s Canyon to Mount Olympus Trailhead

This segment of the BST would begin at the crossing of Interstate 80 at the mouth of Parley’s Canyon and end where the BST intercepts the Mount Olympus Trailhead. This segment is briefly summarized in table 3. Trailheads, access points, and other features of this segment are described following the table.

Table 3. Summary of Segment 1, Alternative 2.

Total Miles	National Forest Miles	Access Points		Trailheads		Elevation
		Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	
10.18	5.42	0	2	2	2	Beginning: 4948 End: 5239 Highest: 6145 Lowest: 4948

Description

Parley’s Canyon to Mill Creek Canyon

This would section begin at 4948 feet at the Parley’s Canyon Trailhead, and then climb the hill east of the trailhead, following a power line road, and then turn south to climb gradually to the

Bonneville Bench. An existing two-track road follows the bench to abandoned rock quarries. Climbing into the southernmost quarry on a branch of the road, the BST would then switchback up to the ridge above the quarries. Following a local path, the BST would go east into an unnamed canyon and climb again onto the ridge east of the Eastwood Hills water tank. Climbing east up the face of the ridge, the BST would turn south again into Crestwood Gulch. Crossing Crestwood Gulch, the BST would turn west and climb to the end of the north ridgeline of Mill Creek Canyon.

On the point of the Mill Creek Ridge, the BST would intersect with the end of the existing Pipeline Trail, at the location of the abandoned aqueduct penstock. Turning east again, the BST would follow the Pipeline Trail into Mill Creek Canyon. Intersecting with the Rattlesnake Gulch Trail, the BST would climb to the top of Rattlesnake Gulch to approximately 5981 feet and then descend to the Rattlesnake Gulch Trailhead in Mill Creek Canyon.

Mill Creek Canyon to Neffs Canyon

At the west end of the Rattlesnake Gulch trailhead parking lot, the BST would follow a power line west, paralleling Mill Creek Road to a bridge over Mill Creek. Elevation of the Mill Creek Bridge is approximately 5215 feet. This relatively new bridge has striped bicycle lanes on both sides, and would be the site of the pedestrian crossing from the north side of the creek to the south side.

The BST would climb steeply out of Mill Creek Canyon across the talus of the south wall of the canyon, using major rock outcroppings as a series of landings and reaching a high point of 5807 feet. It would cross the ridge 400 vertical feet above Olympus Hills development on the Bonneville Bench, and follow a long, relatively level, side-hill route descending to 5634 feet at the existing Neffs Canyon trailhead.

The terminus of the southbound route at Neffs Canyon would pass between development and the Mt. Olympus Wilderness managed by the USFS. Total mileage of this section would be approximately 1.71 miles.

Neffs Canyon to Mount Olympus Trail

Access would be provided to the trail route at the Neffs Canyon Trailhead at approximately 5634 feet. South of the trailhead in Mount Olympus Cove, existing housing development occurs at high elevations, crowding very steep slopes, and adjoins USFS Wilderness boundaries. In order to gain elevation and pass well above development on reasonable terrain, the trail must pass through a corner of the Mount Olympus Wilderness on the south ridge of Neffs Canyon. The BST would follow the Neffs Canyon water tank road to its intersection with Neffs Canyon Creek, and then cross the south face of the canyon at a gentle contour grade.

The BST would then begin a long southward traverse across the west-facing slope to a dry drainage, around another point, and into another dry drainage before reaching a prominent rock outcropping. The prominent rock is about 300 feet up a very steep slope above a water tank in the development below.

From the prominent rock outcropping, the BST would continue to climb to find a crossing of an unnamed canyon and high, narrow ridge to the south. At 6145 feet this would be the highest point on the proposed route between Parley's Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Southbound the BST would begin a descent into a broad bowl characterized by boulder ridges covered with tall, dense, oak forest. The BST would descend to connect with the top of the “Z” trail. The “Z” trail is an old mine road that climbs up Mount Olympus in three long grades connected by two switchbacks. The BST would descend the “Z” from the upper terminus to a point at about 5640 feet on the lowest grade below the switchbacks.

From the “Z” Trail, the BST would go south along a steep side slope following a dedicated trail easement, until it reaches the steep slopes above Mile High Drive adjacent to the canyon on the USFS boundary. The BST would begin a switchback descent of the steep west-facing slope to reach an old mine road. Following one leg of the switchback road west, the BST would turn south and east into the canyon and enters the USFS boundary. It would continue to descend southwesterly across a side slope, and turn northwesterly to switchback down to Mile High Drive. A corner of the USFS boundary crosses the south end of Mile High Drive creating a wedge of public land where the Bonneville Bench skirts the lower slopes of Mount Olympus.

There is a private drive extending from the end of Mile High Drive to access two homes on the bench. This drive crosses NFS lands and is authorized under a USFS Special Use Permit. The trail BST would use this property corner to drop over the edge of the bench and access a way around and below the homes. On the bench south of the homes, the BST would join an existing path at elevation 5151 feet, and follow the path southward. It would then connect with a short section of the Mount Olympus Trail at approximately 5239 feet.

Trailheads

Mount Olympus Trailhead, described under Segment 2 would also provide access to this segment of the BST.

- **Parley’s Canyon Trailhead (Existing):** Located at the north end of Wasatch Boulevard, south of the bicycle/pedestrian bridge crossings of Interstate 80, this small, developed park offers paved parking for 15 cars, drinking water, and a picnic table. It would serve the Interstate-80 crossing, access to the bicycle/pedestrian tunnel under Interstate-215 into Parley’s Historic Nature Park, and the undeveloped southbound Parley’s to Mill Creek BST segment.
- **Neffs Canyon Trailhead (USFS, Existing):** The USFS has a paved lot at the end of White Way at the mouth of Neffs Canyon. The lot is not marked with spaces, but could serve 20 cars. The lot is shared with an occasional semi tanker truck that loads at the Olympic Water storage tank next to the trailhead. Both the Mill Creek to Neffs Canyon and the Neffs Canyon to Mile High Drive segments are served by this trailhead. A short access trail from the trailhead intersects the BST route.
- **Rattlesnake Gulch Trailhead (USFS, Existing):** A gravel lot for about 10 cars is available on the shoulder of Mill Creek Canyon Road. The lot is on Boy Scouts of America property and serves as a trailhead for the Rattlesnake Gulch Trail. The USFS maintains the trailhead. There are no facilities at the trailhead, other than an information kiosk. This trailhead serves both the Parley’s to Mill Creek BST segment and the Mill Creek to Neffs Canyon BST segment. It also serves bike use.
- **Mile High Drive Trailhead (USFS, Proposed):** Parking development is proposed on NFS land at the end of Mile High Drive, where the street becomes an access road

permitted by USFS to private residences on the Bonneville Bench farther south. A trailhead at this point would serve both the Neffs Canyon to Mile High Drive BST segment and the Mile High Drive to Heughs Canyon Segment. Conceptually, the parking lot would accommodate up to 10 vehicles.

Access Points

- **Water Tank Access (Proposed):** A partially paved lane leads from Teton Drive to the water tank at the end of “Mexican Ridge” within the Parley’s to Mill Creek section (see below). The road becomes a primitive footpath above the water tank and intersects the BST route on top of the ridge. Parking on the street would be marked near the water tank access road and limited to two vehicles.
- **Thousand Oaks Cul-de-sac Access (Existing):** At the end of Thousand Oaks Drive, a cul-de-sac is located in front of a gate to a gated community. An existing access trail climbs up a steep slope to intersect the lower leg of the “Z” Trail, which climbs up to the BST route. Parking would be limited to four cars and marked to prevent interference with driveways and the gated community access road. The Neffs Canyon to Mile High Drive segment of the BST would be accessed at about its mid-point by the “Z” Trail.

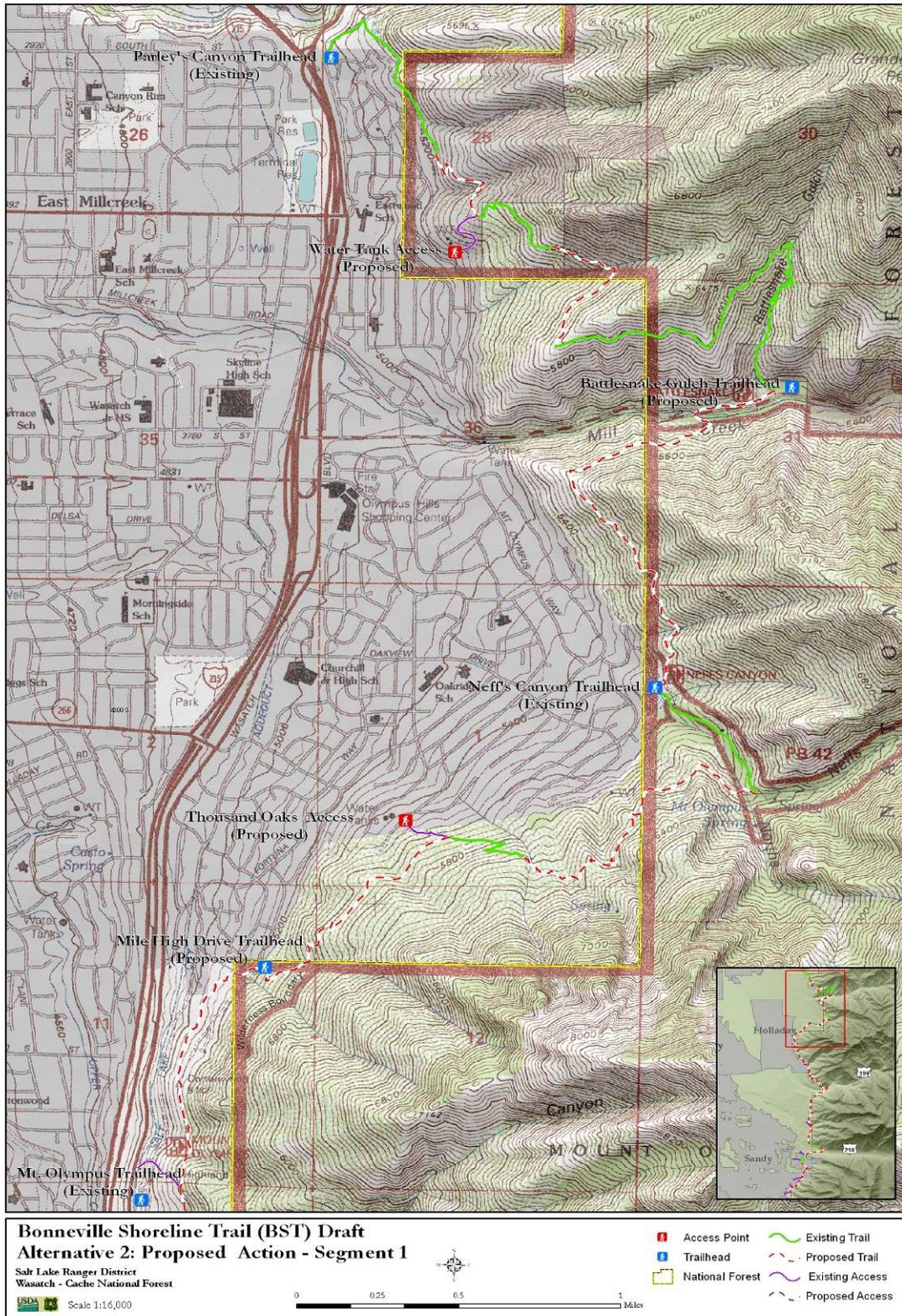


Figure 3. Alternative 2, Segment 1.

Segment 2: Mount Olympus Trail Junction to Big Cottonwood Canyon

This segment of the BST would begin at the junction with Mount Olympus trail and continue to Big Cottonwood Canyon. This segment is briefly summarized in table 4. Trailheads, access points, and other features of this segment are described following the table.

Table 4. Summary of Segment 2, Alternative 2.

Total Miles	Forest Service Miles	Access Points		Trailheads		Elevation
		Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	
4.26`	2.6	0	1	1	0	Beginning: 5239 End: 5141 Highest: 5647 Lowest: 5141

Description

Mount Olympus Trail Junction to Heughs Canyon

This segment of the BST would begin at 5239 feet at the Mount Olympus trail junction. It would descend in Heughs Canyon to elevation 5161 feet, before climbing to cross the creek at elevation 5217. This is the most level section of the trail between Parley's Canyon and Hidden Valley Park in Sandy. The BST would cross the corner of the Mount Olympus Wilderness between Tolcats Canyon and the first rock outcropping on the southwest-facing slope of Heughs Canyon.

Descending westward on the Mount Olympus Trail to elevation 5154 feet, the BST would turn south on the level bench again to the mouth of Tolcats Canyon, where it would then follow the Bonneville Bench into Tolcats Canyon and around the next ridge to the north slope of Heughs Canyon. The BST would, following contours, reach the creek in Heughs Canyon where rock cliffs close in on a footpath that follows the stream.

Heughs Canyon to Big Cottonwood Canyon

Beginning at a crossing of the creek in Heughs Canyon that is approximately on the USFS boundary, the BST would start at 5217 feet and climb to benches above the Canyon Cove development to reach Dry Hollow. From the north ridge of Dry Hollow at about 5561 feet, it would descend across a rocky cliff face to the bottom of Dry Hollow at 5400 feet and climb the steep south ridge to approximately 5623 feet. Coming in and out of Dry Hollow, the proposed alignment traverses the Mount Olympus Wilderness. Distance from Heughs Canyon to south ridge of Dry Hollow is approximately 1.4 miles.

From the south ridge of Dry Hollow, the BST would then climb to 5647 feet, staying high above the gun club firing range located on the Bonneville Bench at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Staying on high contours, the BST would connect to the west end of the abandoned Granite Aqueduct before descending to the power line corridor that enters Big Cottonwood Canyon. The power line access leads to Highway 190. Crossing the highway and following the south shoulder for a short distance east, the BST would reach an existing bridge over Big Cottonwood Creek into the abandoned USFS Oak Ridge Picnic Area that would serve as a trailhead. The distance from the south ridge of Dry Hollow to the Oak Ridge Trailhead is 1.3 miles.

Trailheads

The proposed Oakridge Trailhead, described under Segment 3, would also provide access to this segment of the BST.

- **Mount Olympus Trailhead (USFS, Existing):** This trailhead is a paved lot for 10 cars on the aqueduct bench beside Wasatch Boulevard. The steep Mount Olympus trail climbs the rocky bluff here and intersects the BST route at the Bonneville Bench at the midpoint of the Mile High Drive to Heughs Canyon BST segment.

Access Points

- **Heughs Canyon Access (Proposed):** On-street parking would be marked for five cars on Canyon Cove Drive and a foot trail right-of-way obtained on Heughs Canyon Circle to connect with the neighborhood trail along Heughs Creek. This is an important point of access, because of distance between access points, for the Mile High Drive to Heughs Canyon section and the Heughs Canyon to Big Cottonwood Canyon section. The access trail would also serve walk-in neighborhood use to these hiking-only sections.

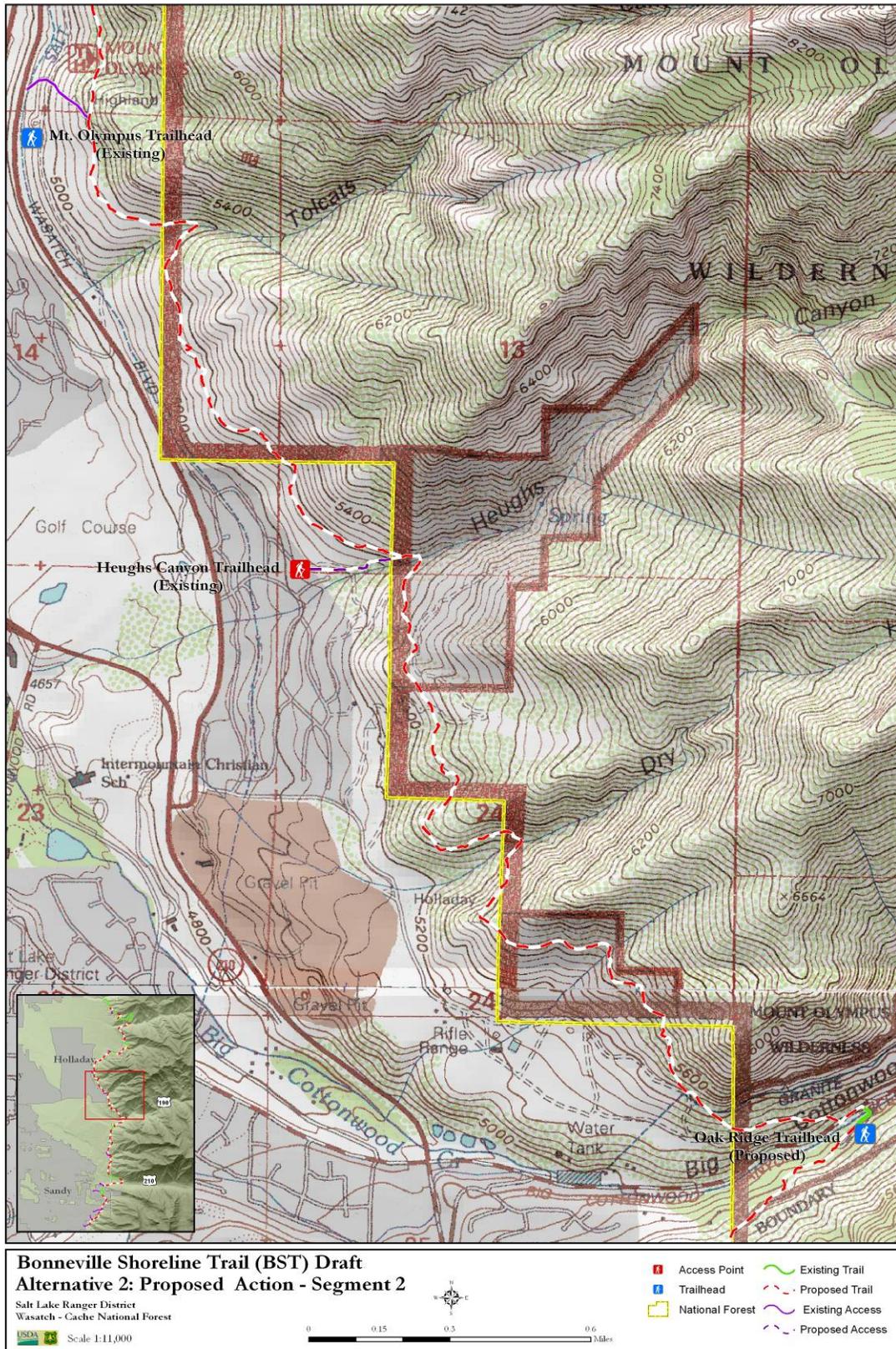


Figure 4. Alternative 2, Segment 2.

Segment 3: Big Cottonwood Canyon to Little Cottonwood Canyon

This segment of the BST would begin at Big Cottonwood Canyon and end at Little Cottonwood Canyon. This segment is briefly summarized in table 5. Trailheads, access points, and logical sections of this segment are described following the table.

Table 5. Summary of Segment 3, Alternative 2.

Total Miles	Forest Service Miles	Access Points		Trailheads		Elevation
		Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	
5.51	1.73	1	1	0	1	Beginning: 5161 End: 5487 Highest: 5660 Lowest: 5161

Description

Big Cottonwood to Deaf Smith Canyon

From the proposed Oak Ridge Trailhead, the BST would climb west and south to an old aqueduct and to a power line to reach a bench in the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. After traveling the narrow bench, it would climb again to go above the Prospector Hills development, crossing open steep slopes to the Bonneville Bench in a corner of USFS property and the Twin Peaks Wilderness beyond the mouth of the canyon. It would turn south again to cross the mouth of Ferguson Canyon and connect with the developed Ferguson Canyon Trail. The route from Oak Ridge Trailhead to the point where the trail would leave Ferguson Canyon water tank road is about 1.44 miles.

Following the trail toward its trailhead below the Ferguson Canyon water tank, the BST would descend the water tank road about one tenth of a mile. Diverting from the road, the BST would cross open west-facing slopes and small canyons, staying well above the Golden Hills development and avoiding developable areas of this private property, going south to the mouth of Deaf Smith Canyon. The trail must stay at a high elevation above the development in the mouth of Deaf Smith Canyon, until descending to cross Deaf Smith Creek west of its forks, approximately on the USFS boundary. The distance from the Ferguson Canyon water tank road to the crossing of Deaf Smith Creek is about 1.9 miles.

Deaf Smith Canyon to Little Cottonwood Canyon

This segment would begin at elevation 5400 feet at the Deaf Smith Creek crossing. After crossing Deaf Smith Canyon Creek below its forks, it would climb to follow contours across west-facing slopes. The BST would turn east into a steep unnamed canyon, still following contours. Crossing the dry drainage of the canyon, it would climb steadily up to the south ridge of the canyon and reach 5586 feet. It would then intersect an old mine road. From this point the trail would begin a long steady descent past abandoned mine tailings and through boulder fields to reach a power line.

Crossing under the power line, the BST would descend to elevation 5338 feet and intersect an aqueduct access leading east into Little Cottonwood Canyon. The BST would use this unimproved road, paralleling Highway 210, to enter the canyon. It would then depart from the road to detour to the north around one private property before reaching the park-and-ride lot on the north side of Highway 210 at an elevation of 5418 feet.

Trailheads

The Little Cottonwood Canyon Trailhead described under Segment 4 would provide access to this segment.

- **Oak Ridge Trailhead (USFS, Proposed):** A bridge from Big Cottonwood Canyon Road across the creek into this abandoned USFS picnic area would serve as the location for a trailhead. The BST routes for the Heughs Canyon to Big Cottonwood Canyon and Big Cottonwood Canyon to Deaf Smith Canyon segments intersect at this point. Conceptually, a parking lot could be developed here for up to 10 vehicles.

Access Points

- **Ferguson Canyon Access (Existing):** On-street parking is located on Timberline Drive at the intersection of the dirt access road to the Ferguson Canyon water tank. Signing and marked spaces for five cars would be improved at this location. This access already serves the Ferguson Canyon Trail and would serve the midpoint of the Big Cottonwood Canyon to Deaf Smith Canyon BST segment.
- **Golden Oaks Access (Proposed):** Golden Oaks Drive is a one-block dead-end street. Marked on-street parking for four cars would serve an access trail climbing up to the Big Cottonwood Canyon to Deaf Smith Canyon segment near the entry to Deaf Smith Canyon. This access would also serve the Deaf Smith Canyon to Little Cottonwood Canyon BST segment.

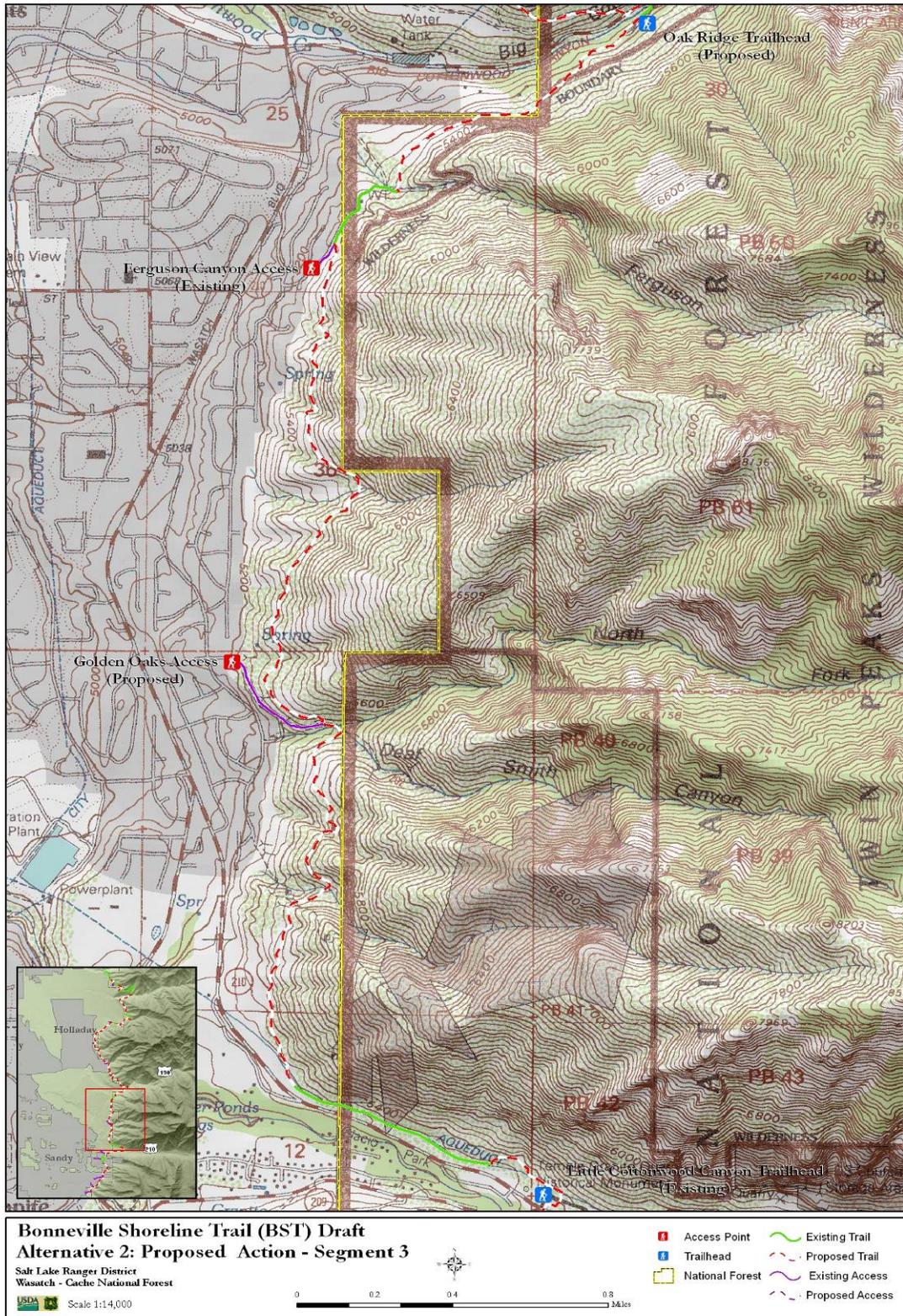


Figure 5. Alternative 2, Segment 3.

Segment 4: Little Cottonwood Canyon to Hidden Valley Park

This segment of the BST would begin at Little Cottonwood Canyon and end at Hidden Valley Park Trailhead. This segment is briefly summarized in table 6. Trailheads, access points, and sections of this segment are described following the table.

Table 6. Summary of Segment 4, Alternative 2.

Total Miles	Forest Service Miles	Access Points		Trailheads		Elevation
		Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	
7.09	1.25	0	1	6	0	Beginning: 5238 End: 5268 Highest: 5840 Lowest: 5238

Description

Little Cottonwood Canyon to South Fork Dry Canyon

This segment would begin at elevation 5238 at the Little Cottonwood Canyon Trailhead in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The BST would cross Little Cottonwood Creek near the west end of the trailhead parking lot. It would then climb the slope westward to go above residential development on the south face of the canyon. Once above development, it would parallel the USFS boundary westward and cross a small segment of the Lone Peak Wilderness, traverse the slope above the Sandy City water tank, and, following contours, reach the long moraine ridge extending from the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. The BST would follow this ridge to intersect with the Bells Canyon Trail where it crosses the ridge. The Granite Trailhead parking lot at 3370 East Little Cottonwood Road is at the toe of the ridge a short distance north. The existing Boulders trailhead, located at 10235 Wasatch Boulevard, also provides access to the proposed route at the western side of Bells Reservoir.

The BST would follow the existing Bell Canyon Trail from the moraine ridge to Bell Canyon Reservoir, and pass the reservoir on newly constructed trail east of the lake. Leaving the loop trail around Bell Canyon Reservoir at its southernmost point, it would go through a rock cut to the old penstock pad south of the reservoir. Turning east from this point, it would cross brushy slopes into the Dry Creek Drainage well above Seven Springs development.

Crossing the north fork of Dry Creek, the BST would maintain a relatively level contour and go below the cliffs at the mouth of Middle Fork Canyon. Crossing Middle Fork, it would climb to west-facing slopes and cross at a high contour to the ridge above South Fork. It would turn east into South Fork Canyon and descend steadily to cross the creek at an elevation of 5469 feet. It would then climb a steep short slope to reach the broad, gently sloping basin above the South Fork water tank. The route intersects an existing local path that climbs eastward up South Fork Canyon from the water tank road.

South Fork Dry Creek to Hidden Valley Park

The BST would cross the water tank path and climb steep side slopes to go around a point of the mountain at a high contour on a narrow bench. Crossing Dry Gulch, it would climb to elevation 5840 feet south of Dry Gulch and reach the steep west-facing slopes north of Rocky Mouth Canyon. At Dry Gulch and again at Rocky Mouth Canyon, it would cross two sections of Lone

Peak Wilderness. The route must descend in a series of long switchbacks to the trail at the mouth of the canyon at elevation 5320 feet.

The BST would cross the existing access trail from Rocky Mouth Trailhead on Wasatch Boulevard and descend into Rocky Mouth Creek. Crossing the creek at 5303 feet, the BST would require switchbacks again to reach a narrow bench leading south to Big Willow Canyon, staying above anticipated housing development. Turning east into Big Willow Canyon, the BST would intersect a water company access road along the creek. The BST would follow this road down to the gate, where the road intersects the developed BST on the Bonneville Bench at Hidden Valley Park at elevation 5268 feet.

Trailheads

- **Little Cottonwood Canyon Trailhead (Existing):** The BST route crosses both the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride Lot and the access road into the USFS Temple Quarry Trailhead. Both of these lots would serve the Deaf Smith Canyon to Little Cottonwood segment and the Little Cottonwood Canyon to South Dry Fork Creek segment. The Temple Quarry Trailhead also serves a trail going up Little Cottonwood Canyon.
- **Granite Trailhead (Existing):** Sandy City has a trailhead located on Little Cottonwood road for about 15 cars serving its north access trail to Bells Canyon. The trailhead has a paved lot and bathroom facilities. The Little Cottonwood Canyon to South Fork Dry Creek BST segment intersects the Sandy City Bells Canyon Trail and follows it to Bells Canyon Reservoir.
- **Bells Canyon Trailhead (Existing):** Sandy City has a paved trailhead at 10235 South Wasatch Boulevard serving its west access trail to Bells Canyon. The Little Cottonwood Canyon to South Fork Dry Creek BST segment is also served by this access.
- **Rocky Mouth Canyon Trailhead (Existing):** The established Sandy City five-car gravel lot off Wasatch Boulevard provides access to sidewalks on Eagle View Drive and to the Rocky Mouth Canyon Trail, which intersects the South Fork Dry Creek to Hidden Valley Park BST segment at about the midpoint.
- **Hidden Valley Park Trailhead (Existing):** Parking, restrooms, water, and paved trails within Hidden Valley Park provide trailhead amenities and access to the Big Willow Canyon water company road that intersect the BST. This location would serve the South Fork Dry Creek to Hidden Valley Park segment. This is a Sandy City Trailhead.

Access Points

- **South Fork Access (Proposed):** Parking at the gate to the paved water-tank access road in the mouth of South Fork Dry Creek Canyon would serve the Little Cottonwood to South Dry Fork Creek BST segment and the South Fork Dry Creek to Hidden Valley Park BST segment.

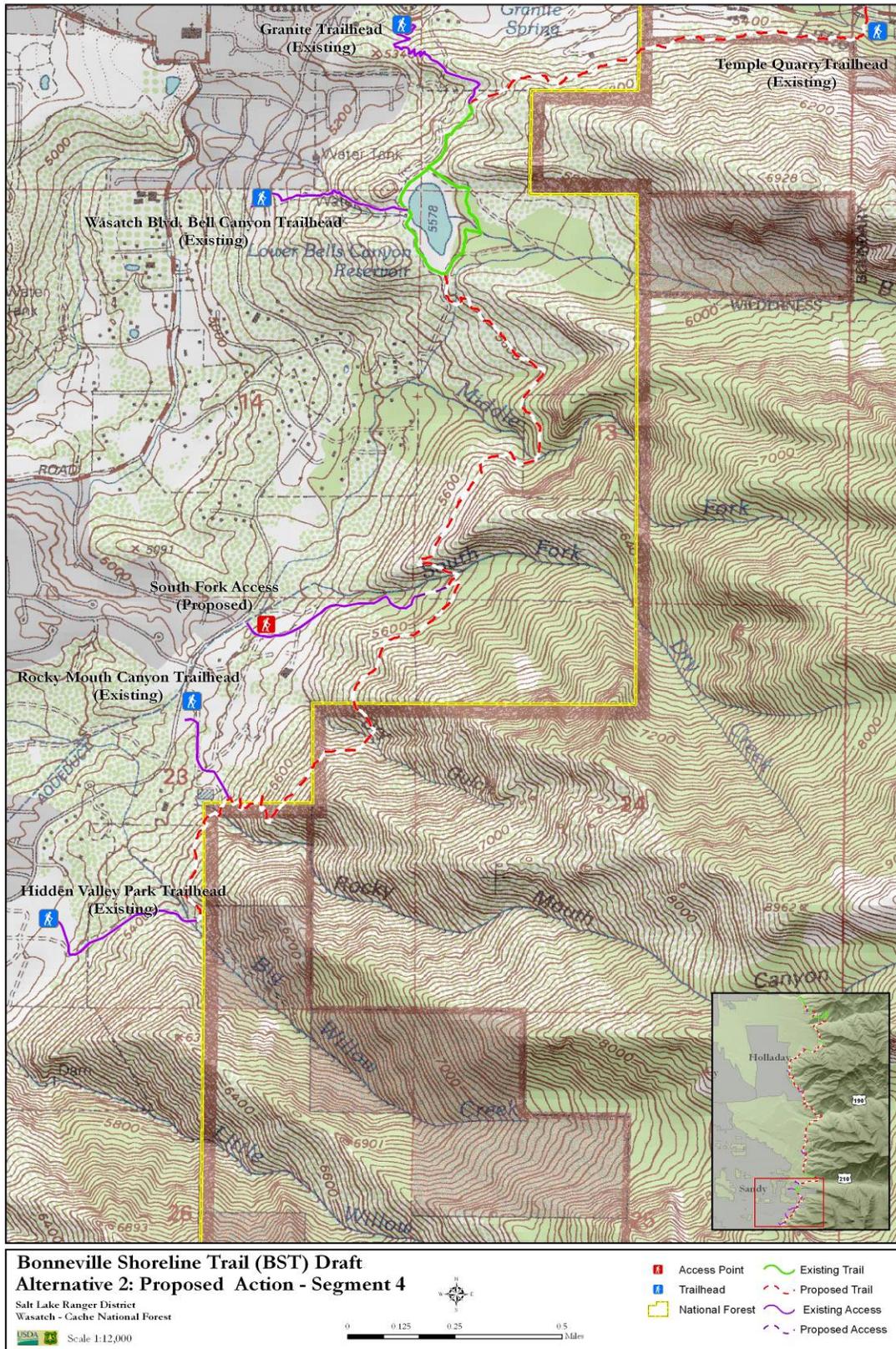


Figure 6. Alternative 2, Segment 4.