

I believe OSMP is going forward with a few options that can generally be thought of upper and lower trails. I designed both and both are sustainable. Here is a very rough image of 13 and 14 just to provide the lay of the land. This shows the "upper" options, which I and the trails staff prefer. The lower options are similar, except the trails would be down on the grassy slopes instead of up in the trees. These trails are gonna be sweet and although the loop would include the DWB road (1/2 mi), it will still be a great ride when combined with the Doudy reroute.

Trail 13 "Stem": Junction with Doudy Draw Re-route to Trail 14 Intersection

This short segment of trail 13 provides a connection from Doudy Draw to the intersection of trails 13 and 14. It can be thought of as the "stem" for the "lollipop" (loop) that is formed by connecting trail 13, 14, and the Denver Water Board Road and/or Goshawk Trail. There is only one trail and no alignment options for this segment. This segment climbs to the forested plateau within a small valley and is strategically located to minimize sightlines to other trails and human-made features. The immediate area offers scenic hillsides, seasonal wildflowers, and the appealing destination of the forested plateau above. The route begins at a natural saddle on the Doudy Draw re-route. This saddle offers a great view to the west, with many different landscapes revealed for the first time to visitors arriving from the Doudy trailhead. By containing the trail in this valley, trail users will feel relatively isolated from nearby infrastructure and travel routes. This will help minimize off-trail exploring and shortcutting and

emphasizes the feeling of discovery. It is a natural-feeling area. 

Trail 13: Intersection of Trail 14 to Denver Water Board Road

Two options have been identified. The "upper" option (preferred) is routed through sparse forest along the rim of the plateau all the way to the water board road. It avoids the large, treeless mesa. The "lower" option runs on steep grassy slopes and open areas below the plateau. It crosses the open mesa.

Upper: A majority of this route runs through sparse Ponderosa trees along the rim of the plateau and provides a forested trail that contrasts agreeably with other trails in the Doudy Draw/Marshall Mesa area. Visitors will enjoy the variety, shade, and interest offered by the trees. On this route, the visual trail design concept of "reveal and conceal" is fully used. Sightlines are minimized to other segments of 13/14, the Doudy Draw trail, the old railroad grade, the farmhouse, Community Ditch, and the Fowler Trail. Strategically preventing these views should help prevent off-trail exploring and shortcutting and adds to the isolated, natural experience. This route uses no constructed switchbacks and the various trail segments are strategically hidden from each other. It offers a common-sense intersection between trail 13 and 14 located at the rim of the plateau.

Lower: This route runs through open terrain and steep slopes well below the rim of the plateau. There are open sightlines to other segments of trail 13/14, Doudy Draw, the old railroad grade, the farmhouse, Community Ditch, and the Fowler Trail. These features can't be as well concealed on this route and may draw visitors off trail for exploring and shortcutting. Otherwise the views are appealing. A necessary switchback and stacked trail segments located near the intersection of 13/14 would present an unappealing visual. This route uses one significant constructed switchback in an undesirable location that is visible from other nearby trail segments. The two legs of this switchback are stacked on the same hillside with no screen. The intersection between trail 13 and 14 is less than ideal. 

Trail 14: Denver Water Board Road to Trail 13

Two options have been identified for trail 14. The "upper" option (preferred) climbs from the intersection with 13 and then runs through sparse forest along the rim of the plateau all the way to the water board road. The "lower" option runs on steeper grassy slopes and open areas below the plateau.

Upper: A majority of this route runs through sparse Ponderosa trees along the rim of the plateau and provides a forested trail that contrasts agreeably with other trails in the Doudy Draw/Marshall Mesa area. Visitors will enjoy the variety, shade, and interest offered by the trees. On this route, concept of "reveal and conceal" is fully used. Sightlines are minimized to the Doudy Draw trail, the old railroad grade, Lindsey Pond, and the water siphon/pipeline. Strategically preventing these views adds to the isolated, natural experience and should help prevent off-trail exploring and shortcutting.

Lower: This route runs through open terrain on steep slopes well below the rim of the plateau. There are open sightlines to the Doudy Draw trail, the old railroad grade, Lindsey Pond, and the pipeline. These features can't be concealed on this route and may draw visitors off trail for exploring and shortcutting. Otherwise the views are appealing. The section approaching the Denver Water Road

feels a bit contrived because it sends visitors out of their way. An open view of the pipeline is a significant negative.