CWOCC

CENTRAL WISCONSIN OFFROAD CYCLING COALITION

Nine Mile County Forest Mountain Bike Trail
Maintenance and Improvements

Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area serves as the area's legacy trail system, highlighting historic, timeless singletrack in the deep woods for over 25 years. In 2014, CWOCC coordinated a significant improvement project to the Nine Mile mountain bike trails that included trail reroutes, new trail additions, new signage, and trail maps. The Nine Mile trails have primarily been maintained by CWOCC volunteers with some assistance of Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry. As a result, Nine Mile's season pass and daily pass sales increased nearly 30% each year, making it one of the top destination trail systems in the upper Midwest. With CWOCC's addition of other mountain bike trail systems like the Sylvan Hill Mountain Bike Park, The Underdown and Ringle Trails, the time has come to revisit Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area to ensure its quality and longevity as a top tier mountain bike trail system.

Not only is Nine Mile a favorite for local riders, it continues to be the host venue for events like the Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Series (WEMS), Wausau 24, Ragnar Trail Relay, youth mountain bike NICA races and the newly formed Ironbull organization. Demand has never been higher on the Nine Mile mountain bike trail system and we need to continue to invest and improve Nine Mile so that it remains a marquee trail system that attracts new local riders as well as visitors from around the upper Midwest.

CWOCC looks forward to the continued partnership with the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department. Outlined below is CWOCC's master proposal for trail maintenance and improvements for the next phase of growth at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area.

Since the 2014 improvement project Nine Mile has seen an uptick in rider visits as well as a significant increase in new local ridership. Trails created during the 2014 improvement project have significantly better drainage qualities and manage higher volumes of traffic better than the legacy trail sections. Much work has been done by volunteers since 2014 to maintain the older sections of trail during some often wet seasons. Manual labor used to create proper drainage held up admirably but more significant work needs to be done with machinery to properly manage water flow. Additionally, with higher traffic flow some trails have experience braiding and corridor widening in specific areas that can be repaired/closed with machine work.

In addition to needed maintenance, the addition of newer progressive built trails features similar to those found at Sylvan Hill and Ringle could be added. Mountain biking has evolved over the last 10 years and riders now seek more feature filled riding experiences. Features include jumps, drops and skill areas, all of which Nine Mile lacks. During maintenance work CWOCC would like to add many similar features to the existing trail corridors at Nine Mile.

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Various features can be added alongside existing trail corridor utilizing natural materials found onsite. All features are built to be **optional** and can be ridden around. Placement of features are designed that the natural flow of the trail will not force a rider into the feature but rather the main trail corridor. Examples of trailside features are shown below:

Jumps or Drops: Can be made from wood or natural material (rocks, soil) Nine Mile has more than enough rock onsite to build jump or drop features with. Jumps or drops are optional features with choice to ride around the feature

Skinny's: Narrow elevated tracks built from fallen trees or some other form of lumber construction. Can also be built from narrow rocks. Height from the ground can vary depending on level of difficulty desired. Offered as optional challenge and can be avoided by main trail corridor.

Phase A

Stone Soup

1. Drain improvement/rock armoring after tech rock descent, add alternate rock tech line on descent
2. Re-route south/west leg of loop for erosion control. Rock armoring. Add jumps/drops with existing rock where possible. Approx. 500' new construction. Close old corridor.

Yang

3. Corner corrections
4. Re-route old two track straight section

Yin

5. Add b-line around 1st rock garden. Approx. 200' of new construction
6. Add b-line around 2nd rock garden. Make 2nd rock garden more challenging. Approx. 150' of new construction.
7. Turn correction on north section of trail. Add jumps/drops with existing rock where possible.
8. Reroute east intersection w/ Yang. Short up/downhill eroded

Phase B

Root Canal

9. Raise tread and rock armor, control drainage. Rock armored drains similar to those found at Sylvan Hill
10. Turn correction & drainage control through west end of trail, add jumps/drops with existing rock where possible. Add B-line around rocky uphill/downhill

Chain Smoker

11. Turn adjustment, oldest section of trail.
12. Re-route crossing w/ ski trail D. Currently in low spot water runs from north down xc-ski trail and pools at the single track crossing. Re-route further south (w/ boardwalk) cross ski trail at higher ground.

Rebound/Outbound

13. Replace bridge, (appox 16' long, 3' wide), raise tread on south side of bridge to eliminate water ponding.
14. Split segments of trail for safety. Lengthen downhill leg of flow section built in 2013/2014 and make downhill only directional. Repair old uphill leg for drainage and make directional uphill. Add jumps/drops on downhill leg. Directional corridors will be approximately 50' to 50 yards apart. Approx. 550' of new trail construction.
15. Add climbing only section of western flow piece for safety, rework existing corridor for downhill only. Add jumps/drops using existing rock where possible. Approx. 200' of new trail construction.
16. Add downhill specific leg parallel to current corridor for safety. Jumps/drops using existing rock where possible. Fix drainage on existing corridor. Approx. 650' of new trail construction.

Up Nort

17. Repair downhill into sand pit. Correct drainage uphill from turns, berm corners for flow.
18. Section in pines, fix corners, drainage, berm 6 old corners, update existing berms. Add jumps/drops where possible.

Icky Thump

19. Re-route rooty sections in pines (beginner friendly). Re-route fall line segment add turns small jumps/ drops. Close old corridor. Approx. 350' of new trail construction.

Snowshoe Corridor

20. Reroute snowshoe corridor to reduce ski trail crossings. Provide direct link back to chalet without using XC-ski trail for all seasons. Open to MTB summer use will provide another kid/beginner friendly loop. Abandon old corridor. Approx 2100' of new trail construction.

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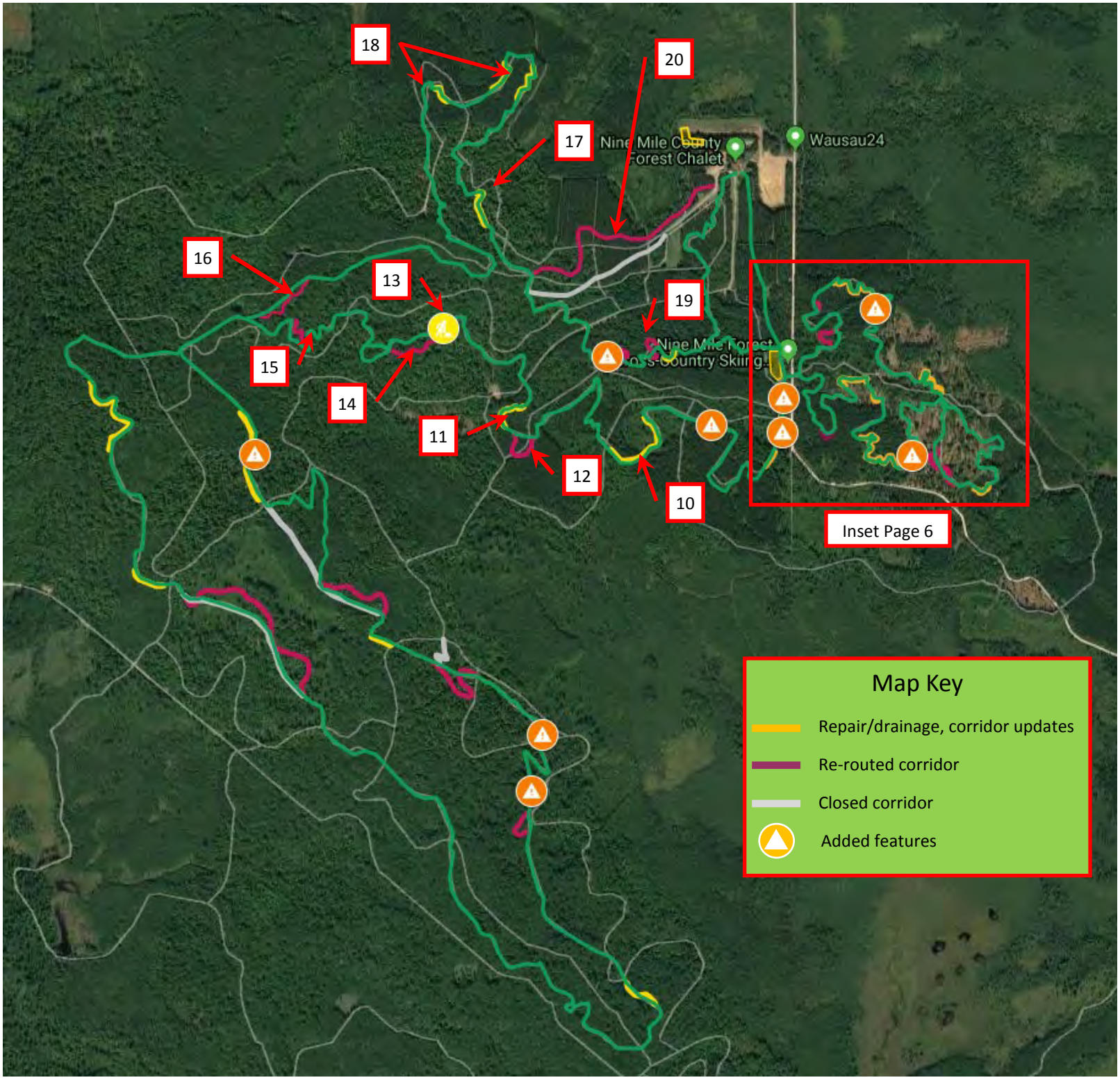

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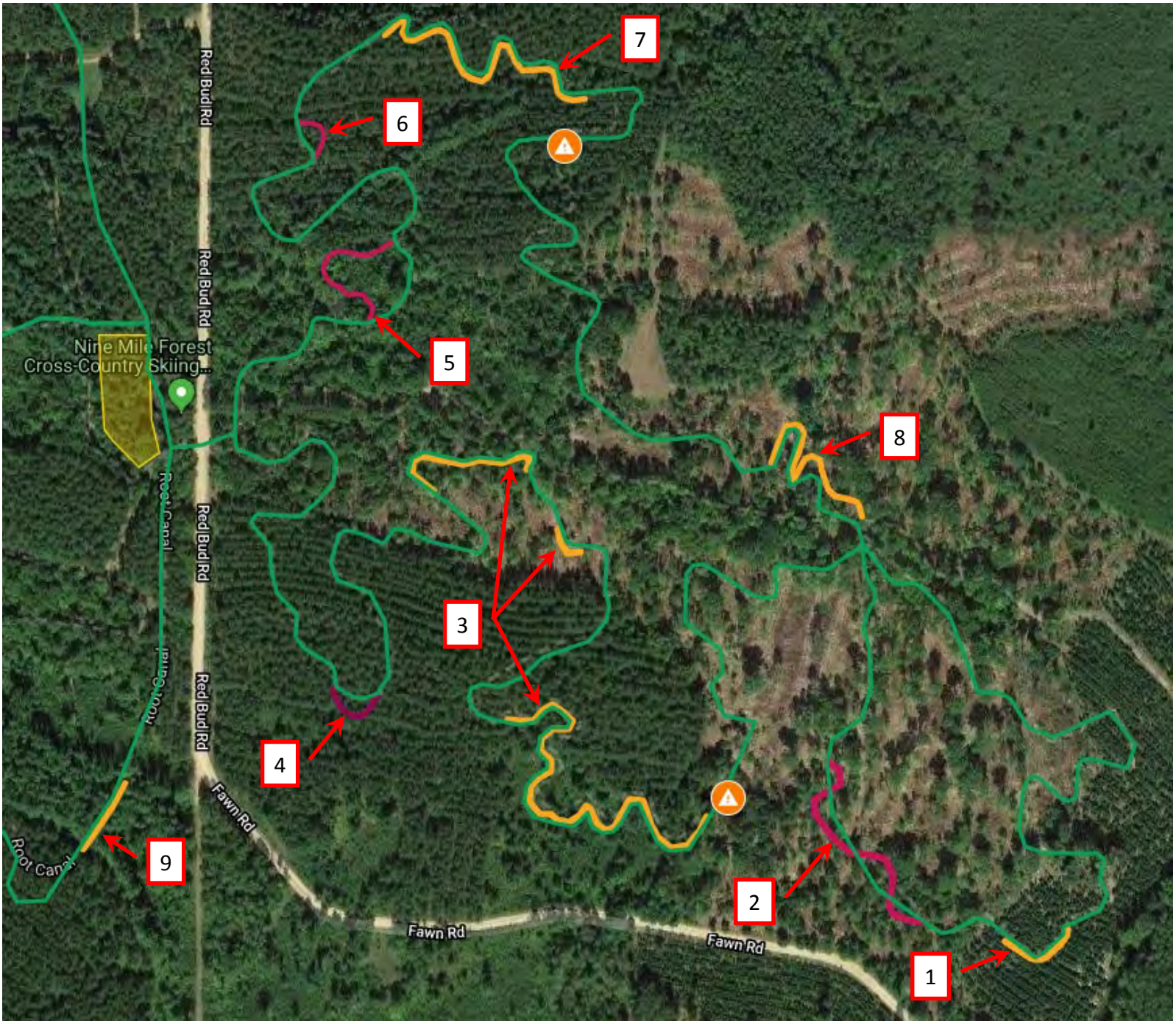
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