

CRESTED BUTTE LAND TRUST LETTERBOX CLUES

Letterboxing is a “hike-and-see” adventure that offers an outdoor activity to share with family and friends and a wonderful way to connect with beautiful land parcels preserved by the Crested Butte Land Trust. The letterboxing treasure hunt is perfect for kids ages 6 and up.

Good luck, be safe, and have fun!

Outdoor Adventure Clues: We hope you enjoy finding this year’s outdoor letterboxes along the Lower Loop Trail.

Difficulty: Easy, gentle walking. 1.5 miles from the parking lot to the furthest clue. 3 miles roundtrip as an out and back.

Begin your adventure at the “Alien Shack” parking lot for access to the Lower Loop Trail. The “Alien Shack” is a small concrete building at the end of Peanut Lake Road decorated with art and lots of personality. It's a quirky landmark and a great place to start your hunt! From the town of Crested Butte, drive west on Elk Avenue and turn right on First Street. Make a left at the end of First Street onto Butte Ave. This turns into the dirt road Peanut Lake road. There is parking just at the end of Peanut Lake Road. You can also access the start of the Lower Loop trail by taking the Woods Walk trail.

Clue #1:

From the parking lot, look for the trail sign that marks the **single track trail** for the Lower Loop. Walk about **100 yards** until you reach a large sign titled “**Peanut Mine: Heritage and Reclamation.**” Take a moment to read the sign and learn about the incredible restoration work that turned this once-industrial site into a thriving natural area.

While facing the sign, look to your **left**, back toward the parking area. Can you spot a **large, pointy rock** sticking up from the ground? Head toward that rock - your first treasure is waiting nearby!

Clue #2:

Continue along the **single track trail**. Soon, you'll reach an intersection for a single track trail and the **wide path** and the **start of the Storywalk**, where pages from a storybook guide your way. Follow the wide path for about **0.2 miles** until you reach a **bench on your left** and the trail curves slightly.

From the bench, look around to your **left** and scan the forest for a **tall pine tree with two trunks**. This unique tree is guarding your next letterbox!

Clue #3:

Keep walking along the wide, well-packed trail. You'll soon cross **two wooden footbridges**. After you cross the **second footbridge**, walk just a few paces and look to your **right**. There, you'll see an old **upturned stump**. This gnarly old stump is hiding something special - what you seek is tucked close by!

Clue # 4

Keep going down the wide path. You'll pass through an **intersection** where the single track and wide path meet again - keep going **straight** along the wide trail.

After the intersection, you'll pass an **old wooden fence post**, and soon you'll see a **steep rocky embankment** on your **left**. Just as the trees become thicker along this rocky hillside, keep your eyes out for a **small rock crevasse** just **off the trail**.

No need to scramble up the rocks! Your final treasure is **hidden just out of sight**, close to the trail where it's safe and easy to reach. Look carefully and see what you find!

Thank you for enjoying the Lower Loop! The Lower Loop area, with Peanut Lake at its start, is a community treasure. And with Paradise Divide in the background, it is one of our more beloved views. The Slate River also provides a unique wetland habitat for a diverse community of plants and wildlife, from lush wildflowers to Great Blue Heron fledglings and bugling elk. These 40+ acres of wetlands are an essential part of our local ecosystem. With your help and

support, the Land Trust will continue to care for this beloved system of trails, the wetlands surrounding them, and the Slate River for generations to come!

Indoor Clues: This year's indoor letterboxes can be found at the Old Rock Library and the Crested Butte Museum

Old Rock Community Library

Difficulty: Easy, right in town at 507 Maroon Avenue.

Clues: The Old Rock Community Library was built in 1883 and is one of town's oldest buildings. Originally built as a school, the building was renovated in 1993 to become a branch of the Gunnison County Library District. Search the library's window displays for your treasure! One of these window area's is more magical than the others... Look for books about wizardry and a feathered companion. This wise animal is guarding your letterbox. You can always ask a friendly librarian for help!

Crested Butte Museum

Difficulty: Easy, right in town at 331 Elk Avenue.

Clues: The Crested Butte Museum preserves, shares, and celebrates the history and traditions of Crested Butte and the Gunnison Valley. In 1993 concerned citizens got together to create the Museum, a place to share and preserve artifacts and history that define and enrich our community. Check out their incredible window displays and search for your letterbox. You can always ask a friendly museum curator for help!

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, WAIVER AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Letterboxing, like any outdoor sport, carries the risk of unforeseen hazards, and participation in letterboxing on Crested Butte Land Trust properties may carry with it the potential for injury which could be serious. By reading and utilizing the letterbox clues posted on the clue sheet or the Crested Butte Land Trust website, you acknowledge the above conditions, and accept responsibility for your own actions, and agree to hold non-liaible the Crested Butte Land Trust, its officers, employees, volunteers, clue writers, website authors, representatives, and agents, and their insurance carriers, even if such claims, losses, or liabilities are caused by the negligent acts or omissions of the persons or entities that you are hereby releasing, or are caused by the negligent acts or omissions of any other person or entity.

The Crested Butte Land Trust supports a policy of placing letterboxes in areas that will not create undue risk to the letterbox hunter. However, as a conditions may vary, it is the responsibility of the letterbox searcher to become thoroughly familiar with the conditions in the area to be searched, to adequately prepare for those conditions, and to conduct oneself safely and responsibly with respect to those conditions and with respect to his or her personal abilities and limitations. The Crested Butte Land Trust assumes no liability for events which may occur related directly or indirectly to one's search for a letterbox.

Please do not let children hunt for letterboxes unsupervised.

By reading and utilizing the letterbox clues posted on the clue sheet or the Land Trust website, you expressly agree to indemnify and hold harmless the persons and entities mentioned above from any and all expenses incurred, claims made, or liabilities assessed against them, including but not limited to attorney's fees and litigation expenses, arising out of or resulting from, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, your actions or inactions, your breach or failure to abide by any part of this document including but not limited to your covenant not to sue; or any other harm caused by you.