

## 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!*

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**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 trailhead for the wide path of the Lower Loop Trail. 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. Walk past the “Alien Shack” and down the road just a few yards to begin your hike!

### **Clue # 1**

Begin your search at the start of the Lower Loop. You’ll also notice posts on this trail with this year’s Storywalk, an interactive display of a deconstructed storybook book to read along the way (if you so choose!). Just as you come to a split of the trail between the wide path and the single track, look around you for a tall, stand-alone lodgepole pine to your right. Look around its branches for your first treasure!

## **Clue # 2**

Keep along the wide path section of the trail. Soon, you'll find a bench on your left. Just as you pass the bench and the trail swoops slightly to the right and slightly downhill, Look to your right, off the trail and in the woods for a fallen tree with a birdhouse. Tucked into the fallen tree you'll find what you seek!

## **Clue # 3**

Continue along the wide pathed trail, over bridges and past another bench. Soon you will come to an open intersection of the single track and wide path trails. At this intersection you'll also find the start of the Upper Loop and KB Connector. Look around this intersection for a lone tree on your left. This tree protects your treasure!

## **Clue # 4**

Continue along the wide path of the Lower Loop. Did you know that as you continue down the straight, wide path, you're walking on the old location for the Crested Butte Denver and Rio Grande Railroad? Built in 1883, this railroad was in use until the 1950s, exporting coal from Crested Butte coal mines. Continue for a ways until you reach a sign that says that you are entering public lands. Look around this sign for a funky shaped tree, low and almost on the ground. You'll find what you seek here!

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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, particularly in the face of expansive loss of wetlands and freshwater lakes throughout the country. 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!

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**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 cozier than the others... 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!

**CRESTED BUTTE LAND TRUST**  
**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-liable 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.