



**Trails Legend**

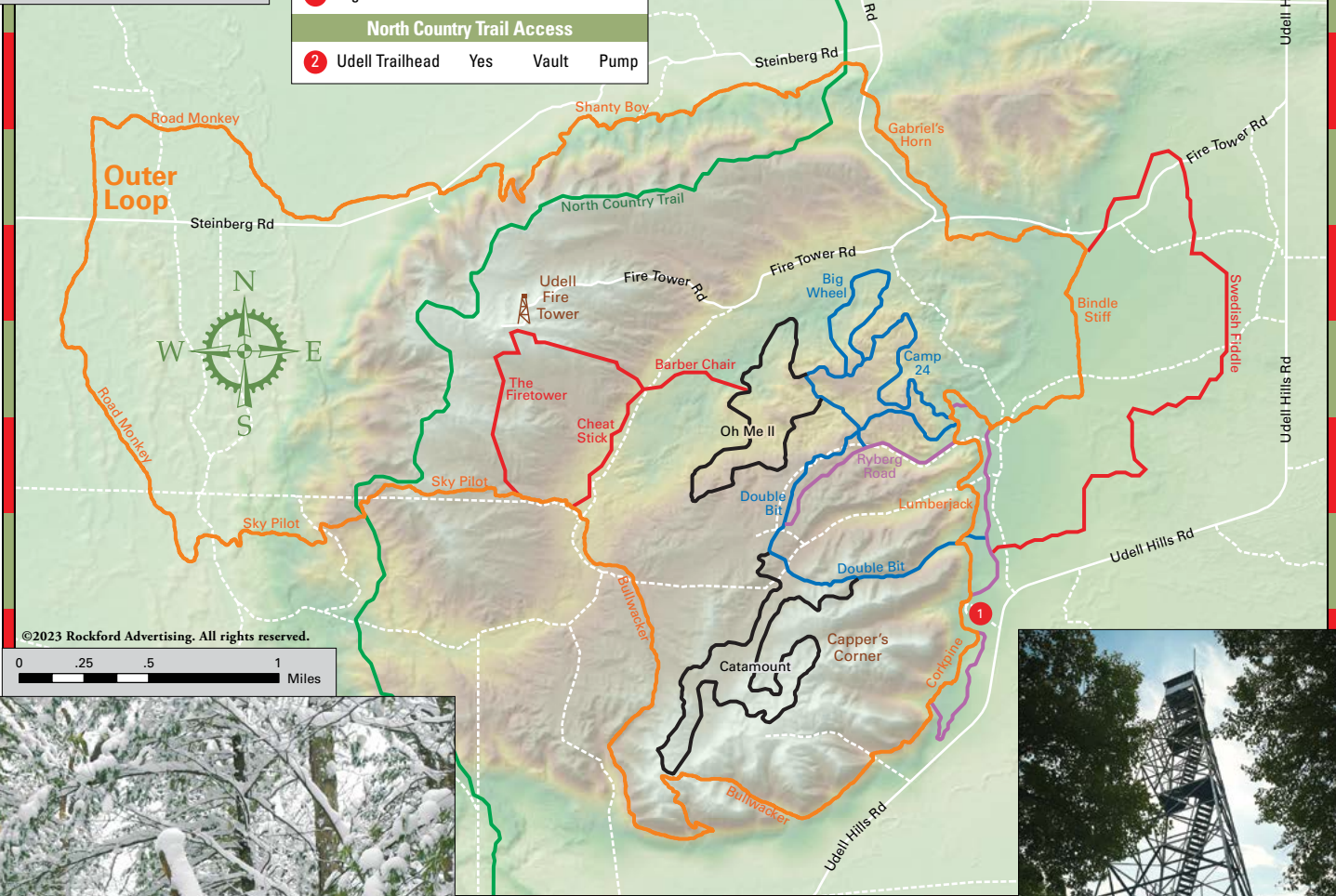
- Hike/Bike/Ski Trails
- Big M Outer Loop
- North Country Trail
- Highways
- Paved and Gravel Roads
- Primitive/Two-Track Roads

**Big M Trail Access**

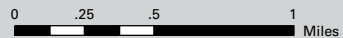
Access Site	Parking	Restrooms	Water
1 Big M Trailhead	Yes	Vault	No

**North Country Trail Access**

2 Udell Trailhead	Yes	Vault	Pump
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The Big M is groomed for fat biking during the winter season.



Visit the Udell Fire Tower. The last remaining fire tower of its kind still standing in Michigan's lower peninsula.

### Big M Mountain Biking, Hiking and Cross-Country Skiing Trails

Topping out at 794 feet above sea level, the Udell Hills soar above the second growth canopy of Manistee National Forest. In the mid 1950s, the Manistee Ski Area was established on the steep eastern slopes of the Udell Hills. With 17 ski runs, 9 tows and a two-story base lodge, it was renamed "The Big M" in the 1960s. The small ski resort faded into history sometime in the early 1970s.

Now part of Manistee National Forest, the Big M recreation area boasts over 40 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails that are groomed by local volunteers for cross-country skiing and fat tire biking during the winter months. The trailhead, shelter and many of the trail loops were built on the site of the former ski resort. This nicely designed network of trails features wayfinding maps and mileage markers at each intersection, so you always know where you are as you ride through this lush secluded wilderness.

The 15.6-mile **Big M Outer Loop Trail** is considered one of Michigan's top 10 mountain biking trails, and the main attraction for most cyclists. Local riders recommend riding The Loop in a clockwise fashion. You'll encounter challenging climbs and thrilling downhill on the south and north sides and a fun twisty romp through hardwood forest and pine groves on the remote western side of The Loop. Make sure to consult the trail map and bulletin board at the Big M trailhead for seasonal trail information.

The **North Country Trail** passes through the Big M with a trailhead just off M-55.