

2024-2025

# Off-Highway Vehicle Program State Trail Grant Application

48  
SW-M,E



**COLORADO**  
Parks and Wildlife  
Department of Natural Resources

Name of Project: Divide Heavy Maintenance Trail Crew | Date of Application: 10/23/23

(Please limit the project name to 5 words or less)

Total Project Cost: \$147,713 | Grant Request: \$80,737  
(round off to the nearest \$1) | Amount Requested (round off to the nearest \$1) must match the Project Budget Form.

**PROJECT SPONSOR** (Name and Address for entity legally responsible for project)

Organization Name: Rio Grande National Forest, Divide Ranger District  
Mailing Address: 13308 W. Hwy. 160 Del Norte, CO 81132  
Telephone: 719-657-3321 | Email: Patrick.j.moran@usda.gov

**OFFICIAL USE ONLY – UEI # (IF REQUIRED):**

<https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei>

**PROJECT CONTACT** This is the person with day-to-day responsibility for the managing the project, ensuring the contract scope of work will be fulfilled. Please notify us if *Project Contact* changes.

Name: Tanner Dutton | Title: Recreation Specialist  
Mailing Address: 13308 W. Hwy. 160 Del Norte, CO 81132  
Telephone: 719-849-8040 | Email: tanner.m.dutton@usda.gov  
Is this the primary contact for this grant:  
**YES** NO

**PROJECT CLOSE-OUT CONTACT** This is the person responsible for submitting receipts for project spending and close-out. Please notify us if *Project Contact* changes.

Name: Tanner Dutton | Title: Recreation Specialist  
Mailing Address: 13308 W. Hwy. 160 Del Norte, CO 81132  
Telephone: 719-849-8040 | Email: tanner.m.dutton@usda.gov

**GRANTS & AGREEMENTS SPECIALIST (USFS only) or BUDGET CONTACT (BLM only)**

Name: Amanda Marr | Title: Lead Grants Management Specialist  
Mailing Address: 1801 Highway 18 Bypass Hot Springs, SD 57747  
Telephone: 605-515-8812 | Email: amanda.marr@usda.gov

**PROJECT LOCATION**

Nearest Town or City: Del Norte, CO  
 County(ies): Rio Grande, Hinsdale, Mineral, San Juan, Saguache, Conejos  
 Provide a point of reference for mapping purposes (i.e. a google searchable landscape feature):  
 Rio Grande National Forest 37.816585°, -106.683897°  
 Township/Range/Section: too many to list – forest wide  
 State Senate District #: 5,6,35      State Representative District #: 5

**LAND OWNERSHIP**

1. Provide the name/s of the property owners:  
 2. The trail corridor is controlled by:  Fee Simple    Lease    Easement    License  
 Right-of-Way    Land Acquisition Ownership to be obtained    Other (explain): Federal Agency

**TRAIL SYSTEM INFORMATION** (List the number of miles for each type of OHV trail in your area)

Miles of Singletrack: 194.7   Miles of 50" or less: 190.4   Miles of Full-sized: 4.3

**TRAIL USER INFORMATION** (Please check all that apply to the work planned for this project)

All-Terrain Vehicle    Side x Side    Full Sized 4X4  
 Motorcycling    Four-Wheeling    Accessible Access

**PROJECT INFORMATION** (Please check all activities that apply to this project.)  
 Include detailed information for each in the Project Scope of Work.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel Plan Implementation
<input type="checkbox"/> *New Trail Construction miles / ft. _____ (Approved through Travel Mgt Decision)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Protection & Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> *Major Re-Route miles / ft. closed _____ (that will require new or additional environmental approvals) miles / ft. added _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signs
	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Corps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration/Rehabilitation (existing corridor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitor Contacts & Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital Equipment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition or Other

\* New Trail Construction & Major Re-Route: Trail location(s) must be indicated on project map and detailed description of trail work plans must be provided in Project Selection Criteria, Section D-1, #3 Resource Protection, Enhancement & Restoration

**TRAIL ACTIVITIES SUMMARY** (Based on your project description and budget, provide the percentage for each of the categories listed below.)

<b>% of Budget</b> <b>70</b>	<b>Program maintenance</b> (e.g., erosion controls, water bars and culverts, trail clearing and brushing, trail hardening and trail tread repairs, bridge construction and repairs, trailhead improvements and maintenance, crew wages, etc.)
<b>2</b>	<b>Enforcement, Education &amp; Visitor Contacts</b> (e.g., patrols, enforcement, education and visitor contacts, wages, safety contacts, equipment, etc.)
<b>3</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Travel Plan Implementation</b> (e.g., planning, engineering, maps, inventorying, travel management signs & installation, decommission non-system routes, rehabilitation, new construction, wages, monitoring, etc.)
<b>25</b>	<b>Equipment /Materials/ Signs/ Youth Corps/Miscellaneous</b> (e.g., equipment maintenance and repair, personnel training, certification in the use of specialized equipment, program coordination, etc.)
<b>100</b>	<b>Total: (Note: Percentages should add to 100 %)</b>

**SCOPE OF WORK – Project Description:**

Project Name: Divide Heavy Maintenance Trail Crew	Project No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Project Sponsor: Rio Grande National Forest	Application Year: 2024-2025
Project Contact: Tanner Dutton	Application No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Total Project Cost: \$147,713	Grant Request: \$80,737

**Project Description:**

The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) is a federal public land agency, it is in south-central Colorado and is responsible for managing 1.8 million acres that lie on the perimeter of the San Luis Valley (SLV). There are three Ranger Districts within the RGNF, the Saguache Ranger District (SRD) is the northern most district that manages 515,750 acres. The Divide Ranger District is the central district that manages 979,687 acres. The Conejos Peak Ranger District (CPRD) is the southernmost district that manages 304,563 acres. The Divide Ranger District (DRD) is submitting this application to fund and support an OHV trail crew that will maintain and improve 50" system trails located primarily on the Divide Ranger District with some work being done on the other two Districts.

The Heavy Maintenance (HM) Trail Crew has been consistently funded for many years and is an integral part of our motorized trails program. The operator and lead of this crew brings 19 seasons of trails experience. The HM Trail Crew collaboratively works with the Divide Good Management Trail Crew, and it is often difficult to distinguish between the two crews when they team up on projects. The Divide Ranger District would like to request consideration for **Good Management status** for the Heavy Maintenance Crew or for the possibility of increasing grant limits so the two crews could merge under one Good Management Grant.

The HM Trail Crew has been on the path of taking a proactive approach to trail management by constructing minor and major reroutes, along with perform routine trail maintenance with a grant funded excavator. Most of our trails started as stock driveways and have transitioned into multiple use and motorized trails over time. We have an ongoing need for maintenance, reengineering, and rerouting because the trails were not entirely purpose built or designed with trail sustainability in mind. Our goal is to maintain our existing trails and improve the overall trail sustainability by hardening, reengineering, and constructing minor reroutes that address un-maintainable sections and improve upon the overall riding experience. We manage a valuable OHV area that disperses use so that visitors have a sense of solitude while being in the scenic San Juan Mountains in southern Colorado. We have 50" trails that take trail users to the top of 13,000' peaks and traverse skylines above timberline. Visitors come from across the country to explore our forest and get the opportunity to enjoy all the exceptional recreation opportunities we have to offer.

The HM Crew is a summer seasonal two-person motorized trail crew that will work out of the DRD, they will utilize a grant funded mini-excavator to improve OHV trail riding opportunities. We would like to fund a permanent seasonal position so that we could improve retention, while also funding another seasonal position. This crew will be responsible for the project implementation outlined in this application and will be supervised by the DRD Trail Specialist. Most of the funding being requested is in Category I: Personnel Costs to hire two full time seasonal employees, provide training and personal protective equipment. Additional funding is being requested for fuel and maintenance to support the equipment the crew will be utilizing throughout the season, and for a replacement ATV or 50" utility UTV. Please refer to the budget form for more detailed information on the expenditures we anticipate in 2025.

We proudly acknowledge this grant opportunity and funding for this project through social media, public contacts, word of mouth, OHV Dollars at Work decals at trail heads, on equipment and tools. Motorized trails access and OHV opportunities on the RGNF would not be in the condition they're in without this grant.

MOTORIZED TRAILS, RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST						
DISTRICT	RTE ID	RTE NAME	BMP	EMP	SEG LENGTH	MODE of TRAVEL
DIVIDE	787.1	LA GARITA SD CUT-OFF	0.0	1.2	1.2	<= 50"
DIVIDE	700	DRY CREEK	8.0	16.0	7.9	<= 50"
DIVIDE	<b>702</b>	<b>SOUTH ROCK</b>	0.0	1.9	1.9	<= 50"
DIVIDE	703	ALAMOSA ROCK	0.0	5.4	5.4	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	705	AMERICAN GULCH	0.0	6.6	6.6	<= 50"
DIVIDE	<b>709</b>	<b>BEAR CREEK</b>	0.0	4.6	4.6	<= 50"
DIVIDE	761	PALISADE	0.0	2.1	2.1	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	786	BENINO	0.0	5.2	5.2	<= 50"
DIVIDE	<b>787</b>	<b>LA GARITA SD. (Portion)</b>	0.0	26.0	26.0	<= 50"
DIVIDE	787	LA GARITA SD. (Portion)	42.2	53.0	10.8	<= 50"
DIVIDE	787	LA GARITA SD. (Portion)	53.0	57.1	4.0	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	791	SALT CANYON	0.0	4.8	4.8	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	792	EMBARGO	0.0	5.9	5.9	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	793	LA GARITA CREEK	0.0	4.7	4.7	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	793	LA GARITA CREEK	4.7	11.2	6.5	<= 50"
DIVIDE	793.1	LA GARITA CREEK CUT-OFF	0.0	1.4	1.4	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	793.2	LA GARITA CREEK CUT-OFF	0.0	1.5	1.5	<= 50"
DIVIDE	793.3	LA GARITA CREEK CUT-OFF	0.0	2.4	2.4	<= 50"
DIVIDE	794	CATHEDRAL	0.0	3.7	3.7	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	795	GROUNDHOG	0.0	2.8	2.8	<= 50"
DIVIDE	795	GROUNDHOG	2.8	6.3	3.4	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	796	PERRY CREEK	0.0	8.2	8.2	<= 50"
DIVIDE	797	MIDDLE ALDER	0.0	5.0	5.0	<= 50"
DIVIDE	798	WEST ALDER	0.0	6.0	6.0	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	799	ALDER BENCH	0.0	6.5	6.5	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	803	MINER'S CREEK	0.0	8.8	8.8	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	812	CROSS CREEK	0.0	4.7	4.7	<= 50"
DIVIDE	813	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NST	189.3	194.6	5.3	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	<b>815</b>	<b>FERN CREEK</b>	0.0	4.0	4.0	<= 50"
DIVIDE	820	POLE CREEK	0.0	3.1	3.1	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	821	LOST TRAIL	0.0	6.5	6.5	<= 50"
DIVIDE	822	WEST LOST	0.0	7.0	7.0	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	831	TROUT	0.0	10.5	6.6	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	<b>842</b>	<b>TEWSKBERRY</b>	0.0	6.1	6.1	<= 50"
DIVIDE	844	HANKERCHIEF MESA	0.0	4.1	4.1	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	846	CASTLE ROCK	0.0	1.5	1.5	<= 50"
DIVIDE	847	MAIN BEAVER	0.0	2.3	2.3	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	849	WOLF CREEK	0.0	8.7	8.7	<= 50"
DIVIDE	850	WEST FRISCO	0.0	7.6	7.6	<= 50"
DIVIDE	872	BENNETT	0.0	11.0	11.0	<= 50"
DIVIDE	873	BURRO	0.0	8.0	8.0	<= 50"
DIVIDE	874	MUNGER CANYON	0.0	2.3	2.3	<= 50"

DIVIDE	885	FREMONT	0.0	0.7	0.7	<= 50"
DIVIDE	894	FRISCO-FITTON	0.0	3.1	3.1	<= 50"
DIVIDE	898	SHADY	0.0	11.4	11.4	<= 50"
DIVIDE	916	EAST FK. MIDDLE POLE	0.0	6.4	6.4	MOTORCYCLE

DIVIDE	917	MIDDLE POLE	0.0	2.3	2.3	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	932	WEST BEAR	0.0	4.2	4.2	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	934	SHRADER	0.0	4.7	4.7	MOTORCYCLE
DIVIDE	935	CHURCH CREEK	0.0	2.4	2.4	<= 50"

Divide RD total motorized trail miles 271.4

***The trails in bold font are currently identified for priority maintenance in 2025. These priority trails will be reevaluated early in 2025***

DISTRICT	RTE ID	RTE_NAME	BMP	EMP	SEG LENGTH	MODE_OF_TRAVEL
CONEJOS PEAK	704	SILVER MTN	0	12.2	12.2	MOTORCYCLE
CONEJOS PEAK	706	BIG LAKE (SHAWCROFT)	0	2.1	2.1	MOTORCYCLE
CONEJOS PEAK	708	HOT CREEK	0	8.0	8.0	MOTORCYCLE
CONEJOS PEAK	715	SADDLE CREEK	0	4.8	4.8	MOTORCYCLE
CONEJOS PEAK	716	LAKE FORK	0	3.1	3.1	MOTORCYCLE
CONEJOS PEAK	717	VALDEZ	0	2.0	2.0	MOTORCYCLE
CONEJOS PEAK	734	HIDDEN LAKE	0	1.6	1.6	MOTORCYCLE
CONEJOS PEAK	737	WILLOW MOUNTAIN	0	9.8	9.8	MOTORCYCLE
CONEJOS PEAK	739	ACASCOSA	0	1.3	1.3	MOTORCYCLE
CONEJOS PEAK	740.1	HUGHES TRAIL	0	3.3	3.3	<= 50"
CONEJOS PEAK	741	ARCHULETA TRAIL	0	12.7	12.7	<= 50"
CONEJOS PEAK	742	EMPEDRADO LAKE	0	6.2	6.2	MOTORCYCLE
CONEJOS PEAK	759	SAWMILL GULCH	0	2.0	2.0	MOTORCYCLE

Conejos Peak RD total motorized trail miles 69.1

Conejos Peak RD has not requested assistance at this time, but they will reconsider their decision in early 2025.

DISTRICT	RTE ID	RTE_NAME	BMP	EMP	SEG LENGTH	MODE_OF_TRAVEL
SAGUACHE	764	ANTORA MEADOWS	0	2.5	2.488	MOTORCYCLE
SAGUACHE	788	MINER'S CREEK	0	0.8	0.817	<= 50"
SAGUACHE	813	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NST	236.7	274.3	37.6	MOTORCYCLE
SAGUACHE	909	BOWER'S PEAK	0	3.0	3.0	MOTORCYCLE

Saguache RD total motorized trail miles 43.9

Saguache RD has requested continued assistance in 2025 with motorized trails within their District.

## Budget Form

**Project Name:** Divide Heavy Maintenance Crew

**Date Project will be Completed:** 11/30/2025

**Project Sponsor:**

\*\*\*ITEMS LISTED IN THE BUDGET BELOW SHOULD BE SPECIFIC AND CORRESPOND TO THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES INDICATED IN THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK) IN YOUR GRANT APPLICATION.\*\*\* (Round amounts off to nearest dollar)

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES <small>List all sources and amounts of project funding in this section (insert additional lines if needed)</small>	CASH	In-Kind (Non-Cash) Contributions	TOTAL
OHV Grant Funding (amount of requested OHV grant funds only)			\$ 80,737.00
Other Funding Sources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Volunteer and Partner Hours	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,250.00
FS Salary and FS Fleet Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,726.00
Equipment, Materials, Supplies and Signs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00
<b>USE OF GRANT FUNDING</b> <small>List uses of grant funding (only) below</small>	<b>TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT</b>		<b>\$ 147,713.00</b>

### I. Personnel Costs

Identify as: Salary/wage, benefits, \*travel, training, outfitting costs, personal protection equipment, etc. Non-Profit organizations will be required to purchase

Club Member/Employee Name or Title	\$ Per Hr	Hours	Total Cost
1 Equipment Operator (GS-7) Perm 13/13 position	\$ 33.00	1039	\$ 34,287.00
1 Trail Crew Member (GS 4 - 6)	\$ 18.00	1000	\$ 18,000.00
PPE	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00
Training	\$ -		\$ 1,500.00
OT/Lump Sum Salary	\$ -		\$ 3,000.00
	\$ -		\$ -
<small>For CPW use only. Approximate number of workhours</small>	1,751.12		<b>Category Total \$ 57,787.00</b>

### II. Project Materials/Supplies

Identify as: Signs, rock, lumber, paint, nails, printing, maps/guides, education materials, etc.

	Price Per	Quantity	Total
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
			<b>Category Total \$ -</b>

### III. Equipment

Identify as: Trail Dozer, ATV, motorcycle, chainsaws, field equipment rentals, equipment fuel and repairs, fleet vehicle operations, etc.

High capacity ATV or Compact 50" UTV with dump bed	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Fuel/Oil/Lubricants for OHVs and Excavator	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Tools				\$ 1,000.00
OHV Parts/Maintenance/Tires	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 3,500.00
				<b>Category Total \$ 21,500.00</b>

#### III.A. FLEET Equipment

Identify as: Crew Fleet Vehicles/Trucks monthly FOR & USE, Fleet Equipment monthly USE.

	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
				<b>Category Total \$ -</b>

### V. Volunteer Support

Identify as: For Volunteers Only Safety education, safety gear (gloves/goggles), outfitting, per diem (meals or mileage when travel required by and identified in project scope of work), non-monetary awards or recognition.

Fuel (saw/utv/atv)	\$ -			\$ 200.00
PPE (chaps, gloves, eye pro., ear pro.)	\$ -			\$ 500.00
Equipment (hand tools, saw parts)	\$ -			\$ 750.00
				<b>Category Total \$ 1,450.00</b>

### VI. Insurance

(Non-profit organizations only)

	\$ -			\$ -
				<b>Category Total \$ -</b>

### VII. Grant Administrative Costs (Non-profit organizations only)

Identify as: administrative costs, office supplies, postage, phone charges, computer & printer supplies, etc. (Up to 5% of amount spent)

	\$ -			\$ -
				<b>Category Total \$ -</b>

\* Non-profit organizations that reimburse travel expenses will be required to use OHV Program Travel Forms - provided upon request

Note: Any changes to the budget must have pre-approval from the Program

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 80,737.00</b>
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FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION and LAND MANAGER APPROVAL

The applicant is responsible for securing all necessary permits, licenses, clearances, SHPO, and environmental analysis documentation necessary to comply with local, state, and/or federal laws.

Project Name: Heavy Maintenance Trail Crew 2025; Project Sponsor: Rio Grande National Forest, Divide Ranger District

As the official responsible for management of the land on which the project will be accomplished, I agree to the following:

- 1. The project as described in this application has my approval.
2. The project is located on federal public lands and is in conformance with the appropriate Forest Management Plan, BLM Resource Area Management Plan or other decision document titled:

Rio Grande National Forest Land Management Plan Date: May 2020

- 3. A decision has been issued as part of the NEPA environmental review process.

Date and title of document:

Not Required

If a decision has not been issued as part of the NEPA environmental review process, please state the reason why. No funds will be distributed until any required NEPA documentation is completed.

For more information about the NEPA environmental review process, contact:

Patrick Moran, District Ranger

- 4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for unknown.

Patrick Moran, District Ranger

Print or type Land Manager's Name and Title

Handwritten signature: Pat Moran; Land Manager Signature and Title

11/29/23; Date

## **PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA**

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### **1. Need for & Benefit of the Project (25 points):**

The overall objectives for this project are the same as the Good Management (GM) Trail Crew, to improve OHV riding opportunities by expanding the overall trail experience through minor reroutes and maintenance. The slight difference from the GM Trail Crew is that the HM Crew will utilize a mini-excavator to accomplish their objectives where the GM Trail Crew will primarily use hand tools. This project will play a vital role in improving OHV based recreation within the RGNF, this will enable the forest to provide a positive trail-based recreation experience while also protecting natural resources.

The DRD categorizes our trail work needs into two distinct types of trail work, hand-crew work typically takes place on motorized single-track trails and heavy maintenance/mini-excavator work typically takes place on 50" trails. The need for this project addresses work that is best suited for a mini-excavator that cannot reasonably be accomplished otherwise. The history of our trail maintenance for over a decade, both motorized and non-motorized, was accomplished through non-appropriated funds such as grants and reliance on various partnerships. Motorized trail maintenance occurs specifically because of State OHV Grant opportunities.

The Heavy Maintenance Crew will construct trail features on 50" system trails so that the trails listed above are maintainable and more resilient to erosion. The trail improvements often constructed are rolling grade dips, knicks, retaining walls, tread armoring, stone pitching, and minor trail realignments. Trail realignments will be constructed to improve the riding experience by utilizing the landscape to incorporate undulations and sinuosity to increase trail sustainability and improve the trail experience. Minor re-routes are identified and designed at the beginning of the season and then constructed during the field season.

Trail width restrictors will be installed at the ends of motorized system trails anywhere they connect to routes that allow for a larger machine or vehicle. The trail width restrictors will help to facilitate responsible use by allowing dirt bikes or OHVs equal to or less than 50" wide. By doing this, it will help to reduce trail degradation from OHV's that exceed the footprint of the trail tread.

It is imperative that this project takes place on an annual basis so we can continue to maintain our trails to ensure that trail features are improved so that they properly drain water from the trail tread. The project area lies within mountains that are known for receiving the most snow in the state, again it is imperative that trails drain water otherwise they will erode the trail and will be unrideable in the future. The RGNF is a destination forest for out of state visitors because it borders New Mexico and is easily accessible for other neighboring states. The forest offers a variety of exceptional recreational opportunities and most visitors come to enjoy OHV based recreation in the scenic San Juan and La Garita Mountains. This project will support the continued increase in public visitation the forest has been seeing year after year. The forest does not have current visitor monitoring system to capture annual visitor days, therefore it is difficult to identify exactly how many people this project will benefit.



## 2. Partnerships, Support and Leverage (25 points):

There is no known controversy with this project.

There are numerous partners that have assisted us with projects similar to this in the past and anticipate their support in the future.

- Stay the Trail: Has supported the district with funding to purchase signs through RockArt (\$1,800 - \$3,000)
- Boot Hill Motorcycle Club: Local motorized group, assisted with trail clearing, light tread work and community outreach (about 100 volunteer hours)
- SLV Great Outdoors: provides community outreach to local communities, advocates for stewardship, assists with trail projects and grant writing.
- Silverthread Outdoor Recreation Club: local riding club, trail adopters, assists with trail projects (about 100 volunteer hours)
- Trail Wise Backcountry Horsemen: assist with trail signing, clearing and assists with wilderness access adjacent to OHV trails.
- Colorado Mountain Club: awarded grant in 2022 for trail crew to assist with rehabilitation of W. Frisco Reroute (\$5,000)
- FS Personnel: Law Enforcement provides public contacts, enforcement of OHV regulations. Saw coordinator provides saw training and recertification. Trail Specialist assists the crew with projects, swamps for operator, assists with construction of technical trail projects, provides on the job training in all things trails. Engineer assists with technical trail features and ensures they are constructed to standard. Recreation Specialist works with the crew on technical projects.
- FS Funding: For project supplies, fleet costs, equipment, road crew equipment support, materials, and hardware.

Item	Unit	# Units	Cost/Unit	Total	Comments
Partners	Hours	180	\$25	\$4,000	Hrs associated to clubs, individuals,
Equip	Miles	100	\$0.5	\$ 250	
<b>FS Related</b>					
District Rec Staff	Daily	10	\$451	\$4,510	Project clearance, CDL, implementation monitoring
Trails Specialist	Daily	30	\$303	\$9,090	Assists with planning and projects
Law Enforcement	Daily	32	\$390	\$12,480	Reduced from actual. Acknowledge some degree of their job but increasing workload. Also assisting in overall areas that benefit program.
Annual FS Fleet FOR cost	Monthly and per mile			\$23,396	Total of monthly and per mile or hour FS fleet cost for GM Crew fleet. (PU, trailer, excavator)
Equipment, training, materials, supplies	Varied			\$9,000	Utilizing additional vehicles, dump trucks, trailers, and equipment. First Aid training. Gates, signage, width restrictors, fencing, OHV cattle guards, road base, rock, and trail materials funded by FS program dollars and RAC funds.
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$62,726</b>	

### **3. Resource Protection, Enhancement and Restoration relative to eligible OHV grant activities**

*(25 points):*

Resource protection is a primary component to this project. Our goal is to protect access to trail-based resources so that we can keep people on the trail and water off the trail. By doing this we facilitate responsible use within the existing footprint of the trail and discourage trail users from going off trail. By draining water off the trail early and often we reduce opportunities for erosion. This goal will protect valuable OHV resources along with resources adjacent to the project area.

Having the HM Crew tackle major reroutes is a substantial workload and it makes it more difficult for the crew to also perform essential maintenance on our existing system trails. For 2025 we are looking at having the HM Crew focus on priority trail maintenance, existing infrastructure and minor reroutes. The DRD Trail Program is hoping to collaboratively work with partners so that our partners can construct major reroutes on OHV system trails.

Examples of project work that addresses resource protection:

- Removing trail obstructions that prevent trail braiding, widening and additional surface disturbance.
- Installing anchors to control use by reducing speeds and preventing off trail travel.
- Installing check dams on abandoned/existing trail alignments to prevent further erosion and facilitate rehabilitation.
- Naturalizing parallel trails to discourage additional use.
- Armoring creek crossings to prevent sedimentation.
- Constructing minor reroutes in more sustainable locations to prevent erosion.
- Signing illegal user created routes to prevent cross country travel.
- Assist with installing trail width restrictors to manage allowable machines on trails.
- Maintain and install drain features to shed water off the trail.

There is sensitive flora and fauna in the project area and this project aims at mitigating OHV recreation impacts by managing travel on existing system trails and preventing illegal travel into sensitive wildlife areas. Project work will provide for protection of plants, minimize sedimentation, protect water quality and improve fisheries. Wildlife includes migratory and nesting birds, Canadian lynx, elk, deer, pronghorn, big horn sheep and moose.

#### ***Large Equipment Purchases, Maintenance and Disposition:***

The HM Trail Crew has been using ATVs and 6x6s that are close to 20 years old. They have been subjected to continuous hard-working conditions and require travel over rough trails. These pieces of equipment are becoming unreliable and expensive to repair. The district would like to purchase one new high capacity ATV or one small 50" utility UTV to support the HM Trail Crew. The equipment requesting to be purchased will be operated by properly trained FS staff and utilized for OHV Crew trail work on the RGNF. Minor equipment maintenance could be completed by FS employees and trained professionals would complete routine maintenance throughout the equipment's service life. Equipment will be used to support the management of OHV recreation resources that are consistent with Land Management Planning and agency direction. With the RGNF being centrally located adjacent to other land management agencies (BLM SLVFO, BLM GFO, SINF, SJNF and GNF) it could only take a half days drive to relocate equipment to another grant supported District/Field Office between the months of October and May. If the equipment needed to be returned to CPW, the nearest office being 14 miles away in Monte Vista, CO.

#### **4. Travel Management Plan Implementation, Education and Enforcement (25 points):**

Active and effective OHV management is based upon the implementation of travel management plans, broad public awareness, compliance, enforcement and providing adequate recreation opportunities. Describe how the project will promote active OHV management and improve OHV use for the benefit of public land visitors. To receive a full score of 25 points for this category the project must incorporate at least one of the following components. (*Use the following as a guideline for describing your project*)

##### ***Travel Management:***

Our role at the Forest Service is to sustain a vibrant and healthy system of trails, both now and for generations to come. Our goal is to ensure America's trails are ecologically sustainable and economically viable and that people value and support their trails on public lands. This project supports travel management and improves OHV use through the following measures:

- Ensures trails are signed accurately and identify all of the allowable uses.
- Trails are managed consistently with the Trail Management Objectives. The trails will be maintained with multiple use in mind, such as clearing corridor accessible for equestrian, open site corridors so that mechanized/motorized can more easily see foot and stock. Motorized trails popular with non-motorized uses are considered when constructing trail features.
- Utilize the USDA national Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System, NOHVCC Management Guidelines for OHV Recreation, NOHVCC Great Trails and other resources to work towards providing the most sustainable OHV recreation experience possible.
- Management of trails will be consistent with the current MVUM.
- Public contacts will be made throughout the course of the season while the crew is working on maintaining trails.
- Members of the crew will attend OHV club meetings, recreation events, participate in virtual public meetings. This will allow them to reduce user conflicts, provide information about multiple use trail opportunities, ensure OHV regulations are followed and inform OHV users of how their OHV dollars are going to work within the project area.
- This crew has decades of historical knowledge of the project area and is aware of problematic non-system routes. They monitor these routes while traveling to their project area and will replace signing and discourage further use if necessary.
- When minor reroutes are constructed, the existing trail is naturalized with native material, check dams are installed if warranted to prevent erosion.
- When parallel routes form, they are slashed and naturalized to discourage use and signed if necessary.
- Natural barriers are installed to delineate parking areas, trail width restrictors are installed to support allowable uses and fencing is placed on both sides of the width restrictor to discourage illegal use.

##### ***Education***

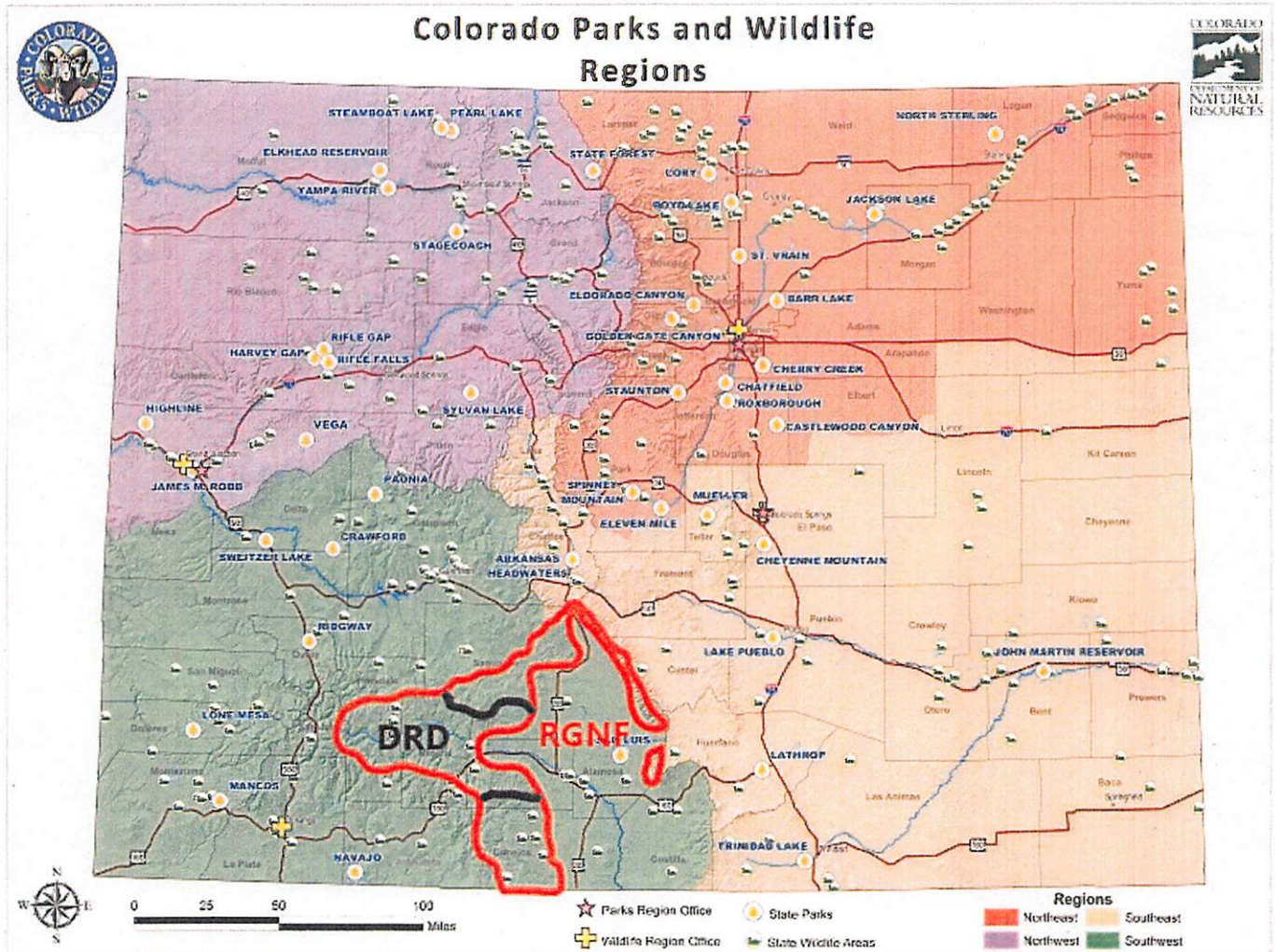
The HM Crew attends OHV club meetings, public and competitive events to stay connected with the community and share information about motorized recreation on the forest, while also advocating for the state OHV program. They regularly make public contacts when working on trails and ensure trail heads support responsible use and positive messaging. They travel with MVUM maps, stickers, and materials to hand out to the public. They recommend loop opportunities, trails with high scenic value, share trail difficulty and where the most difficult sections are located, and inform the public on how their OHV dollars are being put to work. They check for OHV registration stickers and provide information regarding resource damage and other violations to law enforcement. The crews focus will be aimed at providing information and keeping public contacts positive while leaving the enforcement aspect up to Law Enforcement Officers (LEO). The crew provides up to date trail information to office Visitor Information Services Specialist, so they have current information when the public reaches out with trail questions.

##### ***Enforcement and Compliance Activities:***

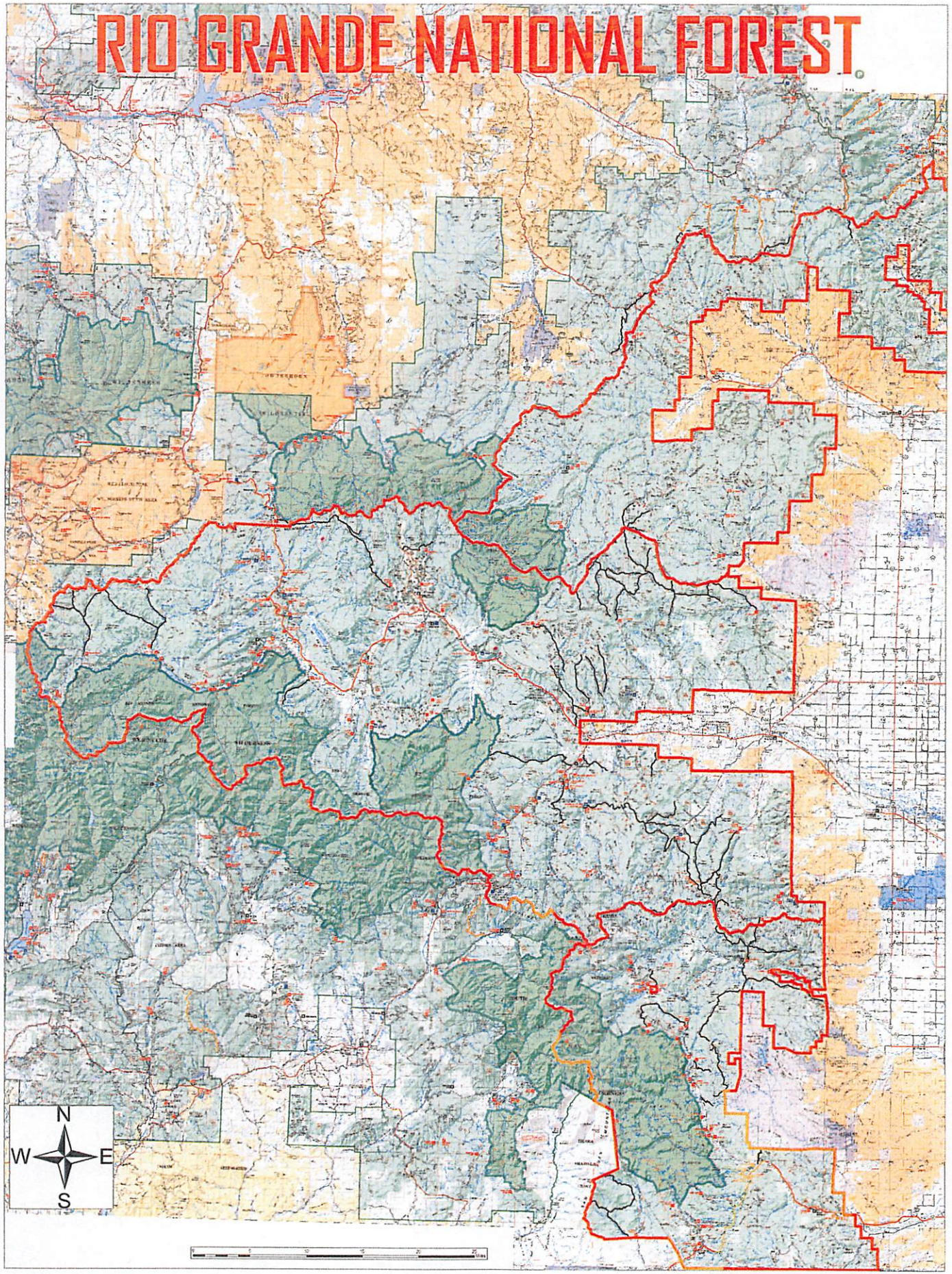
The HM Crew checks for OHV registration on every contact and makes it a habit thank people for registering their machine. They will then share where that money goes and how it is currently being used on our forest trails. This approach provides positive reinforcement and connects a regulation to a positive outcome that is relative to the trail they are riding. If they find significant resource damage or other significant offenses, the crew will document pertinent information and share it with LEOs. Our forest LEOs travel on dirt bikes from time to time and will assist with trail clearing but their primary focus is enforcement. A majority of LEO time (400 hours) will be an in-kind contribution to this grant but a couple days of salary are being requested for peak days and events to support the compliance of OHV regulations.

# E-1 Vicinity Map & E-2 Project Site Maps

E-1 Vicinity Map: Please mark the vicinity where the project is located on the map below.



# RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST



**(F) Project Illustration**

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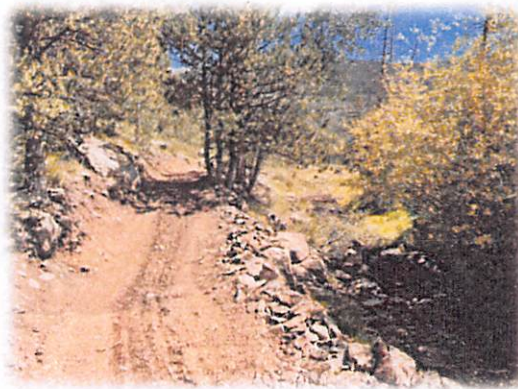
New Trail Width Restrictor



Minor Reroute Before



Minor Reroute After



Tread Armoring Before



Tread Armoring After



### **(G) Letters of Project Support**

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Provide up to six (6) letters of support from entities that are supporting the project in ways other than cash or in-kind contributions. Letters should come from at least three of the categories listed below. Letters must be current, and must document the need and demand for the proposed project. Please note, identically worded form letters do not sufficiently fulfill this requirement. All letters must be included with the application. Letters mailed directly to the State Trails Program will not be accepted as letters of support for the application, rather they will be treated as public comments on the project as proposed.

- Adjacent landowners (1 letter provided)
- Federal, county, city, and private landowners (1 letter provided)
- Individual users or user groups (1 letter provided)
- Partners and/or cooperators (3 letters provided)

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023



RE: Off-Highway Vehicle Program, State Trails Grant Application

On behalf of Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) it is with great pleasure that we express our support for the Rio Grande National Forest's Divide Ranger District in their efforts to fund and support an OHV trail crew to maintain and improve 50" system trails on the Divide Ranger District.

While VOC is based out of Denver, the organization has operated a partnership office out of the Rio Grande National Forest since 2011. VOC's San Luis Valley Programs Manager works closely with the Divide Ranger District each year in planning multiple volunteer projects that align with the current mission and work of the recreation team. The need for increased trail maintenance efforts is apparent due to the size of the trail system, weather conditions and the popularity of the area as a destination for recreational activities, particularly OHV use. Through our work at VOC, we have supported the District in providing volunteer stewardship trainings, such as chainsaw certification workshops. We have coordinated with the District to assist the crews in performing trail maintenance projects and have hosted a few projects installing trail width restrictors on the Rio Grande National Forest. In assisting the District with this work, it has become apparent how critical this work is and how much work there is to complete each year to keep on top of proper maintenance of these trail systems. Funding additional staff to complete this work and receiving Good Management status would enable to the District to continue this work in the most effective way possible and to continue collaborative work with volunteers and organizations such as VOC.

We urge State Trails to consider granting funds to the Divide Ranger District in order to continue the necessary work to maintain the integrity of the local trail systems, to provide improved opportunities for multi-user recreation, and continue to support both local use and non-SLV resident visitation to our public lands.

Sincerely,

Katie Goodleaf  
Weld County & SLV Programs Managers  
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado





CPW State Trails OHV Application

RE: Divide Ranger District Heavy Maintenance Crew for Good Management Status

San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) is writing to support the efforts of the Divide Ranger District for the request of Good Management status for their Heavy Maintenance Crew. SLV GO! and the Divide Ranger District have collaborated on various projects, both with a conservation mentality and vision to create more equitable access to outdoor spaces, which drives projects throughout the district.

In the last three years (six seasons of trail work), our agencies have worked in cooperation and have accomplished an immense amount of projects. If it were not for the leadership of the Divide Ranger District and project layouts, SLV GO!'s Great Outdoor Action Team and Divide's Heavy Maintenance Crews would not have been able to successfully plan and complete the needed work across the district. The need for trail maintenance on a more regular basis is due to the increase of users and visitors who frequent the trail systems throughout the San Luis Valley, especially some that are most popular in the Divide Ranger District. Good Management status for the Divide Ranger District would greatly benefit the Heavy Maintenance Crew to focus on continued planning, maintenance, re-routes, and cooperation with their partners, including SLV GO!, to help keep OHV trails open and accessible for residents and visitors alike.

In 2025, The Divide Ranger District plans on constructing minor re-routes, along with the routine maintenance of their 50" trails. These re-routes will be designed following the industry standards, which will make a more enjoyable experience for users and be more sustainable in the future.

With kind regard,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mick Daniel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Mick Daniel  
[mickdaniel@slvgo.com](mailto:mickdaniel@slvgo.com)  
719-522-3910



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Saguache Ranger District

46525 State Highway 114  
Saguache, CO 81149  
719-655-2547  
TDD: 719-655-6135  
Fax: 719-655-2502

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File Code: 2300  
Date: November 21, 2023

Tom Metsa  
OHV Program Manager  
Colorado State Parks and Wildlife  
13787 South Highway 85  
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Mr. Metsa and Committee Members,

I have shared our continued support for funding the Divide Ranger District's applications in the past. Again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the continued funding of both the Good Management and Heavy Maintenance OHV Trail crews.

There are several trails that either weave back and forth between our two Districts or provide travel opportunities between both Districts. The Saguache and Divide Ranger District staff recognize that it is inefficient to minimize or stop work because of an administrative line on a map. The Heavy Maintenance Crew is a very important part of managing motorized trails on the Rio Grande National Forest and has continued to prioritize trail work across District boundaries. The Crews' unique ability to utilize an excavator and specialized equipment on OHV trails to perform reroutes, heavy trail maintenance, and install width restrictors and signs adds safety and a huge amount of efficiency to these otherwise labor-intensive projects.

The Saguache Ranger District plays a key role in this area's economy which relies heavily on agriculture and increasing tourism. The District falls primarily in Saguache County, the 3<sup>rd</sup> poorest County in the State of Colorado with approximately one quarter of our residents living below the poverty line. In fact, much of the San Luis Valley is within some of the State's most economically depressed counties. As such, all sustainable recreation opportunities only become more critical to this area during key visitation periods, especially summer and hunting seasons.

Again, I wholeheartedly support the funding of the Divide Ranger District's Good Management and Heavy Maintenance OHV Trail Crews, building upon past successful work and grant funding.

Sincerely,

TRISTRAM S. POST  
District Ranger



Davie Ranch  
316 County Road 17  
Del Norte, CO 81132

**OHV Grant Program**

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife OHV Program**

**13787 South Highway 85**


**Littleton, CO 80125**

**Letter of Support for the Divide Ranger District Heavy Maintenance Crew 2025 OHV State Trail Grant Application**

Dear Mr. Metsa and members of the OHV Trails Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for the Divide Ranger District's Heavy Maintenance Crew CPW OHV State Trail Grant Application. I own and operate a Farm and Ranch near Del Norte, CO and my family has held a Forest Service Grazing permit on the Embargo Cattle Grazing Allotment on the Divide Ranger District for many years. There are many OHV trails throughout the Embargo Allotment. OHV trails are very important to our operation and to many other grazing permittees around the area. OHV trails are routinely used by grazing permittees and their employees to move and care for livestock, transport fencing materials, tools, salt, and to operate and maintain livestock watering facilities that also benefit wildlife. We travel by ATV, UTV, dirt bike, foot, and horse on these trails and often run into the OHV crew clearing trees and fixing the trails. We really appreciate the repairs made on Shorty, La Garita, Benino, Cathedral, and Groundhog trails this past summer. This spring, the Embargo Permittees teamed up with the Divide Ranger District to install a UTV cattle guard on a trail at one of our pasture boundary fences to replace a wire gate. This fall, the OHV crew was following our range rider up the Embargo Road and saw a wheel fall off her horse trailer and picked it up and stopped to help her. The work the OHV Crew does benefits permittees, hunters, and anyone using these trails. It is great to see OHV dollars being put to such good work here locally by the Divide OHV Trail Crews. The Embargo Grazing Permittees really hope you continue to provide funding to keep the Divide OHV Trail Crews out there working.

Sincerely,



Richard Davie

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
Claire Barker  
P.O.Box 65  
Mosca, Colorado 81146

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Re: State Trail Grant Application  
Letter of support-Divide Heavy Mntce. Crew  
RCNFF, Divide Ranger District

To Whom it May Concern:

As a private citizen, landowner, public lands enthusiast, member of BCHA and a frequent equine trail user-I want to enthusiastically recommend and support the RCNFF-Divide Ranger District Off-Highway Vehicle Trail program application for this grant.

We enjoy many multiple use trails, and having well marked, maintained and available trails helps to mitigate the destruction that comes with "too much love" and the natural environmental and seasonal shifts that impact our trail systems.

The Divide District has done a phenomenal job utilizing every penny of grant monies in the past, to support ground trail and the heavy equipment crews, and there have been *amazing*, visible results. Newly protected parking areas, well defined and signed, a more visible presence, clearer instructions for trail use and educational outreach. Organization of natural looking barriers where appropriate, water drainage management and dead timber, rock and soil issues are all being systematically addressed.

The heavy equipment team component has been crucial to their growing success at tackling the enormous job of maintaining and protecting trails and resources. The Grant money has been pivotal to their speed and success and is crucial going into the future. Their hard work this past year has produced *significant* positive impacts.

The dedication, stewardship and outreach efforts of the Divide district trail crews is exemplary. Their continued and increased achievements depend so much on the financial support for adequate manpower and needed equipment. Many of these efforts are well beyond the capabilities of a volunteer trail crew, and the heavy equipment makes many creative solutions possible.

I wholeheartedly recommend awarding this grant money to the RCNFF Divide District Heavy Maintenance Trail Crew, ensuring their ability to complete maintenance challenges on this beautiful, vast and diverse land. A GREAT investment!!!!

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Claire Barker, landowner and member of:  
~Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA)  
~Trail Wise Back Country Horsemen (TWBCH)



**San Juan Mountains  
Association**

EXPLORE • LEARN • PROTECT

November 14, 2023

**Re:** Off-Highway Vehicle Program State Trail Grant Application for the Rio Grande Divide Heavy Maintenance Trail Crew

Dear Colorado Parks and Wildlife Off Highway Use Program,

The San Juan Mountains Association is providing this letter of support for the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) Heavy Maintenance Trail Crew application for the above mentioned grant. Their application aims to provide continued maintenance along existing motorized trails and improve the overall trail Sustainability on the forest.

San Juan Mountains Association has been a partner of RGNF for a couple years now and our Wilderness trail crews have worked closely together maintaining non-motorized trails. The RGNF works efficiently and is dedicated to maintaining, improving and making trails through the forest more sustainable and user friendly whether motorized or non-motorized.

The RGNF has an extensive trail network that provides a wide user range a sense of solitude while out in the forest. The Divide Ranger District has done an incredible job over the years clearing and improving trail access throughout their district. This forest has been heavily damaged over the years by beetle infestation, drought and the 2013 West Fork Fire Complex. Continued and regular trail maintenance is needed to improve visitor experience and help support the livelihoods of the small towns that lie just outside the forest.

SJMA deeply values our partnership with RGNF and their dedication to forest health and visitor experience. We are in full support of this grant application and excited to see work be able to progress if funding is granted.

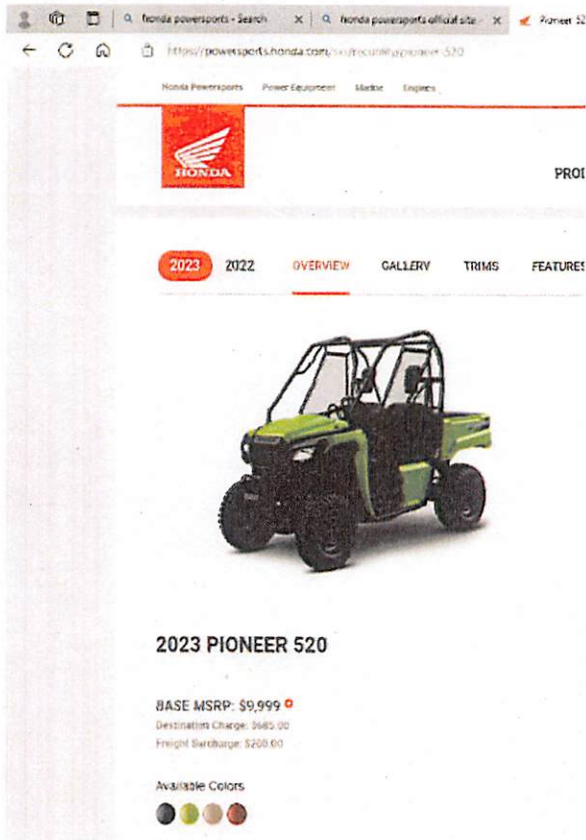
Sincerely,

*Meg Burke*

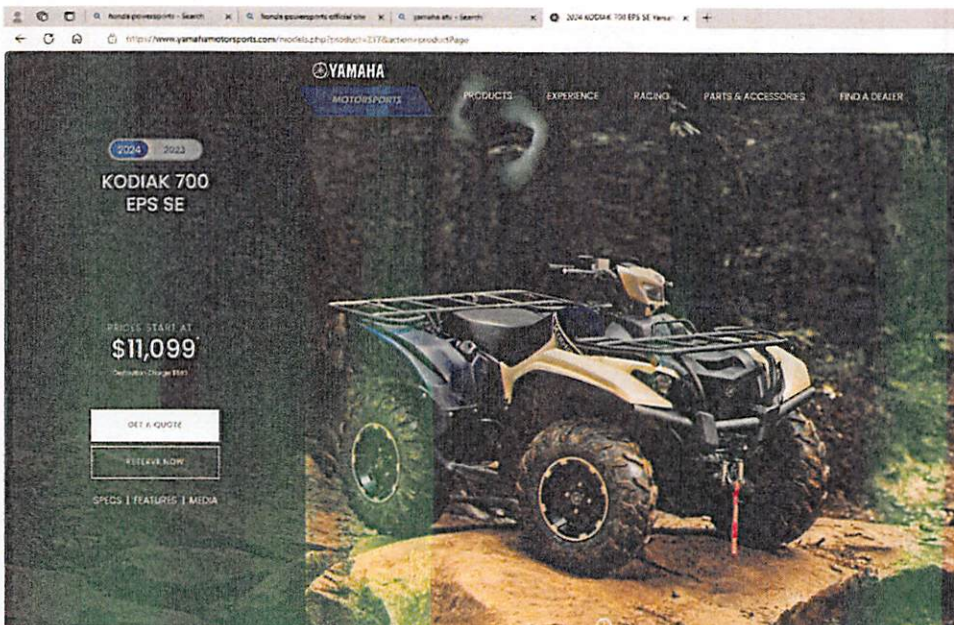
Stewardship Program Manager  
[mburke@sjma.org](mailto:mburke@sjma.org)

San Juan Mountains Association  
[www.sjma.org](http://www.sjma.org)

Equipment Purchase Estimates (actual cost/model availability for 2025 unknown, requesting 15,000 for possible increase in price)



50" dump bed UTV option



Large capacity ATV with power steering option