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COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

2024-2025
Off-Highway Vehicle Program
State Trail Grant Application

Name of Project: Flat Tops Good Mgt OHV Trail Crew		Date of Application: 11/21/23
<i>(Please limit the project name to 5 words or less)</i>		
Total Project Cost: \$163,500 <i>(round off to the nearest \$1)</i>	Grant Request: \$128,500 <i>Amount Requested (round off to the nearest \$1) must match the Project Budget Form.</i>	
PROJECT SPONSOR (Name and Address for entity legally responsible for project)		
Organization Name: White River National Forest, Blanco & Rifle Ranger Districts		
Mailing Address: 220 E Market St. Meeker, CO 81641		
Telephone: (970) 319-0815	Email: aaron.grimes@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 <i>Project Contact</i> changes.		
Name: Aaron Grimes	Title: Recreation Staff Officer	
Mailing Address: 220 E Market St. Meeker, CO 81641		
Telephone: (970) 319-0815	Email: aaron.grimes@usda.gov	
Is this the primary contact for this grant: YES		
PROJECT CLOSE-OUT CONTACT This is the person responsible for submitting receipts for project spending and close-out. Please notify us if <i>Project Contact</i> changes.		
Name: Aaron Grimes	Title: Recreation Staff Officer	
Mailing Address: 220 E Market St. Meeker, CO 81641		
Telephone: (970) 319-0815	Email: aaron.grimes@usda.gov	
GRANTS & AGREEMENTS SPECIALIST (USFS only) or BUDGET CONTACT (BLM only)		
Name: Alex Specht	Title: Grants & Agreements Specialist	
Mailing Address: 900 Grand Avenue, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601		
Telephone: (605) 515-8812	Email: alex.specht@usda.gov	

SCOPE OF WORK – Project Description:	
Project Name: Flat Tops Good Mgt. OHV Trail Crew	Project No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Project Sponsor: USFS, White River NF, Blanco RD	Application Year: 2024-2025
Project Contact: Aaron Grimes	Application No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Total Project Cost: \$163,500	Grant Request: \$128,500

Project Description:
The Blanco Ranger District of the White River National Forest is submitting this proposal to continue the success of the Flat Tops OHV Crew in maintaining OHV trails and providing outstanding OHV riding opportunities on the entire Blanco Ranger District and northern portion of the Rifle Ranger District. The requested Good Management Grant funding will provide a trail crew for 24 weeks to conduct priority work on nearly 500 miles of public motorized routes and trails. This crew has been conducting high quality work as a Good Management crew for many years. New for this year, the requested funding would also provide 10 weeks for an employee/contractor to operate the Yampa Valley Trail Rider's trail dozer to work with the crew in reconstruction, heavy maintenance, and minor re-route trail projects. Additional funding is also requested for a UTV dump trailer that will be used to haul rocks and gravel to harden water crossing approaches which is intended to mitigate current and future soil and water impacts in these areas.

The project area consists of two riding zones, providing a spectrum of OHV riding opportunities, emphasizing OHVs 62" or less in width (aka The side-by-side crowd). These trails include sections of Rio Blanco County's Wagon Wheel OHV Trails, which seamlessly link OHV riding from the Town of Meeker to these areas in the forest via county roads, forest roads, and forest trails. The area north of the White River includes roads and trails from Yellowjacket Pass on the west side through Sleepy Cat Peak to Ripple Creek Pass on the east side. South of the White River links Hay Flats on the west through Bar HL Park to Meadow Lake and Blair Mountain area on the east with a series of OHV routes. This southern area includes portions of Garfield County, Rifle Ranger District, and motorized access into the non-wilderness Flat Tops landscape around Blair Mountain. Our trails provide excellent access to vast natural areas, outstanding big game hunting, and a wild, remote landscape where solitude can still be found!

The 2025 Flat Tops Good OHV Management Crew will continue to develop, maintain and improve OHV trails, trailheads, parking, and support facilities; reconstruct OHV trails and related facilities; produce, install and maintain signage for OHV trails and support facilities; develop, deliver and provide education and rider ethics training to the OHV riding community; maintain, supply and operate facilities owned by the USDA Forest Service and BLM used by OHV recreationists; implement approved federal Travel Management Plans; and provide a field presence for visitor contacts, compliance, and enforcement.

Forest Service funds support the crew: 4x4 crew cab truck, a 62" wide UTV, one ATV, two utility trailers, and CPW grant funded: a 50" UTV, a 62" UTV, a utility trailer, and three ATVs. The district's Recreation Staff Officer and another Front Country Ranger provide overhead direction, technical support, and training for this crew.

While many OHV riding areas in Colorado do not accommodate UTVs larger than 50" on most routes, the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew manages over 477 miles of motorized trails and roads open to OHV 62" or less, or 477 of 497 miles of routes (96%). The White River Valley is a relatively natural landscape with a high degree of solitude and outstanding scenery. The privacy and views

have become the OHV niche for this area, attracting UTV (side-by-side) riders from the region that visit this area to "get away from it all," ride long distances, and enjoy a beautiful landscape that doesn't seem crowded or overused.

The Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew has grown into a skilled group capable of building on the previous accomplishments and making progress toward bringing the area's OHV trail system into an achievable, multi-year maintenance cycle. The program of work is developed and coordinated between both ranger districts and partner organizations (Wagon Wheel OHV Club, White River Trail Runners, and Yampa Valley Trail Riders), with the Blanco Ranger District leading the overall program, grant administration, hiring, training, and supervising employees, and overseeing day-to-day operations. As available, the local OHV clubs provide a trail dozer for the crew's use and contribute an OHV trailer, personal OHVs, and volunteer labor to leverage each other's assets and skills further. As a group, the OHV crew has learned and acquired various skills over the season, such as chainsaw certifications, Forest Protection Officer training and certification, rock drill and wedge training, swing gate and pinch gate installation experience, fence building skills, developed a technical skill level in OHV riding, and forged an understanding of trail work and maintenance.

The expected 2024 accomplishments for the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew include:

- Provide an experienced OHV crew and partner hires from mid-May to mid-November 2024 and fund another employee for 4-5 weeks to operate the trail dozer, to address priority motorized trail maintenance needs.
- Mid-May through June: Initial season-opening logout and trail opening on nearly 500 miles of motorized roads and trails. Coordinated with local OHV clubs.
- July-September: Reconstruction or heavy maintenance of priority sections of trails with the trail dozer. Coordinated with local OHV clubs. Potential short reroutes will likely be constructed to improve trail sustainability.
- July-September: Maintaining the width-restricting pinch gates to place physical barriers at all width-restricted locations in this area.
- July-October: Reclaim any noticeable illegal off-route motorized use or created trails.
- Mid-October-early November: Hunter patrol and visitor contact emphasis. This area is the busiest time of the year for OHV riding, with many OHV registration checks.
- Season-long installation of signage. We are installing new trail identification signs that include the trail number and the trail name for improved visitor information and navigation.
- Season-long provide visiting riders with information and educational materials, monitor OHV special events, and thank riders for displaying proper OHV registrations.

The funding for these efforts and accomplishments is acknowledged by placing "Colorado Registration Dollars at Work" stickers on all information kiosks, extensive roads, and trail signage and handing out brochures about the program. When in compliance, all OHV riders are thanked for correctly displaying their registration and told about how these dollars have contributed to maintaining their OHV riding opportunities in this area. Yampa Valley Trail Riders trail dozer has a "Dollars at Work" decal. In addition, wagon wheel OHV Club does social media posts about how sticker dollars maintain and improve local OHV trails.

Budget Form

Project Name: Flat Tops OHV GM Trail Crew-2025

Date Project will be Completed: Nov-25

Project Sponsor: USFS, White River National Forest, Blanco Ranger District

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)	\$ 128,500		\$ 128,500.00
Forest Service crew cab truck #3206 (monthly funding/fuel)	\$ -	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900.00
Forest Service UTV Polaris Ranger #8423 (monthly funding/fuel)	\$ -	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100.00
Forest Service ATV- Yamaha Grizzly #9351 (monthly funding/fuel)		\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800.00
Forest Service UTV Cam Am Commander (monthly funding/fuel)		\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100.00
Forest Service utility and OHV trailers		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000.00
Recreation Manager GS-11 (25 days @ \$460/day)		\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500.00
Frontcountry Manager GS-9 (25 days @ \$350/day)	\$ -	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,750.00
Misc trainings (OHV, 1st Aid/CPR, chainsaw)	\$ -	\$ 2,850	\$ 2,850.00
USE OF GRANT FUNDING <small>List uses of grant funding (only) below</small>	TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT		\$ 163,500.00

I. Personnel Costs <small>Identify as: Salary/wage, benefits, travel, training, outfitting costs, personal protection equipment, etc.</small>			
Employee Name or Title/Grade	\$ Per Hr		Total Cost
Trail Crew Leader *cost to govt, not actual hourly wages	\$ 36.00	26 weeks	\$ 37,440.00
Trail Crew Employee GS-4/5 or youth corps (Contracted Services)	\$ 24.00	24 weeks	\$ 23,040.00
Trail Crew Employee GS-4/5 or youth corps (Contracted Services)	\$ 24.00	24 weeks	\$ 23,040.00
Trail Dozer Operator WG-5/7 or Contracted Services	\$ 36.00	10 weeks	\$ 14,400.00
PPE and uniforms			\$ 2,200.00
lump sum payments			\$ 2,000.00
travel/training/per diem			\$ 2,500.00
	\$ -		\$ -
<small>For CPW use only. Approximate number of workhours</small>	2,906.11	Category Total	\$ 104,620.00

II. Project Materials/Supplies <small>Identify as: Signs, rock, lumber, paint, nails, printing, maps/guides, education materials, etc.</small>			
Price Per	Quantity	Total	
signs/hardware/paint/fasteners/posts/concrete	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
pinch gate materials (metal and posts)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		Category Total	\$ 3,000.00

III. Equipment <small>Identify as: Trail Dozers, ATV/UTV, motorcycle, chainsaws, winches, field equipment rentals, equipment fuel, repairs, and operations, etc.</small>			
OHV and trailer maintenance and repairs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,500.00
OHV and chainsaw fuel			\$ 2,000.00
Trail dozer maintenance and repairs			\$ 4,000.00
chainsaw maintenance and repairs			\$ 750.00
UTV dump bed trailer (Range Road-RR608 UTV hydraulic/flat deck trailer)			\$ 3,600.00
misc tools and equipment			\$ 2,400.00
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		Category Total	\$ 18,250.00

III.A. FLEET Equipment <small>Identify as: Crew Fleet Vehicles/Trucks monthly FOR & USE, Fleet Equipment monthly USE.</small>			
small excavator rental for 2 weeks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00
		Category Total	\$ 2,400.00

IV. Contracted Services <small>Identify as: Youth Corps, NEPA, planning, engineering, construction contractor/subcontractor costs</small>			
*potential for some personnel to be contracted services depending on hiring success. See above under Personnel	\$ -		\$ -
		Category Total	\$ -

V. Volunteer Support <small>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.</small>			

C-1

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	Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew	Project Sponsor	White River National Forest, Blanco Ranger District
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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:

White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, April 2002 Revision, Record of Decision Date: April 2002

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

Date and title of document:

White River National Forest Travel Management Plan-August 2011.

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:

Aaron Grimes, Acting Blanco District Ranger (970) 878-6007 aaron.grimes@usda.gov

4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for 2025.

Curtis Keetch

Print or type Land Manager's Name and Title

CURTIS KEETCH

Digitally signed by CURTIS KEETCH
Date: 2023.11.21 11:54:12 -07'00'

Land Manager Signature and Title

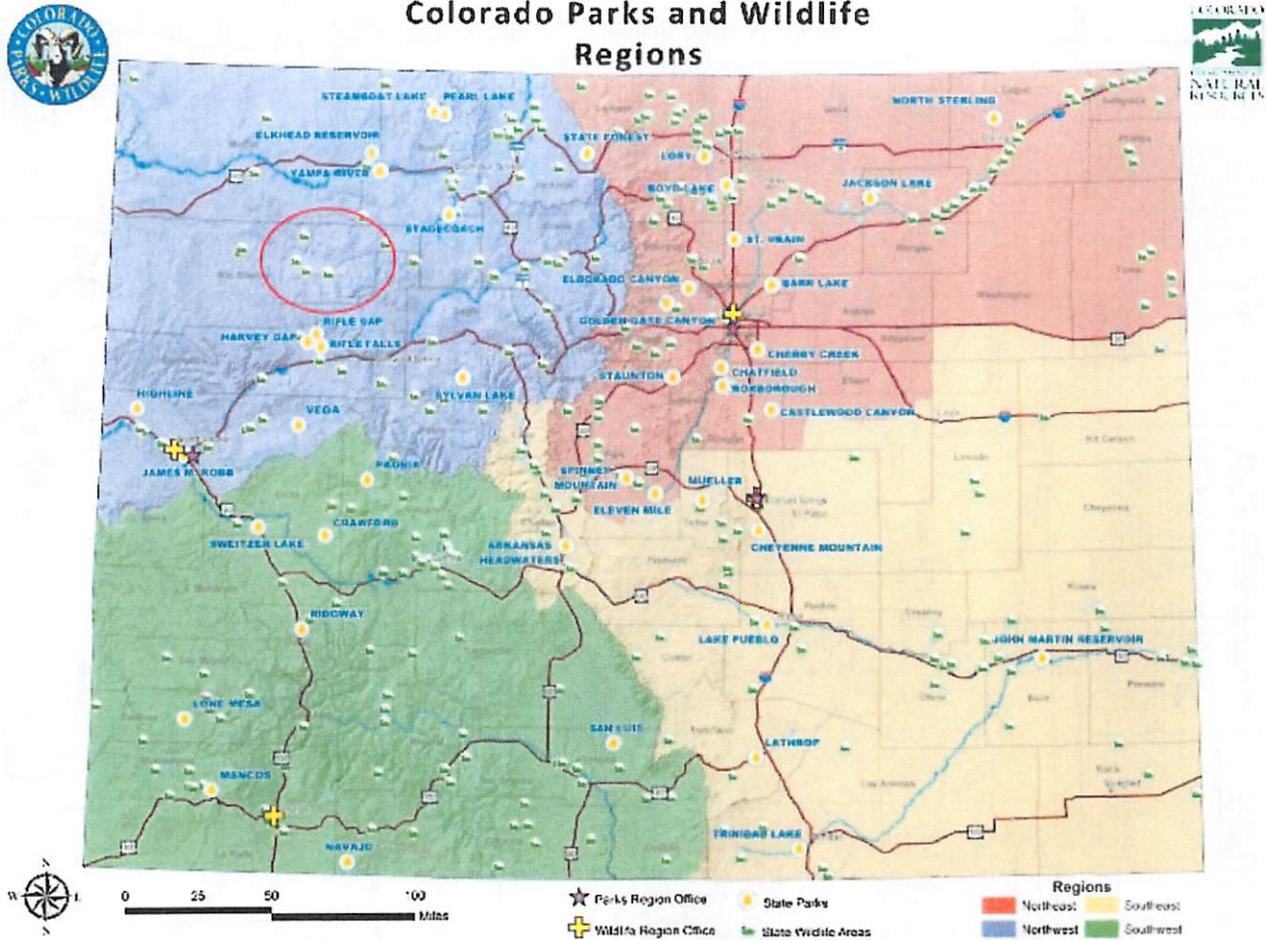
Date

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

Maps being requested include:

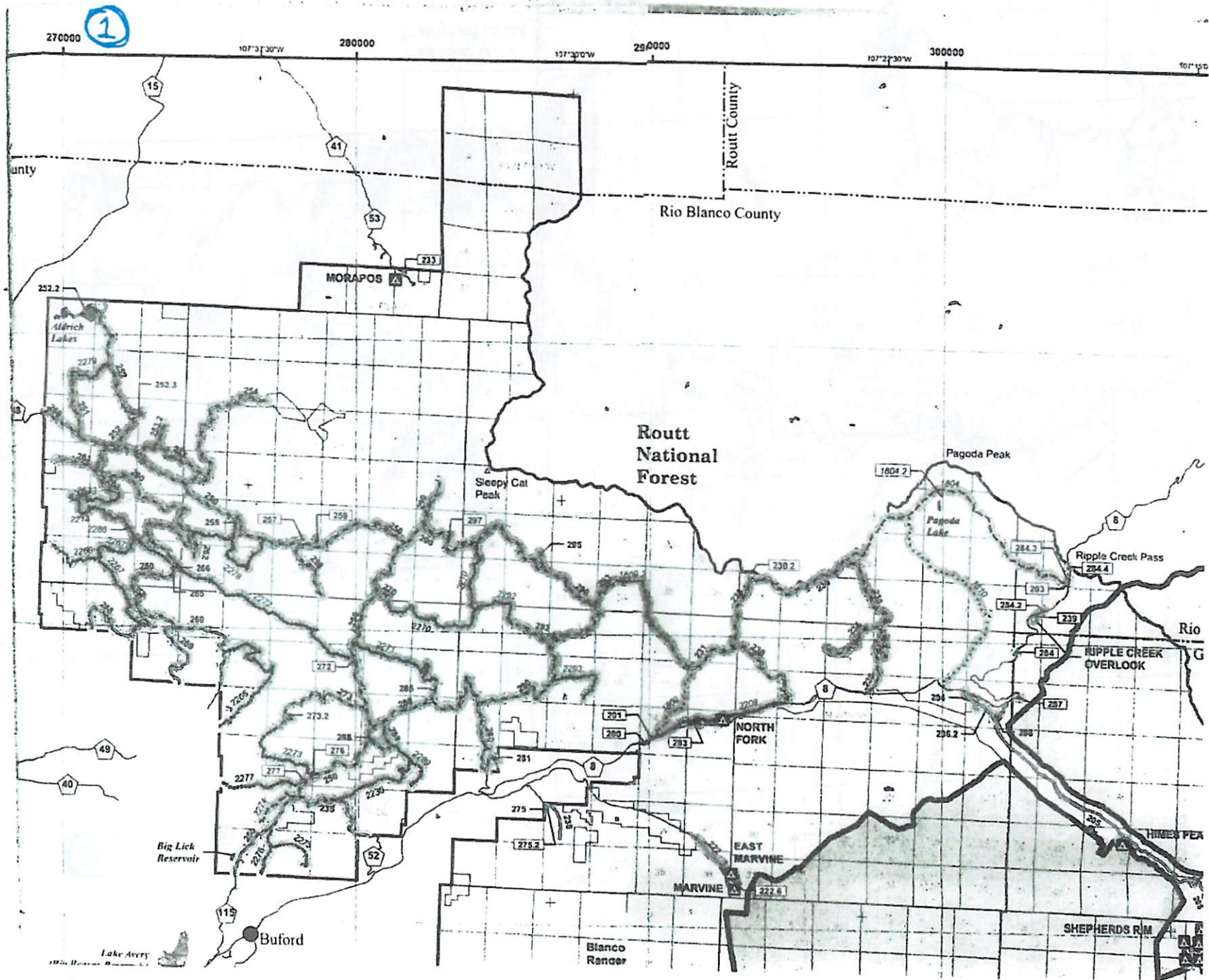
- "General area" (vicinity) map. (E-1)
- A drill-down of that map that shows the *specific* "project vicinity". (E-2a)
- Another drill down map showing specific trails and/or work area (highlighted). (E-2b)

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

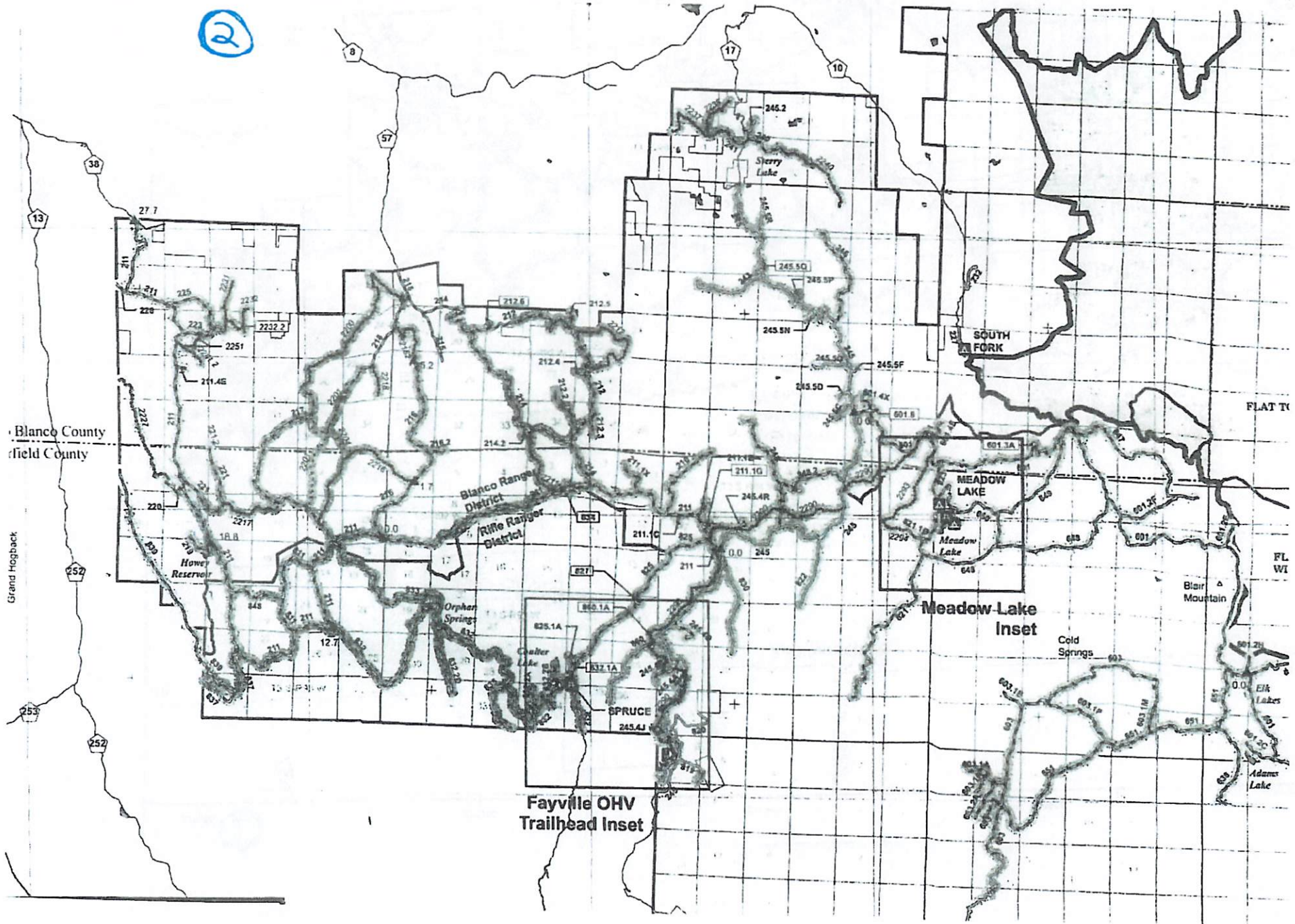


E-2 Project Maps: Please provide a map identifying the specific trail-work area or project site.
(Make 12 copies to include in your application packet)

1:24,000 scale map OR a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)
That clearly shows roads, trails, streams, management area boundaries, and other significant natural and developed features in the vicinity of the project.



2



(F) Project Illustration

Photographs, Drawings, Engineering Plans, Diagrams



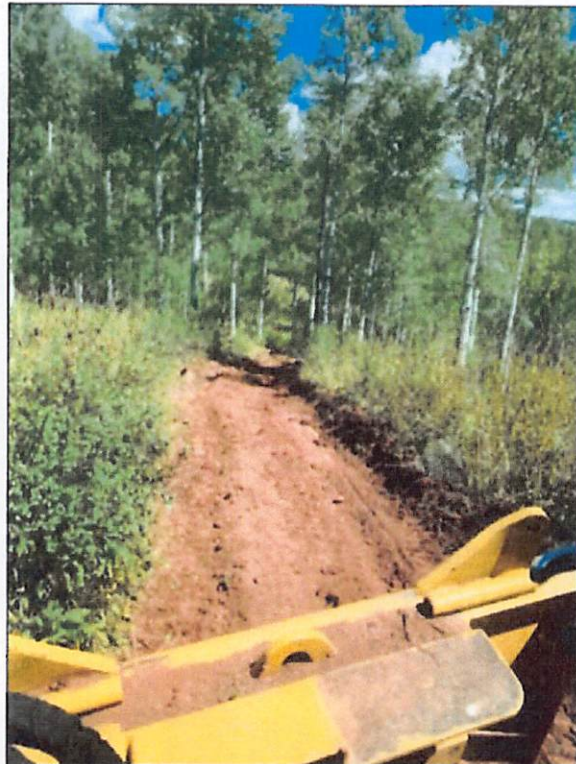
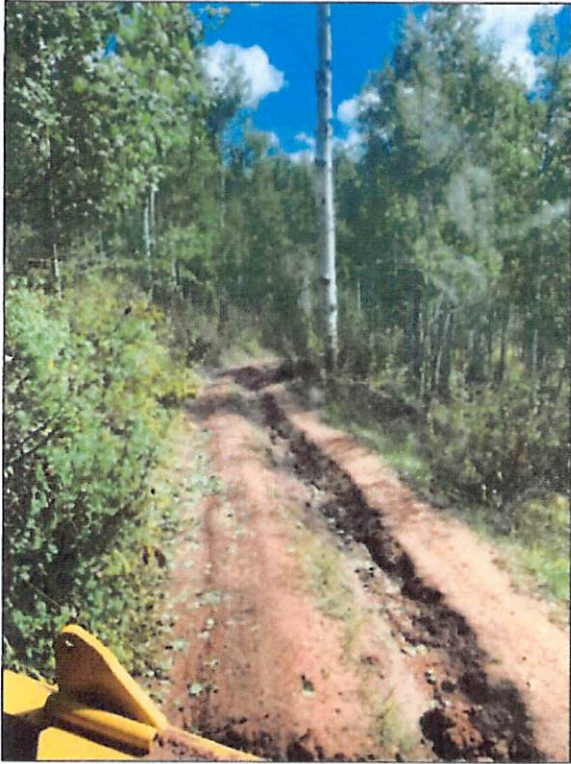
The 2023 Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew: L to R Crew Leader-Robert Sosebee (4 yrs exp.), Crew Member Greg Jones (1yr exp.) and Crew Member Eliah Jernigan (1yr exp.) Location: Sand Peak area.



Annual trail clearing- before and after photos.



Corridor clearing- Before and after photos.



Typical trail dozer tread maintenance- Before and after photos.

(G) Letters of Project Support

Partners that received a draft copy of the grant and budget, and provided an opportunity for input:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife-NW Region Trails Coordinator Randy Engle

Colorado Parks and Wildlife-Meeker Office, Area Manager Jonathan Lambert

Wagon Wheel OHV Club- Club President

Yampa Valley Trail Riders- Club President Bryan Rickman

White River Trail Runners- Club President

Rio Blanco County-Eddy Smercina

Town of Meeker- Town Administrator Mandi Etheridge (support letter attached)

Meeker Chamber of Commerce- Director Stephanie Kobald



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345 Market Street, Meeker, CO 81641 970.878.5344

November 17, 2023

OHV Grant Selection Subcommittee
Re: Colorado State Parks OHV Program

The Town of Meeker is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grant application being submitted by the White River National Forest, Blanco & Rifle Ranger Districts. The Town of Meeker strongly supports this grant application and the ongoing efforts of the Flat Tops Good Management OHV Trail Crew.

This year's 3-person trail crew maintained over 400 miles of motorized trails and OHV-style roads across the White River National Forest, working seasonally to improve riding opportunities in the Flat Tops for local residents and visitors to our corner of the State. Outdoor recreation, such as OHV trail riding, is an essential aspect of the tourism industry in our community and is a significant contributor to our local economy through sales tax, lodging, and retail sales. In addition to trail maintenance, the crew also works to strengthen working relationships with community partners and local OHV clubs like the Wagon Wheel OHV club, Yampa Valley Trail Riders, and the White River Snowmobile Club. These valuable partnerships help foster cooperative opportunities for projects that see greater success like the Trail Dozer Project or Snell and Pagoda Lake Trail work.

The presence of the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew has a significant impact on visitors to the White River National Forest as the Crews' knowledge and enthusiasm for good stewardship of public land helps encourage positive tourism activity and return visits. The ongoing efforts and grant support for projects such as this one contributes to the much-valued tourism, recreation and commerce that sustain our community. The Town of Meeker appreciates the opportunity to write this letter supporting the Districts' application and this request has our full endorsement.

Sincerely,

Mandi Etheridge
Administrator, Town of Meeker

(H) Trail Crew Work Plan (Good Management or reoccurring crews)

Provide a trail crew work plan for the **2024 work season**

The 2024 work plan for the Flat Tops Good Management OHV Trail Crew includes:

- Conduct annual maintenance of over 500 miles of trails and motorized routes (trail clearing, drainage maintenance, and identifying areas that need further work), typically May-June.
- Collaborate with local OHV clubs (Wagon Wheel OHV Club, Yampa Valley Trail Riders, and NW Colorado Trail Riders) to identify future projects, monitor and report trail conditions and assist with project work. Season-long efforts. Attend club meetings and discuss any proposed events on the district.
- Conduct deferred maintenance on identified priority trails and areas after annual maintenance is completed. This could include corridor brushing, new drainage installations, re-routes, width restriction gate maintenance, and signage installation. Typically, July-August.
- Improve width restrictor gate compliance with more education, continued maintenance and new wing installations. This is a goal to improve compliance from the 2023 season.
- Utilize the trail dozer for several weeks to conduct heavy trail re-construction on Forest Service Trails (FST) 1804-Pagoda Lake Trail, FST 2272 Big Beaver Basin and hopefully FST 2286, 2214, and 2633 known together as the Columbine Trail. We hope to partner with youth corps trail crews for 4 weeks. 2-4 weeks would be improving drainages, water crossings, and tread on the FST 1804 Pagoda Lake Trail and if that work is accomplished early, then 1-2 weeks would be used to complete tread work, light brushing, and hand finish drainages on the FST 2272 Big Beaver Basin Trail.