

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

03
 SW-M



Name of Project: Dozer 25 Project	Date of Application: 11/1/23
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(Please limit the project name to 5 words or less)

Total Project Cost: \$94,594.00 <i>(round off to the nearest \$1)</i>	Grant Request: \$56,824.00 <i>Amount Requested (round off to the nearest \$1) must match the Project Budget Form.</i>
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PROJECT SPONSOR (Name and Address for entity legally responsible for project)

Organization Name: San Juan National Forest, Dolores Ranger District

Mailing Address: 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO, 81323

Telephone: 970 882 6843 Email: thomas.b.rice@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: Tom Rice Title: Recreation Staff Officer

Mailing Address: 29211 Hwy. 184, Dolores, CO 81323

Telephone: 970 882 6843 Email: thomas.b.rice@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: Tom Rice Title: Recreation Staff Officer

Mailing Address: 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO 81323

Telephone: 970 882 6843 Email: thomas.b.rice@usda.gov

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

Name: Rebecca Cuthbertson Title: G and A Specialist

Mailing Address: 1671 Cole Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80401 (note that this contact will likely change-contact Tom Rice for more info.)

Telephone: 970 275 8040 Email: rebecca.cuthbertson@usda.gov

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M-42

PROJECT LOCATION

Nearest Town or City: Dolores, CO
 County(ies): Dolores, Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta
 Provide a point of reference for mapping purposes (i.e. a google searchable landscape feature): Forest wide

Township/Range/Section: Multiple
 State Senate District #: 6 State Representative District #: 58, 59

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): Public lands

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

Miles of Singletrack: 120 Miles of 50" or less: 77 Miles of Full-sized: 7.5

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration/Rehabilitation (existing corridor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Corps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitor Contacts & Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital Equipment
	<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.)

% of Budget 70%	Program maintenance (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.)
15%	Enforcement, Education & Visitor Contacts (e.g., patrols, enforcement, education and visitor contacts, wages, safety contacts, equipment, etc.)
5%	Planning & Travel Plan Implementation (e.g., planning, engineering, maps, inventorying, travel management signs & installation, decommission non-system routes, rehabilitation, new construction, wages, monitoring, etc.)
10%	Equipment /Materials/ Signs/ Youth Corps/Miscellaneous (e.g., equipment maintenance and repair, personnel training, certification in the use of specialized equipment, program coordination, etc.)
100%	Total: (Note: Percentages should add to 100 %)

SCOPE OF WORK – Project Description:	
Project Name: Dozer 25	Project No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Project Sponsor: San Juan National Forest, Dolores RD	Application Year: 2024-2025
Project Contact: Tom Rice	Application No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Total Project Cost: \$94,594.00	Grant Request: \$56,824.00

Project Description: The Dozer 25 project proposal is a collaborative trail program partnering the San Juan National Forest’s Dolores, Columbine and Pagosa Ranger Districts’ trails programs. The Dolores District is requesting funding to hire two Forest Service seasonal employees (one equipment operator and one swamper) who will address trail maintenance needs on the district’s popular OHV trails. The Dolores District is the primary party responsible for the administration of the project. If funded, operations will occur in Montezuma, Dolores, La Plata, Archuleta and Mineral counties from April through October of 2025.

The State Trails OHV program and the San Juan National Forest provided funding to purchase a new trail dozer in 2019. Subsequent OHV program funds will continue to support the staffing of the trail dozer.

To accomplish maintenance in an efficient manner, Dolores District staff will conduct heavy maintenance using a trail dozer, a Forest Service funded mini-ex (limited use) and two district seasonal employees. Specific accomplishments include cleaning water diversion structures (water bars, rolling dips, ditches and culverts); clearing deadfall; rehabilitating user made routes; boulder placement; trail reconstruction (rebuilding drainage structures, crib walls and turnpikes); minor reroutes and signing trails to standard. Maintenance would meet Forest Service trail specifications (*Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Trails (USDA USFS EM-7720-103, September 1996)*). Staff would also be responsible for visitor contacts and education.

Trail maintenance and reconstruction efforts on the following ATV trails would be accomplished from May-October.

- Dolores District-Aspen Spur, Aspen Loop and Golconda area trail network- These popular OHV trails are located near Mancos and Rico, CO. There are multiple locations that require annual maintenance.
- Dolores District- Rico West Dolores OHV trails-Maintenance on routes authorized in the Rico area of the district including 62” OHV trails.
- Pagosa District-District Wide Network- Heavy maintenance and/or minor re-routes are proposed on sections of routes in the Trail Springs, Monument Connector and Elk Creek trails.
- Columbine Ranger District- Beaver Meadows and Arbogas Trails- Columbine has recently reorganized and will be included in our Dozer work missions. These trails have not seen heavy maintenance for many years and will require extensive dozer work.

Degraded trail segments on both districts need heavy maintenance to provide for improved riding opportunities and reduced trail impacts. In addition, the availability of heavy equipment helps support the efforts of our Trail Crew and other district projects that are supported by other CPW OHV grants.

“Colorado Registration Dollars at Work” logos will be affixed to trail signs on many of the district’s motorized trail signs and OHV trail crew shirts (if available and provided by CPW) will be worn by trail crew staff while in the field. Crew members also contact visitors and explain how their OHV registration dollars help finance trail maintenance. Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) from the District’s Recreation program are available to the crew and can be used to issue citations or provide additional travel management information to visitors.

Providing for the long-term sustainability of these trails is crucial to the Dolores and Pagosa District’s recreation program and the public that use district trails.

Accomplishing this project would ensure Forest Service resources are being used in a fiscally sensible manner while improving and maintaining existing trail infrastructure and providing a quality trail experiences for motorized and non-motorized visitors.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

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

The Dozer 25 grant would accomplish specific maintenance and reconstruction efforts on San Juan National Forest's Dolores, Columbine and Pagosa Districts' system trails. Tasks include drainage structure maintenance and repair; turnpike, side-hilling, rock and log crib wall reconstruction; and climbing turn maintenance. Motorized enthusiasts, both UTV and motorcycles, will benefit from this project because it will repair and maintain important trail infrastructure, develop more sustainable trails, protect important public land resources while continuing to provide improved and challenging access to many miles of forest system trails for all trail users.

To accomplish maintenance in an efficient manner, the Dolores District dozer operation will conduct heavy maintenance using a mini dozer and a Forest Service funded mini excavator on all three districts' trails. Specific accomplishments include cleaning water diversion structures (water bars, rolling dips, ditches and culverts); clearing deadfall; constructing pull over lanes; boulder placement; rehabilitating unauthorized routes, trail reconstruction (rebuilding drainage structures, out sloping, crib walls and turnpikes); installing OHV cattle guards; and signing trails to standard. We will also use this opportunity to continue to train Forest staff on equipment operations.

Staff would also be responsible for visitor contacts. "Tread Lightly" and "Share the Trail" principles that explain the shared use philosophy of our trail systems while encouraging responsible trail use will be shared with trail users via on the ground staff. Funding from the State OHV program will also be highlighted via signage and visitor contacts. Feedback from our visitors will also be addressed by staff.

Trail maintenance and reconstruction efforts on the following ATV trails would be accomplished from May-October.

- Dolores District-Aspen Spur, Aspen Loop and Golconda area trail network- These popular OHV trails are located near Mancos and Rico, CO. There are multiple locations that require annual maintenance.
- Dolores District- Rico West Dolores OHV trails-Maintenance on routes authorized in the Rico area of the district including 62" OHV trails.
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- Columbine Ranger District- Beaver Meadows and Arbogas Trails- Columbine has recently reorganized and will be included in our Dozer work missions. These trails have not seen heavy maintenance for many years and will require extensive dozer work.

Maintenance of these specific areas should occur every 1- 3 years depending on level of use, storm events, winter impacts or soil conditions. Because many of these trails are popular and need semiannual maintenance they are on each district's priority maintenance list. Maintenance is a priority for our trail infrastructure where the OHV program has already invested grant program dollars in earlier maintenance efforts.

Motorized trails on the Dolores and Pagosa Ranger Districts serve riders of all ages and abilities satisfying novices while also providing more challenging riding opportunities. Not only do many of our visitors come from Durango, Mancos, Cortez or Pagosa Springs, others travel from Utah, Arizona, New Mexico as well as many other states including Pennsylvania and New York.

Each year we continue to experience an increase in trail use requiring an investment in annual maintenance. Gathering specific user numbers of our trail system is a challenge but anecdotal tallies show over 125 riders/ day on our popular OHV trails and over 3 dozen riders/day on our more challenging single-track trails during the height of the riding season. Investments in trail maintenance preserves critical trail infrastructure while reducing future maintenance costs and supporting a sustainable trail system.

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

The Dolores, Columbine and Pagosa Districts have a long partnership with motorized groups including the San Juan Trail Riders and Pagosa Trail Riders. Backcountry horsemen and bike clubs are also cooperators with the districts. These partnerships are a major part of the success of our trail program as their enclosed letters of support demonstrate. Much of their work focuses on trail clearing, light trail maintenance and outreach with other users. Without their efforts, many of our trails would have a large volume of downed trees on the system.

Local governments also support our trail program. Ongoing recreational opportunities including motorized trail use supports local economies through equipment, fuel, lodging and food sales.

In addition to the strong partnership program we have with volunteers, we have also benefited from nearly two decades of State Trail's financial assistance for planning, construction and maintenance activities on our system trails. We acknowledge their support by placing their "Colorado OHV Registration Dollars at Work" on many of our trail markers and kiosks.

Our grant proposal would provide the critical heavy maintenance needs that many of our volunteers cannot complete but are an important part of Forest Service trail maintenance duties.

No Forest is immune to controversy when it comes to decision making because we simply manage land for a diverse population with equally diverse opinions. That said, projects such as motorized trail maintenance are a benefit to nearly all visitors as it improves access to public lands while protecting the natural and cultural resources that are important to forest health. Solid maintenance programs also demonstrate that motorized use is not necessarily as impactful as some users claim.

An in-kind contribution of \$27,770 by the Dolores, Columbine and Pagosa Ranger Districts will include project management and technical support by trail specialists, administrative support and Forest engineering input as well as Recreation Program Managers oversight. Furthermore, in-kind contributions include use of government vehicles, trailers and other trail equipment. Local trail riders also provide general trail clearing costs that total over \$10,000 in labor and equipment costs. \$37,770 of in-kind support represents 39% of the total project cost of \$94,594 and over half of the grant request amount of \$56,824.

Finally, projects using Forest Service trail staff and equipment improves the coordination between districts and is a fiscally sensible approach to mobilizing manpower and equipment that can focus on district trail priorities.

3. Resource Protection, Enhancement and Restoration relative to eligible OHV grant activities (25 points):

Many of the trails within the project area are in important watersheds, some of which are dominated by rocky terrain and erosive soils. Funding for this project will ensure protection of natural and cultural resources including water quality (ensuring proper drainage structures are in place and are operating to standard), reducing erosion by maintaining drainage structures and avoiding negative impacts to riparian zones, using turnpike construction or maintenance of trail features while also protecting critical resources such as erodible soils and steep slopes. These protective measures will allow for native vegetation to flourish that in turn stabilize soils and slopes over the long term.

Dozer maintenance provides indirect ecosystem benefits by reducing potential impacts to critical resources such as watersheds or wetlands while also helping support rehabilitation of landscapes by maintaining a sustainable trail system using trail maintenance best management practices.

Implementation of the project will help achieve the desired conditions as required by the 2013 San Juan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and three travel management plans while also meeting the best management practices needed for the long-term sustainability of Forest Service trails and the protection of critical natural and cultural resources.

Large Equipment Purchases, Maintenance and Disposition:

Our 2019 CPW State Trail grant request partially funded the purchase of a trail dozer. The remaining portion was paid for using Forest Service funds. This piece of equipment is our primary heavy lifting tool, but we also propose to use a Forest Service funded mini excavator for limited use on some trail projects. A mini excavator is a functional tool for operations such a boulder placement, tonsoil "mining" activities and other travel management implementation projects.

The mini ex will be operated by the dozer operator or by the District's trails lead. At times, these two pieces of equipment can be operated in tandem as the two tool's capabilities complement one another. Fuel and daily maintenance will be a Forest Service responsibility. It is anticipated that the dozer hours of operation will exceed 250 hours based on 2023 field activity. Maintenance costs vary each year, but 2023 maintenance totaled under \$1750.

Future operational costs (current salaries are approximately \$43,000) will be dependent on CPW OHV funds while future heavy maintenance costs will be the responsibility of the Forest Service.

As with any heavy equipment, major mechanical issues in the field are not quick fixes. However local heavy equipment repair companies can mobilize to the field to assist with any repairs that are beyond the ability of our trail staff. Those costs will be borne by the Forest Service.

When the trail maintenance season is over the dozer is winterized and stored at the District compound. The District anticipates the equipment to be in service with the agency for up to 8 more years. Upon retirement or replacement, the equipment could be available for purchase through a General Services Administration (GSA) auction or transferred to another federal agency.

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

Travel Management Implementation-Our proposal complies with long term planning decisions included in the Mancos Cortez Travel Management Plan (April 2008), Boggy Draw Travel Management Plan (December 2012), the Turkey Springs Trail Management Plan EA (March 2012), the 2018 decision for the Rico West Dolores Travel Management Plan Final EIS; the 2010 Beaver Meadow Sauls Travel Management Plan; and the 2023 Dolores Recreation Access and Infrastructure EA that authorized a trail system that is fiscally and ecologically sustainable and manageable. Measures to improve signing, construct width restrictors, rehabilitate decommissioned routes, reduce user conflicts, increase multiple use trail opportunities and improve on the ground enforcement of travel rules were analyzed and implemented in the travel management plans and continue to be implemented on our trail systems.

The program will help control unauthorized routes by closing them which in turn promotes vegetative reclamation and rehabilitation. The Dozer 25 program supports the long-term trail plans which includes providing motorized access and sustainable trails.

Education-Clear trail signing and maps is an important part of trail education. We continue to use the "yield triangle" on our shared use trails. The triangle describes how trail users should yield when encountering other users. For example, motorized users should yield to non-motorized users, mountain bikers should yield to hikers and horseback riders and hikers should yield to horseback riders. In addition, mixed motorized and non-motorized intersections of trails will be identified to minimize conflicts between users while increasing the awareness of potential safety issues. Recent signage activities include improved interpretive kiosks on several motorized trails including Calico and Gold Run trails. We will continue to install interpretive signs on other motorized trails that target all Forest visitors to educate the public on the benefits of shared trails.

The Dolores Recreation program staff weekends and high use holidays with employees to have an on the ground, targeted contact with OHV users as well as non-motorized users. This multi-day, boots on the ground staffing approach helps us educate all visitors of the importance of multiple use activities.

We will continue to provide free Motor Vehicle Use maps (and suggest the use of Avenza or CoTrex apps) to all our visitors to educate the public about our motorized trail system.

Our educational material has been paid via other OHV grants or using Forest Service funds.

Enforcement and Compliance Activities-Clear signing allows our visitors to understand how our trails are managed while also enabling our law enforcement and Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) to enforce Forest rules and regulations. Implementation of this project will ensure access points, trailheads and trail intersections are well signed and any signs vandalized or damaged can be immediately repaired or replaced with new signs. It also improves compliance through education or by issuing citations for OHV rule violations.

Trail staff will work with Forest Service law enforcement officers and FPOs on enforcement or compliance issues. Many of the District's FPOs work closely with CPW's Southwest Regional Trail Coordinator including conducting trail patrols together. District FPO staff typically patrol weekends and holidays, often using OHVs to contact visitors on our

motorized trails. This program costs over \$12,000 and is covered by the Forest Service. It has proven to be a cost-effective educational tool. These patrols check OHV registration and remind any motorized users that their registration dollars support motorized trail work. In some cases, FPOs issue citations or warnings to OHV riders who have expired registrations or violate travel rules. Citations are documented using the same database that our Forest Law Enforcement Officers use for their citations. Non-payment of citations can result in additional legal issues for the cited individuals.

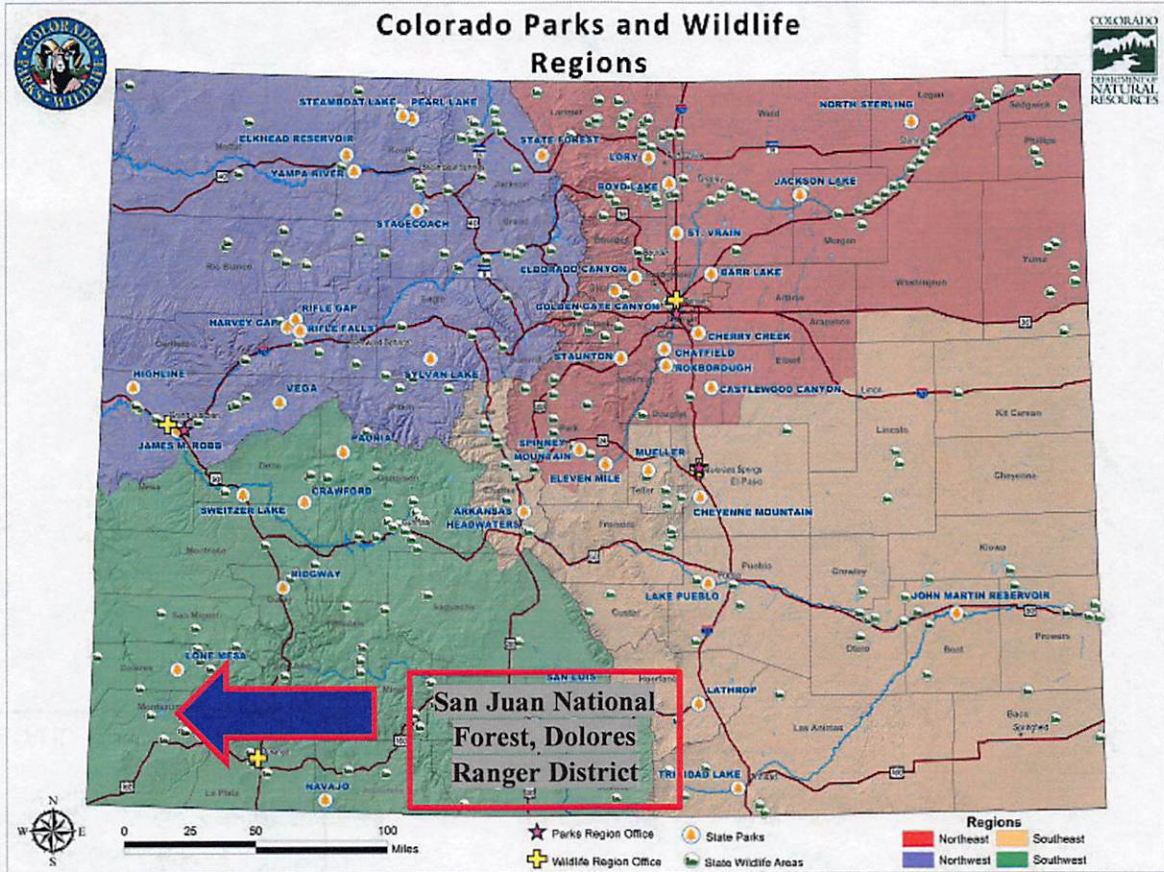
Although not directly imbedded with the crew, FPOs are available to the crew in the event of ongoing compliance issues that crews may witness. Crews will also have copies of the San Juan National Forest Dolores Ranger District (MVUM) that can be provided to any visitors they may contact while in the field.

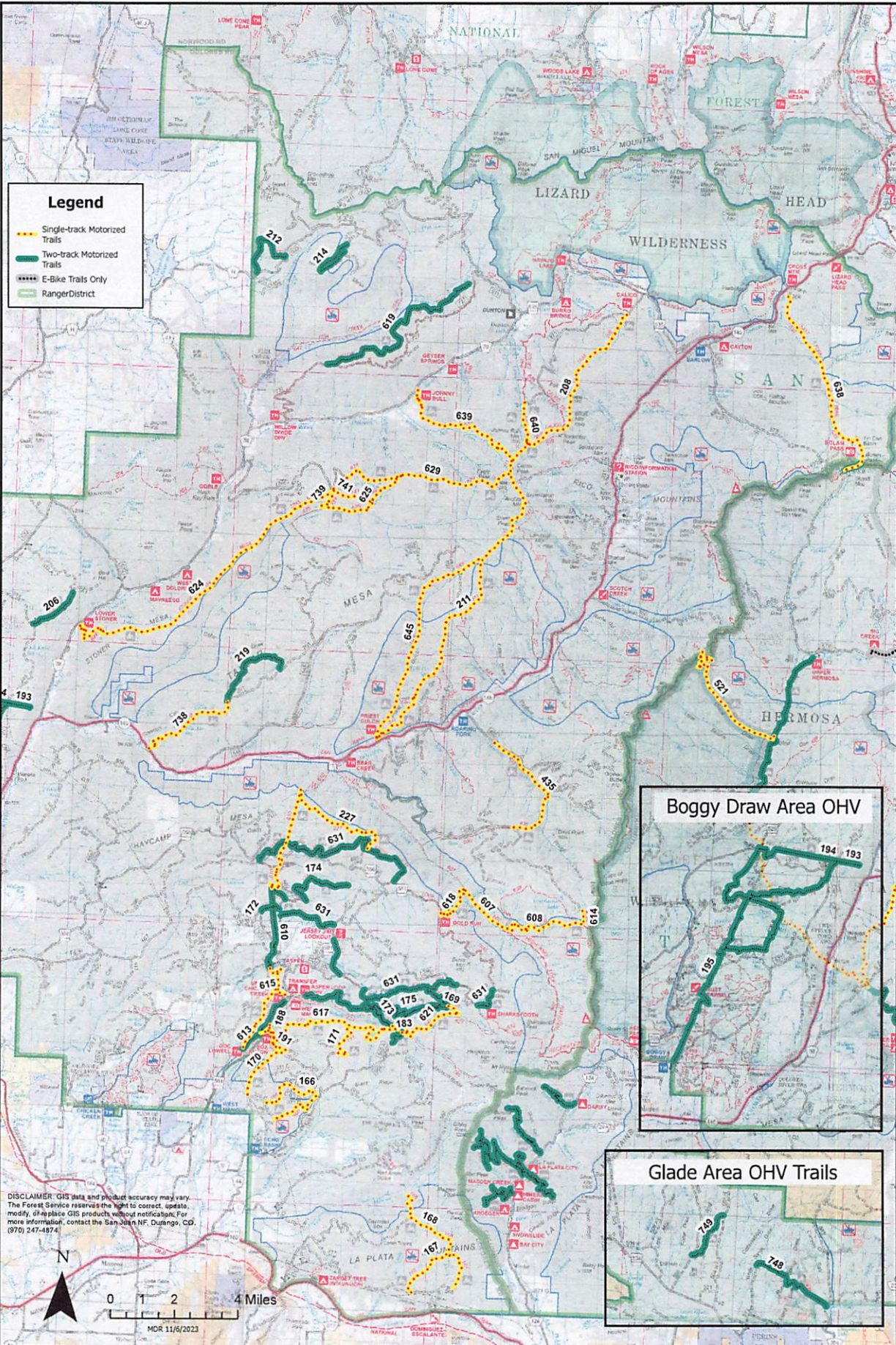
Successful funding by Colorado Parks and Wildlife OHV program for the Dozer 24 program will promote motorized recreational opportunities while protecting the natural and cultural resources in the project area.

E-1 Vicinity Map

San Juan National Forest Dolores Ranger District Good Management Grant location map

Dozer 25 Crew

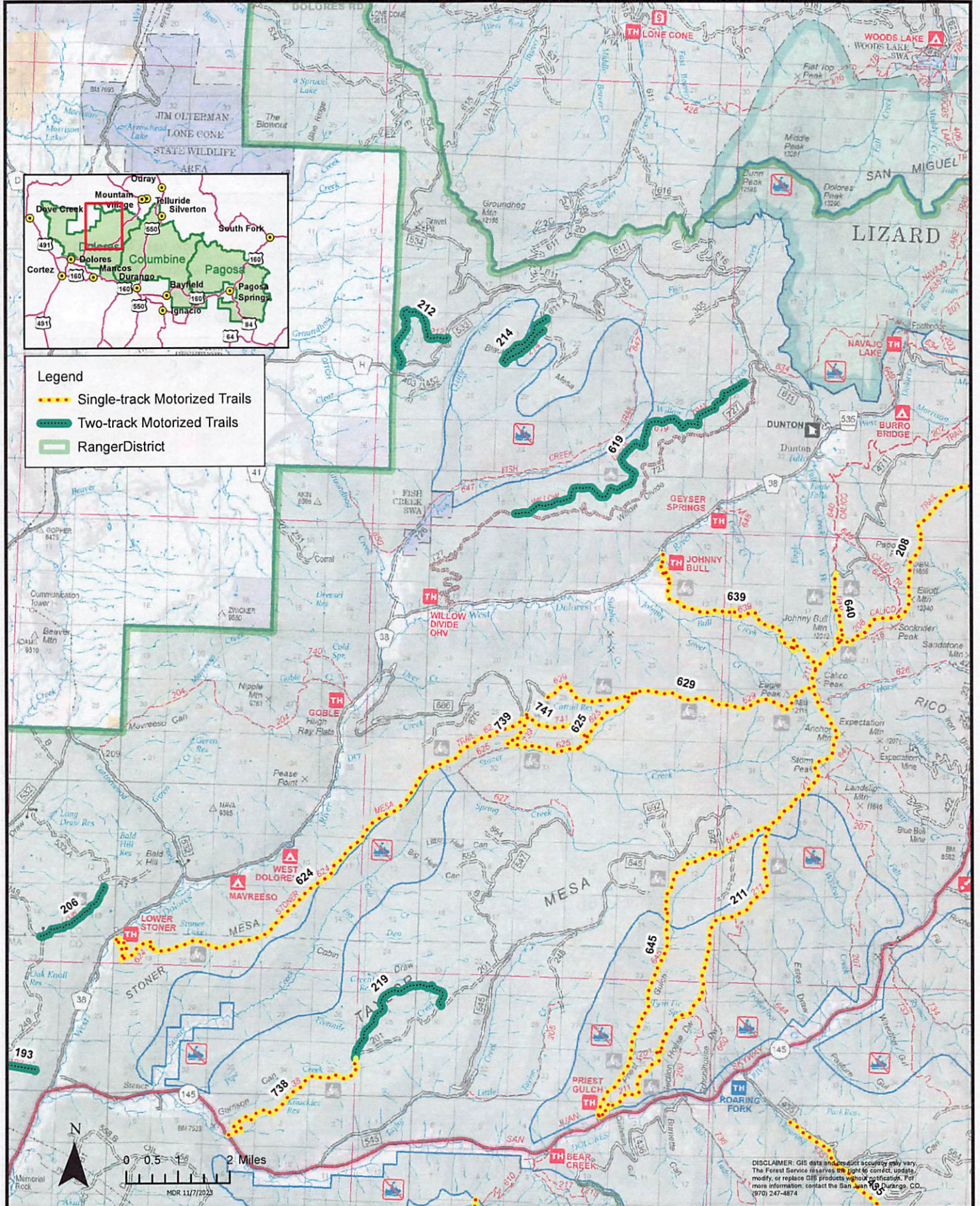




E-2b Project Site Maps

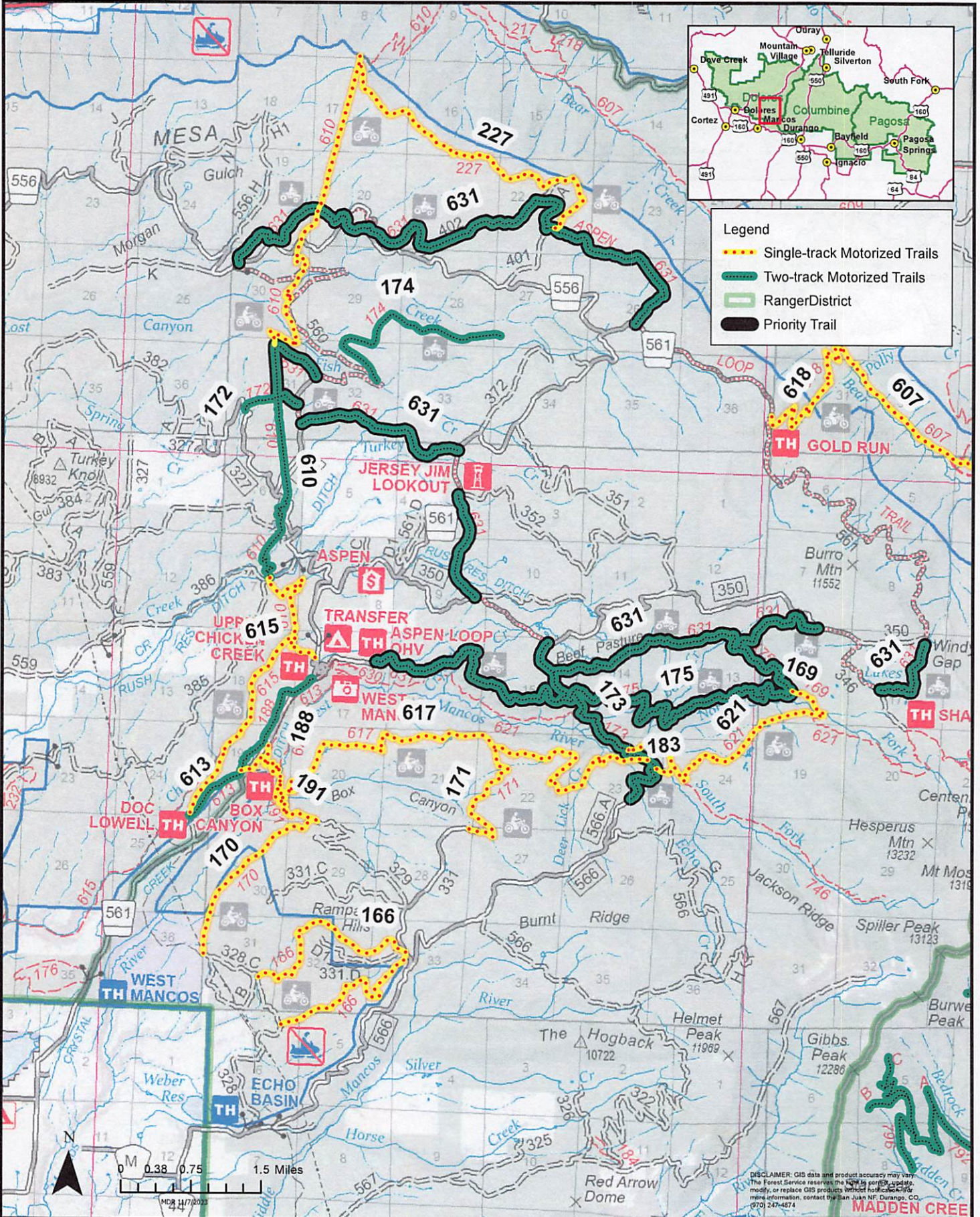


Dolores Ranger District - Dozer 25 - West Dolores-Taylor OHV San Juan National Forest



E-2b Project Site Maps

Dolores Ranger District - Dozer 25 - Haycamp Mesa OHV
San Juan National Forest

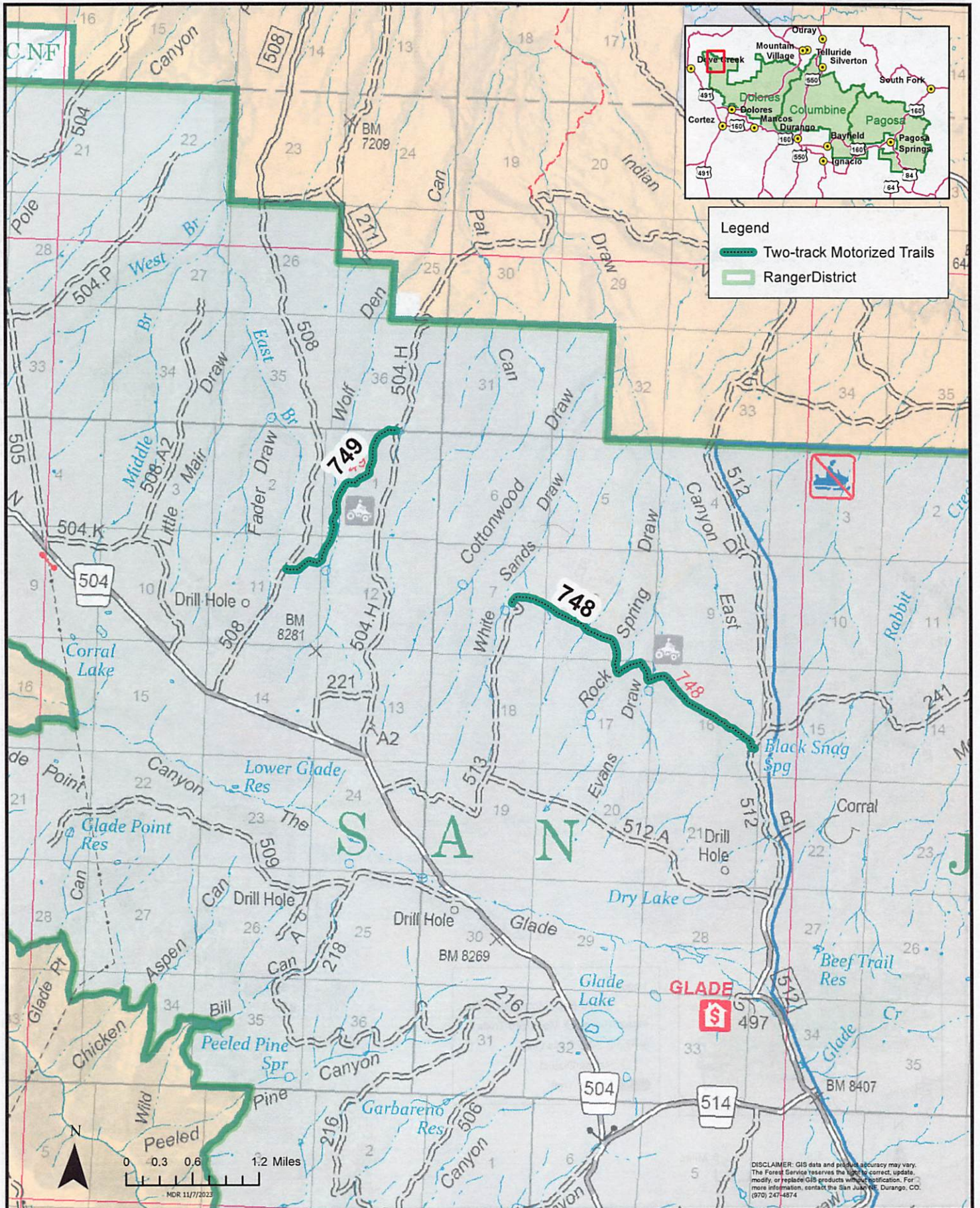


DISCLAIMER: GIS data and product accuracy may vary. The Forest Service reserves the right to modify, update, or replace GIS products without notice. For more information, contact the San Juan NF, Durango, CO (970) 247-4874

E-2b Project Site Maps

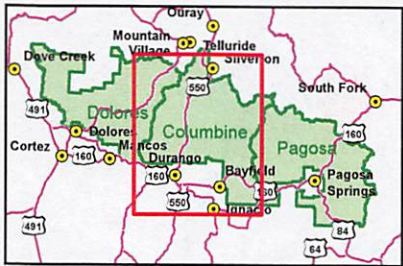
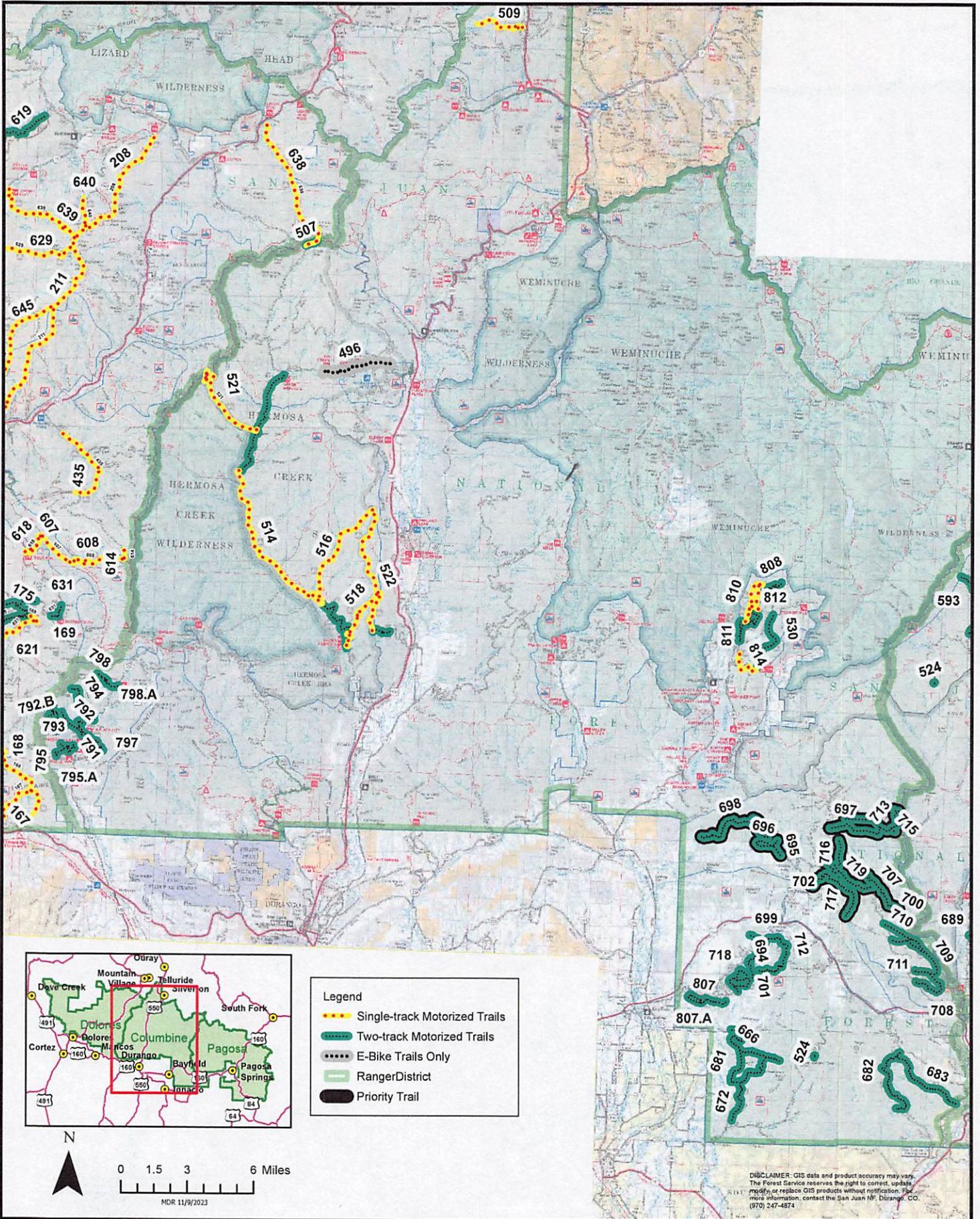


Dolores Ranger District - Dozer 25 - Glade OHV San Juan National Forest



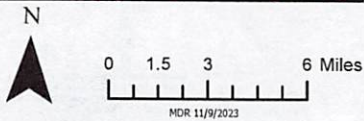
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Columbine Ranger District - Dozer 25 - OHV Trails San Juan National Forest



Legend

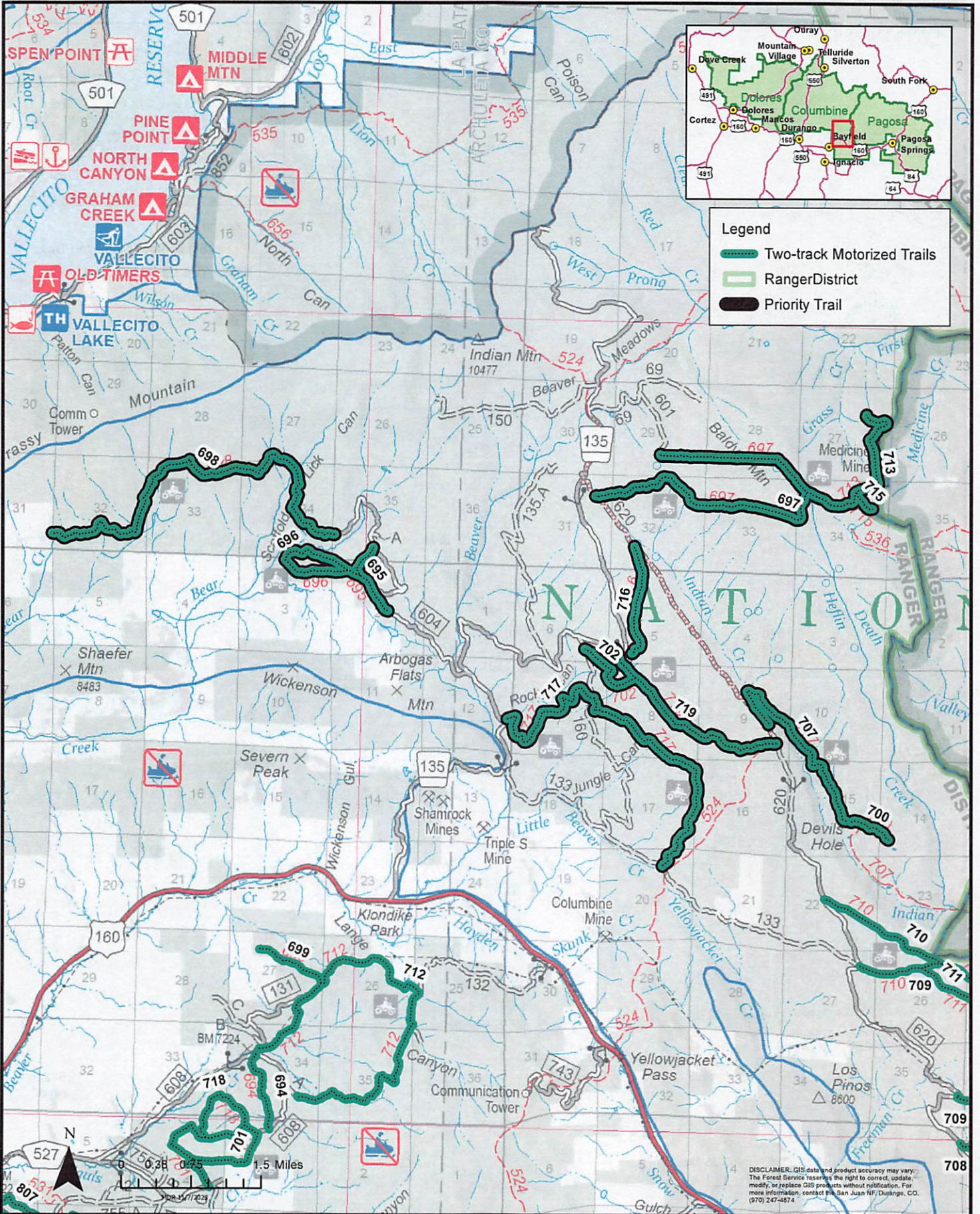
- ⋯ Single-track Motorized Trails
- Two-track Motorized Trails
- ⋯ E-Bike Trails Only
- ▭ Ranger District
- Priority Trail



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E-2b Project Site Maps

Columbine Ranger District - Dozer 25 - Arbogas-Beaver Meadows OHV San Juan National Forest

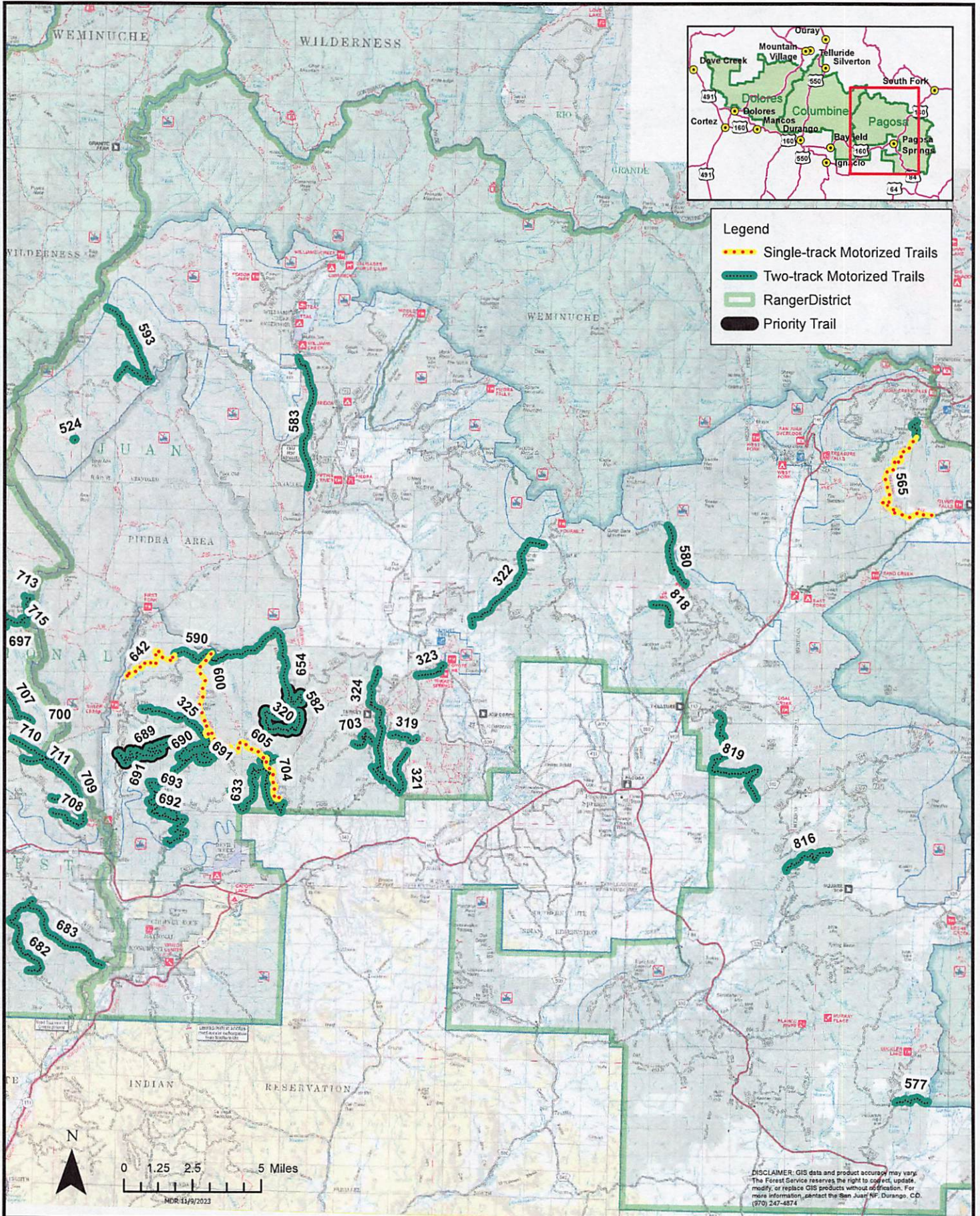


Legend

- Two-track Motorized Trails
- Ranger District
- Priority Trail

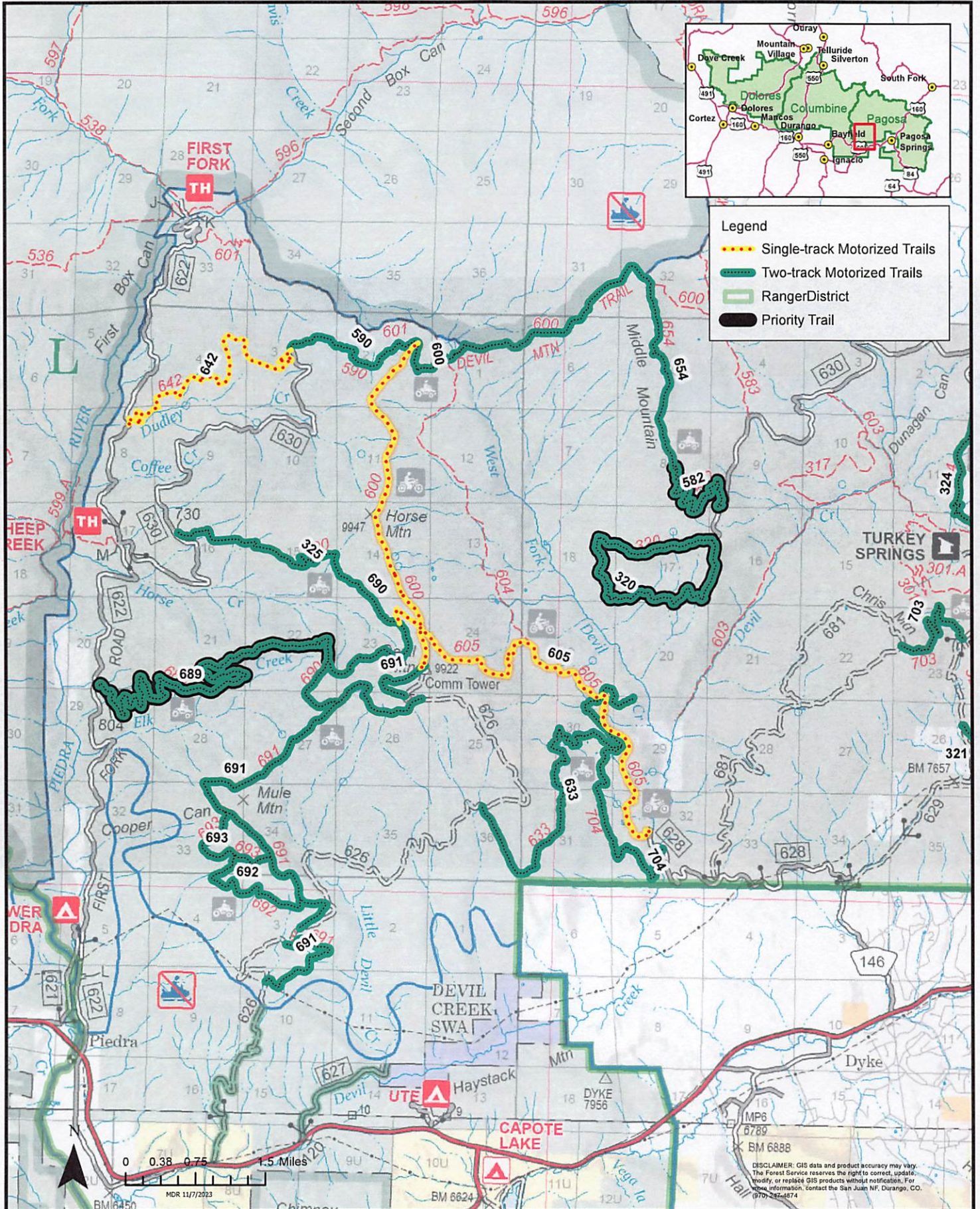
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Pagosa Ranger District - Dozer 25 - OHV Trails San Juan National Forest



E-2b Project Site Maps

Pagosa Ranger District - Dozer 25 - First Fork-Devil OHV San Juan National Forest

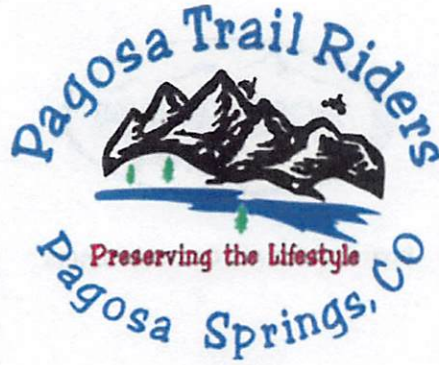


(F) Project
Illustration



(F) Project
Illustration





November 1st, 2023

Tom Metsa
OHV Program Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
13787 S. Hwy. 85
Littleton, Co. 80125

Dear Mr. Metsa,

The members of the Pagosa Trail Riders (PTR) ATV Club would like to express our combined support for the San Juan National Forest's funding request for the Dozer 2024 grant application on the Dolores/Pagosa Ranger Districts.


The Pagosa Trail Riders (PRT) ATV Club currently consists of over 60 active private and business memberships. As such, we have a strong commitment to preserve the lifestyle and the open space enhancement, maintenance, and sustainability of the local motorized trails by working with the San Juan National Forest Service in their endeavor to do so.

Even though we are based in a small community, the Town of Pagosa Springs and County of Archuleta rely heavily on the influx of tourists who use our local ATV trails year-round for motorized and non-motorized activities. Our area is known not only for the excellent extent of ATV trails in the system, but also for the trail maintenance and signage, making them user friendly for all levels of trail users. This is accomplished with our close working relationship with the local San Juan National Forest Service office.

It is in the best interest of all of us to work together to maintain this open area availability that so many others do not have. With the funding of such grants, the San Juan National Forest District can continue to provide the excellence in the maintaining of the ATV trail system for this and future ATV enthusiasts.

The Pagosa Trail Riders (PTR) ATV Club would like to thank you for your support and consideration of this funding request.

Sincerely,


Sherry Milligan, President
Pagosa Trail Riders ATV Club



County Commissioners:

Jim Candelaria
Gerald Koppenhafer
Kent Lindsay

County Administrator:

Travis Anderson

Board of County Commissioners

109 West Main, Room 250
Cortez, CO 81321
(970) 565-8317
(970) 565-3420 Fax

October 24, 2023

Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager
COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
13787 South Hwy 85
Littleton, Colorado 80125

RE: CPW Motorized Trail Grants

Dear Mr. Metsa;

The Montezuma County Board of County Commissioners is again pleased to support the Dolores Ranger Districts' motorized grant request to Colorado Parks and Wildlife. This year the San Juan National Forest Dolores Ranger District Motorized Trails Program will focus on three significant projects within the District.

- The Calico Trail Project- The Dolores District proposes to hire a Southwest Conservation Corp crew for up to 8 weeks of work on the Calico Trail located north of Rico, Colorado, near the Lizard Head Wilderness area. The trail is a popular motorized route that ties into several other motorized trails, such as the Eagle Peak, Stoner Mesa, and Priest Gulch trails, as well as many Forest Service roads and different single-track routes. After rerouting the trail segment three years ago, focused maintenance is to keep the path in good shape. Work includes stabilization of drainage crossings, signage, tread, and improved drainage structures.
- Dozer 24 Project- Our Dozer crew completed heavy maintenance on various trails near Mancos, Dolores, and Rico communities this year. The District is requesting funds to pay the salaries of a returning dozer operator and a swamper. This crew will focus on heavy maintenance of our motorized trail system using the District's trail dozer.
- Good Management Trail Crew 20- Beginning in 2003, the District has staffed a trail crew who works on our motorized trails using funds from the motorized trail program. They are the core of our trail program, focusing on maintaining the District's 220+ miles of motorized routes.

Many of our communities in southwest Colorado benefit from motorized access to public lands adjacent to our towns. Community members recreate on these lands daily and continue to advocate for reasonable and responsible motorized recreational opportunities.

Recreational OHV opportunities are significant to our local economy and lifestyle. Moreover, it is open to visitors from all regions of our country. It is critically important to us to protect motorized use as a valued recreational resource. Montezuma County's interest is to ensure that Motorized/OHV use will be integrated into plans equally, responsibly, and sustainably for generations to come.

The USFS Dolores Ranger District has effectively tapped into grant opportunities to help sustain the Motorized Trail program. More importantly, the USFS Dolores Ranger District has been especially adept at converting funding opportunities into successful trail maintenance projects on the ground.

Rural communities with limited tax bases need help maintaining the recreational network vital to the state. CPW's partnership in keeping an outstanding recreational network is critical. In the face of declining federal recreational budgets and increased recreational use, CPW's financial commitment to the community is vital and appreciated.

Montezuma County strongly supports the Dolores Ranger District's Motorized Trail program and the grant request to CPW. The Dolores Ranger District has consistently demonstrated sound project management and delivered outstanding results. We strongly encourage CPW's continued investment in the Dolores Ranger District's trails program with this proven track record and high community value.

Montezuma County strongly supports all of the proposed trail maintenance activities and the involvement of the Southwest Conservation Corps crew to perform the work. The Southwest Couth Corps builds capacity in youth while getting an important job done.

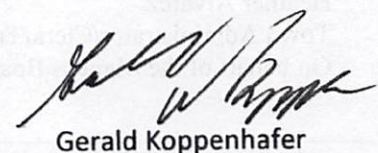
Montezuma County supports trails of all kinds. With this grant proposal, we are pleased to support work focused on motorized trail improvements. The proposed maintenance will help maintain a sustainable trail system long into the future.

Sincerely,

The Montezuma County Board of County Commissioners


Jim Candelaria


Kent Lindsay


Gerald Koppenhafer



October 11, 2023

Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager
Colorado Parks & Wildlife
13787 US Hwy 85 N
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Dolores Ranger District Motorized Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Metsa:

The Town of Mancos offers our highest support to the grant proposal from Dolores Ranger District. Recreational tourism has become increasingly important to the Mancos economy.

Approximately 1/4 of our overall economy is tourism oriented. Due to our climate in SW Colorado, we not only attract local outdoor enthusiasts but many tourists as well who take advantage of our geography and multitude of activities that our area provides. This increased interest is due in part to the public accessibility to areas located on public lands.

The Town of Mancos has completed the process of updating our Parks & Trails Master Plan. We received input from over 100 attendees, with many being students at the Mancos School District. Mancos students are largely rural kids that spend the majority of their time outdoors. Many of the comments we received requested expanded access to trails and new trail construction in the surrounding areas.

The Dozer 25 Project and Good Management Trail Crew 21 proposals will help ensure that access to public lands continues to be improved for our community. These projects are also essential for meeting the type of outdoor experiences many recreational tourists expect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Alvarez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'H'.

Heather Alvarez
Town Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer
On behalf of the Mancos Board of Trustees

117 North Main Street • P.O. Box 487 • Mancos, Colorado 81328

Phone (970) 533-7725 • Fax (970) 533-7727

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Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen

PO Box 812

Cortez, CO 81321

www.mesaverdehorsemen.com

[m vbchorsemen@yahoo.com](mailto:mvbchorsemen@yahoo.com)

October 27, 2023

RE: Tom Metsa
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
OHV Program Manager
13787 So. Hwy 85N
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Mr. Metsa:

I am writing on behalf of Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen, with approximately 40 members here in southwest Colorado. We are one of nine chapters with membership in the Back Country Horsemen of Colorado and one of over 200 chapters under our national Back Country Horsemen of America. In the state of Colorado we have over 200,000 horses living statewide, making us the ninth largest state in terms of horse population. We have approximately 698,000 acres of land in Colorado used for horse-related purposes. Our direct contribution to the GDP is approximately \$953 million, a monumental economic impact of our horse industry in Colorado. ¹

We are in support of our Dolores office receiving grant money from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Motorized Trails program for three projects on the district. The Forest Service trail crew has the almost insurmountable task of keeping clear over 220 plus miles of motorized trails on our district alone. These trails range in use, covering the mandate of multiple use on public lands. Our Back Country Horsemen chapter has had the opportunity to participate in many of these multiuse projects. Programs like these are vital to the health and well being of the public accessing our public lands, and having clear and safe trails to enjoy that access.

The projects include the East Fork Trail Project, the Dozer 25 Project and the Good Management Trail Crew 21. We would rather see the agency staffed and funded appropriately to work on these projects, rather than decommissioning and closing down routes, which limits access to our public lands. Many trails in our area are impassable because of lack of maintenance and manpower. Volunteers do a lot, but the underfunded and understaffed agencies need help. We are a very high visitor area. Things like signage, accessible trailhead parking, water bar clearing, culvert installation, rock work, drainage, heavy equipment construction and trail clearing are only some of the ongoing maintenance items that are needed year after year.

Back Country Horsemen work to ensure our access continues on our public lands. Part of our mission is to assist our government agencies in their maintenance and management of our public lands. Access to our public lands are threatened by lack of maintenance and special interests. Programs like these ensure our rightful access continues. Trails are vital to our local, rural small community and local economy. Improved access to our public lands gets folks outside, promotes youth involvement on our public lands and promotes healthy living for all.

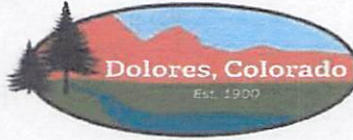
Thank you for this opportunity to express our gratitude for programs such as these.

Sincerely,

Latifia Rodriguez

Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen, State and National Director

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness; To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use; To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource; To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage; To foster and encourage individuals to join and participate in their local, State, and National Back Country Horsemen organizations.



October 27, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for Dolores Ranger District Motorized Grant

This is a letter of support for the Dolores Ranger District Motorized Grant application, and the Town of Dolores supports these proposals:

- The East Fork Trail Project- The District proposes to hire a Southwest Conservation Corp crew for up to 8 weeks of work on the East Fork Trail located north of Rico, Colorado. The trail is a popular motorized route that ties into a number of other motorized trails such as the Calico Trail, Eagle Peak, Stoner Mesa and Priest Gulch trails as well as a number of Forest Service roads and other single track routes. A section of the trail was formerly a two track road but the road was recently decommissioned to accommodate a single track, motorized trail. Proposed work includes stabilization of drainage crossings, signage, tread and drainage repair to formalize the single track trail into one contiguous route.
- Dozer 25 Project- This year our Dozer crew completed heavy maintenance on a variety of trails near the communities of Mancos, Dolores and Rico. The District is requesting funds that will pay the salaries of a returning dozer operator and a swamper. This crew will focus on heavy maintenance of our motorized trail system using the District's trail dozer.
- Good Management Trail Crew 21- Beginning in 2003, the District has staffed a trail crew who works on our motorized trails using funds from the motorized trail program. They are the core of our trail program who focus on the district's 220+ miles of motorized routes. Although we do not necessarily need a letter of support for that program I typically add this to our support letter requests so that the OHV committee understands the breadth of our trail program on the Dolores District.

Sincerely,

Paul Ruud
Town Manager
Town of Dolores



SAN JUAN TRAIL RIDERS

P.O BOX 1118

Durango, CO 81302

636-541-7669 | sanjuantrailriders.com

31 October 2023

Recipient
OHV Program Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

Mr. Metsa:

Please accept this letter as recognition of support for the Dozer 25 Project.

The crew from the Dozer 25 Project performs a thankless job and deserves appropriate funding in order to pay the necessary salaries. The work this crew has selflessly accomplished provides use of these trails for all trail users. The heavy traffic on these trails requires responsible upkeep for erosion control. This crew is vital for the preservation of our forest and trails.

V/R

Your Name



(H) Dozer Work Plan

Dozer Crew Project 2024 Work Plan

Goals for 2024

- Maintain trail features on as many of the motorized trails as possible.
- Perform project work in wet areas, drainage crossings, areas of damaged trail tread and in climbing turn locations.
- Ensure the trail system is signed to standards and replace signs as needed.
- Make public contacts while out in the field performing trail maintenance.
- Expand Dozer program to the Columbine Ranger District.

Locations / Work Focus / Timing of Operations

The Dolores Dozer crew will focus on portions of the motorized trail system (220mi) on the Dolores Ranger District that need heavy maintenance. The trail system on the district ranges in elevation from 6500 ft in elevation to over 12,000ft in elevation. As such timing for early season work (May- Mid July) is focused on Dozer work on lower elevation south facing trails and working up elevation towards more north facing higher elevation trails.

Project work focuses on high use or impacted trails and trails that have not recently received heavy maintenance. This work is conducted between early May and the end of October. Pre-field season work includes maintenance and training.

Projects that require extended amount of dozer work include repairs to rutted or wet areas, major tread rehabilitation that is beyond what can be completed by volunteers or our Good Management Crew, switchback reconstruction and tread reconstruction. Throughout the entire season the Dozer crew makes public contracts and replaces signage.

Partner Collaboration

The Dozer Program partners with the San Juan Trails Riders and the Pagosa Trail Riders primarily with trail clearing but also with project work such as turnpike construction. Partnerships with the Columbine District will continue to be cultivated as Dozer program evolves on the district. Project work is scheduled in the spring and coordination plans are made at that time. Coordination on trail maintenance efforts is ongoing.

Trail Program Challenges

The primary program challenges the last 5 years has been staffing. While this challenge is not unique to the Forest Service it has affected the Dozer Crew to. We believe the key to success is to take advantage of available staff flexibility while exploring new ways to hire and retain employees. The past several years we have had success backfilling positions with conservation corps employees embedded into our crew. Although we have 3-4 housing spaces available for crew members limited affordable housing in Southwest Colorado affects are ability to hire out of area staff members. We continue to find alternatives to limited housing issues such as providing trailer spaces to some crew members.