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SE-M, YC



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

Name of Project: OHV San Carlos Trail Project 2025	Date of Application: 11/30/2023
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(Please limit the project name to 5 words or less)

Total Project Cost: \$214,480 <i>(round off to the nearest \$1)</i>	Grant Request: \$193,280 <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 Carlos RD, PSICC NF	
Mailing Address: 3028 E. Main St, Canon City, CO 81212	
Telephone: (719) 269-8500	Email: Arthur.Ellege@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: Arthur Ellege	Title: Recreation Management Specialist
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 125, La Veta, CO 81055	
Telephone: (719) 742-3681	Email: Arthur.Ellege@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 *Project Contact* changes.

Name: Arthur Ellege	Title: Recreation Management Specialist
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 125, La Veta, CO 81055	
Telephone: (719) 742-3681	Email: Arthur.Ellege@usda.gov

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

Name: Jenn Munn	Title: Grants Management Specialist (Trainee)
Mailing Address: 1617 Cole Blvd Lakewood, CO 80401	
Telephone: (605) 515- 8812	Email: Jennifer.Munn@usda.gov

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04-1-32

PROJECT LOCATION	
Nearest Town or City: Canon City, CO	
County(ies): Pueblo, Fremont, Custer, Huerfano	
Provide a point of reference for mapping purposes (i.e. a google searchable landscape feature): Greenhorn Mountain	
Township/Range/Section: T23S R 70W Sec. 8,13,18	
State Senate District #: 2	State Representative District #: 47
LAND OWNERSHIP	
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: 2. The trail corridor is controlled by: <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> License <input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-Way <input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition Ownership to be obtained <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (explain): <u>USDA FS</u>	
TRAIL SYSTEM INFORMATION (List the number of miles for each type of OHV trail in your area)	
Miles of Singletrack: <u>61</u>	Miles of 50" or less: <u>117</u> Miles of Full-sized: <u>0</u>
TRAIL USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply to the work planned for this project)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Side x Side <input type="checkbox"/> Full Sized 4X4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Four-Wheeling <input type="checkbox"/> 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"/> Youth Corps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration/Rehabilitation (existing corridor)	<input 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.)	
% of Budget	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.)
80	
5	Enforcement, Education & Visitor Contacts (e.g., patrols, enforcement, education and visitor contacts, wages, safety contacts, equipment, etc.)
0	Planning & Travel Plan Implementation (e.g., planning, engineering, maps, inventorying, travel management signs & installation, decommission non-system routes, rehabilitation, new construction, wages, monitoring, etc.)
15	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: OHV San Carlos Trail Project 2025	Project No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Project Sponsor: San Carlos Ranger District	Application Year: 2024-2025
Project Contact: Arthur Ellege	Application No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Total Project Cost: \$214,480	Grant Request: \$193,280

Project Description:
The Tanner/Stultz trail system reconstruction project will be a multi-prong effort to restore these popular OHV trails. The trails have become choked with scrub oak which in recent years has greatly inhibited motorized use. The San Carlos District OHV trail crew, with assistance of the Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC), began the arduous work of opening the corridors in 2022. Grant funding secured in 2024 (\$48,000) for MHYC will allow the second phase of corridor clearing to be completed. Phase three of this corridor clearing work will be completed in 2025. Our grant request for \$48,780 in 2025 includes funding for MHYC chainsaw teams to complete clearing and widening the trail to Forest Service specifications.

In addition to the oak brush clearing, the trail tread is overdue for heavy maintenance and reconstruction. Drainage structures have failed due to severe rainfall and flooding. The trail tread has gullied in spots and no longer meets proper Forest Service specifications for grade reversals, out sloping and sustainable drainage. Despite maintenance performed by our trail crew, the extent of the needed rock work is beyond the ability of hand crews to complete.

For this reason, we are requesting funds to perform machine reconstruction of the most critical sections of the trails utilizing a trail dozer and mini excavator. We propose entering into a Challenge Cost-Share Agreement with Arrowhead Trails, Inc. for 12 weeks @ \$12,000 per week totaling \$144,000 in 2025. We have heard from local riders and clubs that these trails are important early and late season destinations that are increasingly inaccessible due to poor trail conditions. The Forest Service is eager to address these trails to provide for the enjoyment of our OHV riding public.

WHO?
The San Carlos Ranger District of the San Isabel National Forest, a sub-unit of the USDA Forest Service, PSICC National Forest, in partnership with MHYC and Arrowhead Trails, Inc.

WHERE?
Tanner Peak is approximately 8 miles south of Canon City, CO. The OHV trail network trailheads on National Forest are accessed from Fremont CR 143.

WHAT?
Major reconstruction as detailed in the Project Description. Widening the trail corridor through scrub oak stands and machine reconstruction of the trail itself. Logistical support, project oversight, and volunteer group coordination will be provided by the Forest Service OHV trail crew.

WHEN?
Work will commence in May 2025 when MHYC and Arrowhead Trails mobilize. Pre-work will already be done with Forest Service Grants & Agreements. Equipment maintenance and clean-up will continue through October 2025.

Program Funding Acknowledgment –
The *Colorado Registration Dollars at Work* logo is displayed on signs and kiosks around the District. Almost all our public contact discussions include thanking trail users for registering their machines to support the grants that enable the hiring of OHV trail crews and purchasing the tools they need to maintain trails.

Budget Form

Project Name: OHV San Carlos Trail Project 2025

Date Project will be Completed: Nov. 30, 2025

Project Sponsor: San Carlos RD, PSICC NF

*****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)	\$193,280		\$ 193,280.00
Other Funding Sources			\$ -
Forest Service training not covered by grant funds	\$ -	\$1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
Forest Service administration and office support	\$ -	\$3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00
Forest Service facilities utilities; gov't. tool and equipment use		\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00
Forest Service vehicles monthly rate costs, gasoline, repairs & maintenance		\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00
Forest Service project design & oversight; ordering supplies and equipment		\$4,750.00	\$4,750.00
Arrowhead Trails, Inc. conservation & stewardship field instruction		\$3,950.00	\$3,950.00
Royal Gorge ATV Club trail & bridge contributions	\$ -	\$1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
USE OF GRANT FUNDING		TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT	\$ 214,480.00

List uses of grant funding (only) below

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
<small>For CPW use only. Approximate number of workhours</small>			Category Total	\$ -
II. Project Materials/Supplies				
<small>Identify as: Signs, rock, lumber, paint, nails, printing, maps/guides, education materials, etc.</small>				
	Price Per	Quantity	Total	
	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
			Category Total	\$ -
III. Equipment				
<small>Identify as: Trail Dozers, ATV/UTV, motorcycle, chainsaws, winches, field equipment rentals, equipment fuel, repairs, and operations, etc.</small>				
			Category Total	\$ -
III.A. FLEET Equipment				
<small>Identify as: Crew Fleet Vehicles/Trucks monthly FOR & USE, Fleet Equipment monthly USE.</small>				
	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
			Category Total	\$ -
IV. Contracted Services				
<small>Identify as: Youth Corps, NEPA, planning, engineering, construction contractor/subcontractor costs</small>				
	per week			
Year One, Inc. dba Mile High Youth Corps; overnight saw crew	\$12,195	4 weeks		\$48,780
Arrowhead Trails, Inc. on the Tanner/Stultz Trails Reconstruction Project	\$12,000	12 weeks		\$144,000.00
	\$ -			\$ -
			Category Total	\$ 192,780.00
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>				
Volunteer PPE & non-monetary awards for work on OHV trails	\$500.00			\$500.00
	\$ -			\$ -
			Category Total	\$ 500.00
			Total	\$ 193,280.00

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

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NON-FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION and LAND MANAGER APPROVAL

The Applicant is responsible for filling out this TOP portion of this page ending at "Applicant Environmental Checklist". The applicant is also responsible for securing all necessary permits, licenses, clearances, and environmental analyses documentation necessary to comply with local, state, and/or federal laws.

Project Name _____ Project Sponsor _____

The project described in this application has my approval.

Owners or Authorized Person's Signature and Title Date

Print or type Owner's or Authorized Person's Name and Title

APPLICANT ENVIRONMENTAL CHECK LIST

Describe the process (es) or efforts you have made to review potential wildlife and environmental impacts of your project as concisely and specifically as possible. Include any relevant information in each of the category questions listed below and indicate which question you are answering. Examples are given of the types of information that may be valuable. If a question is not applicable to this project, please write "N/A" and state your reasoning.

1. **Species of Concern:** Is it likely that plant and/or wildlife species of concern are present on the proposed project site?
 - Federally listed, threatened, and/or endangered species
 - Species that are rare or have limited range in Colorado
2. **Habitats and their Values:** What habitats are present and how important, productive, or pristine is the wildlife habitat in the project area?
 - Describe habitats that are present and others that are adjacent to them
 - Existing development or human impacts to the proposed project area?
 - Critical habitat for a particular species, or an area with high value for nesting, feeding, or calving
3. **Potential Impacts:** List, in bulleted form, the proposed project activities. Then, describe how the project activities will, or potentially may, impact vegetation and/or wildlife. Include both short-term (during project activities) and long-term (impacts to habitats) effects.
 - Disturbance of sensitive species
 - Impacts to species during rest, feeding, or reproductive cycles
 - Encroachment, loss or reduction of habitat(s)
 - Intrusion into areas with little existing human impacts

Continued next page . . .

4. Mitigation: How will these impacts be addressed?

- Alternative design or trail route selection
- Timing of project activities
- Screening or users from wildlife area, protection of critical habitat, channeling use through less sensitive areas
- Improvement (i.e., restoration) to habitat areas upon project completion

5. Benefits: List habitat improvements such as restoration of wetlands, river corridors, and trail areas; restriction of recreationalists from sensitive areas; environmental or recreation education efforts.

- Education of users through environmental education programs, opportunities for “watchable wildlife,” and monitoring of wildlife impacts
- Reroute trails away from sensitive habitats

6. Environmental Compliance: Describe regulatory compliance, applicable permits and/or agency concurrence procedures that are, or are not required, and why.

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (i.e., nesting habitats will not be impacted by the project due to the project’s timing or, surveys for nesting birds will be conducted prior to activities and, activities that may impact active nests will be postponed)
- Concurrence from USFWS for effects determinations (or rationale for why no such concurrence is required)
- US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permits
- Compliance with raptor guidelines recommended by Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Principle source of information: (e.g., Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, local agency, staff biologist, consultant)

Printed name, title and telephone number of person consulted:

Signature of person consulted:

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PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

Carefully read and provide answers to each of the following four criteria (four page maximum):

All applicants must respond to the following selection criteria questions. You are allowed the space below each question to fill in your answer. If you have an answer that does not fill the entire page, do not feel obligated to fill the space. This application will be scored on a 100 point basis. The maximum number of points that can be awarded for each question is shown in parentheses. Each project will be reviewed by outside reviewers and State Trails staff, and projects will be ranked according to reviewer and staff scores. Failure to provide a response to any question (unless otherwise noted) will reduce your project's score. Please reference all attachments.

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

Describe the objectives of your project and how it will benefit, and protect riding opportunities while protecting resources in the project area. ***(Use the following as a guideline for describing your project)***

- What specifically will the project accomplish?
- How will the project protect or improve riding opportunities?
- Will it provide essential maintenance to keep OHV riding opportunities available? Please describe maintenance history for this specific area.
- Describe how this project will foster and promote a satisfactory and challenging riding opportunity for OHV enthusiasts?
- Why is this project a priority at this time?
- Provide an estimate of how many and what types of OHV enthusiasts will benefit from the project?
- Describe how this project will provide long term value and sustainability?

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

Provide evidence of support for this project from trail users, agencies, local governments, community groups, or individuals and attach letters or petitions to your application packet. Applicants need to demonstrate that the project has a broad spectrum of support. Letters from the following entities are encouraged: relevant political subdivisions with jurisdiction over the project area, conservation organizations, user groups who frequent the area, and community organizations. The program places a higher value on the quality of supporting correspondence submitted rather than the quantity of support letters received. ***(Use the following as a guideline for describing your project)***

- Describe all agencies, groups, clubs or organizations who are partners on the project. Will the project utilize volunteers or youth group services?
- Are you aware of any controversy this proposed project has caused, if at all, in the local community?
- Create a narrative or a list that includes the amounts and sources of additional (non-grant) funds, in-kind services, materials, and any other items that will be used as leverage in your project:
 - Donations, contributions, materials and other ways that this project will be leveraged
 - Describe the types of funds that will be contributed to the project
 - Itemize any funds received from other grants or sources
 - Provide your total project cost, including the total amount of all grant funds, use of volunteers, donations, and any additional contributions mentioned in your narrative

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

Describe the principal objectives that will be accomplished by this project (e.g., new trail construction, trail relocation or major re-route, trail maintenance, restoration/rehabilitation or any other grant eligible activity). Include as many components as are applicable. Show how the project aids in the protection or improvement of the environment by addressing existing problems, and avoiding or minimizing impacts through the implementation of the project. ***(Use the following as a guideline for describing your project)***

- Will this project promote the protection, clean up, rehabilitation or avoidance of sensitive environmental resources such as wildlife habitat or wetlands in the project area? If so, explain how.
- Will the project include re-vegetation of eroded areas or trail that will promote the long term protection of sensitive or critical resources? If so, explain how.
- Will the project construct or improve drainage structures to prevent erosion or repair damage from excessive runoff, or harden and/or bridge stream crossings and wet areas?
- Describe any indirect benefits this project proposal will have on critical resources in the project area.

NEW Trail Construction vs. Major Trail Re-Route

New Trail Construction:

- In the case of new trail construction, provide documentation that shows all required environmental reviews are completed or indicate the current status of that work.
- Under what TM Decision the work is being performed.
- Provide a description of new trail construction.
- Provide detailed map showing the new trail location and length.

Major Re-Route: Defined as trail work that will require new and/or additional environmental approvals. (Minor re-routes taking place on an already approved trail corridor will not be considered a *major* re-route, as described here.)

- Provide the number of miles or feet that are being re-routed and why.
- Provide a detailed map of where the trail re-route is located, showing old/current route and proposed re-route.

Large Equipment Purchases, Maintenance and Disposition:

Large Equipment purchased with OHV funding must have commitment to Long-Term Maintenance and Operations and must only be used for OHV Trail Maintenance Activities. When not in use, equipment will be made available for use on other OHV projects currently or previously supported by CPW. When equipment is no longer in use or needed, it should be passed on to another OHV Club, the BLM or Forest Service, or returned to CPW to insure continued OHV trail maintenance activities. Describe provisions to be made for the following:

- Who will be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the equipment?
- What is the expected annual budget for operations, maintenance and fuel?
- How many (machine) hours are needed to maintain the trail system?
- What is the expected annual cost for future operations and maintenance and will that be dependent upon additional OHV grants?
- What is the plan for equipment when not in use or when no longer needed?

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:

- Will this project employ one or more travel management measures such as educational tools, signage, control structures, methods to reduce conflicts among user groups, visitor contacts and/or increased compliance efforts to improve adherence to OHV regulations and designations? If so, explain those measures.
- Include information as to how the project will enhance and promote multiple-use trails.
- Will the project assist in monitoring or closing or rehabilitating off-trail, non-system OHV routes in compliance with TMPs or MVUMs or address damaged or closed routes pursuant to an MVUM? (e.g., repair, or the placement or replacement of signage, fencing, and trail barriers or reseeding, resurfacing, decommissioning, or re-contouring trails, etc.). If so, explain how.
- Describe how this project is consistent with the long term plans of the land management agency with jurisdiction over the project area?

Education

- Describe the educational components of the project and how this will specifically benefit OHV riders, as well as other area visitors and residents. Note, the most effective educational efforts are those targeted to "on the ground" user education in the field encouraging responsible use through educational materials such as signs, brochures, maps, kiosks, and field contacts.
- Explain how this project will encourage responsible use through education.
- Does this project use or provide educational tools such as maps, signs, brochures, kiosks, or patrols to educate riders? If so, explain.

Enforcement and Compliance Activities:

- How will the project improve compliance of OHV regulations and route designations?
- Will the project utilize law enforcement or compliance measures to increase compliance with state OHV laws, measures to increase compliance and law enforcement efforts?
- How will the project utilize law enforcement or compliance measures to increase compliance with state OHV laws, designated routes and OHV registration requirements for both resident and non-resident OHV recreationists?
- How will project assess, document and report the results of compliance and laws enforcement efforts?
- Include an estimate of the time and/or financial resources that will be devoted specifically to visitor contacts, compliance and law enforcement under this proposal.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

OHV San Carlos Trail Project 2025

(Tanner and Stultz Trail Restoration Project)

1. Need for & Benefit of the Project

The work accomplished through this grant will enhance ATV and motorcycle trail experience on Forest Service lands administered by the San Carlos Ranger District of the San Isabel National Forest.

Tanner Peak at 9340 ft. is only eight miles from Cañon City, CO. The mountain is a local landmark and a popular four-season recreation destination for hikers, climbers, and OHV enthusiasts. Three Forest Service trailheads give motorized access to the mountain: Tanner TH, East Bear Gulch TH, and Stultz TH. The interconnected trail system total 17.2 miles open to ATVs and another 2.3 miles of single track for motorcycles. Riders can summit the mountain on the Tanner Trail for spectacular views of the Wet Mountains, Sangre de Cristo Range, and Pike's Peak to the north. Several out-and-back, semi-loop and shuttle options offer a variety trail options. The lower reaches of the trails are dominated by scrub oak while higher sections transition to Ponderosa and Douglas Fir.

The trails have become choked with scrub oak which in recent years has greatly inhibited motorized use. The San Carlos District OHV trail crew, with assistance of the Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC), began the arduous work of opening the corridors in 2022 and continued this work in 2023. Grant funding secured for 2024, \$48,000 for MHYC, will enable continuation of the work. Our grant request for 2025 includes \$48,780 funding for MHYC chainsaw teams to complete clearing and widening the trail to specifications.

In addition to the oak brush clearing, the trail tread is overdue for heavy maintenance and reconstruction. Drainage structures have failed due to severe rainfall and flooding. The trail tread has gullied in spots and no longer meets proper Forest Service specifications for grade reversals, out sloping and sustainable drainage. Despite maintenance performed by our trail crew, the extend of the needed rock work is beyond the ability of hand crews to complete. This project will be started during the 2024 season, but work is expected to take two seasons to complete the maintenance.

For this reason, we are requesting funds to continue machine reconstruction of the most critical sections of the trails utilizing a trail dozer and mini excavator. We propose entering into a Challenge Cost-Share Agreement with Arrowhead Trails, Inc. for 12 weeks @ \$12,000 per week totaling \$144,000 in 2025. We have heard from local riders and clubs that these trails are important early and late season destinations that are becoming inaccessible due to poor trail conditions. The Forest Service is eager to rectify address the situation for the improved enjoyment of our OHV riding public.

Motorized trails on National Forest are big draws during the summer recreation season, and during hunting and snowmobile seasons as well. Our local communities benefit economically from money spent on fuel, lodging, food, supplies, and entertainment. Feedback from visitors and volunteer groups confirm that well marked and maintained trails promote return visits.

Maintenance is a priority to promote satisfactory and challenging riding opportunities. In subsequent years the Good Management OHV crew will maintain switchbacks and drainage

structures, clear downfall, and trim overgrown vegetation. Proper maintenance reduces the spread of trail braiding and new routes created by users avoiding sections in disrepair.

The San Carlos Ranger District requests this grant assistance to augment our Good Management funding. For this grant cycle we looked closely at asking only for a realistic level of financial help to provide the product and service the public rightfully deserves and has come to expect from their public land managers.

The San Carlos Ranger District covers over 400,000 acres and is committed to providing high quality motorized trails for our visitors. User surveys and register sheet tallies confirm that many hundreds of people utilize the trails annually. Together with partners and volunteers, the OHV trail crew maintains approximately 85 miles of motorized trails on National Forest annually. The District boasts 61 miles of single track motorized trails, 177 miles of ATV trails, and 250 miles of 2-track roads open to ATVs and motorcycles. The maintenance history of motorized trails in our area goes back decades. Thanks to grant funding, we can provide program continuity by hiring experienced personnel familiar with local maintenance and improvement needs, and equip them with efficient tools. Their professional abilities provide quality supervision and project management for Youth Corps crews, contractors, and volunteers.

2. Partnerships, Support, and Leverage

The line item for Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) crews in this OHV San Carlos Trail Project grant contains a funding request for \$48,780 for 4 weeks of work in 2025. This proven resource greatly multiplies the efforts of the OHV trail crew in improving valuable single-track and ATV riding opportunities. MHYC work helps protect the investments made in previous years by maintaining work already completed. They will be needed to accomplish the goal of long-term sustainability on the Tanner/ Stultz Trails system and thanks to grant funding clearing will continue in 2024. Many public contacts are made during this high-profile project, and trail users saw first-hand the improvements to this popular trail. Local managers are very proud of the partnership we have forged with Youth Corps crews, and not only for the trail work accomplished. The benefit to young people gaining public land stewardship experience is invaluable and speaks to a core mission of the Forest Service. MHYC has supplied a letter of support for this grant for 2025.

Since 2014, the San Isabel Trails Alliance (SITA) and its predecessors have been very active partners in single track motorized trail maintenance. The club routinely participates in work projects, and provides input on trail conditions, signing needs, and use patterns. The club has partnered in enduro and trials events that bring hundreds of participants and spectators to the District, including a very successful motorcycle enduro race in 2021. In 2023 both an enduro and trials event were held on the District.

The Colorado State Parks OHV Program in coordination with the San Carlos Ranger District, again fielded the State-wide motorcycle trail crew in 2023. They spent a week clearing blow-down and repairing drainage structures and providing valuable input on needed maintenance items. This is a long-term productive collaboration, and we anticipate hosting the crew again in 2024 and 2025.

The Royal Gorge ATV Club is a long-term partner and performed trail maintenance and clearing on trails in the Canon City area in 2023. The club assisted the District OHV crew widening an ATV bridge over Cottonwood Creek on the Rainbow Trail in 2021. The club made in-kind contributions total \$1,800.

The Forest Service in-kind contributions are: \$4,750 for project design and oversight; \$1,750 for training cost not covered by grant funds; \$3,250 for administrative support; \$3,100 for equipment use and maintenance, utilities, vehicle monthly rate costs and gasoline.

Arrowhead Trails, LLC made \$3,950 toward in-kind contributions.

These leverage contributions total **\$21,200** and are detailed in the 'In-Kind (Non-Cash) contributions column in the project budget spreadsheet.

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

The key objectives of this grant proposal are to continue the restoration and maintenance of the Tanner/Stultz trail system. A primary purpose of our work is resource protection, reducing sedimentation by adding well-placed water bars and ditching. These structures improve water quality for aquatic communities. Tree roots are not as readily exposed when we stop the loss of tread material due to erosion. Many trail sections have become entrenched and choked with large cobbles as a result of this soil loss. Grant-funded trail mechanized equipment will improve drainage, re-contour and out slope the trail. User safety and enjoyment will also be enhanced.

We completed projects with similar goals utilizing a grant-funded Youth Corps crew and Arrowhead Trails 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019. In 2015 and 2016 extensive tread work was completed on Silver Circle Trail. In 2017 and 2018 work was accomplished on Snowslide Trail and on St. Charles Trail. Restoration work on Squirrel Creek and Indian Trails is funded for 2023. Direct benefits of these projects include reducing the spread of noxious weeds, and closing trail braids, thereby lessening disturbance to wildlife and migration patterns.

We intend to apply for supplemental grants in coming years to further enhance work projects also designed for resource benefit and protection. Maintenance work on the motorized trail system on the San Carlos Ranger District will include armoring stream crossings and reducing tread width to proper dimensions. Improved signing, an annual undertaking, reduces off-trail route finding and unauthorized user-created trails on unsustainable alignments.

4. Travel Management Plan Implementation, Education, and Enforcement

The Forest Plan for the Pike and San Isabel National Forest provides direction for managing travel on National Forest Lands. In addition, San Carlos Ranger District has implemented the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) system. The MVUM provides a clear depiction of allowable uses of roads and motorized trails. The OHV crew has taken the lead in signing trails and supplying maps to volunteer groups and visitors. The directional and travel management signing we install assists visitors to know which vehicles are appropriate to specific trails.

Providing educational information at trailheads gives the public a better understanding of wildlife concerns, such as raptor nesting sites and information on sensitive species. Proactive messages on the positive role that trail users can have in protecting wetlands and forests promote stewardship. Maintaining these bulletin boards and kiosks is an important function the OHV crew performs. They also service our trailhead register boxes used to collect use numbers and visitor comments.

The OHV trail crew educates trail users on Tread Lightly and Stay-the-Trail practices. Making public contacts while working on the trails demonstrates land stewardship and stimulates

volunteerism. The trail crew informs trail users about Colorado OHV registration/permit requirements and explains the importance of the OHV registration program. The crew also provides current trail condition information to Forest and BLM visitor centers to assist trail users in planning rides. Improved trails, maps, and signage enhance public safety and OHV recreation experiences. The educational activities of the trail crew assist land managers in protecting resources and promoting responsible use. In addition, the crew leverages their time using volunteers, and leading volunteer trail maintenance and clean-up projects, such as the annual Brighten-The-Sangres Trail Maintenance Day, and National Public Lands Day. These occasions provide invaluable education and stewardship opportunities.

Two of our trail crew members in 2022 were qualified as Forest Service Forest Protection Officers (FPO) having enforcement and compliance responsibilities. An estimated 5% of their time is devoted to visitor contacts and enforcement. When appropriate, Violation Notices (tickets) are written. Grant funding improves field presence and compliance with regulations. During high-use holiday weekends patrol areas are identified and covered for compliance and educational opportunities. At least five other FPOs on the District with similar authority are active in patrolling recreation areas and OHV trailheads.

Forest Service recreation and resource managers at the San Carlos Ranger District office in Canon City have a close working relationship and long experience in planning and implementing motorized trail projects. The scope of this grant proposal is in keeping with the intent of the grant funding criteria, providing practical and worthwhile projects for the committee's deliberation. Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this application.

D-2

Land Acquisition Grant – Supplemental Criteria

An Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Application requires supplemental information for land acquisitions, land leases, or easement purchase proposals.

A plan is required to be eligible for funding from the State Trails Program. Applicants are encouraged to apply for a Planning Grant from the Recreational Trail Program or the Off-Highway Vehicle Program *before* submitting a land acquisition proposal.

Land Acquisition Grant Applications require a presentation to the State Trails Committee.

If you have any questions on the requirements, please contact State Trails' staff *prior to* submitting your application.

Please respond to each section, being sure to identify which question you are answering. Use your own paper with *one-page per section or up to four pages total*. Please respond in 12-pitch font. Evaluating a project without the following information is difficult, so failure to respond to sections may reduce a project's score.

Eligibility Criteria and Acquisition Costs Acceptable for Reimbursement

- Only costs to acquire land, land leases or easements
- The purchase must be a fair market valuation
- Appraisals and legal fees
- An environmental review of the subject property
- Land surveys
- Transaction costs
- Property interest must be secured and controlled for a minimum of 25 years

Ineligibility Criteria and Acquisition Costs Unacceptable for Reimbursement

- Site development
- Acquisitions that involve condemnation
- Insurance (except Title Insurance)
- Any work that is not directly relevant to trail development or acquisition
- Facilities that are ornamental and/or do not have a direct benefit to trail users
- Any applicant that is not in compliance with the terms and/or conditions of a prior and/or **existing** grant from the State Trails Program

An Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Application requires supplemental information for land acquisitions, land leases, or easement purchase proposals.

I. Site Description

- A. Describe the site and surrounding area. What currently exists on the property? Include a site map that shows property boundaries, utilities, roads and structures. If larger than 8.5" x 11", maps must be folded into that size.

II. Planning

- A. Explain the *project* planning process surrounding the proposed acquisition. List all the steps required by rule or law of the governing agency for project approval. List the steps that have been completed.
- B. List local, state, and/or federal permits required for the project and list those requirements that have been fulfilled.
- C. Describe how the *project* is compatible to the requested acquisition.
- D. Is this project part of any local, regional, state or federal plans? List the goals and objectives of this project and how it ties these plans.

III. Public Notice

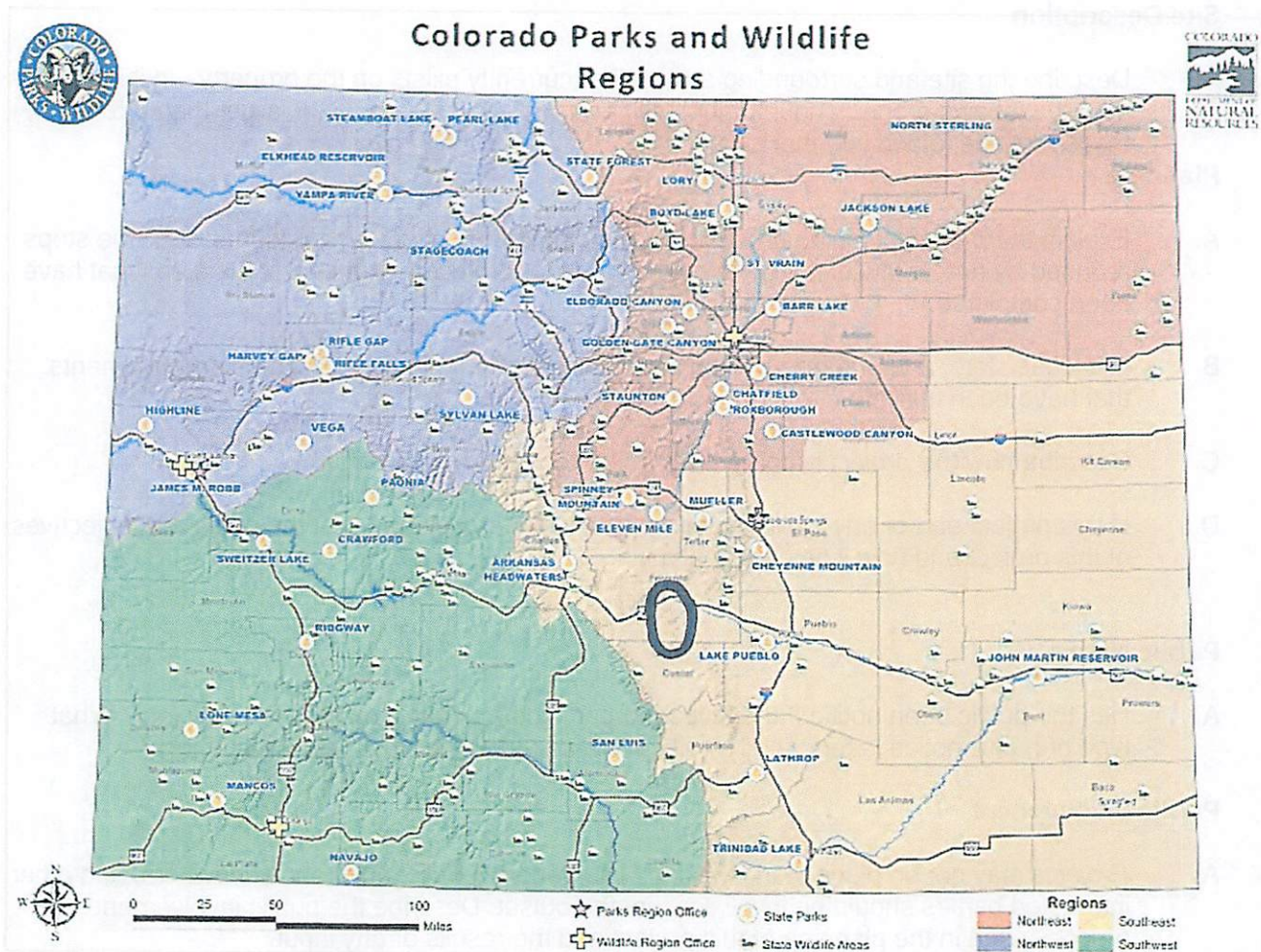
- A. Has the public been notified and invited to participate in the planning of the *project*? What type of public notice is required by rule or law to inform the public about a project?

IV. Public Involvement

- A. *Projects* may not be planned in isolation. The general public, adjacent landowners, and other interested parties should be involved from the outset. Describe the public involvement process used in the planning of this project and the results of any input.
- B. Summarize the most important comments received and your response to those comments.
- C. Describe any changes to your project design or scope of work based on public input.

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

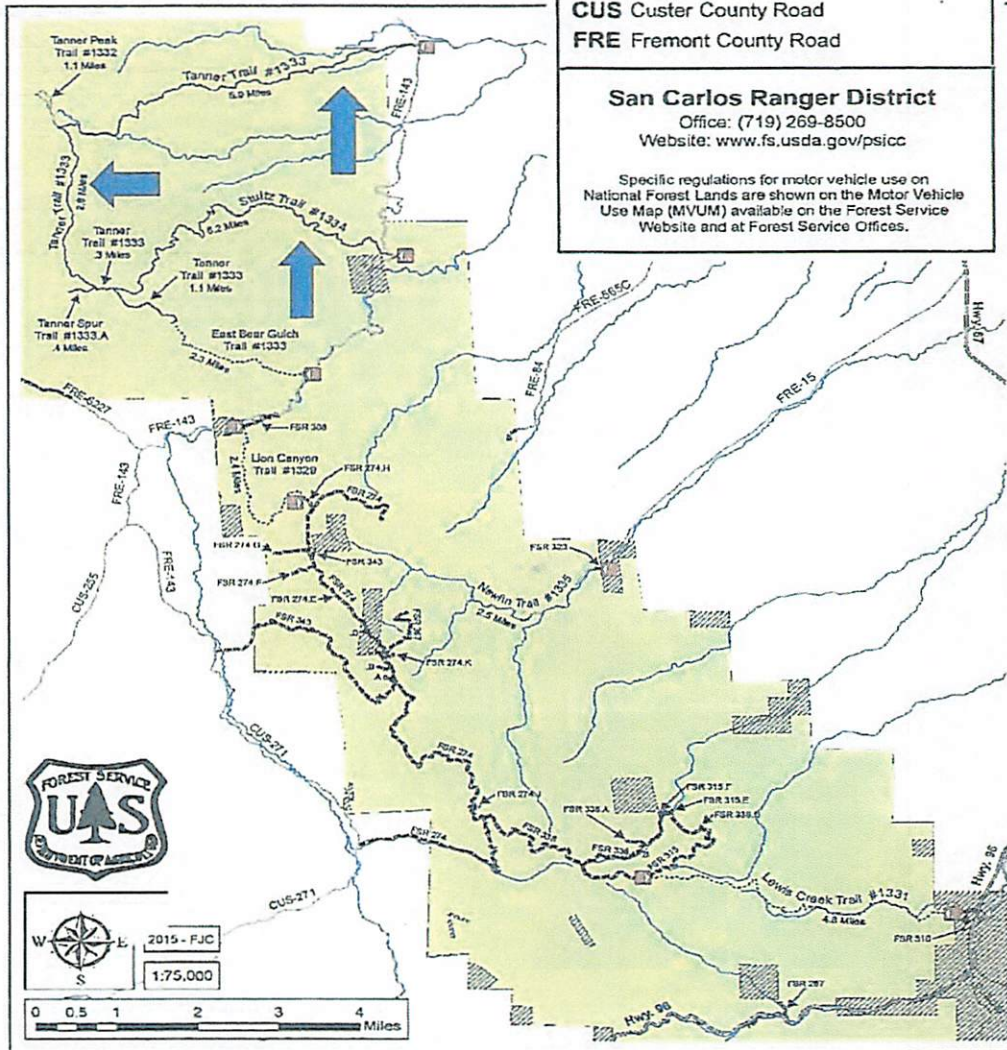
E-1 Vicinity Map: Please mark the vicinity where the project is located on the map below.



E-2 Project Map: 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.

Wet Mountains Trail System - North - SAN ISABEL National Forest



Tanner/Stultz Trails Reconstruction Project

The San Carlos Ranger District proposes to host a Mile High Youth Corps crew to perform trail clearing and brushing on these popular OHV trails near Canon City. Machine reconstruction of the trail tread will be performed by Arrowhead Trails, Inc. Project support will be provided by the San Carlos R.D. OHV trail crew. Tanner Trail # 1332 is 10.1 miles long. Stultz Trail # 1334 is 6.2 miles long and forms a loop ATV ride with Tanner Trail.

(F) Project Illustration

Photographs, Drawings, Engineering Plans, Diagrams

Provide project illustrations or photos to further demonstrate the needs of the project.

Items to consider including may be:

- Photos (4-6) of the project area or photos of another project's outcome that illustrates what you will do for this project
- Engineering drawings of the project
- Diagrams/plans of the project

Mile High Youth Corps Beginning Tanner Trail Corridor Maintenance



Ute Cup Trials Event - Greenhorn Mountain August 2023



Ute Cup Trials Event
Continued



(G) Letters of Project Support

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 land owners
- Federal, county, city and private land owners
- Individual users or user groups
- Partners and/or cooperators



SOUTHERN FRONT RANGE

November 8, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Attention: Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager
13787 S. Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: San Carlos Ranger District OHV Trail Grant 2025

Dear Mr. Tom Metsa,

On behalf of Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC), I am writing in full support of San Carlos Ranger District's (SCRD) application to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trails Grant program. Funding will allow SCRD to continue providing safe and accessible OHV opportunities on public lands through contracting with MHYC, hiring an OHV trail crew, hiring a trails contractor to perform machine reconstruction and drainage work and purchasing and maintaining equipment. This support is critical to advancing the safety and enjoyment of off-highway vehicle use in the Lake Isabel, La Veta and Wet Mountain areas, while protecting and sustaining our natural resources.

MHYC is a comprehensive, year-round model serving 250 young adults annually across 24 Colorado counties, having the largest geographic footprint amongst Colorado's eight accredited youth corps. MHYC's Land Conservation program engages young adults, ages 18-24, in conservation-based work focused on environmental improvements on public lands. Simultaneously, the program opens the door to careers in natural resources by giving youth hands-on experience and a greater understanding of the industry. To support project efforts, MHYC is committed to providing dedicated crews of Land Conservation Corpsmembers to assist with OHV trail maintenance projects during the grant period.

We appreciate the huge impact that the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Off-Highway Vehicle Grant has had on public lands across Colorado. We encourage you to look favorably on SCRD's proposal to continue this impact. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or need more information about our program. I can be reached at 303.433.1206 extension 230 or at jesser@mhyc.net.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Roehm', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jesse Roehm
Director: Land Conservation and Operations

HEADQUARTERS

(303) 433-1206
1801 Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO 80204

SOUTHERN FRONT RANGE

(719) 630-7421
417 E. Vermijo Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOUNDRY

(720) 974-0500
953 Decatur St.
Denver, CO 80204

EAST MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY CENTER

(720) 407-7281
6740 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80220

Est. 1992
INFO@MHYC.NET
MILEHIGHYOUTHCORPS.ORG



Central Colorado Mountain Riders

11 November 2023

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

Dear Mr. Metsa and OHV Committee Members,

Please accept this letter of support from the Central Colorado Mountain Riders (CCMR) for the San Carlos Ranger District OHV Trails Grant 2025 that will help them provide better OHV opportunities on our public lands.

CCMR is an all-volunteer, non-profit motorcycle club based in Salida, CO. Our mission is to preserve, maintain and create multiuse motorized trail opportunities in the central Colorado area through cooperation, education, etiquette, and stewardship. CCMR has over 200 members and businesses who are recreational users that spend thousands of hours on trails and contribute to the CPW OHV funding with the purchase of hundreds of OHV stickers annually. CCMR partners with the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to preserve the sport of motorized trail riding and multiuse recreation in central Colorado including opportunities within the San Carlos Ranger District, specifically the Westcliffe, Lake Isabel, and Wet Mountain areas.

The San Carlos district, via this OHV grant, plans to hire a trail crew to maintain motorized trails used by many CCMR members. The San Carlos Ranger District also plans to utilize the Youth Corps and subcontractors to maintain these trails. Many of our members utilize these trails in early Spring and late Fall when our riding areas are snow blocked. Specific trails are the Indian Trail and the Tanner Trail. This ranger district also maintains the Rainbow Trail in their district. This 100+ mile trail is a favorite of many of CCMR members. CCMR members benefit from the maintenance done on these trails.

The San Carlos Ranger District OHV effort is an asset to the Colorado motorized community. CCMR recommends the approval of the San Carlos Ranger District OHV Trail Project 2025 Grant.

Sincerely,
Bob Daniel
President – CCMR



La Veta Trails
P.O. Box 202, La Veta, CO 81055
(719) 890-4071 / russellm9999@gmail.com
www.lavetatrails.org

November 10, 2023

Colorado State Parks
13787 S. Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125
ATTN: Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager

Dear Mr. Metsa,

La Veta Trails (LVT) is writing to support the critical work the San Carlos Ranger District (SCRD) will complete with the 2025 OHV Trails Grant. OHV trails bring critically needed revenue for small businesses and tax revenue for local and county governments hit hard by multiple economic, catastrophic weather, and public health disasters.

While Colorado and the rest of the country were hit hard by the 2008 economic recession, Huerfano County has been slow to recover, unlike other areas of the state. Huerfano County has been one of the poorest counties since 2010, ranking at the bottom in 2020. The Spring Fire 2018, COVID, and a windstorm that closed an important SCRD recreation area have not helped the recovery efforts.

Research conducted by the Outdoor Industry Association concluded that outdoor recreation is the fastest-growing industry in the country, fueling economic recovery across the nation and in states like Colorado. We cannot report the impact in Huerfano County because outdoor recreation tourism data is combined with other industries.

LVT recognizes the SCRD's critical work to increase access to our public lands, improve safety, and facilitate positive recreation opportunities. The maintenance crew and equipment funded by this grant will address long-standing issues and remove barriers so we can attract visitors to the region. LVT promotes OHV trails in its Spanish Peaks Region Recreation and Trail Guide, which is updated and published annually.

We desperately need this project to improve popular OHV trails in the San Isabel National Forest. We are excited to support the SCRD and look forward to our ongoing partnership to promote OHV trails.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Russell
President, La Veta Trails



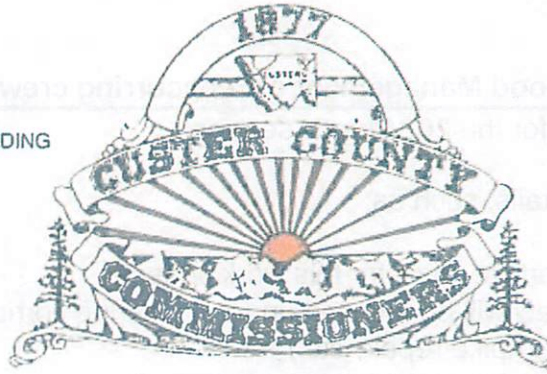
Mr. Tom Metsa
OHV Program Manager
Colorado State Parks
13787 S. Hwy 85 Littleton, Co 80125

11/25/2023

The Royal Gorge ATV Club Fully supports the San Carlos Ranger District OHV trails grant request for 2025. Plans include hiring an OHV trail crew to maintain system trails (motorcycle and ATV routes) on National Forest Lands within the San Carlos Ranger District. They also plan to contract with Mile High Youth Corps to work on motorized trails, as well as hire a trails contractor to perform machine reconstruction and drainage work. Grant funds will help to purchase and maintain equipment to improve popular and historic ATV accessible trails. San Carlos Ranger District will also maintain ATV and motorized single-track trails in the Lake Isabel, La Veta, and Wet Mountain areas. During the summer of 2023 we completed much good work on your motorized trails, focusing on Indian Trail and the Tanner Trail outside Canon City. Major accomplishments included a motorcycle enduro event, clearing many miles of trail, repairing flood damage, installing trail signs, collecting trail use data, and facilitating volunteer projects. The trails that the San Carlos Ranger District manages are always well maintained. We give great credit to the Forest Service staff and OHV crew. Grant money is going to good use for the motorized and non-motorized user groups.

Tim McCain
Public lands liaison
Royal Gorge ATV Club

CUSTER COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
615 ROSITA AVENUE
P. O. BOX 150
WESTCLIFFE, COLORADO 81252
(719) 783-2552
FAX (719) 783-2885



November 15, 2023

Colorado State Parks
Attn: Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Mr. Metsa,

The Custer County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the San Carlos Ranger District OHV Trails Grant 2025. Custer County has hundreds of miles of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails in the Sangre De Cristo Range and the Wet Mountains. The trails need to be upgraded, improved, and properly signed to make them as user-friendly as possible for those who are eager to experience the unparalleled natural beauty that Custer County has to offer. People are encouraged to come to Custer County as an OHV destination place and will help give the economy of Custer County a much-needed boost.

Funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife grants through OHV registration would enable the US Forest Service to provide quality motorized trails on our public lands. As Commissioners, we recognize the economical and promotional value of maintained OHV trails in Custer County. With these funds, the San Carlos Range District will be able to maintain system trails on National Forest Lands within the San Carlos Ranger District. This grant proposal is necessary to continue the successful work that has been done in the past. Thank you for considering this application for funding.

Sincerely,



Kevin V. Day, BOCC Chairman



William R. Canda, BOCC Vice-Chairman



Lucas D. Epp, Commissioner

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

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

Consider including specific details, such as:

- List 5 of your most important goals for this work season
- Anticipated work the crew will be focused on (e.g. clearing corridor, building drainage systems, tread repair, turnpike repair, etc.)
- Planned location/names of the trails the crew will work on
- Time of year you anticipate the work will be done
- Planned volunteer workdays/events
- Collaboration efforts with OHV user groups / partners (involvement with potential projects)
- Describe any issues encountered during the 2023 season and your plan to overcome them

Work Plan for the San Carlos RD OHV grants program 2025

- San Carlos Ranger District will hire a 4-person OHV trail crew funded by our approved Good Management grant. Duties will include clearing and maintaining system trails open to the public; providing trails, regulatory, and natural resource information to the visiting public; maintaining trailhead kiosks and trail signs; repairing and servicing OHV vehicles, equipment, and tools. The crew will report in May 2025 and work into October. Safety, program, and technical training will be provided throughout the season.
- The OHV trail crew will provide logistical and technical support for a Mile High Youth Corps crew to perform four weeks clearing and widening of the Tanner/Stultz Trails system. The trails are badly overgrown with oak brush.
- Arrowhead Trails, Inc. will mobilize a trail dozer and mini excavator for Phase 2 of the Tanner/Stultz reconstruction project. This will complete the work begun in 2024. Phase 1 will rebuild 5.9 miles of Tanner and Phase 2 will finish the final 2.8 miles of heavy maintenance on Tanner Trail and progress into the Stultz trail and perform moderate to heavy maintenance for 6.2 miles.
- Additional duties for the OHV trail crew include maintaining the shop and grounds at Lake Isabel Work Center where bunkhouses are available for the crew. An on-site permanent Forest Service employee is stationed at Lake Isabel and provides program oversight and supervision.
- Challenges encountered during the 2023 season were primarily centered around the hiring of an OHV crew. The initial hiring event proved unable to find any suitable applicants, however three subsequent 60 day emergency hires were sourced from the local communities. Two of the three hires have expressed desire to return for the 2024 season. In order to incentive hiring, a proposal is under consideration by the Forest to raise the minimum pay grade for the crew to a GS-7 for permanent positions.