

Colorado Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Perspectives on State Trails Program

Our Involvement

- Participate in Forest Plan Revisions and BLM Resource Management Plans
 - Including travel management plans
- Educate ourselves and participate in the State Trails Grant Program
 - Provide comments on the Trails Program and specific Trails Grant Applications
- Engage with user groups and organizations

Concerns & Observations

Non-Motorized Trails Program

- Long-term cumulative impacts to big game habitat
 - Extensive habitat fragmentation from trails
 - Trails in direct alignment with known seasonal concentration areas & migration routes
 - Big game displaced from preferred habitats on public lands
- Travel plans are not fully implemented
 - Funding directed to trail development
 - Ineffective mitigation measures
 - Lack of funding/commitment to manage use

Non-Motorized Planning & Support Grants

- Proponent-driven process with minimal oversight by federal agencies
 - Planning process conducted by user-groups
 - Minimal to no involvement of other public land interests
 - Outcome is handed off to agency as trail master plan which may or may not require additional NEPA
- CPW wildlife review required early in the planning process but recommendations apparently not fully considered
 - Mitigation emphasized over avoidance
- Grant criteria for wildlife and natural resources receives low emphasis in the application

Non-Motorized Construction & Maintenance Grants

- Lack connection to and full implementation of approved travel management plans
 - Funding directed to trail development & marketing
 - Lack commitment for stewardship & management as well as education & enforcement
- Need to develop & implement Good Management Program that mirrors the OHV Program
 - Developed to proactively maintain newly designated high use recreation areas & aggressively implement travel mgmt plans
 - Resource Protection, Enhancement, Restoration
 - Travel Management Plan Implementation, Education, Enforcement