



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

State Trails Program  
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March 15-16, 2023

### 2023 Non-Motorized Trails and LWCF Grant Funding Recommendations

This letter is a summary and explanation of the enclosed Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) 2023 Non-Motorized Trails and Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) Fund grant funding recommendations for the Parks and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) approval during the March 2023 meeting. We are requesting approval for 22 grants for a total award amount of \$7,807,182.94.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

CPW's Trails Program was created with the adoption of Colorado's "Recreational Trails Act of 1971" codified in sections 33-11-101 through 33-11-112, Colorado Revised Statutes. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division's (CPW) Trails Program, a statewide program within CPW, administers grants for trail-related and outdoor recreation projects on an annual basis.

#### **Colorado's Non-Motorized Trails and Land and Water Conservation Fund Programs**

The Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program provides funding for trail construction, maintenance, and planning/support projects. Local, county, state, and tribal governments, federal agencies, special recreation districts, and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands may apply for and are eligible to receive non-motorized trail grants. The grant program is a multi-agency partnership that includes CPW, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Colorado Lottery, and the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

The LWCF Grant Program is the State managed 50:50 matching grant program for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Funds are appropriated annually by Congress to the National Park Service and divided among the states. Local, county, state, and tribal governments may apply for and are eligible to receive LWCF stateside grants for outdoor recreation projects to improve quality of life and the health and vitality of present and future generations.

#### **State Trails Committee**

The creation and role of the Committee are set forth in sections 33-11-105 to 107, C.R.S. In addition to using the Committee as an advisory body on the expenditure of funds appropriated by the General Assembly, the Commission also uses the Committee as an advisory body on the expenditure of federal and GOCO funds available for outdoor recreation purposes. The Committee consists of eleven members appointed by the Commission representing each of the eight congressional districts from which one member represents Off Highway Vehicle



interests. One At Large member who represents Snowmobile interests and one member represents the GOCO Board. The Committee reviews, scores, ranks and submits recommendations for grant funding to the Commission for their consideration and final approval. (Appendix A lists the current Committee members.) Sections 33-11-105 to 33-11-107, C.R.S., describe the roles, responsibilities and relationship of the State Trails Committee in working with the Commission.

### **The Non-Motorized Recreational Trails and LWCF Grant Application Process**

Trail grant applications are posted to the CPW website on the first business day of August each year. Trail grant opportunities are publicized annually through press releases, newsletters, the state website, and e-mail information networks. Technical assistance for grant preparation is provided by CPW Trails Program staff to potential applicants. The submission deadline for non-motorized trail and LWCF grant applications was October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) has authorized a subcommittee structure to assist the Committee in formulating its grant recommendations. Subcommittees for each grant category and their members are appointed for the purpose of reviewing and ranking grants and compiling funding recommendations for the Committee. Subcommittee members include Committee members, representatives from GOCO, CPW Trails Program staff, and volunteer peer reviewers. Appendix A lists the individual members who served on each subcommittee.

After receiving recommendations from the Committee and approval from the Commission, grants are awarded for non-motorized trails and LWCF projects on an annual basis.

### **The Non-Motorized Recreational Trails and LWCF Grant Review and Ranking Process**

All non-motorized trail and LWCF grant applications are evaluated and ranked against each other in their respective categories. CPW's grant application review and ranking process follows a four-tiered review and approval protocol. All grant applications are first reviewed by CPW wildlife field biologists and regional CPW staff. This process allows CPW to flag potential wildlife issues prior to the review by the subcommittees. While concerns may be flagged during this review, CPW's field staff attempt to resolve these concerns prior to the subcommittee's review. Regional Wildlife Impact summaries (Appendix E) are created and shared with the subcommittee reviewers and posted on our website.

Next, applications are evaluated by four grant review and ranking subcommittees: *the Construction subcommittee, the Maintenance subcommittee, the Planning/Support subcommittee, and the LWCF subcommittee*. Grant scores are the average of subcommittee member scores (up to seven volunteer reviewers per grant application) plus the average score of the CPW and GOCO staff reviewers, for a combined average score. The ranking subcommittees set a minimum grant funding score of 70 for the 2023 Non-Motorized Recreational Trails and LWCF grant application cycle. The volunteer reviewers represent a spectrum of recreation interests and park/natural resource professionals. The funding recommendations provided by the subcommittees and staff are based on a grant's rank and public input. The ranked applications are then passed to the Committee to evaluate the applications in ranked order and recommend funding strategies to the Commission. The Commission provides the final approval to the funded projects.

This process invites public review and comment at four separate stages: upon grant application submission, before the subcommittees, before the State Trails Committee and then before the Commission. To solicit public comment, proposed project descriptions are posted on the CPW’s website and all public comment is evaluated as part of the grant selection process.

**2023 Non-Motorized Recreational Trails and LWCF Grant Requests**

The breakdown of received grant applications and amounts requested by the four grant categories are as follows:

Grant Categories	Applications	Total \$ Requested
Construction	17	\$ 3,694,596.53
Maintenance	15	\$ 2,229,710.87
Planning/Support	12	\$ 503,500.00
Land and Water Conservation Fund	6	\$ 5,826,260.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>\$ 12,254,067.40</b>

**FUNDING:**

For the 2023 Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Grant cycle, approximately \$1,980,922.94 is available from GOCO and RTP funds. For the 2023 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant cycle, approximately \$5,826,260.00 is available.

Source of Funding	Dollars Awarded
Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)	\$ 1,000,000.00
Non-Motorized & Diversified Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	\$ 980,922.94
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	\$ 5,826,260.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,807,182.94</b>

**DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:**

For 2023, applications were reviewed and scored by volunteer reviewers, GOCO, and CPW Trails Program staff. One application was withdrawn by the applicant before final scoring.

Applicants presented project details before the subcommittees at the grant presentation meetings held January 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Regional Wildlife Impact summaries (Appendix E) were shared with the applicants and they were asked to address any specific comments/concerns for their application during their presentation. One recommended project - Bear Creek Trail - receive wildlife impact comments in their Regional Wildlife Summary. The applicant stated they have completed environmental assessments during the master plan process and will complete full environmental assessments during design to identify habitat protection measures. The remaining projects recommended for funding did not have wildlife concerns as

represented in Appendix E. Appendix B lists the scores for each grant application as determined by grant reviewers within each category.

Using direction from the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the State Trails Program’s Strategic Plan, and input from the subcommittee, the recommended funding allocations for each grant category for this year are as follows:

<b>Grant Category</b>	<b>Number of Grants</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Construction	4	\$ 678,591.55
Maintenance	8	\$ 1,129,331.39
Planning/Support	4	\$ 173,000.00
Land and Water Conservation Fund	6	\$ 5,826,260.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$ 7,807,182.94</b>

**DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff has provided the recommended funding spreadsheets for 2023 Non-Motorized Trails and LWCF Grants (Appendix C) and Project Summaries (Appendix D) for the Commission’s review and approval. It is suggested that minor adjustments of project funding levels be permitted at the discretion of the Division Director. Any further funding that is made available will be used to fund additional projects that scored a 70 or higher in order of rank or will be rolled into a future grant cycle.

If you have any questions on this information, or anything else related to the grants program, feel free to give me a call prior to the Commission meeting at (303) 791-1951 ext. 4129. Thank you.

# COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

## Appendix A

### State Recreational Trails Committee Members

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT/REPRESENTATION
<b>Jill Ozarski</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Expiration: 06/30/2025	District 1 <b>STC Committee Vice-chair</b> <b>NM Subcommittee Chair</b> <u>Non-motorized</u>
<b>Meara McQuain</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Expiration: 06/30/2025	District 2 <b>NM Subcommittee Chair</b> <u>Non-Motorized</u>
<b>Mick Daniel</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Expiration: 06/30/2024	District 3 <u>Diversified</u>
<b>Brad Schwartz</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Expiration: 06/30/2024	District 4 <u>Motorized</u>
<b>Jason Meyer</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Expiration: 06/30/2025	District 5 <b>NM Subcommittee Chair</b> <u>Local Government Representative</u>
<b>Vacant</b> Term Expiration: 06/30/2026	District 6
<b>Jack Placchi</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Expiration: 06/30/2025	District 7 <b>OHV Representative Non-motorized</b> <u>Non-Motorized</u>
<b>Bevin Carithers</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Expiration: 06/30/2026	District 8 <u>Non-Motorized</u>
<b>Janelle Kukuk</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Expiration 06/30/2024	At Large <b>STC Committee Chair</b> <b>Snowmobile Subcommittee Chair</b> <u>Motorized/Snowmobile Representative</u>
<b>Heather Hormell</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Expiration: 06/30/2026	At Large <b>OHV Subcommittee Chair</b> <u>Motorized/OHV Representative</u>
<b>Pamela Denahy</b> Term Expiration: N/A	GOCO Representative <b>NM Subcommittee Chair</b>

# COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

## Appendix A

### Colorado State Parks - Trails Program

#### Non-motorized Trails and LWCF Grant Application Reviewers

##### Application Reviewers

##### Subcommittee

**Pam Denahy**, *State Trails Committee, GOCO Representative*  
**Jack Placchi**, *State Trails Committee, District 7*  
**Hedda Peterson**, *Gunnison County Metro Rec. District*  
**Loretta McEllhiney**, *U.S. Forest Service*  
**Jeff Christenson**, *Bureau of Land Management*  
**Jarret Roberts**, *Boulder County Open Space*  
**Jackie Curry**, *Wildlands Restoration Volunteers*

##### Construction

**Meara McQuain**, *State Trails Committee, District 2*  
**Connor Maher**, *Colorado Mountain Club*  
**Tim Kugler**, *Gunnison Trails*  
**Teresa Martinez**, *Continental Divide Trail Coalition*  
**Kalem Lenard**, *Bureau of Land Management*  
**Mary McKean**, *National Park Service*  
**Dani Cook**, *U.S. Forest Service*  
**Matt Martinez**, *Jefferson County*

##### Maintenance

**Jason Meyer**, *El Paso County*  
**Anne Lowe**, *Town of Breckenridge*  
**Patrick Ortiz**, *San Luis Valley Great Outdoors*  
**Lisa Bondi**, *City of Boulder*  
**Ben Lara**, *U.S. Forest Service*  
**Emily Duncan**, *City of Colorado Springs*  
**Marisa Jarae**, *Rising Routes*  
**Amy Schwarzbach**, *City of Durango*

##### Planning/Support

**Jill Ozarski**, *State Trails Committee, District 1*  
**Loretta Pineda**, *Environmental Learning for Kids*  
**Sandra Bottoms**, *Arapahoe County*  
**Ture Nycum**, *City of Durango*  
**Martha Williamson**, *U.S. Forest Service*  
**Quinn Brett**, *National Park Service*  
**Scott Segerstrom**, *Colorado Youth Corps Association*  
**Bevin Carithers**, *Boulder County Parks & Open Space*  
**Tilah Larson**, *GOCO*

##### Land & Water Conservation Fund

##### *Reviewed All Grant Applications*

##### *GOCO Representatives:*

**Dan Zimmerer**, **Katie Smith**, **Adrian Varney**

<b>Josh Stoudt</b>	<i>SW Trails Coordinator</i>
<b>Randy Engle</b>	<i>NW Trails Coordinator</i>
<b>VACANT</b>	<i>SE Trails Coordinator</i>
<b>Lucas Svare</b>	<i>NE Trails Coordinator</i>
<b>Fletcher Jacobs</b>	<i>State Trails Program</i>

## Appendix B – Grant Reviewer Scores

### 2023 Construction

Grant #	Project Name/Sponsor	Volunteer Reviewer Scores							Score Averages	Averages with Outliers Removed	Staff Reviewer Scores				Score Averages	Averages with Outliers Removed	Final Score
		Pam Deasby	Laratte McElhinney	Jeff Christenson	Jarret Roberts	Jackie Curry	Hedda Peterson	Jack Placchi			Randy Eagle	Josh Stoudt	Luke Sware	GOCO			
1	Kiowa Creek Trail and MM Improv. Town of Bennett	80	85	71	74	76	74	81	74.43	74.43	81	75	83	69	77.00	77.00	<b>75.71</b>
3	Dutch Creek Regional Trail Foothills Park and Rec	84	72	75	78	91	87	91	82.57	82.57	83	82	80	83	82.00	82.00	<b>82.29</b>
6	Shavano Gateway Rec Area Montrose County	83	72	82	79	81	82	89	81.14	82.67	78	88	81	81	82.00	82.00	<b>82.33</b>
8	Himebaugh Gulch Loop Trail Town of Hot Sulphur Springs	82	81	77	78	83	74	80	79.29	79.29	83	87	85	86	85.25	85.25	<b>82.27</b>
16	North Fruita Desert Trail Mesa County Public Health	91	87	92	86	92	93	89	91.43	90.50	93	90	92	91	91.50	91.50	<b>91.00</b>
18	Fraser Valley Trails Redevelopment Headwaters Trails Alliance	85	85	88	84	90	88	89	87.00	87.00	92	85	87	77	85.25	88.00	<b>87.50</b>
21	Westwood Via Verde Trail Denver Parks and Rec	78	77	71	77	85	86	81	79.29	80.67	80	83	81	78	80.50	80.50	<b>80.58</b>
22	Virginia Canyon Mountain Park City of Idaho Springs	88	76	81	75	89	84	80	81.86	81.86	83	83	82	86	83.50	83.50	<b>82.68</b>
25	Maroon Creek Multi-Use Trail City of Aspen	70	78	70	77	79	87	82	77.57	77.57	75	82	77	75	77.25	77.25	<b>77.41</b>
30	Baker's Park Trail System Silverton Singletrack Society	86	79	83	77	90	90	87	84.57	84.57	84	87	85	85	85.25	85.25	<b>84.91</b>
34	Tabor Lake Trail City of Wheat Ridge	87	82	79	76	83	83	81	81.57	81.57	81	84	78	87	82.50	82.50	<b>82.04</b>
35	Miners Trail Delta County	84	54	71	81	78	82	81	75.86	79.50	91	85	83	89	87.00	87.00	<b>83.25</b>
37	West Steamboat Trail, Ph. 1 City of Steamboat Springs	84	83	78	75	81	88	90	82.71	82.71	81	81	79	80	80.25	80.25	<b>81.48</b>
40	Austin Bluffs Open Space Improv. City of Colorado Springs	88	78	78	81	82	83	89	82.71	82.71	82	84	84	83	83.25	83.25	<b>82.98</b>
47	Fall River Trail Project, Ph. 4 Town of Estes Park	83	87	81	79	90	90	86	85.14	85.14	80	82	76	78	79.00	79.00	<b>82.07</b>
49	Baca NWR Nature & Heritage Trail US Fish and Wildlife Service	89	71	76	79	85	90	78	81.14	81.14	78	87	88	89	85.50	85.50	<b>83.32</b>

## 2023 Maintenance

Grant #	Project Name/Sponsor	Volunteer Reviewer Scores								Score Averages	Averages with Outliers Removed	STAFF REVIEWER SCORES				Staff Score Averages	Staff Averages with Outliers	Final Score
		Meara McGee	Connor Maker	Tim Kegler	Teresa Martinec	Kalem Leard	Mary McKean	Matt Martinec	Dani Cook			Randy Eagle	Josh Stodt	Luke Svare	GOCO			
2	Weminuche Trails USFS Columbine RD	74	84	87	83	87	90	78	80	83	82.88	76	86	82	81	81.25	81.25	<b>82.06</b>
4	Devils Playground Improvement Rocky Mountain Field Institute	83	82	83	78	90	94	80	76	83	81.71	85	87	81	81	83.50	83.50	<b>82.61</b>
7	2023 Crested Butte Conservation Corps Crested Butte Mountain Bike Assoc.	77	77	RECUSE	76	84	75	78	82	78	78.43	87	89	83	89	87.00	87.00	<b>82.71</b>
14	Hanging Lake Trail Reconstruction National Forest Foundation	76	80	74	81	92	94	80	76	82	81.63	86	86	82	89	85.75	85.75	<b>83.69</b>
15	Wilderness Stewardship-Four Pass Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers	85	79	85	77	86	92	80	83	83	82.14	83	86	82	84	83.75	83.75	<b>82.95</b>
19	CO 14ers Statewide Maintenance Colorado Fourteeners Initiative	88	83	86	82	91	95	82	RECUSE	87	86.71	90	90	84	76	85.00	85.00	<b>85.86</b>
20	Oil Well Flats Fremont Adventure Recreation	80	84	81	77	RECUSE	84	81	74	80	80.14	78	90	88	80	84.00	84.00	<b>82.07</b>
23	Partnership for Stewardship 2023 Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	90	84	86	76	86	92	83	81	85	86.00	82	87	85	82	84.00	84.00	<b>85.00</b>
28	South Park RD Trail Maintenance USFS South Park RD	81	86	87	75	85	86	82	75	82	82.13	87	85	89	78	84.75	84.75	<b>83.44</b>
31	2023 GFO Non-Motorized Trail Crew BLM Gunnison Field Office	81	81	RECUSE	77	83	94	82	80	83	80.67	81	88	85	78	83.00	83.00	<b>81.83</b>
38	Trail Construction Services Maintenance Colorado Mountain Bike Association	82	RECUSE	85	68	86	75	82	80	80	81.67	83	89	87	88	86.75	86.75	<b>84.21</b>
39	Evergreen Lake North Trail Evergreen Park & Recreation District	88	74	82	72	83	77	RECUSE	81	80	79.57	72	83	83	84	80.50	80.50	<b>80.04</b>
42	Historic Monsoons Trail Damage Maint. San Luis Valley Great Outdoors	77	81	83	79	81	80	79	76	80	79.50	72	88	82	87	82.25	82.25	<b>80.88</b>
44	Pueblo Mountain Park Trail Maintenance Nature & Wildlife Discovery Center	82	86	87	81	88	94	85	82	86	84.43	80	87	91	84	85.50	85.50	<b>84.96</b>
45	Walsenburg Riverwalk Renovation Huerfano County	78	82	85	78	87	86	84	81	83	82.63	77	85	92	73	81.75	81.75	<b>82.19</b>

## 2023 Planning/Support

Grant #	Project Name/Sponsor	Volunteer Reviewer Scores								Score Averages	Averages with Outliers Removed	STAFF REVIEWER SCORES				Staff Score Averages	Staff Averages with Outliers	Final Score
		Jason Meger	Anne Lowe	Lisa Bondi	Ben Lara	Emily Duncan	Amg Schwartzbach	Marisa Jarae	Patrick Ortiz			Randy Engle	Josh Stoudt	Luke Svare	GOCO			
<b>Subcommittee-Planning-Support</b>																		
<b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b>																		
5	Mapping Trails with LIDAR Data Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	74	75	69	68	74	80	77	84	75	75.13	71	82	85	66	76	76.00	75.56
10	Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer Connection Rico Trail Alliance	95	80	70	77	80	86	71	94	82	81.63	84	85	88	76	83	83.25	82.44
13	59th Ave. Trailhead for Poudre River and Sheep Draw Trails City of Greeley Natural Areas	81	86	69	79	74	84	78	92	80	80.38	84	84	80	71	80	79.75	80.06
17	Chaffee County Strategic Trails System and Conservation Plan Envision Chaffee County	89	88	93	RECUSE	87	97	86	92	90	90.29	73	88	82	86	82	85.33	87.81
24	Envisioning Monument's Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Town of Monument	86	81	73	80	82	87	79	90	82	82.25	85	83	87	71	82	81.50	81.88
26	Snowmass Village Town Park Pond & Wetlands Recreation Town of Snowmass Village	78	75	66	82	74	85	89	85	79	81.14	80	83	84	73	80	80.00	80.57
46	Walsenburg Riverwalk Planning Huerfano County	92	81	68	87	87	88	58	96	82	85.57	83	90	81	82	84	84.00	84.79
<b>SUPPORT APPLICATIONS</b>																		
9	Trail Training Expansion Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado	93	85	88	90	79	91	94	87	88	89.71	89	90	90	84	88	88.25	88.98
11	Advancing Volunteer Capacity Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers	92	85	77	80	84	93	82	87	85	85.00	74	86	85	81	82	81.50	83.25
29	CDTC Field Instructors Continental Divide Trail Coalition	87	76	74	91	83	87	82	92	84	84.00	83	86	82	82	83	83.25	83.63
41	Training, Tools and Leaders Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	78	75	78	80	73	79	76	90	79	77.00	79	85	84	78	82	81.50	79.25
43	Empowering Mountain Communities in Conservation Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative	96	90	78	83	88	98	52	95	85	89.71	80	91	93	85	87	87.25	88.48

## 2023 Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Grant #	Project Name/Sponsor	Volunteer Reviewer Scores							Score Averages	Scores Averages excluding values <STDEVMin and >STDEVMax	Staff Reviewer Scores				Staff Score Averages	Staff Scores Averages excluding values <STDEVMin and >STDEVMax	Final Score
		Jill Ozarski	Loretta Pineda	Sandra Bottoms	Ture Ngcum	Bevin Carithers	Quinn Brett	Scott Segerstrom			Randy Engle	Josh Stoudt	Luke Svare	GOCO (Tilah)			
	<b>Subcommittee-LWCF</b>																
12	Play Fair Park City of Pueblo	74	86	68	75	81	83	77	78	79.33	83	82	88	80	83.25	83.25	81.29
32	Vail Pass Rest Area Replacement Colorado Dept. of Transportation	73	69	75	68	80	74	81	74	74.29	85	84	80	82	82.75	82.75	78.52
33	Bear Creek Park Denver Parks and Recreation	88	82	92	91	92	82	87	88	87.71	85	90	82	93	87.50	87.50	87.61
36	Trent Park Expansion Project Town of Silverthorne	91	88	93	91	91	77	86	88	90.00	87	92	90	93	90.50	90.50	90.25
48	Wright Park Redevelopment City of Lakewood	89	68	85	83	89	76	85	82	84.50	87	89	85	93	88.50	88.50	86.50

## Appendix C – Recommended Funding

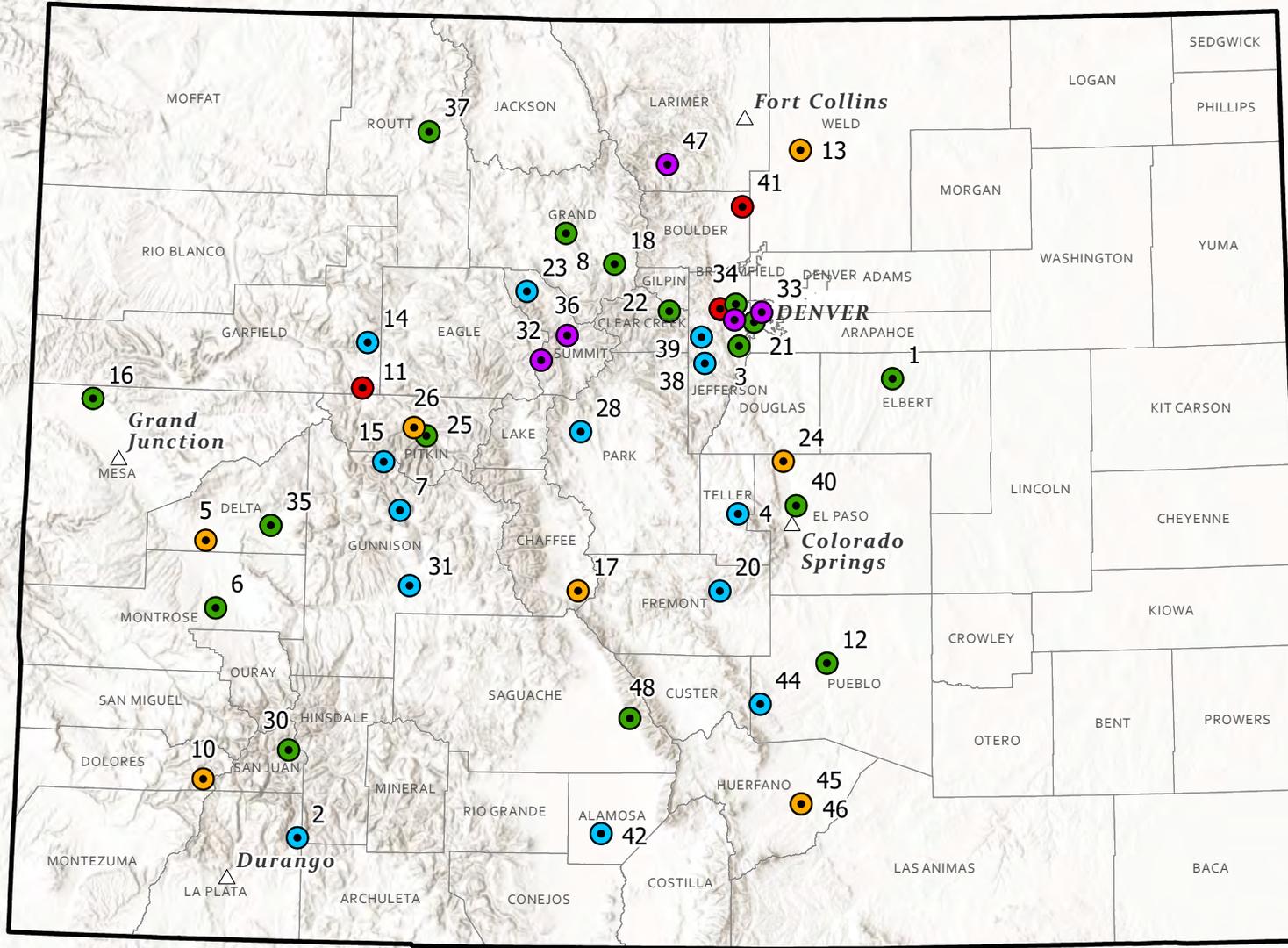
2023 CONSTRUCTION [GOCO/RTP]								
Grant #	Volunteer Reviewer Score	Staff Reviewer Score	Final Score	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Recommended Funding Amount	Total Cost
16	90.50	91.50	91.00	N. Fruita Desert Trail	Mesa County Public Health	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 419,098.00
18	87.00	88.00	87.50	Fraser Valley Trails Redevelopment	Headwaters Trails Alliance	\$ 130,938.00	\$ 130,938.00	\$ 256,330.00
30	84.57	85.25	84.91	Baker's Park Trail System	Silverton Singletrack Society	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 916,053.34
49	81.14	85.50	83.32	Baca National Wildlife Refuge Trail	U.S. Fish and Wildlife	\$ 47,653.55	\$ 47,653.55	\$ 100,269.55
35	79.50	87.00	83.25	Miners Trail	Delta County	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 2,616,914.00
40	82.71	83.25	82.98	Austin Bluffs Open Space Improvements	City of Colorado Springs	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 346,360.00
22	81.86	83.50	82.68	Virginia Canyon Mountain Park, Ph. 2	City of Idaho Springs	\$ 249,236.00		\$ 720,627.60
6	82.67	82.00	82.33	Shavano Gateway Recreation Area, Ph.1B	Montrose County	\$ 120,970.98		\$ 161,294.64
3	82.57	82.00	82.29	Dutch Creek Regional Trail	Foothills Parks & Rec District	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 3,229,979.00
8	79.29	85.25	82.27	Himebaugh Gulch Loop Trail	Town of Hot Sulphur Springs	\$ 25,145.00		\$ 527,253.16
47	85.14	79.00	82.07	Fall River Trail, Ph. 4	Town of Estes Park	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 312,500.00
37	82.71	80.25	81.48	W. Steamboat Trail, Ph. 1	City of Steamboat Springs	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 750,000.00
21	80.67	80.50	80.58	Westwood Via Verde Trail	Denver Parks & Recreation	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 1,215,443.00
25	77.57	77.25	77.41	Maroon Creek Multi-Use Trail	City of Aspen	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 3,628,712.02
1	74.43	77.00	75.71	Kiowa Creek Trail	Town of Bennett	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 312,500.00
27		WITHDRAWN		Town Park Completion - Wetland Phase	Town of Snowmass	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 5,146,564.00
<b>Total Construction Requested:</b>						<b>\$ 3,073,943.53</b>	<b>\$ 678,591.55</b>	<b>\$ 20,659,898.31</b>
2023 MAINTENANCE [GOCO/RTP]								
Grant #	Volunteer Reviewer Score	Staff Reviewer Score	Final Score	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Recommended Funding Amount	Total Cost
19	86.71	85.00	85.86	Colorado 14ers Statewide Maintenance	Colorado Fourteeners Initiative	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 869,768.74
23	86.00	84.00	85.00	Partnership for Trail Stewardship	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 229,829.72	\$ 576,482.57
44	84.43	85.50	84.96	Pueblo Mountain Park	Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center	\$ 30,978.00	\$ 30,978.00	\$ 77,768.00
38	81.67	86.75	84.21	Trail Conservation Services Maintenance	Colorado Mountain Bike Association	\$ 164,125.00	\$ 164,125.00	\$ 229,611.00
14	81.63	85.75	83.69	Hanging Lake Trail Reconstruction	National Forest Foundation	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 1,880,326.00
28	82.13	84.75	83.44	SPRD Trail Maintenance	South Park Ranger District	\$ 103,938.82	\$ 103,938.82	\$ 193,717.94
15	82.14	83.75	82.95	Wilderness Stewardship of Four-Pass Loop	Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers	\$ 50,459.85	\$ 50,459.85	\$ 121,526.75
7	78.43	87.00	82.71	2023 Crested Butte Conservation Corps	Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 239,562.65
4	81.71	83.50	82.61	Devils Playground Trail	Rocky Mountain Field Institute	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 409,500.00
45	82.63	81.75	82.19	Walsenburg Riverwalk Renovation	Huerfano County	\$ 29,050.00		\$ 36,450.00
20	80.14	84.00	82.07	Oil Well Flats	Fremont Adventure Recreation	\$ 26,136.00		\$ 34,848.00
2	82.88	81.25	82.06	Weminuche Trails	Columbine Ranger District	\$ 172,587.40		\$ 478,659.40
31	80.67	83.00	81.83	GFO Non-Motorized Crew	BLM Gunnison Field Office	\$ 77,580.80		\$ 124,387.80
42	79.50	82.25	80.88	Historic Monsoons Trail Maintenance	San Luis Valley Great Outdoors	\$ 247,893.00		\$ 322,723.50
39	79.57	80.50	80.04	Evergreen Lake N. Trail	Evergreen Park & Recreation District	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 5,027,903.00
<b>Total Maintenance Requested:</b>						<b>\$ 2,202,748.87</b>	<b>\$ 1,129,331.39</b>	<b>\$ 10,623,235.35</b>

2023 PLANNING [GOCO]								
Grant App #	Volunteer Reviewer Score	Staff Reviewer Score	Final Score	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Total Cost
17	90.23	85.33	<b>87.81</b>	Chaffee County Trails and Conservation	Envision Chaffee County	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 207,400.00
46	85.57	84.00	<b>84.79</b>	Walsenburg Riverwalk Planning	Huerfano County	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
10	81.63	83.25	<b>82.44</b>	Rio Grande S. Dolores Placer Connection	Rico Trails Alliance	\$ 13,500.00		\$ 28,500.00
24	82.25	81.50	<b>81.88</b>	Envisioning Monument's Parks, Trails, Open Spaces	Town of Monument	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 150,000.00
26	81.14	80.00	<b>80.57</b>	Town Park Pond & Wetlands Rec. Expansion	Town of Snowmass	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 62,000.00
13	80.38	79.75	<b>80.06</b>	59th Avenue Trailhead	City of Greeley Natural Areas & Trails	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 72,700.00
5	75.13	76.00	<b>75.56</b>	Mapping Trails with LiDAR	Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 60,750.00
<b>Total Planning Requested:</b>						<b>\$ 273,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 85,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 631,350.00</b>
2023 SUPPORT [GOCO]								
Grant App #	Volunteer Reviewer Score	Staff Reviewer Score	Final Score	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Total Cost
9	89.71	88.25	<b>88.98</b>	Trail Training Expansion	Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 58,916.79
43	89.71	87.25	<b>88.48</b>	Empowering Mountain Communities	Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 88,640.00
29	84.00	83.25	<b>83.63</b>	Continental Divide Trail Coalition Field Instructors	Continental Divide Trail Coalition	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 90,587.70
11	85.00	81.50	<b>83.25</b>	Advancing Volunteer Capacity	Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 368,700.00
41	77.00	81.50	<b>79.25</b>	Training, Tools, Leaders	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 152,712.60
<b>Total Support Requested:</b>						<b>\$ 218,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 88,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 759,557.09</b>

2023 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [LWCF]								
Grant App #	Volunteer	Staff Reviewer Score	Final Score	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Total Cost
36	90.00	90.50	<b>90.25</b>	Trent Park Expansion	Town of Silverthorne	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 2,581,431.19
33	87.71	87.50	<b>87.61</b>	Bear Creek Park	Denver Parks & Recreation	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 3,250,000.00
48	84.50	88.50	<b>86.50</b>	Wright Park Redevelopment	City of Lakewood	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 3,648,211.04
34	81.57	82.50	<b>82.04</b>	Tabor Lake Trail	City of Wheat Ridge	\$ 451,260.00	\$ 451,260.00	\$ 902,520.00
12	79.33	83.25	<b>81.29</b>	Play Fair Park	City of Pueblo	\$ 875,000.00	\$ 875,000.00	\$ 1,750,000.00
32	74.29	82.75	<b>78.52</b>	Vail Pass Rest Area Replacement	Colorado Department of Transportation	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 25,465,000.00
<b>Total LWCF Requested:</b>						<b>\$ 5,826,260.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,826,260.00</b>	<b>\$ 37,597,162.23</b>



# Non-Motorized and LWCF Grant Submissions Fiscal Year 2023



## Grant Name

- 1 Kiowa Creek Trail
- 2 Weminuche Trails
- 3 Dutch Creek Regional Trail
- 4 Devils Playground Trail
- 5 Mapping Trails with LiDAR
- 6 Shavano Gateway Rec Area Phase 1B
- 7 Crested Butte Conservation Corps (2023)
- 8 Himebaugh Gulch Loop Trail
- 9 Trail Training Expansion
- 10 Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer
- 11 Advancing Volunteer Capacity
- 12 Play Fair Park
- 13 59th Ave Trailhead
- 14 Hanging Lake Trail
- 15 Stewardship of Four-Pass Loop
- 16 North Fruita Desert Trail
- 17 Chaffee County Strategic Trails System
- 18 Fraser Valley Trails
- 19 Colorado 14ers Statewide Maintenance
- 20 Oil Well Flats
- 21 Westwood Via Verde Trail
- 22 Virginia Canyon Mountain Park Phase 2
- 23 WRV Partnership for Trail Stewardship
- 24 Monument Parks, Trails, & Open Spaces
- 25 Maroon Creek Multi-Use Trail
- 26 Snowmass Village Pond & Wetlands
- 28 South Park Trail Maintenance
- 29 Continental Divide Trail Coalition
- 30 Baker's Park Trail System
- 31 GFO Non-Motorized Trail Crew
- 32 Vail Pass Rest Area
- 33 Bear Creek Park Design Phase 1
- 34 Tabor Lake Trail
- 35 Miners Trail
- 36 Trent Park Expansion Project
- 37 West Steamboat Trail Phase 1
- 38 Trail Conservation Services Team
- 39 Evergreen Lake North Trail
- 40 Austin Bluffs Open Space
- 41 Training, Tools, Leaders
- 42 Monsoons Trail Damage Maintenance
- 43 Mountain Communities in Conservation
- 44 Pueblo Mountain Park Trail
- 45 Walsenburg Riverwalk Renovation
- 46 Walsenburg Riverwalk Planning
- 47 Fall River Trail Phase 4
- 48 Wright Park Redevelopment
- 49 Baca NWR Nature & Heritage Trail

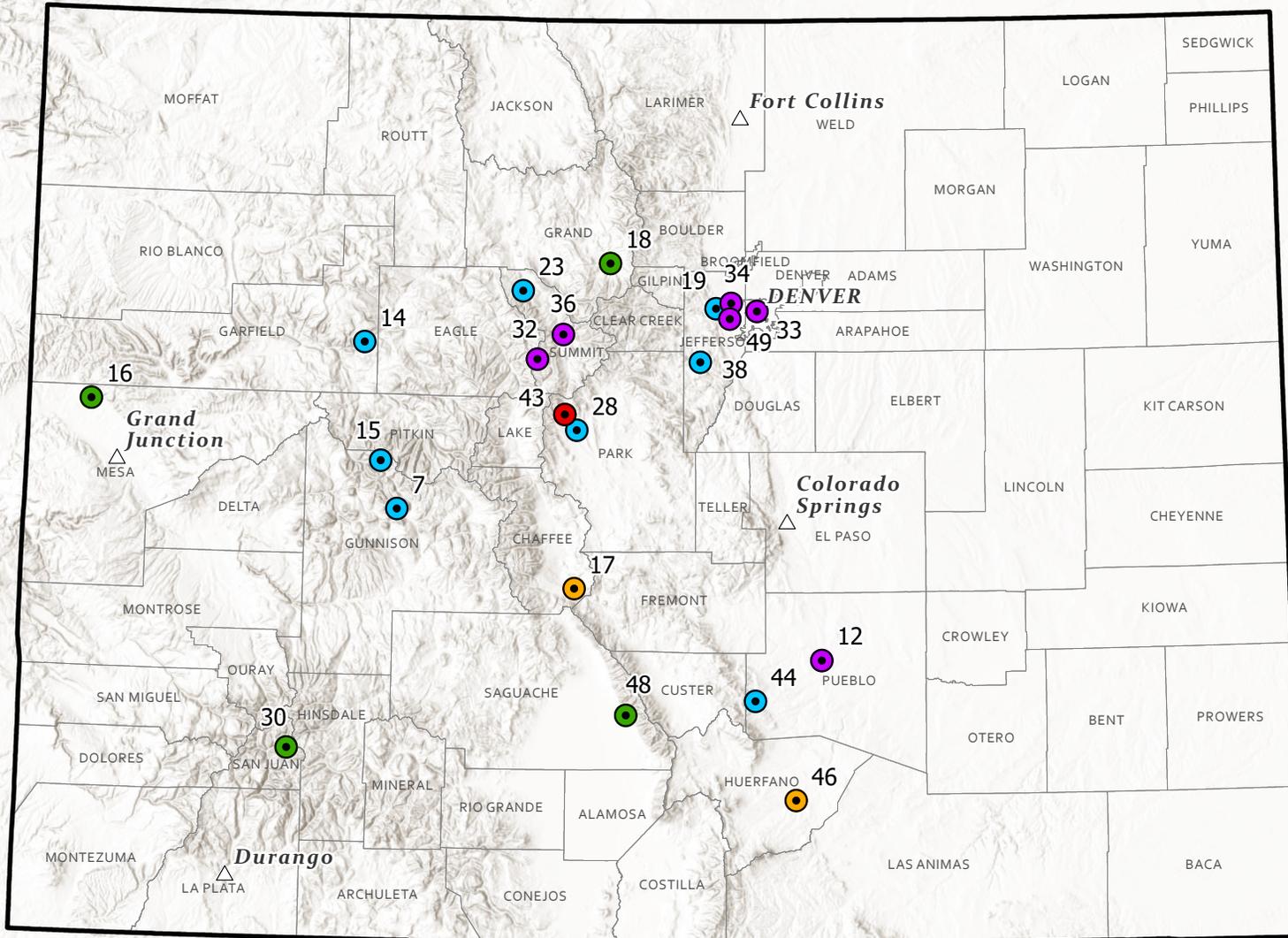
## Grant Category

- Construction
- Maintenance
- LWCF
- Support
- Planning





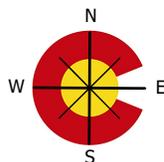
Non-Motorized and LWCF Grant Recommendations 2023



Grant Name
7 Crested Butte Conservation Corps (2023)
9 Trail Training Expansion
12 Play Fair Park
14 Hanging Lake Trail
15 Stewardship of Four-Pass Loop
16 North Fruita Desert Trail
17 Chaffee County Strategic Trails System
18 Fraser Valley Trails
19 Colorado 14ers Statewide Maintenance
23 WRV Partnership for Trail Stewardship
28 South Park Trail Maintenance
30 Baker's Park Trail System
32 Vail Pass Rest Area
33 Bear Creek Park Design Phase 1
34 Tabor Lake Trail
36 Trent Park Expansion Project
38 Trail Conservation Services Team
43 Mountain Communities in Conservation
44 Pueblo Mountain Park Trail
46 Walsenburg Riverwalk Planning
48 Wright Park Redevelopment

Grant Category

- Construction
- Maintenance
- LWCF
- Support
- Planning





# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

### STATE TRAILS PROGRAM

### 2023 Non-Motorized Trails and Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Summaries

<b>CONSTRUCTION APPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>Project Number/Region</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>1-NE</b>	<b>Kiowa Creek Trail and Multi Model Improvement Project</b>	<b>Town of Bennett</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$312,500.00</b>
<p>The project will create a nearly 3-mile long and 8ft wide concrete trail that connects our downtown business district to the Kiowa Creek North Open Space and will connect Adams and Arapahoe County. The project will include erosion control, native plant seeding, grading, riprap armoring and the construction of the trail.</p>				
<b>3-NE</b>	<b>Dutch Creek Regional Trail Completion Project</b>	<b>Foothills Park &amp; Recreation District</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,229,979.00</b>
<p>This project will allow the completion of the Dutch Creek Regional Trail (DCRT) between Kipling Parkway and the C-470 Trail. The goal of the completion is to connect open gaps in the trail alignment, provide a direct connection to other regional trails, and increase connections to many recreational amenities. The proposed trail connections will travel approximately 2 miles, creating a 6-mile long continuous east/west trail between Weaver Park and the C-470 trail.</p>				
<b>6-SW</b>	<b>Shavano Gateway Recreation Area – Phase 1B</b>	<b>Montrose County</b>	<b>\$120,970.98</b>	<b>\$161,294.64</b>
<p>The proposed project will continue improvement of the Shavano Gateway Recreation Trailhead. The site, in unincorporated Montrose County, is approximately seven miles southwest of the City of Montrose. This project would continue efforts completed in Phase 1A of the project by installing parking delineators, concrete wheel stops, a fence gate, signs, picnic tables, shelters and clearing and grubbing as well as constructing storm water drainage components, restroom facilities and ADA parking stall.</p>				
<b>8_NW</b>	<b>Himebaugh Gulch Loop Trail</b>	<b>Town of Hot Sulphur Springs</b>	<b>\$25,145.00</b>	<b>\$527,253.16</b>
<p>The proposed project will be located in Himebaugh Gulch, a 275 acre area of open space located on the south side of Hot Sulphur Springs. The project consists of constructing up to 2,000 feet of new, single-track trail along with culverts to span two small intermittent streams. The new trail will connect two existing trails to create a loop opportunity and minimize use of one of the area's access points in a residential neighborhood.</p>				
<b>16-NW</b>	<b>North Fruita Desert Trail Construction</b>	<b>Mesa County Public Health</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$419,098.00</b>
<p>This project will fund the construction of 25 miles of natural surface single-track trails at the North Fruita Desert Specialized Recreation Management Area. The advanced areas across the three trails to be constructed will be built by a professional contractor while the remaining sections of trail will be built by a non-motorized trail crew with expertise in both construction and maintenance.</p>				
<b>18-NW</b>	<b>Fraser Valley Trails Redevelopment Project</b>	<b>Headwaters Trail Alliance</b>	<b>\$130,938.00</b>	<b>\$256,330.00</b>
<p>This project is the last phase of trail redevelopment for two multi-year landscape level trail system projects in the Fraser Valley in Grand County. The primary goal of both projects is to better balance recreational desires with conservation values as these projects promote sustainable trail design and improve the user experience through a diversification of features and construction techniques. The new trail construction and reroutes resolve steep, fall line gradients, poor alignment, erosion, sedimentation into creeks, poor connectivity, trail braiding, and wildlife habitat fragmentation.</p>				

## 2023 Non-Motorized Trail and LWCF Grant Summaries

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Cost
<b>21-NE</b>	<b>Westwood Via Verde Trail</b>	<b>Denver Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,215,443.00</b>
<p>The Westwood Via Verde Trail will construct 1100' of new, 10' wide concrete trail, and remove an existing 8' trail to construct an additional 1500' of new 10' concrete trail, to meet Denver's local trail standard. The project scope also includes ADA curb ramp upgrades, curb extensions and a raised crossing of Irving St. to increase safety for students walking to and from school. Other elements include green infrastructure, irrigation upgrades, tree planting, pollinator habitat, and native restoration. The Via Verde Trail is located in the Westwood neighborhood in Denver, Colorado.</p>				
<b>22-NE</b>	<b>Virginia Canyon Mountain Park – Phase 2</b>	<b>City of Idaho Springs</b>	<b>\$249,236.00</b>	<b>\$720,627.60</b>
<p>The project involves constructing of Phase 2 of hiking and mountain biking trails in Virginia Canyon Mountain Park (VCMP). Phase 2 will add 3.7 miles of trail to the 4.3 miles of trail built in Phase 1. The project will construct 2 downhill bike-only trails, a bi-directional hiking trail and an uphill-only bike trail, all intermediate difficulty. This project hopes to represent a new model for balancing the conservation of valuable habitat with providing much-needed recreation opportunities on public lands. VCMP is located next to the Clear Creek Greenway in the City of Idaho Springs.</p>				
<b>25-NW</b>	<b>Maroon Creek Multi Use Trail</b>	<b>City of Aspen</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,628,712.02</b>
<p>This project will construct 5,245 linear feet of ADA accessible multi-use trail with the goal of providing a safe pedestrian connection between downtown Aspen and the Maroon Creek Valley. The trail will be a mixture of concrete and asphalt and will require retaining walls as well as pedestrian railings. The proposed Maroon Creek Multi-Use Trail will parallel Maroon Creek Road crossing Pitkin County, private and City of Aspen lands.</p>				
<b>30-SW</b>	<b>Baker's Park Trail System</b>	<b>Silverton Singletrack Society</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$916,053.34</b>
<p>Baker's Park will create approximately 30 miles of rolling contour, natural surface single-track that offers experiences for all skill levels, fosters community involvement, preserves open space and bolsters the local economy. 24 miles will be shared use, and nearly 6 miles will be one-way trails designed for bikes. Baker's Park will be built in San Juan County on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Gunnison Field Office, adjacent to Silverton.</p>				
<b>35-SW</b>	<b>Miners Trail</b>	<b>Delta County</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,616,914.00</b>
<p>The project is to build a 7.7 mile single-track connection trail from the Town of Hotchkiss to facilities at North Fork High School, Rec District, the Nature Connection and surrounding facilities. The trail will allow students and the public safe access to these facilities without having to walk or bike on the shoulder of the heavily travelled State Highway 92.</p>				
<b>37-NW</b>	<b>West Steamboat Trail – Phase 1</b>	<b>City of Steamboat Springs</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$750,000.00</b>
<p>This project will construct 750 linear feet of concrete sidewalk and 1,450 linear feet of concrete core trail connecting the terminus of the Yampa River Core Trail in West Steamboat. The trail will create a safe off-highway and grade separated bicycle and pedestrian trail that will increase connectivity between the West Steamboat neighborhoods and the rest of Steamboat Springs and improve access to recreational opportunities.</p>				
<b>40-SE</b>	<b>Austin Bluffs Open Space Improvements and Trailhead Construction</b>	<b>City of Colorado Springs</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$346,360.00</b>
<p>This project will contribute to the construction of an official trailhead, trail connectivity, and wayfinding within Austin Bluffs Open Space (ABOS). Construction will include installing signage throughout the trail system, 1.5 miles of new trail and improvements on 2.5 miles of trail. This construction will also link the ABOS Regional Trail to nearby urban trails, neighborhoods, and other amenities. This project is located in Colorado Springs.</p>				
<b>47-NW</b>	<b>Fall River Trail Project – Phase 4</b>	<b>Town of Estes Park</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,400,000.00</b>
<p>This project will complete the final 0.7 miles of the overall 2.5 mile Fall River Trail Project. This project will connect downtown Estes Park to Rocky Mountain National Park with a multi-modal trail (8' to 10' wide). The trail will increase access to recreational opportunities and ensure that alternative transportation options are offered to help reduce travel times and air pollution, and to preserve Colorado's transportation structure.</p>				

### 2023 Non-Motorized Trail and LWCF Grant Summaries

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Cost
49-SW	Baca National Wildlife Refuge – Nature and Heritage Trail	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$47,653.55	\$100,269.55

The proposed project aims to connect the Town of Crestone to the Baca Visitor Center with 1.3 miles of natural surface trail. The goal of the trail is to provide residents and visitors an alternative access route to the Baca National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) without walking or biking on the narrow county road and continue to protect wildlife habitats within and around the refuge.

### MAINTENANCE APPLICATIONS

Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Cost
2-SW	Weminuche Trails	USFS Columbine Ranger District	\$172,587.40	\$478,659.40

The proposal is for a large scale trail maintenance project in the Pine River drainage located in the Weminuche Wilderness. The main objective of this project is to complete log out on approximately 69 miles of non-motorized trail in the drainage using crosscut saws and hand tools. There are also two dirt projects that have been identified where crews will improve 2.25 miles of the Pine River Trail #523. The majority of the project landscape is located in Hinsdale County.

4-SE	Devils Playground Trail Improvement Project	Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI)	\$250,000.00	\$409,500.00
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This project will continue the construction of an approximate 4-mile reroute of the Devils Playground Trail to the top of Pikes Peak. The project is designed to reduce visitor impacts to the surrounding natural resources and enhance the quality and safety of the recreational experience on Pikes Peak. The estimated on-the-ground project deliverables include 6,000 linear feet of new trail, construction of ~500 steps/risers, ~1,500 linear feet of monowall, and ~4,500 square feet of retaining wall. The project is located on the Pike National Forest, south of Divide, CO in Teller County.

7-SW	2023 Crested Butte Conservation Corps	Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association	\$50,000.00	\$239,562.65
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The 2023 Crested Butte Conservation Corps (CBCC) will assist land managers, stakeholders, municipalities, and open space partners in the stewardship and maintenance of trails and sustainable recreation in the north end of the Gunnison Valley. In 2023, CBCC crews will maintain over 50 miles of non-motorized trails on the District and on adjacent open spaces, cutting over 300 downed trees to prevent trail braiding and resource damage, and continue to provide stewardship efforts to enhance user experiences, minimize impacts, and provide for sustainable recreation.

14-NW	Hanging Lake Trail Reconstruction	National Forest Foundation	\$250,000.00	\$1,880,326.00
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This project will reconstruct a permanent, sustainable and more resilient trail up to Hanging Lake. The scope of this proposal includes the reconstruction of 1.2 miles of trail tread, six bridges, interpretive signage and wayside additions, trailhead improvements, and habitat/ecological restoration work focused on revegetating areas near the trail and stream impacted by the debris flows. The Hanging Lake Trail, Forest Service Trail #1850, is located off I-70 in Glenwood Canyon just 10 miles east of Glenwood Springs in Garfield County, Colorado.

15-NW	Wilderness Stewardship of the Four-Pass Loop	Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers	\$50,459.85	\$121,526.75
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This project would continue a backcountry wilderness stewardship program that addresses deferred maintenance on highly popular trails in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. The project focus is working on three priority trails that make up the iconic Four Pass Loop. Some work priorities include: installing drainages, hardening/armoring water crossings, revegetation efforts and stabilization efforts.

### 2023 Non-Motorized Trail and LWCF Grant Summaries

MAINTENANCE CONTINUED	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Cost
<b>19-Statewide</b>	<b>Colorado 14ers Statewide Maintenance Program</b>	<b>Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI)</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$869,768.74</b>
<p>This program will allow CFI to hire and deploy 8 experienced trail crew leaders to directly perform and/or oversee volunteers working to perform 40.9 miles of routine trail maintenance, 5.5 miles of more intensive trail reconstruction (within existing trail corridors) and close, stabilize and restore 1.08 miles of old social trails during the 2023 and 2024 summer field seasons on fifteen 14,000-foot peaks across Colorado.</p>				
<b>20-SE</b>	<b>Oil Well Flats</b>	<b>Fremont Adventure Recreation</b>	<b>\$26,136.00</b>	<b>\$34,848.00</b>
<p>This project is for high-level maintenance on the Oil Well Flats trail system. The trail system is about 15 miles in total and about 7.5 miles has moderate to severe maintenance needs. The proposed work would be rebuilding eroded tread, drainage improvements, removal of loose rocks, rock work, maintenance on technical trail features, and site line improvements. The other 7.5 miles of trail have minimal to moderate damage which can be remediated with the help of a trail crew. Oil Well Flats is located about 6 miles north of the town of Cañon City in Fremont County.</p>				
<b>23-NE</b>	<b>Partnership for Stewardship 2023</b>	<b>Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV)</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$576,482.57</b>
<p>This project will mobilize Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) extensive volunteer community to help with wilderness corridor clearing statewide and conduct trail maintenance/reconstruction projects at Surprise Lake Trail in the White River National Forest near Silverthorne and the Lady Moon ADA Trail in the Arapaho Roosevelt Nation Forest near Red Feather Lakes. Scope will include: 50+ miles of trail corridor clearing, 12,000 feet of rerouted trail with 13,000 feet of closure/rehab, 10,000 feet of ADA trails and 700' of ADA boardwalk, and benefiting over 150 acres of trail-side habitat.</p>				
<b>28-NE</b>	<b>South Park Ranger District – Trail Maintenance</b>	<b>South Park Ranger District</b>	<b>\$103,938.82</b>	<b>\$193,717.94</b>
<p>The USFS South Park Ranger District will hire and lead a 3-person, seasonal, non-motorized trail crew to perform routine and backlogged maintenance on the 271 miles of system trails on the District in the Pike National Forest. The crew will be expected to maintain all trails to USDA Forest Service Standard Trail Plans and Specifications as provided by the Agency. The crew will focus on priority areas, and work across the entire district to ensure a robust and sustainable trail system.</p>				
<b>31-SW</b>	<b>2023 GFO Non-Motorized Trail Crew</b>	<b>BLM Gunnison Field Office</b>	<b>\$77,580.80</b>	<b>\$124,387.80</b>
<p>This project will expand the scope of our trail maintenance work to better meet the needs of the non-motorized recreating public. Specifically, the crew will clear corridor on 30 miles of non-motorized trail, build log stringer bridges to improve visitor experience and improve sustainability on 2 trails, improve drainage on the Powderhorn Lakes trail, perform deferred maintenance on the Beaver Creek trail, improve Wilderness trailhead kiosks, and educate trail users on responsible recreation and leave no trace.</p>				
<b>38-NE</b>	<b>Trail Construction Services Maintenance Team</b>	<b>Colorado Mountain Bike Association</b>	<b>\$164,125.00</b>	<b>\$229,611.00</b>
<p>This project will support a 4-8 person professional trail maintenance crew for at least a 5-month season (May-October in 2023) focusing primarily on repairing public single track trails in the Clear Creek and South Platte Ranger Districts. Funding will additionally support the rental of trail building equipment to enable heavier repairs addressing a wider range of trail needs. Maintenance and repair of these heavily used trails is critical to ensure that they remain safe with increased use while minimizing the impact on surrounding wildlife habitats and sensitive ecosystems.</p>				
<b>39-NE</b>	<b>Evergreen Lake North Trail</b>	<b>Evergreen Park &amp; Recreation District</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>	<b>\$5,027,903</b>
<p>The project will create an accessible, multimodal trail on the north side of Evergreen Lake, on the western edge of unincorporated Jefferson County. The project is part of the 1.25-mile Loop Trail around Evergreen Lake, within Dedisse Park owned by the City &amp; County of Denver (Denver). The project will improve 1,300 feet of existing soft-surface trail on the north side of Evergreen Lake, creating a two-level trail system to accommodate a variety of users and modalities, increase safety, and fix failing infrastructure.</p>				

## 2023 Non-Motorized Trail and LWCF Grant Summaries

MAINTENANCE CONTINUED	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Cost
42-SW	<b>Historic Monsoons Trail Damage Maintenance</b>	<b>San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!)</b>	<b>\$247,893.00</b>	<b>\$322,723.50</b>
<p>The proposed maintenance project will address the needs of several highly used trails in 3 US National Forest districts; Divide, Conejos Peak, and Saguache. Trails in these area experienced a heavy monsoon season resulting in significant damage to trails without proper drainage or infrastructure. Work on these trails will include stone paving, water bars, removing berms, and armored drains in order to improve trail drainage and tread sustainability.</p>				
44-SE	<b>Pueblo Mountain Park – Trail Maintenance</b>	<b>Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center (NWDC)</b>	<b>\$30,978.00</b>	<b>\$77,768.00</b>
<p>This project will conduct multiple trail maintenance/reconstruction projects on three trails covering 3.28 miles, over the course of two years. The projects will highlight NWDC's commitment to community engagement and environmental education opportunities. The project will entail the installation of new signage throughout the park's trail system to increase trail head visibility, clarify user access, and clearly mark intersections. Pueblo Mountain Park is located in Beulah, Colorado adjacent to the San Isabel National Forest.</p>				
45-SE	<b>Walsenburg Riverwalk Renovation Maintenance Project</b>	<b>Huerfano County</b>	<b>\$29,050.00</b>	<b>\$36,450.00</b>
<p>This project will increase accessibility to the Riverwalk by adding ADA-compliant surfacing to approximately 1500 feet of trail along the river and installing lighting, signs, handrails, picnic tables and benches where appropriate. The project will take place on Huerfano County-owned land along the Cucharas River behind Fiesta Park in Walsenburg, Colorado.</p>				
PLANNING AND SUPPORT APPLICATIONS				
Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Cost
5-SW [Planning]	<b>Mapping Trails with LIDAR Data</b>	<b>Backcountry Hunters &amp; Anglers</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$60,750.00</b>
<p>This project will assist in identifying routes throughout the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests using ArcGIS mapping software and newly available LIDAR data. The LIDAR data would provide high-resolution imagery to survey existing routes across the approximately 3-million acre forest. The project will provide a better understanding of existing system routes and also the location of unauthorized routes on the forest.</p>				
10-SW [Planning]	<b>Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer Connection</b>	<b>Rico Trails Alliance</b>	<b>\$13,500.00</b>	<b>\$28,500.00</b>
<p>This project will develop a plan for a segment of trail that will serve as an important connector of the historic Rio Grande Southern railroad grade trail on the Dolores Placer parcel. This component of the Galloping Goose Trail makes the regional trail system more accessible to more people than many of other trail in the area, thus providing more recreational opportunities to regional residents and visitors. The project will take place in Dolores County approximately one mile south of Rico.</p>				
13-NE [Planning]	<b>59<sup>th</sup> Ave. Trailhead for Poudre River and Sheep Draw Trails</b>	<b>City of Greeley Natural Areas &amp; Trails Division</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$72,700.00</b>
<p>The planning project will develop a site plan and 80% construction drawings for a new trailhead to serve users on both Poudre River and Sheep Draw trails. Project activities include an analysis and site plan of two possible locations for the trailhead to choose the most appropriate site. The analysis will look at traffic on 59th Avenue, site conditions and other criteria of each site. The design will include a connecting paved path from the trailhead to the primary trail. The two locations being considered are north of the Cache la Poudre River in Greeley's Cottonwood Bend Natural Area or south of the river on the west side of 59th Avenue in Sheep Draw Natural Area.</p>				

### 2023 Non-Motorized Trail and LWCF Grant Summaries

PLAN/SUPPORT CONTINUED	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Cost
<b>17-SE [Planning]</b>	<b>Chaffee County Strategic Trails System &amp; Conservation Plan</b>	<b>Envision Chaffee County</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$207,400.00</b>
<p>This project is a regional planning effort to identify priorities for trail improvements and opportunities to reduce impacts to wildlife, natural resources and agricultural operations. The scope focuses on all lands in Chaffee County, encompassing 400 miles of designated trails spanning land managed by different agencies and municipalities. The project includes four phases with funding going toward phases 1 and 2 which are developing a current trails system inventory and conditions assessment and a current trails system critical needs and opportunities action plan.</p>				
<b>24-SE [Planning]</b>	<b>Envisioning Monument’s Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces</b>	<b>Town of Monument</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$150,000.00</b>
<p>This project will create a much-needed update to the Town of Monument’s (TOM) Parks Master Plan, and will be overseen by the Parks and Open Spaces Department (POSD). This project focuses on parks, open spaces, and trails (existing and proposed) in the 4.6 square miles within the Town of Monument, and how to best achieve connectivity between these resources and with outside resources (i.e. El Paso County trails and park spaces). A priority of this project is connectivity with regional trails and spaces.</p>				
<b>26-NW [Planning]</b>	<b>Snowmass Village Town Park Pond &amp; Wetlands Recreation Expansion</b>	<b>Town of Snowmass Village</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$62,000.00</b>
<p>This project will be a three phase project to expand the town park. This project will contribute to the planning and design of ADA paths around the pond and the wetlands, the single-track connection trail through the perimeter, the boardwalks along the waterway, and planned bridge connection to Town owned property and Pitkin County’s Sky Mountain Park. These improvements will have a major impact on recreation in Snowmass Village.</p>				
<b>46-SE [Planning]</b>	<b>Walsenburg Riverwalk Planning Project</b>	<b>Huerfano County</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
<p>This project will result in the development of a master plan for a 2024 Walsenburg Riverwalk Renovation Project. The project would maintain the Riverwalk trail in two phases. The plan will include necessary trail maintenance and weed removal to clean up the area and provide an oasis for locals and visitors alike. The fundamental goal of this project is to increase accessibility of this space to Huerfano residents without sacrificing, and indeed while benefiting, the surrounding ecosystem.</p>				
<b>9-NE [Support]</b>	<b>Trail Training Expansion</b>	<b>Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$58,916.79</b>
<p>Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) will utilize this support grant to expand our Outdoor Stewardship Institute (OSI) training program. They will invest in the OSI training program with a particular focus on increasing the number of people with advanced trail skills, inspiring “regular” volunteers to take on leadership roles, moving trained leaders along a defined leadership pathway, and locating a portion of sessions at targeted trail systems, thereby creating training-to-project demonstration hubs. VOC projects will span a variety of geographic areas.</p>				
<b>11-NW [Support]</b>	<b>Advancing Volunteer Capacity</b>	<b>Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$368,700.00</b>
<p>The requested funding will support two years (2023/2024) of partial salary and benefits for RFOV’s Program Coordinator position. This position is responsible for overseeing our custom group projects and Adopt-a-Trail programs throughout our service area. This position is also charged with growing our volunteer participation in Western Garfield County by 30% through dedicated outreach and partnership cultivation.</p>				
<b>29-NE [Support]</b>	<b>Continental Divide Trail Coalition Field Instructors</b>	<b>Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC)</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$90,587.70</b>
<p>The project will support two full-time, seasonal Field Instructors within the CDTC’s Field Programs Department in Colorado. The Field Instructors will implement CDTC volunteer trail work projects and CDTC Adopter Trainings across the 740 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) in Colorado. The funding will increase capacity to develop and foster authentic partnerships with individuals and organizations that support volunteer capacity and engagement along the CDT and help bring the CDT up to National Scenic Trail Standards.</p>				

## 2023 Non-Motorized Trail and LWCF Grant Summaries

PLAN/SUPPORT CONTINUED	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Cost
41-NE [Support]	Training, Tools & Leaders	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV)	\$45,000.00	\$152,712.60
<p>This project seeks support to build capacity for trails projects. Specific activities would include upgrading the website for accessible trail leader resources and volunteer recruitment, plan and implement different level volunteer courses, purchase materials and to send staff members to trails conference. This project will help expand the leadership base and increase the ability to undertake more projects.</p>				
43-NE-NW [Support]	Empowering Mountain Communities in Conservation	Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI)	\$43,000.00	\$88,640.00
<p>MRHI seeks support to boost organizational volunteer capacity to address the increased need to repair and improve existing trails in the South Park Ranger District, Park County, and within the Pike-San Isabel National Forest. Specific activities to be completed include: hiring a Volunteer Coordinator; recruiting new and diverse volunteers; developing structured volunteer engagement program; expanding volunteer trainings; and accomplishing on-the-ground work targeting trails/riparian areas of highest need as determined by project partners and land managers.</p>				
LAND WATER AND CONSERVATION FUND APPLICATIONS				
Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Cost
12-SE	Play Fair Park	City of Pueblo	\$875,000.00	\$1,750,000.00
<p>The project will create Southern Colorado's first accessible and inclusive playground - Play Fair Park – to help develop cognitive, physical, social and sensory skills. It will also serve as a way to promote outdoor recreation. Funds will be used to add trails to an existing, centrally located park to offer a range of outdoor experiences to people with varying abilities. This will include converting approximately 2,250 linear feet of gravel trail to concrete and building a paved fishing dock for wheelchair access.</p>				
32-NW	Vail Pass Rest Area Replacement	Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)	\$1,250,000.00	\$25,465,000.00
<p>The proposed project will replace the Vail Pass Rest Area (VPRA). The new VPRA will include a new rest area building, a new building for the Forest Service to manage recreation traffic, a new dedicated parking lot for snowmobiles, an expanded parking lot for all other recreation traffic, and a dedicated and separated route for the Vail Pass Bike Path.</p>				
33-NE	Bear Creek Park	Denver Parks & Recreation	\$1,250,000.00	\$3,250,000.00
<p>The Bear Creek Park project will focus on increasing access to the trail from surrounding neighborhoods, ADA compliance and improvements, replacement of aging and deteriorating bridge structures, and widening the trail to Denver Parks &amp; Recreation's regional trail standards to accommodate increased usage along this important corridor.</p>				
34-NE	Tabor Lake Trail	City of Wheat Ridge	\$451,260.00	\$902,520.00
<p>This project involved constructing the Tabor Lake Trail in northwest Wheat Ridge in Jefferson County. The Tabor Lake Trail will be .7 miles long, 8'-10' wide, will connect to the Peaks to Plains Trail and W. 44th Ave, will encircle Tabor Lake with a safe, stable, accessible trail, and will be located within the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt open space area. The proposed trail design will include ~.3 miles of concrete connection between W.44th Ave and Tabor St. to the Peaks to Plains Trail along the west side of the lake and ~.4 miles of crusher fines along the north and east sides of the lake.</p>				
36-NW	Trent Park Expansion Project	Town of Silverthorne	\$1,250,000.00	\$2,581,431.19
<p>Town of Silverthorne will expand the existing 3.8-acre Trent Park on to 7.8 adjacent, underutilized acres, adding amenities requested by the community during a robust planning and visioning process, such as a shelter with restrooms, multi-purpose field, hard surface pump track, rock-climbing wall, and a basketball court. As new housing developments continue to bring in new residents and park users, the park expansion will ensure adequate and equitable access to this vital community recreational resource for working families.</p>				

**2023 Non-Motorized Trail and LWCF Grant Summaries**

<b>LWCF CONTINUED</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>48-NE</b>	<b>Wright Park Redevelopment</b>	<b>City of Lakewood</b>	<b>\$750,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,648,211.04</b>

This project will focus on improvements for Wright Park, a 10-acre neighborhood park located west of Union Blvd and south of Sixth Ave. in an urban renewal area. The project will include an addition of an off-leash dog park, a new trail system with both hard and soft surface trails, a new playground, an open lawn and a redesigned ADA accessible entrance. Additionally, the project will improve drainage and add native plantings in passive use areas.



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources  
Northeast Regional Office  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216  
P 303.291.7227

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 9, 2022

TO: Fletcher Jacobs, State Trails Program Manager

FROM: Mark Leslie, Northeast Regional Manager

Subject: Wildlife Impacts Review, 2023 Non-Motorized Trail Grant Cycle

There are a total of sixteen (16) non-motorized grant applications within the Northeast Region requesting funding from the State Trails Program for the 2023 grant cycle process. These applications were distributed to CPW Area Field Staff (Area Wildlife Managers, District Wildlife Managers, and Biologists) for review and comment. In addition, the comments were reviewed by Northeast Region Staff including Regional Manager Mark Leslie, Deputy Regional Manager Shannon Schaller, and Regional Trails Coordinator Luke Svare. Below is a list by application name with a summary of our comments and concerns.

#### Construction Grant Applications:

- Virginia Canyon Mountain Park Phase 2
  - Seasonal closures - The biggest concern for CPW is the impact to bighorn sheep movements and lambing. Trail use during critical times, plus the inclusion of dogs, could have a large negative impact on bighorn if not mitigated. The following dates are seasonal closure dates CPW typically uses: Production Areas (lambing) 04/15 - 06/30 and Winter Range 11/01 - 04/30.
    - Production Areas - It appears that currently the lambing areas are not located within the actual boundaries of the proposal but are nearby. We would ask to try and limit all heavy construction (lift construction) activities away from these areas during this time period.
    - Winter Range - We know this is a long closure period (6 months) for the operation on a south facing slope, where the snow can and will burn off. But this is also a reason why it is important for bighorn sheep winter use. We are hoping that the applicant will be willing to close trails from at least 12/01 - 03/31.
  - Dogs - CPWs preference is to not allow any dogs on the property. Dogs have a major negative impact on bighorns. The City of Idaho Springs will require dogs to be on a leash at all times. If it is determined that users are not obeying the leash



requirement, it is our recommendation for Idaho Springs to then restrict dogs from the property at all times.

- Personnel - We suggest that in order for the seasonal closures and dogs on leash at ALL times to be followed, it would be best to hire employees to patrol trails. These employees would be similar to "ski patrol" employees on the ski slopes. They are there to keep the users safe, provide medical care for injuries and to keep users on trails and in areas they are allowed to be using. Our concern is that if there is no presence from staff on the trails, some users will not abide by regulations. Such as, dogs being released off the leash once a short distance away from the base area or starting area crowd; users taking shortcuts off the established trails, creating more social trails in places they should not be, expanding the impacts into wildlife habitat. All of these behaviors will impact sheep.
- Bear Resistant Trash Containers - This needs to be mandatory at the recreation site.
- Evaluation Meetings - Yearly stakeholder (Idaho Springs, CPW, and other involved groups) meeting to evaluate use, issues and improvements to reduce impacts to wildlife and improve facilities.
- Kiowa Creek Trail Improvement Project
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Dutch Creek Regional Trail
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Tabor Lake Trail
  - No significant wildlife impacts

#### **Maintenance Grant Applications:**

- Trail Conservation Services Maintenance Team
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- South Park Ranger District Maintenance
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Evergreen Lake North Trail
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Colorado 14ers Statewide Maintenance
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Partnership for Stewardship 2023
  - No significant wildlife impacts

#### **Planning Grant Applications:**

- 59th Ave. Trailhead for Poudre River & Sheep Draw Trails

- CPW does recognize that additional trailhead access is necessary for this highly utilized trail system. CPW recommends the preferred site for a new trailhead be site #1 as it would have the least amount of impact on wildlife as all of the current recreation access is also on the south side of the river.

**Support Grant Applications:**

- Empowering Mountain Communities
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Training, Tools and Leaders 2023
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Trail Training Expansion
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Continental Divide Trail Coalition Field Instructors
  - No significant wildlife impacts

**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Applications:**

- Fall River Trail Project Phase 4
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Wright Park Redevelopment
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Westwood Via Verde
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Bear Creek Park Phase 1
  - CPW would like to stress the need for an environmental assessment to review any sensitive habitat needs and habitat protections that may need to be implemented either temporarily or permanently to preserve and enhance the corridor while also offering necessary protections to the local wildlife.



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Northwest Region Office  
711 Independent Ave.  
Grand Junction CO 81505  
P 970.255.6100

### MEMORANDUM

To: State Trails Committee

From: Travis Black  
Northwest Region Manager

Subject: 2023 Non-Motorized trail grant applications review and comments

Date 11/30/2022

District and Area Wildlife Managers and staff have reviewed and provided comments on the Non-Motorized trail grants for applications proposing work in the Northwest Region. Below is a list by application name with a summary of our comments and concerns. Should more information be desired on any of our comments please do not hesitate to contact Randy Engle ([randy.engle@state.co.us](mailto:randy.engle@state.co.us) or 970 260 2379) as he has all the source data from the Area Managers. We hope that the reviewers and staff find the enclosed information useful in evaluating and scoring the grant applications.

#### **Construction Applications:**

##### **#8 Himebaugh Gulch Loop Trail**

The Northwest Region supports this grant and recommends a winter seasonal closure to help protect wintering big game.

##### **#16 North Fruita Desert Trail Construction**

The Northwest Region supports this grant. Area staff has been integral in the planning process to date and through the use of seasonal closures and relocated alignments impacts have been mitigated or minimized.

##### **#18 Fraser Valley Trails Redevelopment Project**

The Northwest Region finds no significant impacts to wildlife with this grant.

##### **#25 Maroon Creek Multi Use Trail**

The Northwest Region Supports this grant.

##### **#27 Town Park Completion – Wetlands Phase**

The Northwest Region Supports this grant.



#37 West Steamboat Trail Phase 1  
The Northwest Region supports this grant.

**Maintenance Applications:**

#14 Hanging Lake Trail Reconstruction  
The Northwest Region Supports this grant.

#15 Wilderness Stewardship Of The Four Pass Loop  
The Northwest Region Supports this grant.

#19 Colorado 14ers Statewide Maintenance Program (2023-2024)  
The Northwest Region finds no significant impacts from the proposed projects within the Northwest Region.

#23 WRV Partnership for Trail Stewardship 2023  
The Northwest Region Supports this grant.

**Planning Applications:**

#26 Snowmass Village Town Park Pond & Wetlands Recreation Expansion  
The Northwest Region Supports this grant.

**Support Applications:**

#11 Advancing Volunteer Capacity Through Group Projects and Adopt-a-Trail Programs  
The Northwest Region Supports this grant.

**LWCF Applications:**

#32 Vail Pass Rest Area Replacement  
The Northwest Region Supports this grant.

#36 Trent Park Expansion Project  
The Northwest Region Supports this grant.



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources  
Southeast Regional Office  
4255 Sinton Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
P 719.227.5200

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 9, 2022

TO: Fletcher Jacobs, State Trails Program Manager

FROM: Mitch Martin, Acting Southeast Regional Manager

Subject: Wildlife Impacts Review, 2023 Non-Motorized Trail Grant Cycle

There are a total of ten (10) non-motorized grant applications within the Southeast Region requesting funding from the State Trails Program for the 2023 grant cycle process. These applications were distributed to CPW Area Field Staff (Area Wildlife Managers, District Wildlife Managers, and Biologists) for review. In addition, any comments were reviewed by Southeast Region Staff including Acting Regional Manager Mitch Martin, and Regional Trails Coordinator Luke Svare. Below is a list by application name with a summary of our comments and concerns.

#### Construction Grant Applications:

- Austin Bluffs Open Space Improvements
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Play Fair Park
  - No significant wildlife impacts

#### Maintenance Grant Applications:

- Walsenburg Riverwalk Renovation
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Pueblo Mountain Park Trail Maintenance
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Oil Well Flats
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Colorado 14ers Statewide Maintenance
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Devils Playground Trail Improvements
  - No significant wildlife impacts



**Planning Grant Applications:**

- Walsenburg Riverwalk Planning
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Chaffee County Strategic Trails System
  - No significant wildlife impacts
- Envisioning Monument’s Parks, Trails an Open Spaces
  - No significant wildlife impacts



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

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Durango, CO 81303  
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December 9th, 2022

### Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program- Non-Motorized Grant Cycle 2022-2023 Southwest Region Grant Application Review

There are twelve (12) Non-Motorized grant applications within the Southwest Region requesting funding from the State Trails Program for the 2022-2023 process. These applications were sent to the CPW Area Field Staff (Area Wildlife Managers, District Wildlife Managers, and Biologists) for review and comment. In addition, the comments were reviewed and discussed by SW Region Staff including Regional Manager Cory Chick, Deputy Regional Manager Matt Thorpe, Regional Land Use Coordinator Peter Foote, and Regional Trails Coordinator Josh Stoudt.

The background information provided below is not intended to be comprehensive discussion on the best available science regarding trail development, trail use, and the subsequent impacts to wildlife. It is, rather, a brief overview of the wildlife management issues CPW Staff considers when evaluating the individual trail grant proposals with the intent to inform and educate the Statewide Trail Committee members and trail grant applicants. Additionally the newly released Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind should be referenced and incorporated into trail planning and stewardship implementation. Finally, individual grant comments and CPW Staff recommendations are detailed below.

#### **Background information on trail-related impacts to wildlife**

Overall, the public and trail users are poorly informed on the potential impacts of non-motorized trails on wildlife, and how those impacts can manifest themselves into complex management issues for CPW. A recent study found that approximately 50% of recreationists felt that recreation was not having a negative effect on wildlife. Furthermore, recreationists tend to blame other recreation groups for adverse impacts to wildlife rather than themselves.

Big Game winter habitats and migratory corridors are known to be limiting factors on big game populations in western Colorado and other high mountain areas of the western United States (Sawyer et al. 2009, Bishop et al. 2009). The protection and conservation of mule deer and elk winter range habitat is one of the foremost management objectives for CPW. These habitats are important for a variety of reasons, including:

1. Deer and elk tend to concentrate at lower elevations during winter months as snow accumulates at higher elevations.
2. Mule deer and elk typically display strong site fidelity to winter range, preferring to use the same areas year-after-year. CPW maps these areas as winter range, severe winter range and winter concentration areas for elk and deer.
3. Winter habitats for big game provide essential forage and thermal cover to help mule deer and elk minimize energy expenditure. Mule deer and elk are in a nutritional negative energy balance during the winter months, making energy conservation critical for calf and fawn survival and adult female reproductive fitness.



## **Trail Use Impacts**

Outdoor recreation associated with trails influences a variety of wildlife species in multiple ways. Impacts to wildlife from trail use are often negative and are associated with increased direct disturbance and displacement from optimal habitat due to the avoidance of human activities (Larson et al 2016). Elk and deer increase their daily activity levels and movements in the presence of mountain biking and hiking which reduces the time spent feeding and resting (Naylor et al 2009, Wisdom et al. 2004). This increased energy demand occurs simultaneously with decreased forage intake and displacement to areas with poorer quality forage. The net result is a decrease in body condition, which affects individual health, survival and reproduction (Bender et al 2008). Higher energy demand effectively decreases the carrying capacity of an area (Taylor and Knight 2003) and increases stress on individual animals. Many wildlife species also avoid areas of human disturbance completely, which decreases the amount of available habitat (Taylor and Knight 2003). Elk and deer generally do not become habituated to hiking or mountain biking (Wisdom et al. 2004, Taylor and Knight 2003). Cumulatively, this leads to both immediate and long-term effects on individual animals and populations by decreasing the available energy for winter survival, growth, and reproduction, reducing the fitness of wildlife, and by displacing wildlife into marginal habitats (Miller et al 2001, Anderson 1995).

There is a large body of evidence documenting displacement of big game from roads and trails (including non-motorized trails) and a decline in habitat effectiveness from big game as road and trail densities increase (Wisdom et al. 2018, Ciuti et al 2012, Rogala et al. 2011, Phillips and Alldredge 2000, Preisler et al. 2013). The presence of a dog with a recreationist is likely to result in a greater area of negative influence from trail use, including amplified avoidance distances of mule deer movements (Miller et al 2001).

**2021-2022 Non-Motorized Grant Comments:** The following are grant specific comments received from CPW Wildlife staff.

No wildlife specific comments were received on the following applications:

#2 Weminuche Trail

#5 Mapping Trails with LIDAR DATA

#6 Shavano Gateway Recreation Area

#7 Crested Butte Conservation Corps

#19 Colorado 14ers Statewide Maintenance Program 22-23

#23 WRV Partnership for Trail Stewardship 2023

#30 Bakers Park Trail System

#31 2023 GFO Non-Motorized Trail Crew

#35 Miners Trail

#49 Baca NWR Nature and Heritage Trail

Wildlife specific comments on the following applications:

*#10 Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer Connection:* After reviewing the grant submission CPW has the following comments that we would like to see included with the grant application:

- Incorporate a bridge design that allows for the passage for wildlife during high water events. This would be accomplished by designing the bridge high enough and the support pylons far enough out of the water that river otters and other animals do not have to leave the safety of the water or the water's edge (high water mark) to pass through the proposed bridge. The height of the bridge should also allow for the passage of watercraft floating the river during high water events.
- Trail alignments should avoid riparian areas and the removal of riparian vegetation should be avoided, to the greatest extent possible, during the construction of the bridge.

*#42 Historic Monsoons Trail Damage Maintenance:* The Southwest Region appreciates San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) application's scope of addressing maintenance caused by the monsoons. The area that the work would happen in is across the San Luis Valley and a portion of that work area, Ute Creek trail and Highline Trail, falls within Game Management Unit (GMU) 76, a high-quality hunting area that is a challenging hunting tag to draw. With GMU 76 in mind and the work that will fall within it, the Southwest Region asks:

- Attempt to have all work completed by August 31st. We would like to remind SLV GO! that archery hunting season starts the beginning of September and muzzleloader starts September 10th this year.
- If completion of work by August 31st is not possible, work at higher elevations of these trails should be completed as early as possible and work after August 31st should be focused to the lower 1/3 of the trails.

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