



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

State Trails Program
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July 18-19, 2024

2024-2025 Snowmobile Program Grant funding awards as recommended by the State Recreational Trails Committee.

This letter is a summary and explanation of the enclosed Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) 2024-2025 Snowmobile Program Grant funding recommendations for Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) approval during the July 2024 meeting. We are recommending approval for 5 grants for a total award amount of \$357,657.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division's (CPW) Trails Program, a statewide program within CPW, administers grants for trail-related projects on an annual basis. Local, county, and state governments, federal agencies, special recreation districts, and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands may apply for and are eligible to receive snowmobile program grants.

Colorado's Snowmobile Program

The Snowmobile Program is statutorily created, C.R.S. 33-14-101 through 33-14-119, and is funded through the sale of snowmobile registrations and use permits. During the 2023 field season, 35,286 snowmobiles were registered or permitted for use in Colorado. The price of an annual snowmobile registration is \$30.25. Funds are used to support the Statewide Snowmobile Grant and Grooming Programs as well as snowmobile registration operations. Funding is also made available to support safety, education and enforcement patrols. The program's primary goal is to improve and enhance snowmobile recreation opportunities across the state while promoting the safe and responsible use of snowmobiles. The Snowmobile Program partners with the Colorado Snowmobile Association (CSA) who represents organized snowmobiling within the state. There are 35 snowmobile clubs under the CSA umbrella; of these 35 clubs, 27 of them participate in the statewide grooming program. Last year, \$754,270 was provided from the snowmobile recreation fund to grooming clubs to maintain and sign over 2,700 miles of winter trails which are open to all winter sports enthusiasts. Grooming funds enable the clubs to cover the costs of fuel, insurance, equipment maintenance and repairs. Clubs that groom typically apply for grant funding to assist with the purchase of grooming equipment, construction of facilities to house equipment, and trailhead improvements.

State Trails Committee

The creation and role of the Committee is 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 recreational trail purposes. The Committee consists of eleven members appointed by the Commission representing each of the



eight congressional districts, one At Large member who represents Off Highway Vehicle interests, one At Large member who represents Snowmobile interests, and one member who represents the GOCO Board. The Committee reviews, scores, ranks and submits recommendations for funding of Recreational Trails grants to the Commission for their consideration and final approval. 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.

GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS:

Snowmobile Program grant applications are sent out by e-mail and posted on CPW’s Trails Program website each year. Trail grant opportunities are publicized through newsletters, the State website, and e-mail information networks. Technical assistance for grant preparation is provided by CPW Trails Program staff to potential applicants requesting assistance.

The Commission, through its Policy A-104, has authorized a subcommittee structure to assist the Committee in formulating its grant recommendations. Subcommittee members are appointed for the purpose of reviewing and ranking grants and compiling funding recommendations for the Committee.

Snowmobile Program Grant Review and Ranking Process

Applications are evaluated by the Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee to score and rank the grant applications in order of their recommended funding priority. The ranked applications are then passed to the Committee for review and approval. The Commission provides the final funding approval. Public input is solicited as part of the grant review process. Public comment is accepted by e-mail, letter, and during public meetings.

Snowmobile Program Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee

The Snowmobile Program Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee is comprised of fourteen (14) scoring members:

- One (1) chairperson who is a member of the State Trails Committee selected by the Commission to represent snowmobile interests;
- Nine (9) snowmobile district representatives, one from each of the state’s designated snowmobile areas, who are appointed by the Chairperson;
- Four (4) CPW regional trail coordinators.

Appendix A lists the members of the State Trails Committee and members of the Snowmobile Subcommittee and the area they represent.

2024-2025 Snowmobile Program Grant Applications

This year’s Snowmobile Program Grant applications were due April 21, 2024.

Total application funding requests were as follows:

Grant Category	Number of Applications	Requested Funding
Snowmobile Program Grants	10	\$678,881.31

FUNDING:

Available funding for the 2024-2025 Snowmobile Program Grant cycle is \$357,657.00 from the following funding source:

Source of Funding	Dollars Available
Snowmobile Program Registration Funds	\$ 357,657

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:

Snowmobile Program Grant applicants presented project details before the Subcommittee at the annual presentations meeting held on May 11, 2024 in Salida, CO. Appendix B is a Project Summary of the 2024-2025 Snowmobile Program Grant applications. Appendix C is a spreadsheet summarizing the scoring results with their rankings and recommended funding levels.

Considering the Trails Program Strategic Plan, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and input from the Trails Program staff and subcommittee, the Committee recommends priority funding of:

Grant Category	Number of Grants	Proposed Funding
Snowmobile Program Grants	5	\$357,657

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:

CPW staff and the Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee have recommended the attached 2024-2025 Snowmobile Program Grants ranking and funding list (Appendix C) for the Committee’s review and recommendation. It is suggested that minor adjustments of project funding levels be permitted at the discretion of the CPW Director or their designee. It is also recommended that any additional project money that is received be rolled over into the 2025-2026 Snowmobile Program Grant Cycle, or into the 2024-2025 grooming season.

If you have any questions on this information, or anything else related to the grants program, feel free to contact Fletcher Jacobs at fletcher.jacobs@state.co.us prior to the Commission meeting. Thank you.

State Recreational Trails Committee Roster

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



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Appendix A	
Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2024-2025 Snowmobile Capital Grant Subcommittee Members	
SNOWMOBILE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER	DISTRICT REPRESENTATION
Adam Northrup	DISTRICT 1
Ron Spencer	DISTRICT 2
Jim Allerse	DISTRICT 3
Dana Jenick	DISTRICT 4
Ray Doble	DISTRICT 5
Ross Muzik	DISTRICT 6
Tom Carl	DISTRICT 7
Mark Hollingshead	DISTRICT 8
Ken Hilficker	DISTRICT 9
Randy Engle	CPW NORTHWEST REGION TRAILS COORDINATOR
Josh Stoudt	CPW SOUTHWEST REGION TRAILS COORDINATOR
Tappen Brown	CPW SOUTHEAST REGION TRAILS COORDINATOR
Luke Svare	CPW NORTHEAST REGION TRAILS COORDINATOR
Janelle Kukuk	SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR - Member of the State Trails Committee representing Snowmobile interest



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2024-2025 Snowmobile Grant

Summaries

Appendix B

Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Type	Amount Requested	Total Project Cost
1-NW	GROOMER Purchase	Gunnison County SnoTrackers	Equipment	\$130,000.00	\$185,500.00
	Gunnison County SnoTrackers is asking to replace their 2013 Snow groomer that has over 7,850 hours, and has required \$95,000.00 for repairs and maintenance since they purchased it in 2018. The grant will allow the club to purchase a 2019 PB400 that has 6,070 hours.				
2-NW	Groomer Purchase	North Routt Snow Riders	Equipment	\$100,000.00	\$200,000.00
	The North Routt Snow Riders currently owns a 2005 PB275 with 7,150 but because of its age and increasing need for expensive repairs, the club would like to purchase a 2018 Bison X with approximately 1,880 hours. This allows for a more efficient grooming operation.				
3-NW	Tiller Repair	NW Colorado Snowmobile Club	Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$13,757.59
	The club is needing to rebuild their tiller. It is becoming very worn and in need of repair. This tiller has been used on the last three snow cats that the club has owned. Purchasing a new tiller would be very expensive because it would need to be cut down by two feet to accommodate the snow cat.				
4-NW	Groomer Purchase	Flattoppers Snowmobile Club	Equipment	\$100,000.00	\$191,000.00
	The current 2008 Prinoth Bison has had significant maintenance issues. Maintenance costs for 2023 season were \$95,000.00, and should be replaced with a newer model. The club has received a quote for a 2019 Tier IV Bison with approximately 4,500 hours for \$191,000.00.				
5-SW	Track Re-Build	Sangre Snow Runners	Maintenance	\$19,657.00	\$26,011.00
	This grant request is for funding to replace 8 track belts on the clubs 2008 PB200 snow cat and related additional parts. The club won't know the cost of the additional parts until they de-track and start disassembling the cleats. These belts have started to delaminate and cause the cleats to work loose and enlarge the bolt holes to an unsafe condition. Labor to make the repairs will be provided by members of the club on a voluntary basis.				
6-SE	16' Tiller Purchase and New Windshields	Buena Vista Snowmobile Club	Maintenance	\$45,884.49	\$59,634.69
	The 16' tiller is to replace the clubs 18' tiller. Transitioning to a smaller tiller will revolutionize the clubs grooming capabilities, ensuring the safe and through maintenance of their trail system. The 18' tiller is too large to regularly groom all of the trail system in the Cottonwood Gulch area. A 16' tiller benefits the grooming program and extends access to winter recreation for the entire community.				
7-Statewide	Winter Use Classroom Setup	Tyler's Backcountry Awareness	Equipment	35,588.00	\$90,225.88
	Tyler's Backcountry Awareness is seeking financial support to purchase some of the larger value items to complete this classroom. The semi-trailer where avalanche awareness classes and instructor certifications are conducted was donated, as well as many of the other building supplies and materials. This classroom will provide avalanche training to multiple users with varying skills.				

8-SW	Groomer Purchase	Westend Sledders	Equipment	\$160,000.00	\$190,000.00
	Westend Sledders is requesting funds to replace their 2005 PB100 with a 2016 Bison with approximately 4,700 hours, for grooming on the Uncompahgre Plateau. In the past 3 seasons, the club has paid \$18,000.00 for repairs and maintenance on the 2005 PB100. Purchasing a newer cat will help avoid these expenditures and will be able to get grooming operations in a more established order allowing the club to advance other club priorities instead of being held back by maintenance costs.				
9-SE	Trailhead Toilets	Buena Vista Snowmobile Club	Equipment	\$72,000.00	\$154,155.00
	The National Forest Foundation currently has contractors lined up to decommission and replace the toilet at the Denny Creek Trailhead. The NFF will cover the cost of the decommission, and is asking the club to cover the cost for reinstallation.				
10-NW	Insulate Groomer Garage	NW Colorado Snowmobile Club	Maintenance	\$7,397.00	\$14,397.00
	Northwest Snowmobile Club owns the grooming garage on their private land. Last year CPW funded a project that laid concrete in the garage, and this year the club is requesting funding to insulate the garage. Completion of this project will provide a safe and healthy environment for the clubs volunteer mechanics to perform maintenance. It's also where the cat is parked, this reduces the time the cat needs to warm up prior to heading out to groom.				

SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM GRANTS

2024-2025 Score, Rank & Funding List

App#	Grant Applicant	Project	Funding Request	Adam Northrup	Ron Spencer	JimAllesre	Dana Jenick	Ray Doble	Ross Munzik	Tom Carl	Mark Hollingshead	Tappan Brown	Luke Svere	Randy Engle	Josh Stoudt	Janelle Kukuk	Average Score	Recommended Funding
				DIST 1	DIST 2	DIST 3	DIST 4	DIST 5	DIST 6	DIST 7	DIST 8	CPW-SE Region	CPW-NE Region	CPW- NW Region	CPW- SW Region	STC Rep		
1	Gunnison County SnoTrackers	Groomer Purchase	\$130,000.00	93	84	73	85	75	83	94	89	89	89	91	93	87	86.54	\$ 130,000.00
2	North Routt Snow Riders	Groomer Purchase	\$100,000.00	86	90	73	90	80	76	83	81	92	93	92	92	88	85.85	\$ 100,000.00
3	NW Colorado Snowmobile Club	Tiller Repair	\$8,000.00	83	R	66	85	80	84	75	87	87	85	87	89	81	82.42	\$ 8,000.00
4	Flattoppers Snowmobile Club	Groomer Purchase	\$100,000.00	78	83	68	90	70	76	85	78	87	86	92	90	86	82.23	\$ 100,000.00
5	Sangre Snowrunners	Track Re-build	\$20,011.00	84	69	75	75	85	84	87	85	87	84	74	87	72	80.62	\$ 19,657.00
6	Buena Vista Snowmobile Club	Tiller Purchase & Other Maintenance	\$45,884.49	74	78	70	90	80	76	82	77	87	85	81	88	77	80.38	\$ -
7	Tyler's Backcountry Awareness	Winter Use Classroom	\$35,588.88	86	80	59	60	90	70	82	77	90	89	87	86	75	79.31	\$ -
8	Westend Sledders	Groomer Purchase	\$160,000.00	74	79	59	80	75	75	82	85	82	84	84	85	77	78.54	\$ -
9	Buena Vista Snowmobile Club	Trail Head Toilets	\$72,000.00	68	61	72	80	70	54	74	51	86	86	75	79	65	70.85	\$ -
10	NW Colorado Snowmobile Club	Groomer Garage Insulation	\$7,397.00	67	R	40	50	75	57	57	72	83	80	81	84	69	67.92	\$ -
Total			\$678,881.37															\$357,657.00