



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

State Trails Program  
13787 US Hwy. 85 N.  
Littleton, Colorado 80125  
P 303-791-1954 | F 303-470-0782

July 18-19, 2024

### State Recreational Trails Committee Appointments

This letter is a summary and request for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission's (the Commission) approval for the appointment of one new member and the reappointment of two existing representatives to the State Recreational Trails Committee.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Since its establishment in 1971, the CPW State Trails Program has administered grants for trail-related projects to local, county, state and tribal governments, federal agencies, special recreation districts, and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands. This statewide program is supported by the State Recreational Trails Committee (the Committee). The creation and roles of the Committee are set forth in sections 33-11-105 to 107, C.R.S. In accordance with State statute, the State Recreational Trails Committee reviews, scores, and ranks grant applications and submits funding recommendations to the Commission for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) Trail grant programs. The Committee advises the Commission and CPW on all matters pertaining to trails, their use, extent, location and funding.

The Committee consists of eleven members appointed by the Commission representing Colorado's eight congressional districts, two at large members (one who represents snowmobile interests), and one member representing the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board. Section 33-11-105 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S) and the Commission's Policy on the State Recreational Trails Committee establishes and refines the membership and representation requirements. Attachment A is the current Committee roster.

Pursuant to the Commission's Policy A-104 regarding membership and appointments to the Trails Committee:

Tenure: Committee appointments shall be for a term of four years. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

Vacancies: Vacancies on the Committee are created by resignation, expiration of appointed terms, or removal with cause from the Committee by the Commission. If a vacancy on the Committee occurs, a successor will be appointed, according to Section A herein, as soon as possible by the Commission to fill the unexpired term.

Committee Member Representation: State Recreational Trail Committee members will be chosen by the Commission to represent the trails and outdoor recreational interests of the general public. Committee membership must include trail users who are proponents of all trail recreation activities with unbiased judgement toward both motorized and non-motorized



uses while not placing priority or higher value for one trail recreation activity over another. CPW seeks to maintain a balance between non-motorized and motorized representation on the Committee.

Committee members shall be chosen by the Commission based upon a candidate's qualifications inclusive of overall skills, outdoor recreational interests and leadership qualities. Due to the dedicated funding sources from OHV and snowmobiles fees, one member will be chosen to represent off-highway vehicle (OHV) interests and one member will be chosen to represent snowmobile interests who will also chair those respective subcommittees for grant selection purposes. One member will also be chosen to represent local government interests.

#### **DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:**

At the end of June 2024, the appointments of three of the eleven State Recreational Trails Committee members expired. Mr. Mick Daniel, Congressional District 3 representative and Mr. Brad Schwartz, Congressional District 4 representative, concluded their first term and are recommended for reappointment. The At-Large Snowmobile representative became vacant from Ms. Janelle Kukuk's second term expiration.

CPW, through its website and email networks, advertised vacancies for the At-Large Snowmobile Representative. A Committee Appointment Review Panel was constructed to review applications, conduct interviews, and make a recommendation to CPW for appointment.

The review panel consisted of:

- Heather Hormell - STC Committee OHV Representative
- Thomas Metsa - OHV/Snowmobile Program Manager
- Luke Svare - Northeast Regional Trails Coordinator
- Josh Stoudt - Southwest Regional Trails Coordinator
- Brendan Kelly - USFS R2 Assistant Trails and Recreational Program Lead
- Fletcher Jacobs - Assistant Director of Outdoor Recreation and Lands

#### **DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:**

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Division recommends the reappointment of Mr. Mick Daniel to Congressional District 3 and Mr. Brad Schwartz to Congressional District 4. CPW supports the recommendation of the Committee Appointment Review Panel to appoint Mr. Zachary Shacter to a four-year term as the At-Large member representing Snowmobile interests with the State Recreational Trails Committee. The application for the recommended appointment is shown in Appendix B.

The justification to support Mr. Shacter's appointment are as follows:

- Currently serves as President of the Buena Vista Snowmobile Club and is an active member of the Colorado Snowmobile Association
- Has experience in collaborating with both motorized and non-motorized users to address recreational issues in the San Isabel National Forest
- Volunteers with the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Salida Gateway Community Board, and Historic St. Elmo and Chalk Creek Canyon
- Enjoys a diverse number of recreational activities including snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, backcountry snowboarding, hiking, bicycle touring, OHVing, and camping

## FY 2024 State Recreational Trails Committee Roster

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	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</u>
<b>VACANT</b>	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> <b>Snowmobile Representative</b> <u>Motorized</u>
<b>Heather Hormell</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Term Expiration: 06/30/2026	At Large <b>OHV Subcommittee Chair</b> <u>Motorized</u>
<b>Pam Denahy</b> Term Expiration: N/A	<b>GOCO Representative</b> <b>NM Subcommittee Chair</b>



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### APPLICATION FOR STATE TRAILS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

The Colorado Recreational Trails Committee (the Committee) consists of eleven members appointed by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) representing Colorado’s eight congressional districts, two at-large members, and one member who represents the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board. In accordance with state statute, the Committee reviews, scores, and ranks grant applications and formulates grant funding recommendations for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Trail Program.

The Committee also advises the Commission on all matters pertaining to trails, their use, extent, location and funding. State Trail Committee members are expected to represent the perspective of both their own trail use interests as well as the broader community of trail and outdoor recreation users in Colorado.

The following representative positions are open:

- Congressional District 6 (view map of [Colorado's Congressional Districts](#))
- At-large Snowmobile Representative

This appointment is a four-year term. Please provide the information requested below. (Click inside the box and type the information requested.)

DATE: May 14th, 2024

NAME: Zachary Shacter

Phone: [REDACTED]

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

CITY: Nathrop (Hancock)

ZIP: 81236

Email: [REDACTED]

Please select which trail use interest you represent.

- Diversified (both motorized and non-motorized)
- Non-Motorized
- Off-Highway Vehicle
- Snowmobile
- Local Government



References: Provide the name, affiliation, and telephone number of three persons willing to provide more information about your qualifications to serve on the Committee.

1. Dirk Peratt - Former President of the Buena Vista Snowmobile Club [REDACTED]
2. Thomas Skaja - USFS/Salida RD [REDACTED]
3. Melanie Roth - Historic Saint Elmo & Chalk Creek Canyon - [REDACTED]

Briefly answer the following:

1. Why do you want to be a member of the State Recreational Trails Committee?

I look forward to the opportunity to be a voice for the outdoors. I believe that so many issues in America have become very short-sighted. Imagining how our residents and visitors will be using these spaces 10, 20, 50 years into the future interests me greatly. If we can only think about what will be happening in the next couple of years, Colorado will have difficulty remaining a leader in outdoor recreation.

2. Describe your involvement in outdoor recreation activities and/or groups in Colorado.

I am currently the President of the Buena Vista Snowmobile Club. I enjoy recreating in as many forms as possible. In the winter, you can regularly find me on a snowmobile, cross-country skis, snowshoes, or backcountry snowboarding. In the summer, I enjoy hiking, bicycle touring, ATVing, and camping. The more time that I can be outside, the better.

3. Describe why you would be a valuable addition to the State Recreational Trails Committee.

I care deeply about public access to the outdoors and improving our state's network of trails throughout all seasons. I live in the San Isabel National Forest, and many of these issues come directly to my doorstep. This has provided me with a unique perspective of these spaces, and how they change throughout the seasons and years.

4. Describe both the biggest opportunities and issues you see in relation to trails in Colorado.

I see the cooperation of motorized and non-motorized groups as essential to the progress of Colorado's trail systems. This is something we have focused on with the Buena Vista Snowmobile Club over the last several years to great success. This cooperation has led to fatbike and cross-country ski events on freshly groomed trails. As a result, we have seen an increase in non-motorized membership and participation in our club.

5. Are you affiliated with any trails or outdoor recreation organizations or groups (e.g., equestrians, hikers, biking, motorized recreation, etc.)? What is your title within that organization?

**I have been a member of the Colorado Snowmobile Association and the Buena Vista Snowmobile Club for 5 years. This past year was my first season serving as President of the BVSC. I was recently reelected, and look forward to serving another year in the role.**

**I have also volunteered with the Continental Divide Trail Coalition for the last 5 years. I have sat on the Salida Gateway Community Board and as a guide for winter trail events.**

6. Provide a brief overview of your experience in the trails and outdoor recreation field. List any previous positions you have held or committees you have sat on or additional volunteer experience.

**As a member of the snowmobile club, I have fought to secure public access to trails that were under threat of closure due to private land owner conflicts. As President of the club, I was able to successfully fight a new wilderness proposal in our county that would have reduced and/or eliminated maintained winter trails to all recreationists.**

**I have volunteered for 5 years with the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) as part of the Salida Gateway Community Board. We have helped to create infrastructure around Salida & Monarch Pass for trail hikers. I have also helped lead snowshoe and cross-country ski events for the CDTC.**

**Each September, I volunteer with Historic St Elmo & Chalk Creek Canyon when they host the local school district's fourth graders for field trips. As a real life experience for their Colorado History curriculum, they come to St Elmo for tours of the historic buildings and surrounding areas. As part of this field trip, I lead groups on an educational hike to nearby mining and railroad sites**

7. Are you available to participate in four or five one-day meetings a year? The meetings are typically held on weekdays with exact meeting lengths varying based on the agenda.

Yes  No

8. Are you willing to serve on one of the standing grant subcommittees to help review and score grants as well as other ad-hoc working groups as needed?

Yes  No

Additional comments

If you would like to submit additional materials, such as letters of support, please attach them to the email you send to [trails@state.co.us](mailto:trails@state.co.us)