



**COLORADO**

**Parks and Wildlife**

Department of Natural Resources

State Trails Program  
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**2019 Colorado the Beautiful Trail Grants**

TOPIC Grant Recommendations

PREPARED BY Fletcher Jacobs

DATE 12/6/2019

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>DRAFT</b>	<b>FINAL</b>
<u>  X  </u> ITEM	<u>      </u> ITEM	<u>      </u> COPY	<u>  X  </u> COPY

**PURPOSE:**

To request the State Recreational Trails Committee’s (the Committee) approval of the 2019 Colorado the Beautiful recommended grant funding and the Committee’s recommendation to move this matter to the Parks and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) for approval.

**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 non-motorized and motorized trail grants.

**Colorado’s Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Program**

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 Grant Program provides funding for trail planning projects as well as small and large trail construction and maintenance projects. The Grant Program is a multi-agency partnership that includes CPW, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Colorado Lottery, Federal Recreation Trails Funds (RTP) and the Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF).

This specific Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant cycle had incorporated goals and objectives outlined in The Colorado the Beautiful initiative. The Colorado the Beautiful Grant Program funds projects through large trail construction grants and regional trails planning grants. The program is a unique opportunity that has goals, objectives, and criteria independent of the normal motorized and non-motorized CPW grants that run each fall. This program is a partnership between Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado.



### **The Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant Application Process**

Trail Grant instructions and timeline were posted on the State Trails website on June 4, 2019. Grant applicants were required to call the State Trails Program Manager to discuss their projects and make sure they were a good fit for the Colorado the Beautiful Trail Grant cycle. The grant opportunity was publicized through the CPW website, the State Trails website and e-mail information networks. Technical assistance for grant preparation was provided by CPW Trails Program staff to potential applicants. The submission deadline for the Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant applications was August 1, 2019.

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 the Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant Subcommittee.

After receiving recommendations from the Committee and approval from the Commission, grants are awarded for the 2019 Colorado the Beautiful Trails grants.

### **The Recreational Trails Grant Review and Ranking Process**

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 to review and rank grant applications and to assist in compiling funding recommendations for the Committee's consideration. To solicit public comment, all grant applications are posted on the CPW Trails Program website and every public comment is evaluated as part of a subcommittee's grant review and ranking process.

All trail grant applications are evaluated and ranked against each other. CPW's trail 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.

Next, applications are evaluated by the designated grant review and ranking subcommittee. Grant scores are the average of subcommittee member scores (up to 10 volunteer reviewers per grant application) plus the average score of the CPW and GOCO staff reviewers, for a combined average score. A minimum grant funding score of 70 was set for the 2019 Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant application cycle. The volunteer reviewers represent a full spectrum of trail recreation interests including enthusiasts, conservation groups, and park 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 subcommittee, before the State Trails Committee and then before the Commission.

To solicit public comment, proposed project descriptions are posted on the CPW Trails Program’s website and all public comment is evaluated as part of the grant selection process. Appendix B lists the scores for each grant application as determined by each grant reviewer within each grant category.

**2019 Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grants**

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

<b>Grant Categories</b>	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Total \$ Requested</b>
<b>Received &amp; Scored Grants</b>		
Construction	7	\$2,509,107.55
Planning	7	\$682,882.50
<b>Total Recreational Trail Grants</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$3,191,990.05</b>

**FUNDING**

For the 2019 Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant cycle approximately \$2,988,006.81 will be available from the following funding source:

<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>Dollars Awarded</b>
GOCO	\$2,988,006.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,988,006.81</b>

**DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY**

For 2019, 13 eligible applications were received for a total grant request of \$2,999,898. The applications were scored by volunteer reviewers, GOCO, and CPW Trails Program staff. Using direction from The Colorado the Beautiful Initiative, the Trails Program’s Strategic Plan, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Committee’s grant funding policies, the recommended funding allocations for each grant category are as follows:

<b>Grant Category</b>	<b>Number of Grants</b>	<b>Proposed Funding</b>
Construction	7 of 7	\$2,365,816
Planning	6 of 6	\$622,190.81
<b>Total Recreational Trail Grants</b>	<b>13 of 13</b>	<b>\$2,988,006.81</b>

**DIVISION RECOMMENDATION**

Staff has provided the recommended funding spreadsheets for the 2019 Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grants (Appendix C) and Project Summaries (Appendix D) for Committee’s review and approval. It is suggested that minor adjustments of project funding levels be permitted at the discretion of the Division Director.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:**

“In accordance with section 33-11-106 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, I move that the State Recreational Trails Committee approve the scores and associated rankings from the Committee’s Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittees that were assigned to the 2019 Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant applications. We recommend that the available Colorado the Beautiful grant funding be awarded in accordance with the Committee’s recommended funding allocation outlined in the Discussion and Summary section of this action item.

Minor adjustments of project funding levels shall be permitted at the discretion of the Parks and Wildlife Division Director.”

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STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE CHAIR

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DATE

## Appendix A

### Colorado State Parks - Trails Program Colorado the Beautiful Grant Subcommittee Members

Subcommittee Members	Subcommittee Construction and Planning
<b>Scott Jones - Chair</b> <i>State Trails Committee, District 4</i>	
<b>Wally Piccone</b> <i>State Trails Committee, District 7</i>	
<b>Jill Ozarski</b> <i>State Trails Committee, District 1</i>	
<b>Sandra Bottoms</b> <i>Arapahoe County Open Spaces and Trails</i>	
<b>Steve Bonowski</b> <i>Colorado Mountain Club</i>	
<b>Chris Yuan-Farrell</b> <i>GOCO Representative</i>	
<b>Alex Alma</b> <i>DNR Staff</i>	
<b>Ben Plankis</b> <i>CPW Regional Staff</i>	
<b>Josh Stoudt</b> <i>CPW Regional Staff</i>	
<b>Randy Engle</b> <i>CPW Regional Staff</i>	
<b>Fletcher Jacobs</b> <i>CPW State Trails Program</i>	

2019 Colorado the Beautiful  
Construction

Grant #	Project Name/Sponsor	Volunteer Reviewer Scores					Outsider Score Averages	Outsider Averages with Outliers Removed	Staff Reviewer Scores					Staff Score Averages	Staff Averages with Outliers Removed	Final Score	AVG	STDEV	MIN	MAX
		Scott Jones	Wally Piccone	Steve Bonowski	Jill Ozarski	Sandra Bottoms			Randy Engle	Ben Plankis	Josh Stoudt	Alex Alma	Chris Yuan-Farrell							
1	Bennett Open Space Trail Town of Bennett	78	78	76	77	67	75.20	75.20	83	85	76	84	70	79.60	79.60	77.40	77.4	5.77735	65.8453	88.9547
2	Sand Creek Regional Trail Denver Parks and Recreation	82	73	80	88	86	81.80	81.80	89	71	74	86	82	80.40	80.40	81.10	81.1	6.488451	68.1231	94.0769
3	Devil's Playground Trail Phase II National Forest Foundation	84	84	90	98	92	89.60	89.60	88	80	90	89	84	86.20	86.20	87.90	87.9	5.130519	77.63896	98.16104
4	Fall River Trail Town of Estes Park	84	82	79	98	92	87.00	87.00	60	79	76	85	80	76.00	80.00	83.50	81.5	10.04711	61.40578	101.5942
5	Frisco Nordic Center Trails Town of Frisco	75	83	85	94	84	84.20	84.20	95	77	91	87	89	87.80	87.80	86.00	86	6.63325	72.7335	99.2665
6	Evergreen Lake Trail Evergreen Park and Recreation District	80	86	68	92	90	83.20	87.00	93	86	83	91	89	88.40	88.40	87.70	85.8	7.480345	70.83931	100.7607
7	Tolland Ranch Trail Boulder County Open Space	70	76	88	91	84	81.80	84.75	85	88	79	87	91	86.00	86.00	85.38	83.9	6.871034	70.15793	97.64207

2019 Colorado the Beautiful  
 Planning

Grant #	Project Name/Sponsor	Volunteer Reviewer Scores					Outsider Score Averages	Outsider Averages with Outliers Removed	STAFF REVIEWER SCORES					Staff Score Averages	Staff Averages with Outliers Removed	Final Score	AVG	STDEV	MIN	MAX
		Scott Jones	Wally Piccone	Steve Bonowski	Jill Ozarksi	Sandra Bottoms			Randy Engle	Ben Plankis	Josh Stoudt	Alex Alma	Chris Yuan-Farrell							
<b>Subcommittee-Planning</b>																				
9	Paths to Mesa Verde Plan Montezuma County	87	85	88	81	91	86.40	86.40	81	84	89	89	83	85.20	85.20	<b>85.80</b>	85.8	3.521363	78.75727	92.84273
10	Cache la Poudre Interpretive Plan Poudre Heritage Alliance	71	83	80	79	86	79.80	79.80	49	71	72	91	74	71.40	77.00	<b>78.40</b>	75.6	11.52967	52.54066	98.65934
11	Divide RD Sustainable Recreation Plan Rio Grande National Forest/Divide RD	93	94	87	96	90	92.00	92.00	87	78	91	94	79	85.80	85.80	<b>88.90</b>	88.9	6.226288	76.44742	101.3526
12	West Steamboat Trail Connection Plan City of Steamboat Springs	71	74	81	88	91	81.00	81.00	93	87	89	85	85	87.80	87.80	<b>84.40</b>	84.4	7.136759	70.12648	98.67352
13	Fountain Creek Greenway Plan Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District	84	97	80	95	84	88.00	88.00	87	85	82	90	89	86.60	86.60	<b>87.30</b>	87.3	5.498485	76.30303	98.29697
14	Outside 285 (in partnership with CPW) Colorado Mountain Bike Association	91	74	85	47	76	74.60	81.50	91	86	83	86	86	86.40	86.40	<b>83.95</b>	80.5	13.00641	54.48718	106.5128









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### 2020 Colorado the Beautiful Non-Motorized Trail Grant Summaries

Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Type	Amount Requested	Total Cost
#1 – NE	<b>Bennett Open Space Trail</b>	<b>Town of Bennett</b>	<b>Const.</b>	<b>\$192,000.00</b>	<b>\$256,000.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Construct trails that achieve the community's vision for a multi-modal transportation network. Connect residential neighborhoods to schools, businesses and recreational opportunities through a system of parks, recreation facilities, open space and trails.				
#2 – NE	<b>Sand Creek Regional Trail</b>	<b>Denver Parks and Recreation</b>	<b>Const.</b>	<b>\$500,000.00</b>	<b>\$650,000.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Construct trail improvements that will better serve all trail users and improve access to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway open space within the Denver metro area.				
#3 – SE	<b>Devil's Playground Trail Phase II</b>	<b>National Forest Foundation</b>	<b>Const.</b>	<b>\$280,720.00</b>	<b>\$365,944.66</b>
<b>Description</b>	Coordinate construction and realignment of the Devil's Playground Trail on the west flank of Pikes Peak. Improve badly incised and over-widened trail which affects the fragile ecosystem and poses a serious safety hazard to hikers. Re-route a compromised trail in an alignment designed to protect the tundra and enhance recreational access.				
#4 – NE	<b>Fall River Trail</b>	<b>Town of Estes Park</b>	<b>Const.</b>	<b>\$363,706.00</b>	<b>\$471,999.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Construct a 375-foot segment of a planned 2.5-mile multimodal trail that will start at Rocky Mountain National Park's boundary at Aspenglen Campground and extend out along Fish Hatchery Road.				
#5 – NW	<b>Frisco Nordic Center</b>	<b>Town of Frisco</b>	<b>Const.</b>	<b>\$168,390.00</b>	<b>\$241,901.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Project comprises 15.5 miles of trail construction and improvements within the Frisco Nordic Center. This will include 3.75 miles of new Nordic trails, 8 miles of single track and multi-use single track (groomed for winter fat bike and snowshoes) trails, and 3.75 miles of existing trail improvements.				
#6 – NE	<b>Evergreen Lake Trail</b>	<b>Evergreen Park and Recreation District</b>	<b>Const.</b>	<b>\$550,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,763,903.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Deliver a multi-modal, accessible trail on the north side of Evergreen Lake that will replace an existing 5-foot-wide, soft surface, multi-use trail built in 1988. This will improve access to abundant outdoor recreational opportunities at Evergreen Lake, create an accessible off-street bike/pedestrian connection to downtown Evergreen and local recreation destinations, improve safety for trail users and a close gap in regional trail networks.				
#7 –NE	<b>Tolland Ranch Trail</b>	<b>Boulder County Parks and Open Space</b>	<b>Const.</b>	<b>\$311,000.00</b>	<b>\$591,215.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Construct a 6-mile natural surface trail in the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest and Gilpin Counties that provides limited and managed trail access to backcountry recreation users. Trail will connect US Forest Service Trail Systems: Jenny Creek/Rollins Pass area and the Magnolia Trails System.				
#9 – SW	<b>Paths to Mesa Verde Plan</b>	<b>Montezuma County</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>\$193,350.00</b>	<b>\$276,500.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Planning and engineering for 7.5 miles of barrier free concrete pathway connecting the Mancos community with the entrance to Mesa Verde National Park.				



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### 2020 Colorado the Beautiful Non-Motorized Trail Grant Summaries

Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Type	Amount Requested	Total Cost
#10 – NE	<b>Cache la Poudre Interpretive Plan</b>	<b>Poudre Heritage Alliance</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>\$96,832.00</b>	<b>\$127,244.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Update the original 1990 Feasibility Study and Resource Inventory, develop a Strategic Interpretive Plan to help Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area become more accessible to the public as a whole and provide visitors with a seamlessly integrated experience.				
#11 – SE	<b>Divide RD Sustainable Recreation Plan</b>	<b>Rio Grande National Forest, Divide Ranger District</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>\$68,900.00</b>	<b>\$130,250.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Identify lessons learned from other areas that have seen similar recreation growth, characterize the baseline recreation use and infrastructure (trails, trailheads, and dispersed campsites), identify locations vulnerable to increased recreation use and identify actions to mitigate resource impacts.				
#12 – NW	<b>West Steamboat Trail Connection Plan</b>	<b>City of Steamboat Springs</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</b>	<b>\$150,000.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Complete a preliminary design for a trail link between the Yampa River Core Trail in Steamboat Springs and the rapidly developing area west of town. This is an important step toward clearing a path forward for construction of the trail.				
#13 – SE	<b>Fountain Creek Greenway Plan</b>	<b>Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$206,000.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Plan will establish a detailed alignment for the Fountain Creek Corridor Greenway between the southern Colorado Springs City limit line and the confluence with the Arkansas River in Pueblo.				
#14 – NE	<b>Outside 285 (in partnership with CPW)</b>	<b>Colorado Mountain Bike Association</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$130,000.00</b>
<b>Description</b>	Complete a regional planning effort to connect areas of interest along the US-285 Corridor in a sustainable and environmentally conscious manner. Connections include areas near Staunton State Park, Buffalo Creek and the North Elk Recreation Areas.				