

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

OHV Youth Corps Grant

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11/23/20

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PURPOSE:

To present information on the Colorado Youth Corps Association OHV Projects RFP for the 2021 Field Season.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

OHV Program

The Off-Highway Vehicle Program (OHV) is funded through the sale of OHV registrations. It is estimated that over 200,000 Off-Highway Vehicles will be registered in Colorado during the 2019-2020 season. The price of an annual OHV registration is \$25.25. Funds are used to support the statewide OHV program, registration program and OHV trail grant program. Non-profits, federal agencies, state and local government are eligible for OHV grants.

Grant Funding

Each year the OHV program awards approximately \$4.3 million of grant funding for OHV projects. This funding is made up of \$4 million of state funding from OHV registration and approximately \$300,000 from federal RTP funds. Approximately 35-40 projects are funded each season. The state OHV funding is considered capital construction funding and has spending authority that lasts for three years.

Unspent/ Returned Funding

Most grant-funded projects are contracted for one year. After the contract is over and the work season is complete, some grantees do not spend all of the funding that was awarded for their OHV grant project and this funding is returned to the CPW OHV Program. This funding can go unspent because of many issues such as weather-shortened season, staff hiring problems, staffing changes, contracting problems or other annual anomalies such as this season's COVID issues. It is not uncommon for as much as \$500,000 to go unspent from the \$4.3 million awarded. Because of the uncertainty of this season with COVID issues and restrictions, staff has decided to add an additional OHV grant program that could utilize an existing agreement between CPW and CYCA to speed up approvals and contracting timelines. Staff has suggested funding this CYCA OHV Project RFP at approximately \$250,000.

CYCA OHV Project RFP for the 2021 Season

CPW Trails Program staff worked closely with BLM and FS to develop the Colorado Youth Corps Association OHV Request for Projects for the coming season. The following types of proposals were requested:

- Trail maintenance work to repair and improve existing motorized routes to address backlogged maintenance needs.
- Repair damage and minimize potential soil erosion and impacts resulting from fire suppression activities and increased multiple use in motorized recreation areas.
- Fire Fuel mitigation, post fire tree removal, and downed trees to allow for access to motorized routes – chainsaw crews available.
- Restoration work including mulching, seeding, installation of erosion and water run-off control structures in motorized recreation view sheds.
- Repairs the hand and dozer fire lines, roads, trails, staging areas, safety zones, and drop points where motorized recreation in motorized recreation view sheds.
- Restoring burned habitat, reforestation, other planting or seeding, monitoring fire effects, replacing burned fences, and installing signs in areas where motorized recreation is jeopardized.

Applications Received

Applications were due on November 18, 2020. Applications were received for 14 projects with a total funding request of \$951,167. Projects requested a range of youth corps weeks from 2 weeks to the largest request of 24 weeks. Youth corps crew cost per week are: Day Crew \$8,550/week, Camping Crew \$9,267/week, Saw Crew \$1,092/week and Specialty Crew \$9,683/week. All applicants were made aware of the funding request and highly encouraged to enter into the normal OHV Grant Cycle to increase their chances of getting their project funded.

Project Reviews

All applications will be reviewed by Regional Wildlife Staff with comments due by Dec. 17, 2020.

All projects will be evaluated and ranked by a Subcommittee including CPW Trails Staff, CPW Regional Trails Coordinators, a CYCA staff member, a STC member and advisory from BLM and FS staff.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

SUGGESTED MOTION:

N/A