

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

2022 - 2023 Snowmobile Program Grant

Gabrielle Smiley

5/24/2022

Recommendations

TOPIC	PREPARED BY	DATE
ACTION	DRAFT	FINAL
<u>X</u> ITEM	<u>X</u> COPY	_____ COPY
_____ ITEM		

PURPOSE:

To request the State Recreational Trails Committee's (the Committee) approval for the Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee's grant rankings and funding recommendations for the 2022-2023 Snowmobile Grants.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The State Trails Program, a statewide program within Colorado's Parks and Wildlife Division (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 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. It is estimated that over 33,000 vehicles will be registered in the 2022-2023 season. 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 support for snowmobile registration operations. Funding is also made available to support safety, education and enforcement patrols. Funding is also provided to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CIAC). 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 state wide grooming program. Last year, \$710,000.00 was provided from the snowmobile recreation fund to grooming clubs to maintain and sign over 2700 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 or trailhead improvements.

GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS:

Snowmobile Grant applications are sent out by e-mail, ground mail and are posted on the Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks & Wildlife Trails website. The grant program is publicized through newsletters, the State website, and e-mail information networks. Technical assistance for grant preparation is provided by the State Trails Program staff as needed.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) has authorized a subcommittee structure to oversee and organize the grant selection process. Subcommittee members are appointed for the purpose of reviewing and ranking grants and compiling funding recommendations for the Committee.

Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Process

The subcommittee conducts a fair and comprehensive review of all grant applications submitted before making recommendations to the Committee. All projects are evaluated and ranked against each other. The Snowmobile grant review and ranking procedure follows a three-tiered recommendation and approval process. Applications are scored and evaluated by the Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee which ranks the applications in order of recommended funding priority. The ranked applications are passed to the State Trails Committee which evaluates the applications in ranked order and recommends funding strategies to the Commission. The Commission gives final approval of the projects recommended for funding. Public input is solicited as part of the grant review process. Public comment is accepted by e-mail, letter, and during public meetings.

Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee

The Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee is comprised of fourteen (14) scoring members including the subcommittee Chairperson who is a member of the State Trails Committee chosen by the Commission to represent snowmobile interests, and nine (9) snowmobile district representatives, one from each of the State's 9 designated snowmobile areas, who are appointed by the Chairperson; and four (4) Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regional Trail Coordinators.

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

2022-2023 Snowmobile Grant Applications

Snowmobile Grant applications were due April 22, 2022. Applications for six (6) eligible projects were received prior to the April 22nd deadline, for a total grant request of \$525,000.00. Applicants made presentations to the Snowmobile Subcommittee on May 14, 2022 in-person at the Sure Stay Hotel in Salida, Colorado.

FUNDING:

Available funding for the 2022-2023 Snowmobile Grant cycle is \$400,000.00 from the following funding source:

Snowmobile Program Registration Funds	\$400,000.00
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DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:

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

Grant Category	Number of Grants	Proposed Funding
Snowmobile Grants	5	400,000.00

Appendix B is the summaries of the Snowmobile Capital grant applications with their rankings and recommended funding levels.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:

CPW staff and the Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee have recommended the attached 2022-2023 Snowmobile 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 his designee. Furthermore, it is recommended that any additional project money that is received be rolled over into the 2023-2024 snowmobile grant cycle, or into the 2022 - 2023 grooming season.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

“In accordance with section 33-11-106 and 33-14-106, Colorado Revised Statutes, I move that the State Recreational Trails Committee approve the 2022-2023 Snowmobile Grant ranking and funding recommendations as provided by the Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking subcommittee. The committee recommends moving this item to the Parks and Wildlife Commission for their approval. The Committee further recommends that minor adjustments of project funding levels be permitted at the discretion of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division to address changes in available funding amounts and funding amounts requested, provided the recommended projects all receive a substantial amount of the funding as otherwise recommended by this Committee.”

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE

May 24, 2022
DATE



Appendix A	
Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2022-2023 Snowmobile Capital Grant Subcommittee Members	
SNOWMOBILE SUB COMMITTEE MEMBER	DISTRICT REPRESENTATION
Bill Rexford	DISTRICT 1
Ron Spencer	DISTRICT 2
Dennis Lynton	DISTRICT 3
Vacant	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
Luke Svare	CPW SOUTHEAST REGION TRAILS COORDINATOR
Ben Plankis	CPW NORTHEAST REGION TRAILS COORDINATOR
Janelle Kukuk	SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR - Member of the State Trails Committee representing Snowmobile interest



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

2022-2023 Snowmobile Grant

Summaries

Appendix B

Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Type	Amount Requested	Total Project Cost
1-SW	GROOMER PURCHASE	Wolf Creek Trail Blazers	Equipment	\$130,000.00	\$269,122.00
	Purchase a 2023 BP100 groomer or equivalent				
2-SW	GROOMER PURCHASE	South Fork Powder Busters	Equipment	\$150,000.00	\$269,180.00
	Purchase a 2023 BP100 groomer or equivalent				
3-SW	Level II Maintenance, Tiller Parts & Repair	Uncompahgre Trail Riders	Maintenance	\$34,348.00	\$35,309.71
	Level III Maintenance, parts and repairs for the tiller				
4-NW	Groomer Purchase or Groomer Repair	Steamboat Lake Snow Club	Equipment/Maintenance	\$75,000.00	\$150,000.00
	Groomer Purchase				
5-NW	Repair/maintenance	Routt Powder Riders	Maintenance	\$35,652.00	\$35,652.00
	Repairs and maintenance for the 2008 Prinoth Bison				
6-NW	Groomer Purchase	Gunnison Country Sno Trackers	Equipment	\$100,000.00	\$170,000.00
	Purchase a new or newer PB100 groomer				

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE		Appendix C																			
SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM		2022-2023 Score, Rank & Funding List																			
Grant Applicant	Project	Funding Request	Bill Rexford	Ron Spence	Dennis	Ray Doble	Ross Munzik	Tom Carl	Mark Holling	Ken Klifiker	Ben Plankis	Luke Svere	Randy Engl	Josh Stoudt	Janelle Kuku	Total Score	Number of Scorers	Average Score	Ranking	Recommended Funding	Recommended Funding Balance
			DIST 1	DIST 2	DIST 3	DIST 5	DIST 6	DIST 7	DIST 8	DIST 9	CPW- NE Region	CPW- SE Region	CPW- NW Region	CPW- SW Region	STC Rep						
Routt Powder Riders	Repair	35,652.00	85	83	79	85	85	93	88	72	86	90	88	89	95	1118	12	93	1	35,652.00	364,348.00
Uncompahgre Trail Riders	Repair	34,348.00	73	76	85	80	85	94	r	80	89	89	80	88	72	991	11	90	2	34,348.00	330,000.00
South Fork Powder Busters	Groomer Purchase	150,000.00	80	82	76	80	70	90	83	88	85	87	78	87	93	1079	12	90	3	150,000.00	180,000.00
Gunnison County Snow Trackers	Groomer Purchase	100,000.00	95	65	89	75	74	97	95	60	83	85	76	89	95	1078	12	90	4	50,000.00	130,000.00
Wolf Creek Trail Blazers	Groomer Purchase	130,000.00	88	78	51	85	68	92	68	97	88	92	84	89	90	1070	12	89	5	130,000.00	0.00
Steamboat Lake Snow Club	Groomer Purchase	75,000.00	70	57	84	70	60	91	80	86	87	86	74	83	86	1014	12	85	6	0.00	0.00
Total		525,000.00	491.00	358.00	385.00	475.00	442.00	557.00	414.00	483.00	518.00	529.00	480.00	525.00	531.00	6188	71.00	536.67		400,000.00	