

## Exhibit A – Project Information

### NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL MAINTENANCE APPLICATION

Applicant or Organization Name:		
Complete Mailing Address:		
Applicant Lead Contact Name:		Title:
Telephone:	Email:	Is this the primary contact for this grant <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

### PROJECT MANAGER (this person will have day-to-day responsibility for the project)

Name:	
Telephone:	Email:

### PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Name:		
Mailing Address:		
Partner Contact Name:		Title:
Telephone:	Email:	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Title:	
Grant Request: \$	Match Amount (Min. 25%): \$
Total Project Cost: \$	
<p><b>Project Description:</b> Please write a 2-3 paragraph description of your project and the expected accomplishments. Be sure to include Who, What, When and Where. <b>This is your scope of work.</b> (This section is not the place to talk about the project background, the benefits, the funding, or anything other than the actual work to be accomplished. Please address that information in question #1 of the Selection Criteria.)</p> <p><b>WHO?</b> Who will complete the work, and who will oversee the project? Provide a brief description of your community or organization, highlighting its mission and purpose.</p> <p><b>WHAT?</b> Explain what you are going to do or accomplish. What is the goal or the reason for your project? Break down the project into a list of specific activities to be completed. These should be quantifiable items that correspond to the categories on your budget page. Include quantity or quality as part of your description of work to be performed. How long? How many? How many feet? How many miles? What materials will be used? Is a specific standard or guideline being used?</p> <p><b>WHERE?</b> Explain in detail the location of your project. Where is the project located? What county? What National Forest/BLM Office? Provide the names of the trail(s) or trail system and where the work will be performed. List the land manager agency or municipality.</p> <p><b>DEFINITIONS?</b> Please define all acronyms and specialized terms that are used in your project description.</p>	

## Exhibit A – Project Information

Project Description

Previous CPW grants awarded (last 3 years) List award year, category and project name



**RMFI**  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

The nonprofit steward of public lands in Southern Colorado.

September 9, 2022

Fletcher Jacobs  
State Trails Program Manager  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)  
State Trails Program  
13787 U.S. Hwy 85 N.  
Littleton, CO 80125

Re: 2023 Non-Motorized Trails Grant Application

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Attached, please find Rocky Mountain Field Institute's (RMFI) application for the 2023 Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program. RMFI is applying for funds to support our continued work to re-route an approximate 4-mile section of the Devils Playground Trail on the west flank of Pikes Peak - America's Mountain, one of the most-visited mountains in the world.

The Devils Playground Trail, located entirely within the Pike National Forest, is one of two trails to the summit of Pikes Peak. It starts near the Crags Campground south of Divide, Colorado, and offers users stunning views of mountain ranges to the west. It is less congested than the Barr Trail, which ascends the eastern face of the mountain from Manitou Springs. The trail is owned and managed by the U.S. Forest Service and will be under their control for at least the next 25 years.

RMFI's 11-member Board of Directors strongly supports the Devils Playground Trail Improvement Project in its entirety, including construction and long-term maintenance. The current state of the trail is poor; the trail is aligned with the fall line in many locations and it lacks proper stabilization structures in areas where the slope exceeds gradient standards. In some areas both above and below tree line, the trail is incised up to 4 feet and over-widened up to 20 feet. Because the trail does not drain properly, channelized water flows have scoured the soil, leading to mass wasting of vegetation and loose rock. Users must pick their way up the trail, often stepping on sensitive alpine plants instead of using durable surfaces.

In 2016, Pikes Peak was adopted into the Find Your Fourteener campaign, an initiative of the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to accelerate the pace and scale of stewardship work being completed on Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks. Between 2017 and 2018, the U.S. Forest Service completed required NEPA documentation and supporting analysis including an extensive wildlife study with CPW. In 2019, RMFI officially began the new trail construction project with support from CPW (and other partners) through a 3-year non-motorized State Trails grant. In 2023, RMFI

plans to continue construction of the new 3.85-mile trail with the help of RMFI's own professional trail crews, Mile High Youth Corps, and community volunteers. After completion of the new route (estimated in 2025-2026), the old trail will be actively restored to avoid further degradation.

Colorado's 14,000+ foot peaks are continuing to increase in popularity, drawing tens of thousands of visitors each year to experience the challenge and scenery these iconic peaks offer. With such user demand and the natural resource degradation that accompanies such use, it is critical that a sustainable west-side natural surface trail to the summit of Pikes Peak be improved. This project will protect fragile plants and animals, reduce visitor impacts to the area, enhance the quality of the user experience, and improve overall user safety.

We hope that you will look favorably upon our request. We believe that your support will benefit the mountain environment as well as the citizens and visitors of Colorado. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Mohrmann  
Board President, Rocky Mountain Field Institute



## Exhibit A – Project Information

LAND OWNERSHIP			
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: United States Forest Service			
2. The trail corridor is controlled by: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> License <input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-Way <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking, Walking, Running	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding, In-Line Skating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snow Sports (non-motorized)	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
TRAIL SURFACE			
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher Fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
PROJECT LOCATION (For multiple project sites attach a separate list.)			
Nearest Town or City: <b>Divide</b>			
County(ies): <b>Teller County</b>			
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates (in decimal degrees): <b>38.871164, -105.11949</b>			
State Congressional District ( <a href="https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members">https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members</a> ): <b>5</b>			
<i>Please fill out all applicable categories for your project:</i>			
Acreage of new trailhead		Miles of trail being planned	
Miles of new trail construction		Miles of trail maintenance	
Miles of inter-connecting trail		Miles of trail reroute	<b>1.2</b>
Miles of trail to be decommissioned		Miles of trail to be restored	
Miles of trail to be signed		Miles of trail grooming	
Other		Other	

Applicant Printed Name: Carl Woody

Applicant Signature: Carl Woody Digitally signed by Carl Woody  
Date: 2022.09.30 09:41:05 -06'00' Date: 09/30/2022



## MAINTENANCE GRANT SCORING CRITERIA

All applicants must respond to the criteria questions. Use the numbered blank pages at the end of this section. This application will be scored on a 100-point basis. The maximum number of points that can be awarded for each question is shown in parentheses. Outside reviewers and State Trails staff will review each project. Projects will be ranked according to reviewer and staff scores.

Grant review subcommittee members review and score grant applications based on the totality of information available. This may include not only the answers provided to the application questions, but also additional information provided to the review subcommittee from agency staff and subcommittee member knowledge and information that is relevant to the proposed project.

Failure to provide a response to any question (unless otherwise noted) will reduce your project's score. Please read and understand all application questions prior to answering. Respond in **12-point font**. Reference all attachments.

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### 1. Scope (10 points)

Describe the proposed project including the length/width of trail maintenance, any major components necessary to complete the trail such as maintenance materials, under/overpasses, bridges, trail heads, trail sections that will be maintained, number of maintenance features, etc. Address each trail component separately, specifically mentioning its characteristics. Describe the state of the existing trail, why it is no longer acceptable, and how it has arrived at its current condition.

### 2. Access/Trail Connections (5 points)

Briefly discuss how this project maintains trail loops, links, or improves and/or restores trail use and connectivity to other trails, park areas, outdoor recreation opportunities, and/or other public recreation and community centers. If the project is connected to a larger trail system, describe the size, extent, and predominant uses of that system.

### 3. Need (15 Points)

Describe the project's urgency and why it is being pursued at this time. Describe what issues this trail project will be addressing (resource damage, user safety, increased trail usage, etc.) and how this project will meet those needs. Why are CPW State Trails funds necessary to complete this project and what opportunities are lost if the grant is not awarded? Describe the community this project will serve and provide population and economic data. Discuss the significance of the trail segment to users. List each user group and estimate their percentage of overall trail use, e.g., bicyclists – 40%, hikers – 50%, equestrian – 10%. What features make this trail suitable for these uses?

#### 4. **Planning and Prioritization Process (10 points)**

Discuss the planning process that identified the maintenance of this trail(s) as a priority. Is this project part of an approved master plan, federal Forest or Resource Management Plan, or a landscape level regional planning effort (such as an Outdoor Regional Partnership). If so, what priority is it given in that plan? Has this project been deemed a priority by any other agencies or given any significant designations? Please explain existing trails in the area and describe the need for improvements to this section of trail.

#### 5. **Design and Trail Work (10 points)**

What best management practices will be used to ensure that the trail and its amenities will be sustainable? Who is designing/will design and oversee the trail work, and what are their qualifications? Who will perform the trail work (staff, volunteers, conservation corps, contractors, etc.)? Have trail reroute options been considered for current on-the-ground unsustainable trails and trail sections in the project area? If so, are there plans to decommission and/or restore these sections?

#### 6. **Sustainability (10 points)**

Has an operations and maintenance plan been developed for the project areas for long-term sustainability? If so, please explain the plan in detail including who will be responsible for this work, the estimated annual costs, and funding plans. Is this a multi-phase project, and if so, how many phases is it and how will future phases be funded?

#### 7. **Wildlife and Natural Resources (15 points)**

Describe how potential impacts to wildlife and natural resources were evaluated during the planning process for the trail (such as utilizing resources listed in Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind). Describe any plans for avoiding sensitive habitat as well as minimizing, and/or mitigating wildlife and natural resource impacts. Describe the plan for trail management and monitoring after the trail work is complete. Were CPW staff engaged in the planning process? Describe how their recommendations will be implemented. For example, if a seasonal closure is recommended, what are the dates of the closure and how will it be implemented to be effective (signage, gates, game cameras, etc.)?

#### 8. **Public Engagement (10 points)**

**Public notification is mandatory for all projects.**

Describe the public process for this trail project (regular meetings, public meetings, working groups, etc.). Please highlight any collaborative approaches that were taken and summarize the feedback received from the public that determined the need for this project. Describe any received opposition to the project, and how the concerns have been addressed.

**9. Matching Funds and Partnerships (10 points)**

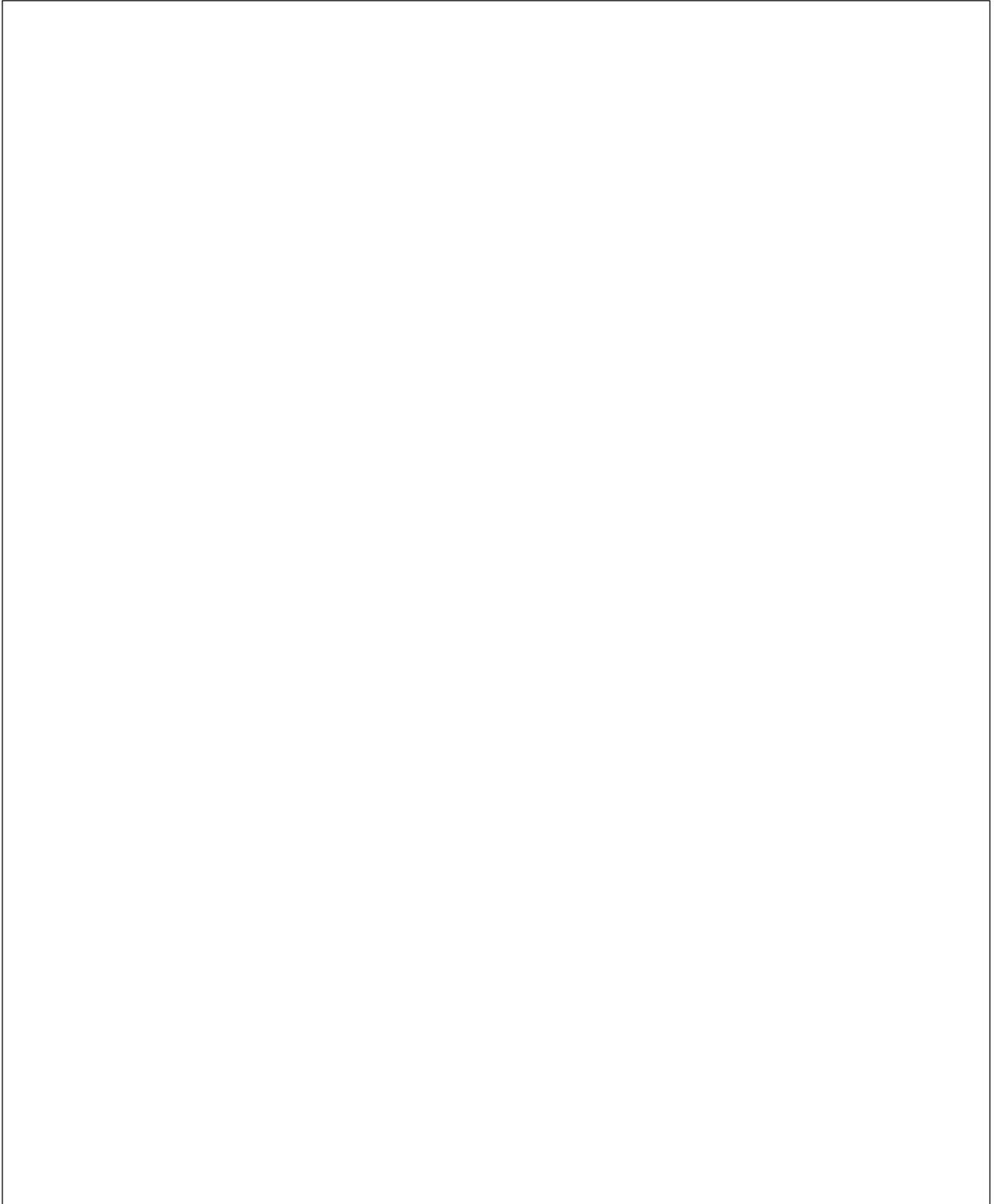
Discuss partnerships established for this project and their contributions. What other funding sources have been dedicated or are anticipated to be dedicated to this project? If matching funds are not yet secured, what are the plans for raising those additional funds? Will applicant and/or partner funds be lost if State Trails funds are not awarded? Submit letters of commitment/support from landowners and/or funders as a separate attachment (resolution from the governing body should include support and resource commitment; a separate support letter is not required). Beyond these letters, up to 5 non-funding letters of support may be submitted.

**10. Ability/Contingency (5 points)**

Describe your organization's ability to complete the specific grant transaction(s) that will be necessary to accomplish this project. Please provide examples (if any) for grant projects of similar magnitude that demonstrate your organization's ability to manage the requested level of grant funding; including the project title, grantor, award amount and year the project was funded. If State Trails funding is not awarded, what is the plan to complete the project?

**1. Scope of Work (10 points)**

**2. Access/Trail Connections (5 points)**



**3. Need (15 points)**

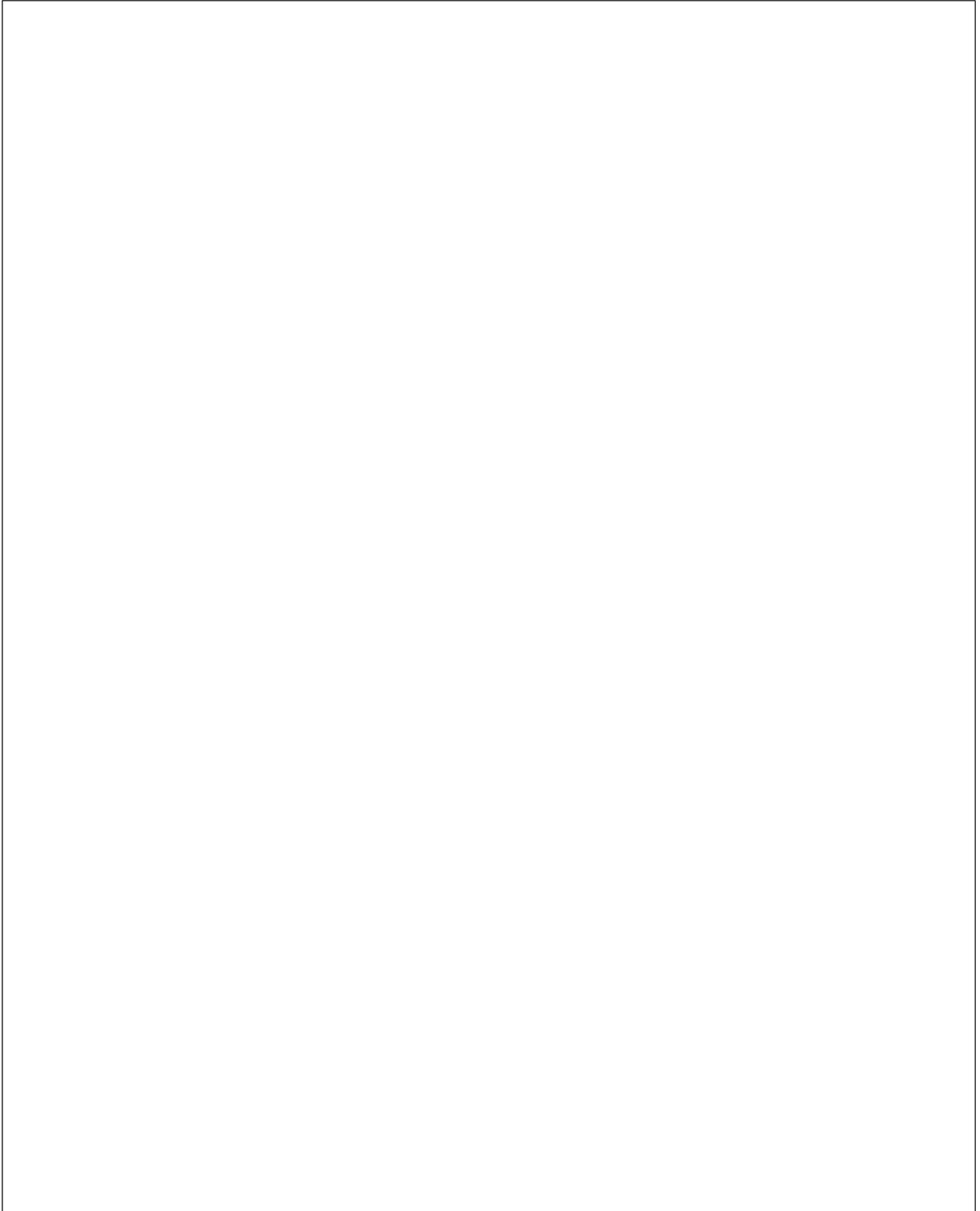
**4. Planning and Prioritization Process (10 points)**

**5. Design and Trail Work (10 points)**

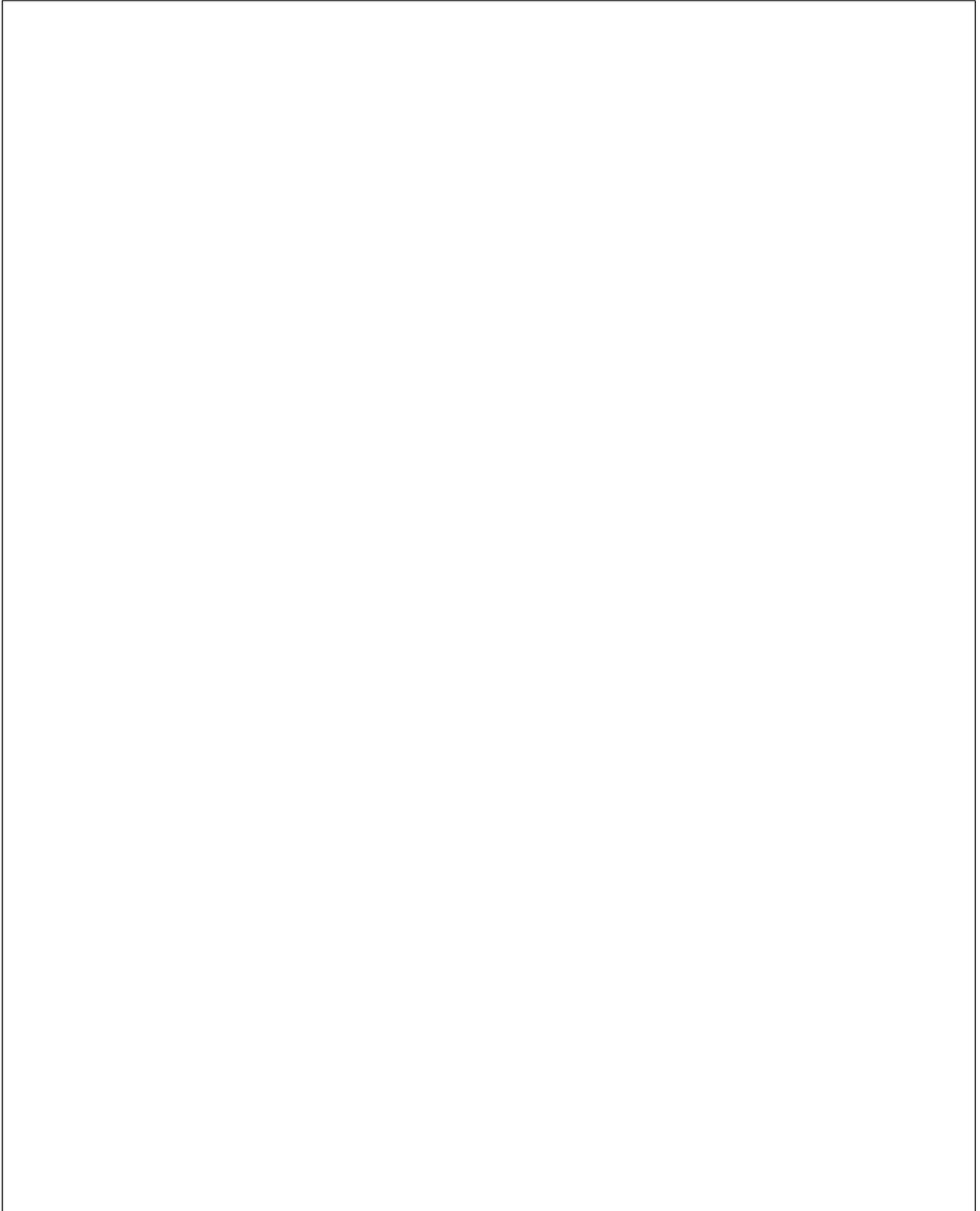
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for the student to provide their design and trail work for this question.

**6. Sustainability (10 points)**

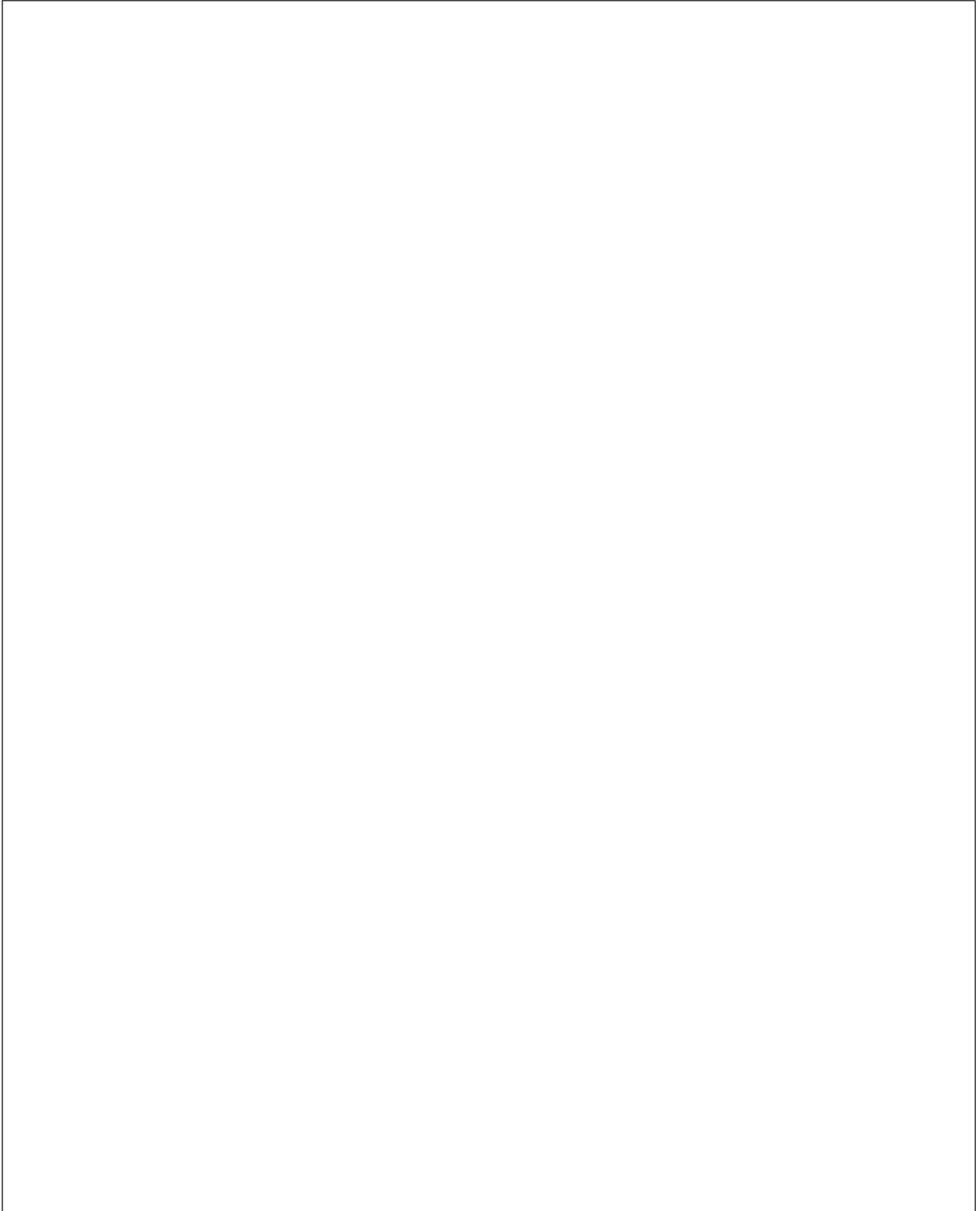
**7. Wildlife and Natural Resources (15 points)**



**8. Public Engagement (10 points)**



**9. Matching Funds and Partnerships (10 points)**



**10. Ability/Contingency (5 points)**

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**Federal Environmental Form and Land Manager Approval**  
**Only to be completed if all or part of the project is located on federal land**

The applicant is responsible for securing all necessary permits, licenses, clearances, SHPO, and environmental analysis documentation necessary to comply with local, state, and/or federal laws.

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Project Name Devils Playground Trail Improvement Project

Project Sponsor Rocky Mountain Field Institute

**As the official responsible for management of the land on which the project will be accomplished, I agree to the following:**

1. The project as described in this application has my approval.
2. The project is located on federal public lands and is in conformance with the appropriate Forest Management Plan, BLM Resource Area Management Plan or other decision document.

Title of document: Pike and San Isabel National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan

Date of document: 1984

3. A decision has been issued as part of the NEPA environmental review process.

Title of document: Decision Memo -Devils Playground Trail Reroute Project

Date of document: December 20, 2018

If a decision has not been issued as part of the NEPA environmental review process, please state the reason why. No funds will be distributed until any required NEPA documentation is completed.

For more information about the NEPA environmental review process, contact:

Name: Jennifer DeWoody, NEPA Planner

Phone number: 719-477-4217

Email: [jennifer.dewoody@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.dewoody@usda.gov)

4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for 2025 ?.

Land Manager's Name: Carl R. Bauer

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature: District Ranger

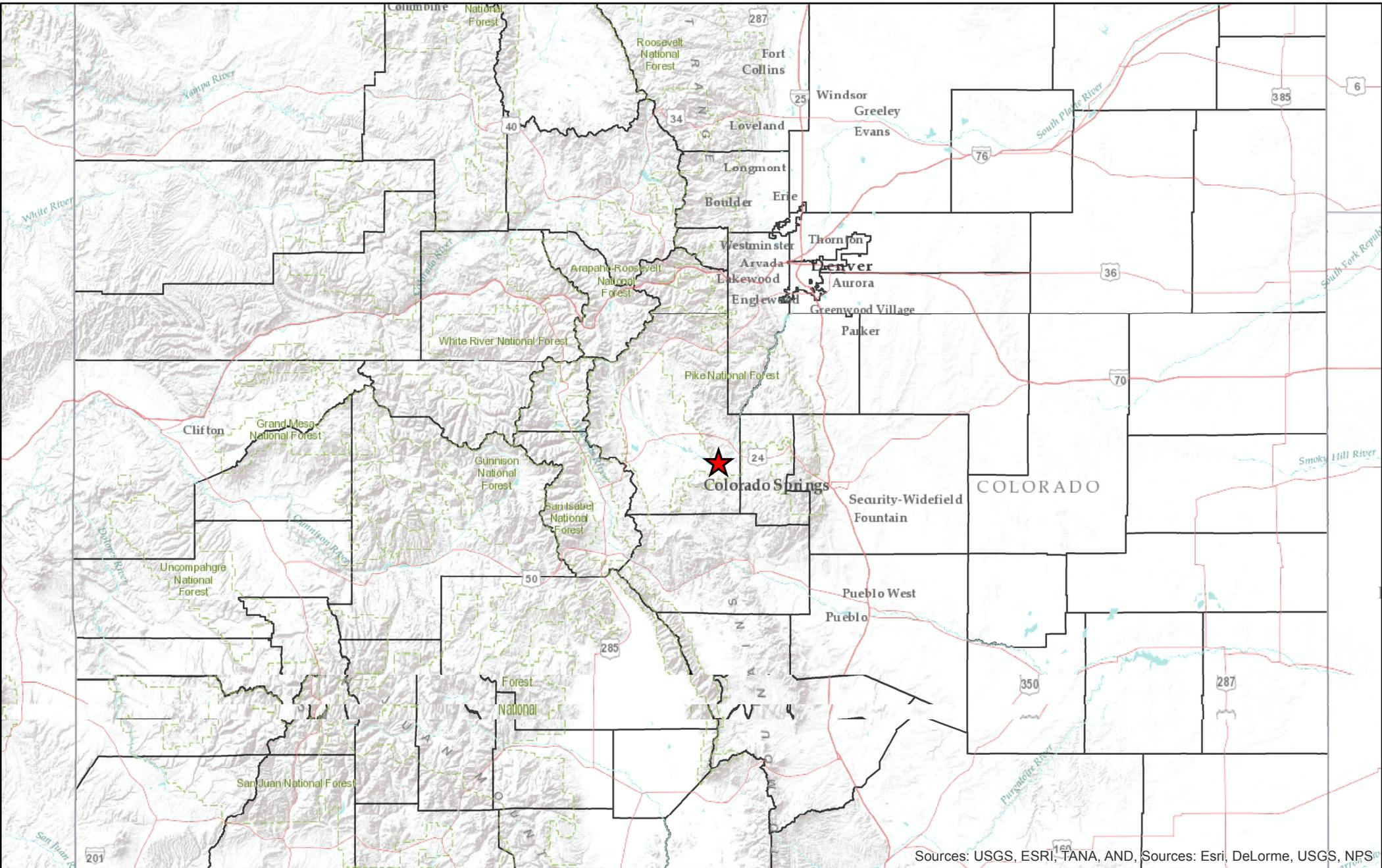
**CARL BAUER**

Digitally signed by CARL BAUER  
Date: 2022.09.15 17:37:39 -06'00'

**Section 3 - Project Budget**

<b>Project Name:</b> Devils Playground Trail Improvement Project					<b>Use:</b>			
SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
<b>CASH</b>								
CPW - Trails	Anticipated 5/23				\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00	
Athletic Brewing	Sep-22					\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
Lyda Hill Philanthropies	Aug-22					\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
Great American Outdoors Act	May-22					\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	
Colorado Springs LART	May-22					\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
<b>IN-KIND</b>								
U.S. Forest Service						\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	
RMFI Project Volunteers						\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
Mile High Youth Corps Work Crews						\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>					<b>\$ 250,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 159,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 409,500.00</b>	
[CASH] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
<b>CATEGORY 1-Contracted Services</b> Identify as: Youth Corps, Engineering, Contractor, etc.								
Mile High Youth Corps (18 weeks over 3 seasons)	18	weeks	\$ 9,240.00	\$ 166,320.00	\$ 120,320.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 156,320.00	10000
<b>Category 2 - Salary/Wages</b>								
Grant Administration (5% of award)	250	hours	\$ 50.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ -	\$ 12,500.00	0
RMFI Project Management Staff (3 staff over 3 seasons)	100	days	\$ 350.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 29,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	0
RMFI Seasonal Field Staff (staff overseeing youth corps crew/vols and/or serving as standalone trail crew)	655.25	days	\$ 240.00	\$ 157,260.00	\$ 102,430.00	\$ 54,830.00	\$ 157,260.00	0
<b>CATEGORY 3-Materials/Supplies</b> Identify as: Signs, crusherfines, native seed, weed barrier, etc.								
Project Materials & Supplies (supplies needed annually: tools, hard hats, propane, water filters, first aid, etc.)	397.72	items	\$ 35.00	\$ 13,920.20	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 5,170.00	\$ 13,920.00	0
<b>USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>\$ 250,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 125,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 375,000.00</b>	
<b>*ESTIMATE NUMBER OF CREW HOURS [GRANT AND MATCH] CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE</b>					<b>7175</b>	<b>3424</b>	<b>*REQUIRED INPUT</b>	
[IN-KIND] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)			Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
<b>Category 1 - Contracted Services</b>								
Mile High Youth Corps Work Crews (portion of est. 3,200 crew hrs/season)	3	season	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	0
<b>Category 2 - Salary/Wages</b>								
U.S. Forest Service - Project Oversight (3 field seasons; est. 60 hrs./season @ \$25/hr.)	3	season	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	0
RMFI Project Volunteers (est. 175 hrs./season @ \$28.54/hr. per independentsector.org)	3	season	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	0
<b>IN-KIND SUBTOTAL</b>						<b>\$ 34,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,500.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>					<b>\$ 250,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 159,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 409,500.00</b>	
<b>25% REQUIRED MATCH</b>						<b>\$ 62,500.00</b>		

# Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project: Statewide Map



Sources: USGS, ESRI, TANA, AND, Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS



County Boundaries



Devil's Playground Trail Project



Maps are for graphical purposes only. They do not represent a legal survey. RMFI makes no warranty, expressed or implied, nor does the fact of distribution constitute such a warranty. This information was produced on September 30th, by Joe Lavorini.

Projection NAD 83, UTM Zone 13N.



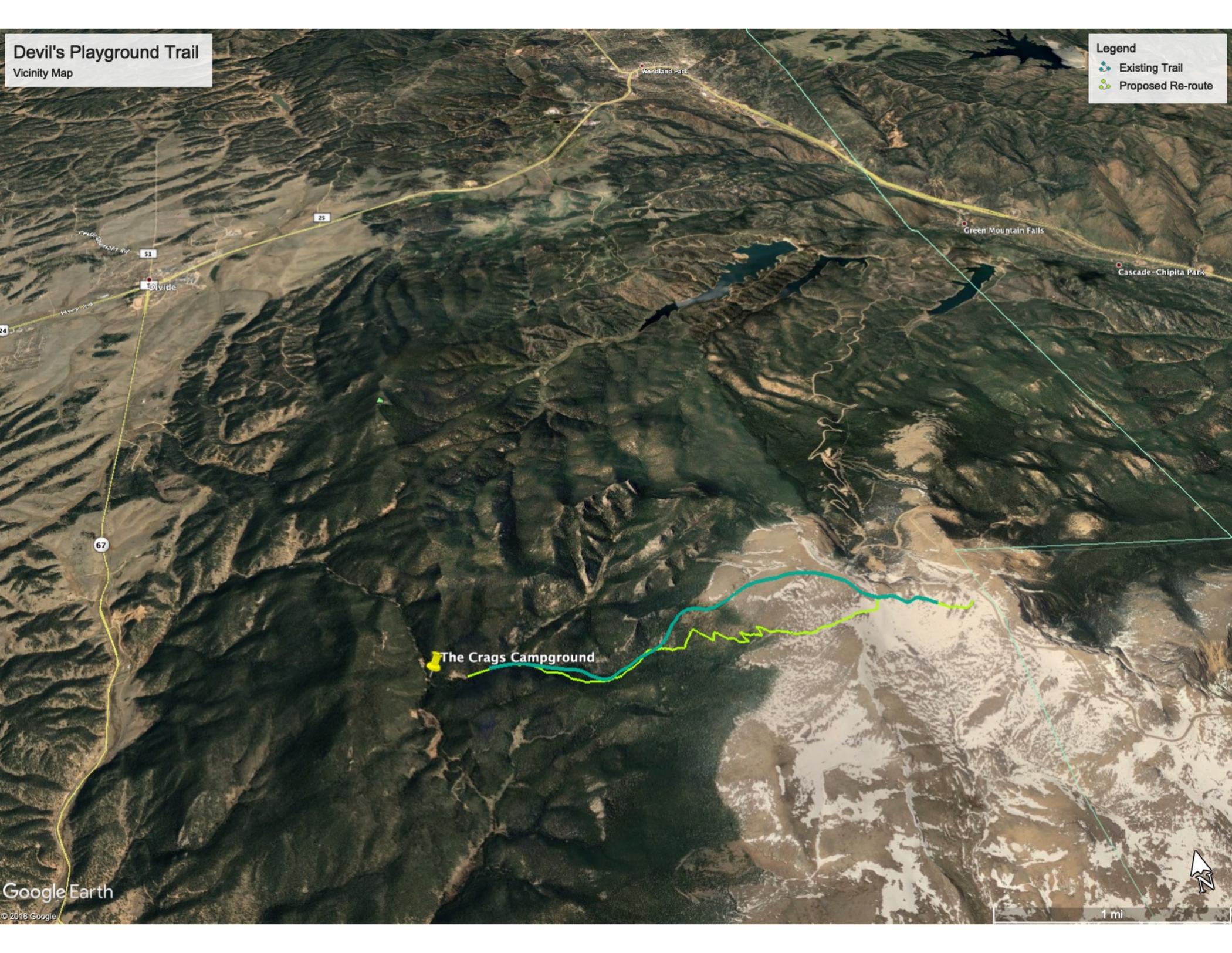
**RMFI**

# Devil's Playground Trail

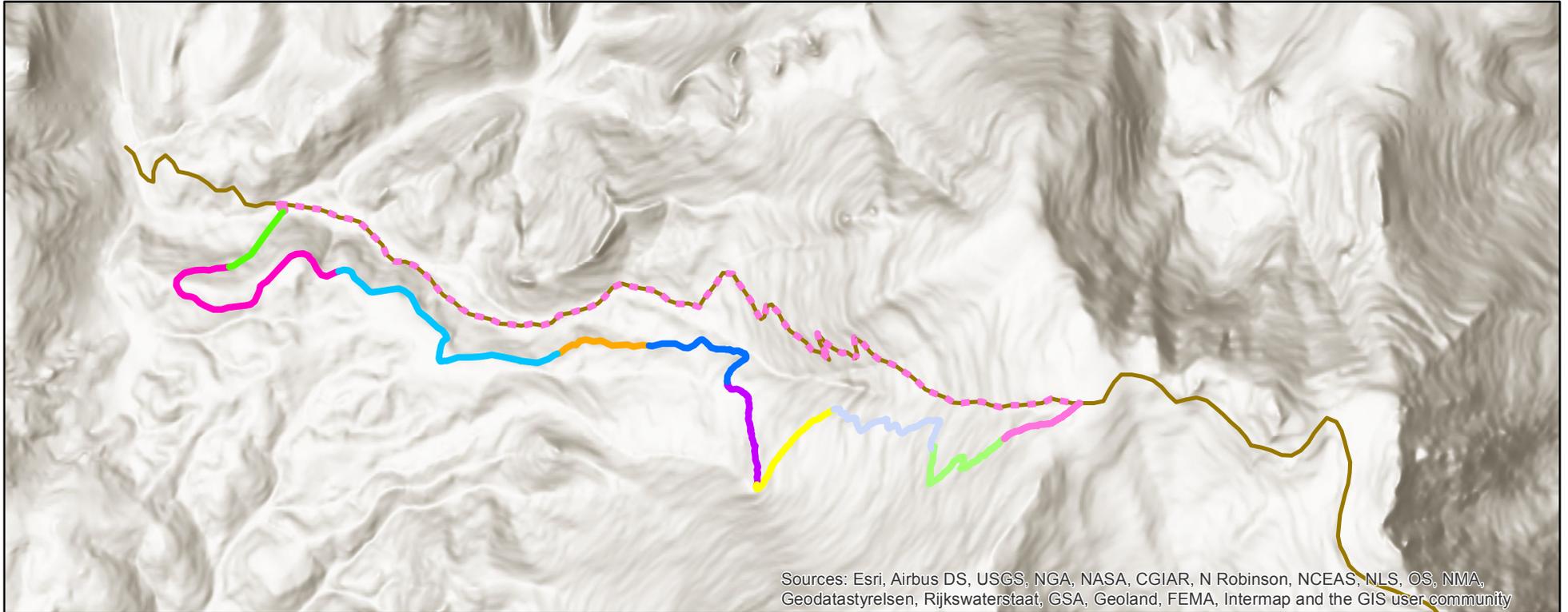
Vicinity Map

**Legend**

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Re-route



# DEVILS PLAYGROUND SCOPE OF WORK



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

Date Exported: Sept 21, 2022

0 0.325 0.65 1.3 Miles

1:24,000



- | Year | 2024 | Existing DP Trail |
|------|------|-------------------|
| 2019 | 2025 | 2028 Restoration  |
| 2020 | 2026 |                   |
| 2021 | 2027 |                   |
| 2022 | 2028 |                   |
| 2023 |      |                   |





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**File Code:** 2300

**Date:** August 25, 2022

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
State Trails Grant Committee  
13787 S. Hwy 85  
Littleton, Colorado 80125

Dear State Trails Committee Members:

I am writing to convey the U.S. Forest Service's continued support for the Devils Playground Trail Improvement Project proposal submitted by Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI). This proposed project is located on and managed by the Pikes Peak Ranger District on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands.

Since 2019, RMFI has led the multi-year Devils Playground Trail Improvement Project, a collaborative effort involving many stakeholders including the Pikes Peak Ranger District, the National Forest Foundation, Mile High Youth Corps, Colorado Mountain Club, Friends of the Peak, and many others. These stakeholders have remained engaged for the duration of the project. Together, we are engaging in shared stewardship of "America's Mountain" – a truly unique and treasured resource. Increasing outdoor recreation and use on Pikes Peak require forward thinking and sustainable solutions. Over four seasons RMFI has demonstrated the ability to make those solutions a reality.

The Devils Playground Project remains a priority for the Pikes Peak Ranger District, and we are proud to partner with RMFI to implement the next phase of the project. We appreciate your consideration of their funding application

Thank you for your time and attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

**CARL BAUER**

Digitally signed by CARL BAUER  
Date: 2022.09.09 16:00:18  
-06'00'

CARL BAUER  
District Ranger





BUILDING 27, SUITE 3, FORT MISSOULA ROAD  
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59804  
TEL 406.542.2805  
NATIONALFORESTS.ORG

September 19, 2022

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado State Trails Program  
c/o: Colorado Recreation Trails Committee & Staff  
13787 U.S. HWY 85 N.  
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Letter of support for the Devils Playground Trail Project on Pikes Peak

Dear Trails Committee members and staff:

I am writing on behalf of the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to support the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) application for a non-motorized trail re-route and construction of the Devils Playground Trail to Pikes Peak.

The NFF has been involved in the Devils Playground Trail project for several years. In 2017, Pikes Peak was designated as a priority through the *Find Your Fourteener Campaign*. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has supported several priority peaks via grants to the NFF, RMFI, and Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI). The NFF, RMFI, CFI, and other partners have been able to leverage these grants to raise significant federal, corporate, and philanthropic funding. The NFF has previously applied for and received funding from CPW through the Colorado the Beautiful Program to aid in Devils Playground construction.

We are grateful for CPW's critical support for America's Mountain through previous State Trails proposals, and kindly thank you for considering additional support through another proposal. Work in 2023 and beyond will shift to completing more technical project objectives above the treeline, including extensive rock structure construction and a full backcountry basecamp. For our part, the NFF will be continuing to seek outside funding sources for this important trail project while we take the next step and engage partners and stakeholders in the GOCO-supported Centennial visioning process for 14ers.

The NFF values community organizations and recognizes that building their capacity is key to stewardship of National Forests and Grasslands. In this context, the NFF is thrilled to partner with RMFI. Thank you for your consideration for RMFI's Devils Playground proposal.

Sincerely,

Emily Olsen  
Rocky Mountain Region Director



August 25, 2022  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Trails Program  
13787 U.S. Hwy 85 N.  
Littleton, CO 80125

Re: State Trails Grant Program – Devil’s Playground Improvement Project

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is presented by the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA) in support of Rocky Mountain Field Institute’s application for a State Trails Grant for the Devil’s Playground Improvement Project. This project has been underway since 2019 and will continue into 2023 as crews work to create a shorter and less crowded route to the summit of Pikes Peak. This important trail will improve outdoor recreation on America’s Mountain, Pikes Peak, and make for a safer, more enjoyable user experience while protecting fragile vegetation and area wildlife.

PPORA is excited about the plan to complete not only the construction of the new Devil’s Playground re-route, but also the decommissioning and restoration of the old, unsustainable trail. The new trail connects to the popular Ring the Peak Trail – making it easier for outdoor enthusiasts to navigate the area and more appealing for hikers to experience this area. Rocky Mountain Field Institute engages the community by collaborating with local youth corps organizations and community volunteers to complete their projects. The work that RMFI does on our trails is impeccable, as they focus on creating sustainable trails for greater outdoor recreation opportunities.

As an organization focused on promoting outdoor recreation and to do so in a responsible way, we are pleased to support efforts such as the Devil’s Playground Improvement Project that will provide better, safer, and more sustainable outdoor recreation experiences for local residents and visitors alike, while at the same time protecting surrounding landscapes and wildlife.

We hope that you will look favorably upon our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Leinweber".

Becky Leinweber  
Executive Director, Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance



702 E. Boulder St #200  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
719.633.6884  
info@trailsandopenspaces.org  
www.trailsandopenspaces.org

*We advocate for the creation and conservation of an interconnected network of trails, parks and open spaces across the Pikes Peak region.*

To: State Trails Grant Committee  
From: Trails and Open Space Coalition  
Re: Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project Proposal

Dear Committee Members,

For 35 years the Trails and Open Space Coalition has advocated for trail connectivity and open space preservation for the Pikes Peak region. Our members and partners look to us to be their voice on issues involving trails, parks and open spaces. We are using that voice today asking for your support.

We are delighted to support the Rocky Mountain Field Institute's new request for additional financial consideration for this project. The Devil's Playground Trail is a very popular trail as it is one of only two trails leading to the summit of Pikes Peak. Overuse and neglect have led to severe degradation. RMFI is the appropriate organization to address this challenge and will continue to have our support in this endeavor. We manage a regional volunteer calendar (Open Space Volunteers) that includes RMFI's work dates and will enthusiastically promote this project as it continues to improve the trail.

Our Ring the Peak Trail planning project (GOCO supported) was completed and we continue to pursue plan supported projects. As Crags Trail connects to the Ring the Peak Trail, your approval of this new proposal will improve trail connectivity on the west side of America's Mountain and indirectly impact the RTP Trail. If we are successful, more users will seek out that portion of the RTP Trail. Improving the Devil's Playground Trail will become even more critical. Improving this trail is not an easy task. We are grateful RMFI is willing to take on the challenge and are grateful you have provided support for this project in the past.

Addressing the needs of this trail will not only enhance the recreational experience for trail users but improve the conservation values of this neglected portion of Pike National Forest. The wildlife and vegetation in that area deserve better stewardship. Based on past projects I have no doubt RMFI and the volunteers they manage will do an exemplary job repairing the damaged trail.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Susan Davies*

Susan Davies, Executive Director  
Trails and Open Space Coalition

# CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

**MANDATORY:**

Signed letter of resolution from the Governing Body (Board of Directors or Commissioners, City or Town Government, etc.) that states the resources and support committed to the project.

Formal authorization from land manager (federal lands only)

Timeline form has been filled out

Budget uploaded as an unprotected Excel document

Maps/Photos/Graphics uploaded as PDF document(s)

Letters of Support (maximum of five) uploaded. No letters from clubs, groups or individuals who are specifically working on the project. No letters from CPW staff.

Project should be completed within 2.5 years from receiving grant

Required MATCH funding is secured, including CASH match funds. If not secured at time of application, add a note in the comments sections at the bottom of this form.

Scope of work and project location map emailed to CPW Area Manager by September 6, 2022.

Project area is owned by a public land agency or has an easement that designates the area to be open to public outdoor recreation for at least 25 years.

Formal Environmental Assessment (EA) or NEPA (Must be completed prior to applicant presentations in January 2023. Include web link to EA).

Construction projects have been evaluated for required permits. If required, permits have been acquired (404 permit, etc.)

**ADDITIONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:**

Youth Corps or youth organization will be used on the project (name of organization)

Volunteers will be utilized on the project (name of organization)

**Comments**