

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>Project Description: Please write a 2-3 paragraph description of your project and the expected accomplishments. Be sure to include Who, What, When and Where. This is your scope of work. (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>WHO? 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>WHAT? 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>WHERE? 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>DEFINITIONS? 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

AUGUST 6, 2022 BOARD MOTIONS

1. April 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Board approves minutes from the April 21, 2022 Board meeting.

Moved by: Scharr-Ratzlaff. Second: Welsh. Unanimous

2. CFI DEI Policy Statement. Board to approve the revised policy statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Moved by: Harris. Second: Walker. No = Mizunho
Otherwise unanimous.

3. State Trails Grant Submission.

Board to approve the formal submission of a \$250,000 grant request to the Colorado State Trails Program for the Statewide 14ers Maintenance Program for work during the 2023-24 field seasons, including the requirement to raise additional matching funds and cover ineligible expenses.

Moved by: McQueen. Second: Mizunho. Unanimous



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Gunnison Field Office
210 W. Spencer Ave. Ste. A
Gunnison, Colorado 81230

In Reply Refer To:
8323 (CO-S06)

Colorado State Parks
State Trails Program
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80215

SEP 19 2022

Dear State Trails Committee Members,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Gunnison Field Office is submitting this letter to lend its support to the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's (CFI's) proposal to receive funding from the Colorado State Trails Program for Regional Fourteener Trail Maintenance. The Gunnison BLM office has a successful history of partnering with CFI to address trail re-construction and maintenance needs on the three "Fourteeners" that lie on BLM land in the state of Colorado. CFI has consistently proven that they have the knowledge and expertise to accomplish the high priority, highly sensitive alpine work that the BLM Fourteeners require.

In years past, CFI has focused mainly on the Grizzly Gulch route on Handies Peak, installing over 600 timber check steps below tree line to provide stabilization on the lower portion of this route. Based on recent data collected during the field season of 2022, CFI has identified a need for focused trail maintenance on the American Basin Route up Handies Peak. This route exists 100% in fragile alpine terrain and is in need of trail structures and delineation to ensure hikers remain on a durable surface and limit the widening of the trail through the sensitive alpine tundra beds below the junction for Sloan Lake. The relative ease of access to the American Basin trailhead and the short distance of the trail makes it very popular with the Fourteener hiking crowd. The trailhead is also situated directly adjacent to the popular Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway which adds to the traffic that this trail sees.

CFI's most recent hiker use report indicates an estimate of 7,000-10,000 hikers on Handies Peak each season. This increase is consistent with increased use on Fourteeners across the state. CFI has implemented and led volunteer and maintenance projects on Redcloud, Sunshine, and Handies Peaks with high rates of success over the years. Funding this proposal would support more intensive and focused maintenance effort on the American Basin route. CFI's Regional Maintenance Crews will address the highest priority maintenance needs in the most sensitive areas on the trail.

All the trails associated with these peaks are managed by the Bureau of Land Management Gunnison Field Office, and CFI has permission to conduct its work in these locations. In accordance with the State Trails Program, these lands will be managed by the BLM for at least 25 years from now.

Programs like CFI's Regional Maintenance Program are essential to the long-term care and maintenance of the BLM's Fourteener trails. We appreciate your consideration in funding this proposal; if you have questions or require further information please contact James Lovelace, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner at (970) 642-4953 or jlovelac@blm.gov.

Jon F. Kaminsky
Field Manager
Gunnison Field Office

File Code: 1000

Date:

Fletcher Jacobs
State Trails Program Manager
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125
lloyd@14ers.org

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

I am writing this letter to express my approval and support for the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's (CFI) proposal to receive funding from the Colorado State Trails Program for Regional Fourteener Maintenance. CFI has proven to be a seasoned expert in maintaining some of our state's highest and most treasured trails. The funding of this grant would go to the maintenance and improvement of twelve Fourteener trails around the state.

The CFI's most recent hiker use report (2021) indicates that as many as 303,000 use days occur on the 14ers across the state each year. This increase in the popularity of hiking 14ers and the increased impact has driven the need and urgency for increased and focused maintenance efforts on the more heavily trafficked and impacted peaks. CFI is a proven and valued partner of the Forest Service and has become the go-to organization for constructing, maintaining, and restoring the trails that pass through the fragile Colorado alpine ecosystem. Without CFI's support, the Forest Service could not effectively manage these trails.

The maintenance efforts planned by CFI will continue to address concerns identified by CFI's Sustainable Trails Program. Their asset management system allows the organization to plan work effectively and efficiently forecast on-the-ground needs for each Fourteener ascent trail. Funding this grant will allow CFI's veteran trail crew leaders to recruit volunteers and conduct trail maintenance work covering 12 routes on 15 peaks across the state during the 2023 and 2024 summer field seasons. In addition to engaging a multitude of volunteers from various organizations, CFI's Maintenance Crews will focus on high-priority reconstruction and restoration needs on remote and hard-to-reach sections of the trail.

The Forest Service manages all of the trails to be maintained, and CFI has permission to conduct its work on the National Forest System lands. In accordance with the requirements of the State Trails Grant Program, these lands will be managed by the Forest Service for at least the next 25 years.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Volunteer and Service Program Coordinator Kristin Schmitt kristin.schmitt@usda.gov at (720) 765-9691 or Recreation, Lands, Minerals, and Volunteers Director Jason Robertson jason.d.robertson@usda.gov at (303) 746-9815.

Sincerely,

JASON ROBERTSON
Director, Recreation, Lands, Minerals, and Volunteers

Enclosure

cc: Jason Robertson, Kristin Schmitt, Bill Jackson, Loretta McEllhiney, ben@14ers.org



Exhibit A – Project Information

LAND OWNERSHIP			
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management			
2. The trail corridor is controlled by: <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> License <input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-Way <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Federal land			
USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking, Walking, Running	<input type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding, In-Line Skating	<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Sports (non-motorized)	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Mountaineering	<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: See Supplemental Project Location Information Sheet			
County(ies): See Above			
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates (in decimal degrees): See Above			
State Congressional District (https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members): 2, 3, 7			
<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	46.4
Miles of inter-connecting trail		Miles of trail reroute	
Miles of trail to be decommissioned		Miles of trail to be restored	1.08
Miles of trail to be signed		Miles of trail grooming	
Other		Other	

Applicant Printed Name: Lloyd F. Athearn

Applicant Signature: Lloyd F. Athearn Digitally signed by Lloyd F. Athearn
Date: 2022.10.04 12:57:35 -06'00' Date: _____

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.

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)

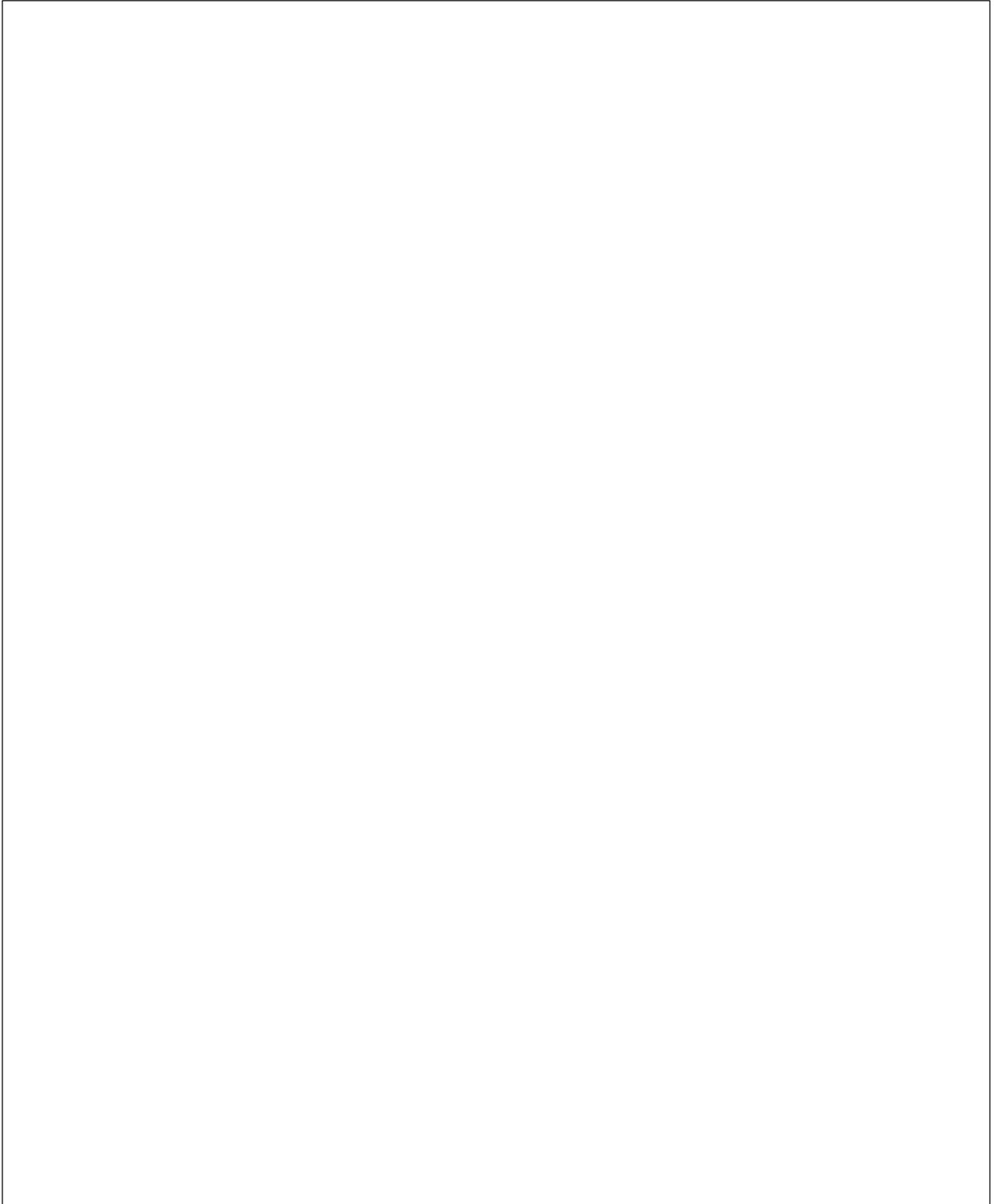
Discuss partnerships established for this project and their contributions. What other funding sources have been dedicated or are anticipated to be dedicated to this project? If matching funds are not yet secured, what are the plans for raising those additional funds? Will applicant and/or partner funds 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)

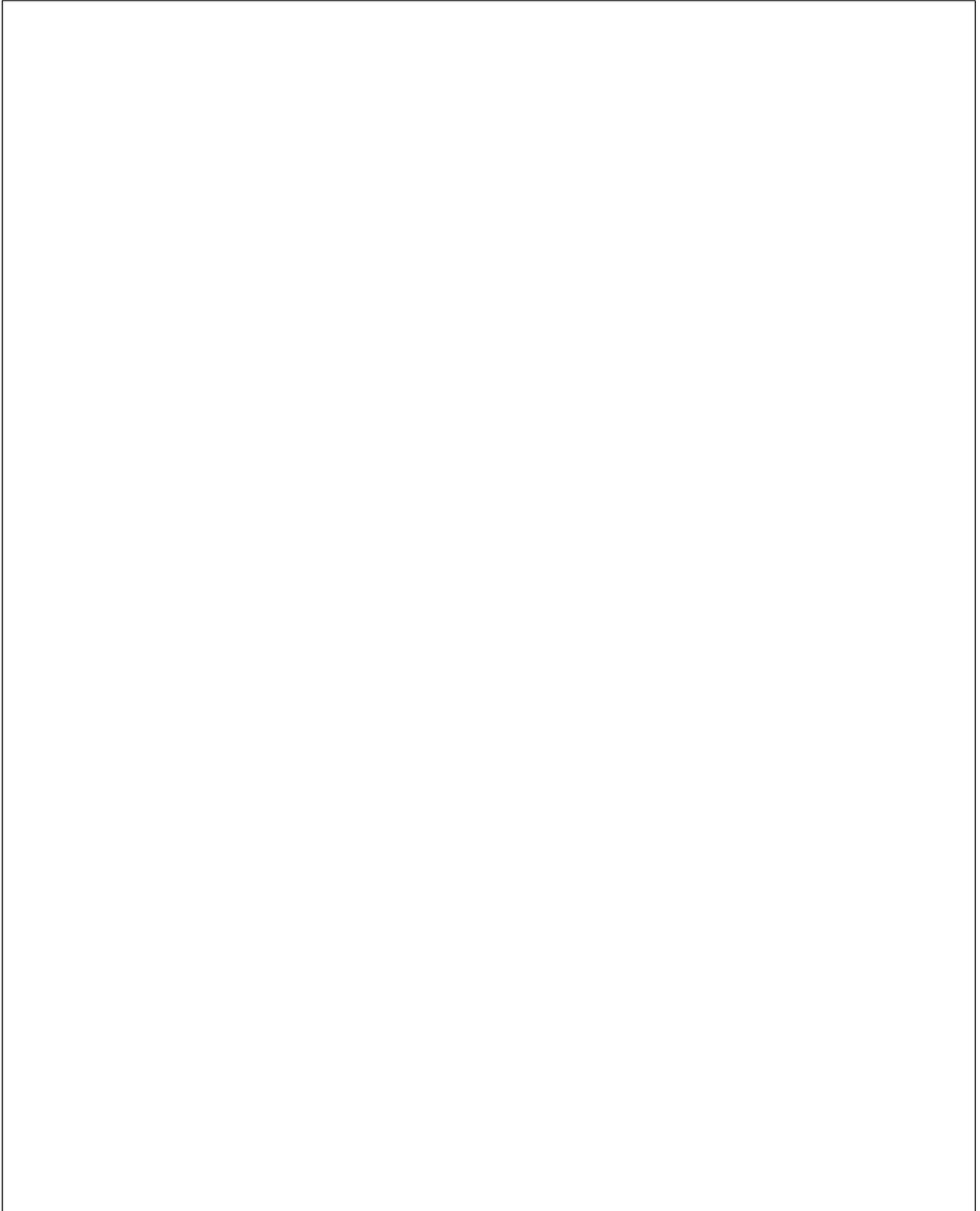
4. Planning and Prioritization Process (10 points)

5. Design and Trail Work (10 points)

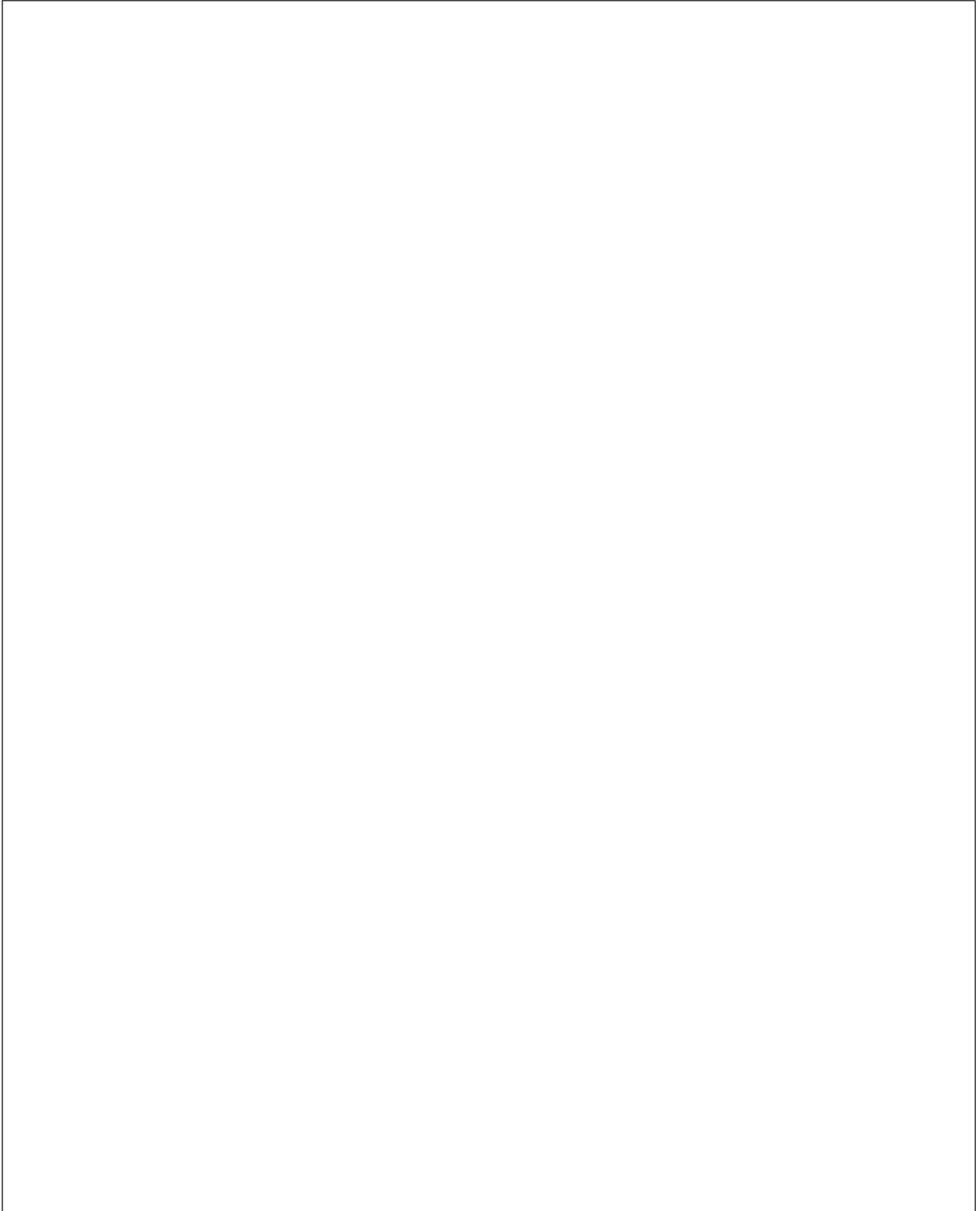
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for the student to provide their design and trail work for this question.

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)

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.

Project Name CFI-Regional Fourteener Trail Maintenance

Project Sponsor Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

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: Forest Management Plans for Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs and Pawnee NG; Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison NFs; Pike & San Isabel NFs and Comanche and Cimarron NGs; and White River NF.

Date of document: Multiple

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

Title of document: N/A. Categorically excluded from documentation. 36CFR 220.6(d)(4).

Date of document: N/A

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:

Trail Maintenance is categorically excluded from documentation. 36CFR 220.6(d)(4).

Name: Loretta McElhiney

Phone number: 719-293-3151

Email: loretta.mcellhiney@usda.gov

4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for N/A.

Land Manager's Name: Jason Robertson

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature: R2 Director Recreation, Lands, Minerals, & Volunteer

WILLIAM JACKSON Digitally signed by WILLIAM JACKSON
Date: 2022.09.20 08:26:02 -06'00'

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.

Project Name CFI - Regional Fourteener Trail Maintenance

Project Sponsor Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

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: Gunnison Resource Area Resource Management Plan (including Adoption of Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado)

Date of document: February 1993 (amended 2/97, 8/20, 12/08, 1/09, 8/11)

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

Title of document: DOI-BLM-CO-S060-2013-0014-CX

Date of document: 5/14/13

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: James Lovelace

Phone number: (970) 642-4953

Email: jlovelac@blm.gov

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

Land Manager's Name: Jon F. Kaminsky

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature: BLM Gunnison Field Office Manager



SEP 19 2022

Section 3 - Project Budget

Project Name: Colorado 14ers Statewide Trail Maintenance					Office Use:			
SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
CASH								
CPW/State Trails	Pending				\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00	
Pitkin County	2/1/2022				\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
Kimberly Appelson Endowment Draw	9/30/2022				\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	
Individual Donations from Reserve	9/30/2022				\$ -	\$ 64,448.74	\$ 64,448.74	
IN-KIND								
In-Kind Value of Volunteer Labor					\$ -	\$ 527,120.00	\$ 527,120.00	
Corporate donations for volunteers					\$ -	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 11,200.00	
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS					\$ 250,000.00	\$ 619,768.74	\$ 869,768.74	
[CASH] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
Category 2 - Salary/Wages								
Field Programs Director (field mtg.)	84	Days	\$ 437.26	\$ 36,729.84	\$ 36,729.84	\$ -	\$ 36,729.84	0
Field Projects Manager (field mgt.)	62	Days	\$ 342.95	\$ 21,262.90	\$ -	\$ 21,262.90	\$ 21,262.90	0
Volunteer Coordinator (field mgt.)	40	Days	\$ 318.94	\$ 12,757.60	\$ 12,757.60	\$ -	\$ 12,757.60	0
Controller (grant administration)	367	Hours	\$ 34.00	\$ 12,478.00	\$ 12,478.00	\$ -	\$ 12,478.00	0
Crew A Leader	140	Days	\$ 255.50	\$ 35,770.00	\$ 35,770.00		\$ 35,770.00	0
Crew A Member 1	140	Days	\$ 215.00	\$ 30,100.00	\$ 30,100.00		\$ 30,100.00	0
Crew A Member 2	140	Days	\$ 205.00	\$ 28,700.00	\$ 28,700.00		\$ 28,700.00	0
Crew A Intern	140	Days	\$ 180.00	\$ 25,200.00	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 25,200.00	0
Crew B Leader	140	Days	\$ 255.00	\$ 35,700.00	\$ 35,700.00		\$ 35,700.00	0
Crew B Member 1	140	Days	\$ 215.00	\$ 30,100.00	\$ 29,814.16	\$ 285.84	\$ 30,100.00	0
Crew B Member 2	140	Days	\$ 205.00	\$ 28,700.00	\$ -	\$ 28,700.00	\$ 28,700.00	0
Crew B Intern	140	Days	\$ 180.00	\$ 25,200.00	\$ -	\$ 25,200.00	\$ 25,200.00	0
CATEGORY 3-Materials/Supplies Identify as: Signs, crusherfines, native seed, weed barrier, etc.								
Miscellaneous hand tools and trail supplies (eg. rock bars, hammers, pick mattocks, shovels, dirt bags, etc.)	1	EA	\$ 5,361.00	\$ 5,361.00	\$ 5,361.00		\$ 5,361.00	0
Volunteer PPE (eg. hard hats, safety glasses, work gloves)	1	EA	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 1,680.00		\$ 1,680.00	0
Katadyn Water Filters + Cartridges	1	EA	\$ 930.00	\$ 930.00	\$ 930.00		\$ 930.00	0
Garmin InReach Subscription	12	Month	\$ 64.95	\$ 779.40	\$ 779.40		\$ 779.40	0
USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL					\$ 250,000.00	\$ 81,448.74	\$ 331,448.74	\$ -
*ESTIMATE NUMBER OF CREW HOURS [GRANT AND MATCH] CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE					9297	3763	*REQUIRED INPUT	
[IN-KIND] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)			Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
Category 2 - Salary/Wages								
In-Kind Value of Volunteer Labor	2200	Days	\$ 239.60	\$ 527,120.00		\$ 527,120.00	\$ 527,120.00	0
Category 3 - Materials/Tools								
Corporate donations for volunteers	1	EA	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 11,200.00		\$ 11,200.00	\$ 11,200.00	0
IN-KIND SUBTOTAL						\$ 538,320.00	\$ 538,320.00	
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$ 250,000.00	\$ 619,768.74	\$ 869,768.74	
25% REQUIRED MATCH						\$ 62,500.00		

Capitol Peak - Project Site



Map #1



Map #2



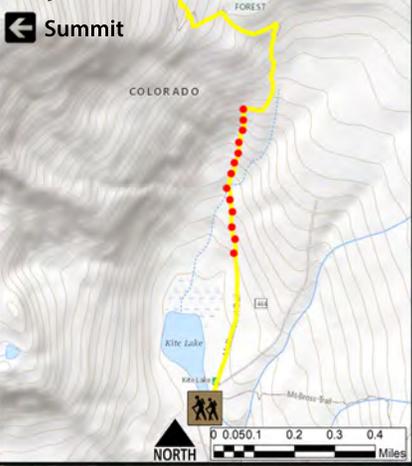
Map #3



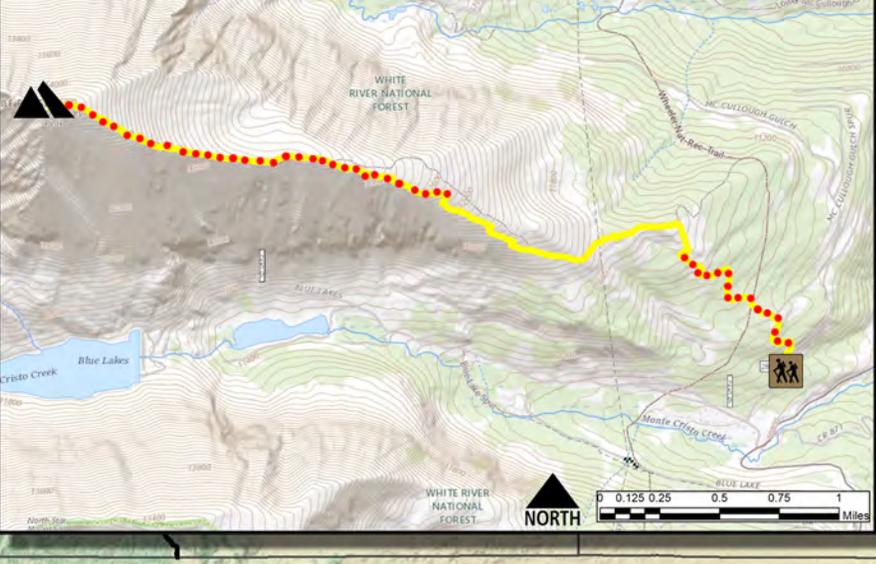
Map #4



Mount Democrat Project Site



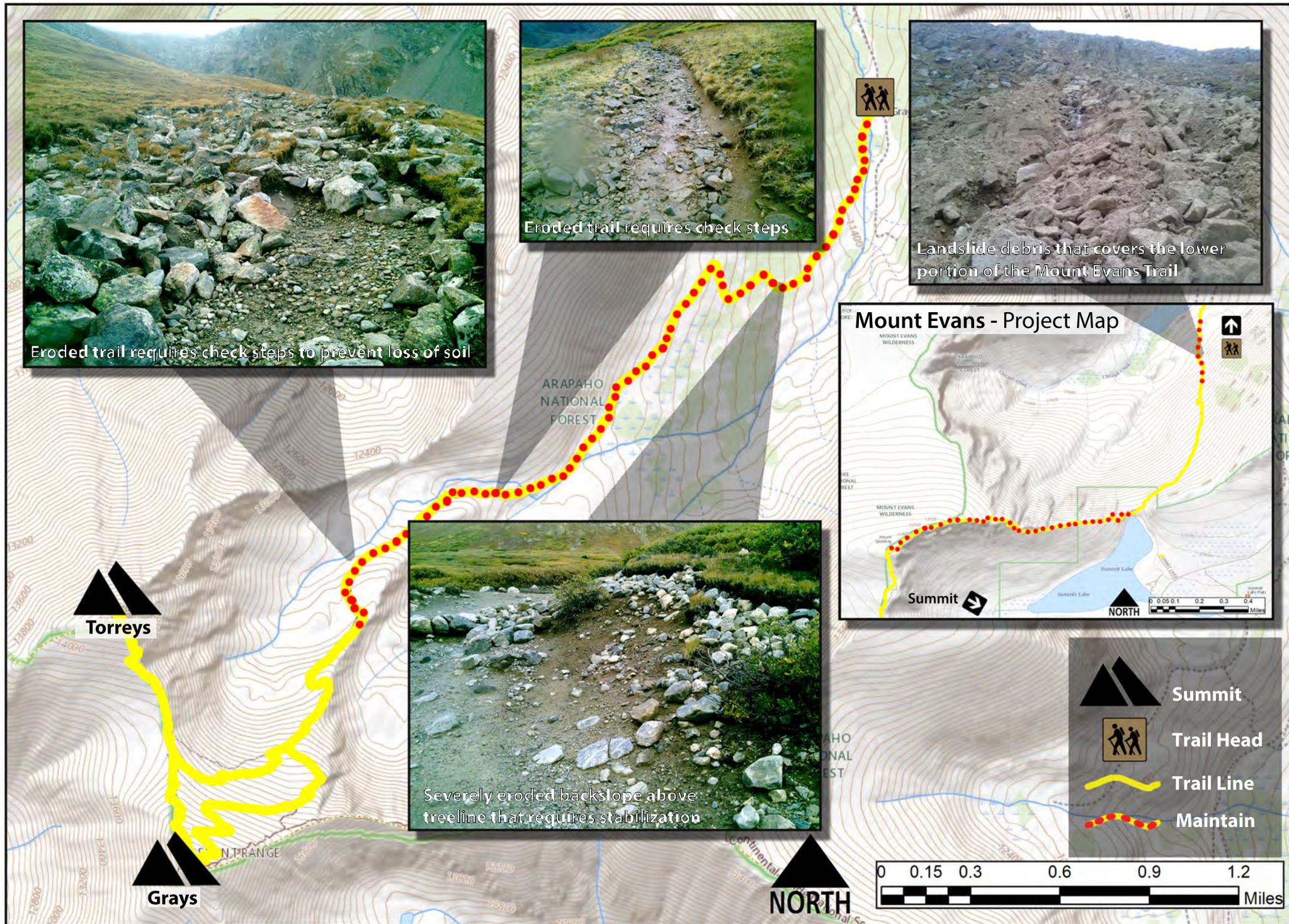
Quandary Peak - Project Site



Mount Belford.....	1
Capitol Peak.....	2
Mount Democrat.....	3
Mount Evans.....	4
Grays Peak.....	5
Handies Peak.....	6
Mount Harvard.....	7
La Plata Peak.....	8
Missouri Mountain.....	9
Mount Oxford.....	10
Quandary Peak.....	11
Mount Shavano.....	12
Mount Sneffels.....	13
Torreys Peak.....	14
Uncompahgre Peak.....	15

Grays & Torreys Peaks, Mount Evans

Local Vicinity/Projects Map #1

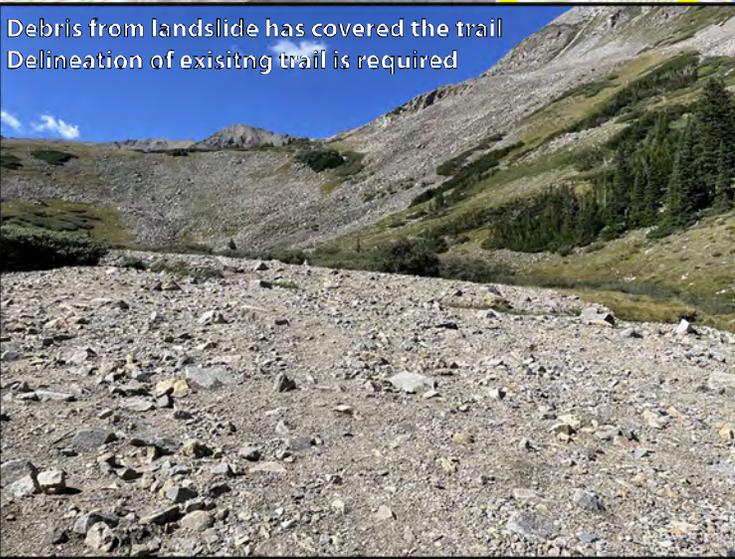


Deeply eroded trail near treeline requires timber check steps



Landslide has re-routed creek into trail

Debris from landslide has covered the trail
Delineation of existing trail is required



Missouri Summit



La Plata Peak - Project Map



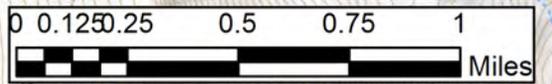
Sensitive vegetation eroding
needs tundra support wall

Oxford Summit

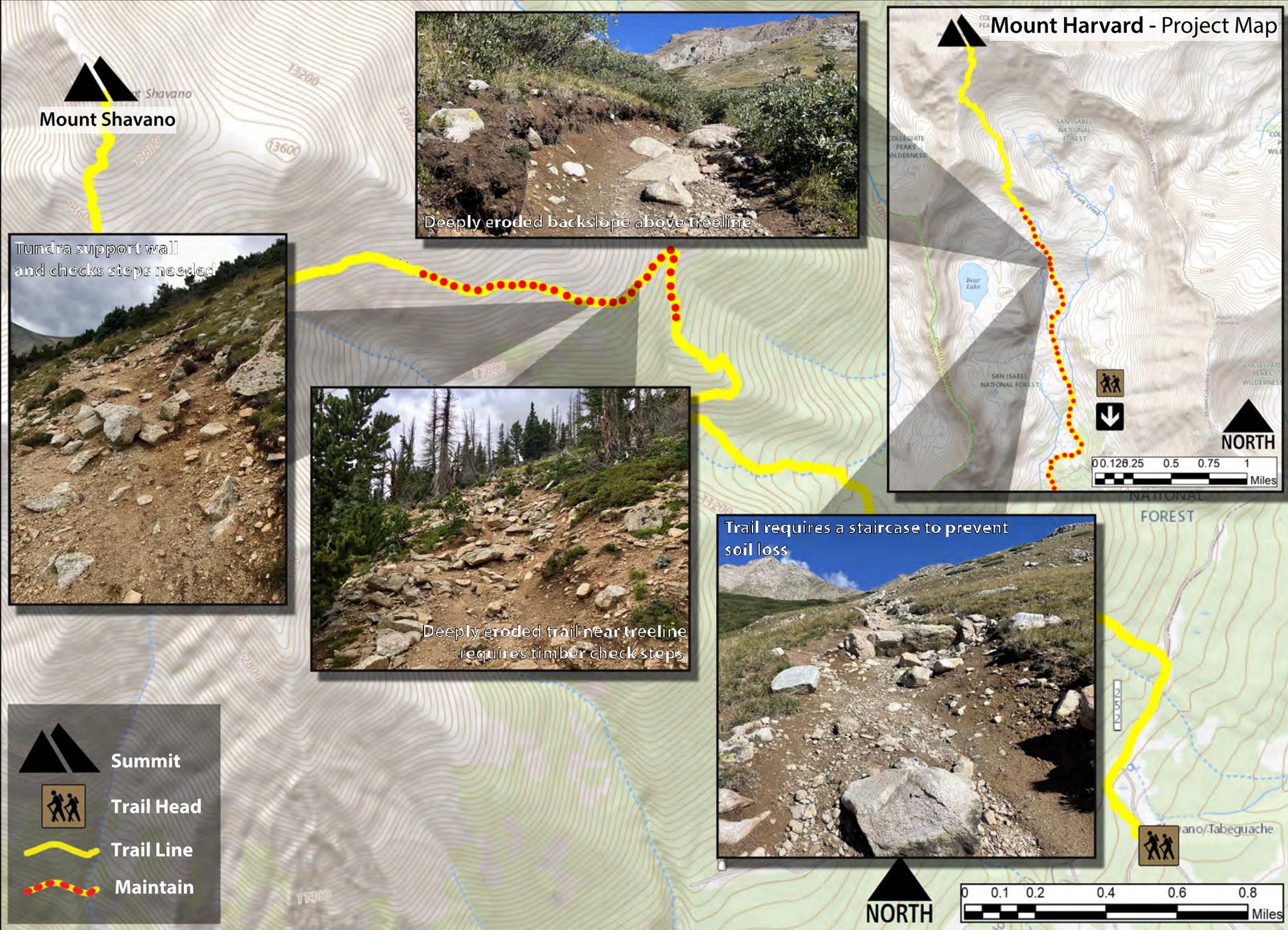
Belford

- Summit
- Trail Head
- Trail Line
- Maintain

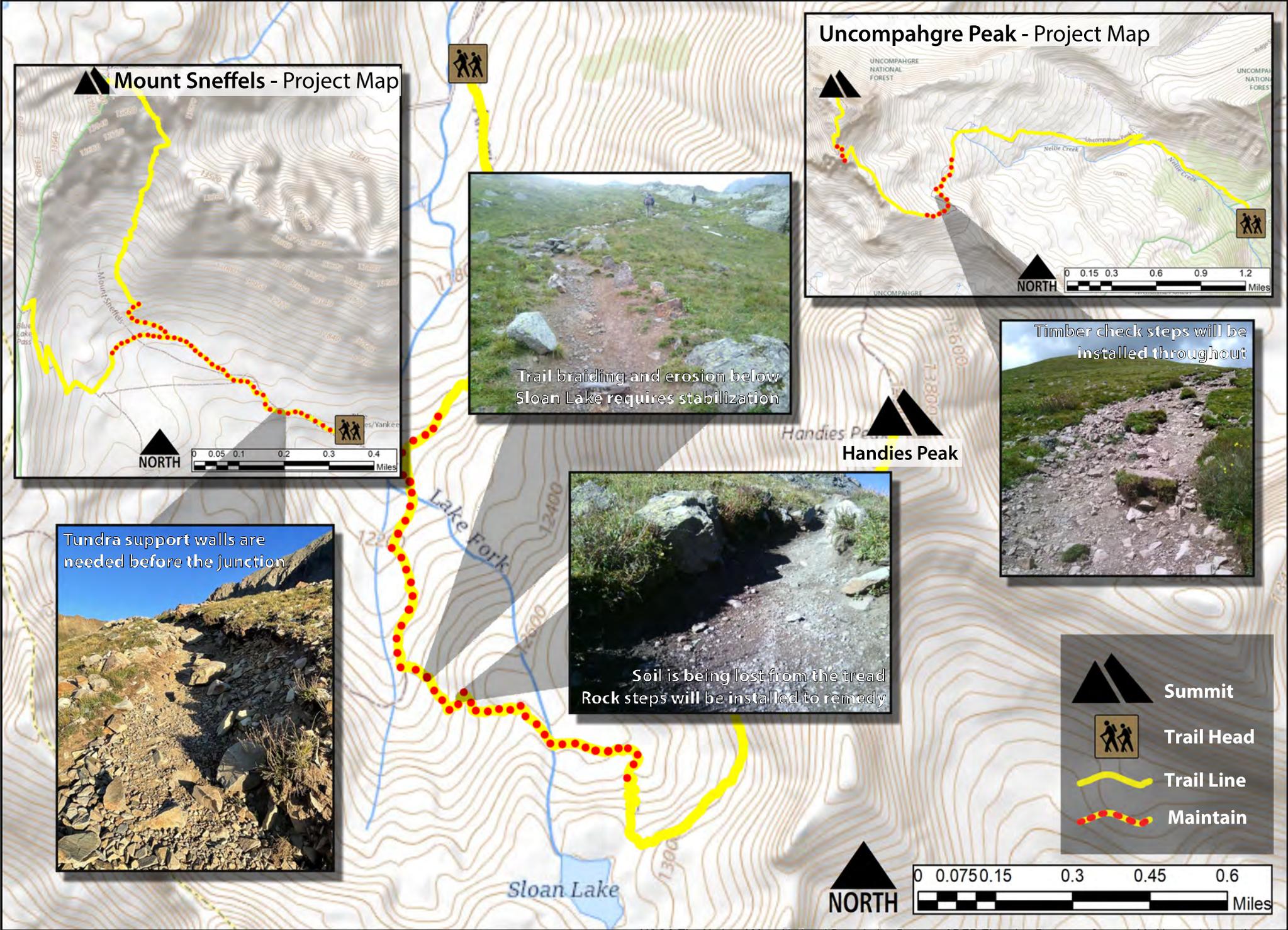
NORTH



Mount Shavano & Mount Harvard



Mount Sneffels, Handies Peak & Uncompahgre Peak



September 22, 2022

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
State Trails Program

Dear State Trails Committee Members,

I am writing to request, encourage, and endorse the funding requested by the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI). I view the funding as warranted based on the unique expertise and resources CFI delivers to preserve and support near and long term enjoyment of a defining and precious resource within the state of Colorado. Coordination of volunteers is just one way CFI leverages its impact to improve trails and minimize damage to surrounding resources. Please allow me to share my perspective as a volunteer:

“Thank you for all you do !” “Those rock steps are incredible.” My head is down in the dirt, I’m volunteering my time on one of Colorado’s ‘fourteeners’, setting a rock which is one of a set of steps. The steps mitigate erosion, avoid collapse of fragile tundra, delineate the trail, and ease the way to the summit for the hikers whose voice I just heard. In the June to September season, during 2022, I’ve managed almost 50 volunteer days spread across a diverse set of organizations. The work has ranged from building new trails, cross-cutting and clearing fallen trees, to setting rock steps where, ideally, each step weighs more than I.

No matter the location, the trail users are always appreciative but it is on a 14er where the message is the most enthusiastic, sincere, consistent and most frequently voiced. The hikers on a 14er have a common look of excitement and anticipation, perhaps a bit of apprehension, as they look to conquer gravity and ever thinning air to reach the summit. Many are familiar with CFI and might comment they too have volunteered or hope to do so but beyond that, there is no commonality be it where is home, age, first or 50th 14er. If we have a further conversation, a look of incredulity takes over when he/she realizes the magnitude, difficulty, and ongoing nature of the work which is required to support their choice of recreation.

I am here working rain or shine under the direction of one of CFI’s Adopt-a-Peak crews. The crews are a unique, incredibly talented, highly motivated and dedicated group. I am impressed by the high bar and quality of work which is expected. But it serves to motivate myself and fellow volunteers and with the crew’s patience and sharing of technical expertise, the project’s goals take shape.

To summarize, I view CFI as efficiently applying a unique technical skill to preserve and allow current and future generations of hikers to enjoy a resource which draws Colorado residents and visitors alike; the Colorado Fourteener.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Markus Klauser

Silverthorne CO
markus.klauser@gmail.com

(267) 481-1940

September 29, 2022

Dear State Trails Committee,

In the fall of 2017 wife (Kayla) and I elected to change jobs and make the move to Colorado in pursuit of improving mental health and the ability to spend more time in the Great Outdoors. As avid hikers it was only natural that we immediately became infatuated with the intoxicating thrill one experiences hiking the country's tallest mountains.

After summiting a dozen of the most popular 14ers in the first 8 months living in Colorado it became apparent to us that these magnificent mountains were overcrowded, trails were eroding at accelerated rates and we continuously met underprepared/uneducated hikers. In the summer of 2018 I set out to find an organization that I could volunteer my time that had a mission focused on preserving the mountains, hiking trails and overall outdoor experience that I got me to move to Colorado.

Since finding Colorado 14ers Initiative, Kayla and I have spent the last 5 summers volunteering on dozen's our weekends acting as Peak Stewards on some of the busiest mountains in the state. Through the guidance, support and training CFI has developed, we've been able to talk to hundreds of hikers each year about the ecosystem they are visiting, the dangers of being unprepared, how their actions are damaging to the very place they love, etc. Additionally through CFI Kayla and I have been able to gather support from my employer to spend a day each year with 12+ people from the Denver Metro assisting in the construction and maintenance work on Greys/Torreys, Evans, and Democrat in hope to give back and help preserve the places we love so that people in the future can still visit these magnificent places.

We can't say enough good things about who CFI is and the impact we see them have as people, an organization, and an idea while out in the mountains. As Coloradan's by choice (not birth) we plan to spend the rest of our lives giving back as much as we can to the preservation and protection of the mountains that we love. We hope that you can do the same by continuing to provide monetary support to CFI so that they are able to allow future generations of outdoor enthusiast the ability to experience hiking 54 of the tallest mountains in the country in the same way we do today.

Sincerely,



Patrick and Kayla Loecker



The Summit Foundation
Soul of the Summit

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
State Trails Program
13787 S Hwy 85
Littleton CO 80125

Dear State Trails Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of The Summit Foundation to express my support for the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's (CFI) regional maintenance grant, which will provide funds for crucial improvements to trail infrastructure and will restore fragile alpine ecosystems on 14ers across the state. According to CFI's hiking use estimates, Quandary Peak, Summit County's only 14,000-foot peak, has been the most-trafficked fourteener since 2018. With estimates ranging from 35,000 – 50,000 hiker use days each summer, this peak is subject to substantial resource impacts.

The trail construction and maintenance efforts detailed in CFI's funding proposal will ensure that Quandary and the other 14,000-foot peaks maintain sustainably constructed and carefully preserved trails that can handle the ever-increasing use. Between 2011 and 2018, CFI invested more than \$223,000 of staff time and recorded 1,322 days of volunteer stewardship on Quandary. Despite the high volume of traffic, CFI's efforts moved trail conditions from a "C-" to an "A-" – making it one of the best 14er routes in the state.

The long-term maintenance of these trails is critical to the local economies of Colorado's trailhead communities. Hikers come from around the nation to climb these peaks and while visiting, spend money on hotels, food, gas, and equipment in our towns. According to CFI's most recent estimates, 14er hikers contributed more than \$82 million to the state economy in 2021 – including more than \$9 million in Summit County alone.

The Summit Foundation has been a proud financial supporter of the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's work in Summit and neighboring counties since 2002. The Foundation and local government stakeholders value our relationship with CFI and respect their data-driven approach to translating the impacts of their work. We appreciate CFI's collaborative approach to working with nonprofit and public partners and trust their leadership as stewards of Quandary and the other 14ers in Colorado.

I hope that you will look favorably on this request for funding. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tara Dew
Program Director
The Summit Foundation

To:
Colorado Recreational Trails Committee
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Sept 27, 2022

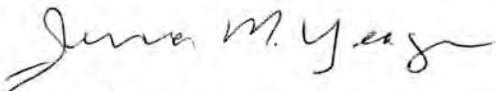
I'm writing to express my strong support for the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's grant proposal for 2023-2024, which will help fund critical maintenance for the many trails that CFI cares for.

I've been privileged to serve as a volunteer peak steward with CFI for the past three years, and have seen first-hand how the Adopt-a-Peak crews create/maintain sustainable trails, especially for those 'popular' 14ers that experience high levels of visitation. I'm impressed by CFI's ability to conduct projects with a small cadre of paid crew members, assisted by numerous volunteers. CFI's detailed 2023-2024 work plan shows that they have carefully planned their future projects and will use the grant funds wisely.

I'm now retired but spent more than 40 years as a natural resource specialist (in various capacities) in the Forest Service and BLM, the two agencies that manage most of the public lands surrounding the 14ers. Agency funding cutbacks over many decades have left the two agencies unable to provide the level of trail construction and maintenance that they desire, so the work provided by partners such as CFI is critical.

Finally, looking back I can remember quite well my first 14er summits and a 4-day trip to Chicago Basin in the early 1960s – especially the pristine wilderness environment with very few visitors. While there's no turning back the clock now, CFI can and does play a vital role in providing sustainable trails to protect the natural values we still have.

Please approve the grant so that CFI can continue their excellent work! Thank you!



Jenna M. Yeager
Researcher/Writer – Natural Resource Analytics
Golden, CO 80401

September 25, 2022

Dear State Trails Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) and its application for a grant from the State Trails Program. CFI is a well-managed organization with strong focus on its mission – to preserve and protect Colorado’s 14ers. CFI is effective in executing this mission and provides good value with its financial resources. CFI always meets its trail building and maintenance goals with high quality work thanks to excellent management, hard-working seasonal staff, and dedicated volunteers.

Over many years, I have climbed all the 14ers (many more than once) and witnessed firsthand the effectiveness of CFI’s work. I have seen eroded, unsustainable trails transformed into sustainable, environmentally sound trails, thanks to CFI’s efforts. I am especially impressed with CFI’s positive effects above Chicago Basin, on Mt Bross’s west slope, and on Quandary’s east slope where erosion and tundra damage has been stopped. I can also describe many other CFI success stories at Mt Sneffels, Mt Democrat, and Pyramid Peak. I am confident that continued funding for CFI’s planned work in 2023-2024 will result in additional positive environmental effects on Mt Shavano, Handies Peak, and other Colorado 14ers.

As a frequent volunteer on CFI projects and 2021 Adopt-a-Peak Volunteer of the Year, I am especially impressed with CFI’s management. CFI personnel always communicate clearly and patiently what we need to do and how to do it safely. CFI makes good use of relatively unskilled volunteers for laborious tasks like transporting timbers and large rocks while leaving the high-skill tasks such as rock wall construction to more knowledgeable CFI personnel. CFI partners with Southwest Conservation Corps (and others) to bring strong and energetic young people into trail building work. The younger people do more of the heavy lifting while CFI personnel provide the leadership and do the higher skill tasks.

The above examples of good management are why I support CFI financially myself and will continue to do so. Supporting CFI and its mission is simply good value.

I truly hope that the State Trails Program will continue to support CFI’s trail building, trail maintenance, and education efforts on Colorado’s beautiful 14ers. The positive environmental and economic effects from CFI’s work are worthwhile for our beautiful State.

Sincerely



R. Karl Zipf, Jr., Ph.D., P.E. (retired)

P.O. Box 150381

Lakewood, CO 80215

412-992-6085 (cell)

rkarlzipfjr@gmail.com

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