

## Exhibit A – Project Information

**NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS SUPPORT APPLICATION**

Applicant or Organization Name: Continental Divide Trail Coalition		
Complete Mailing Address: 710 Tenth Street, Suite 200, Golden, CO 80401		
Applicant Lead Contact Name: Lauren Murray		Title: Director of Development
Telephone: 720-378-0106	Email: lmurray@continentaldivide-trail.org	Is this the primary contact for this grant? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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

Name: Kylie Yang	
Telephone: (804) 658-7835	Email: kyang@continentaldivide-trail.org

**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: Continental Divide Trail Coalition Field Instructors	
Grant Request: \$45,000.00	Match Amount (Min. 25%): \$38,800.00
Total Project Cost: \$83,800.00	
<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

In partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) will increase volunteer engagement and staff capacity within the Field Programs Department by supporting and training two full-time, seasonal Field Instructors in Colorado through 2025. The Field Programs Manager will oversee the Field Instructors as they implement CDTC volunteer trail work projects and CDTC Adopter Trainings across the 740 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) in Colorado. The mission of the CDTC is to complete, promote, and protect the CDT by building a strong and diverse trail community, providing up-to-date information to the public, and encouraging conservation and stewardship of the trail, its corridor, and surrounding landscapes. Within Colorado, CDTC works with seven designated CDT Gateway Communities that have committed to a mutually beneficial partnership focused on the stewardship of the trail at a place-based level alongside the economic benefits the CDT brings.

With funding to support the CDTC Field Instructors' boots-on-the-ground work in Colorado, CDTC Field Programs staff will have more capacity to develop and foster authentic partnerships with individuals and organizations that support volunteer capacity and engagement along the CDT and help bring the CDT up to National Scenic Trail Standards. Specifically, the Field Instructors will complete leadership, trail skills, and Wilderness First Responder training to develop the lead

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

2019 CO RTP Grant Award - Monarch Crest Maintenance Project - \$9,680



October 4, 2021  
Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
State Trails Program  
13787 HWY 85  
Littleton, CO 80125  
To the Colorado Recreational Trails Committee,

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition Board of Directors supports a grant request for \$45,000 from Colorado Parks & Wildlife Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program in the Planning/Support category. If awarded, funds will support 2.5 years (2023-2025) of partial salary and benefits for two CDTC Field Instructor positions to enhance stewardship and volunteer capacity along the Continental Divide Trail in Colorado. We are proud to have the following resources support these two positions:

- USFS Challenge Cost Share Funds
- National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance
- New Mexico Economic Development Department – Outdoor Recreation Trails
- Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee
- CDTC Membership Donations

The mission of the CDTC is to complete, promote, and protect the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. CDTC does this by building a strong and diverse trail community, providing up-to-date information to the public, and encouraging conservation and stewardship of the trail, its corridor, and surrounding landscapes. We work closely with communities, organizations, federal agencies, tribes, and individuals to move this mission across Colorado - coordinating and implementing high-priority stewardship projects and trail maintenance trainings along the Divide that have become a shared stewardship model.

The two Field Instructor positions play a critical role in safely training and leading volunteers in the CDT's maintenance, construction, and protection. Their work addresses priority maintenance needs such as fire rehabilitation, trail rerouting, corridor clearance, and more while empowering and educating diverse community members on the importance of trail stewardship. Field Instructors increase CDTC's ability to meet with volunteers face-to-face and expand the capacity of partner organizations, land managers, and CDTC itself.

By funding this request, Colorado Parks and Wildlife will directly invest in enhancing CDTC's Field Programs department. By supporting the two Field Instructor positions, there will be an increase in volunteer capacity with the implementation of CDT stewardship programs, including trail work projects and trail maintenance training which fuel community engagement in protecting and educating public lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Pierce".

Greg Pierce

President, CDTC Board of Directors

**Completing, promoting and protecting the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail**

CDTC • 710 10<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 200, Golden, CO 80401 • [www.continentaldividetrail.org](http://www.continentaldividetrail.org) • (303) 996-2759

## Exhibit A – Project Information

LAND OWNERSHIP			
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners:			
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: USDA Forest Service			
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 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: Golden, Colorado			
County(ies): Jefferson County			
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates (in decimal degrees): 39.7555° N, 105.2211° W			
State Congressional District ( <a href="https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members">https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members</a> ):			
<i>Please fill out all applicable categories for your project:</i>			
Acreage of new trailhead	N/A	Miles of trail being planned	N/A
Miles of new trail construction	N/A	Miles of trail maintenance	N/A
Miles of inter-connecting trail	N/A	Miles of trail reroute	N/A
Miles of trail to be decommissioned	N/A	Miles of trail to be restored	N/A
Miles of trail to be signed	N/A	Miles of trail grooming	N/A
Other N/A		Other N/A	

Applicant Printed Name: Lauren Murray Director of Development

Applicant Signature:  Date: 10/4/2022

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## SUPPORT GRANT SCORING CRITERIA

All applicants must respond to the following 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. Each project will be reviewed by outside reviewers and CPW Trails Program staff. 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. What are the benefits of this effort to trail users and groups in the communities, region, and/or state? How will this support request enhance or increase volunteer capacity and stewardship for organizations via training and education? Please be sure to include a couple of site photos and a map of the project/training area(s).

### 2. Need (15 points)

Describe why this support project is important at this time (resource damage, user safety, increased trail usage, etc.) and how this project will meet those needs. What is the project's urgency and why are CPW State Trails' funds necessary to complete this project? What opportunities are lost if the grant is not awarded? Describe the community this project will serve and provide relevant population and economic data. Discuss the significance of the support grant outcomes to users.

### 3. Planning and Prioritization Process (10 points)

How does this project demonstrate a significant improvement to community trail systems? Discuss the planning process that identified this project 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?

**4. Wildlife & Natural Resources (15 points)**

Describe how potential impacts to wildlife and natural resources will be evaluated during the planning process for the on the ground work completed through this grant (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. How will CPW staff members be engaged in the planning process? Describe how their recommendations will be implemented.

**5. Collaboration (10 points)**

Explain the extent to which the project demonstrates unique, innovative, and/or important multi-agency, organization and/or private partnerships. Describe how these partnerships will be a benefit to the planning, development, and long-term management/maintenance of the trail systems impacted by this support grant. Partnerships may include public agencies, conservation groups, stewardship groups, recreational groups, environmental groups, non-profit organizations, schools, businesses, and/or individuals.

**6. Sustainability (10 points)**

What is the long-term vision for the future of the work supported by this grant? Describe how the outcomes of this grant will be maintained and managed for long-term sustainability beyond the timeline of this project. Please explain the plan in detail including the estimated annual costs and funding plans.

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

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

Describe the public process that identified this support project as a priority. What community collaboration has taken place to determine priorities (regular meetings, public meetings, working groups, etc.)? How was it determined that this support request is a priority for the land management agency and trail users? 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.

**8. Implementation Process and Outcome (5 points)**

Describe the strategy for monitoring and evaluating implementation of this project. What tangible or measurable products will result from this project? If funded, what metrics will be utilized to measure the success of this project? List (in bulleted form) and provide a brief, specific description for each:

- Objectives
- Tasks / Project Milestones
- End products and/or deliverables that will result from this support effort

**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)

The CDT navigates alpine tundra, forests, riparian areas, town centers, and other iconic landscapes and communities of the Colorado Rockies. Seven designated towns adjacent to the CDT in Colorado - Pagosa Springs, South Fork, Lake City, Salida, Leadville/Twin Lakes, Grand Lake, and Steamboat Springs - have received designation as CDT Gateway Communities, a community-driven effort which establishes a partnership between each community and CDTC to steward the trail at a local level, and to leverage the economic benefit the CDT can provide. Through various efforts, CDTC has and continues to build local networks of volunteers to maintain the trail as well as a strong, diverse, and healthy voice for the CDT that will ensure it remains a national landmark for generations to come.

The Field Instructor positions play a critical role in serving these communities by leading boots-on-the-ground stewardship activities, including trail maintenance, construction training, and volunteer trail crews. As knowledgeable, skilled, and energetic young professionals, the Field Instructors provide the tools and guidance necessary for individuals, trail clubs, schools, land managers, and partner organizations to coordinate and accomplish basic and advanced maintenance needs along the CDT. Community organizing and trail stewardship skills merge in this space to uplift the Forest Service's 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge. Collectively, these partnerships are prioritizing, investing in, and creating a sustainable trail system. As a collaborative trail community, CDTC works to increase capacity and improve the CDT on the ground in local communities. Our partnerships with communities and land managers achieve this by working together, adapting to different needs and opportunities, and amplifying successes for the benefit of trails and the people who use them.

Since creating the CDTC Field Instructor positions in 2019, these positions have stabilized CDTC's organizational capacity of skilled field-based leadership in trail work and education. Land managers have expressed the need for these positions based on staffing shortages, ever-changing funding structures, draining of institutional knowledge, and an overwhelming maintenance backlog. Communities and individuals have expressed the need for these positions based on grassroots interest in public land stewardship, community organizing and CDT-related advocacy. Since 2019, Field Instructors have led over 45 volunteer trail work projects, 15 trail maintenance trainings and leveraged \$1,000,000 in volunteer in-kind labor with hundreds of volunteers engaged. In addition to leading volunteer stewardship events, the Field Instructors are the face of CDTC across Colorado to foster meaningful relationships with community members interested in learning about public land stewardship and the Continental Divide Trail. CDTC must have a presence within these areas to support the interests of Gateway Communities and develop consistent, authentic relationships with groups, individuals, and partner organizations.

## 2. Community Need and Benefit (15 points)

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail has been recognized by the US Forest Service as one of 15 high priority areas in the United States in need of additional stewardship and support as a result of deferred maintenance. In large part, this is due to the trail's remote location and rugged terrain, but in Colorado specifically, it is also due to heavy use of the CDT and other public lands surrounding it as the state sees continued growth and visitation. CDTC recognized the need to increase our trail stewardship efforts to address these concerns in 2019, and since that time, our Field Instructors have made significant impact on not only improving the condition of the trail, but educating and inspiring other individuals and volunteers to join our efforts to protect the CDT. Funding for these Instructors is paramount to our ability to maintain a high level of volunteer engagement and support and to partner with local communities along the trail's length in meaningful ways that benefit the CDT as well as each community. These positions are also vital to our efforts to develop trusting relationships with diverse stakeholders, to holding CDTC accountable to the needs of land managers and partners, and to demonstrating a commitment to our shared values in outdoor spaces. Without the Field Instructors, the CDT in Colorado would continue to deteriorate, existing volunteers and community partners would become less engaged in the work to steward the trail and uplift local communities, and the CDTC would fall short of its mission to complete, promote, and protect the CDT. CDTC would also lose access to approximately \$20,000 annually in match funding (around \$60,000 through 2025) that has been allocated to these positions through our Forest Service Challenge Cost Share agreement (which is re-negotiated annually). Finally, the Field Instructor positions are supported with thousands of dollars in-kind donations from various outdoor retailer partners, who contribute gear and product to ensure the Field Instructors can successfully perform their duties. These donations may also be impacted if the positions are not funded.

### 3. Planning and Prioritization Process (10 points)

CPW's support of the Field Instructors' activities within Colorado will immediately improve the CDT, trail connectivity, grassroots-led stewardship initiatives, and volunteerism on public lands through 2025 and beyond. The result of this work will also improve access to and recreation on the CDT for thousands of individuals. Funding for two Field Instructors directly ties into the existing CDNST Comprehensive Plan, in which the Secretary of Agriculture has outlined a fully coordinated approach for the location, development and management of the CDT. This plan states that the nature and purpose of the CDT is to provide high-quality scenic, primitive hiking and horseback riding opportunities and to conserve natural, historic, and cultural resources along the corridor. This plan provides a uniform program that allows for the use and protection of the natural and cultural resources found along the rights-of-way and located route. The Field Instructors assist the federal agency unit managers in leveraging volunteers and volunteer organizations in maintaining the CDT with hands-on training, leadership, and location-specific construction and maintenance projects. Additionally, CDTC has an interagency Memorandum of Understanding with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service, recognizing CDTC as the lead national partner working to complete and protect the trail. Through this process, CDTC works with agency partners to identify high priority projects on an annual basis to address the deferred maintenance of the CDT and to bring the trail up to National Scenic Trail standards. The Field Instructors not only directly meet the needs of this agreement through on-the-ground trail management, but also ensure CDTC's other programmatic staff have the capacity to facilitate ongoing prioritization of stewardship and completion efforts across the entire length of the trail.

Field Programs operations frequently fall in or near the official Gateway Communities along the CDT in Colorado, and we prioritize these areas in our efforts to grow a grassroots community of individuals committed to protecting the trail for generations to come. CDTC has a proven track record of improving community trail systems and supporting more effective connectivity through a model of shared stewardship. The Field Instructor positions are boots on the ground leaders in CDT maintenance, construction, restoration, and rehabilitation via CDTC's volunteer trail work projects and Adopter program, and through partnership with local communities. The Instructors work closely with partners, agencies, and volunteers to share resources and funding to address long term CDT maintenance, a fundamental tenet of the CDTC Adopter Program. This program brings additional capacity to managing agencies by recruiting, training, supervising, and coordinating volunteers to help maintain the CDT. The Field Instructors train individuals, corporations, organizations, and clubs in basic trail maintenance tasks and safety. CDTC Adopters help keep the CDT open and maintained and can be additional eyes and ears locally to help support managers and other partner organizations informed of trail conditions. Each year, the Field Instructors host Adopter training across the Rockies to support the long-term stewardship of the CDT.

#### 4. Wildlife and Natural Resources (15 points)

CDTC's proposal focuses on partial funding of two Field Instructors (capacity-adding positions) rather than a planning grant. Due to the nature of this application, Colorado Parks and Wildlife does not require contact with an Area Wildlife Manager to be considered for funding, as confirmed by Pam O'Malley, Non-motorized Grants Administrator. That being said, CDTC continues to refer to the vision Congress laid out for the CDT as a predominantly non-motorized trail that would conserve the nationally significant scenic, historical, natural, and cultural qualities critical to the trail's experience. This vision includes and prioritizes the protection of vital ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and connectivity, and we consider impacts to wildlife throughout our project planning with agency partners. Beyond providing a scenic experience for human users, the CDT serves as an opportunity to prioritize the conservation of a network of wildlands that create a united landscape corridor along the continent's spine. Connecting the diverse landscapes and ecosystems of the trail establishes habitat continuity for migratory animals and protects the critical ecosystems of the American West. Recently, CDTC has established a working relationship with CPW staff for some of our other efforts in trail completion, and the learning gained from these partnerships have been useful and informative in our trail management efforts as well.

The CDT's Comprehensive Plan states that the management of the CDT must consider protecting the critical biophysical environment when the impacts of the trail location or use on wildlife, wildlife habitat, soil, vegetation, or other resources are unacceptable. All land managers are responsible for managing the CDT to avoid or minimize the potential fragmentation and natural resource impacts.

## 5. Collaboration (10 points)

CDTC's ten years of success have relied on authentic, creative, and supportive multiagency, organization, and private partnerships. Across all programs, CDTC maintains over 300 relationships with organizations, user groups, land managers and communities, and engages hundreds of long and short-term volunteers. Through the Field Programs department, CDTC has been able to support individuals, organizations, trail clubs, and schools to play an active role in caring for the CDT with an overarching goal of increasing public land stewardship, education, economic development, and interest along the Divide. The Field Instructors play a critical role in supporting this mission and weaving the interests of communities and land managers together.

Field Programs works closely with Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service staff to formulate priority projects and partnerships to serve both the resource and the community. The shared values and goals are outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2020, which officially recognizes a trail-wide partnership between the agencies and CDTC in the stewardship, promotion, and protection of the trail. The MOU recognizes the unique role CDTC plays in assisting with trail maintenance, information, and other facilitation of trail-wide stewardship to elevate the management of the Trail. It clarifies shared goals, how the partners all work together, and how the collective strengths can be leveraged to improve the management of the CDT. Field Program's approach to these collaborative efforts thrives through the coordination, recruitment, education, and management of volunteer trail projects and trail maintenance training.

CDTC's Field Programs supports nearly 100 organizations, individuals, and land manager relationships that serve mutually beneficial goals in Colorado alone. These partnerships benefit the CDT and CDTC by increasing capacity and benefitting the Field Instructors' scope of work and leadership. With the help of these positions, CDTC can promote a shared stewardship model that is re-shaping the conservation field.

## 6. Sustainability (10 points)

While CDTC's programmatic work continues to evolve after a decade of operation, the goals and priorities of our programs are starting to mature. In the short term, CDTC envisions the continuation of the Field Instructor model to support the direct maintenance and volunteer engagement needs along the CDT in Colorado. In the long term, as funding stabilizes and we have a stronger regional presence, we envision a structure of permanent year-round regional representatives who work with other field program staff on project prioritization, planning, and implementation along the length of the CDT. These representatives may also uplift state-wide youth corps programs, though this concept has yet to be formalized. To date, CDTC has successfully hired one regional representative in the state of New Mexico, whose work output and relationship building have made a tremendous impact on the CDT. The person in this position has proven how impactful a role regional representatives play in our work, and securing long-term funding for additional representative positions in the future is a high priority of CDTC's, both for our ability to maintain the trail more effectively, as well as to cultivate meaningful and long-lasting relationships. This trail maintenance and relationship building has and will continue to be conducted and upheld by the Field Instructors while CDTC works to secure future funding for full-time, permanent positions. In the funding space, we will continue to cultivate individual donors who have a deep commitment to the CDT's protection, and we'll leverage additional funding opportunities through the Bureau of Land Management and other private funders who value CDTC's mission and approach to conservation.

In the immediate term, the Field Instructor positions will continue to serve CDTC's mission and vision by leading on the ground volunteer trail work that is critical to the protection and completion of the CDT. This ties directly into supporting the Gateway Communities along the Divide in stewardship and education about the CDT. Field Instructors will continue to play an important role by being the face of CDTC and interacting with partners and volunteers, building critical relationships. These positions will support CDTC's future work in volunteer trail stewardship, community stewardship, and training volunteers in trail maintenance and construction skills.

CDTC continues to pursue additional funding for the two Field Instructor positions to support their salaries and benefits. Potential sources of funding that have traditionally funded the direct costs of project and training implementation include the National Forest Foundation, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, Grand County OLRT, Roundup Riders of the Rockies, Laura Jane Musser Environment Fund and more. In addition, CDTC relies on diversified sources of income and has increased individual giving through annual campaigns and events. While additional grant funding will be sought to support annual costs, ongoing support from donors, corporate sponsors, and others in the CDTC community will provide sustainability.

## 7. Public Engagement (10 points)

CDTC's Field Instructors' work is informed by the CDT Comprehensive Plan, interagency MOU, and USFS and BLM management plans, which directly include public comment. The CDT has recommended forest plan components that allow flexibility for CDT units to make adjustments based on their unique needs, conditions, and public input. These recommendations facilitate dialogue and provide a starting point for discussions with the public when developing forest plan direction for the CDT. Each forest must engage the public consistent with forest planning regulations and directives and complete NEPA procedures before any recommended components become direction in forest plans. CDTC adheres to the agencies directives and public comment periods, and when or if forest plan revisions have far-reaching impact, CDTC engages additional stakeholders in our commentary such as organizations, community members, localized groups, and members to gain different perspectives, broader support, and decide on mutual objectives, strategies, and criteria. All of this public comment informs larger priorities that are established for the completion, promotion, and protection of the CDT. This is then translated to tangible work projects and volunteer engagement opportunities, which are conducted by CDTC's Field Instructors.

The CDTC Field Instructors interact the most with the public, collecting reports of trail conditions, construction deficiencies, and management needs, all of which directly inform our maintenance work and prioritization of projects. These instructors also actively engage individuals and groups within CDT Gateway Communities and through this process foster and build relationships at a local level. This ensures that our work is informed, inspired, and driven by the communities themselves. In 2021, CDTC conducted its bi-annual Small Business Survey, which reached 159 small businesses in Communities along the CDT, at least 70% of whom were located in designated CDT Gateway Communities. 79% of respondents identified the CDT as important or very important to the well-being of businesses, jobs, and the economy in their community. Seventy percent of respondents also claimed that CDT users in particular have a positive impact on their business revenue. These results demonstrate the importance of maintaining trail access and sustainability for local communities. Additionally, over the past two years, CDTC has held meetings with the advisory committees in every Gateway Community to determine local priorities. CDT Gateway Communities are proud of their communities and to be conservation partners in protecting and maintaining the CDT, and vocalizing, emphasizing, and supporting these accomplishments will increase recognition and tourism to these towns in particular.

CDTC does not anticipate public opposition to the funding of the two Field Instructors' positions. These staff members can lift and inform communities on the importance of stewardship and align goals and objectives with the needs of land managers, partners, and the public. Field Instructors are public-facing staff who create fun, informative, and inclusive outdoor working environments for future public land stewards.

## 8. Implementation Process and Outcome (5 points)

In Colorado, the success of the two Field Instructor positions will be defined and measured through quantitative and qualitative analysis and data collection. Quantitative data highlights results achieved through the leadership and direction of the Field Instructors, including feet of trail built, markers installed, drainages and trees cleared, the installation of other trail structures, safety implementation, and incident reports. In addition to trail data, CDTC tracks all volunteer participants, demographic information, volunteer hours, and in-kind value. Specifically for the CDTC Adopter Program, CDTC collects data on all the above, as well as miles of trail adopted and adopter reports submitted. CDTC collects qualitative data through volunteer surveys distributed at the end of each project and training. These surveys allow for the ongoing improvement of the Field Instructor positions and summarize successes and areas of improvement for volunteer trail work projects and CDTC Adopter training. We also strive to strengthen existing and build new partnerships along the trail each year, which we feel is one of the most important aspects and deliverables of this work.

**Objectives:** To enhance volunteer and staff capacity and engagement within CDTC ' s Field Programs Department by supporting and training two full-time, seasonal Field Instructors through 2025 in Colorado.

### Tasks:

The Field Instructor positions will:

- Undergo leadership, trail skills, and Wilderness First Responder training to be fit leaders with the ability to educate and lead volunteers in stewardship of the CDT in Colorado.
- Increase long-term stewardship of the CDT and enhance volunteer capacity by training 30 prospective CDTC Adopters in basic trail skills and safety during multiple hands-on Adopter Trainings in Colorado from late 2022 - 2025.
- Implement and lead at least six volunteer trail work events along the CDT in Colorado in partnership with communities, partner organizations, individuals, and land managers.
- Lift and inform communities on the importance of stewardship and align goals and objectives with the needs of land managers, partners, and the public. Field Instructors are public-facing staff who create fun, informative, and inclusive outdoor working environments for future public land stewards.

**Outcomes:** Engaged and empowered stewards of the CDT that recognize the significance of the Trail, the standards of care for National Scenic Trails, and the national and local communities they are a part of. CDTC provides the tools and guidance necessary for volunteers to support their public land agencies and the vision and mission of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition.

A typical CDTC field season follows the below timeline:

**Pre-Season Planning** - CDTC coordinates with land managers, volunteers, and partners to identify potential projects; coordinates with partners and agencies to select annual projects (10-14 projects a year); When appropriate or requested, CDTC seeks grant funding and support from partners and land agencies as needed; CDTC communicates with land agency point of contact to confirm dates, the scope of work, camping location, and appropriate number of registered volunteers; CDTC recruits project Crew Chef(s) if applicable.

**Project Implementation** - CDTC Field Instructors travel to project basecamp, scout worksite, and lead volunteers on-the-ground.

**Post-Project** - Check-in with the land agency, follow-up to volunteers, partners, send out surveys. send project accomplishment reports.



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

The primary partners for this project are the Gateway Communities, specifically the key stakeholders within each of the seven in Colorado. In addition, CDTC has long-standing relationships with land manager partners within the US Forest Service, who provide support for trail management and the surrounding property. Other partners include the Headwaters Trails Alliance and Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, who collaborate with CDTC on conservation and capacity building efforts by sharing best practices.

CDTC has secured funding through the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (\$3,680), the New Mexico Economic Development Outdoor Recreation Trails Grant (\$12,160), and the Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (\$3,680), totaling \$19,520 in matched funds to support the Field Instructor positions. Grant agreements are all included as supporting documents. In addition to this support, both the Director of Field Programs (\$2,100) and Field Programs Manager time (\$3,400) will be utilized as match funding because of the time to oversee and train both CDTC Field Instructors. In-kind match includes volunteer labor on future CDT projects in Colorado (\$15,300). These match contributions are important because they come from individuals and foundations that seek to support the boots-on-the-ground work the Field Instructors contribute along the Divide, and will proceed whether or not Colorado State Trails Funds are awarded. Additionally, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition has an agreement with the USFS Challenge Cost Share, which is renegotiated every year. CDTC is currently completing negotiations and expected to sign an agreement soon, with funding specific to field instructors expected to meet or exceed \$20,000.

## 10. Ability/Contingency (5 points)

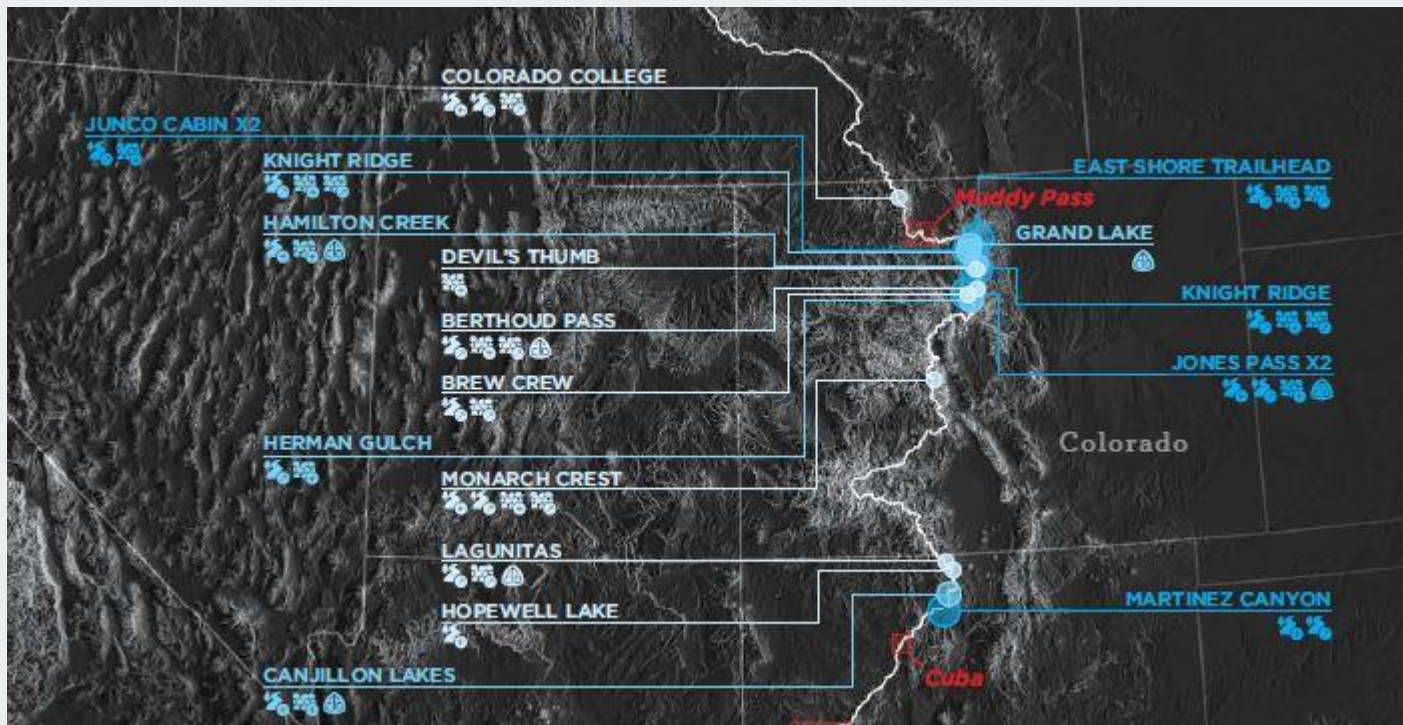
The Continental Divide Trail Coalition has been awarded and successfully managed funding in the past from Recreational Trails Programs in both Colorado and Montana, with current funding from a similar program in New Mexico. Specifically, CDTC was awarded \$9,682.50 from Colorado RTP for the Monarch Crest Project, and \$17,487 from Montana RTP in 2019 for the CDT Reroute and Alice Creek Project, and we have been conducting volunteer trail maintenance projects at a high level of professionalism for a decade. Unrelated to our field-specific work but demonstrative of our ability to manage large grant awards, CDTC has received multiple five and six-figure gifts from foundations including the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Get Outdoors Colorado, the Wyss Foundation and more, all of whom require a high level of detail in grant management and reporting.

In addition, CDTC has received continuous funding from the National Forest Foundation and the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (totaling \$30,000 in the past two years) for the past several years to support trail work along the Continental Divide and we will apply for and have a high level of confidence in receiving funding through these partners to support the work of the instructors in the future. If Colorado State Trail Funds are not awarded, CDTC would still continue this work by securing funding through individual donors, corporate partners, and/or other private funding.

Project Name:		For Office Use:						
SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
<b>CASH</b>								
CPW - Support Grant	TBD				\$ 45,000.00		\$ 45,000.00	
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance	8/8/2022					\$ 3,690.00	\$ 3,690.00	
USFS Challenge Cost Share	12/1/2022					\$ 3,970.00	\$ 3,970.00	
NM Economic Development ORT Grant	12/7/2021					\$ 12,160.00	\$ 12,160.00	
Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee	8/9/2022					\$ 3,680.00	\$ 3,680.00	
<b>IN-KIND</b>								
Volunteer Labor as In-kind (\$29.90/hr)	8/30/2023					\$ 15,300.00	\$ 15,300.00	
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>					<b>\$ 45,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 38,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 83,800.00</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 2 - Salary/Wages</b>								
Field Instructor Salary + Benefits (2023-2025) (total of 6 months)	1050	Hrs	\$ 30.00	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 31,500.00	0
Field Instructor Salary + Benefits (2023-2025) (total of 6 months)	1050	Hrs	\$ 30.00	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 31,500.00	0
Field Program Manager Salary (for onboarding and oversight of Field Instructors)	100	Hrs	\$ 34.00	\$ 3,400.00		\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,400.00	0
Director of Field Programs (for oversight of grant, instructors and program)	50	Hrs	\$ 42.00	\$ 2,100.00		\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,100.00	0
<b>USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>\$ 45,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 68,500.00</b>	
<b>*ESTIMATE NUMBER OF CREW HOURS [GRANT AND MATCH] CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE</b>							<b>*REQUIRED INPUT</b>	
[IN-KIND] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)			Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
<b>Additional Categories</b>								
Volunteer Labor as In-Kind	511.71	Hrs	\$ 29.90	\$ 15,300.00		\$ 15,300.00	\$ 15,300.00	0
<b>IN-KIND SUBTOTAL</b>						<b>\$ 15,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,300.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>					<b>\$ 45,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 38,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 83,800.00</b>	
<b>25% REQUIRED MATCH</b>						<b>\$ 11,250.00</b>		



# CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION



The CDTC works closely with federal and local partners across Colorado to actively contribute to the completion and protection of the trail. Field Instructors are boots-on-the-ground staff that implement all of our volunteer trail work projects and Adopt-a-Trail trainings in Colorado.

- Trail Constructed
- Trail Maintained
- Feature Constructed
- Feature Maintained
- Trail Signed



## CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION



CDTC Field Instructors lead a Gateway Community Stewardship event in the Gateway Community of Grand Lake.



## CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION

CDTC often partners with regional organizations to collaborate on shared missions to maintain the CDT and teach volunteers the importance of trail maintenance. Seen here, CDTC and volunteers are working alongside Headwaters Trails Alliance (above) and Yampatika (right).



## CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION



The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest has been heavily impacted by natural disasters in the last few years. CDTC Field Instructors are able to lead and support volunteers on the ground to repair the CDT.



## CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION



In many of our CDT Gateway Communities, we host Adopter Trainings to teach locals basic trail maintenance skills and safety. At the end of the training, groups and individuals can adopt their own segment of the CDT to maintain regularly. They submit accomplishment reports and provide additional information on larger-scale issues - being the eyes and ears of the CDT in Colorado.



From Big Agnes Inc.

To the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Committee,

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) was formed in 2012 to assist and work alongside federal land management agencies in the protection and management of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). CDTC is a membership-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to complete, promote, and protect the CDT by building a strong and diverse trail community, providing up-to-date information to the public, and encouraging conservation and stewardship of the Trail, its corridor, and surrounding landscapes.

As a small business in a CDT Gateway Community, we are proud to engage with CDTC's work of promoting and stewarding the Continental Divide Trail. As the outdoor recreation economy continues to grow, the CDT has the potential to be a vital economic driver for many rural communities across Colorado. Almost 90% of small business owners along the CDT report that trail users contribute substantially to their community's economy. By raising awareness of the trail as a CDTC Business Member, we have situated ourselves at the center of the growing outdoor recreation economy.

The CDTC's Field Instructor positions play a vital role in supporting the interests of our community, our business, and the CDT itself. Volunteer trail work projects connect locals to the land and increase tourism to our area. We hope Colorado Parks & Wildlife will strongly consider funding the CDTC to allow this organization to serve the CDT with boots on the ground.

Sincerely,

Bill Gamber

President and Co-Founder



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS  
**CHAMBER**

VITALITY IN THE VALLEY

Steamboat Springs Chamber  
125 Anglers Drive  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

September 14, 2022

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216

To the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Committee,

The Steamboat Springs Chamber is writing in support of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition's application for a Colorado Parks & Wildlife Recreational Trails Program Support grant to fund the salary of two Field Instructors.

As one of the CDT's largest Gateway Communities, and a town that has embraced outdoor recreation of all kinds, Steamboat Springs is proud to be a part of the CDTC. The addition of two Field Instructors would play the important role of supporting CDTC's mission by leading on-the-ground volunteers in trail maintenance, construction, and restoration; allowing for more hikers to enjoy the trail. The community character of downtown Steamboat Springs is enhanced by hosting additional CDT hikers, as we believe our community is enriched by our close access to trails, notably the CDT trail. The lodging industry will benefit, as will restaurants, retail stores and activity providers, in turn benefiting our entire community.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife funding would support the Continental Divide Trail Coalition in completing essential repairs, reconstruction, and maintenance work on the CDT in Colorado. You are investing in a National Scenic Trail that was deemed one of fifteen priority maintenance areas by the USDA. This funding would directly support the needs of the agency, the CDTC, and the Trail itself. Our Gateway Community of Steamboat Springs is proud to support staffing needs within CDTC that allow our communities and lands to thrive.

Sincerely,

Laura Soard  
Marketing Director  
Steamboat Springs Chamber

Adam Ducharme

Tourism Director

Visit Leadville – Twin Lakes



To the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Committee,

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) was formed in 2012 to assist and work alongside federal land management agencies in the protection and management of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). CDTC is a membership-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to complete, promote, and protect the CDT by building a strong and diverse trail community, providing up-to-date information to the public, and encouraging conservation and stewardship of the Trail, it's corridor, and surrounding landscapes.

National Scenic Trails have a long history of being supported by strong public-private partnerships. The Forest Service assists the CDTC in completing the Trail and ensuring its natural, cultural, and historic features are protected, preserved, and maintained. The CDTC sees the Forest Service as a model agency partner that has talented conservation professionals push important priority work on the Continental Divide Trail.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife funding would support the Continental Divide Trail Coalition in completing essential repairs, reconstruction, and maintenance work on the CDT in Colorado. You are investing in a National Scenic Trail that was deemed one of fifteen priority maintenance areas by the USDA. This funding would directly support the needs of the agency, the CDTC, and the Trail itself. Our Gateway Community of Leadville- Twin Lakes is proud to support staffing needs within CDTC that allow our communities and lands to thrive.

Personally, I am deeply invested in attracting CDT travelers to Leadville and Twin Lakes because the through hiker community has been identified as a strategic growth sector for visitation to our community. The average through hiker is curious, respectful of our open space, respectful of our community values, and help to support our effort around a sustainable outdoor recreation economy.

Sincerely,

*Adam Ducharme*

Adam Ducharme

# PLANNING OR SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

## MANDATORY:

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

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 additional comments sections at the bottom of this form.

Scope of work and project location map emailed to CPW Area Manager & Regional Trail Coordinator by September 6, 2022 (not required for Support grants).

**ALL projects will be reviewed for wildlife impacts**

## 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