

Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT BASICS

Title

Type

Construction

Planning

Maintenance

Support

Phased project

Yes

No

If yes, Phase #

of

Brief summary

Grant request

\$

Grant ratio¹

%

Match

\$

Match ratio

%

Total

\$

Total

100 %

APPLICANT

Type

Local

County

Federal

Tribal

Recreation and Metro Districts

Non-Profit

Organization

Postal address

City

State

CO

ZIP Code

General email

UEI #

Lead contact

Title

Telephone

Email

Project manager

Title

Telephone

Email

PARTNER OR CO-SPONSOR

Organization

N/A

Postal address

City

State

CO

ZIP Code

Contact name

Title

Telephone

Email

¹ Grant ratio = grant request / total. Match ratio = match / total.

PROPERTY			
Nearest town or city	Ridgway	County	Ouray County
Latitude/Longitude	38.1739° N, 107.7323° W	Congressional district	3
Name of property owner	BLM Uncompahgre Field Office		
Trail Corridor controlled by	<input type="checkbox"/> Fee simple	<input type="checkbox"/> Lease	<input type="checkbox"/> Easement
	<input type="checkbox"/> License	<input type="checkbox"/> ROW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Agreement

TRAIL			
Uses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking, walking, running	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
E-bikes allowed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Snow sports (non-motorized)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Hunting		
Estimate percentage by type (e.g.,) 50% hiking, etc.	80% Bike, 19% Run/Hike, 1% Equestrian		
Surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Size of new trailhead (sq. ft.)	NA	Length of trail being planned	5 miles
Length of new trail construction ²	5 miles	Length of trail maintenance	NA
Length of inter-connecting trail	NA	Length of trail reroute	NA
Length of decommissioned trail	NA	Length of restored trail	NA
Length of trail to be signed	29 miles	Length of trail grooming	NA
Other:			
Estimated amount of paid crew hours:	Grant 2300 Hrs.	Match:	700 Vol. Hrs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the applicant entity, I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is true and correct.

Authorized Representative

Signature	Edward Hines <small>Digitally signed by Edward Hines Date: 2023.10.03 16:06:26 -06'00'</small>	Date	10/03/2023
Name	Edward Hines	Title	RAT Chapter Committee Chair

² Length of trail – use miles, square feet, linear feet



COPMOBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION
Support for RAT Chapter Grant

October 2, 2023

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2023, the Board of Directors of Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, Inc. (COPMOBA) approved an application by the RAT Chapter of COPMOBA for a construction grant for Ridgway Area Trails from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trail Fund;

WHEREAS, if the grant is awarded, the COPMOBA Board of Directors is committed to supporting the RAT Chapter in the successful execution of the project, ensuring its long-term maintenance and commitment to the grant match requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the COPMOBA Board of Directors hereby approves and affirms its full support for the RAT Chapter in obtaining a Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trail Construction Grant.

FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the grant is awarded, the COPMOBA Board of Directors will actively assist and cooperate with the RAT Chapter in the execution of the project and will ensure the ongoing maintenance of the project for the long term.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

John Howe

Date: October 2, 2023

John Howe, President,
Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, Inc.



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Ave
Montrose, CO 81401

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

Trails Grant Committee:

The Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) fully supports Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA)- Ridgway Area Trails Chapter (RAT)'s application for a construction grant for the Ridgway Area Trails Expansion. The BLM completed the Ridgway Comprehensive Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment (2013) and is in the process of completing the Ridgway Area Trails Expansion Determination of NEPA Adequacy for this project. The expansion would consist of adding approximately five miles within the Ridgway Trails Special Recreation Management Area- Zone 2.

The RAT trail system is the busiest developed recreation site within the UFO, receiving nearly 30,000 visits annually. The existing seasonal closure has a 97% compliance rate, making this project a great way to expand recreational opportunities, while still protecting wintering big game.

We will have an Outdoor Recreation Planner oversee project implementation and other staff members involved in field work and project coordination providing approximately \$5,300 in-kind match.

We hope that you will look favorably upon our request. This trail system is very important to the local community as well as the region, providing an easily accessible trail system for all types of non-motorized recreation. Local volunteers have put in significant time since the construction of the trails to maintain the system. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**SUZANNE
COPPING**

Suzanne Copping
Field Manager
Uncompahgre Field Office

Digitally signed by SUZANNE
COPPING
Date: 2023.08.29 13:55:07 -06'00'

Timeline



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization _____

Project title _____

TASK <small>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</small>	Dates*	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
Administrative Close-out							

*The timeline is an estimate of your project completion. Remember the project must be completed within 2.5 years of the award date. Suggestion - use quarterly or multiple month time frames [Q2/XX; Jun-Sept XX]. Initial grant expiration date will be June 30th or December 31st, dependent upon assigned funding source.

Criteria Questions



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - CONSTRUCTION

Organization

Project title

1. PROJECT NEED

15 points

A. Give a detailed description of the project, including information such as miles of new or resurfaced trails, any other trail components/structures, and the restoration/decommission of old reroutes.

B. Describe the project's urgency and why it is being pursued at this time.

C. Describe all existing trails/trail systems in the area and the need for additional trail reroutes to be constructed.

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

10 points

- A. Give a detailed description of who will oversee the design process and trail construction. Include who will build the trail (staff, volunteers, conservation corps, contractors, etc.)
- B. Outline any CPW State Trails funding received in the last five years and if the project(s) were completed on time, on budget and within scope. For applicants without prior State Trails funding, provide examples of similar grant funded projects. Include project title, year of award, grant amount, and grantor for each.
-

4. PLANNING

10 points

A. Discuss the process that identified this construction project as a priority.

B. List all approved internal master or outdoor recreation plans and/or any external area, regional, or statewide plans this project supports.

5. MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

10 points

- A. Explain how the site will be maintained and monitored (maintenance plans, estimated cost, and future budgeting commitments, etc.) after construction.
- B. Describe the best management practices that will be used to construct the trail to ensure that the trail and its amenities will be sustainable.
-

7. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

15 points

A. Outline public engagement activities for this project (public meetings, comment periods, surveys, etc.)

B. Describe any partnerships that will ensure the project's success (public agencies, conservation or recreation groups, local businesses, etc.)

C. Describe how potential opposition to this project or its implementation will be identified, addressed and managed.

8. BUDGET AND FUNDING

10 points

A. Describe the source of match for the project and when it will be secured. Include in-kind donations and partner contributions.

B. Describe any consequences if this funding application is unsuccessful (loss of partner funds, staff capacity, expiration of surveys, etc.).

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 RAT Trails Expansion

Project Sponsor RAT/COPMOBA

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: Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan;
Ridgway Comprehensive Travel Management Plan

Date of document: April 2, 2020; May 10, 2013

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

Title of document: Ridgway Area Trails Expansion - DNA and Finding of No Significant Impact

Date of document: October 3, 2023

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:

Caroline Kilbane, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Name: Caroline Kilbane

Phone number: 970-240-5310

Email: ckilbane@blm.gov

4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for n/a.

Land Manager's Name: Suzanne Copping

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature: Field Manager

SUZANNE COPPING Digitally signed by SUZANNE COPPING
Date: 2023.10.03 13:37:08 -06'00'

Project Budget

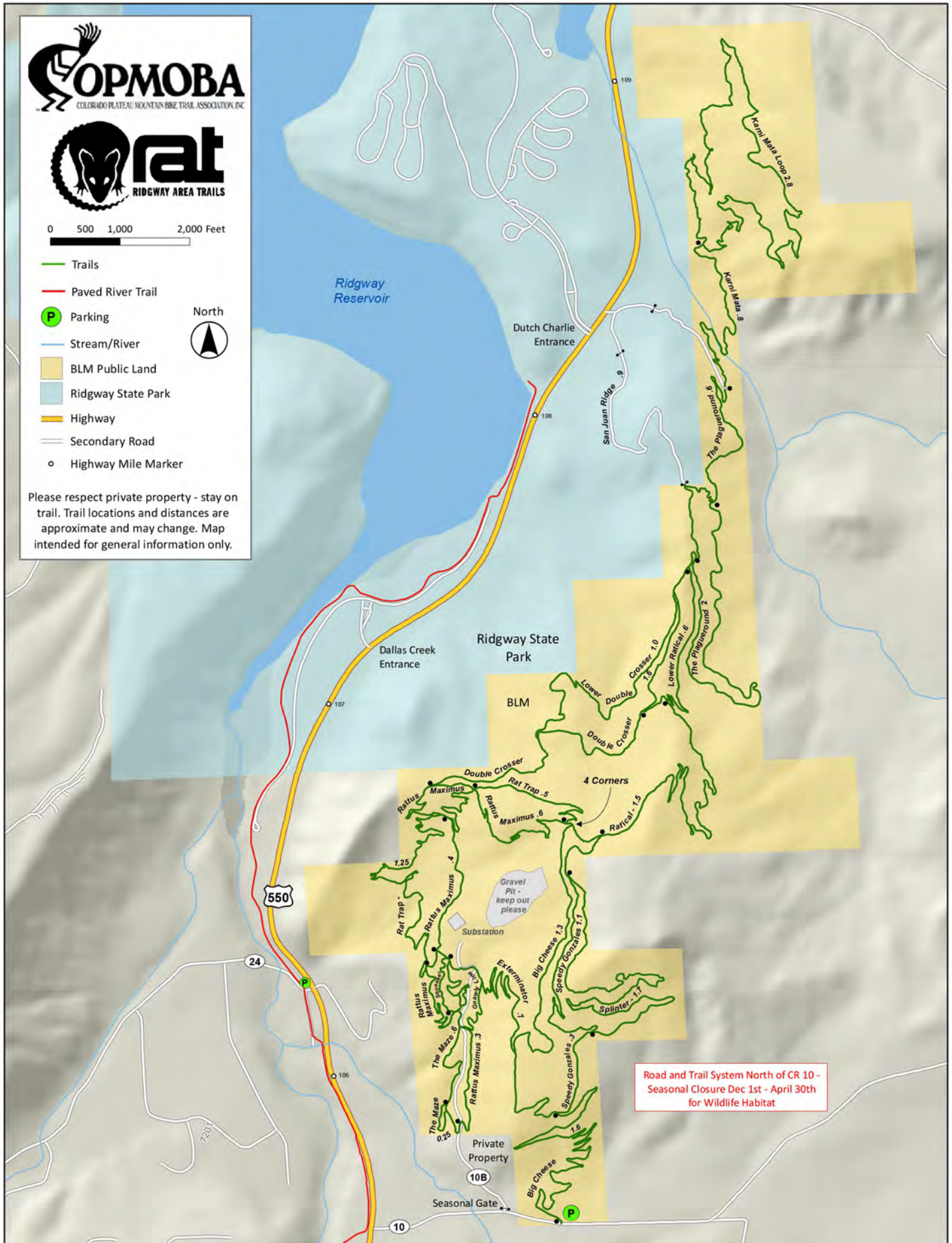


NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT

Project details				Match details			
CPW Grant #				Source of match	Type	Date available	Amount
Organization	RIDGWAY AREA TRAILS / COLORADO PLATEAU MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL AS			RAT RACE 2024 Proceeds & Donations	Cash	Jun-24	\$ 6,100.00
Project title	Trail Expansion at Ridgway Area Trails (RAT) Network			BLM Field Work and Project Coordination	In-Kind	May-24	\$ 5,300.00
Grant Request (auto populates)	\$ 158,470.00			Montrose High School MTB Volunteers	In-Kind	May-24	\$ 6,000.00
				Ridgway Area Trails / COPMOBA	Cash	May-24	\$ 3,300.00
Local match	\$ 40,300.00	Min. Match	\$ 39,617.50	Ridgway Area Trails / COPMOBA Volunteers &	In-Kind	May-24	\$ 19,600.00
Project Total	\$ 198,770.00					Match Total	\$ 40,300.00

Description	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	CPW Grant	Local match	Balance
Contracted Services								
Youth Corps - Trail Construction (SWCC)	6	WK	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 57,600.00	Cash	\$ 57,600.00		\$ -
Professional Trail Construction	13000	LF	\$ 5.69	\$ 73,970.00	Cash	\$ 73,970.00		\$ -
Professional Volunteer Management	500	HR	\$ 50.00	\$ 25,000.00	Cash	\$ 25,000.00		\$ -
Signage Install	20	HR	\$ 30.00	\$ 600.00	In-Kind		\$ 600.00	\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
Salary/Wages								
Grant Administraion	20	HR	\$ 45.00	\$ 900.00	Cash	\$ 900.00		\$ -
Project Administraion	100	HR	\$ 35.00	\$ 3,500.00	Cash		\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
BLM Staff Project Coordination	1	Total	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 5,300.00	In-Kind		\$ 5,300.00	\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
Materials/Supplies								
Signage: Trail Stands	10	EA	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,000.00	Cash	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Signage: Trail Signs	48	EA	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,400.00	Cash		\$ 2,400.00	\$ -
Tools, Supplies, Trailer	40	EA	\$ 100.00	\$ 4,000.00	In-Kind		\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
Additional Categories								
RAT Volunteers	500	HR	\$ 30.00	\$ 15,000.00	In-Kind		\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
Volunteer Shirts and Merch	100	EA	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,500.00	Cash		\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
Montrose High School MTB Volunteers	200	HR	\$ 30.00	\$ 6,000.00	In-Kind		\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
TOTAL				\$ 198,770.00		\$ 158,470.00	\$ 40,300.00	

RIDGWAY AREA TRAILS / CURRENT TRAIL SYSTEM

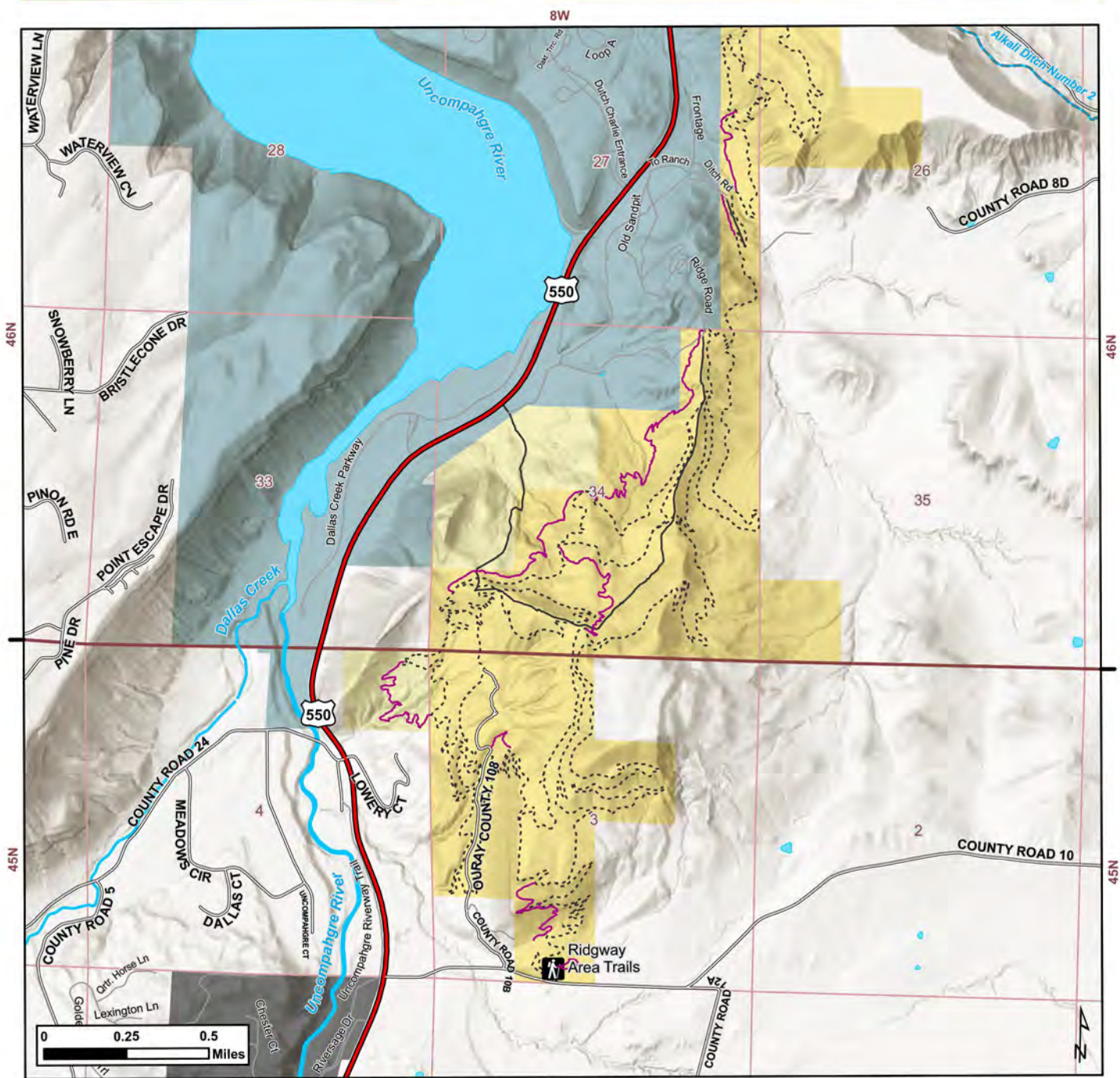


RIDGWAY AREA TRAILS / EXPANSION



2023 RAT Route Additions DOI-BLM-CO-S050-0029-DNA

BLM Colorado | Southwest District | Uncompahgre Field Office

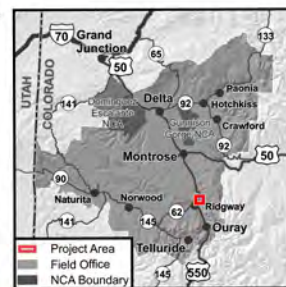


- Proposed Alignments
- Trail Head
- US Highway
- County Road
- Local or Private Road
- BLM Road
- BLM Primitive Road
- - - BLM Trail (Single Track)
- Township and Range
- Section
- Municipal Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Private
- State, County, City Areas

8W

Map Produced by BLM Uncompahgre Field Office Staff
File: 20230707_RAT_Additions_Map
Date: 8/25/2023
Map Scale: 1:26,214
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N
CO Reference System: U.S. PLSS NMM / 6th M

DISCLAIMER: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Decisions in this document only apply to BLM lands. Routes depicted on non-BLM lands are displayed for information purposes only and do not grant access to non-BLM lands.



RIDGWAY AREA TRAILS / COMMUNITY TRAIL STEWARDSHIP



RIDGWAY AREA TRAILS / RAT RACE 2023



RIDGWAY AREA TRAILS / TRAIL SIGNAGE & WILDLIFE CLOSURE INFO

Bureau of Land Management **Ridgway Area Trail System**



The Ridgway Area Trail (RAT) System is comprised of about 25 miles of non-motorized trail. These flowing single-track trails are a result of years of community effort. Welcome and enjoy with care!

Recommended travel directions for mountain bikers:

- Big Cheese, Ribas Maximus, and Upper Double Crosser are recommended climbing trails, which also serve as easy descents.
- Splinter, Radical Plagueground, Rat Trap, Lower Double Crosser, Squeaker, and The Maze are all recommended intermediate downhill.
- Karni Mata is a more advanced loop, and Extremist is a very challenging descent.

Recommended adventures:

- A short, beginner ride would entail climbing up Big Cheese and descending Ribas Maximus, returning to the parking lot on CR10.
- A short, intermediate ride involves climbing up Big Cheese and descending down Rat Trap, to Squeaker, to The Maze, returning to the parking lot on CR10.

The trail system is closed to all trail uses (hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking) from December 1st to April 30th each year to protect big game winter range. Winter range is critical to elk and deer survival; this is where animals find food and birth their young while the high country is locked in by snow.

Bureau of Land Management **Ridgway Area Trail System**

Please respect the land, wildlife, and other users:

- Use trails when they are dry to minimize tread damage and trail loading.
- Remove pet waste around the trailhead. Keep pets on leash in parking areas and under physical or audible control on the trail.
- The RAT is day-use only. Camping is not allowed.
- Be courteous to all users. Bikers yield to equestrians and hikers. Downhill traffic yield to uphill traffic.
- Ride mountain bikes and off highway vehicles (OHVs) on routes designated for that use. Riding off-route is subject to penalty.
- Constructing new trail is illegal. More importantly, it fragments critical wildlife habitat and can ruin sensitive cultural sites in the area.
- Do not use the trails during seasonal closure times (December 1st - April 30th).
- Wear bright orange during hunting season. The RAT trails are popular for hunting in the fall.
- Shooting is prohibited within developed recreation sites and across roads and trails.
- Respect private property.
- Respect the past. Leave artifacts, like arrowheads, for others to enjoy!

E-bikes are currently not permitted on this trail system. To learn more about e-bikes on BLM land visit: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/e-bikes>

Download the FREE Area Map of the RAT trails: blmmaps.com/m/494/853160/ or use the QR code.

Partnerships make trails possible! The Bureau of Land Management appreciates the many of the partners who provide time, talent, and expertise for trail planning and implementation.

For emergencies, call 911. For more information contact: Bureau of Land Management, Huerfano District, 1075 W. 1st St., Durango, CO 81301, 970-240-5300.





JAKE NIECE
MICHELLE NAUER
LYNN PADGETT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

541 4th Street • P.O. Box C • Ouray, Colorado 81427 • 970-325-7320 • FAX: 970-325-0452

August 29, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
State Trails Program
13787 S. Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Non-Motorized Trail Grant - COPMOBA/Ridgway Trails Project

Dear Trail Grant Committee:

The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners is expressing our strong support for full funding of the COPMOBA and Ridgway Area Trails ("RAT") Chapter request for funds to complete the final phase of the Ridgway Area Trails system, consisting of five additional miles of multi-modal single-track routes and a much-needed bathroom for this popular trail system. **We urge full funding of RAT's request.**

This final phase leverages over two decades of dedicated collaborative work and cooperative partnership between RAT/COPMOBA, the Town of Ridgway, Ouray County, Ridgway State Park, and the Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) of the BLM. We are grateful to the CPW Non-Motorized Trail Grant program and GOCO for providing co-funding for previous phases.

The RAT trail system highlights the unique ecological and scenic qualities of our area with world-class views of the Sneffels and Cimarron Mountain ranges overlooking the Uncompahgre River valley and Ridgway State Park.

The RAT trails are meeting and exceeding their original objectives¹, and they significantly contribute to our Ouray County Bottom-Up goal of expanding high-quality, environmentally sensitive outdoor recreation opportunities for multiple backcountry users and abilities and diversifying our economy. Since the phased construction began in 2013, Ridgway has had two new successful bike shops/outdoor gear stores open, and demand for restaurants, services, camping, and lodging has increased along with the quality of life of locals. RAT's collaborative partnerships model has catalyzed other local/regional trail and route groups to collaboratively enhance Ouray Perimeter Trail, Ouray Via Ferrata, Ouray Ice Park, and climbing routes.

Local youth, school teams, and women's groups use the RAT trail system as it is uniquely accessible from Ridgway and Ridgway State Park without costly shuttling. The sustainable trails now meet IMBA and BLM standards. Construction utilizes volunteer programs involving youth, veterans, locals, and others. It is cherished by the gateway communities. This final phase will reduce user density on key routes while also providing features for beginner single-track riders and a much-needed bathroom at the trailhead. We urge your full support for this funding request.

Sincerely,



Jake Niece, Chair



Michelle Nauer, Vice-Chair



Lynn M. Padgett, Member

¹ The RAT project's objectives are: expand the public trail system and outdoor recreational opportunities; provide direct use of designated trails, discouraging the creation of social trails; sustainably enhance a non-motorized recreational trail system; reduce user conflicts; provide consistent education/information; enhance educational/training opportunities; and align with Colorado's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and other land management plans. The RAT trail system is aligned with our "BOTTOM-UP" 2011 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND STRATEGIES, as officially adopted by Ouray County ([Resolution 2011-022](#)), the Town of Ridgway, and the City of Ouray.



Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Montrose Office
2300 S. Townsend Ave
Montrose, CO 81401

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing today in support of Ridgway Area Trails' (RAT) grant request to complete Phase 2 ("The Final 5") of their incredible trail system just north of Ridgway. As an admittedly novice single-track rider, I'm particularly excited about the aspects of Phase 2 that focus on a more diverse trail experience, with options for beginners, families & kids, as well as those aimed at more expert riders.

RAT, which as you know is a chapter of COPMOBA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has been building their trail system since 2011. The current roughly 24 miles of trails have become one of the most valued recreational assets in the Ridgway area, and bring significant positive economic impacts to the region as well. Really, the positive impacts that the project brings to our area can't be overstated. I also love that the mountain biking community is so respectful of the outdoors, practicing Leave No Trace principals wherever possible and respecting seasonal closures without complaint.

Additionally, I'm proud of the cooperative relationship the Town and RAT have developed over the years. I can't think of a better example of the kinds of hugely impactful projects that can be accomplished through public-private partnerships such as ours. I hope you'll look favorably on this grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John I. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John I. Clark
Mayor
Town of Ridgway, Colorado



Motivate Collaborate Support Develop

930 Colorado Avenue - Montrose, Colorado 81401 mailing
PO Box 10,000 - Montrose, Colorado 81402 billing
970.249.7726 phone - 970.249.7173 fax - www.mcsd.org web

September 25, 2023

RE: Non-Motorized Trail Grant – COPMOBA/Ridgway Trails Project

Dear Trail Grant Committee:

My name is Chris Brown and I am the director of the Montrose High School mountain biking team. I would like to express how I believe granting the funding to COPMOBA/RAT Chapter to complete the final phase of the RAT Trails will effect the youth in our communities.

Rural communities often lack opportunities for youth. While this is getting better, it is still true for us. For years, studies have shown that youth from these types of communities are at higher risk of getting involved in unhealthy behaviors that significantly negatively impact their lives. Having raised three teenage boys here, I can attest to the abundance of these behaviors in our high schools.

In 2018, Montrose High School formed a mounting biking team under NICA and the Colorado League that allowed kids of all ability levels and economic backgrounds to learn and ride with peers in a structured environment, as well as race against their peers in Colorado at a state level. The team began with four high school kids and two adult coaches. This year, we have grown to approximately 40 riders (including riders from 6 other area high schools) and 23 fully trained coaches. The growth shows no sign of slowing. We estimate at least 50 next year. These kids are a community of likeminded youth doing positive things, they've formed healthy relationships with other youth they would not otherwise have, some are using these skills to race at a national level and/or ride for colleges- all while creating a healthy lifelong hobby. The difference the team has made in the lives of these kids, many who don't fit into traditional sports or other programs, has been incredible. Many of them desperately needed it.

The RAT trails have been critical to our program. Without access to trails our program could not exist. During our season, our riders and coaches spend over 172 hours a week on local trails, much of which is spent on the RAT Trails. This does not include countless nonpractice hours. The use of these trails will only increase as we, as well as mountain biking in general, continue to grow. The final phase which would include more needed miles, reduce rider density at RAT, and provide more beginner opportunities would be huge for us, as well as the biking community in general.

The ability to hold events there has benefited us as well. This would also only increase if the final phase was completed. This summer, proceeds from the annual RAT Race were donated to replace needed jerseys, train coaches, and provide team and race scholarships for families in need. In return, our team community of over 100 people focus on volunteering man hours for races and building trails.

As a team, we fully support the funding of the final phase of the RAT trails. It would greatly benefit our communities, especially our youth. We are so thankful for the RAT Trails, to the RAT chapter, to all those who have helped fund and build the RAT Trails, and to all those who will facilitate this final phase. I can confidently say that hundreds of community youth and families will benefit from it for years to come.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown



**Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Montrose Office
2300 South Townsend Ave
Montrose, CO 81401**

September 25th 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ashley Perkins and I am the Executive Director for the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce. Today I am writing on behalf of the Ridgway Area Trails (RAT) organization and wish to support them in their grant request to complete Phase 2 of the Ridgway Area Trail system adding an additional 5 miles of natural surface single track to this gorgeous outdoor exploration opportunity. As a local who has lived in the area for over a decade and someone who professionally and personally supports the business, residential and recreational community, I encourage you to consider that this will open up a valuable experience for mountain bike riders and hikers of all ages to enjoy.

With more than 30,000 trailblazers that come to the area during the six month window in which the RAT system operates, it is evident that there is availability for expansion. As this outdoor experience draws visitors to our area, I believe that the trail system deserves the chance to have new paths to explore continuing to bring people to Ridgway time and time again; primarily those that appreciate and respect the outdoors.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Perkins

**Ashley Perkins, Executive Director
Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce
150 Racecourse Road
Ridgway, CO 81432**

September 25th, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
State Trails Program
13787 US Hwy. 85N.,
Littleton, CO 80125



Dear Grant Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for Ridgway Area Trails (RAT), a local chapter of Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA), and their proposal for the CPW Non-Motorized Trails Grant. The Southwest Conservation Corps is very excited to partner with the RAT Group and is prepared to provide youth crews for up to 6 weeks in 2024. We are excited to be involved with this trail construction project.

SCC's Youth Program employs local high school students ages 14-18 in paid conservation opportunities. Members gain hands-on conservation experience while learning skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership. Students build positive relationships with peers and earn minimum wage while spending their days outside performing manual labor. Youth crews typically work in or around their own backyards, partnering directly with non-profits or municipalities that are filling needs in each community. In 2023, 60 local high school students completed over 10,000 hours of service on projects including trail construction and maintenance, habitat restoration, and small-scale agriculture.

By partnering with Ridgway Area Trails, SCC believes that this project would help achieve the mission of our organization which is, "To empower individuals to positively impact their lives, their communities, and their environment." This project represents a great opportunity to invest in youth with paid opportunities to engage in community development.

SCC wholly supports this application for grant funding. Please contact me at 970-902-3563 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Juan Fernandez
Interim Corps Director
Southwest Conservation Corps
701 Camino del Rio, Suite 101
Durango, CO 81301

Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization

Project title

DOCUMENTS

PRE-APPLICATION - SEPTEMBER

Document	Source	Submission format
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Scope of work	Applicant's own	PDF
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Project map	Applicant's own	PDF

FULL APPLICATION - OCTOBER

Document	Source	Submission format
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Application form	CPW template	PDF
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Timeline	CPW template	PDF
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Budget	CPW template	Unprotected Excel file
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Photographs & maps	Applicant's own	Merged PDF (5 pages max)
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Letters of support	Various	Merged PDF (5 letters max)
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Resolution	Applicant's own	Signed PDF
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Environmental forms	CPW Template	Signed PDF
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Formal EA or NEPA*	Federal Template	Web link or PDF

ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

11. Required match funding secured (including cash match funds)
12. Construction projects have been evaluated for permits and, if required, permits obtained.
13. Project area is owned by a public land agency or has an easement that designates the area be open to the public for at least 25 years.
14. Conservation/Youth Corps or other organization will be used on the project.
Name of organization:
-
15. Volunteers will be utilized on the project
Name of organization:
-

*Must be completed prior to application presentations in January.