

Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

PROJECT BASICS

Title Leadville Ranger District Trail Crew & Pine Creek Trail Crib Wall

Type Construction Planning
 Maintenance Support

Phased project Yes No If yes, Phase # of

Brief summary

The Leadville Ranger District would like to hire a 4 person district trail crew to maintain 285 miles of heavily used non-motorized trails and to build a crib wall on the Pine Creek Trail.

Grant request	\$ 173,018.00	Grant ratio ¹	50 %
Match	\$ 175,644.44	Match ratio	50 %
Total	\$ 348,662.44	Total	100 %

APPLICANT

Type Local County Federal Tribal
 Recreation and Metro Districts Non-Profit

Organization USDA Forest Service, Leadville Ranger District

Postal address 810 Front Street

City Leadville State CO ZIP Code 80461

General email adam.carroll@usda.gov UEI #

Lead contact Adam Carroll Title Trail Manager

Telephone (719) 656-0718 Email adam.carroll@usda.gov

Project manager Jim Fiorelli Title Recreation Program Manager

Telephone (719) 486-0749 Email james.fiorelli@usda.gov

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	Leadville	County	Lake & Chaffee
Latitude/Longitude	39°14'26"N, 106°18'7"W	Congressional district	7
Name of property owner	Federal Public Land		
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: Federal

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snow sports (non-motorized)
	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Estimate percentage by type (e.g.,) 50% hiking, etc.	65% hiking/running, 25% biking, 10% 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.)	Length of trail being planned		
Length of new trail construction ²	Length of trail maintenance	285 miles	
Length of inter-connecting trail	Length of trail reroute		
Length of decommissioned trail	Length of restored trail		
Length of trail to be signed	Length of trail grooming		
Other:			
Estimated amount of paid crew hours:	Grant 5,536	Match: 4,152	

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	ADAM CARROLL <small>Digitally signed by ADAM CARROLL Date: 2023.10.03 19:29:38 -06'00'</small>	Date	10/03/2023
Name	Adam Carroll	Title	Trail Manager

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

File Code: 2310
Date: September 20, 2023

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

Dear State Trails Grant Committee,

Like many other land management agencies, the US Forest Service is entrusted with the care and maintenance of recreational trails. For the Leadville District of the Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands, 285 miles of trails provide recreationists non-motorized access to vast areas of beauty in the northern Sawatch and Mosquito mountain ranges and the experience to transition from sage-steppe to alpine tundra. Trail sections ranging from about 8,000-ft to greater than 14,000-ft require frequent maintenance and, in some cases, rehabilitation due to the steep slopes and popularity.

Too often, the Forest Service has found itself deficient in either human or financial capital necessary for general trails upkeep which has led to a maintenance backlog in the trail network. On an annual basis the district can carry out only minimal maintenance, improvements, and coordination efforts until additional resources, such as this grant opportunity, become available.

A state trails grant would enable the Leadville District to hire a 4-person non-motorized trail crew to log out district trails, maintain bulletin boards, install signage, rehab and build water bars, and cut back vegetation for better stock access. A grant would also support outreach efforts to the local community, while providing better support to partner organizations like Colorado Trail Foundation, Friends of Lake County, and Friends of Twin Lakes. Additionally, funding would go toward a contract trail crew to install cribbing where Pine Creek trail is slipping into the creek near the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness boundary. Combined, these actions would enhance our ability to maintain and improve the trail experience, while leveraging trail stewardship capacity over time.

On behalf of the US Forest Service, I endorse this grant proposal because of the existing need that only grows with each passing year. Providing and maintaining sustainable trails for continued use and enjoyment of public lands is one of our largest current needs. We would appreciate the committee's support in that endeavor.

Sincerely,

District Ranger



Timeline

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION



PROJECT DETAILS

Organization **USDA Forest Service, Leadville Ranger District**

Project title **Leadville Ranger District Trail Crew & Pine Creek Trail Crib Wall**

TASK <small>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</small>	Dates*	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
USFS Receives CPW NM Grant Funding	April-June 2024						
USFS Seasonal Employee Hiring Start	September 2024	September 2025					
USFS Seasonal Hiring Complete	March 2025	March 2026					
USFS Contracting (Pine Creek Crib Wall Project)	Spring 2025						
Trail Crew In-Performance	May-September 2025	May-September 2026					
Pine Creek Crib Wall Construction	June-August 2025						
NM Trail Grant Progress Reporting	March 31	June 30	September 30	December 31			
Administrative Close-out	Q4 2026						

*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 - MAINTENANCE

Organization USDA Forest Service, Leadville Ranger District

Project title Leadville Ranger District Trail Crew & Pine Creek Trail Crib Wall

1. PROJECT NEED

15 points

- A. Give a detailed description of the project, including information such as mileage or width of trail maintenance, re-route or restoration plans, and any other trail components/structures.

The Leadville Ranger District is home to 285 miles of non-motorized trails that ranging from minimally developed Class 1 trails to fully developed class 5 trails. These trails range in elevations from 8,800 feet to Colorado's highest peak Mt. Elbert at 14,443 feet. With so many miles of trails, elevation change, and the amount of users, these trails require regular maintenance to clear trails of downfall, prevent erosion with the construction and cleaning of waterbars, and clear back vegetation from blocking access to equestrian and llama use. A district trail crew will address these maintenance tasks during the 2025 and 2026 field seasons to keep these trails open and in a sustainable state for the enjoyment of the wide variety of user groups that love the Leadville Ranger District's trail system.

Additionally, in sections the Pine Creek Trail Number 1467 is located on a very steep hillside. A 50-foot crib wall is essential to keep this trail from slipping off the hillside and open to use.

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

The town of Leadville and the Leadville Ranger District have been discovered as a premier destination for outdoor recreation enthusiasts. This is especially true with Colorado's population center of the Front Range less than a two hours drive away. However, the booming popularity and use of the districts trails has unfortunately not been associated with a corresponding investment in their upkeep. This grant will ensure the backlog of trail maintenance is addressed and the area trails remain in an acceptable and accessible state for a wide variety of users. Additionally, the Pine Creek trail has been slipping off of the hillside in which it traverses. Without an investment in its upkeep the trail will become inaccessible to the hikers, peak baggers, solitude seekers, horseback riders, and hunters that use the trail.

- C. Describe the current condition of the existing trail. Include how it arrived at its current condition.

While the district has had trails dating back to indigenous use of the area, there was a big push in the 1990's and early 2000's to add trail miles leading to a total of over 285 miles on the district. This also came at a time when the Forest Service's budget towards recreation and other resources has increasingly been focused on combating wildfires. This has resulted in the district's trails in an unmaintained state, confusing trail junctions with missing signage, trails eroding and braiding, and in the case of the Pine Creek Trail, slipping off the hillside it sits upon. While the district is maintaining its trails in 2023 and 2024 with a CPW funded trail crew, this grant cycle will ensure the hard work continues well into 2026 on the district's extensive trail network.

2. COMMUNITY BENEFIT**15 points**

- A. Describe the community that will benefit from this project. Include relevant demographic and economic data.

Recreation opportunities on the Leadville Ranger District's trails have a wide ranging benefit. Not only does the local community enjoy using them, but the estimated 1 million visitors to Lake County do, too. Many of the recreationists that come to Leadville specifically come to enjoy the over 285 miles of trails spend time in Leadville, Twin Lakes, and Buena Vista and use amenities such as hotels, restaurants, and spend time shopping overall helping the local economy. Many of these users contract local outfitter and guides to access the forest with the majority of use happening on the district's trails. According to the Forest Service, recreation on National Forests contribute over \$13.6 billion dollars to the country's GDP each year and supports over 205,000 jobs. Of the visitors to the Pike-San Isabel National Forest in 2016, the average user group spent \$724 on their trip and of these users, 45% participated in hiking the Forest's trails. These trails are also home to many races including the Leadville Trail 100, which is an economic boon to the community.

- B. Outline any deficiencies or barriers to access this project would address or improve for the abovementioned community.

Lake County's population is over 33% Hispanic; however, they make up less than 6% of forest visitors. By participating in outreach events with at the local high school we hope to gain visibility and trust with and hopefully get these numbers up. Maintaining our trails, keeping trailhead signage up-to-date, and ensuring trail junctions are signed, can help remove some of the barriers and intimidation behind accessing the forest. A trail crew is also able to attend and support partners such as the Continental Divide Trail Coalition and Colorado Trail Foundation and their efforts for more equitable access to National Forests.

- C. Estimate the number of people and/or types of user groups that will have access to recreational opportunities as a result of this project. Include methods for determining this estimate.

In the 2016 according to the Forest Service National Visitor Use Monitoring survey an estimated 5.5 million people visited the Pike-San Isabel National Forest. The Leadville Ranger District occupies approximately 1/6 of the Forest and had approximately 895,000 visitors. An estimated 45% of visitors participated in hiking, so we can estimate that over 400,000 visitors per year use the districts trails and will have access to improved recreational opportunities as a result of this project. At any given day throughout the summer the district trailheads that will serve the trails maintained because of this grant are packed with vehicles. On many of the trails a steady stream of hikers, bikers, and runners will be encountered.

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT**10 points**

- A. Give a detailed description of who will oversee the trail work. Include who will perform the maintenance activities (staff, volunteers, conservation corps, contractors, etc.)

The Leadville Ranger District trails program is lead and overseen by a Recreation Program Manager, a Trail Manager, and a soon-to-be hired Trail Lead. The Trail Lead will be working side-by-side with the trail crew while the trail manager will ensure the crew receives training and certifications, follows risk assessments, and follows agency guidelines for trail work to ensure long-term sustainability. A contractor will conduct crib wall construction on the Pine Creek Trail. This project will be overseen by the district Trail Manager who is a Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and has experience working with contractors and ensuring quality work and that meets all terms of the contract.

- 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.

The Leadville Ranger District successfully applied for the 2022 CPW Non-Motorized Trail Grant for a project titled Leadville Ranger District Trail Maintenance. The total award amount for this grant is \$126,170. The district has originally planned on utilizing the grant to hire a crew in the 2022 and 2023 field seasons; however, the timing in which the district received funding did not allow for a crew to be hired in 2022. This has resulted in the project to be pushed back by one year and instead allowing for the district to have a trail crew in 2023 and 2024 field seasons. From learning through this process, the district has adjusted its timelines and has learned to plan two field seasons in advance.

4. PLANNING**10 points**

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

The Leadville Ranger District hired a Trail Manager in 2020 to lead the district's trail maintenance and planning efforts. Over the course of 3 field seasons, this individual has surveyed the entirety of the district's trail system and identified deficiencies on the district's trails. The primary deficiency identified has been a lack of overall maintenance across the district's trails. Annual trail clearing has been handled by a small number of volunteers and the district's two-person Wilderness crew and has resulted in some trails not being cleared of downfall until the end of summer. Some waterbars have not been cleaned in decades and other areas are completely absent of drainages. This has resulted in trails to erode and lose valuable soil that will never return. Other trails are being overgrown by trees and vegetation and making access nearly impossible with stock. Trailhead bulletin boards were often absent of information and trail junction signage was missing. The Trail Manager successfully applied for the 2022 CPW Non-Motorized Trail Grant and was able to address many of these maintenance tasks in 2023 by hiring a 4-person crew. The hard work will continue in 2024 with the remaining funds of this grant; however, due to the sheer vastness of the district's trail network and the years of neglect, a trail crew in 2025 and 2026 is essential to tackle the trail maintenance backlog and ensure long-term sustainability. An investment in trail maintenance today will avoid costlier reroutes in the future.

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

1984 Land and resource management plan: Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands

5. MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY**10 points**

- A. Explain how the site will be maintained and monitored after the grant funded work is complete (operation and maintenance plans, future budgeting commitments, etc.)

The work conducted by the non-motorized trail crew and contracted crew on the Pine Creek Trail will follow Forest Service Trail Construction and Maintenance specifications outlined in manual 0723-2806-MTDC for their long-term longevity. Leadville Ranger District Trail Manager and Trail Lead will monitor project work and continue to pursue funding opportunities to maintain district trails as all trails require annual monitoring and maintenance. District staff will continue to strengthening partner organizations such as the Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers, Friends of Lake County, and Cloud City Wheelers capacity to maintain existing trails and pursue a shared stewardship model of maintenance.

- 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.

All maintenance and construction will follow the latest Forest Service Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook guidelines. The current version was published in 2007; however, a newer version is slated for release in the next one to two years. Specifications published in this manual have been designed for long-term sustainability under harsh environmental conditions. Improvements to the Pine Creek Trail, Continental Divide Trail, and other district trails managed for equestrian use will follow specifications in 0723-2816-MTDC Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds.

6. WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

15 points

- A. Describe how potential impacts to wildlife and natural resources were evaluated during the project scoping phase (using 'Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind', mapping tools, etc.). Include any positive impacts this work will showcase.

While all use creates impact, by concentrating impact and use on already existing trails we are leaving undisturbed areas in their natural state and for the benefit of wildlife and natural processes. Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Leadville Ranger District wildlife biologists were consulted before the submission of this application. Several wildlife related concerns will require mitigation to prevent disturbance. Work needed in identified bighorn sheep production will be delayed until after June 15 as directed by the district biologist. In addition, disturbance of a goshawk nest site in one of the project areas will be avoided by appropriate buffers and coordinating with the district and CPW biologists. While nests and species of concern were not identified in other project areas, an open line of communication between CPW and district biologist throughout project implementation will help us avoid wildlife disturbance. Should any trails identified by the trail crew warrant a reroute, Colorado's Guide to Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind will be the first resource to consult before proceeding with any further action.

- B. Describe any wildlife and natural resources issues raised by CPW staff during the application consultation.

No wildlife and natural resource issues were raised by CPW staff during application consultation.

- C. Explain how potential wildlife and natural resource impacts will be avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated (trail realignment, seasonal closures (include dates), signage, gates, game cameras, etc.)

While no potential wildlife and natural resource impacts were identified in the scoping stage of this process, should any be identified prior or during project implementation immediate action will result in their mitigation.

7. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS **15 points**

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

Throughout the year the Leadville Ranger District collaborates with a variety of user partners including Quiet Use Coalition, Cloud City Wheelers, Friends of Twin Lakes, Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers, and Friends of Lake County amongst others. In formal and casual conversation all the organizations and their members have emphasized the need for improvements to the condition of the trails and have lamented the loss of the former forest service funded crews. These informed users with a background and history in the area stand apart from more novice users who have become so accustomed to degraded, poorly routed, and eroded tread that they think this is part of an appropriate backcountry experience. These low expectations are no excuse for our trails to continue to cause resource damage. On the other extreme, under-represented local communities do not find un-marked, muddy trails and braided trails to be welcoming entry points for enjoying the outdoors. People are excited to get out in the woods and we need to provide safe and sustainable routes for accessing their national forests.

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

The Leadville Ranger District by means of its trail crew are fully invested in developing a shared-stewardship model of trail management. The district is fully supportive of building capacity for our partner organizations to assist in stewarding our trails and ensuring their long-term sustainability. These organizations include Friends of Lake County, Cloud City Wheelers, Greater Arkansas River Nature Association, and Friends of Twin Lakes.

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

While opposition to maintaining existing trails is not anticipated, differing ideas will be addressed with respect and open communication. Concerns will be escalated to the District Ranger who has experience in conflict resolution and can ensure concerns are escalated and addressed by the appropriate level within the agency.

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.

Funding for the GS7 Trail Manager and GS 5/6 Trail Lead positions has been secured in perpetuity as of FY23. District funding for one GS4 Forestry Technician (Trails) to work on the trail crew will be secured in FY24. Funding for trail maintenance on Continental Divide Trail bridges provided by the Forest Service was secured in FY23 to be used in FY24 or FY25. The Leadville Ranger District will be requesting \$50,000 to maintain trail tread on the Continental Divide Trail over Hope Pass in FY24 to be used in FY25 or FY26. Funding for this project may be secured in spring 2024.

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

If this grant is not awarded, trails will continue to erode and may result in costlier fixes in the future including reroutes, whereas if maintained, would require fewer intensive interventions. Visitor experience and safety will also continue to be compromised by deferring this needed maintenance. In addition to causing resource damage, boggy and flooded trails cause visitor confusion and safety concerns where social trails are formed to avoid deteriorated sections of trail. Trails will continue to be overgrown with vegetation making access to stock more difficult and the Pine Creek Trail may become completely inaccessible to stock.

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 Leadville Ranger District Test-Over & Fire Creek Trail C&W Project Sponsor Leadville Ranger District

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: 1984 Land and Resource Management Plan

Date of document: 1984

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

Title of document: 1984 Land and Resource Management Plan; PSICC, Environmental Impact Sta

Date of document: 1984

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: Deborah Kill

Phone number: 360-956-2375

Email: deborah.kill@usda.gov

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

Land Manager's Name: Adam Carroll

Land Manager's Title: Trail Manager

Land Manager's Signature: ADAM CARROLL

Digitally signed by ADAM CARROLL
Date: 2023.10.03 19:36:54 -0600

Project Budget



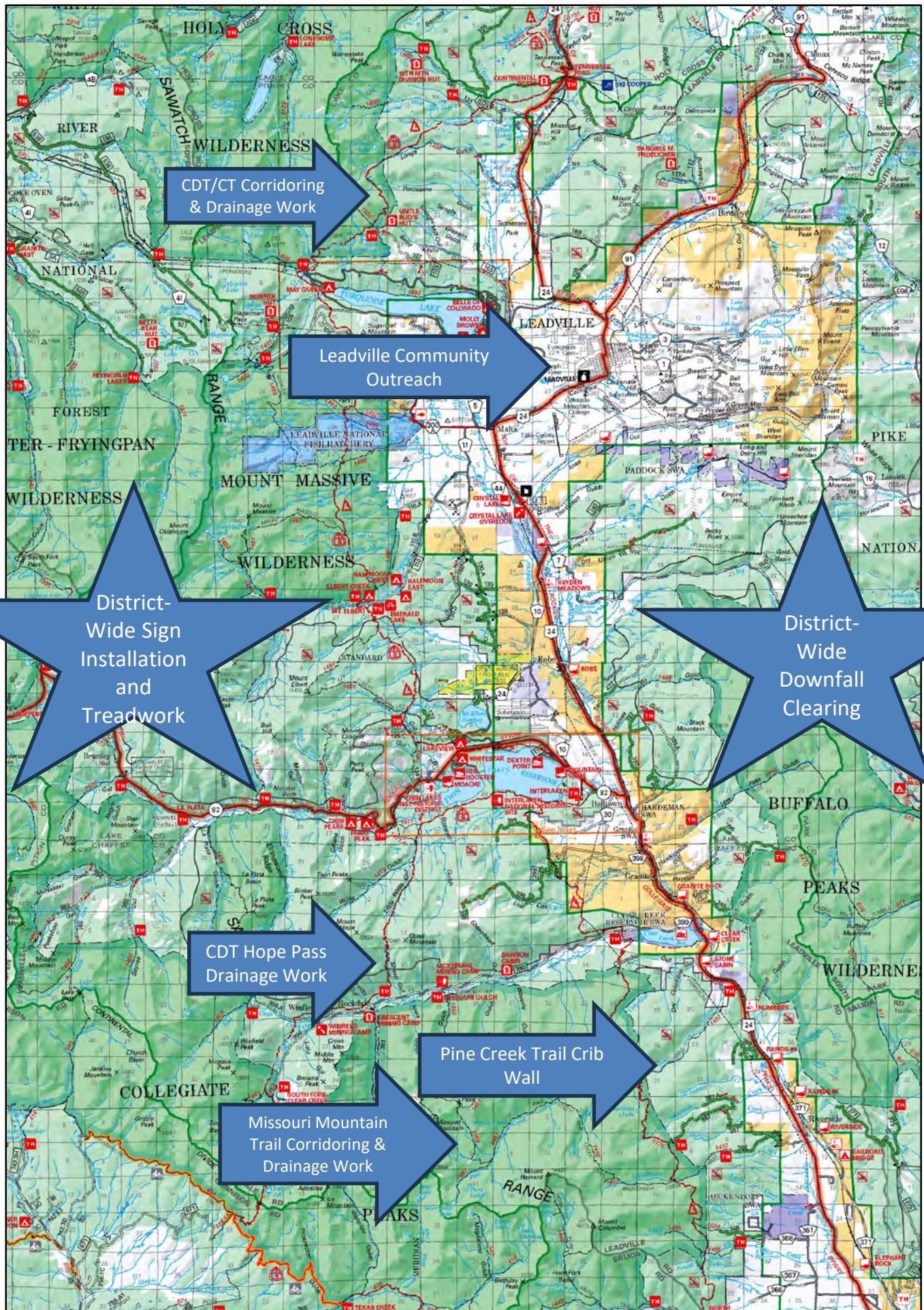
NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT

Project details				Match details			
CPW Grant #				Source of match	Type	Date available	Amount
Organization	USDA Forest Service, Leadville Ranger District			Contracted Services (Trail Bridge Repairs)	Cash	Jan-24	\$ 40,000.00
Project title	Leadville Ranger District Trail Crew & Pine Creek Crib Wall			Salary/Wages	In-Kind	Jan-24	\$ 78,244.44
Grant Request (auto populates)	\$ 173,018.00			Contracted Services (CDT Hope Pass)	Cash	Jan-25	\$ 50,000.00
Local match	\$ 175,644.44	Min. Match	\$ 43,254.50	Materials/Supplies	In-Kind	Jan-25	\$ 7,400.00
Project Total	\$ 348,662.44					Match Total	\$ 175,644.44

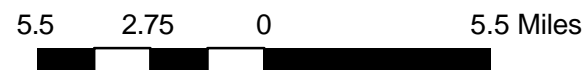
Description	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	CPW Grant	Local match	Balance
Contracted Services								
Pine Creek Crib Wall	5	WK	\$ 12,459.60	\$ 62,298.00	Cash	\$ 62,298.00		\$ -
Continental Divide Trail Bridge Repairs FY24/FY25	4	WK	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	Cash		\$ 40,000.00	\$ -
Continental Divide Trail (Hope Pass)	5	WK	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	Cash		\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
Salary/Wages								
Trail Crew Member (4)	5536	HR	\$ 20.00	\$ 110,720.00	Cash	\$ 110,720.00		\$ -
GS 7 Trail Manager	692	HR	\$ 22.37	\$ 15,480.04	In-Kind		\$ 15,480.04	\$ -
GS 6 Trail Lead	1730	HR	\$ 20.14	\$ 34,842.20	In-Kind		\$ 34,842.20	\$ -
GS 4 Forestry Technician (Trails)	1730	HR	\$ 16.14	\$ 27,922.20	In-Kind		\$ 27,922.20	\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
Materials/Supplies								
Miscellaneous Trail Tools	1	EA	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	Cash		\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
2484 F250 Extended Cab	180	DY	\$ 30.00	\$ 5,400.00	In-Kind		\$ 5,400.00	\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
Additional Categories								
				\$ -				\$ -
TOTAL				\$ 348,662.44		\$ 173,018.00	\$ 175,644.44	



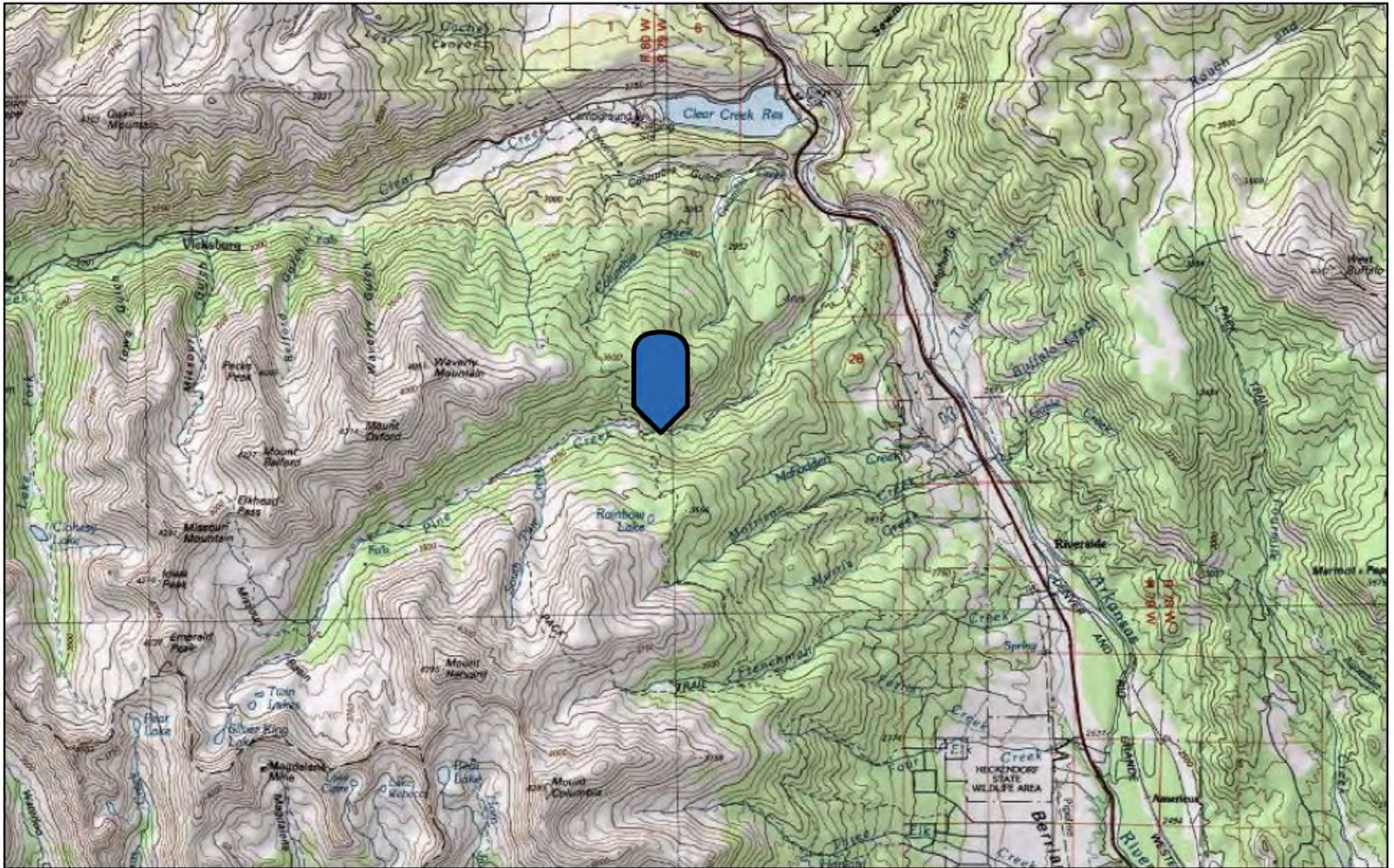
Leadville Ranger District 2025-2026 District Trail Crew Projects



This product is reproduced from geospatial information prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Geospatial information from other federal, state, and non-public sources may also have been utilized. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. The data may be developed from sources of differing scale, accurate only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, incomplete while being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products based on new inventories, new or revised information, and as required by policy or regulation in conjunction with other federal, state or local public agencies or the public in general. Previous recipients of the products may not be notified unless required by policy or regulation. Information shown is based upon data compiled as of September, 7th, 2011. For more information, contact the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 303-275-5350.

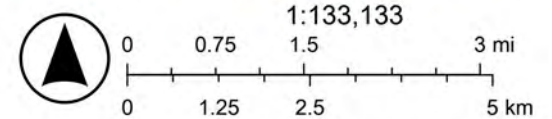


Pine Creek Trail Proposed Crib Wall Location



9/20/2023

USA Topo Maps



Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

Leadville Ranger District 2025-2026 District Trail Crew Projects

Pine Creek Trail # 1467 Trail Slipping and Crib Wall Construction



Continental Divide National Scenic Trail/Colorado Trail Corridor and Draining Maintenance



Leadville Community Outreach



District-Wide Downfall Clearing



South Missouri Mountain Trail Corridor and Drainage Maintenance



Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Hope Pass Drainage Installation



September 24, 2023

Colorado Parks & Wildlife
State Trails Program
13787 U.S. Hwy. 85 N.
Littleton, CO, 80125



Dear State Trails Committee,

This letter is to express our support of a CPW non-motorized trails grant application by the USFS Leadville Ranger District. The CTF has worked closely with the Leadville Ranger District for many years to partner on improving the visitor experience and health of the trails in that area. The work that their seasonal trail maintenance crew has completed over the years has been instrumental to these goals and we wholeheartedly support the continued funding of this project.

As you are probably aware, the Colorado Trail Foundation (CTF) is focused on supporting the maintenance and enhancement of the full length of the 567-mile Colorado Trail. Much of this trail is in remote areas that are hard to access and even more difficult to address trail needs with our primarily volunteer efforts. The Leadville team is trained and equipped to perform work on these difficult segments of the Colorado Trail, and we very much rely on their efforts.

We are coordinating projects for 2024 with the Leadville Ranger District, which include trail corridoring, supporting CTF's projects and trail adopters, maintaining trailhead information signage and junction signs, and heavy maintenance on the Pine Creek Trail that accesses the CT on a portion of trail that is slipping into the creek.

The Colorado Trail is a state treasure and an important amenity for Coloradans and tourists alike. Keeping it healthy and safe is paramount to our mission here at CTF and we are grateful for partners such as the Leadville Ranger District assisting us with this monumental task. Please consider extending your support for this important work and feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tisha McCombs".

Tisha McCombs, Executive Director
Colorado Trail Foundation



FRIENDS OF TWIN LAKES, INC.
a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation

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

Re: Leadville Ranger District's non-motorized maintenance grant proposal for 2025-2026.

Dear State Trail Grant Committee,

The Friends of Twin Lakes and Twin Lakes General Store are honored to support the Leadville Ranger District's non-motorized maintenance grant proposal for 2025-2026. The trail crew will maintain exiting trails cutting out downfall and stabilizing with water bar projects, etc. along the 285 miles of triling in the district. Maintenance like adding drains, cleaning water bars and benching the trails is critical to sustaining the system. It is also important to build crib walls to prevent the trail at Pine Creek from further slippage into the creek.

Friends of Twin Lakes, Inc. (FOTL), will be starting its third 5-year agreement working with the Pike-San Isabel National Forest, Leadville Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture to maintain trails and other things in the area. As area trail adopters, we are very excited to support and work with the Forest Service on these proposed projects. Providing funding for addition Forest Service staffing to provide guidance, equipment and instruction will help us all work more effectively!

The Twin Lakes General Store & Mercantile also is a strong advocate of this project to improve trails as they welcome many visitors and CT/CDT trail hikers. It's owner, Bob Mathes, has been key in maintaining/designing area trails, is a trail adopter and leads volunteer workers on area trail projects. He is ears on the ground hearing comments from many users on areas where work is needed. Those outlined in the request meet needs to enhance the non-motorized trail experiences that we try to provide in our area.

We strongly encourage you to fund the 2025-2026 Leadville Ranger District Trail Maintenance Grant to maintain some of the 285 miles of trails on the district.

Warm regards,

Kelly Sweeney
Friends of Twin Lakes

Bob Mathes
Twin Lakes General Store & Mercantile



231 Lang St.
Twin Lakes, CO
81251
303.868.5508

Kelly Sweeney, President
Colleen Schweigert, Vice President/Treasurer
Beth Manning, Secretary
Jeannine Ravenscraft, Director
Anne Bond, Director



Dear State Trail Grant Committee,

On behalf of the Lake County Tourism Panel, we are honored to fully support the CPW Leadville Ranger District's application for the 2024 Non-Motorized Trails Grant. During the 2023 season, the crew has done a fantastic job of maintaining the forest's beautiful trails, and with this grant, they will be able to continue the hard work well into 2026!

Approximately a million visitors per year visit the Lake County area, and many of them come to hike, bike, and horseback ride the area's Forest Service trails. This is part of the economic backbone of our community and allows visitors to connect with nature. With two-thirds of Lake County's land being managed by the US Forest Service, the area's trails would surely deteriorate without the support of the Leadville Ranger District and Trail grants like this one.

The crew will maintain existing trails by building and maintaining water bars, clearing vegetation encroaching on the Continental Divide and Colorado Trails, building retaining walls on the Pine Creek Trail to ensure it remains accessible to horse users, and logging out trails from downfall using crosscut saws and chainsaws. The crew will also continue its valuable outreach with the local community through events at Lake County High School and participating in events like Boom Days and the 4th of July Parade.

Please join us in supporting the Leadville Ranger District's efforts to continue providing a world-class experience for visitors and locals and keeping the hundreds of miles of trails open for everyone's enjoyment.

Sincerely,

Adam Ducharme

Adam Ducharme
Tourism Director

Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization USDA Forest Service, Leadville Ranger District

Project title Leadville Ranger District Trail Crew & Pine Creek Trail Crib Wall

DOCUMENTS

PRE-APPLICATION - SEPTEMBER

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

FULL APPLICATION - OCTOBER

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