

# Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

## PROJECT BASICS

Title Mount Shavano Trail Reconstruction Project (Phase II)

Type  Construction  Planning  
 Maintenance  Support

Phased project  Yes  No If yes, Phase # 2 of 3

Brief summary

Build 6500 ft. of new trail and close/restore 4100 ft. of old social trail on Mount Shavano summit trail, including opening two re-route sections on the lower mountain.

Grant request	\$ 250,000.00	Grant ratio <sup>1</sup>	36 %
Match	\$ 441,977.00	Match ratio	64 %
Total	\$ 691,977.00	Total	100 %

## APPLICANT

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

Organization Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

Postal address 1511 Washington Ave, Suite 310

City Golden State CO ZIP Code 80401

General email cfi@14ers.org UEI # HRGMLBLKMLU9

Lead contact Lloyd F. Athearn Title Executive Director

Telephone (303) 278-7650 Email lloyd@14ers.org

Project manager Ben Hanus Title Field Programs Director

Telephone (719) 221-1446 Email ben@14ers.org

## PARTNER OR CO-SPONSOR

Organization  N/A

Postal address

City State CO ZIP Code

Contact name Title

Telephone Email

<sup>1</sup> Grant ratio = grant request / total. Match ratio = match / total.

PROPERTY			
Nearest town or city	Salida	County	Chaffee
Latitude/Longitude	38.619083, -106.239296	Congressional district	7
Name of property owner	USDA Forest Service		
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 Land

TRAIL			
Uses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking, walking, running	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
E-bikes allowed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Snow sports (non-motorized)
	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Estimate percentage by type (e.g.,) 50% hiking, etc.	95% hikers, 5% spring skiers, <1% MTB		
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 <sup>2</sup>	Length of trail maintenance		
Length of inter-connecting trail	Length of trail reroute	6500 ft	
Length of decommissioned trail	Length of restored trail	4100 ft	
Length of trail to be signed	Length of trail grooming		
Other:			
Estimated amount of paid crew hours:	Grant 7930	Match: 13,950	

### 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	Lloyd F. Athearn	Digitally signed by Lloyd F. Athearn Date: 2023.10.03 11:18:24 -06'00'	Date
Name	Lloyd F. Athearn	Title	Executive Director

<sup>2</sup> Length of trail – use miles, square feet, linear feet

**AUGUST 5, 2023 BOARD MOTIONS**

1. April 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Board approves minutes from the April 20, 2023 Board meeting.

Moved by: WSR. Second: B McQueen. *Unanimous*

2. Approve Josh D'Souza Board Appointment

Board approves the appointment of Josh D'Souza to a three year term on CFI's Board of Directors ending on December 2026.

Moved by: S Welsh. Second: B. McQueen. *Unanimous*

3. State Trails Grant Submission.

Board approves the formal submission of a \$250,000 grant request to the Colorado State Trails Program for the Mount Shavano Trail Reconstruction Project (Phase II) for work during the 2024-25 field seasons, including the requirement to raise additional matching funds and cover ineligible expenses.

Moved by: B McQueen. Second: S. Welsh. *Unanimous*

4. Remove Check Signer.

Board approves the removal of Brian Sargeant as a check signer on relevant CFI bank accounts.

Moved by: B McQueen. Second: A Leuning. *Unanimous*



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**File Code:** 1580  
**Date:** September 19, 2023

Fletcher Jacobs  
State Trail Program Manager  
13787 S. Highway 85  
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

The Salida Ranger District would like to express our support for Phase II of Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's (CFI) Mount Shavano Trail Construction and Restoration Project, which includes the continuation of two important new re-routes, restoration of the old trail, and major reconstruction of portions of the existing route on Mount Shavano summit trail.

This peak continues to be a popular destination for fourteeners hikers, receiving as many as 7,000 hikers per season. Mount Shavano is a popular peak for many to hike due to its relative accessibility and straightforward approach. The current summit trail is quite steep gaining 4,600' in just 4.5 miles. The steep trail has contributed to a significant amount of resource damage below and above tree line, which CFI plans to restore and revegetate once the re-routes have been completed.

As of September 2023, CFI has successfully implemented Phase I of the project by completing over 8,000' of new trail on the mountain, opening the lowest trail re-route in July of 2023, and closing down and restoring the socially created user route. We're confident that if this grant is awarded, they will continue in the effective execution of the planned work. Mount Shavano, including the surrounding area and the road that leads up to the Blanks Cabin trailhead has seen a marked increase in traffic in recent years.

While part of this is due to the increase in 14er hiking popularity, also it is likely that some of this is because 77% of Chaffee County is public land. It's now more important than ever that we, the United States Forest Service, work to leverage the amount of work getting accomplished on our increasingly popular public lands. This is why the Salida Ranger District supports the work that CFI has planned for Phase II of the Mount Shavano Trail Construction and Restoration Project.

In closing, funding the continuation of this project work will ensure that the trail is completed and built out to the highest of standards. The construction of the trail re-routes will provide a more sustainable tread surface that will lead to a decrease in resource damage and result in a more



enjoyable user experience. In accordance with the requirements of the State Trails Program, these lands will be managed by the United States Forest Service for at least 25 years from now.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions about this project, please contact Gabriel Hobson at [Gabriel.hobson@usda.gov](mailto:Gabriel.hobson@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Edwards', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

JAMES EDWARDS  
District Ranger

# Timeline

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION



## PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

Project title Mount Shavano Trail Reconstruction Projects (Phase II)

TASK <small>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</small>	Dates*	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
Seasonal Staff Recruitment/Hiring	Q1-2/2024		Q4/2024	Q1/2025	Q2/2025		
Contract with RMYC/Horsepacker	Q2/2024				Q2/2025		
Seasonal Staff Training	Q2/2024				Q2/2025		
Project Pack-in	Q2/2024				Q2/2025		
Project Implementation Work	Q2/2024	Q3/2024			Q2/2025	Q3/2025	
Project Pack-out		Q3/2024				Q3/2025	
Project Reporting			Q4/2024				Q4/2025
Grant Closeout							Q4/2025
							Q1/2026
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 30<sup>th</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup>, dependent upon assigned funding source.

# Criteria Questions



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

Organization Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

Project title Mount Shavano Trail Reconstruction Projects (Phase II)

## 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 3-phase, 6-year project will construct 2 bypasses totaling 3 miles (upper and lower mountain), perform 1.5 miles of heavy reconstruction on 3 maintained trail sections (above Colorado Trail junction, near treeline between the reroutes, and from the summit to Tabeguache Peak), and close/stabilize/restore 2.5 miles of social trail. Phase II (2024-25 seasons) will build 6500 feet of new trail and close/restore 4100 feet of social trail. The high crew will build 2800 feet of new trail in a talus field above timberline, install 335 rock steps and build 6450 sq.ft. of retaining walls. The lower crew will build 3700 feet of full-bench trail, install 125 timber check steps and build 2700 sq.ft. of retaining walls. Reroute 2 will open in mid-July 2024, and the final lower reroute will open in September 2025. Closure, stabilization and restoration will occur on the social trail once reroutes are opened. (Existing trail reconstruction is funded by the Statewide 14ers Maintenance grant using the Adopt crew). Tread: 12-24," depending upon side slope. Max. grade: 20%. Restoration uses log check dams, native plant plugs, overseeding. Overview video: <https://bit.ly/3RGFvtU>.

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

Shavano was the worst-rated 14er trail in 2019 when factoring in all trail condition and resource damage factors. Purchase of 31 acres of summit parcels in 2017 provided legal access and allowed USFS planning to proceed. Phase I work is under way. The first (lowest) bypass opened in mid-July. Phase II work is needed to open all lower trail reroutes and perform needed restoration of the old social trail. A seasonal creek flows over the trail in this section--especially in wet years--which results in tremendous erosion and riparian impacts unless the trail is moved. Severe erosion and loss of tundra vegetation continues unabated on the upper mountain. Finishing the entire upper reroute (Phase III) is needed for stabilization/restoration to begin there. GAOA and private funding commitments will be minimized in impact if Phase II is not funded by State Trails as planned.

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

The existing Shavano summit route began as an access route for mining claims on the upper mountain in early 1900s. It is generally a fall-line trail, was never formally planned and is not sustainable or maintainable without major reconstruction. The first bypass has remedied the initial steep ascent. The Phase II lower bypasses will remedy a second steep climb with loose rock, a section of rooty/eroded trail immediately adjacent to a stream, and a long section where seasonal snowmelt overwhelms the trail. The upper mountain trail above timberline is on loose, rocky/sandy soil that is particularly eroded where tundra vegetation has been lost. Deep, steep erosion scars lose significant soil and cause continued undercutting of vegetation beds. Numerous social trails proliferate on the summit block due to a poorly defined, hardened trail. Even moderate trail use is resulting in extreme resource damage.

**2. COMMUNITY BENEFIT****15 points**

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

Trail reconstruction will especially benefit nearby Salida/Chaffee County residents (20,233), as well as hikers from across Colorado and the globe. County population grew 9% from 2010 to 2020, which is less than Colorado's 14.8% growth over the same period. Chaffee grew a further 3.9% from 2020 to 2022. Tourism--with a strong focus on outdoor activities like hiking, rafting, and mountain biking--is the largest driver in the county, representing one-third of economic activity. Travel spending grew 8.7% from 2011 to 2020. Chaffee tourism grew in 2020 despite the pandemic. Tourism surveys of day and overnight visitors in Colorado find that 15-18% participate in "hiking/backpacking" which is usually the #2 or #3 most popular activity. Recent 14er survey participants shows broad age participation, with almost half aged 55+, 37% aged 35-54, and 13% aged 18-34. (Under 18 not surveyed). Race/ethnicity closely mirrors Chaffee residents in being overwhelmingly non-Latino white (85% Chaffee, 87% hikers). Survey respondents were 66% male, 33% female.

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

While Shavano is close to Salida, the poor quality of trail is an obstacle. Survey respondents rated the trail as sub-par: 36% said the trail was "very bad" or "bad," while 39% said "acceptable" and 20% said "good" or "very good". One respondent said, "After the last time we climbed Shavano (+ Esprit), thinking that 'maybe it's not as bad as we remember', we confirmed that it was even worse than we remembered and that we'd never hike it again unless/until it's ever re-routed/re-constructed. I'm 65 years old and live in BV, so it looks like I might make it before I'm too old!" Another respondent commented, "Salida is an up and coming town; town visiting and hiker use will increase over time. It is important to be ahead of the use and get the sustainable trail constructed. Once done, it will further improve Salida as a destination."

- 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.

CFI has monitored 14er hiking use for almost a decade by placing thermal trail counters at up to 23 locations and using a modeling program to estimate use on non-monitored peaks. There were an estimated 279,000 hiker days on 14ers in 2022, down 33% from the all-time high of 415,000 in 2020. Seasonal Shavano hiking use is estimated at 5000-7000 days. This generates \$1.4-\$1.9 million in statewide economic impact based on past CSU studies. The Shavano trail counter directly monitored 2023 peak-season use averaging 45 hikers on weekdays and 215 on weekends (including 130 on Saturdays). CFI is unaware of any studies documenting trail use by type. Anecdotally, use is almost exclusively hikers, trail runners and early season ski mountaineers. Mountain biking is legal, but the USFS designed the trail as hiker-only due to the steep, loose terrain.



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**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.)

CFI has a veteran staff, most of whom have worked for the organization for more than a decade. Field Programs Director Ben Hanus, who began working on 14er projects in 2009, has overseen an expanding number of trail reconstruction, maintenance and data collection projects, while driving improved skill levels and performance on all crews. Field Programs Manager Tom Cronin, who began leading individual CFI crews in 2012 and managing multiple crews in 2019, will oversee the two Shavano crews funded by this grant. Cronin has operated in this role for both years of the Phase I project. Both the high and low crews will have a direct crew lead that will be hired seasonally. Significant pay increases for the 2023 season resulted in CFI having the pick of experienced leaders with multiple seasons of leading trail crews at federal, state, local or nonprofit agencies. This is vital given the technical difficulty of the upper worksite. Seven seasonally hired crew members will assist the upper crew leader, while five will assist the lower crew leader. A Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew will assist the low crew for 8 weeks. Volunteer projects may provide additional project support on the lower re-route and will, funded by a separate State Trails grant, provide trail reconstruction work in the middle sections of the route. Neither youth corps nor volunteers will work on the upper reroute due to its intrinsic hazards and high-altitude location.

- 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.

1) 2023: Large Maintenance, Statewide Fourteener Trail Maintenance, \$250,000. On year 1 of 2. On target to hit all performance and spending goals. 2) 2022: Large Maintenance, Mount Shavano Trail Reconstruction (Phase I), \$250,000. In year 2 of 2. On target to hit all performance and spending goals. 3) 2021: Large Maintenance, Statewide Fourteener Trail Maintenance, \$250,000. Grant closed out with all work goals met/exceeded and spending goals met/exceeded. 4) 2020: Large Maintenance, San Juan 14ers Trail Reconstruction, \$250,000. Grant closed out with all work goals met/exceeded and spending goals met/exceeded. Over the past 15 years, CFI has always completed grants on time and on budget, almost always having exceeded programmatic expectations and provided more value than budgeted (cash and match). CFI received the CPW "Statewide Partner of the Year" Award in 2022, and was one of two trail maintenance programs recognized in 2021 by the national Coalition for Recreational Trails, an award CFI was nominated for by the CPW State Trails Program.

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**4. PLANNING****10 points**

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

CFI and the USFS began systematically building out a network of sustainably designed, durably constructed summit trails 30 years ago. Previously, routes were unplanned and literally trampled into the fragile tundra, with only two intentional routes. The overriding goal was to delineate at least one sustainable summit route on all 14ers. Preliminary planning began on the Shavano route in 2007. In 2011 CFI began a multi-year effort to inventory all 56 major 14er summit routes, noting the condition of all constructed features, additional new features needed to bring the trail to long-term maintainable condition, and assessing the time and cost needed to perform all work. Shavano was given an F grade and among the most costly 14er routes in the state to repair in the 2015 and 2019 CFI report cards. That made it among the highest priorities for future reconstruction. However, private lands at the summit prevented any planning work being done despite the bad condition and urgent need. Once CFI bought 31 acres of mining claims on the summit block in 2016-17--thus providing necessary legal access--the USFS began in earnest the five-year agency planning process. Plant and wildlife biologists and cultural resource professionals began assessing possible reroutes to create a more sustainable alignment. Problems were identified and alternatives developed. Because the route is an existing USFS system trail, maintenance is categorically excluded from full NEPA analysis. Thus, the reconstruction work had a more abbreviated review. USFS staff did site surveys and federal wildlife officials conducted a review for threatened, endangered and sensitive wildlife and plant species. Their findings, which are contained in the pre-proposal, were shared with CPW staff in 2021 and again in 2023.

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

The "1999 Long Range Plan" produced by CFI and the USFS was the first major plan calling for trail reconstruction work on the 14ers statewide. All work in the decades since has whittled down the long list of peaks needing properly designed summit trails (or approach trails on more technical 14ers). Six Colorado forests jointly commit funding to the 14er program, with a series of five-year plans prioritizing planning and construction priorities. The National Forest Foundation's "Find Your 14er" campaign, begun in 2017, has contributed several million to the effort and has served as a focal point for enhanced trail stewardship and coordinated action addressing natural resource needs on these heavily used peaks that contain fragile ecosystems. This was NFF's first trail/recreation-specific campaign in the organization's history. Concurrent with the "Find Your 14er" campaign, the USFS named Colorado's Fourteeners one of 15 national priority areas under the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act of 2016. The 14er trail system was also called out in CPW's 2019 SCORP document. Fourteener trail projects also featured prominently in USFS Region 2's 2021 "Great American Outdoors Act" campaign to tackle deferred maintenance with an almost \$2 million allocation to seven priority projects, including Shavano (Phase I & II). All work of the project falls under the authority of the 1984 Land and Resource Management Plan for the forest, as well as the decision memo authorizing the Shavano and Tabeguache trail reroutes.

**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.)

For 13 years, CFI has compiled baseline and updated trail condition inventories as part of our Sustainable Trails Program. These inventories contain thousands of GPS-based data points. "14er Report Cards" were issued in 2015 and 2019 showing changing conditions. A new report card will be released later in 2023. CFI has embedded on-going inventory collection in our staffing model, so several routes get data collected annually by two senior staff members. Changing conditions help direct staff resources to improve trails and maintain existing routes. CFI operates a Statewide Maintenance Program that has 8 seasonal staff members and performs routine maintenance and minor reconstruction on the expanding network of 14er trails. The goal is to get all routes to at least a B average grade. Over the years CFI has made significant progress in reconstructing unplanned social routes and maintaining/enhancing previously delineated routes. Since 2015, D or F rated routes have declined from 52% to 16% of all inventoried routes, while A or B rated routes have stayed relatively constant at 45%-46%. Half of F-rated routes cannot be immediately addressed due to unresolved private land issues. CFI has continued to grow private support from corporate, foundation and individual donors across the country. Nevertheless, there is no committed, on-going support such as a tax base or fee program that provides stable funding for CFI's trail reconstruction or maintenance efforts. Hence the need to continually apply for State Trails grants and constantly look for any/all donor partners.

- 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.

Over its 29-year history, CFI has become the leading high-altitude trail stewardship organization in the country. Federal agency plans for reconstructing new routes and performing trail maintenance have also evolved as efforts such as the Sustainable Trails program show what trail design and construction techniques work best and are the most efficient in achieving long-term sustainability. The monitoring effort looks at multiple factors related to trail materials, type and condition of existing features, resource damage (including width, depth and material of the tread surface, extent of erosion, etc.). By tracking conditions over time, CFI is able to see how trails fare, what improvements have the greatest enduring success, and how changes in use levels affect trail conditions. Trail delineation work on Shavano falls under the 1984 Forest Plan for the San Isabel National Forest. Direction provided for trails system management is to maintain drainage structures to prevent unacceptable resource damage, construct/reconstruct trails when needed as part of the transportation system and provide opportunities for isolation, solitude, self-reliance and challenge while traveling cross country or on system trails.

**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.

As with all CFI projects, the Forest Service conducted a full assessment regarding wildlife and other natural/cultural/heritage resource prior to issuing a Record of Decision for the project. All specific details regarding wildlife comments were provided in full in the pre-proposal, though lack of space precludes including them here. Appendix A of the Record of Decision, also quoted in full in the pre-proposal, provided guidance regarding timing of work to avoid impacting primary lynx habitat, location of camps and equipment near riparian areas, etc. Moving the trail away from riparian areas will improve those habitats, while moving the upper trail from a vegetated hillside to a talus field should improve vegetation that is used by wildlife. Once located in the talus, the hiking trail will not trample or affect alpine tundra habitat.

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

To date no wildlife concerns have been raised about the proposed Phase II work. During the Phase I application, CPW staff asked CFI regarding possible impacts to raptors and migratory birds. No bird nesting sites were found near the route during the planning phase. CFI requested that the USFS wildlife biologist perform additional early season reviews for nesting sites before Phase I began. They found no nesting sites that would affect the project.

- 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.)

CFI works in some of the most fragile terrain in the state. Over three decades the organization has learned how to build trails such that they look like they have been "lasered in from space." That means only working in the tread area to avoid trampling trailside vegetation, which is extremely fragile. Excess soil generated when cutting new tread is carried by hand to disposal areas and then broadly dispersed. Crews are informed about any particularly sensitive plants (like snow willow) and instructed how to avoid causing impact. Work will not occur in potential lynx habitat from April 15 through June 1. Raptor buffer guidelines are available should nests be discovered. Seedlings and saplings will be retained, as will trees and snags that are currently providing wildlife habitat.

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

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

The USFS began scoping in 2007, which yielded two comments. A further scoping letter was sent to interested groups and individuals in March 2019, and also featured an open house at the Salida Ranger District office. To further engage the public and 14er enthusiasts, CFI developed a Phase I overview video, which was shared widely on CFI, 14ers.com and other social media channels. That video has been viewed 2910 times on YouTube and 1137 times on Instagram. A companion survey elicited 117 responses. 93% said the project will significantly improve the summit trail. A Phase II video and companion online survey was released on 9/14/23. The video has been watched 1200+ times. 299 people completed the survey by 9/29/23. 89% of people said the project will significantly improve the route (No = 3.7%, Unsure = 7.4%), 68% said the trail needs to be completed even though Shavano only has moderate hiking use (19% want to work on busier peaks, 13% unsure) and 72% felt the project should continue because the route remains the worst route in the state (17% want to focus on other peaks, 11% unsure). 57% want to climb the route when complete (No = 13%, Unsure = 31%).

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

CFI has been a part of the Forest Service "Colorado Fourteeners Program" for almost 30 years. In 2022 the partnership received one of four "Chief's Honor Award" from USFS Chief Randy Moore in the "Preserving the Nation's Forests and Grasslands" category. The project was allocated \$500,000 in Great American Outdoors Act funds from the USFS, half of which will be spent in Phase II. The Saguguachipa Foundation similarly pledged \$500,000 for the project, roughly \$167,000 of which will be spent in Phase II. Other individuals and private foundations are supporting the project. CFI has worked with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps productively for several decades and has a strong relationship focused on training crew members and developing technical skills. CFI has worked with long-time stewardship partners, including Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and High Lonesome 100, on Shavano volunteer projects, as well as recent partners Salida Mountain Trails. CFI's board has done a service day on the project the past two summers.

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

Surveys, feedback on social media posts and response from the hiking public passing active projects is almost uniformly positive to CFI's trail work. However, some people dislike installed features, thinking that trails should be smooth dirt. "Stairs and steps are terrible to climb. Both on the ascent and descent. They shouldn't be built into the trail," commented one person. Another remarked, "Less steps the better. Nobody likes walking on a trail full of steps. They are necessary in spots, but don't put them in just to put them in." While the perspectives are certainly valid, these hikers likely do not understand the erosion-control provided by steps and stairs and how erosive these loose, alpine soils are. Others do not really understand that CFI works solely to protect natural resources, not to make a climb easier or safer. It is a constant educational process to let members of the public know what things really are resource problems and what things are not resource problems. We hope to develop videos next year that provide a fuller understanding of what CFI does and why we don't work on some "safety" issues where hikers think we should work.

**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.

Private funding will cover 63% of the anticipated cash costs of Phase II. These private funds already have been committed, including \$500,000 in Great American Outdoors Act funds from the USFS, roughly \$167,000 from the Saguguachipa Foundation and \$10,000 from the Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation. RMYC in-kind will also provide an estimated \$15,000 in matching funds to further bolster the overall project. Additional in-kind resulting from volunteer projects working on Phase II will provide more match, though this may accrue to the Adopt program and the Statewide Maintenance grant due to which crew runs the project and which grant gets credit for that work.

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

State Trails funding is a fundamental building block needed to pay for project crew salaries and is a source that is not easily replaced. Failing to obtain a State Trails grant would force CFI to operate with a much-reduced crew size. The budget assumes that State Trails will pay for 45% of project crew salaries and benefits. Given that other private funding is committed and has fixed timelines, CFI would likely continue the project, but at almost half the crew level. That would mean that an already big, time-consuming, labor-intensive project would drag on even longer. It also might force a decision between operating two smaller crews (high and low) or focusing on one part of the project and not making progress on the other. Since both sites address pressing natural resource issues, lack of progress at one location entirely or slower progress at both locations would mean unresolved erosion problems, loss of tundra vegetation and/or continued soil erosion and siltation of streams.

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

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

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Project  
Name

Phase II, Mount Shavano Trail Construction & Restoration

Project  
Sponsor

Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

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

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

Title of document: 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: MT. SHAVANO & TABEGUACHE PEAK TRAIL REROUTES DECISION MEMC

+

Date of document:

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: Gabriel Hobson

Phone number: 719-839-5975

Email: gabriel.hobson@usda.gov

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

Land Manager's Name:

J. Perry Edwards

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature:

District Ranger



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

# Project Budget

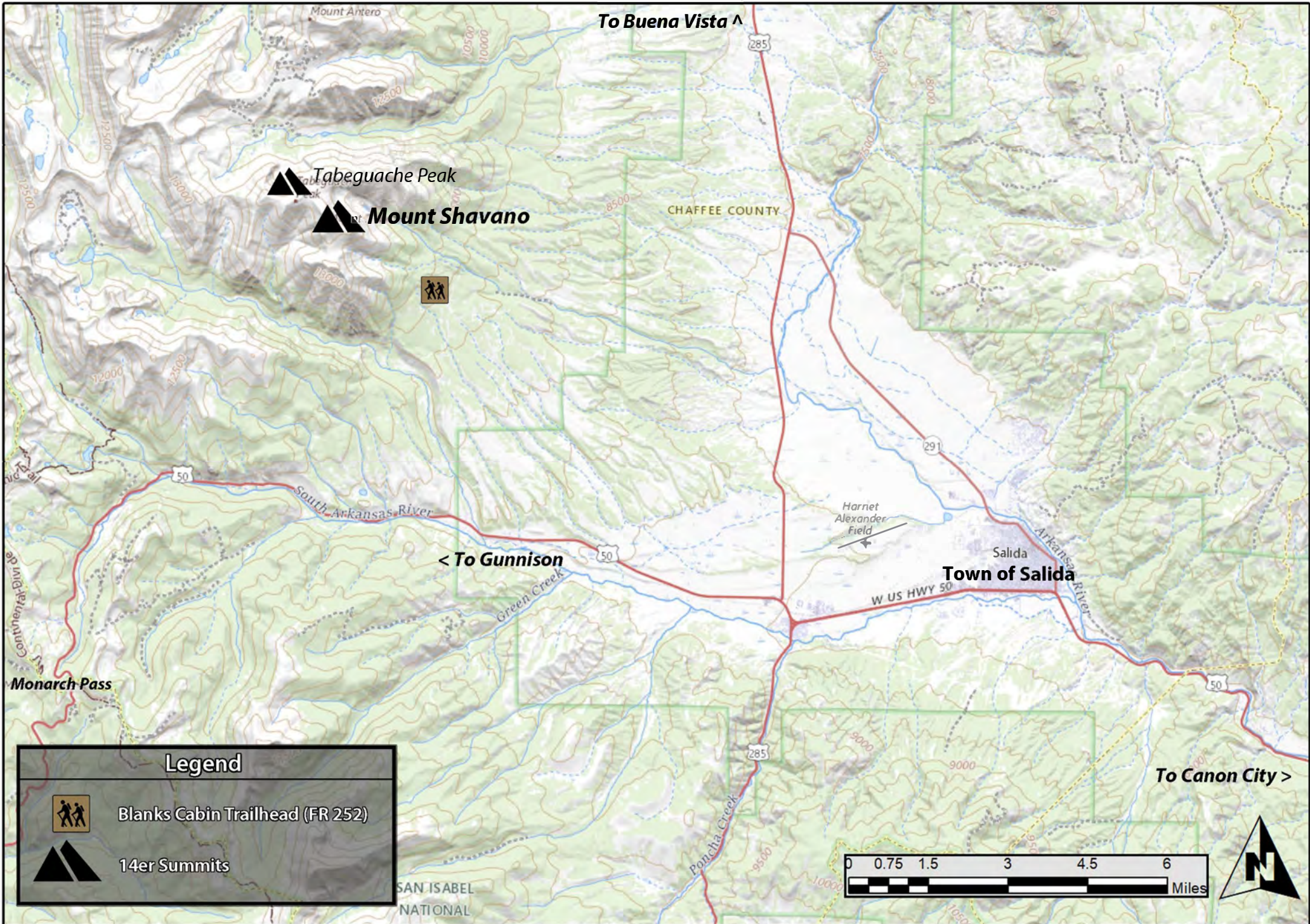


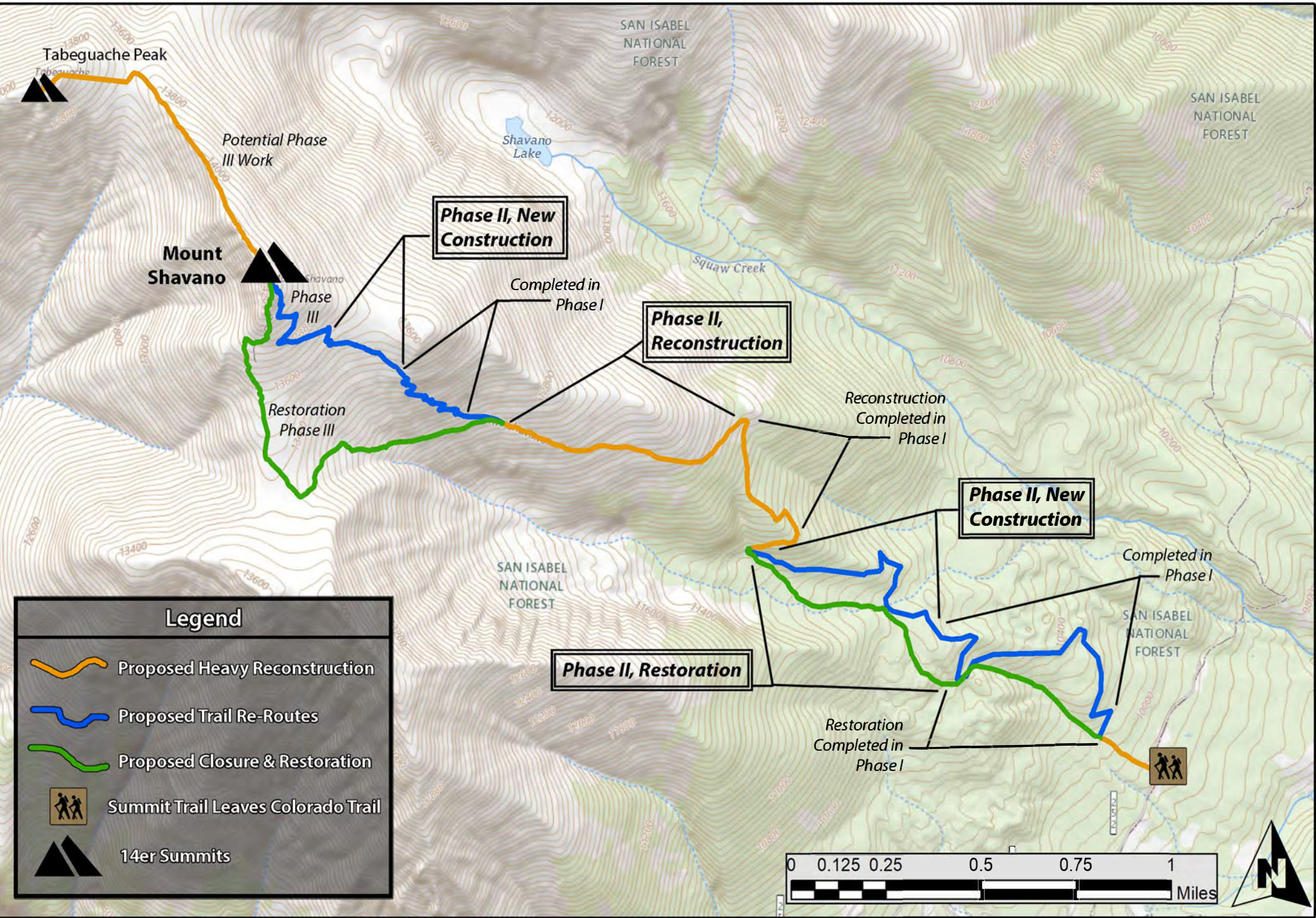
**NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT**

Project details				Match details			
CPW Grant #				Source of match (organization)	Type	Date available	Amount
Organization	Colorado Fourteeners Initiative			USFS Great American Outdoors Act	Cash	Jul-21	\$ 250,000.00
Project title	Mount Shavano Trail Reconstruction Project (Phase II)			Saguguachipa Foundation	Cash	May-22	\$ 166,977.00
Grant Request (auto populates)	\$ 250,000.00			Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation	Cash	Dec-22	\$ 10,000.00
Local match	\$ 441,977.00	Min. Match	\$ 62,500.00	RMYC	In-Kind	May-24	\$ 15,000.00
Project Total	\$ 691,977.00					Match Total	\$ 441,977.00

Description	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	CPW Grant	Local match	Balance	
<b>Contracted Services</b>									
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	8	weeks	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 84,000.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 84,000.00	\$ -	
Halfmoon Packers (Horsepackers)	4	trips	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 32,000.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 32,000.00	\$ -	
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	8	weeks	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 15,000.00	In-Kind	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
<b>Salary/Wages</b>									
Seasonal Leader #1 (High Crew Lead)	140	days	\$ 320.00	\$ 44,800.00	Cash	\$ 44,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #2 (Low Crew Lead)	140	days	\$ 320.00	\$ 44,800.00	Cash	\$ 44,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #3 (High Crew Member 1)	134	days	\$ 285.00	\$ 38,190.00	Cash	\$ 38,190.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #4 (High Crew Member 2)	134	days	\$ 285.00	\$ 38,190.00	Cash	\$ 38,190.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #5 (High Crew Member 3)	134	days	\$ 285.00	\$ 38,190.00	Cash	\$ 38,190.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #6 (High Crew Member 4)	134	days	\$ 275.00	\$ 36,850.00	Cash	\$ 30,413.00	\$ 6,437.00	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #7 (High Crew Member 5)	130	days	\$ 275.00	\$ 35,750.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 35,750.00	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #8 (High Crew Member 6)	130	days	\$ 250.00	\$ 32,500.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 32,500.00	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #9 (High Crew Member 7)	130	days	\$ 250.00	\$ 32,500.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 32,500.00	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #10 (Low Crew Member 1)	134	days	\$ 285.00	\$ 38,190.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 38,190.00	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #11 (Low Crew Member 2)	134	days	\$ 275.00	\$ 36,850.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 36,850.00	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #12 (Low Crew Member 3)	134	days	\$ 275.00	\$ 36,850.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 36,850.00	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #13 (Low Crew Member 4)	130	days	\$ 250.00	\$ 32,500.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 32,500.00	\$ -	
Seasonal Leader #14 (Low Crew Member 5)	130	days	\$ 250.00	\$ 32,500.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 32,500.00	\$ -	
Field Programs Director	12	days	\$ 545.00	\$ 6,540.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 6,540.00	\$ -	
Field Programs Manager	20	days	\$ 488.00	\$ 9,760.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 9,760.00	\$ -	
Controller (Grant Administration)	277	hours	\$ 45.00	\$ 12,465.00	Cash	\$ 12,465	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Materials/Supplies</b>									
Miscellaneous hand tools and trail supplies (eg. rock bars, hammers, chisels, single/double jacks, mini picks, pick mattocks, shovels, dirt bags, etc.)	1	Each	\$ 2,952.00	\$ 2,952.00	Cash	\$ 2,952.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Sattelite Phone/InReach Devices (Usage Charges)	8	months	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,400.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
<b>Additional Categories</b>									
WFA Training (1x/person/season)	16	each	\$ 200.00	\$ 3,200.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 3,200.00	\$ -	
S212 Saw Training (2x/leader/season)	8	each	\$ 750.00	\$ 6,000.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 691,977.00</b>		<b>\$ 250,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 441,977.00</b>		





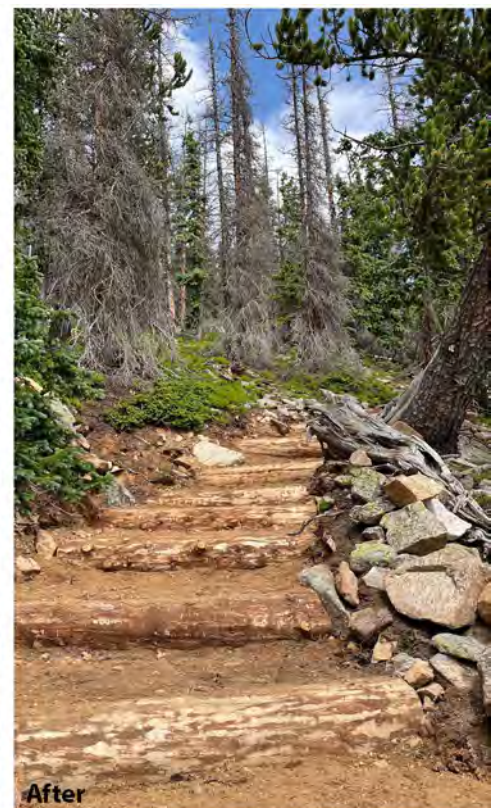


### Lower Trail: Re-Routes, Restoration & Reconstruction

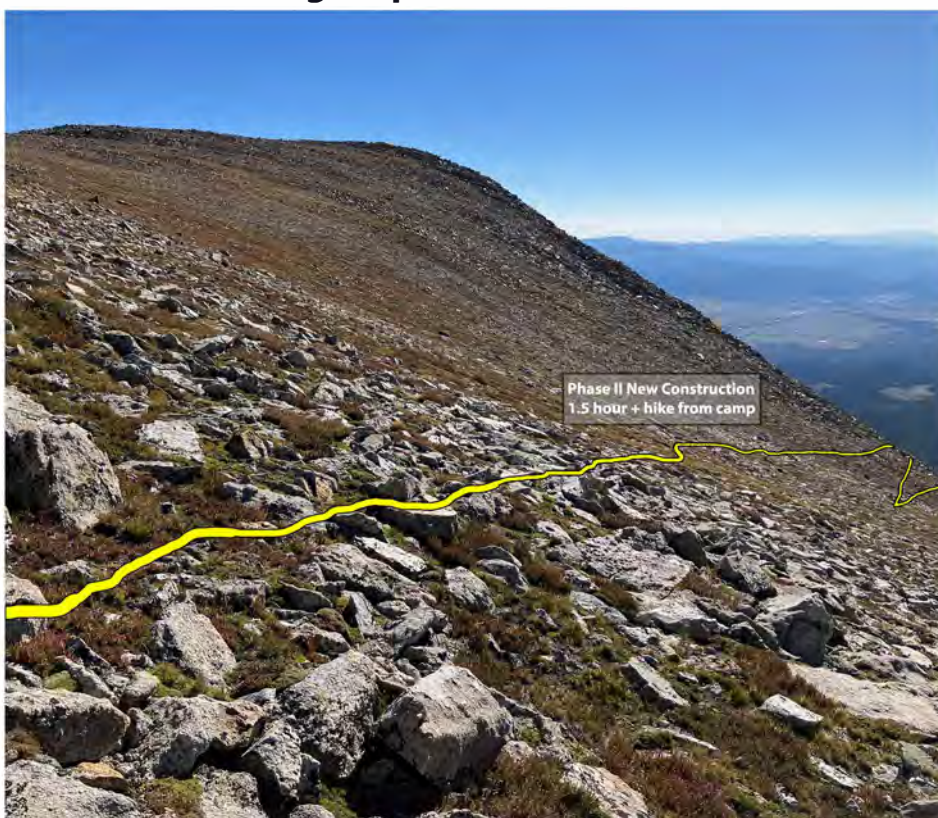


The lower trail re-routes will preserve the wet areas that are currently seeing excess amount of soil erosion during the spring melt and large rain events. The continued construction of the lower re-routes will relocate the trail to more a more sustainable location that will drain more effectively and preserve existing riparian habitats.

The continued reconstruction on the existing portion of trail will include the installation of more timber check steps to prevent erosion, like the ones pictures below. Phase I work examples shown to illustrate the character of Phase II work.



### Upper Trail Re-Route: Technical High Alpine Rock Work



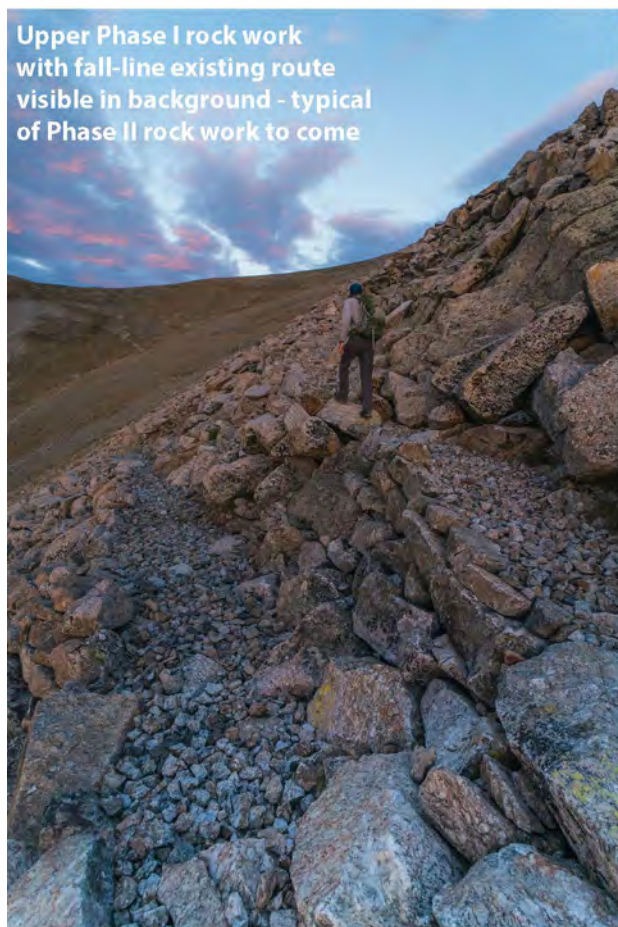
The new construction on the upper part of the mountain includes a large, crucial re-route to bypass the badly eroded existing fall-line trail. The upper site has proved to be the most challenging aspect of this project. The loose nature of the rock and soil here will make the work slow and technical, with rigging techniques required to move most all material.



### Upper Trail Re-Route: Technical High Alpine Rock Work



The upper re-route will bypass one of the most badly eroded sections of trail on any fourteenner in the state. The photo on the left shows the existing trail from an aerial view. The extensive amount of erosion of the loose soils have caused the loss of crucial plant habitat, eroded to more than 3' deep in and 12-15' wide in many places. Heavy rock work will be required.



September 23, 2023

Dear State Trails Committee,

I first learned about trail work through Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) out of a desire to learn more about how to be a responsible and safe hiker. Especially when attempting to climb some of Colorado's famed 14,000-foot peaks.

A few years ago, CFI put together a short video on the Mount Shavano project. In the video they clearly outlined all the work that needed to be done to this mountain to make the trail to the top safer, preserve the landscape, and reduce human impact on the environment.

In this video they had explained why Mount Shavano was chosen, the work they were planning, cost, and how much time it is estimated to take. This truly opened my eyes to the massive scale of a project like this, as well as, the amount of dedication, heart, and sweat that has to go into it. I immediately knew that I wanted to be a part of this project as a volunteer for its duration (all six years).

Being involved in the Mount Shavano project is such a unique opportunity to see the full transformation and effect of this important work. Before, I didn't know how long a project would take or that financially it would cost well into the six and seven-figure range to complete.

I have now participated for two seasons on the Mount Shavano project. My first season as I was hiking up to the worksite on steep, unplanned, and rocky ground, I truly realized the difference a well built trail makes.

When I went up for my second season on this project, the impact on the trek up was immediately noticeable. The new section of trail was easy to follow, gradual and allowed me to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness landscape around me instead of looking down to make sure I had my footing. I felt so much gratitude for the trail crews.

With Colorado's population only growing, and the increasing popularity of climbing our state's 14,000-foot peaks. Mount Shavano is an excellent mountain for people of all skill levels to enjoy, but they need a reliable and safe trail to get them to the top.

As I said, it is a personal goal of mine to work on this project each year that it is in progress, but it is a collective goal of CFI to make sure that this trail protects the mountain and hikers, and will be in good shape for decades to come.

Most people think that because something is done out in nature it is easy (and cheap). When you see people working with shovels and picks it is hard to imagine how much of a financial investment it requires. However, the truth is that this type of work takes unimaginable amounts of time, human effort, and funding to complete. That's why I am writing this letter, as a request for you to lend your support to the Mount Shavano Trail Project.

Sincerely,



Meredith Sagara

[sagara.meredith@gmail.com](mailto:sagara.meredith@gmail.com)

720-538-6136



October 2, 2023

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

Dear State Trails Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Salida Mountain Sports to express my support for the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's trail reconstruction project on Mount Shavano. As co-owner of Salida's largest specialty outdoor retail store, I understand the economic impact that Colorado's mountains, including the 14,000-foot peaks, provide to local trailhead communities.

Mount Shavano is one of the most iconic landmarks towering over southern Chaffee County and is certainly one of the most popular trails in the area. CFI's report on 14er hiking use estimated that 279,000 hikers visited the Fourteeners statewide in 2022 – with nearly 7,500 hikers climbing Shavano alone. Being based in Salida we are in a prime location for accessing the Sawatch Range peaks. Our shop sees an increase in traffic during the summer season because of 14er hikers visiting from all over the country.

As avid outdoor enthusiasts, our employees frequently recreate on the nearby 14ers and have seen CFI's crews and volunteers working on the trails. We are advocates of the work they are doing to create a balance between recreation and conservation. CFI's work is critical to ensuring access to these beautiful natural resources are maintained and that responsible use is encouraged. Without the hard work of non-profit stewardship groups our public lands face the threat of becoming so severely degraded that state or federal agencies may implement use restrictions. The result would have a substantial impact on the state's tourism/recreation based economy, and local businesses like Salida Mountain Sports would most certainly feel the impact.

On behalf of Salida Mountain Sports, I hope you will look favorably at CFI's grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "NHP".

Nate Porter  
Co-Owner  
Salida Mountain Sports  
(719) 539-4400  
[nate@salidamtnsports.com](mailto:nate@salidamtnsports.com)

September 16, 2023

Colorado State Trails Committee  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
3787 S. Hwy 85  
Littleton, CO 80215

I first learned what a 14er was in 2019 during a fitness event in Texas. I soon made climbing a 14er my next fitness goal! Being a native Texan, I had never been someplace so high, so I started doing my research. I planned my trip and arrived in Colorado in August of that year to hike "a few."

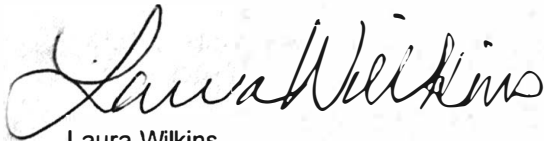
Feeling small and intimidated next to the peaks, I turned away from my first attempt on Mt Bierstadt. My second attempt was Quandary Peak. Arriving late, I found a parking spot close to the trailhead and decided to see how far I could get. The trail was beautiful, and the forest was lush and green. Then, I emerged out of the forest. Holy Cow! Now that was a pile of rocks! I kept going, remembering all the things I had learned in my research. Stay on the trail, keep my eyes on the sky, and do not summit alone. Navigating my way through the rocks was something! Who put these steps here?! It was more than I could have imagined. The views, the wind, the people I met along the way. I was in love with being on top of the 14,000-foot mountain and wanted to do more and know more about being in such amazing places.

In 2020, I made the move to Colorado. It did not take me long to know that I wanted to be involved and give back to the trails that provided so much pleasure and happiness for me. I attended a crew leader training event, and it was there that I learned about Colorado Fourteeners Initiative. I was surprised to learn there is an organization dedicated to solely protecting 14er trails! That is where I wanted to be. And here I am, three years of trail projects with CFI on my boots. Knowing the importance of being prepared for the mountains, I also became a volunteer Peak Steward.

This season, I have been at many CFI information tables at local farmers markets, festivals, and coffee shops in the Arkansas River Valley. I just love talking to people about CFI's current and future projects, Leave No Trace, hiking in the alpine and how they can be a part of protecting and preserving the trails.

The Mount Shavano project is a monumental undertaking. I had the pleasure of volunteering on this trail last season. Having two fixed site crews (high and low) working simultaneously will allow for the meticulous focus in protecting the flora and fauna while building a trail sustainable for humans too. CFI staff, seasonal crew members and their work ethic are one of a kind!

It takes special people and tons of resources to do this work in harsh elements, back country and up so high. Your support and funding will help continue the incredible work and education that is being done to sustain the trails on these 14,000-foot peaks we love so much.



Laura Wilkins  
29805 Highway 24  
PMB 196  
Buena Vista, CO 81211





9/21/2023

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Sanborn Western Camps (SWC) in support of the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) and their planned trail reconstruction project on Mount Shavano. This project is the second stage of their major trail reconstruction which includes the completion of a more sustainability aligned trail through the forest and a new trail in the alpine.

We have been working with CFI for over ten years and since 2016 our campers and staff have volunteered on 24 projects across different peaks in the Sawatch Range. These projects total more than 1,232 days of volunteer work from our campers and staff. We have worked on their trail reconstruction on Mount Shavano three times since 2021 and I have seen first hand the work that they are doing on Mount Shavano. As a trip leader, I have worked with CFI five times including three days on their Mount Shavano project. The dedicated staff of CFI are working to not only improve the trail, but they are also dedicated to teaching their volunteers about why trail work is important and the ways it impacts the land when a trail is not intentional.

Sanborn Western Camps has been leading trips on Colorado's 14ers for over 75 years as we believe these trips allow campers and staff to become more comfortable in the backcountry and in themselves. The work our campers and staff do with CFI allows them to understand the effort that goes into maintaining the trails that thousands of people use each summer. Our partnership with CFI is one of our most valuable relationships because of the standards they hold our trips to and the quality work our campers are able to complete. Our experience with CFI has been nothing but positive and we are grateful for the work they allow us to do and the work they do every year.

We highly encourage the State Trail Committee to seriously consider this application which will not only allow CFI to continue their great work on Mount Shavano and with their volunteer groups. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 719-748-3341 if you have any questions about Sanborn Western Camps' support of this application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carly Liebich".

Carly Liebich  
Trips Program Director  
Sanborn Western Camps

September 1, 2023

**Colorado State Trails Committee**  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
13787 S. Hwy 85  
Littleton, CO 80215

Dear Committee Members,

As an avid hiker and CFI volunteer Peak Steward, I have climbed multiple 14er routes across the state. In my course of hiking, I continuously observed first-hand the impacts caused not only by the sheer volume of hikers, but also by an absence of responsible recreation practices. Desiring to be part of the solution to the problems I was seeing, and believing the value of education, I was thrilled to join CFI's Peak Steward program in 2018.

In the last six years, I've helped educate more than 430 hikers in the field about outdoor ethics. I have also represented the organization at local events in the Chaffee County area. I was even selected as CFI's Peak Steward of the Year in 2020! During my time on the trails, I discovered that most people are eager to learn, surprised about what they may not have known, and are keen to start embracing responsible practices. I also welcome hikers to practice stewardship in small, meaningful ways themselves. I have been joyed by the enthusiasm to pick up litter, place dogs on leashes, relay concerns about the trail, and more.

Colorado is growing and many people relocating here never had the opportunity to explore alpine ecosystems before. However, they may not be aware of their impacts. CFI's amazing work addresses these impacts not only in the form of physical protection of the peak through extensive trail stewardship, but also through educational programs like volunteer Peak Stewards and informative videos on YouTube.

CFI's well-rounded approach provides a valuable framework to ensure the preservation of our beautiful peaks. Our mountains' spectacular – yet fragile – tundra and wildlife are threatened by human impacts, and CFI's work helps to thoughtfully mitigate these threats. Your funding can help tremendously in ensuring the continuation of this critical work to keep the grandeur of Colorado's highest peaks protected and preserved. Please accept this letter of support for CFI's grant application for the Phase II Mount Shavano trail reconstruction project.

Thank you



Jennifer Lowry  
[jenniferleelowry@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferleelowry@yahoo.com)

512-797-1856

# Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

## PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

Project title Mount Shavano Trail Reconstruction Projects (Phase II)

## DOCUMENTS

### PRE-APPLICATION - SEPTEMBER

Document	Source	Submission format
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Project scope	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. Project information	CPW template	PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Application questions	CPW template	PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Timeline	CPW template	PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Budget	CPW template	Unprotected Excel file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Photographs & maps	Applicant's own	Merged PDF (5 pages max)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8. Letters of support	Various	Merged PDF (5 letters max)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9. Resolution	Applicant's own	Signed PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10. Environmental forms	CPW Template	Signed PDF
<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Formal EA or NEPA*	Federal Template	Web link or PDF

## ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

12. Required match funding secured (including cash match funds)
13. Construction projects have been evaluated for permits and, if required, permits obtained.
14. 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.
15. Conservation/Youth Corps or other organization will be used on the project.  
Name of organization: Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
16. Volunteers will be utilized on the project  
Name of organization: VOC, High Lonesome, Salida Mountain Trails, other groups

\*Must be completed prior to application presentations in January.