

Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

PROJECT BASICS

Title Oil Well Flats Maintenance Grant

Type Construction Planning
 Maintenance Support

Phased project Yes No If yes, Phase # of

Brief summary

Oil Well Flats, located about 6 miles north of Cañon City, is in need of maintenance due to use and weather events. The system comprises about 15 miles of singletrack trail.

Grant request	\$ 25,313.25	Grant ratio ¹	68 %
Match	\$ 11,931.20	Match ratio	31 %
Total	\$ 37,244.45	Total	100 %

APPLICANT

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

Organization Fremont Adventure Recreation

Postal address 455 Greenhorn Drive

City Canon City State CO ZIP Code 81212

General email coordinator@joinFAR.org UEI #

Lead contact Ashlee Sack Title Coordinator

Telephone (719) 248-6376 Email coordinator@joinFAR.org

Project manager Ashlee Sck Title Coordinator

Telephone (719) 248-6376 Email coordinator@joinFAR.org

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	Cañon City	County	Fremont
Latitude/Longitude	38.53843, -105.21803	Congressional district	5
Name of property owner	Bureau of Land Management		
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: BLM

TRAIL			
Uses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking, walking, running	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
E-bikes allowed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Snow sports (non-motorized)
	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Estimate percentage by type (e.g.,)	50% hiking, etc.		
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.)	n/a	Length of trail being planned	n/a
Length of new trail construction ²	n/a	Length of trail maintenance	15 mi.
Length of inter-connecting trail		Length of trail reroute	.2 mi.
Length of decommissioned trail	n/a	Length of restored trail	n/a
Length of trail to be signed	n/a	Length of trail grooming	7.5 mi.
Other:			
Estimated amount of paid crew hours:	Grant 132	Match:	44

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	Ashlee Sack <small>Digitally signed by Ashlee Sack Date: 2023.10.02 12:46:49 -06'00'</small>	Date	10/02/2023
Name	Ashlee Sack	Title	Coordinator, FAR

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

Timeline

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION



PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Fremont Adventure Recreation

Project title Oil Well Flats Maintenance

TASK <small>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</small>	Dates*	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
In-depth assessment of needs	05/01/2024	6/10/2024					
Hiring of local trail crew workers	05/15/2024	6/15/2024					
Work on identified trails begins	06/15/2024						
Construction halted (seasonal)	09/01/2024	10/31/2024					
Continued work on identified trails	11/01/2024	through	03/30/2025				
Administrative Close-out	05/30/2025						

*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 Fremont Adventure Recreation

Project title Oil Well Flats Maintenance

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.

Of the 15 miles of trail in Oil Well Flats, we estimate that about 50% or 7.5 miles require maintenance efforts. All trails are primitive, natural surface singletrack, with a intended width of 18", suitable for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Currently, trails have been subject to over 8 years of sustained use with little to no intensive trail maintenance.

Trails with severe damage include Uncomformity (2.7 miles), Fire Canyon (.9 miles), and Island in the Sky (2.9 miles). These trails are steeper in nature and have seen an above-average amount of erosion and scouring of topsoil. They were built between 2012-2016 and were hand-built without the use of machines. Thus, they would benefit from some erosion control methods. Many also need reconstruction and fortification of the bench, including the outslope.

Tectonic Shift (2.5 miles), Path of Least Resistance (.3 miles), and Anticline (2.9 miles) have moderate damage.

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

Since it's inception in 2012, Oil Well Flats has served as the catalyst for trail development in Fremont County. This is one of three major trail systems in the area, to also include South Cañon Trails and the Royal Gorge Park Trails. These systems, together, constitute a fantastic variety of trail experiences for visitors, and maintaining the integrity of this system will allow visitors to continue riding and visiting the area. With these three quality systems in place, visitors have begun to stay in the area longer, thereby increasing visitation and overnight stays. The vast majority of the trail system was built by hand, and although it has held up well in the last decade, weather and mixed use has taken a toll on the singletrack. It is imperative that we make the investments to evaluate, mitigate, and fix larger issues at this time so that we can maintain the integrity of the system.

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

This trail system was the first to be constructed in Fremont County and therefore, by nature of its longevity, sees the most traffic. This system is popular not only among locals in the area, but is also a popular trail system for Front Range visitors. It sees year-round traffic, heaviest in the fall and spring, when other regions in Colorado see snow and are closed to hiking and mountain biking.

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2. COMMUNITY BENEFIT**15 points**

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

Fremont County's population is currently 49,621. Our community's median household income is \$52,364. We are well known for our recreation amenities, including the Arkansas River (Gold Medal Fishing Waters and popular whitewater rafting section), the Royal Gorge (tourist attraction and geological wonder), and beautiful mountain parks. Trails are an integral part of our economic development plan, as they help to improve the quality of life for our residents.

Recreation is a vital part not only of our bid to make a healthier community, but also to support a culture of recreation. Additionally, trail systems are a tremendous draw to attract new residents and relocations to the area. We have seen an increase in visitors to the area for recreation purposes and hope to have data to support that claim in the next month as we complete our first economic impact report with MENV students at CU Boulder.

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

While Oil Well Flats sees year-round visitation, we see fewer visitors in the summer due to weather conditions. Our timeline would allow for the fewest number of people to be impacted by this construction as possible.

Additionally, promoting the work may help educate others about the other trail systems in the area. As part of our education strategy, we will suggest to users that they take advantage of other systems in the area, including Royal Gorge Trails and also South Cañon Trails.

- 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.

We estimate that the average use includes 60% mountain bikers, 30% hikers and trail runners, and 10% equestrian use. (This estimate is anecdotal.) Oil Well Flats is a perfect location for mountain biking, as it is located away from town and provides a beautiful setting away from the city. It provides a significant variety of green (beginner) flow trail and technical blue trails, plus the added bonus of elevation gain for those desiring a challenge. Visitors from the I-25 corridor can easily find their way to the location, and locals have only a 15-20-minute drive from the center of town. Equestrians find the area appealing for the views, varied terrain, and ability to achieve a "backcountry" aesthetic without trailering their animals for a long distance. They can also continue their ride into Cooper Mountain (mountain bikes not allowed) and / or pair their ride with additional mileage at nearby Seep Springs.

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.)

Our project coordinator will be our Coordinator - Ashlee Sack. She will work in tandem with BLM Outdoor Recreation Planners Linda Skinner and Sean Reynolds.

For this project, we would like to contract with Terra Firma Trails – a member of the Professional Trailbuilders Association since 2007. Headed by Steve Thomas, who has over 18 years in the industry, the company is well familiar with the area, the trail system, and the community's needs. Terra Firma is located in Fremont County and also does a significant amount of work for the City of Cañon City. The project will seek to overhaul some of the prior trail construction, allowing for hand-built trails to be re-conditioned with sustainability in mind. By using more advanced trail-construction techniques and a machine where necessary, as well as quality rock work and fortifications, Terra Firma Trails will utilize professional trailbuilding standards. No social or non-system trails have been identified in recent years, and all available trails are well-traveled. No closures will be necessary, allowing Terra Firma to focus their attention solely on maintenance needs.

Additional trail work to moderate damage will be performed by a hand crew. These individuals will be culled from a local group of experienced volunteers. All have been trained in light trail work by Terra Firma Trails and others have formal training with organizations such as Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. Their work will be overseen by Steve Thomas (technical assistance) and Ashlee Sack (logistic assistance).

Light trail work (two scheduled trail days) will be performed by trained FAR volunteers.

- 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.

Fremont Adventure Recreation has not received a State Trails Grant since 2018, when we were awarded \$31,000 for a trail connection to Temple Canyon Park (now called 'Watchtower').

Other successful projects include:

1. Wrath of Grapes Trail - South Cañon Trail System - 2.7 miles

This trail was completed in 2022 and extends an already-popular trail system in the area. This was a coordinated project with The City of Cañon City.

2. Point Alta Vista - Royal Gorge Park Trails - 2.2 miles

An easement through private property allowed the City of Cañon City and FAR to build a trail from CR3A to refurbished train trestles (closed in 2012) and re-open a community asset.

3. Royal Cascade - Royal Gorge Trails / Tunnel Drive - 3.6 miles

As part of our community's Master Plan, this trail was completed in 2022. It was funded by the City of Cañon City and FAR's 1% for Trails Initiative.

4. The Yard - Mountain Bike Skills Park

Through COVID, our organization raised funds (\$15,000) for manmade obstacles associated with a skills park, which opened in 2021. This was a coordinated effort with the Rec District.

4. PLANNING**10 points**

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

For the past few years, FAR's priority and the priority of other land managers has been to continue to build additional trail mileage in the area. We are excited about the progress that we've made in this area, as we've added to the original 15 miles of Oil Well Flats to include over ~47 more miles in the last decade. FAR participates in the Pikes Peak Outdoor Regional Alliance and has submitted our region's master plans into the compendium of planning work, but no tangible plan has taken shape as yet. Individuals in that organization are well aware of Oil Well's importance to our local recreation infrastructure, as is our local BLM Field office. As this system has now reached its decade "birthday" in the community, it is the first to necessitate a large-scale maintenance project.

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

This area is not currently listed in our regional master plan.

Maintenance of Oil Well does, however, support the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan's Priority I – Sustainable Access and Opportunity. Oil Well Flats is located 6 miles north of Cañon City, making it a local favorite and easily accessible amenity for our community.

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.)

This trail system is managed by the Bureau of Land Management – Royal Gorge Field Office. Additional future costs will include annual maintenance, which should be minimal due to increased sustainability. FAR continues to foster a relationship between the land manager (BLM) to encourage communication for maintenance needs, signage, volunteer work, and education opportunities. We have hosted trail work days at Oil Well Flats for the past 10 years and pledge our continued support in the maintenance of this system.

- 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.

This maintenance project will serve to bolster the sustainability of the trail system. In addition to utilizing a professional trailbuilder (PTBA Member), our maintenance groups will work to:

1. Clean and maintain any drainage features, including grade reversals
 2. Maintain the sloped trail tread
 3. Block off any user created spurs (which are minimal in this trail system) or alternate routes that may exist within the trail system.
-

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.

This is longstanding trail system that already sees a significant amount of traffic during all seasons. There are currently no seasonal closures.

Due to the fact that this area is open to hunting in the fall, CPW has requested that work restrictions be place during hunting season. We will halt maintenance efforts during those times. Our Area Wildlife Manager has been apprised of the maintenance project and will "examine the proposal in relation to timing of work restrictions for any habitats that may be utilized in the area for birth and rearing of wildlife young".

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

We have not received any guidance from CPW staff for this grant application.

In our initial application in 2022, Area Wildlife Managers expressed concerns regarding the fact that "this area is open to hunting and we typically ask for some timing of work restrictions in the fall for hunting seasons". We would be cognizant of this restriction and work in the spring and summer months (barring any concerns about birth and rearing of young).

- 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.)

We would limit our maintenance efforts to summer and winter months as possible or recommended by the wildlife manager.

7. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

15 points

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

As users of this trail system and regular participants in other recreation-based groups, we have heard from our community that the experience at Oil Well Flats has been diminished by the degrading conditions.

To allow ample notification of work progress, we will post in the following places:

1. E-newsletter to local trail users describing closures (if needed) and progress
2. Facebook posts to local groups and partner organizations (to include Rocky Mountain Backcountry Horsemen, Royal Gorge ATV Club, 303 Trail Monitor, and Southern Colorado Mountain Bikers).
3. Posters at the location posted at least one month in advance of all work

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

We will work in partnership with the land manager - The Bureau of Land Management, including Outdoor Recreation Planning staff Linda Skinner and Sean Reynolds.

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

At the outset of the project, we will put out a press release indicating the award (if given), the project scope, timeline, and objectives. Our organization will be a point of contact for any questions. We will also notify other user groups (Front Range Mountain Bike groups, Rocky Mountain Backcountry Horsemen) of the project.

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.

Through our aforementioned 1% for Trails program, local businesses are engaged in raising funds for local trail projects. We currently have 11 local businesses on board for this program, with support not only for the program, but for the consistent improvement and creation of projects in the area.

While 1% for Trails funds cannot provide all of funding needed to both construct and maintain our current amenities, they are sufficient to take on small projects and also provide matching funds or gaps in land manager-provided funding. This funding is already in place and is not contingent upon the grant award. We currently have sufficient funds to cover the matching element outlined in our application.

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

Fremont Adventure Recreation has a proven record of work in our community. We have worked with land managers since 2010 to identify, construct, and maintain trail systems throughout Cañon City and outlying areas.

If grant funding is not awarded, FAR will likely provide some of the needed funding for maintenance of the area, but will not be able to complete the project as a whole. Likely the trails with most severe damage will be addressed - Fire Canyon and Island in the Sky.

Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Fremont Adventure Recreation

Project title Oil Well Flats Maintenance

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: **Fremont Adventure Recreation**
15. Volunteers will be utilized on the project
Name of organization: **Fremont Adventure Recreation Community volunteers**

*Must be completed prior to application presentations in January.