

Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

PROJECT BASICS

Title South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project

Type Construction Planning
 Maintenance Support

Phased project Yes No If yes, Phase # of

Brief summary

The Project outlines trail maintenance activities to be carried out in the South San Juan Wilderness. The trail maintenance work will be carried out by Conservation Legacy Crews.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Grant request | \$ 96,720.00 | Grant ratio ¹ | 62 % |
| Match | \$ 60,000.00 | Match ratio | 38 % |
| Total | \$ 156,720.00 | Total | 100 % |

APPLICANT

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

Organization Rio Grande National Forest/ Conejos Peak Ranger District

Postal address 15571 County Rd.T.5

City La Jara State CO ZIP Code 81140

General email UEI # N/A

Lead contact Gerard Sandoval Title Forestry Technician/ Wilderness

Telephone (719) 588-9990 Email gerard.sandoval@usda.gov

Project manager Antonio Lucero Title Natural Resource Specialist (Recreation)

Telephone (719) 580-3494 Email antonio.lucero@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 | Antonito | County | Conejos |
| Latitude/Longitude | 39.113014/-105358887 | Congressional district | 3 |
| Name of property owner | Rio Grande National Forest/ Conejos Peak Ranger District | | |
| 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: N/A |

| TRAIL | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Uses | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking, walking, running | <input 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. | Hiking, Walking, Running 60 % Equestrian 40 | | |
| 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 | 180 miles |
| Length of inter-connecting trail | N/A | Length of trail reroute | N/A |
| Length of decommissioned trail | N/A | Length of restored trail | N/A |
| Length of trail to be signed | 180 miles | Length of trail grooming | N/A |
| Other: | | | |
| Estimated amount of paid crew hours: | Grant 446 | Match: | 274 |

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 | JEREMIAH MARTINEZ  | Date | 09/26/2023 |
| | <small>Digitally signed by JEREMIAH MARTINEZ Date: 2023.10.16 09:16:59 -06'00'</small> | | |
| Name | Jeremiah Martinez | Title | Acting District Ranger |

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



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Conejos Peak Ranger District

15571 County Road T-5
La Jara, CO 81140
719-274-8971
TDD: 719-274-6339
Fax: 719-274-6301

File Code: 2300

Date: September 26, 2023

Non-Motorized Maintenance Grant Subcommittee
Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program
13787 U.S. Hwy 85 N. Littleton, Colorado, 80125

Dear Grant Subcommittee,

I am aware of the grant proposal being submitted for non-motorized trail maintenance in the South San Juan Wilderness. I recognize our financial and legal obligations related to receipt of this funding. I strongly support the implementation and maintenance of this project proposal as these trails have not had regular maintenance for many years and are being impacted by dead and dying spruce trees. The lack of maintenance on these trails is resulting in increased user created routes and re-routes as well as a complete loss of public access in many instances. This trail system is in danger of being completely lost. This project also lies within the Rio Chama Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project which is a nationally recognized collaborative project with a primary focus on watershed improvement. We are able to secure matching funding through this effort. The South San Juan Wilderness will be under the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service for at least the next 25 years.

Thank you for considering support of this sorely needed and critical work.

Sincerely,

X

ANDREA JONES
District Ranger

FY 2023-632502 (Mercury number)



Timeline



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Rio Grande National Forest/ Conejos Peak Ranger District

Project title South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project

| TASK <i>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</i> | Dates* | Dates | Dates | Dates | Dates | Dates | Dates |
|--|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Saw Crew Maintenance in Priority Areas 1 and 2 | Aug 15 - Oct 15, 2024 | | | | | | |
| Trail Crew Maintenance in Priority Areas 1 and 2 | May 15 - June 15, 2025 | | | | | | |
| Saw Crew Maintenance in Priority Areas 2 and 3 | June 15 - July 15, 2025 | | | | | | |
| Trail Crew Maintenance in Priority Areas 2 and 3 | June 15 - July 15, 2025 | | | | | | |
| Saw Crew Maintenance in Priority Areas 3 and 4 | July 15 - Aug. 15, 2025 | | | | | | |
| Trail Crew Maintenance in Priority Areas 3 and 4 | July 15 - Aug. 15, 2025 | | | | | | |
| Saw Crew Maintenance in Priority Areas 4 and 5 | Aug. 15 - Sept. 15, 2025 | | | | | | |
| Trail Crew Maintenance in Priority Areas 4 and 5 | Aug. 15 - Sept. 15, 2025 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| If work is delayed we would plan to push the dates back one month | Sept. 15 - Oct. 15th 2025 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| All tasks include hazard tree removal, | | | | | | | |
| treadwork, brushing, drainage structures, | | | | | | | |
| overhead clearing, route closure, | | | | | | | |
| signage, erosion mitigation, etc. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Administrative Close-out | Oct 15- Dec 15, 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 Rio Grande National Forest/ Conejos Peak Ranger District

Project title South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project

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 South San Juan Wilderness (SSJW) is a pristine and ecologically diverse area known for its breathtaking landscapes and extensive non-motorized trail system. However, over the years, these trails have experienced wear and tear, and hazard trees have posed safety risks to hikers, backpackers, horseback riders and other outdoor enthusiasts. This project proposal outlines a comprehensive effort to address these issues by utilizing Conservation Legacy Trail and Saw Crews. The primary objective of this project is to perform maintenance on approximately 180 miles of non-motorized trails within the (SSJW). This includes clearing debris, repairing erosion damage, improving trail signage, and restoring trail tread to ensure safe and enjoyable recreational experiences. Hazard Tree Mitigation: To enhance the safety of trail users, the project will identify and mitigate hazard trees along the trail system. Hazard trees pose a significant risk during adverse weather conditions and need to be removed or made safe to prevent accidents.

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

The South San Juan Wilderness Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance and Hazard Tree Mitigation project is urgently needed due to immediate safety risks from deteriorating trails and hazard trees. With increasing visitation to the area, addressing these hazards is essential to prevent accidents and strain on resources. Furthermore, a time-sensitive funding opportunity through CFLRP can significantly enhance resources for this project, aligning with broader conservation goals to preserve the ecological integrity and recreational value of the SSJW, ensuring long-term sustainability for future generations.

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

The (SSJW) currently faces degraded trail conditions due to a chronic lack of resources and maintenance. Over the years, insufficient funding and staffing have left the non-motorized trail system in disrepair, with eroded paths, fallen debris, and the persistence of hazard trees, endangering the safety of outdoor enthusiasts. This neglect has not only hindered public access and enjoyment but also resulted in the deterioration of the wilderness's ecological integrity as trails become prone to erosion, causing downstream impacts on sensitive ecosystems. Urgent intervention is required to rectify these trail conditions and restore the area's safety and ecological vitality, highlighting the pressing need for the proposed project's timely execution and the opportunity to match CFLRP funds for a comprehensive and sustainable solution.

2. COMMUNITY BENEFIT**15 points**

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

The South San Juan Wilderness Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance and Hazard Tree Mitigation project offers substantial benefits to local communities in Conejos County, including its Hispanic demographics. By creating job opportunities and engaging local youth in the Conservation Legacy Crews, the project not only contributes to skill development and employment but also fosters a sense of ownership and stewardship among community members. Additionally, as improved trail conditions enhance the recreational appeal of the wilderness area, it is likely to attract more visitors, boosting tourism-related businesses and providing an economic stimulus to the county. This, in turn, can bolster local economies, generate revenue through increased visitation, and create a ripple effect of economic growth, all while preserving the area's natural beauty and cultural heritage, which holds great significance to the Hispanic communities in Conejos County.

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

This project would significantly alleviate several barriers to access that have long hindered the communities in Conejos County and the greater San Luis Valley (SLV). First and foremost, it would address the pervasive effects of the beetle kill epidemic, which has left the wilderness area densely populated with dead and hazardous trees, rendering trails unsafe and practically impassable. Moreover, the project would tackle the historical lack of trail maintenance, which has reduced accessibility for trail users, including the Hispanic communities, and prevented them from enjoying their natural surroundings. By revitalizing and maintaining the trail system, this project would provide safe and accessible recreational opportunities, fostering a stronger connection between the communities and their cherished wilderness, while mitigating the environmental hazards posed by the beetle kill epidemic.

- 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.

This project is estimated to significantly expand recreational opportunities for a diverse range of user groups, including hikers, horseback riders, outfitter guides, fishermen, hunters, and youth groups. To determine the precise numbers and types of users who will benefit, we will employ the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) data collection method, which involves systematic surveys and counts of wilderness visitors over a specific timeframe. By analyzing historical NVUM data for the (SSJW) and conducting updated surveys following project completion, we can confidently estimate the increase in user numbers across these various categories. This data-driven approach will provide accurate insights into the project's impact on recreational access, ensuring that the benefits are quantified and validated for each user group.

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 oversight of project trail work, monitoring, and data collection in the (SSJW) will be managed by dedicated U.S. Forest Service (USFS) staff who possess extensive experience and expertise in wilderness conservation and trail maintenance. These USFS professionals will play a crucial role in coordinating and supervising the various aspects of the project, ensuring its successful execution. The actual trail work and on-ground efforts will be carried out by skilled and motivated teams, including the Southwest Conservation Corps and Ancestral Lands Crews. These crews, comprised of young adults and tribal conservation corps members, will be at the forefront of trail maintenance, hazard tree mitigation, and data collection activities. Their hard work and commitment will be instrumental in achieving project objectives while simultaneously providing valuable training and employment opportunities to the next generation of conservation stewards.

- 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.

While our District has regrettably not secured a CPW State Trails grant due to a shortage of matching funds, we have been fortunate to secure multiple similar grants from various sources to support our trail maintenance initiatives. These include grants from the Colorado Youth Corps Association, the Colorado State OHV Grant Program, and funds allocated through the Secure Rural Schools Act. This robust financial support has enabled us to consistently achieve on-time and complete results in our trail maintenance projects. Despite the internal USFS staffing issues for maintenance activities, these successful grant acquisitions have reinforced our commitment to preserving and enhancing our trail systems, ensuring they remain accessible and enjoyable for all outdoor enthusiasts.

4. PLANNING**10 points**

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

The prioritization of this maintenance project was driven by a comprehensive process that considered multiple factors. Firstly, the deteriorating trail conditions, marked by erosion, debris, and hazard trees, were identified as a pressing safety concern for outdoor enthusiasts. The evident need for immediate attention was further underscored by a decline in the quality of recreational experiences in the (SSJW). Recognizing the urgency, the project sought to leverage CFLRP matching funding, which not only aligned with broader conservation goals but also presented a time-sensitive financial opportunity. Additionally, the engagement of youth crews through the Conservation Legacy Trail and Saw Crews not only addressed the need for skilled labor but also reflected a commitment to fostering the next generation of conservationists. Thus, a thorough analysis of declining trail conditions, financial opportunities, and the strategic inclusion of youth engagement collectively identified this project as a priority for the preservation and enhancement of the (SSJW).

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

This project is well-supported by trail maintenance categorical exclusions (CE), as it aligns with the forest management guidelines that allow for certain trail maintenance activities without the need for extensive environmental analysis. These exclusions recognize the importance of regular trail upkeep in ensuring public safety and access. Furthermore, this project strongly resonates with the goals and objectives outlined in the new Rio Grande National Forest Plan, which emphasizes the preservation of wilderness areas, enhancement of recreational opportunities, and the engagement of local communities in stewardship efforts. The project's commitment to maintaining and improving the non-motorized trail system in the South San Juan Wilderness harmonizes with the overarching principles of the Wilderness Act, which aims to protect and enhance the natural and recreational values of designated wilderness areas while fostering public enjoyment and understanding of these unique landscapes.

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.)

Following the completion of grant-funded trail work, the trail system in the (SSJW) will be subjected to an ongoing monitoring and maintenance regime. This will involve regular trail condition surveys conducted by trained personnel to identify any emerging issues. Additionally, site visits will be scheduled to assess the effectiveness of prior maintenance efforts and address any new challenges. Public feedback will be actively solicited and considered to ensure that user experiences and safety concerns are addressed promptly. Furthermore, the project team will proactively pursue additional funding sources, including grants and partnerships, to sustain long-term trail maintenance efforts, ensuring that the trails remain safe, accessible, and enjoyable for the community and outdoor enthusiasts in the years to come. This comprehensive approach to monitoring, maintenance, and funding sustainability will help preserve the (SSJW) as a pristine and well-kept natural gem.

- 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.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the trails in the (SSJW), the project will diligently adhere to the (USFS) Trail Management Objectives and Trail Maintenance Standards. These guidelines will serve as a blueprint for responsible and sustainable trail management practices. By aligning trail work with USFS objectives, we will prioritize the protection of natural resources, minimize environmental impacts, and enhance the overall visitor experience. Additionally, adherence to the Trail Maintenance Standards will ensure that trails are constructed and maintained to withstand the rigors of use and the challenges posed by the wilderness environment. This approach not only guarantees that the trails remain accessible and safe but also preserves the wilderness's ecological integrity.

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.

The project's positive impacts on wildlife and natural resources will be rigorously evaluated through a (USFS) interdisciplinary approach. This approach will involve collaboration among experts in various fields, including biology, ecology, hydrology, and botany, to comprehensively assess the ecological effects of trail maintenance and hazard tree mitigation activities. By conducting thorough studies and assessments, the project aims to minimize disruptions to wildlife habitats, preserve water quality, and protect the overall health of the ecosystem. Additionally, monitoring efforts will ensure that any unintended consequences are identified and addressed promptly, further enhancing the project's commitment to the responsible and sustainable management of the (SSJW), ultimately benefiting both wildlife and natural resources.

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

The project's implementation timing has been strategically planned to avoid critical periods such as hunting season and calving areas, ensuring minimal disruption to wildlife and their habitats. Activities will be scheduled outside of hunting seasons, recognizing the importance of maintaining this traditional outdoor activity. Additionally, efforts will be made to steer clear of known calving areas during sensitive times to safeguard the well-being of wildlife populations, particularly ungulates. By respecting these critical timeframes, the project underscores its commitment to responsible and wildlife-friendly trail maintenance and hazard tree mitigation, promoting harmony between outdoor recreation and the region's diverse fauna.

- 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.)

Potential wildlife and natural resource impacts will be systematically addressed through a multi-pronged approach. Trail maintenance and hazard tree mitigation activities will be strategically planned to avoid these areas during critical times, such as nesting, calving, and migration. Where avoidance is not feasible, strict adherence to US Forest Service guidelines and best management practices will be enforced to minimize disturbances and ensure responsible construction and maintenance. Continuous monitoring will provide early detection of any unforeseen impacts, allowing for immediate corrective action. This meticulous approach, integrating careful planning, responsible execution, and vigilant monitoring, will safeguard wildlife and natural resources, minimizing disruptions while promoting the long-term ecological health of the (SSJW).

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

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

USFS trail maintenance activities fall under the category exempt from environmental analysis by the Secretary of Agriculture, recognizing their low impact on the environment. As such, the level of public outreach for this project aligns with its complexity and the potential for significant environmental impacts. While the project's primary focus is on responsible and routine trail maintenance, ensuring the safety and accessibility of these valuable recreational resources, the engagement with the public will be scaled to the project's scope. Emphasis will be placed on transparent communication, soliciting feedback, and addressing any concerns to maintain transparency and community involvement, even though it falls within the exemption category due to its essential and environmentally low-impact nature.

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

Our project benefits significantly from long-standing partnerships with the Southwest Conservation Corps, a trusted organization known for its expertise in trail maintenance and conservation efforts. Over the years, our collaboration with them has yielded successful results in preserving and enhancing wilderness areas. Additionally, we are excited to announce a new partnership with Ancestral Lands, a dynamic organization specializing in engaging tribal conservation corps members in meaningful conservation work. This collaboration brings fresh energy and a diverse perspective to our project, ensuring its success by tapping into the unique skills and insights that Ancestral Lands brings to the table. These strong, combined partnerships leverage experience and innovation, underpinning our commitment to the project's goals while fostering a broader and more inclusive approach to wilderness preservation.

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

While we do not anticipate significant opposition to this project, we recognize the importance of proactive engagement and open communication with all stakeholders. To identify any potential opposition, we will employ a transparent and inclusive approach, seeking input from local communities, environmental organizations, and other relevant parties early in the planning process. This will allow us to address concerns and incorporate feedback into the project design where feasible. Additionally, our commitment to public outreach and collaboration ensures that any issues can be managed through constructive dialogue and adaptive management strategies, ultimately fostering a spirit of cooperation and shared stewardship in our efforts to enhance and maintain the (SSJW).

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.

The source of matching funds for this project has been secured for 2024, and there is a commitment to matching future funds from the (CFLRP) for the district over the next five years. CFLRP funds have been identified as a top priority for the forest, and this project aligns perfectly with the program's objectives. The secured match for 2024 provides the initial financial support needed to launch the project, and the commitment to matching future CFLRP funds ensures a sustainable funding source over the coming years. This strategic financial planning ensures the project's stability and long-term success, allowing us to address critical trail maintenance and hazard tree mitigation needs in the (SSJW) effectively.

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

If this funding application is unsuccessful, several negative consequences could unfold. Firstly, the lack of financial support would impede our ability to perform essential trail maintenance, leading to further deteriorating trail conditions that pose safety risks and hamper recreational access in the (SSJW). Additionally, the inability to address hazard trees could result in heightened dangers for outdoor enthusiasts during adverse weather conditions. Moreover, the loss of (CFLRP) matching funds would not only jeopardize the project's financial stability but could also have ripple effects on other forest priorities. It might lead to a strained relationship with partners, including the Southwest Conservation Corps and Ancestral Lands, potentially affecting their willingness to engage in future projects. Furthermore, the erosion of trail conditions would likely exacerbate, impacting both ecological integrity and visitor experiences in the long run. Overall, the consequences of an unsuccessful funding application could have far-reaching implications for the (SSJW) and its stakeholders.

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 South San Juan Trail Maintenance

Project Sponsor U.S. Forest Service

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: South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project.

Date of document: 11/03/2023

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

Title of document: This project is covered by NEPA per: Cite this category as 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4)

Date of document: 09/26/2023

If a decision has not been issued as part of the NEPA environmental review process, please state the reason why. No funds will be distributed until any required NEPA documentation is completed.

For more information about the NEPA environmental review process, contact:

N/A

Name: N/A

Phone number: N/A

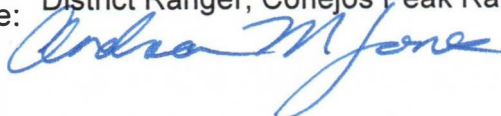
Email: N/A

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

Land Manager's Name: Andrea Jones

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature: District Ranger, Conejos Peak Ranger District



Project Budget



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT

| Project details | | | | Match details | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------------|--------------|--|------|----------------|--------------|
| CPW Grant # | | | | Source of match | Type | Date available | Amount |
| Organization | USDA Forest Service/Rio Grande NF/Conejos Peak RD | | | Collaborative Forest Landscape Program | Cash | Jan-24 | \$ 60,000.00 |
| Project title | South San Juan Trail Maintenance PROJECT | | | | | | |
| Grant Request (auto populates) | \$ 96,720.00 | | | | | | |
| Local match | \$ 60,000.00 | Min. Match | \$ 24,180.00 | | | | |
| Project Total | \$ 156,720.00 | | | | | Match Total | \$ 60,000.00 |

| Description | Qty | Unit type | Cost per unit | Total | Type | CPW Grant | Local match | Balance |
|--|-----|-----------|---------------|---------------|------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| Contracted Services | | | | | | | | |
| Conservation Legacy Ancestral Lands Trail Crew | 8 | WK | \$ 9,090.00 | \$ 72,720.00 | Cash | \$ 42,720.00 | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ - |
| Conservation Legacy SCC Saw Crew | 8 | WK | \$ 10,500.00 | \$ 84,000.00 | Cash | \$ 54,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ - |
| | | | | \$ - | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | \$ - | | | | \$ - |
| TOTAL | | | | \$ 156,720.00 | | \$ 96,720.00 | \$ 60,000.00 | |













Board of County Commissioners

Mitchell Jarvies

Carlos Garcia

Joseph J. Baroz

September 20, 2023

Non-Motorized Maintenance Grant Subcommittee
Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program
13787 U. S. Hwy 85 N.
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Non-Motorized Trail Grant Subcommittee:

We the Conejos County Board of Commissioners is writing to express our enthusiastic support for the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project, a crucial initiative that promises to enhance the accessibility, safety, and environmental sustainability of approximately 180 miles of trails within the South San Juan Wilderness on the Rio Grande National Forest. This project, scheduled to commence in the summer of 2024, represents a significant opportunity to address longstanding trail maintenance needs, ensure visitor safety, and protect the unique wilderness character of this stunning region.

The proposed project activities, such as hazard tree removal, tread work, drainage work, the closure of social trails, and the construction of trail structures, are essential for preserving the integrity of this wilderness area. By proactively addressing these issues, the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project will not only improve trail conditions for hikers, equestrians, and other outdoor enthusiasts but also contribute to the long-term sustainability of the environment. This initiative aligns with our shared commitment to responsible stewardship of our natural resources and the promotion of outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations. We wholeheartedly endorse this project and believe that its successful execution will have a lasting positive impact on our community and the South San Juan Wilderness.

Thank you for your consideration in funding this project grant proposal. We are confident that the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project will receive widespread support from individuals and organizations who share our passion for protecting and enjoying the beautiful wilderness areas of the Rio Grande National Forest.

Sincerely,
Conejos County Board of Commissioners

Mitchell Jarvies
Chairman



ANCESTRAL LANDS
CONSERVATION CORPS

7851 2nd Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105
(970) 216-5988
www.ancestrallands.org

Chas Robles
7851 2nd Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105
chas@conservationlegacy.org
970-216-5988
September 21, 2023

Non-Motorized Maintenance Grant Subcommittee
Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program
13787 U. S. Hwy 85 N.
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Non-Motorized Trail Grant Subcommittee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project, a crucial initiative that promises to enhance the accessibility, safety, and environmental sustainability of approximately 180 miles of trails within the South San Juan Wilderness on the Rio Grande National Forest. This project, scheduled to commence in the summer of 2024, represents a significant opportunity to address longstanding trail maintenance needs, ensure visitor safety, and protect the unique wilderness character of this stunning region.

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Thank you for your consideration in funding this project grant proposal. I am confident that the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project will receive widespread support from individuals and organizations who share our passion for protecting and enjoying the beautiful wilderness areas of the Rio Grande National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chas Robles'.

Chas Robles
Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps Director



September 28, 2023

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

To the Non-Motorized Maintenance Grant Subcommittee,

We at the Southwest Conservation Corps, Los Valles are so grateful for the partnership we have with the Conejos Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest. We are honored that the Conejos Ranger District is submitting for non-motorized grant funding for our programming. Please accept this letter of support as we are enthusiastic to continue to build and deepen our partnership with the Conejos Peak Ranger District.

The Conejos Ranger District has provided excellent opportunities for our teen and young adult crews to have hands on experience and exposure to important skillsets that prepare young leaders for careers in natural resources. Conejos Peak Ranger District personnel have also provided warm and generous support and mentorship to our participants and staff. Interactions with Conejos Peak Ranger District personnel and the opportunity to experience and explore conservation work on the district is frequently cited by our participants as motivation for continuing to pursue career opportunities in the environmental industry post-graduation.

We wholeheartedly look forward to providing crews for the project work outlined in this grant in seasons to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thérèse d'Auria Ryley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thérèse d'Auria Ryley

Program Director
Southwest Conservation Corps, Los Valles



File Code: 2300

Date: 9/21/2023

Non-Motorized Maintenance Grant Subcommittee
Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program
13787 U.S. Hwy 85 N
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Non-Motorized Trail Grant Subcommittee:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project. This project is a crucial initiative that promises to enhance the accessibility, safety, and environmental sustainability of approximately 180 miles of trail within the South San Juan Wilderness on the Rio Grande National Forest. This project, scheduled to commence in the summer of 2024, represents a significant opportunity to address longstanding trail maintenance needs, provide visitor access, and protect the unique wilderness character of this stunning region.

The proposed project activities, such as trail corridor clearing, tread work, drainage work, the closure of social trails, and the construction of trail structures, are essential for preserving access to and integrity of this Wilderness area. By addressing these issues, the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project will not only improve trail conditions for hikers, equestrians, and other outdoor enthusiasts but also contribute to the long-term sustainability of the environment. This initiative aligns with our shared commitment to responsible stewardship of our natural resources and the promotion of outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations. I endorse this project and believe its successful execution will have a lasting positive impact on our community and the South San Juan Wilderness.

Thank you for your consideration in funding this project grant proposal. I am confident that the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project will receive widespread support from individuals and organizations who share our passion for protecting and enjoying the beautiful wilderness areas of the Rio Grande National Forest.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Wu
Natural Resource Specialist
Pagosa District, San Juan NF





Patrick Ortiz
510 San Juan Ave
Alamosa, CO 81101
patrickortiz@slvgo.com
719-480-3018
9/28/2023

Non-Motorized Maintenance Grant Subcommittee
Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program
13787 U. S. Hwy 85 N.
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Non-Motorized Trail Grant Subcommittee,

San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) is writing to express our support for the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project, a crucial initiative that promises to enhance the accessibility, safety, and environmental sustainability of approximately 180 miles of trails within the South San Juan Wilderness on the Rio Grande National Forest.

This project, scheduled to commence in the summer of 2024, represents a significant opportunity to address longstanding trail maintenance needs, ensure visitor safety, and protect the unique wilderness character of this stunning region. SLV GO! and Conejos Peak Ranger District have worked together and in cooperation on many projects, and we look forward to continuing working toward shared goals to sustain trail systems throughout the San Luis Valley.

The proposed project activities, such as hazard tree removal, tread work, drainage work, the closure of social trails, and the construction of trail structures, are essential for preserving the integrity of this wilderness area. By proactively addressing these issues, the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project will not only improve trail conditions for hikers, equestrians, and other outdoor enthusiasts but also contribute to the long-term sustainability of the environment. This initiative aligns with our shared commitment to responsible stewardship of our natural resources and promoting outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations. SLV GO! endorses this project and believes its successful execution will have a lasting positive impact on our community and the South San Juan Wilderness.

Thank you for your consideration in funding this project grant proposal. SLV GO! is confident that the South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project will receive widespread support from individuals and organizations who share our passion for protecting and enjoying the beautiful wilderness areas of the Rio Grande National Forest.

Sincerely,
Patrick Ortiz

Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Rio Grande National Forest/ Conejos Peak Ranger District

Project title South San Juan Trail Maintenance Project

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: **Southwest Conservation Corps**
15. Volunteers will be utilized on the project
Name of organization: **Ancestral Lands crews**

*Must be completed prior to application presentations in January.