

Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

PROJECT BASICS

Title **Burmac Trailhead Transformation**

Type Construction Planning
 Maintenance Support

Phased project Yes No If yes, Phase # _____ of _____

Brief summary

This project will transform the Burmac Trailhead into an inviting hub and improve area trails to meet fast-paced growth in visitation. Highlights include designating campsites, installing vault toilets, re-routing unsustainable trails, and making trails more accessible to more users.

Grant request	\$ 229,763.00	Grant ratio ¹	67 %
Match	\$ 111,303.00	Match ratio	33 %
Total	\$ 341,066.00	Total	100 %

APPLICANT

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

Organization **Salida Mountain Trails**

Postal address **PO Box 612**

City **Salida** State **CO** ZIP Code **81201**

General email **info@salidamountaintrails.org** UEI # **46-2608985**

Lead contact **Jon Terbush** Title **Executive Director**

Telephone **(860) 466-0910** Email **jon@salidamountaintrails.org**

Project manager **Cat Gruener** Title **Trails Manager**

Telephone **(719) 210-9076** Email **cat@salidamountaintrails.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	Salida	County	Chaffee
Latitude/Longitude	38.512787, -105.980507	Congressional district	5
Name of property owner	Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office		
Trail Corridor controlled by	<input type="checkbox"/> Fee simple	<input type="checkbox"/> Lease	<input type="checkbox"/> Easement
	<input type="checkbox"/> License	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROW	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

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. 60% biking, 39% hiking, 1% equestrian		
Surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Size of new trailhead (sq. ft.)	18,100 SF	Length of trail being planned	
Length of new trail construction ²	845 LF	Length of trail maintenance	11,827 LF
Length of inter-connecting trail	854 LF	Length of trail reroute	9,610 LF
Length of decommissioned trail	7,392 LF	Length of restored trail	
Length of trail to be signed		Length of trail grooming	11,827 LF
Other:			
Estimated amount of paid crew hours:	Grant \$117,851	Match:	\$43,000

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	Jonathan Terbush <small>Digitally signed by Jonathan Terbush Date: 2023.10.03 15:34:14 -06'00'</small>	Date	10/03/2023
Name	Jon Terbush	Title	Executive Director

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



Salida Mountain Trails
PO Box 612
Salida, CO 81201

October 1, 2023

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

Re: State Trails Non-Motorized Maintenance Grant Application for 2023

Dear State Trails Committee:

Salida Mountain Trails (SMT) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advocacy of trails in Chaffee County. Our mission is to identify, maintain and expand an accessible, interconnecting trail system for appropriate multi-user groups. Our goals include collaborating on local, state and national levels to bring funding and other resources to Chaffee County to benefit our local trail systems. SMT is composed of a 15-member Board of Directors who are all aware of and approve the submission of this grant proposal for Improvements to the Burmac Trailhead area and maintenance projects to improve existing trails and camping.

SMT has worked with city, county, BLM, AHRA and Envision Chaffee County for several years to gain support for this effort that we all feel is a high priority and high value to our entire community. If awarded, our Executive Director, Jon Terbush, will manage this grant to successful completion, and will receive full support from our entire Board of Directors throughout the project. Please let me know if any questions or further information needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Smith,
SMT Board President

Timeline

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION



PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Salida Mountain Trails

Project title Burmac Trailhead Transformation

TASK <small>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</small>	Dates*	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
Get quotes and contracts	Q1 and Q2 2024						
Designate campsites	Q2 2024	Q3 2024					
Vault toilet excavation + install	Q2 2024	Q3 2024					
Parking lot grading	Q2 2024	Q3 2024					
Race Track reroutes		Q3 2024	Q4 2024				
Race Track - Dead Bird connector		Q3 2024	Q4 2024				
L. Rainbow maintenance			Q4 2024	Q1 2025			
Sun Up reroute					Q2 2025	Q3 2025	
Sol Train East maintenance					Q2 2025	Q3 2025	
Administrative Close-out						Q3 2025	Q4 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 Salida Mountain Trails

Project title Burmac Trailhead Transformation

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.

This project features a range of major improvements to and around the Burmac Trailhead on Methodist Mountain. The centerpiece is establishing a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) campground at the trailhead. SMT will contract installation of a double vault toilet, assist BLM and National Forest Foundation (NFF) in establishing campsites with boulders and fire rings, expand the parking lot from 10 spaces to 43, and install new maps and signage. This project will also reroute two unsustainable “legacy” trails. On the Race Track Trail, we plan to reroute 5,122 linear feet of trail, and rehab 4,000 LF of old trail. The Sun Up Trail’s current alignment is so unsustainable we plan to rehab all 0.5 miles of existing trail, and reroute 4,448 LF. Race Track will also be widened to 39” to accommodate adaptive bikes. In tandem, we will groom all 1.1 miles of Sol Train East, and armor features to last. We will also groom 4,752 LF of Little Rainbow. Combined with the reroutes, the grooming and armoring will dramatically improve a 5.5-mile-long loop starting and ending at Burmac. Finally, to create more loop options, we will add an 845-foot-long connector between Race Track and the Dead Bird Trail.

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

The Burmac trailhead is overrun with free-for-all camping and its negative impacts—trash, waste, declining user experiences, and human-caused wildfire threat. Much of the camping is residential, and trail users often report unsafe and unsanitary conditions, including human feces and needles. Adopted in 2021, the Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan identified Burmac as a Top Priority Area to address dispersed camping. Then in 2023, BLM adopted a camping plan for Chaffee County that approved specific actions at Burmac. Adding urgency to this project, trail use is rapidly growing. In 2016, Burmac saw 12,070 visitors. Visitation has since tripled to more than 35,000 uses per year, topping out at 38,919 in 2020. The transformation of Burmac will further increase usage on area trails. More significantly, new housing is being built nearby, which will add hundreds of people to the area in the near future.

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

In a 2020 survey conducted by Envision Chaffee County (“Envision”), 79% of residents said natural resources had somewhat to greatly declined, especially at dispersed camping areas. Burmac is a prime example of this problem. On National Public Lands Day this year, SMT co-led a cleanup at Burmac that dismantled 25 fire rings and removed 4,500 pounds of trash and ash. These conditions arose due to the lack of a camping plan for the area. Conditions on Race Track and Sun Up arose because both are user-created “legacy” trails that SMT now stewards. Race Track follows the fall line, lacks drains, and has unsustainable grades. Sun Up shares those problems, and was never designed for uphill use. (It used to be part of a downhill trail, but was repurposed as a climbing route.) As a result, it’s steep, straight, and lacks drains. Sol Train East is a feature-rich trail that has eroded due to increased use and lack of armoring.

2. COMMUNITY BENEFIT**15 points**

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

Salida residents will benefit most from this project, as the trails are most accessible to them. Based on trail-counter data, 60% of all use happens on weekdays. When tourists do visit to use the trails—and tens of thousands do annually—local businesses will also benefit. Outdoor recreation makes up one-third of Chaffee County's economy. Although we don't have data for sales directly linked to trails, one indicator of the economic benefit of Salida's trails is that 40+ businesses in our small community financially sponsor SMT. Easily accessible from downtown trails SMT manages log about 350,000 trips per year, based on trail counter data. All trail users will benefit from a cleaner, safer, and more inviting trailhead. Families, youth, and beginners will benefit from changes that make Race Track and Sun Up more accessible to more users. Notably, riders of adaptive bikes will also benefit from widening Race Track to 39". Finally, our community's large population of older adults will benefit from Race Track and Sun Up becoming less strenuous and, in the case of Race Track, less exposed.

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

The biggest barrier to access at Burmac is the current camping situation, which keeps people away or keeps them from coming back. This project will address that issue head on. Another barrier to access is the poor condition of Race Track and Sun Up. Though relatively flat overall, Race Track begins with a loose, unsustainable climb that tops out at a 15% grade. As one of only two uphill options at Burmac, that poses an immediate barrier. As a user-created trail, Race Track also lacks drains and other best management practices (eg. outsloping) for sustainable trail design. That makes it more prone to wear, and more costly to maintain. Sun Up is the only uphill way to access Sol Train East and West, but it's too steep for many younger, older and inexperienced trail users. As a fall-line trail, it also quickly erodes and fills with loose rocks. This project will make both trails more accessible to more people. This project will also address a deficiency by widening Race Track, to 39"+, to better accommodate riders of adaptive bikes. This will also prepare for a future opportunity to make more of the Methodist Mountain trail system accessible to adaptive bikes, too.

- 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 anticipate tens of thousands of people will have access to new and improved recreational opportunities because of this project. The Burmac trailhead sees about 35,000 users annually, according to a BLM trail counter. As noted above, we expect ongoing growth in usage to continue—if not accelerate—as the trailhead becomes safer and more sanitary; as the trails become more accessible to users of more ages and abilities; and as more housing is built nearby. We will track this with existing, and potentially additional, trail counters.

On the camping side, given the high level of rec-based tourism in Chaffee County, we anticipate thousands of visitors annually will enjoy improved facilities (toilets, fire rings), and will have direct access to newly improved trails. We estimate this total based on the number of campsites to be designated (10-15), and the extensive analysis that went into the camping plan as a whole. The BLM will charge \$10/night for sites and manage the facilities, so we'll have receipts to track actual usage.

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.)

SMT Executive Director Jon Terbush will oversee the administrative side of this project, and handle grant reporting. SMT's Board of Directors will serve in supporting roles. Specifically, members with experience in trail work and land management will spend time in the field, while members experienced in finance/business and project management will support grant reporting, budgeting and other administrative tasks.

SMT will hire contractors for reroutes and maintenance/grooming on Race Track, Sun Up, Little Rainbow and Sol Train East. (We already obtained cost estimates from 2 local trail professionals.) SMT Trail Manager Cat Gruener will serve as the project manager in the field, overseeing all contracted trail maintenance and rehab. SMT volunteers, including trained Crew Leads and Trail Stewards, will assist with ongoing maintenance.

SMT will contract installation of a vault toilet. BLM will manage the unit once installed, using campsite fees to pay for ongoing cleaning. SMT will also hire a contractor for parking lot grading/expansion, with BLM engineering staff providing the design plans. BLM and NFF will handle campsite designation.

Chaffee Rec Adopters—a volunteer program led by Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA) to steward and monitor public lands countywide—will support site monitoring. Adopters use a mobile app to monitor campsites, trailheads and trails, reporting issues directly to land managers and groups like SMT.

- 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.

In 2023, SMT was part of a coalition that received \$45,000 to fund the Chaffee County Trails and Conservation plan. Envision Chaffee County was the lead applicant, and Chaffee County Community Foundation is the fiscal agent. This project is proceeding on schedule.

In 2018 SMT was awarded a CPW State Trails Colorado the Beautiful Large Construction Grant in the amount of \$269,900. Along with cash and in-kind match, the total project budget was \$351,700. The project was completed on time and within budget. The required grant closeout process was also successfully completed.

4. PLANNING**10 points**

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

Adopted in 2021, the Chaffee County Recreation Management Plan identified Burmac as a Top Priority Area to address dispersed camping. Approved in 2023, the BLM's camping plan for Chaffee County identified as a priority converting the free-for-all camping at Burmac to paid, designated sites. Both plans went through comprehensive development processes and received extensive community input prior to adoption.

In Summer 2023, SMT and BLM staff had two sites visits to refine plans for Burmac. NFF joined the second site visit, during which we scouted future campsites. A BLM engineer has since developed a draft plan for the trailhead (see Fig. 3 in attached maps).

On the trail maintenance side, in 2017 BLM completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) that, among other things, approved in concept reroutes to Race Track, and the addition of a connector between Race Track and Dead Bird. From the EA: "The current route of [Race Track] lends itself to continue weather related erosion, and the trail which was originally conceived as the easiest route up or down to or from the Burmac trailhead has become more challenging for riders and less pleasant for hikers over time...re-routing large portions of the trail may be deemed the best management option." After further discussion with BLM, rerouting Sun Up was added to the project scope for the reasons noted above. In September 2023, SMT then presented the final project scope for comments/questions to the Chaffee County Commissioners.

For more, see attached letters of support.

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

BLM camping plan for Chaffee County — BLM approved this plan in early 2023.

BLM New Trail Construction EA for Salida Trails — BLM approved this plan in 2017.

Envision Chaffee County Regional Partnership with CPW — This project supports the overarching goals of the Envision regional partnership.

Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan ("Rec Plan") — The Rec Plan outlines 8 major objectives and this project addresses 4 of them. 1) Offer high-quality, low-impact (sustainable) camping opportunities by converting over-used areas to designated sites; 2) Attain the right infrastructure to support growing visitation, including restrooms at Burmac (new critical infrastructure needs were ranked and listed in the plan, with the Burmac location ranking as a top need); 3) Improve experiences by focusing resources in the Community Concentration Zones within and near towns; 4) Create a collaborative recreation culture that protects the environment and keeps rec clean, fun and wild.

Chaffee County Strategic Trails and Conservation Plan — This plan builds upon the 2021 Rec Plan and Regional Partnership, fleshing out needs and opportunities countywide. SMT is a coalition partner in this plan.

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.)

BLM will maintain the campsites and vault toilets. This work will be funded by new \$10/night camping fees. We are determining now if BLM will handle toilet maintenance internally, or contract the work to another partner in the area (Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, AHRA) that already maintains vault toilets nearby. Thanks in part to funding from Chaffee County, BLM also plans to have a career, seasonal employee based in the county starting next year. This will allow the agency to better monitor and respond to issues as they arise. BLM's camping plan also includes adaptive management strategies to respond to changing conditions as they arise.

SMT will maintain all trails under our current cooperative management agreement with the BLM. In 2023, SMT converted our Trail Manager from a part- to full-time job. In addition to maintaining trails herself, this staffer trains volunteer Trail Stewards and Crew Leads to aid trail work. SMT recently added 8 new board members too, including some specifically to support maintenance and volunteer events. This has significantly increased our trail maintenance capacity.

Finally, SMT and GARNA / Chaffee Rec Adopters will track trailhead and camping conditions. The Rec Adopters program engages about 200 volunteers who steward and monitor public lands, including trails, trailheads, and dispersed camping areas countywide. Volunteers log conditions in a mobile app. In Summer 2023, SMT led a training for 8 volunteers specifically to help us track conditions in our trail network. These volunteers and others will provide ongoing snapshots so we can monitor the impact of this project over time.

- 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.

Trail reroutes will be designed and constructed using lower gradients and incorporating frequent grade reversals for water drainage. This will decrease soil erosion and reduce future trail maintenance needs. In particular, best management practices will include: trail gradients no more than 10%; trail outslowing at 3-5%; using the 1/3 rule of trail design (eg. if cross slopes are 18% then running grade can't be more than 6%); and constructing proper backslopes to ensure efficient drainage. Work will be done to IMBA standards, and performed by experienced trail professionals. Although we love our volunteers, we also believe trail professionals provide the best quality and value for this type of project. On a related note, SMT staff and board with professional trail experience will oversee all maintenance and rehab. This includes 2 new board members with extensive experience working on trails with city, county and federal land managers.

As for the campsite and bathroom amenities, BLM established a fee structure (\$10/site/night) to provide a sustainable revenue stream for these facilities. If this funding proves insufficient, the BLM camping plan has adaptive management strategies in place to respond as needed. Adaptive management will also allow us to rapidly respond should campground, trail or trailhead conditions deteriorate.

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 project aligns with the Chaffee County Rec Plan. In particular, SMT consulted the plan's Wildlife Tool to develop this project. All proposed work is in areas marked as disturbed habitat. Moreover, nearly all proposed work is within the Plan's "Community Concentration Zone" (CCZ) surrounding Salida, which is intended to concentrate recreational impacts close to town. (Sol Train East and Sun Up are halfway in the CCZ; the portions outside it already have seasonal closures.) This project also aligns with the CPW Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind Guide. Specifically, this project is the result of a collaborative process; it seeks to minimize impacts from recreation on natural resources; and it aims to optimize existing trails, rather than building new ones, to improve capacity and user experiences. This project will showcase how maintenance can transform old trails to feel like new ones, without actually building new trails. This is important to set expectations and build support as our community begins a long-term trails and conservation plan that emphasizes maximizing existing trails.

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

CPW raised no wildlife or natural resource issues during the pre-application process.

- 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.)

Most importantly, this project will minimize issues with trash and waste, which have been a major problem due to unchecked camping. Vault toilets, though expensive, are a critical need in the area. This project will also minimize erosion by rerouting Race Track and Sun Up, and by adding adequate drainage to prevent washouts. Erosion will also be minimized on Sol Train East by armoring features. Sol Train East and Sun Up already have seasonal closures (12/1-4/15) with gates and signage. No other trails in this project have required seasonal closures. Wildfire risk will be mitigated with the designation of official campsites and installation of fire rings. Campsite designation will also mitigate resource damage from user-created sites. BLM enforcement will be in place to monitor efficacy of the new infrastructure, and the BLM camping plan includes adaptive management strategies to respond if conditions deteriorate. Lastly, we plan to install all new signage at the trailhead that includes trail etiquette messaging (eg. stay on trail, respect wildlife) as well as information specific to the new campsites.

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

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

Community engagement is at the root of this project. As noted above, the BLM camping plan went through a standard federal review process prior to adoption, including multiple comment periods. The Chaffee Rec Plan, which provides a guiding framework for this project, was also developed with robust public engagement. The Rec Plan grew out of Envision Chaffee County, a visioning, planning and implementation effort initiated in 2017 that identified growing recreation use and its impacts on the natural environment as a top community concern. The Rec Plan was created over 18 months and included: engagement by 3,800 people in a user survey that drew 17,000 write-in comments; dozens of meetings attended by hundreds of citizens; and a draft comment period garnering about 300 comments. The plan was approved by the Chaffee Planning Commission in 2021 and is incorporated into the Chaffee Comprehensive Plan. Implementation is led by a 21-member Chaffee Recreation Council and an open-invite Rec Taskforce that currently engages about 120 stakeholders, including SMT.

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

Participation from stakeholders with experience managing a project of this type and scale will ensure this project is successful. BLM and SMT have worked together for 20 years to develop and steward trails around Salida. We have been collaborating to develop this project, and will work closely together on implementation. Support from City of Salida, Chaffee County, Envision Chaffee County, and NFF will also prove invaluable. NFF is leading implementation of a countywide camping plan, and will manage the creation of campsites at Burmac. Envision has a well-known track record of success leading major conservation and recreation projects. Though Envision will not play a leading role implementing this project, it will provide connections to supporting programs that include the Regional Partnerships initiative with CPW; the Chaffee County Trails and Conservation Plan; Chaffee Rec Rangers, who are public lands seasonal staff hired to patrol, clean up and engage with visitors; Chaffee Rec Adopters, a group of about 200 volunteers who steward and monitor public lands, including trails and trailheads; and the Chaffee Rec Council, tasked with leading implementation of the Rec Plan.

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

This project is based on master plans that underwent extensive public review. As such, we do not know of any opposition, and do not anticipate any opposition to this project.

Potential opposition to rerouting trails will be mitigated through site visits from BLM staff. (Cultural review is planned for Fall 2023.) Additionally, it will be addressed with the decommissioning/rehab of unsustainable sections of trail.

Potential opposition to altering "legacy" trails will be identified and addressed in conversation with trail users in our community. SMT proactively asks for community input (on social media, via email, in person at events) and uses this feedback to inform our work. We also expanded our Board of Directors in Summer 2023, from 7 to 15 members, in part to add more perspectives when developing trail projects.

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.

Confirmed cash match totals \$42,750 and includes:

- BLM — \$20,000 in cash for campsite infrastructure (fire rings, boulders, etc.)
- NFF — \$2,750 in cash for remaining campsite infrastructure.
- SMT — \$20,000 in cash. This will come from Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) dollars SMT receives annually from City of Salida and Chaffee County.

Anticipated cash match totals \$60,000 and includes:

- \$30,000 — Chaffee Common Ground Grant — This is a grant we have received several times, including to fund portable toilets at trailheads. When we received funding for those facilities, Common Ground indicated they would support vault toilets as a better long-term solution. The newly adopted BLM camping plan makes now an ideal time to finally deliver on that goal. Funds available: May 2024
- \$30,000 — Team Evergreen Cycling — SMT has received this grant in the past. Funds available: January 2024

For projected costs in the budget, SMT solicited estimates from multiple companies that manufacture vault toilets; from 2 pro trail builders; and from a local contractor for the engineering expenses. Given that research, we have high confidence in the project budget, and in our ability to accomplish the complete project scope. (See attached for complete budget.)

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

SMT and project partners are deeply committed to seeing this project through. If this application is unsuccessful, we will immediately pursue other sources of funding. If in the end we are only able to secure partial funding, we will scale back components of the project as necessary. This could result in our inability to purchase and install a vault toilet, which is the centerpiece of the BLM plan. (BLM can't charge a \$10/night fee without offering some facilities.) We currently do not know of another source for this expensive, though critically needed, infrastructure. Failure to secure grant funding would also hinder our ability to complete all deferred maintenance included in this project, which would undermine the project's overall impact. An unsuccessful application would not impact staff capacity, result in a loss of partner funds, or contribute to other adverse impacts (other than worrisome conditions at Burmac continuing to persist until we're able to find alternative funding.)

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 Bumac Trailhead Transformation Project Project Sponsor Salida Mountain Trails

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: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date of document: 1996

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

Title of document: Chaffee County Camping and Travel Management Plan, Arkansas River TMP

Date of document: 2023, 2016

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: Linda Skinner

Phone number: 719-429-1712

Email: lskinner@blm.gov

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

Land Manager's Name: James Kalem Lenard

Land Manager's Title: Assistant Field Manager

Land Manager's Signature: JAMES LENARD

Digitally signed by JAMES LENARD
Date: 2023.09.28 13:58:23 -06'00'

Project Budget



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT

Project details			Match details			
CPW Grant #			Source of match (organization)	Type	Date available	Amount
Organization	Salida Mountain Trails		Bureau of Land Management	Cash	Oct-23	\$ 20,000.00
Project title	Burmec Trailhead Transformation		National Forest Foundation	Cash	Oct-23	\$ 2,750.00
Grant Request (auto populates)	\$ 229,763.00		Salida Mountain Trails	Cash	Oct-23	\$ 20,000.00
Local match	\$ 111,303.00	Min. Match \$ 57,440.75	Team Evergreen Cycling Grant	Cash	Jan-24	\$ 30,000.00
Project Total	\$ 341,066.00		Common Ground Grant	Cash	May-24	\$ 30,000.00
			GARNA / Chaffee Rec Adopters	In-Kind	Oct-23	\$ 1,120.00
			Salida Mountain Trails	In-Kind	Oct-23	\$ 3,808.00
			Bureau of Land Management	In-Kind	Oct-23	\$ 2,800.00
			National Forest Foundation	In-Kind	Oct-23	\$ 825.00
			Match Total			\$ 111,303.00

Description	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	CPW Grant	Local match	Balance
Contracted Services								
Contractor – Construct aggregate parking area (cost = estimate from Y & K Excavation +5% excess and inflation; complete pricing breakdown available upon request)	1	EA	\$ 55,222.00	\$ 55,222.00	Cash	\$ 55,222.00		\$ -
Contractor – Excavation and grading for vault toilet (cost estimate from BLM +5% excess and inflation)	1	EA	\$ 3,570.00	\$ 3,570.00	Cash	\$ 3,570.00		\$ -
Contractor – Reroute, Race Track Trail	5122	LF	\$ 7.00	\$ 35,854.00	Cash	\$ 20,854.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
Contractor – Reroute – Sun Up Trail	4488	LF	\$ 7.00	\$ 31,416.00	Cash	\$ 31,416.00		\$ -
Contractor – Build Race Track / Dead Bird connector	845	LF	\$ 7.00	\$ 5,915.00	Cash		\$ 5,915.00	\$ -
Contractor – Maintenance Race Track Trail	1267	LF	\$ 4.00	\$ 5,068.00	Cash	\$ 3,383.00	\$ 1,685.00	\$ -
Contractor – Rebuild Sol Train East Trail	5808	LF	\$ 6.00	\$ 34,848.00	Cash	\$ 19,848.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
Contractor – Rebuild on Little Rainbow Trail	4752	LF	\$ 4.00	\$ 19,008.00	Cash	\$ 19,008.00		\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
Salary/Wages								
SMT staff, Trail Manager – Rehab/closure – Sun Up	30	HR	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,050.00	Cash	\$ 1,050.00		\$ -
SMT staff, Trail Manager – Rehab/closure (Race Track)	60	HR	\$ 35.00	\$ 2,100.00	Cash	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -
SMT staff, Executive Director – Project management	100	HR	\$ 40.00	\$ 4,000.00	Cash		\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
SMT staff, Executive Director – Grant administration	250	HR	\$ 40.00	\$ 10,000.00	Cash	\$ 10,000.00		\$ -
SMT staff, Trail Manager – 2024 projects	100	HR	\$ 35.00	\$ 3,500.00	Cash	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
SMT staff, Trail Manager – 2025 projects	100	HR	\$ 35.00	\$ 3,500.00	Cash	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
SMT volunteers, Board of Directors – Project management (admin and field work)	100	HR	\$ 28.00	\$ 2,800.00	In-Kind		\$ 2,800.00	\$ -
SMT volunteers, Trail Stewards – Fencing installation (6 volunteers x 6hrs)	36	HR	\$ 28.00	\$ 1,008.00	In-Kind		\$ 1,008.00	\$ -
BLM staff, GS-07 career seasonal – Project oversight, campsite management	80	HR	\$ 35.00	\$ 2,800.00	In-Kind		\$ 2,800.00	\$ -
NFF staff – Project oversight, campsite management	15	HR	\$ 55.00	\$ 825.00	In-Kind		\$ 825.00	\$ -
Materials/Supplies								
Vault toilet – Double Cascadian, CXT	1	EA	\$ 76,756.00	\$ 76,756.00	Cash	\$ 46,756.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -
Trailhead kiosk + signage	1	EA	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	Cash		\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
Boulders (to designate campsites)	1	LS	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	Cash		\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Fire rings	1	LS	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 6,750.00	Cash		\$ 6,750.00	\$ -
Post + cable (campsite infrastructure)	1	LS	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	Cash		\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Equipment – Skid steer rental	1	LS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	Cash		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Car stops (ULINE, including delivery)	43	EA	\$ 92.00	\$ 3,956.00	Cash	\$ 3,956.00		\$ -
Buck and rail fencing	300	LF	\$ 8.33	\$ 2,500.00	Cash	\$ 2,500.00		\$ -
10-inch timber screws (for fencing)	1	LS	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	Cash	\$ 500.00		\$ -
Boulders (to demarcate parking lot; estimate for 3-4 truck loads totalling 30-40 boulders)	1	LS	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	Cash	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -
Materials – Reinforce/armor features on Sol Train East Trail	1	LS	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	Cash	\$ 3,000.00		\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
Additional Categories								
Trail/trailhead condition monitoring (Chaffee Rec Adopter volunteers)	40	HR	\$ 28.00	\$ 1,120.00	In-Kind		\$ 1,120.00	\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
TOTAL				\$ 341,066.00		\$ 229,763.00	\$ 111,303.00	

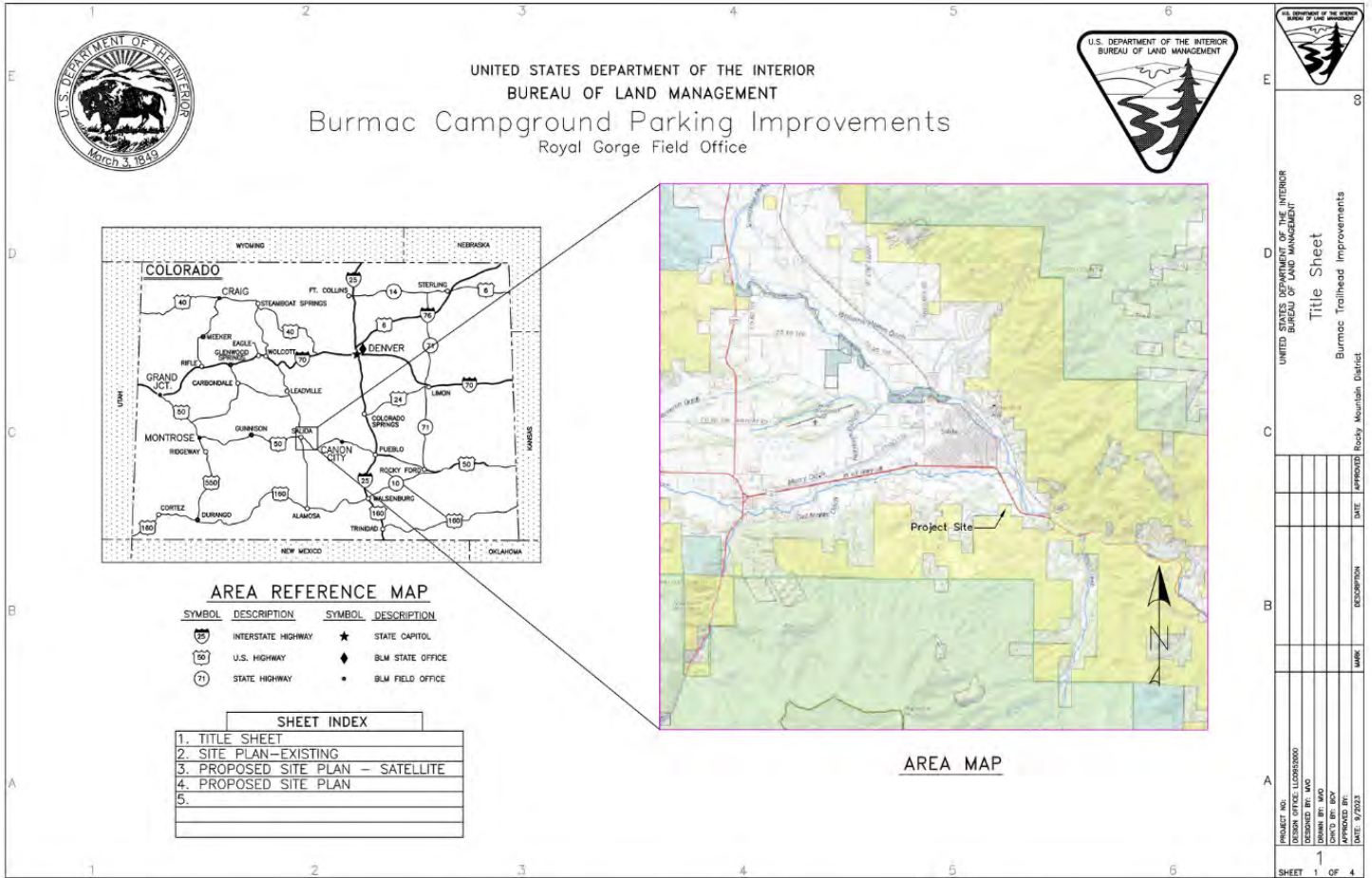


Fig. 1 — State-wide Vicinity Map

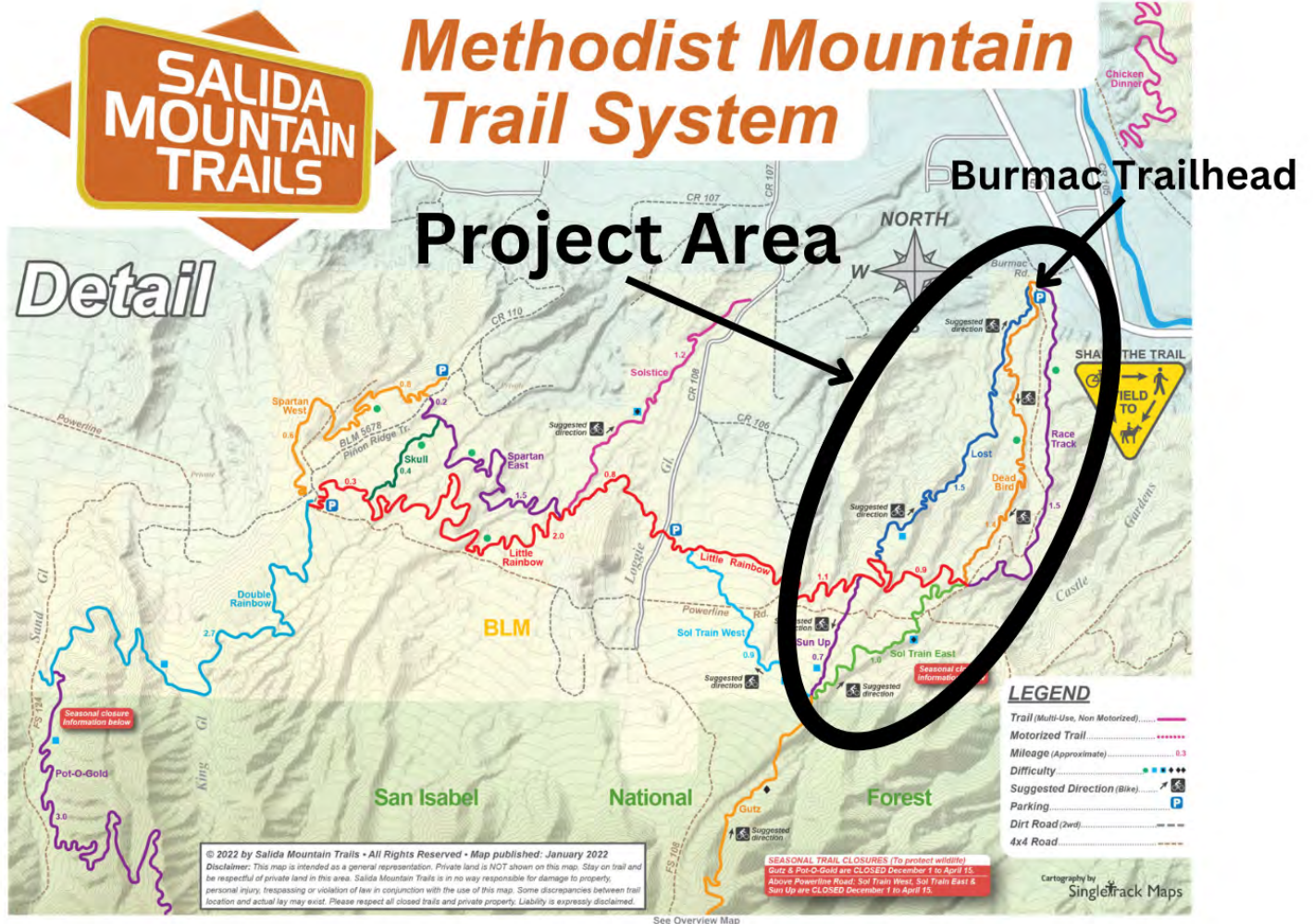


Fig. 2 – Local Vicinity Map

“Burmac Trailhead Transformation”

Salida, CO – 38.512787, -105.980507

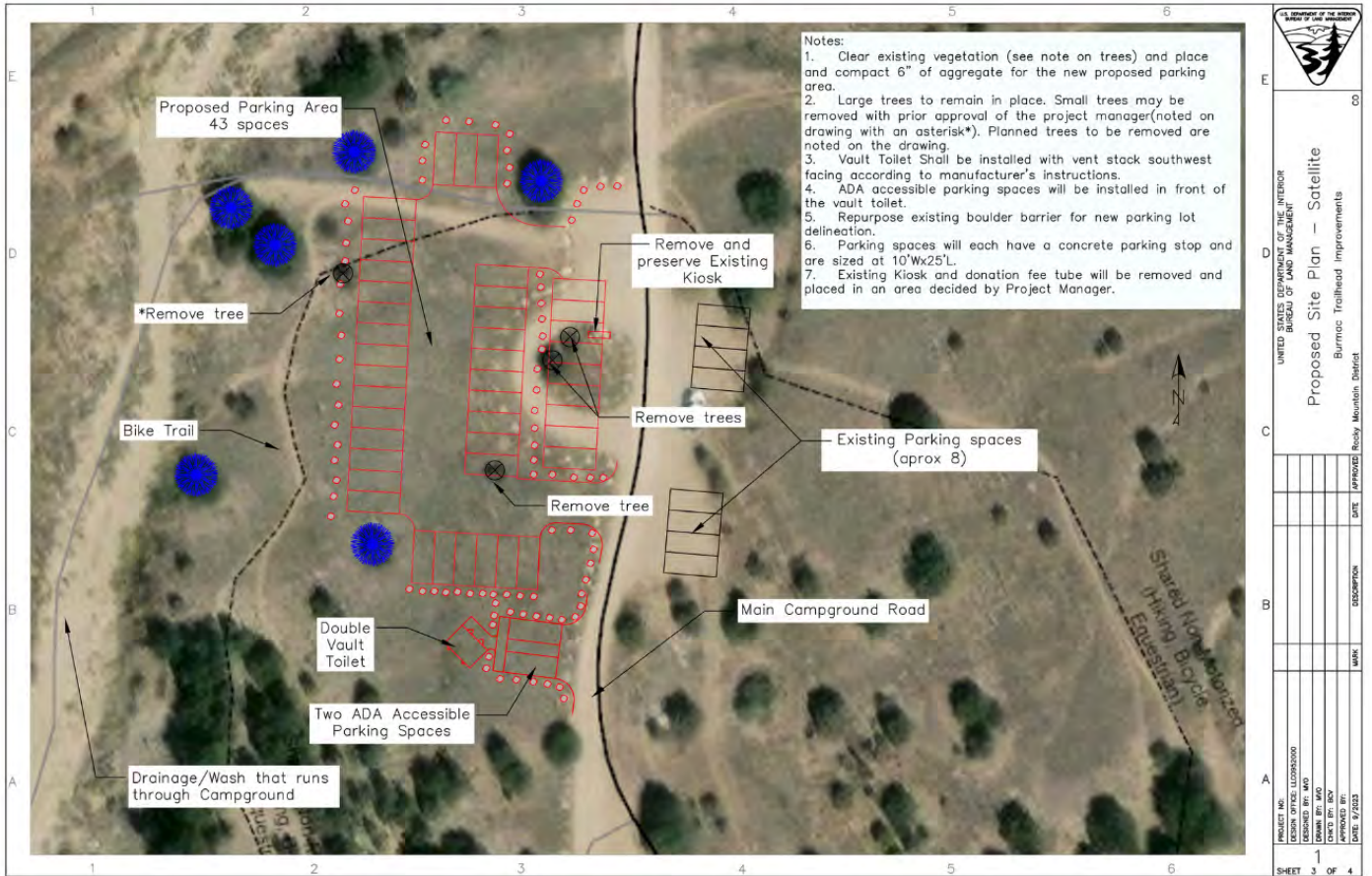


Fig. 3 – Project Site Map #1 – Draft BLM Engineering Plan for Burmac Trailhead

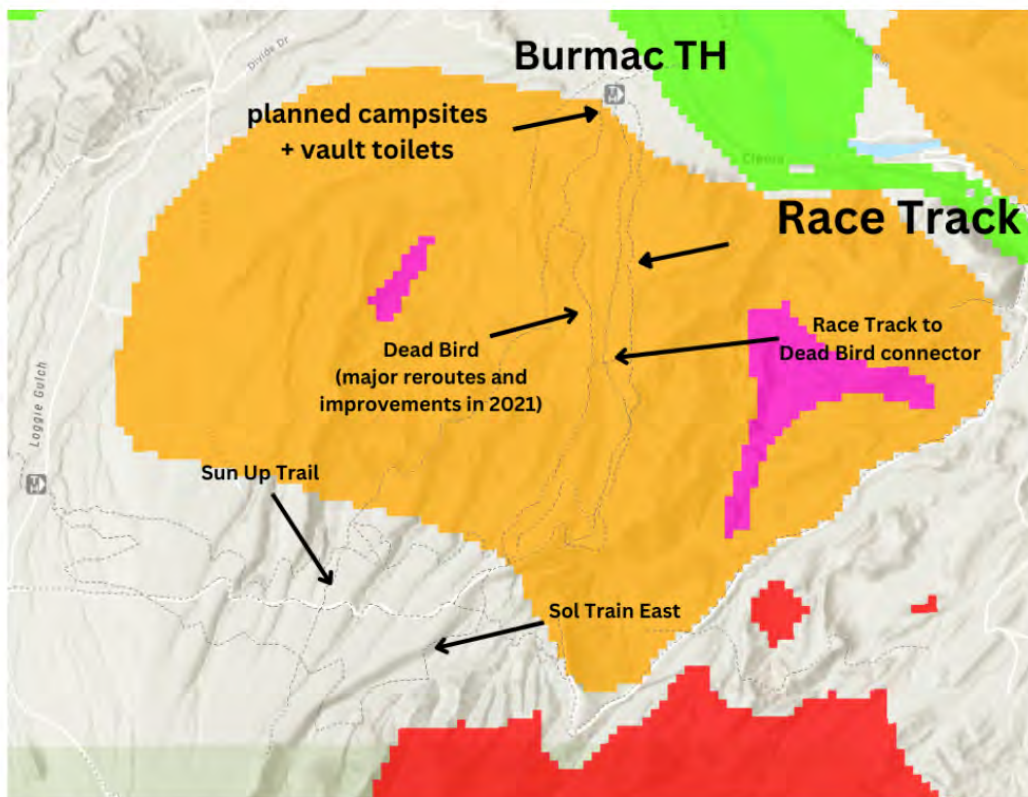


Fig. 4 – Project Site Map #2 – Trails + Habitat Overlay from Envision Wildlife Tool



**Img. 1 – Washout on Race Track
(August 2023)**



**Img. 2– Ravel on Race Track
(August 2023)**



**Img. 3 – Representative fall-
line section of Sun Up
(August 2023)**



Img. 4 – National Public Lands Day, clean up event at Burmac Trailhead (September 2023)



Img. 5 – National Public Lands Day, clean up event at Burmac Trailhead (September 2023)

Img. 6 – Trash collected by one volunteer in one hour during Clean Up Green Up event at Burmac Trailhead (May 2023)





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 East Main Street
Cañon City, Colorado 81212



In Reply Refer To:
8300 (COF020, LS)

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

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office is pleased to submit this letter of support of Salida Mountain Trail organization's grant application to support the *Burmac Trailhead Transformation* project.

This comprehensive project will accomplish many shared goals to improve trail conditions, reduce recreational impacts, and provide exceptional trail experiences. This project will: corral camping at the Burmac trailhead; re-route unsustainable sections of the Race Track and Sun Up trails; and provide the first-ever vault toilets in a trail network used by more than 250,000 people every year.

An extensive planning effort through a camping management plan is completed and the Burmac Trailhead project aligns with the plan's goals for recreation in this area. Benefits are reduced wildfire risk from designated campsites and fire rings; reduced issues with long-term, non-recreational camping; improving/maximizing existing trails; preventative trail maintenance / making trails more sustainable.

Trailhead parking and toilets support the health and safety aspect of the recreation experience. The reroute projects are needed to improve sustainability of these popular trails. A bonus noted by RGFO is how these types of projects impact the local community. We have documented dramatic increases in recreation use on trail systems which has resulted in increased local youth participation, economic diversification for the local economy and a community focused on trails and the enjoyment that they provide. We can also attest to the capability of the partners involved in accomplishing this project.

The RGFO will continue to provide support to our partners and provide park ranger support to work with SMT to complete the project. We hope that you look favorably upon this application as this project will provide improved recreation opportunities for public land visitors.

Sincerely,

Linda Skinner
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Royal Gorge Field Office



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

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

On behalf of Envision Chaffee County, I am writing in support of Salida Mountain Trails' Burmac Trailhead Transformation project, which will accomplish many shared goals set forth in the Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan (Chaffee Rec Plan), created and approved by the community in 2021. The project will improve trail conditions, reduce recreational impacts, and provide exceptional outdoor experiences that are vital to our quality of life and local economy.

This comprehensive project will address unsustainable sections of the Race Track and Sun Up trails through re-routes, meeting a community goal to improve and maximize existing trails to create a sustainable system that is resistant to erosion and more resilient as trail use increases with growing visitation. The project also provides the first-ever vault toilets in a recreational network used by more than 250,000 people every year.

One of the major objectives outlined in the Chaffee Rec Plan is to provide high-quality, low-impact camping opportunities. Burmac was identified through the planning process as a top camping destination to address with the Bureau of Land Management. The agency this year approved a new camping plan that allows us to accomplish this goal by designating campsites at Burmac and other over-used sites in Chaffee County. Designating sites and installing metal campfire rings at Burmac will reduce wildfire risk — a top community objective — and address challenges with long-term, non-recreational camping at the site.

Envision Chaffee County is a major partner aiding the Bureau of Land Management in converting over-used dispersed camping areas to designated sites. It also partners with the community, including groups like Salida Mountain Trails, to create a sustainable trails system. This project is located completely within the Salida-area Community Concentration Zone, where the Chaffee Rec Plan identifies preferred locations for new recreational development and improvements. This project directly helps implement multiple objectives outlined in the plan, and it is strongly supported by Envision.

Sincerely,
Kim Marquis
Program Director



Chaffee County Government

P.O. Box 699/104 Crestone Ave.
Salida, CO 81201

719.539.2218/www.chaffeecounty.org

September 22, 2023

Fletcher Jacobs
State Trails Program Manager, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
13787 S Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

Please accept our Letter of Support for Salida Mountain Trails' application to Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) Non-Motorized Trails grant program. Chaffee County is pleased to support this application from Salida Mountain Trails (SMT) to address infrastructure needs of the Burmac Trailhead area.

This comprehensive project will accomplish many shared goals to improve trail conditions, reduce recreational impacts, and provide exceptional trail experiences. This project aims to corral camping at the Burmac trailhead; re-route unsustainable sections of the Race Track and Sun Up single track trails; and provide the first-ever vault toilets in a trail network used by more than 250,000 people every year.

The Burmac TH area has been identified in Chaffee County's Outdoor Recreation Management Plan as an area of priority focus, and has started to receive attention through recent efforts like volunteer-based community clean-up on National Public Lands Day. CPW's support of the Burmac Trailhead Transformation Project will be a meaningful investment for our community's public trail system and help us mitigate the impacts of increased visitation and trails usership.

Chaffee County has supported SMT through both partnerships and funding for many years, as we recognize the substantial impacts of their work and investments that benefit our residents, visitors, and natural environment.

We believe the SMT is well-positioned to establish and manage an effective trailhead improvement project at the Burmac TH site and encourage CPW to view its grant application favorably.

Regards,

Keith Baker
Chairman, Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners



BUILDING 27, SUITE 3, FORT MISSOULA ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59804
TEL 406.542.2805
NATIONALFORESTS.ORG

September 26, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

On behalf of the National Forest Foundation (NFF), I'm writing to support Salida Mountain Trails' (SMT) *Burmac Trailhead Transformation* project proposal.

This comprehensive project will accomplish many shared goals to improve trail conditions, reduce recreational impacts, and provide exceptional trail experiences. This project will corral camping at the Burmac trailhead into designated areas, re-route unsustainable sections of the Race Track and Sun Up trails, and offer the first-ever vault toilets in a trail network used by more than 250,000 people annually.

Since 2021, NFF has worked with multiple agencies across Chaffee County to achieve camping-related and trail planning goals in the county Rec Plan. Earlier this year, NFF was awarded a Chaffee County Common Ground grant to provide designated campsite infrastructure across all lands in Chaffee County. This summer, NFF has worked with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to install designated campsites in the Mt. Shavano area of Chaffee County. This work reduces wildfire risk by providing agency-issued metal fire rings, protects vegetation by confining sites to a designated area within barriers such as boulders, and allows agency staff to pinpoint campsite locations, improving enforcement and maintenance.

In conjunction with SMT's *Burmac Trailhead Transformation* project proposal, NFF will provide designated camping infrastructure and planning support to the BLM for the Burmac area. The campsites will be located near the trailhead and thus can be considered as match for the *Burmac Trailhead Transformation* project. The work SMT will do to improve the parking area and surrounding trails, along with adding a vault toilet, will provide a more comprehensive improvement to the Burmac area. NFF is thrilled to collaborate with SMT, BLM, the County, and other groups on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcus Selig".

Marcus Selig, Chief Conservation Officer
National Forest Foundation



PO Box 1522
Salida, Colorado
81201

719.539.5106
www.garna.org
info@garna.org

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

September 26, 2023

RE: Support for Burmac Trailhead Transformation

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

The Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA) strongly supports Salida Mountain Trails' (SMT) *Burmac Trailhead Transformation* project proposal for the CPW Colorado Non-Motorized Grants Program.

This project will accomplish many shared goals to improve trail conditions, reduce recreational impacts, and provide exceptional trail experiences. This project will direct camping into designated sites, improve and reroute unsustainable sections of trail, and install vault toilets to improve the overall recreational impact in the Burmac area.

GARNA has been on the ground with volunteer work through the Chaffee Rec Adopters, an initiative of the Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan. Rec Adopters are volunteers that monitor and steward our public lands, working closely with our state and federal agencies and other non-profits like SMT. Burmac is the closest dispersed camping area to Salida, and therefore gets the most environmental impact from over-usage. Our volunteers have continually picked up trash and cleared out abandoned homeless camps in the area, most recently during National Public Lands Day.

Through GARNA's Porta-Potties On Public Lands program, we placed a temporary porta-potty in Burmac this past summer. The porta-potty is heavily used and gets cleaned weekly. It unfortunately has been tipped over a few times. Permanent facilities would greatly improve the environmental health of the trailhead.

The work SMT will be able to accomplish with this grant will greatly improve the environment and recreational impact in Burmac, and GARNA looks forward to collaborating on this project.

Sincerely,

Jason Marsden
GARNA Executive Director
director@garna.org

Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization **Salida Mountain Trails**

Project title **Burmac Trailhead Transformation**

DOCUMENTS

PRE-APPLICATION - SEPTEMBER

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

FULL APPLICATION - OCTOBER

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

ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

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

*Must be completed prior to application presentations in January.