

Non-Motorized Trails Stewardship Program



2023 PILOT PROGRAM APPLICANT INTEREST FORM

Submit this completed form to be combined with a Non-Motorized Maintenance Application to trails@state.co.us by October 3, 2023.

APPLICANT

Type Land Manager Non-Profit

Organization Bureau of and Management - Gunnison Field Office (GFO)

Postal address 2500 E. New York Ave.

City Gunnison State CO ZIP Code 81230

Contact name James F. Lovelace

Contact email jlovelac@blm.gov Phone (970) 642-4953

FUNDING

Grant request for 2 - 4 person crews (max \$75,000)	\$
Grant request for 5-8 person crews (max \$150,000)	\$ 77,580.00
Match (min. 25% of grant request)	\$ 47,113.00
Total	\$ 124,693.00

STEWARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Why is this program a good fit for your organization?

The BLM Gunnison Field Office manages a diverse range of non-motorized trails, from urban interface trails adjacent to the City of Gunnison to some of the most remote wilderness trails in the state. These trails offer premier non-motorized opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. The WSA trails in the Alpine Triangle Special Recreation Management Area are popular among ambitious day hikers looking to summit 14,000 foot peaks or reach high alpine lakes. The trails in the Powderhorn Wilderness are used by day hikers, backpackers, equestrians, anglers, and hunters to experience solitude and unconfined recreation. Many of these trails are experiencing increasing visitor use (CFI Hiking Use Estimates). Increasing visitor use amplifies potential impacts on wildlife and trail conditions. While the GFO non-motorized trail crew has worked hard to maintain trails, there are certain sections that need more focused maintenance to prevent further user impacts. Without funding from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized trails grant program, the BLM will be challenged to keep up with the deferred and emerging maintenance needs on these robust trail systems.

STEWARDSHIP WORK PLAN

Describe the type of trail stewardship and the anticipated work plan your organization would perform if funded by this opportunity.

1. Hire a dedicated non-motorized stewardship crew of 4 to perform trail maintenance, prioritizing the Powderhorn Wilderness and Alpine Loop in the peak season. Early in the season, the focus will be to remove downfall and mitigate hazard trees. Moving forward, work will shift to improving tread conditions and drainage, as well as larger trail projects as needed.
2. Establish a trail maintenance inventory system using FieldMaps and ArcGIS. This will allow crew members to log conditions and create a baseline to identify greater concerns on these trails. This system will ensure this knowledge will stay in the office and not disappear in the off-season. A trail sustainability grade (A-F) will be assigned to each trail, allowing for work to be prioritized where it is most needed.
3. Provide education and interpretation opportunities to the public both in the field and at the front desk at our Gunnison Office. Topics include but are not limited to sustainable trail use, wildlife, trail and campground recommendations, and Leave No Trace Principles.

STEWARDSHIP CREW

Describe your current ability to hire and support trail crews who perform non-motorized trail maintenance.

In past summers, the GFO crew has worked Monday - Thursday, splitting time between maintaining and cleaning campgrounds and facilities with trail work. With CPW funding, the GFO will be able to expand to include a Monday-Thursday crew and a Thursday - Sunday crew as needed, increasing the capacity to work on priority trail projects and to provide agency presence during weekends. Without CPW non-motorized trail grant funding, the GFO would likely need multiple years to complete the priority projects. Each summer these projects go unaddressed, the trail maintenance backlog increases. The GFO non-motorized trail crew has the leadership and skill to make trail improvements for long-term sustainability, with help from CPW grant funding the GFO will be able to direct more resources towards deferred and emerging maintenance needs.

AREA OF IMPACT

Describe the importance of the trail system that would be positively impacted by this work to both the local community and the State of Colorado.

Public lands managed by the Gunnison Field Office, highlighted by our trail system, are a major tourism driver in Gunnison, Hinsdale, Ouray, and San Juan counties. Summer visitation to public lands is essential to the economies of these areas, and increasing the quality of our trail system will support the livelihood of these communities. Lake City, a town of 432, transforms into a busy tourist destination from May to September; primarily because of the access to public land it provides. Silverton experiences a similar influx of summer visitors. We work closely with our county partners to ensure a positive working relationship through our campground and trail maintenance as well as special events like the Hardrock 100 and San Juan Solstice 50.

A 2018 visitor use study showed that approximately half of visitors to the Alpine Triangle SRMA are from Colorado with robust visitation from neighboring states. Providing a quality experience on these trails and on our public lands gives residents and visitors a great resource for recreational opportunities.

Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

PROJECT BASICS

Title **2024 GFO Non-Motorized Trail Crew**

Type Construction Planning
 Maintenance Support

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

Brief summary

We are seeking funding to support a non-motorized trail stewardship crew to perform needed trail maintenance on our non-motorized trail system, with a focus on Wilderness trails. Maintenance objectives will range from corridor clearing, drainage, and trail inventory.

Grant request	\$ 77,580.00	Grant ratio ¹	63 %
Match	\$47,113.00	Match ratio	37 %
Total	\$124,693.00	Total	100 %

APPLICANT

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

Organization **Bureau of Land Management**

Postal address **2500 E New York Ave.**

City **Gunnison** State **CO** ZIP Code **81230**

General email **jlovelac@blm.gov** UEI # _____

Lead contact **James F. Lovelace** Title **Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner**

Telephone **(970) 642-4953** Email **jlovelac@blm.gov**

Project manager **Tim Malloy** Title **Park Ranger**

Telephone **(970) 642-4957** Email **tmalloy@blm.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 **Gunnison, Lake City, Silverton** County **Gunnison**

Latitude/Longitude **38.5458° N, 106.9253° W** Congressional district **3**

Name of property owner **Bureau of Land Management**

Trail Corridor controlled by Fee simple Lease Easement

License ROW Other: **BLM Public Lands**

TRAIL

Uses Hiking, walking, running Biking Equestrian

E-bikes allowed? Yes No Snow sports (non-motorized) ADA Accessible

Other:

Estimate percentage by type (e.g.,) 50% hiking, etc. **80% Hike/Horse, 20% Bike**

Surface Natural Crusher fines Asphalt Concrete

Other:

Size of new trailhead (sq. ft.) _____ Length of trail being planned _____

Length of new trail construction² _____ Length of trail maintenance **100 miles**

Length of inter-connecting trail _____ Length of trail reroute _____

Length of decommissioned trail _____ Length of restored trail _____

Length of trail to be signed _____ Length of trail grooming _____

Other: _____

Estimated amount of paid crew hours: Grant **3080** Match: **880**

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 **JAMES LOVELACE** Digitally signed by JAMES LOVELACE Date: 2023.10.02 15:40:49 -06'00' _____ Date _____

Name **James F. Lovelace** _____ Title **Supervisory ORP**

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



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Gunnison Field Office
2500 East New York Avenue
Gunnison, Colorado 81230

In Reply Refer To:
8300 (LLCOS06000)

September 22, 2023

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

Re: BLM Gunnison Field Office 2024 Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance Grant Request

Dear CPW Non-Motorized Grant Committee,

The Gunnison Field Office manages nearly 100 miles of non-motorized trails across Gunnison, Hinsdale, and San Juan Counties. These trail systems provide critical connections for the American Public to their public lands, and the increased maintenance of these trails will help to prevent damage to sensitive resources from increasing recreation pressures. This project aligns with BLM's use objectives that families now and into the future will have equitable opportunities to hunt, camp, fish, hike, and play on public lands and to do so in a sustainable matter. The Gunnison Field Office recreation staff has successfully performed trail clearing, maintenance, and visitor education for many years, however more dedicated trail maintenance is needed to ensure our trails are sustainable and safe and that agency presence can be provided during the busiest and most sensitive times.

We are grateful for the opportunity to seek funding for this additional work. If awarded, we will continue to provide good management of the crew and work collaboratively with partners and volunteers in service of the long-term sustainability of our trails. BLM has identified matching resources, both cash and in-kind services. The trail maintenance identified in this proposal is "shovel ready" and will have the full support of our Recreation Staff.

Additionally, this letter serves as confirmation that all work associated with this project will fall on Bureau of Land Management public lands managed by the Gunnison Field Office.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Jon F Kaminsky
Field Manager

Timeline

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION



PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Bureau of Land Management - Gunnison Field Office

Project title 2024 GFO Non-Motorized Trail Crew

TASK <small>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</small>	Dates*	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
Hire Trail Crew	Feb-Mar 24						
Crew Training		Apr-May 24					
Trail Inventory & Prioritization		Apr-May 24	Jun-Jul 24				
Seasonal Wildlife Closure Work		Apr-May 24					
Corridor Clearing		May 24	Jun-Jul 24	Aug 24			
Priority Wilderness & WSA maint.			Jun-Jul 24	Aug-Sept 24	Sept 24		
Signal Peak & Hartman Rock maint.		Apr-May 24			Sept 24	Oct-Nov 24	
End of Season Reporting							Oct-Nov 24
Administrative Close-out					Oct-Nov 24		

*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 Bureau of Land Management - Gunnison Field Office

Project title 2024 GFO Non-Motorized Trail Crew

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 GFO manages 658,000 acres, including over 100 miles of non-motorized trails. The proposed crew would be focused on addressing trail maintenance and inventory needs primarily on wilderness trails, which span two designated Wilderness areas and six wilderness study areas (WSAs) within the GFO comprising 124,000 acres. The GFO non-motorized trail crew will maintain Wilderness/WSA trails, as well as fishing access trails and non-motorized trails in the urban interface around Gunnison, CO. Specifically, the trails in the Powderhorn Wilderness and the Alpine Triangle Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) require annual corridor clearing due to significant downfall caused by the spruce beetle epidemic. A primary goal of this crew will be to generate a trail maintenance database that will document trail conditions to efficiently allocate resources to trail needs. All work in the Wilderness will be completed with primitive tools in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. In addition to these trail maintenance and inventory efforts, the crew would also work to map and treat invasive weeds and to assist with habitat restoration efforts.

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

With evolving needs due to increasing visitation and greater workloads in beetle kill forests, this funding would allow BLM to retain experienced rangers that have expertise and skills specific to the resource area. Returning rangers would enable BLM to clear trails earlier in the year and address lingering issues found in prior field seasons. Some trails have degraded due to the limited capacity to address more distant issues in the trail network, thus an inventory and monitoring assessment of all non-motorized trails will help define the scope of needs in "out years". The data would be used to quantify maintenance needs to inform a trail sustainability grade that would allow for targeted future action. Support will help BLM to offset increasing costs for services such as toilet pumping and facility upkeep, while allowing for employee retention at a fair wage and budget resiliency that would be dedicated to field labor and support.

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

At current funding levels rangers can address portions of the trail nearest to the trailhead during the workday, but frequently more work is needed on the remote sections of the trail system resulting in a condition of backlog. With support BLM can address this backlog through more overnight hitches in the wilderness resource, thereby extending our reach further into the backcountry.

This workload is often increased by infrequent natural phenomenon, such as avalanches or landslides, that can cover existing trail or destroy it entirely. A designated trail stewardship crew will develop a comprehensive trail database that records conditions in remote areas, which are largely unknown. This database will help to inform future maintenance efforts with partners like Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) and Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA).

2. COMMUNITY BENEFIT

15 points

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

The gateway communities to the Alpine Loop and the Powderhorn Wilderness: Lake City, Silverton, and Gunnison, would benefit from a non-motorized trail crew. Maintaining these trails would benefit all users; local residents and visitors alike. An Alpine Loop visitor use study conducted in 2018 shows that visitors came from all over the country, with the majority coming from CO and neighboring states. Many different types of visitors such as thru-hikers, peak baggers, hunters, anglers, day users and more will continue to utilize this trail system. These visitors will support the local economy through the purchase of supplies as well as lodging, food, and other activities when in town. These communities, specifically Lake City and Silverton are among the most remote towns in the nation, and depend on the revenue that recreational activities provide. The proposed trails stewardship crew would be able to increase the quality of the recreation experience on public lands which will directly contribute to the resiliency of the gateway communities by providing high quality recreation opportunities to public land visitors.

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

Hinsdale and San Juan Counties are identified as Disadvantaged Communities under Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment rubrics for water and sewer projects due to year-round residential statistics. Both counties' average median income is below the state of Colorado average; more than 2/3 of local students meet the economic qualifiers to receive Free and Reduced Lunch. Hinsdale County is part of a Rural Enhanced Enterprise Zone project of region 10.

Public lands, particularly opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation that are present in Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, draw residents as well as visitors from all socioeconomic backgrounds. While no legal access is being sought in this Stewardship funding cycle, non-motorized trail maintenance activities (including fishing access), route restoration, and invasive weed control would benefit wildlife habitat, recreation, as well as hunting and fishing opportunities and quality of life for local residents.

- 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.

Based on Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) data from 2022, 401,727 visitors used the Alpine Triangle SRMA. Users to this area engaged in a range of activities; many motorized users utilize non-motorized trails adjacent to motorized trailheads. An estimated 193,165 users visited our non-motorized trails in 2022. RMIS visitor use numbers are derived from TRAFx counters at area entrance points, trail logs, data from partners within gateway communities and field observations. Estimated visitation to the Powderhorn Wilderness in 2022 was 5,863. There has not been a comprehensive visitor use study in this area, thus this is likely understated. Users to both these areas include hikers, equestrians, hunters, anglers, commercial outfitters, researchers, and students. The current visitation estimate for the Powderhorn Wilderness is derived from outfitter post-use reports, trail logs, and field observations. We have experienced an upward trend in visitation annually, and expect that better maintained trails will provide a more sustainable trail system.

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.)

This non-motorized trail crew would have a Career Seasonal lead ranger that would begin the season in mid-Spring before the rest of the crew comes on board. This will allow the lead to plan trail maintenance projects in the spring prior to the field season. The lead will oversee trail maintenance and inventory, daily logs and reporting progress to CPW. There will be up to four members on the crew including the lead. Additionally, CYCA interns may support the crew to complete tasks. The data driven trail maintenance inventory system that the crew develops will lead to larger projects that would likely involve CYCA hand crews, VOC, and other partners. Funds will help pay for the crews travel to worksites in the backcountry or lodging for maintenance activities, leading to more efficient work. The ability to station crews in the backcountry will allow BLM to identify and address issues in remote regions of the trail system. This non-motorized trail crew would be cross-trained with the OHV crew to complete motorized work utilizing OHV funds, and vice-versa, thereby serving as a "force multiplier" for both crews. Park rangers with a wide range of skills will give crew members the ability to lead and assist on various tasks. This will also allow larger crews to be assembled in tandem for larger projects when needed, creating an efficient well-trained workforce that can be deployed across the Gunnison Resource Area. A broad skillset to conduct motorized and non-motorized work is a natural fit for the Gunnison Field Office with our variety of terrain and trails. This approach will provide enrichment for crew members and a varied experience going forward in their careers.

- B. Outline any CPW State Trails funding received in the last five years and if the project(s) were completed on time, on budget and within scope. For applicants without prior State Trails funding, provide examples of similar grant funded projects. Include project title, year of award, grant amount, and grantor for each.

The Gunnison Field Office has effectively managed Colorado Parks and Wildlife Motorized OHV trails grants for at least the past ten years. The GFO recreation program has demonstrated our ability to complete projects as described in the grant, maintain records of work performed and money spent, and complete grant close-outs in a timely and complete manner. The GFO has been awarded the following grants in recent years:

- 2023 "OHV Trail Crew 2023" Funding \$105,000, Grantor: CPW Motorized
- 2022 OHV Trail Crew 2022 Funding \$105,000, Grantor: CPW Motorized
- Trail Crew 2021 Funding \$85,000, Grantor: CPW Motorized
- Gunnison BLM OHV Trail Crew 2020 \$85,000, Grantor: CPW Motorized

4. PLANNING**10 points**

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

While GFO staff has worked hard to maintain trails, there are known sections that need more data collection and focused maintenance to prevent further user impacts. Specifically, fishing easement access points along Lake Fork of the Gunnison, and trail infrastructure in the remote reaches of the Powderhorn Wilderness and WSAs of the Alpine Triangle SRMA warrant attention. The BLM has struggled to keep up with the deferred and emerging maintenance needs on these robust non-motorized trail systems. This funding will specifically improve trail conditions in key areas that receive less attention, prevent social trails, help to protect wildlife habitat, and preserve public access to our trail systems.

Backlogged trail maintenance issues have been identified and prioritized by the BLM Gunnison Field Office Recreation Program. To help address these backlogged issues, a data driven trail maintenance inventory system will be created to help with establishing a baseline record, while assisting with the identification and prioritization of these issues. Planning to complete these priority projects has been discussed with relevant agency leadership, local boards of county commissioners, trail stewardship organizations, and local user groups.

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

The BLM Gunnison Field Office non-motorized trail crew would work to implement the planned trail system maintenance outlined in the following planning documents:

- BLM Gunnison Resource Management Plan (February 1993)
 - BLM Tres Rios Resource Management Plan (February, 2015)
 - Gunnison Basin Federal Lands Travel Management BLM Record of Decision (June 28, 2010)
 - Alpine Triangle Special Recreation Area Management Plan (September 30, 2010)
 - Hartman Rocks Special Recreation Area Management Plan (July 28, 2014)
 - Signal Peak Trail System Environmental Assessment (June, 2018)
-

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.)

Pending a successful 2024 season with the non-motorized crew, future crews will be building on the work completed. This will involve updating conditions within our trail maintenance inventory system which we will be implementing. This system will show past projects, current conditions, and future needs. The GFO has demonstrated our commitment to long term sustainability of the trails program in several ways. First, the GFO recreation program has successfully requested and managed a CPW OHV motorized grant for the past ten years. This shows that the GFO can identify projects, hire and train a crew, and perform the promised work. Second, the GFO recreation program recently hired two career-seasonal park rangers one to lead efforts to maintain facilities and manage the non-motorized trail system, and the other to lead the OHV crew. These positions were created to increase year-to-year continuity and institutional knowledge of our trail system and trail maintenance practices, and to oversee the trailwork identified in the respective grants. Third, the GFO has nurtured and maintained productive partnerships with Gunnison Trails, Western Colorado Conservation Corps, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, and Hardrock Hundred Endurance Run among other groups to perform trailwork on our extensive trail system. Together, our track record with completing grant funded projects and community support show that we have plans to ensure the sustainability of our non-motorized trails program into the future. If there are opportunities to apply for non-motorized funds in subsequent years the GFO will prepare further applications.

- 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.

Through assembling a trail maintenance database each trail will be given a sustainability grade (A-F), which will allow for objective progress to be tracked as trail conditions improve, with the goal of systematically increasing the grade of all trails in the system. This sustainability grade will be comprised of documented features on the ground including: entrenched sections of trail, erosive damage, social trails, undefined trail, and areas of exceptional resource damage. Built features will also be documented including: checksteps, bridges, drainages, turnpikes, retaining walls, and special structures. This data collection will allow for more precise planning and build institutional knowledge through the cataloging of maintenance needs and work completed.

An important part of the non-motorized trail crew's workload is implementing the 2010 Gunnison Basin Travel Management plan. The crew will monitor unsustainable routes identified in the Travel Management Plan as closed to motorized use and assist with signing trails for appropriate non-motorized use, closing problematic routes, and re-seeding to restore routes behind closures.

The GFO non-motorized trail crew is dedicated to best management practices for all aspects of trail maintenance. The BLM trail crew seasonal park rangers will participate in hands-on training to learn how to safely use tools as well as best practices for trail maintenance in a variety of ecological settings. The majority of the trails in the Alpine Triangle and the Powderhorn are in Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas and will be built and maintained with primitive tools.

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.

Trail systems that are functionally sustainable and purposefully managed for their intended uses benefit connected and distant habitats by keeping users on the trail, thus preventing habitat fragmentation, riparian impacts, and soil loss from braided routes. Early corridor clearing and inventory efforts followed by targeted maintenance will help to concentrate summer traffic on the designated tread surface and prevent negative impacts.

The non-motorized trail crew will also be helping to manage seasonal closures at Signal Peak and Hartman Rocks for wintering big game and Gunnison Sage-grouse. These closures are essential to Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation during the critical lekking period and prevent disturbance to big game species as they transition from winter. Trail closures for the protection of wintering big game mirror CPW's shed antler restrictions.

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

No issues were raised by CPW during consultation.

Stewardship crew work is proposed only for existing trails. The crew would be working to conserve Critical Habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse in the Gunnison Basin and Snow willow habitat where an Uncompahgre Fritillary Butterfly colony is present within the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

Species of Concern: Federally Listed T&E: Canada lynx (Threatened), Gunnison Sage-grouse (Threatened), Uncompahgre Fritillary Butterfly (Endangered), Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Threatened), Monarch Butterfly (Candidate). Tier 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, Burrowing Owl, Golden Eagle, Greater Sandhill Crane, Gunnison Sage-Grouse, Whitetailed ptarmigan, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Western Yellow-billing Cuckoo, American Pika, Fringed Myotis, Canada Lynx, Townsend Big-eared bat.

- 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.)

Trail maintenance is likely to create short-term disturbance to wildlife that may be present in the area. However, many of the existing non-motorized trails in the Gunnison Field Office have a high level of existing use and human disturbance is a baseline factor that already exists. Maintenance activities that create disturbance above what is baseline would be short-term. All projects would follow conservation measures identified in the BLM's NEPA and Section 7 Consultation for Federally listed species.

The crew will help to educate the public during critical spring time closures to protect Gunnison Sage-grouse (3/15-5/15) and wintering wildlife (1/1-5/1). These closures are well-signed and gated in the urban interface surrounding Gunnison.

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

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

On a programmatic level, the GFO conducted public engagement as part of each of the planning processes identified in section 4 of this grant application. The signed plans guiding this work include: BLM Gunnison Resource Management Plan (1993), Gunnison Basin Federal Lands Travel Management Plan (2010), Alpine Triangle Special Recreation Area Management Plan (2010), Hartman Rocks Special Recreation Area Management Plan (2014), and the Signal Peak Trail System Environmental Assessment (June, 2018). All of which require public engagement as a key element of the process.

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

The GFO works closely with Gunnison Trails and the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association, non-profit trail maintenance and education organizations in the urban interface surrounding the Gunnison Valley. These organizations networks of staff and volunteers provide important monitoring and feedback to the GFO on trail conditions, visitor use patterns, and identifying needed maintenance. They use their extensive email lists to advertise and recruit volunteers for larger trail projects to benefit the BLM trail system, including National Public Lands Day and Colorado Public Lands Day. A supporter of this project is the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee.

GFO will continue to engage partner groups and permittees to assist with maintenance efforts in our non-motorized trail system. Partnership with CYCA will be used to host larger scale trail maintenance projects, with potential for working with youth corps to provide educational and engaging experiences. Similarly, groups from VOC will likely be integrated on large scale trail projects to engage a broader breadth of the community.

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

There is no known opposition to this project. If opposition was to be presented, such as increasing access to lesser used areas, the GFO would educate the public about the BLM's mission and the rationale for why this work produces a positive outcome. While most BLM staff do not have law enforcement capability, we remain in close contact with our law enforcement officer, and frequently educate visitors on rules and regulations. BLM staff regularly employ the 'Authority of the Resource' Leave No Trace methodology to educate the public on Leave No Trace principles such as 'Minimize Campfire Impacts', 'Respect Wildlife', and 'Respect Other Visitors'; particularly during sensitive times such as fire bans and seasonal closures.

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 BLM Gunnison Field Office has resolved to commit funding from BLM's federally allocated maintenance budget to support labor for this project. This will allow crew members to provide regular annual and deferred maintenance to BLM facilities and developed campgrounds to round out their workweek and maximize efficiency. In addition to financial support, the BLM will support this project through project and planning leadership (Outdoor Recreation Planner time) and crew leadership and implementation (Career Seasonal Park Ranger time). Further, the BLM will provide in-kind support for the non-motorized trail crew in the form of vehicles, tools, training, uniforms, workspace, and supplies to support the work of the crew. In turn, funding for this project will free up funding for other essential services, such as toilet pumping and trash hauling.

- 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 the GFO will not be able to implement this non-motorized trail stewardship crew. This would keep maintenance at the status quo with annual trail work being focused on removing downfall from popular trails and other triage related items. The absence of this crew will propagate the condition of backlogged maintenance needs on the far reaches of the GFO's wilderness trails, potentially leading to more off route travel and safety concerns in these areas. Without the funding for this crew the instability and inefficiency caused by hiring new seasonal staff annually will continue, not giving opportunity for seasonal rangers to progress into more permanent roles. Without the retention of experienced employees, who have place based knowledge and housing opportunities in the community, the GFO is presented with an annual systematic challenge of recruiting and retaining quality park rangers.

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 2024 GFO Non-Motorized Trail Crew

Project Sponsor BLM Gunnison Field Office

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: Gunnison Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) (including Adoption of Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado) 1993; BLM Tres Rios RMP (2015)

Date of document: February 1993 (amended 2/97, 8/20, 12/08, 1/09, 8/11); February 2015

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

Title of document: DOI-BLM-CO-S060-2013-0014-CX

Date of document: 5/14/13

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: James Lovelace

Phone number: (719) 221-4751

Email: jlovelac@blm.gov

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

Land Manager's Name: Jon Kaminsky

Land Manager's Title Field Manager

Land Manager's Signature: Field Manager



Digitally signed by JON KAMINSKY
Date: 2023.09.22 12:14:23 -06'00'

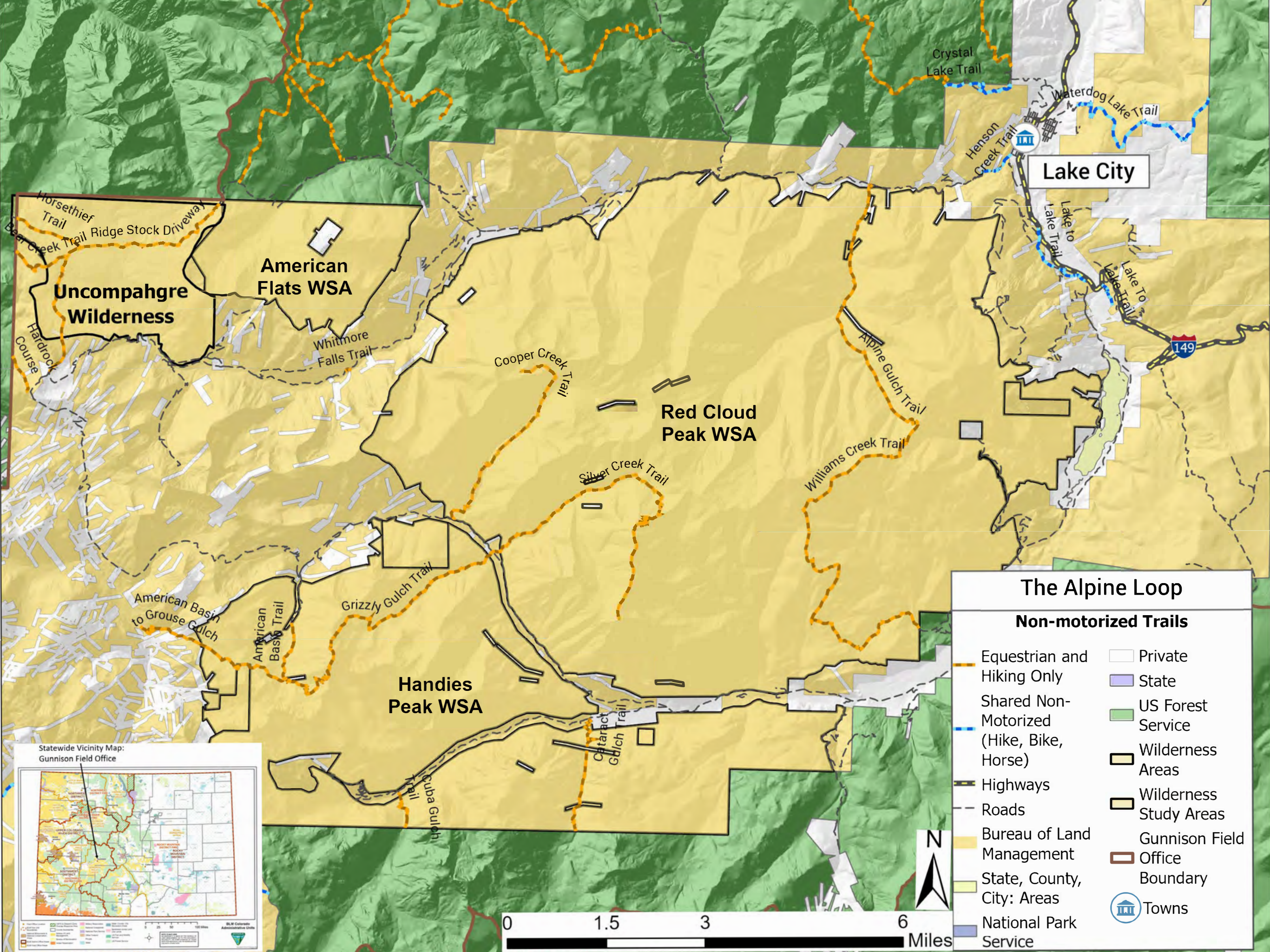
Project Budget



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT

Project details				Match details			
CPW Grant #				Source of match (organization)	Type	Date available	Amount
Organization	Bureau of Land Management			BLM Labor and Oversight (1660, 1220, 1210)	Cash	Oct-23	\$ 36,025.00
Project title	2024 GFO Non-Motorized Trail Crew			Volunteers (Hardrock, SJMA, Gunnison Trails,	In-Kind	May-23	\$ 11,088.00
Grant Request (auto populates)	\$ 77,580.00						
Local match	\$ 47,113.00	Min. Match	\$ 19,395.00				
Project Total	\$ 124,693.00					Match Total	\$ 47,113.00

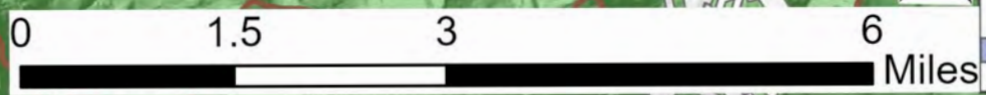
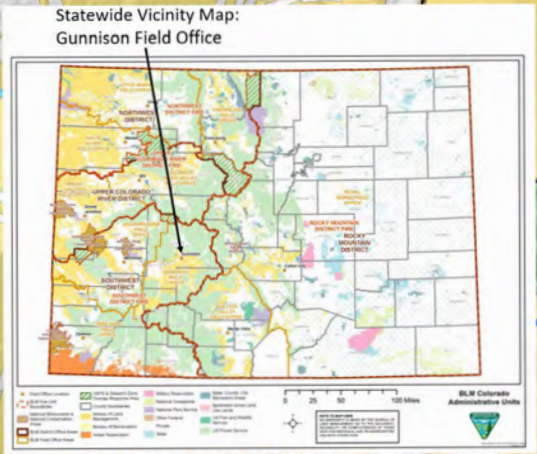
Description	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	CPW Grant	Local match	Balance
Contracted Services								
Volunteer hours (Hardrock, SJMA, Gunnison Trails)	360	hours	\$ 30.80	\$ 11,088.00	In-Kind		\$ 11,088.00	\$ -
Salary/Wages								
Non-Motorized Trail Crew Leader GS-7	1200	hours	\$ 25.00	\$ 30,000.00	Cash	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Non-Motorized Trail Crew Member GS-5	600	hours	\$ 23.88	\$ 14,328.00	Cash	\$ 14,328.00		\$ -
Non-Motorized Trail Crew Member GS-5	600	hours	\$ 23.88	\$ 14,328.00	Cash	\$ 14,328.00		\$ -
Non-Motorized Trail Crew Member GS-5	600	hours	\$ 23.88	\$ 11,462.00	Cash	\$ 11,462.00		\$ -
Front Desk Staff	600	hours	\$ 23.88	\$ 11,462.00	Cash	\$ 11,462.00		\$ -
GS-11 Program Oversight	240	hours	\$ 35.00	\$ 8,400.00	Cash		\$ 8,400.00	
Non-Motorized Trail Crew Member GS-7	240	hours	\$ 25.00	\$ 6,000.00	Cash		\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
Materials/Supplies								
Hand tools (Silky Saws)	4	each	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00	Cash	\$ 1,000.00		\$ -
PPE and supplies	5	sets	\$ 225.00	\$ 1,125.00	Cash		\$ 1,125.00	\$ -
Additional Categories								
Vehicle I-429544	240	days	\$25	\$ 6,000.00	Cash		\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
Crew Travel		perdiem	\$40	\$ 5,000.00	Cash	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -
Vehicle I-423136	180	days	\$ 25.00	\$ 4,500.00	Cash		\$ 4,500.00	\$ -
TOTAL				\$ 124,693.00		\$ 77,580.00	\$ 47,113.00	

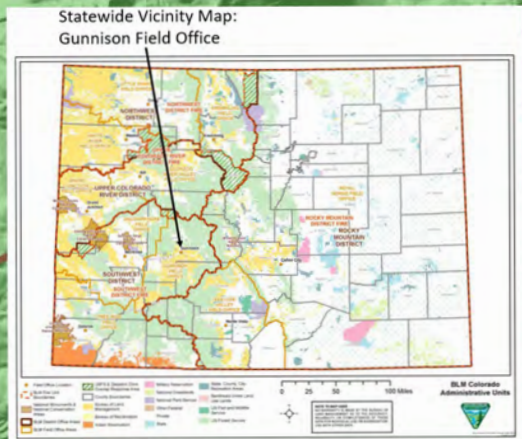
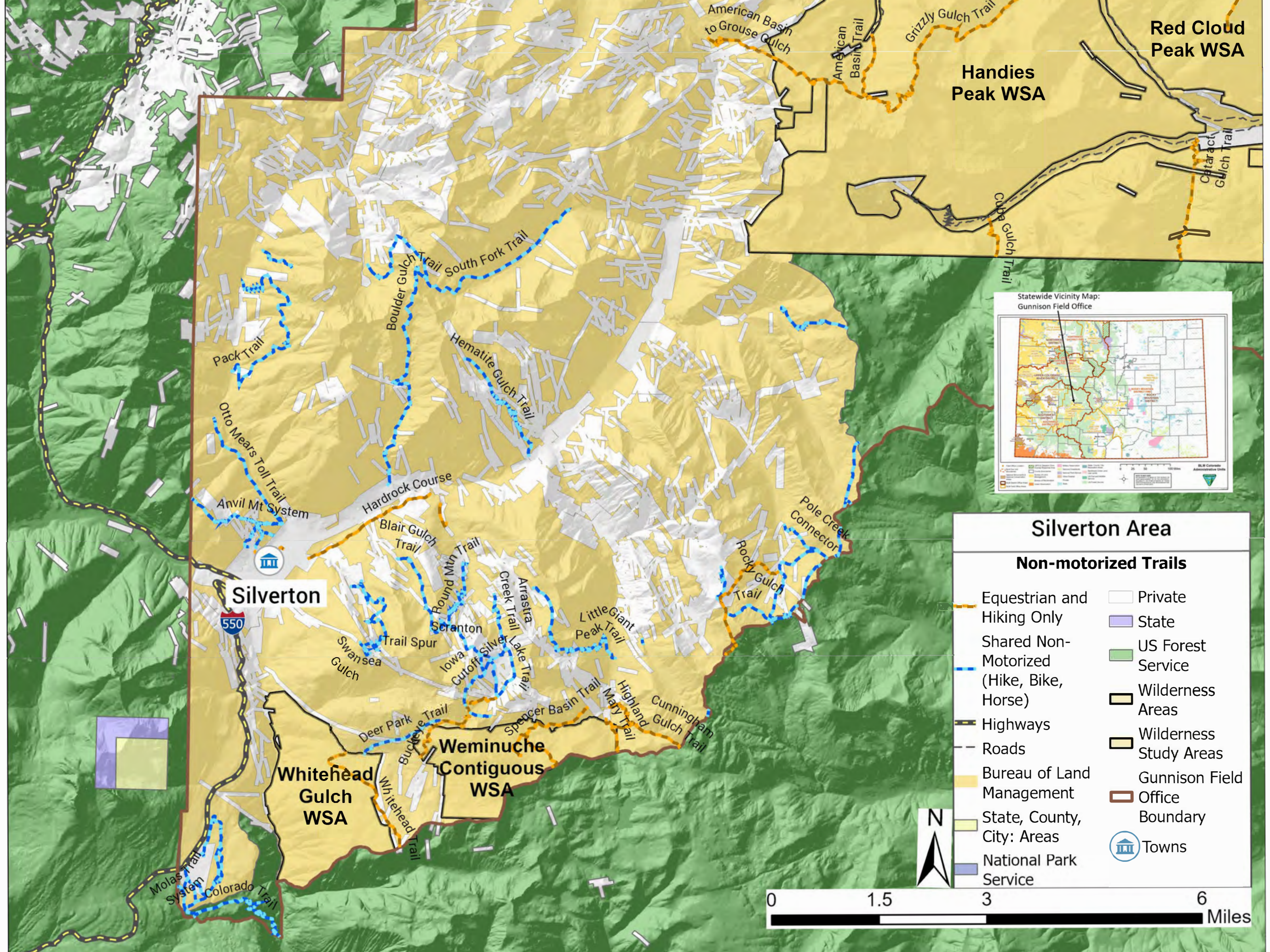


The Alpine Loop

Non-motorized Trails

Equestrian and Hiking Only	Private
Shared Non-Motorized (Hike, Bike, Horse)	State
Highways	US Forest Service
Roads	Wilderness Areas
Bureau of Land Management	Wilderness Study Areas
State, County, City: Areas	Gunnison Field Office Boundary
National Park Service	Towns





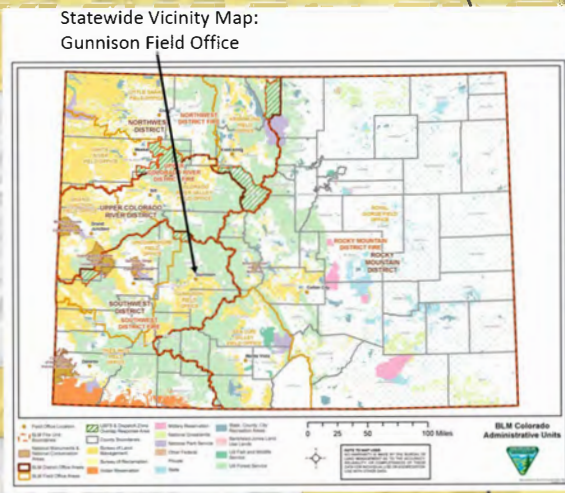
Silverton Area

Non-motorized Trails

Equestrian and Hiking Only	Private
Shared Non-Motorized (Hike, Bike, Horse)	State
Highways	US Forest Service
Roads	Wilderness Areas
Bureau of Land Management	Wilderness Study Areas
State, County, City: Areas	Gunnison Field Office Boundary
National Park Service	Towns

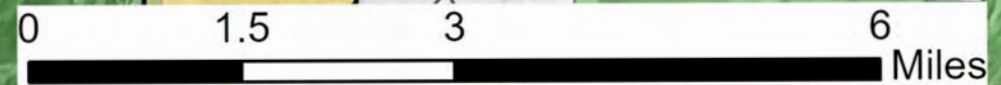
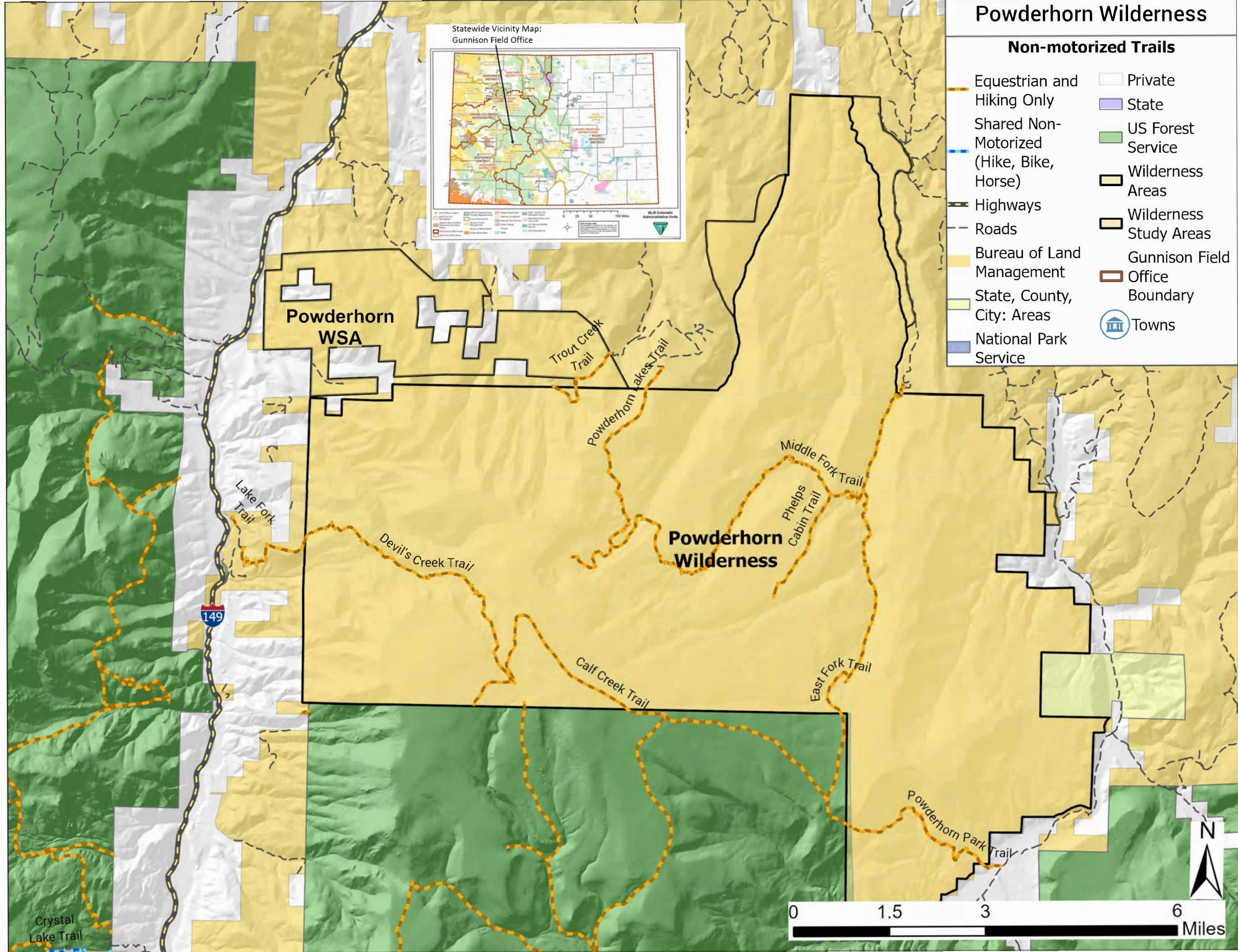


Powderhorn Wilderness













Non-motorized Trails

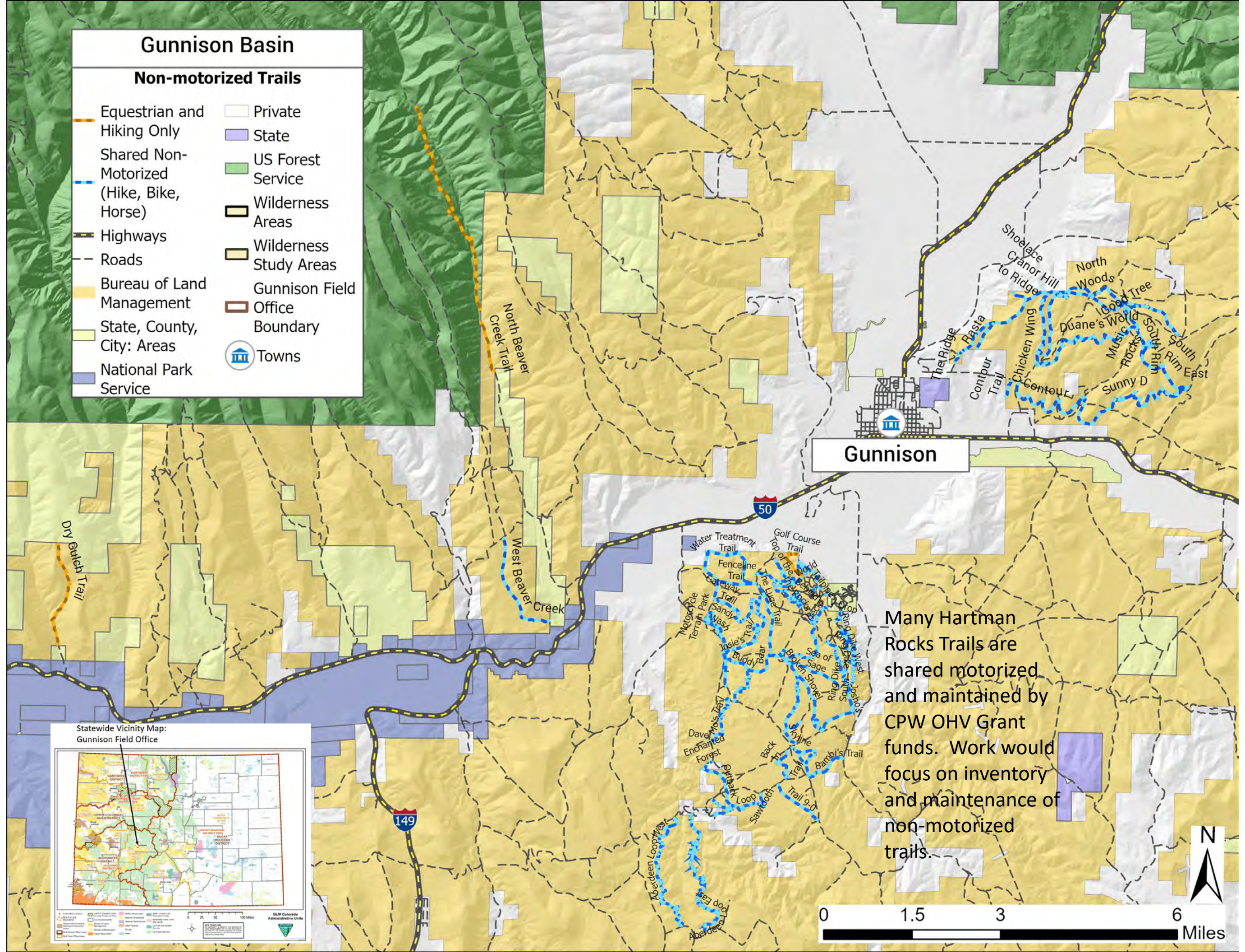
- Equestrian and Hiking Only
- Shared Non-Motorized (Hike, Bike, Horse)
- Highways
- Roads
- Bureau of Land Management
- State, County, City: Areas
- National Park Service
- Private
- State
- US Forest Service
- Wilderness Areas
- Wilderness Study Areas
- Gunnison Field Office Boundary
- Towns



Gunnison Basin

Non-motorized Trails

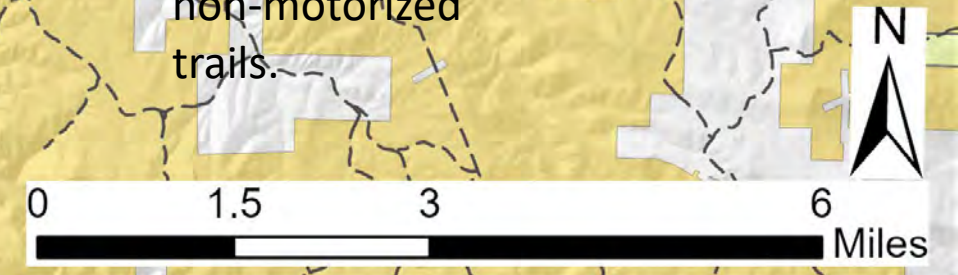
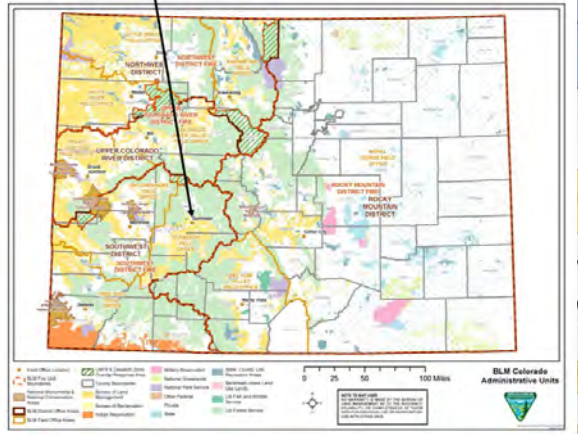
-  Equestrian and Hiking Only
-  Shared Non-Motorized (Hike, Bike, Horse)
-  Highways
-  Roads
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  State, County, City: Areas
-  National Park Service
-  Private
-  State
-  US Forest Service
-  Wilderness Areas
-  Wilderness Study Areas
-  Gunnison Field Office
-  Office Boundary
-  Towns



Gunnison

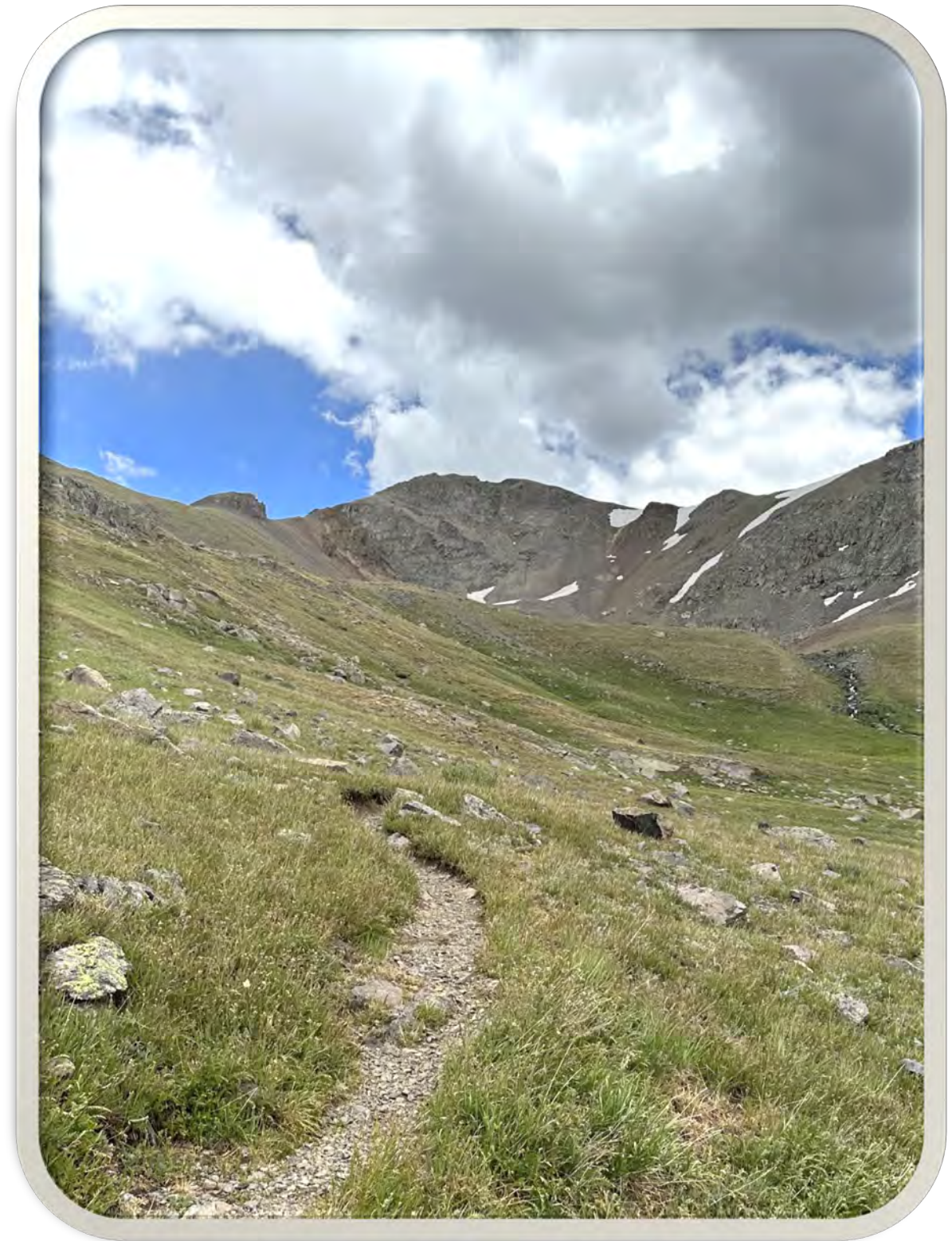
Many Hartman Rocks Trails are shared motorized and maintained by CPW OHV Grant funds. Work would focus on inventory and maintenance of non-motorized trails.

Statewide Vicinity Map: Gunnison Field Office

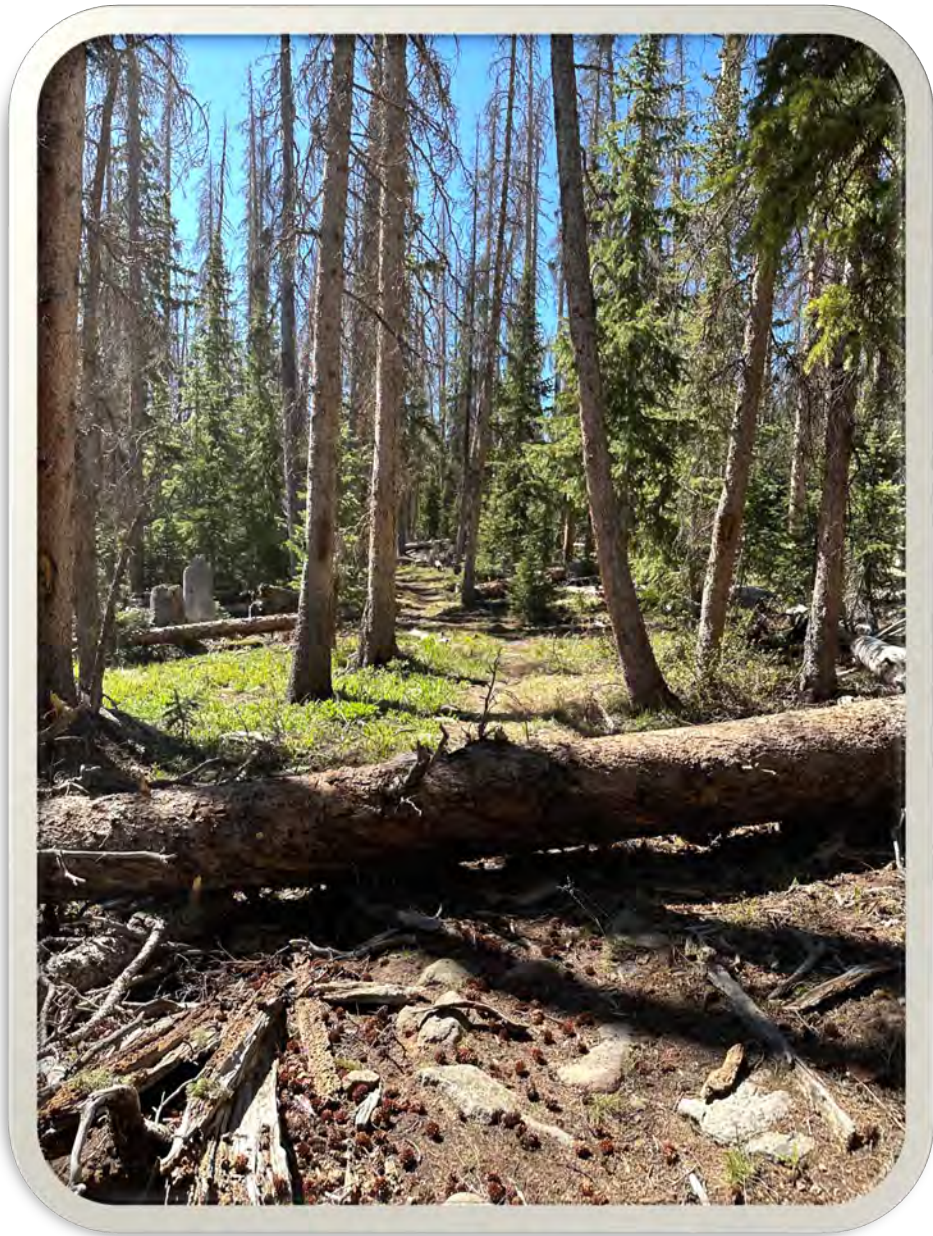




Stands of dead trees between upper and lower Powderhorn Lakes.



Left: Example of downfall and tree mortality in the Powderhorn Wilderness. Above: Example of entrenchment developing on the Grouse Gulch Trail - in need of check steps and drains.





October 2, 2023

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

Re: Letter of Support for Gunnison Field Office Non-Motorized Trails Grant

Dear CPW Non-Motorized Grant Committee,

The Gunnison County Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee would like to share our support for the BLM Gunnison Field Office's Non-Motorized trail maintenance grant application.

With increasing visitation to Gunnison County and surrounding public lands, dedicated trail maintenance is more important than ever. This grant will help the BLM Gunnison Non-Motorized trail crew maintain our diverse network of trails and educate visitors on responsible recreation.

The BLM Gunnison Field Office manages nearly 100 miles of non-motorized trails, including trails in the fragile alpine tundra. Ongoing maintenance of the non-motorized trail system is integral to upholding the highest quality stewardship of natural and cultural resources on our public lands. This grant will enable the crew to complete priority projects on non-motorized trails including building drainage structures and stringer bridges to improve trail sustainability and minimize impacts on streams, installing new signs, corridor clearing, and other necessary maintenance projects.

In addition to supporting sustainability, we recognize the important work the BLM Gunnison Field Office trails crew performs supports a high-quality visitor experience. The trail crew works to increase public access and way-finding on public lands, helps provide for visitor safety, and to support recreational opportunities. The trail crew members are friendly and helpful to trail users; providing education to the public on leave no trace, wildlife, and area history.

Public lands and trails are a valuable component of our community's recreation offerings. We encourage the State Trails grant committee to consider the BLM Gunnison Field Office Non-

Motorized Trail Crew Grant Proposal to support the maintenance of these trails during the 2024 summer season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jake Jones', written in a cursive style.

Jake Jones, STOR Committee Chair

About the STOR Committee

The STOR Committee is a community coalition, created by the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners to improve and maintain tourism and outdoor recreation in a manner that is sustainable (environmentally, socially, and financially) and aligns with community values. The committee is structured to be a wide-ranging group that acts thoughtfully, efficiently, and proactively to address negative impacts and develops unique approaches to create a sustainable tourism economy and outdoor recreation experience while preserving the natural resources of Gunnison County.

Committee representation includes municipalities, non-profit organizations, agricultural groups, and land management agencies, among others. In some cases, individual STOR Committee members may refrain from supporting an issue due to potential or perceived conflicts of interest. This letter represents a consensus opinion of the STOR Committee, but it may not reflect unanimity.



SAN JUAN COUNTY COLORADO

1557 GREENE STREET

P.O. BOX 466

SILVERTON, COLORADO 81433

PHONE/FAX 970-387-5766 sanjuancounty@frontier.net

September 13, 2023

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

Dear CPW Non-Motorized Grant Committee:

San Juan County would like to express our strong support for the BLM Gunnison Field Office's Non-Motorized trail maintenance grant application.

With the ever-increasing visitation to San Juan County and surrounding public lands, dedicated trail maintenance is more important than ever. This grant will help the BLM Gunnison Non-Motorized trail crew maintain our diverse network of trails and help to educate visitors on how to recreate responsibly.

The BLM Gunnison Field Office manages nearly 100 miles of non-motorized trails, including trails in the fragile alpine tundra. Ongoing maintenance of the non-motorized trail system is integral to upholding the highest quality stewardship of natural and cultural resources on our public lands. This grant will enable the crew to complete priority projects on non-motorized trails including building drainage structures and stringer bridges to improve trail sustainability and minimize impacts on streams, installing new signs, corridor clearing, and other necessary maintenance projects.

In addition to supporting sustainability, we recognize the important work the BLM Gunnison Field Office trails crew performs supports a high-quality visitor experience. The trail crew works to increase public access and wayfinding on public lands, helps provide for visitor safety, and to support recreational opportunities. The trail crew members are friendly and helpful to trail users, providing education to the public on leave no trace, wildlife, and area history.

Public lands and trails are a critical component of our community's recreation offerings. They are an asset enjoyed both by our residents and our visitors. We ask that the State Trails grant committee give the utmost consideration to the BLM Gunnison Field Office Non-Motorized Trail Crew Grant Proposal to support the maintenance of these trails during the 2024 summer season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Austin Lashley', is positioned above the printed name.

Austin Lashley, Chairman
San Juan County Commissioners



311 N. Henson St. Lake City, Colorado 81235 970-944-2225 www.hinsdalecountycolorado.us

September 20, 2023

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

Dear CPW Non-Motorized Grant Committee,

Hinsdale County would like to share our support for the BLM Gunnison Field Office's Non-Motorized trail maintenance grant application.

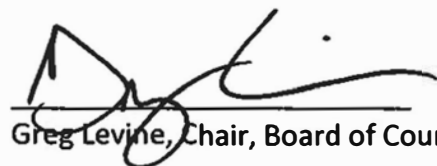
With increasing visitation to Hinsdale County and surrounding public lands, dedicated trail maintenance is more important than ever. This grant will help the BLM Gunnison Non-Motorized trail crew maintain our diverse network of trails and educate visitors on responsible recreation.

The BLM Gunnison Field Office manages nearly 100 miles of non-motorized trails, including trails in the fragile alpine tundra. Ongoing maintenance of the non-motorized trail system is integral to upholding the highest quality stewardship of natural and cultural resources on our public lands. This grant will enable the crew to complete priority projects on non-motorized trails including building drainage structures and stringer bridges to improve trail sustainability and minimize impacts on streams, installing new signs, corridor clearing, and other necessary maintenance projects.

In addition to supporting sustainability, we recognize the important work the BLM Gunnison Field Office trails crew performs supports a high-quality visitor experience. The trail crew works to increase public access and way-finding on public lands, helps provide for visitor safety, and to support recreational opportunities. The trail crew members are friendly and helpful to trail users; providing education to the public on Leave No Trace, wildlife, and area history.

Public lands and trails are a valuable component of our community's recreation offerings. We encourage the State Trails grant committee to consider the BLM Gunnison Field Office Non-Motorized Trail Crew Grant Proposal to support the maintenance of these trails during the 2024 summer season.

Sincerely,



Greg Levine, Chair, Board of County Commissioners

Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Bureau of Land Management - Gunnison Field Office

Project title 2024 GFO Non-Motorized Trail Crew

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 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: **Western Colorado Conservation Corps**
15. Volunteers will be utilized on the project
Name of organization: **various: Hardrock 100, SJMA, Gunnison Trails**

*Must be completed prior to application presentations in January.