

# 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](mailto:trails@state.co.us) by October 3, 2023.

## APPLICANT

Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Manager	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit
Organization		
Postal address		
City	State	CO ZIP Code
Contact name		
Contact email	Phone	

## FUNDING

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

## STEWARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Why is this program a good fit for your organization?

## STEWARDSHIP WORK PLAN

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

## STEWARDSHIP CREW

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

## 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.

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# Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

## PROJECT BASICS

Title SJMA Rio Grande National Forest Trail Stewardship Crew

Type  Construction  Planning  
 Maintenance  Support

Phased project  Yes  No If yes, Phase # of

Brief summary

SJMA will recruit, hire, train and mobilize a four person crew to work alongside USFS staff to improve trail access primarily to the Weiminuche Wilderness. The primary focus is clearing logs resulting from beetle kill and wildfire, and associated tread and drainage improvement.

Grant request	\$ 71,499.75	Grant ratio <sup>1</sup>	77 %
Match	\$ 21,505.60	Match ratio	23 %
Total	\$ 93,005.35	Total	100 %

## APPLICANT

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

Organization San Juan Mountains Association

Postal address 15 Burnett Ct, PO Box 2261

City Durango State CO ZIP Code 81301

General email info@sjma.org UEI # QGBDJHME7W14

Lead contact Stephanie Weber Title Executive Director

Telephone (970) 769-1800 Email sweber@sma.org

Project manager Meghann Burke Title Stewardship Program Manager

Telephone (908) 797-7214 Email mburke@sjma.org

## PARTNER OR CO-SPONSOR

Organization Rio Grande National Forest Divide Ranger District  N/A

Postal address 13308 US-160

City Del Norte, CO State CO ZIP Code 81132

Contact name Tanner Dutton Title Recreation Lead

Telephone (719) 849-8040 Email tanner.m.dutton@usda.gov

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

PROPERTY			
Nearest town or city	Creede, CO	County	Mineral
Latitude/Longitude	37.8492° N, 106.9264° W	Congressional district	3
Name of property owner	USDA Forest Service Rio Grande National Forest		
Trail Corridor controlled by	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee simple	<input type="checkbox"/> Lease	<input type="checkbox"/> Easement
	<input type="checkbox"/> License	<input type="checkbox"/> ROW	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

TRAIL			
Uses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking, walking, running	<input type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
E-bikes allowed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snow sports (non-motorized)
	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Hunting, Fishing		
Estimate percentage by type (e.g.,) 50% hiking, etc.	40% hiking, 20% equestrian, 40% hunting and		
Surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Size of new trailhead (sq. ft.)	Length of trail being planned		
Length of new trail construction <sup>2</sup>	Length of trail maintenance	112	
Length of inter-connecting trail	Length of trail reroute		
Length of decommissioned trail	Length of restored trail	2000 linear ft	
Length of trail to be signed	Length of trail grooming		
Other: Corridor Clearing	5000 linear feet		
Estimated amount of paid crew hours:	Grant 2280	Match: 160	

### 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	Stephanie L Weber <small>Digitally signed by Stephanie L Weber Date: 2023.10.01 15:08:12 -06'00'</small>	Date	10/01/2023
Name	Stephanie Weber	Title	Executive Director

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





# Criteria Questions



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

Organization San Juan Mountains Association

Project title SJMA Rio Grande National Forest Trail Stewardship 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 San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) Wilderness Stewardship crew in partnership with the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) is dedicated to promoting stewardship of and accessibility to our public lands. Building on momentum from the last few seasons of partnership, SJMA and RGNF will continue to expand access by addressing ongoing maintenance needs across nineteen non-motorized trails spanning 112.28 miles in the DRD. The crew's number one priority is to promote access into the Weminuche Wilderness by clearing logs and deadfall from trails with crosscut saws. In addition to saw work, other trail enhancing priorities will be conducted such as tread work, brushing, drainage, wayfinding, and signage. Trails identified for clearing in 2024 are access points to the Wheeler Geographical area, Weminuche Wilderness, the Continental Divide Trail, and the La-Garita Wilderness. The four-person SJMA Wilderness Stewardship crew will be Crosscut saw certified, Wilderness First aid certified and operate for 15 weeks on this project.

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

Over the last few years, a large number of DRD trails have been rendered impassable due to fallen logs blocking the trails. We have encountered up to 50 fallen trees across just one mile of trail. Major contributors to these conditions are significant beetle kill trees and the 2013 West Fork Fire Complex. These factors create deadfall and hazards resulting in many of the trails becoming too dangerous to navigate. Clearing these trails is imperative to allow recreationists of all capabilities and interests access to some spectacular landscapes while promoting the local economy which is largely supported by tourism and local recreationists. Following a successful 2023 season of SJMA/RGNF partnership in clearing trails on the Divide District, both parties are committed to continuing this effort to improve access, conditions, and safety for trail users. This project will provide, designated, safer passages where people may travel uninhibited and be more likely to stay on trail, while reducing erosion.

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

The combination of drought stricken, beetle kill trees and the 2013 West Fork Fire Complex devastated large portions of the DRD forest and associated recreation resources during the last decade. This has resulted in a maintenance gap due to the sheer scope of the issue. The large number of recurring downed trees on this trail system has created an exhaustive, formidable and ongoing challenge for recreation managers. In some areas, navigation challenges and trail braiding are occurring due to recreationists trying to navigate fallen trees. Drainage alteration and tread damage has occurred on many of the trails in response to contributing factors such as runoff in burn scar areas and overgrowth of vegetation from lack of use due to difficult trail conditions. Hiring challenges in the wake of COVID-19 have compounded management of these issues.

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

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

As a gateway to the San Juan Mountains, Del Norte, Creede, and South Fork are small towns that rely on tourism and forest access as a large economic driver. Similar to other towns in the DRD, Del Norte, established as a mining town in 1871, has a fascinating evolution shifting from the mining boom of the past into a recreation haven for all demographics. Recreators include hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, climbers, and backpackers as well as hunters and anglers, skiers, snowboarders, and snowmobilers. Del Norte's population of 1,509 and a median household income of \$31,595 (2020 US census data) mean visitors coming to recreate and utilize lodging in the town have a huge effect on the economy as 10.8 % of the population is employed by service and retail trade related jobs (US census data). Therefore, keeping the forest trails maintained, accessible, clear of logs and debris is a vital aspect for recreationists safely enjoying their time in the forest. Quality experiences encourage repeat visitors and new users to the area- providing Del Norte as well as the other small towns of similar demographics such as Creede and South Fork with stable economic growth in the coming years.

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

This project will promote access to the Weminuche Wilderness and San Juan Mountains for both locals and visitors while improving the safety and overall positive experience across 19 individual trails. The number one priority of the SJMA Trail Stewardship Crew is to clear a significant number of downed logs which are a formidable barrier to recreational access. Many of the trails outlined for maintenance in this proposal are multi-purpose, utilized by equestrians, hikers, backpackers, hunters, anglers and winter sports enthusiasts. This project will increase public access, affording many different user types unrestricted trail access. Access to points along the Continental Divide Trail will be reestablished and improved to create positive user experiences. By removing downed trees, this project will encourage users to stay on the trails, reducing undesirable impacts such as navigation challenges, erosion, and trail braiding.

- 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.

Multiple different user groups will have increased recreational opportunities due to this project, including hikers, bikers, campers, hunters, anglers, equestrians, backpackers, cross country skiers, snowshoers, and backcountry skiers. The RGNF does not have a current visitor monitoring system to capture annual visitor days, so it is difficult to identify exactly how many people this project will benefit.

### 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.)

Close partnership and coordination with recreation staff at the Divide Ranger District are pillars of this project. USFS staff have identified a 2024 work plan which includes trail locations and timing displayed in this proposal.

The trail maintenance described in this proposal will be performed by SJMA paid seasonal staff recruited, hired on, and trained by SJMA in collaboration with agency partners. Mimicking our successful 2023 model on the Divide District, the SJMA crew will work alongside 1-2 Rio Grande Forest Service personnel in the field on either 4 day or 8 day backcountry hitches. SJMA's crew leader will work in conjunction with the USFS personnel to create a positive and effective team dynamic, assure safety, productivity, backcountry navigation, and data collection. Oversight of the project will be a collaborative effort of the RGNF Trails and Mountain Sport Specialist Bryce Hofmann, the Recreation Lead, Tanner Dutton, and SJMA's Stewardship Program Manager Meg Burke, with support from the SJMA Associate Director.

San Juan Backcountry Horsemen have pledged horsepacking support as in-kind match to support several remote projects, and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado is interested in collaborating with SJMA and the Divide RD to provide crosscut certified volunteers to assist on at least one project. SJMA also operates an outstanding volunteer program in which we encourage volunteers to join our wilderness stewardship crews out on the trail once they are crosscut saw certified.

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

1. Enhancing the recreation experience and engaging the public across Southwest Colorado's BLM Lands L23AS00199: 2023 (5 year agreement), \$66,928 (year one), BLM Colorado
2. SJMA Wilderness Crew 20-CS-11020900-025: 2020 \$24,000, 2022 \$45,500, 2023 \$44,000, USDA Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest.
3. RGNF Wilderness Trail Stewardship CP-210: 2023 \$9000, National Forest Foundation Wolf Creek Ski Conservation Fund.
4. Gateway to the 14ers Stewardship Project: 2022: \$11,400 Athletic Brewing, Two For the Trails \$11,400 +Four Corners Backcountry Horsemen matching contribution: 2022, \$11,400
5. Crown of the San Juans Project: 2022 \$22,000 Telluray Foundation
6. Wilderness Stewardship Programs 22-CS-11021300-041: 2022 \$131,883, USDA Forest Service San Juan National Forest
7. San Juan Mountains Association Shared Stewardship Programs 21-CS-11021300-038: 2021 \$82,000, 2022 \$110,375, 2023 \$168,000, USDA Forest Service San Juan National Forest
8. San Juan County Public Lands Stewardship and Visitor Education Project: 2021 \$260,200, Great Outdoors Colorado Resilient Communities (via San Juan County)

#### 4. PLANNING

10 points

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

The backlog of trail work since the 2013 West Fork Fire Complex and ongoing beetle kill have resulted in the trails in the project area not receiving enough regular maintenance. Area trails provide important access points to the Continental Divide trail and the Weminuche Wilderness as well as playing a vital role as connector trails to other popular destinations; however, the challenges associated with access and safety have discouraged recreational use. This work is essential to keeping area trails open, safe, and operational for recreational use for years to come. RGNF Trails and Mountain Sport Specialist Bryce Hoffmann has prioritized the listed non motorized trails in order to promote increased and ongoing access for recreationists.

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

2020 Rio Grande National Forest Land Management Plan (Decision 5/11/2020)

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**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.)

Trail maintenance is a dynamic ever evolving challenge- especially in burn areas and beetle infested forests. Due to the nature of the area the project is located in, it will be an ongoing process to keep the trails open and accessible. With beetle kill progressing and storms regularly knocking the vulnerable trees down, seasonal trail crews will be consistently needed to keep open trail access. SJMA plans to continue our wilderness stewardship crew program through a variety of grants, federal funding and in-kind donations throughout the future of the program. As the teams make progress and the trails are accessible and used more frequently we hope that future crews can move more quickly to clear project areas and expand their trail coverage to increase public access in other areas of the forest.

As SJMA expands our volunteer capacity to RGNF, along with viable partnerships with organizations such as the Colorado Trail Foundation, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and San Juan Backcountry Horsemen, we expect to engage more people in this effort over time, resulting in an increased workforce and cost savings to complete future access improvements on RGNF.

- 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.

Our crews will be crosscut saw certified in order to be able to safely identify and remove problem trees of a complex nature. The crews will also engage in a trail maintenance training put on by forest service employees. This training will address all basic trail maintenance techniques and safety. Proper training will enable the crew to look at the trail and its challenges then devise and execute a plan of action to improve the trail and implement best practices to improve the trails overall sustainability. The team working alongside experienced Forest Service personnel will have the knowledge and capability to improve conditions including brushing, treadwork, trail rehabilitation, social trail obliteration, and drainage which contribute to a trail's sustainability.

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**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.

Through submission of the Trail Stewardship Interest Form, we have submitted maps and a written scope of the project to the area 17 CPW Wildlife Manager Rick Bassagoilia and have not been notified of any concerns with this project at the time this application was submitted. All of our crews and staff adhere to following Leave No Trace (LNT) practices and are aware of and follow all forest regulations. Our crew is trained in effective public engagement to share LNT principles, and encourage responsible recreation. We strive to keep our footprint as minimal as possible and ensure we leave the smallest impact possible in the areas we work. Our team will be on the move constantly, similar to a horsepacking or backpacking user group, and will not remain in one area for a lengthy period of time. Crosscut saws provide a minimal noise impact to wildlife in comparison to chainsaw use. Therefore, we expect the impact to wildlife from this trail maintenance project would be minimal.

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

As of the writing of this narrative and time of grant submission we have received no notice of potential issues concerning wildlife or natural resources. Since our crew is small and mobile and we are not constructing new trails or rerouting trails we anticipate no formable negative impact in the project area. If an issue or concern should arise we would work with any entities to mitigate the concern before moving forward with the project as planned.

- 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.)

Our crews work in a wilderness environment. Therefore no motorized or mechanized tools or travel will be utilized. Our crew will be trained and practice Leave No Trace on a professional and personal level. Our crew would respect any seasonal closures and redefine the project outline to incorporate any such closures. Since our number one priority is removing deadfall and logs with crosscut saws to promote access we feel there would be minimal disturbance to wildlife or natural resources.

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

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

As the RGNF Land Management Plan came to fruition (2020) there was a mandatory public comment period conducted during the NEPA process. Beyond this there has been no specific public engagement regarding the DRD trail maintenance, though the general public perception seems to be in favor of continuing to improve conditions, safety, and restore access to area trails.

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

SJMA's ongoing partnership with the RGNF through our Visitor Information Services staff and our Stewardship Programs, including crew work and volunteer efforts, provide a conduit for improved conditions and sharing of information to the public on these improvements in an ongoing fashion. RGNF also provides bunk housing for SJMA staff (for a nominal per-night fee), collaborates on crew travel and transportation with USFS vehicles, provides equipment and support, as well as training, management, and oversight contributions. San Juan Back Country Horsemen has verbally communicated commitment to the 2024 project through both cash and in-kind services for horsepacking USFS and SJMA crews to projects deeper in the DRD. This will provide efficiencies for base camp set up, equipment transportation and improve outcomes for projects requiring lengthy access mileage. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado is interested in collaborating with SJMA and RGNF on a volunteer crosscut project in 2024 to complement this proposal. SJMA leverages grant and federal funds with donations and in-kind services including housing costs, training locations, outdoor gear shop discounts and more.

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

The proposed work will be a continuation of the trail clearing project on the RGNF which did not incite any opposition. We do not foresee any possible opposition to the clearing of trails in the DRD- to the contrary, we expect positive public support, similar to that experienced through over 300 public contacts our Stewardship Crew made in 2023. Should this project face any opposition, SJMA staff would report this immediately to the correct agency personnel.



**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.

San Juan Backcountry Horsemen have verbally committed and internally approved a \$5,000 cash contribution to this project upon a CPW award. They have also committed to assisting through an estimated 192 hours of in-kind horsepacking support for multiple trail locations.

SJMA In-kind includes the Executive Director, Operations Director, and Associate Director's time spent on leveraging funding, sponsorships, member and donor engagement, agency coordination, partner development, recruitment and hiring operations, training support, and Program Manager support/supervision. This commitment would be secured and effective upon award of CPW funds.

From the time of submission of this proposal, SJMA will continue to seek additional funding to lengthen the season of our stewardship crew. A primary source we hope to secure is through funding allocation from the RGNF, however at the time of proposal development this remains an unknown. Additional grants, such as the National Forest Foundation Wolf Creek Ski Conservation Fund may provide additional support as it did in our 2023 work season, however this cannot be confirmed at this time. It is our intention to further leverage CPW funding and to enhance access improvements on RGNF through a longer crew season, matching the late October end date that RGNF wilderness staff currently operate under.

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

The primary consequence of an unsuccessful application would be on the landscape and the inability of recreationists to access DRD trails in 2024, along with associated economic impacts to local towns and communities. SJMA would be unable to support seasonal staff and unable to develop the next generation of conservation stewards through this program. Stewardship seasonal staff intending to return to this position from the 2023 season may have to find employment elsewhere.

Evolving partnerships with San Juan Backcountry Horsemen, Colorado Trail Foundation and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado may suffer, reducing momentum for volunteers and leveraged resources for trail projects in the future.

While SJMA and RGNF would work to secure alternative funding to continue the project on the DRD, we may be unsuccessful. Depending on alternate funding available this may result in a decreased size and scope for the project including a more limited crew size, a shortened season or a shelved project and stalled relationships with RGNF during 2024.

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

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

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Project Name SJMA RGNF Trail Stewardship Crew

Project Sponsor Divide Ranger District, RGNF

**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: 2020 Rio Grande National Forest Land Management Plan

Date of document: 5/11/2020

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

Title of document: N/A

Date of document: N/A

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

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

N/A

Name: Patrick Moran

Phone number: 719-657-6007

Email: patrick.j.moran@usda.gov

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

Land Manager's Name: Patrick Moran

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature: Divide District Ranger

**PATRICK MORAN**

Digitally signed by PATRICK MORAN  
Date: 2023.09.19 10:36:36 -06'00'

# Project Budget

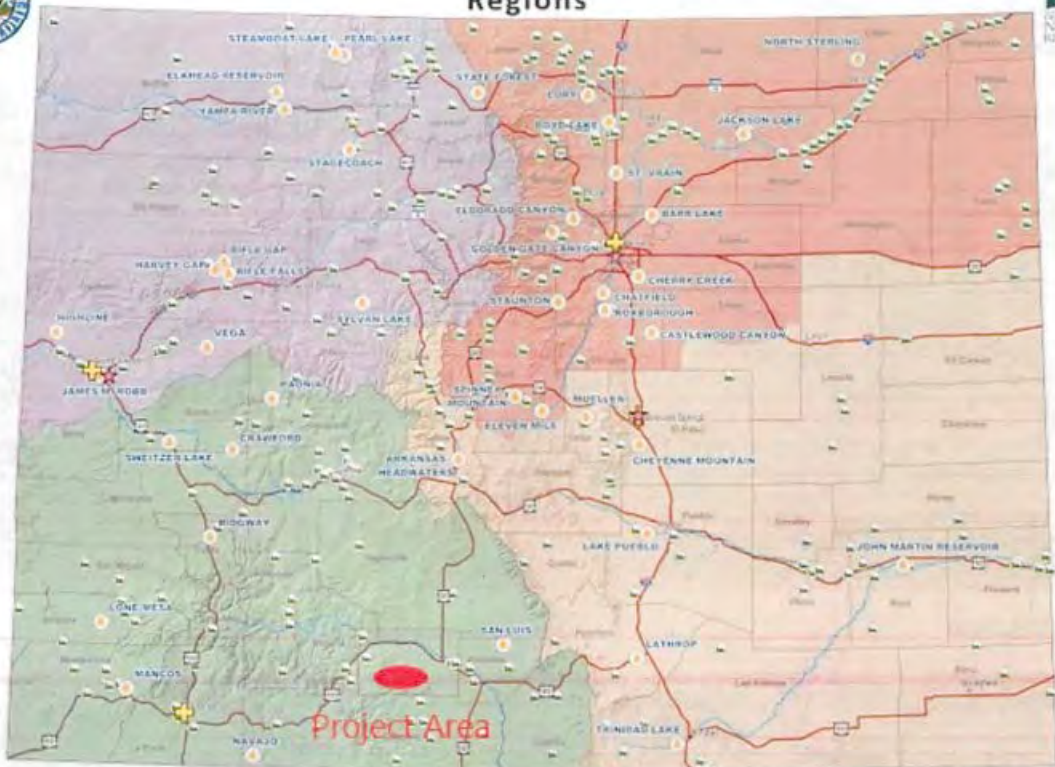


**NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT**

Project details				Match details			
CPW Grant #				Source of match	Type	Date available	Amount
Organization	San Juan Mountains Association			San Juan Backcountry Horsemen	Cash	May-24	\$ 5,000.00
Project title	SJMA Rio Grand National Forest Trail Stewardship Crew			BCH Volunteers	In-Kind	May-24	\$ 6,105.60
Grant Request (auto populates)	\$ 71,499.75			San Juan Mountains Assoc.	In-Kind	May-24	\$ 10,400.00
Local match	\$ 21,505.60	Min. Match	\$ 17,874.94				
Project Total	\$ 93,005.35					Match Total	\$ 21,505.60

Description	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	CPW Grant	Local match	Balance
<b>Salary/Wages</b>								
Wilderness Stewardship Crew Leader	16	weeks	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 17,200.00	Cash	\$ 16,125.00	\$ 1,075.00	\$ -
Crew Member 1	15	weeks	\$ 975.00	\$ 14,625.00	Cash	\$ 13,650.00	\$ 975.00	\$ -
Crew Member 2	15	weeks	\$ 975.00	\$ 14,625.00	Cash	\$ 13,650.00	\$ 975.00	\$ -
Crew Member 3	15	weeks	\$ 975.00	\$ 14,625.00	Cash	\$ 13,650.00	\$ 975.00	\$ -
Stewardship Program Manager	18.00	weeks	\$ 300.00	\$ 5,400.00	Cash	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
SJBCH volunteer in kind horsepacking support	192	hours	\$ 31.80	\$ 6,105.60	In-Kind		\$ 6,105.60	\$ -
SJMA Grant Administration/Bookkeeping	5%	of CPW total	\$ 68,095.00	\$ 3,404.75	Cash	\$ 3,404.75		\$ -
SJMA (Executive, Operations, Assoc. Directors)	200	hours	\$ 45.00	\$ 9,000.00	In-Kind		\$ 9,000.00	\$ -
<b>Materials/Supplies</b>								
Crosscut Saws	2	each	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	Cash	\$ 1,000.00		\$ -
Gear Stipend	4	each	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00	Cash		\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
Silky Saws (katanaboy 650)	2	each	\$ 240.00	\$ 480.00	Cash	\$ 480.00		\$ -
Garmin In Reach (\$300) and Subscription (\$20/mo x 4 mo)	1	each	\$ 380.00	\$ 380.00	Cash	\$ 380.00		\$ -
Personal Protective Equipment	4	each	\$ 120.00	\$ 480.00	Cash	\$ 480.00		\$ -
Campstoves/cookware	4	per person	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00	Cash	\$ 400.00		\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
<b>Additional Categories</b>								
Wilderness First Aid and CPR Training	4	per person	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00	Cash	\$ 1,200.00		\$ -
Per Diem (4 people, 12 weeks, 3 nights a week= 144 days)	144	per night	\$ 20.00	\$ 2,880.00	Cash	\$ 2,880.00		\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$ 93,005.35		\$ 71,499.75	\$ 21,505.60	

# Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regions

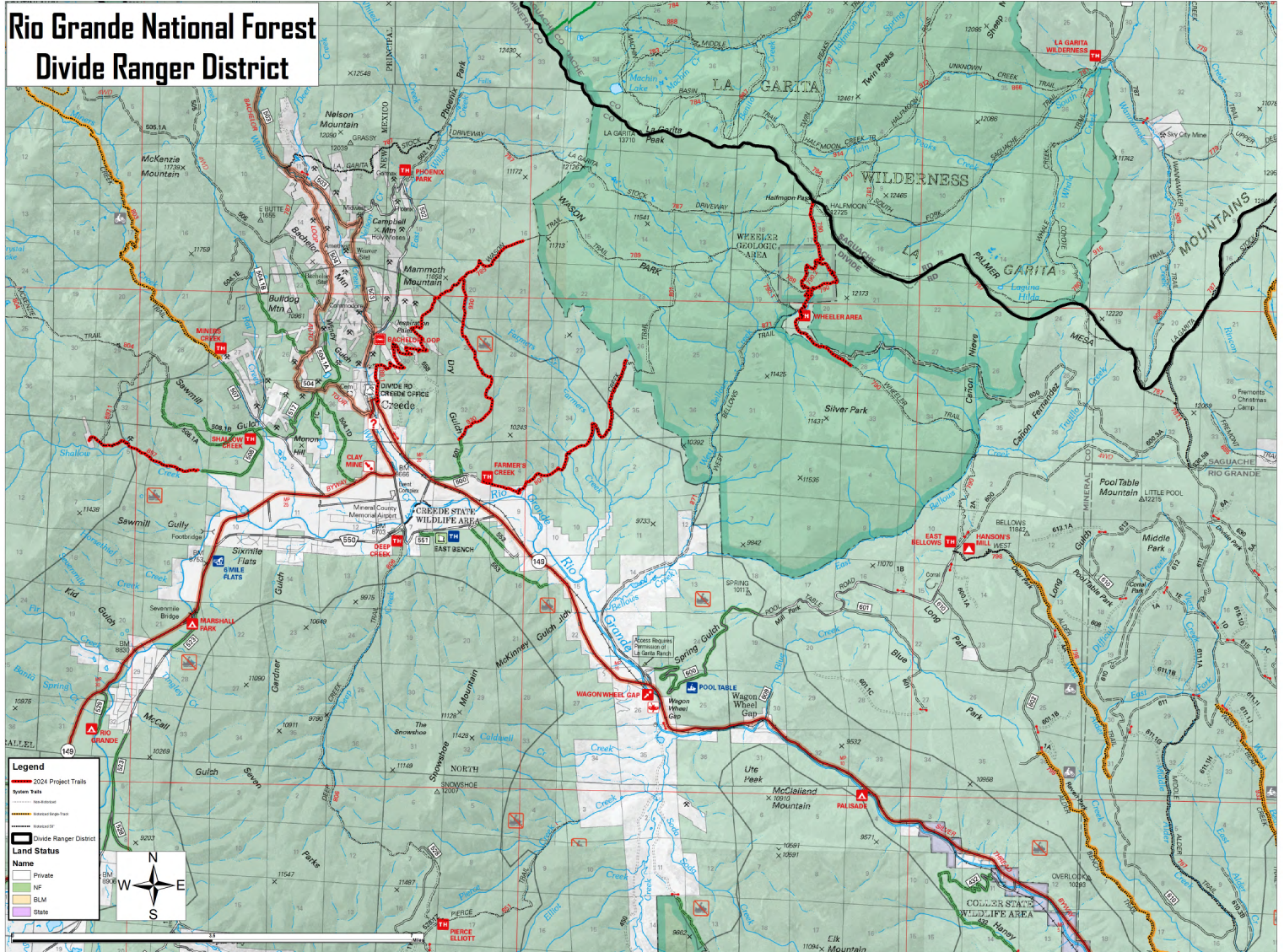


- Parks Region Office
- State Parks
- Wildlife Region Office
- State Wildlife Areas

- Regions**
- Northeast
  - Southeast
  - Northwest
  - Southwest



# Rio Grande National Forest Divide Ranger District



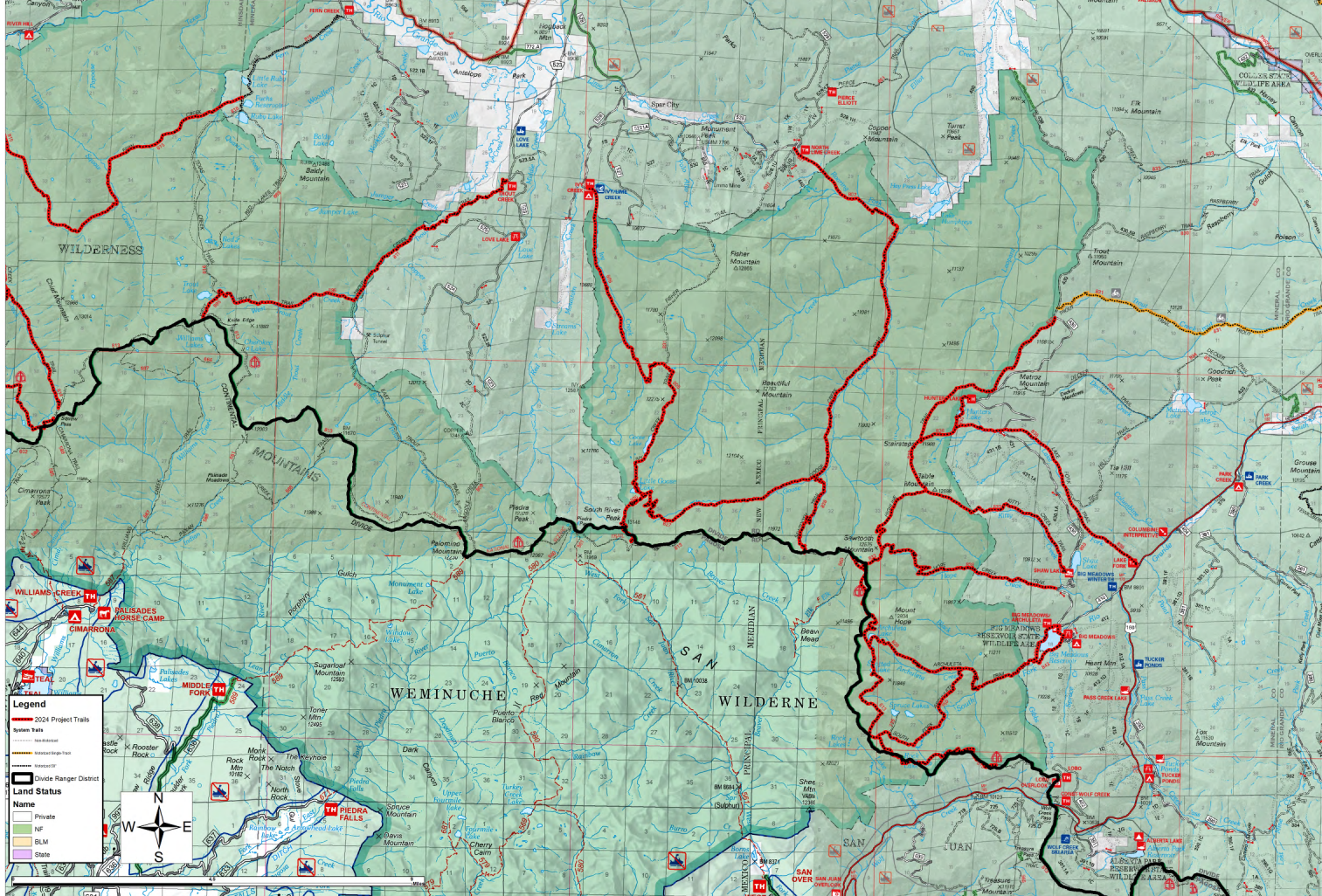
**Legend**

- 2024 Project Trails
- System Trails
- Land Status
- Name
- Private
- NF
- BLM
- State





# Rio Grande National Forest Divide Ranger District



**Legend**

- 2024 Project Trails
- System Trails
- Wilderness
- BLM
- State
- Divide Ranger District

**Land Status**

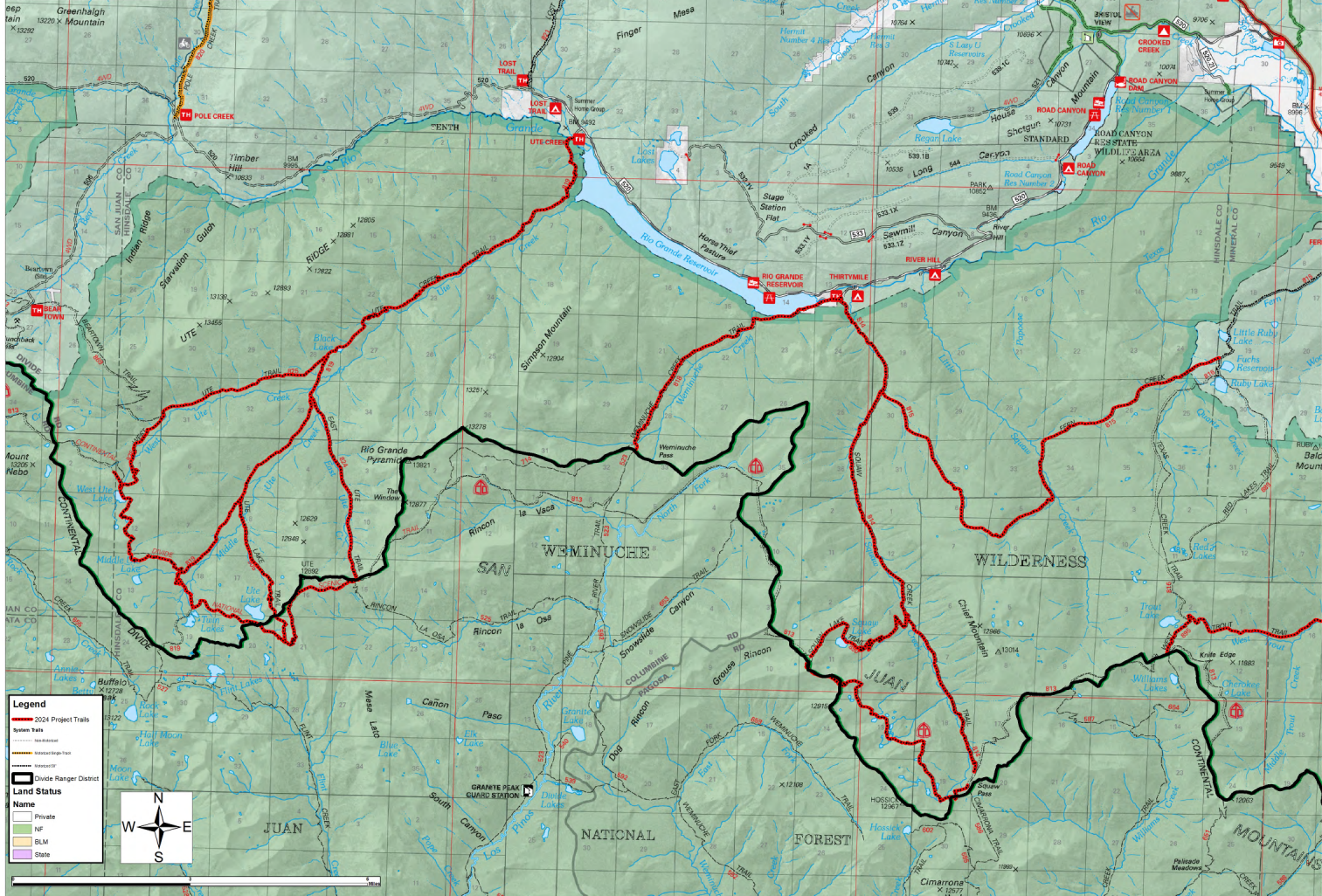
**Name**

- Private
- NF
- BLM
- State





# Rio Grande National Forest Divide Ranger District



**Legend**

- 2024 Project Trails
- System Trails
- Land Status
- Name
- Private
- NF
- BLM
- State







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Trail Name	Trail Number	Township Range	Mileage	Latitude	Longitude
Roaring Fork Trail	807	40N 1E	3.3	37.696616	106.913788
Goose Creek	827	39N 1E	12.9	37.671499	106.8707601
Ivy Creek	805	39N 1W	12.45	37.68179495	106.9993864
Sawtooth	828	40N 1W	3.3	37.3533	106.54117
Hunters Lake	800	39N 1E	1.1	37.61552	106.839227
Lake Fork	716	36N 3E	3.2	37.300766	106.480672
Hope Creek	838	38N 2E	6.1	37.55212	106.79798
Wheeler	790	42N 2E	10.13	37.813293	106.737419
Wheeler Loop	790.2	42N 2E	1.2	37.88149	106.78696
Trout	811	39N 2W	5.8	37.68373915	107.0318768
West Trout	895	39N 2W	4.3	37.64157	107.12282
Ute	819	40N 5W	13.9	37.7592898	107.3431794
East Ute	824	39N 5W	3.4	37.696339	107.421694
West Ute	825	40N 6W	5.5	37.2775	108.2973
Ute Lake	905	39N 5W	3	37.66845	107.44247
Pronghorn	814	40N 4W	9.7	37.41873	107.14795
Pronghorn Lake	890	39N 4W	2	37.38027	107.15937
Fern Creek	815	39N 4W	4	37.736196	107.100276
Achuletta	839	38N 2E	7	37.54171	106.80265
TOTAL			112.28		





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Divide Ranger District-Del Norte  
Office

13308 West Highway 160  
Del Norte, CO 81132  
719-657-3321  
TDD: 719-657-6038  
Fax: 719-657-6035

**File Code:** 2300  
**Date:** September 15, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80126

Re: Non-Motorized Trail Grant, Rio Grande National Forest Trail Stewardship Crew

Dear Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trail Program,

The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF), Divide Ranger District (DRD) is providing this letter of support to express our support of the San Juan Mountain Association's (SJMA) application to the Non-Motorized Trail Program Trail Stewardship Crew. Their application aims at providing trail maintenance and to improve access through multiple use trails on land managed by the DRD. Annually, trails across the district have been severely impacted by beetle infestation and the 2013 West Fork Fire Complex, resulting in hazardous and inaccessible trail conditions that require increased stewardship.

SJMA has a 35-year history of providing conservation stewardship in Southwest Colorado, including maintaining wilderness trails and completing required monitoring in partnership with the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests. SJMA is well suited to provide the services outlined in their proposal to improve access and trail conditions on as many as 19 individual trails. In coordination with USFS staff, SJMA's four-person 2023 RGNF Crew maintained over 20 trails, clearing more than 2,300 trees from trail corridors, and completing thousands of linear feet of corridor brushing and tread improvements.

This project aligns with our agency objectives by stewarding trail-based recreation through collaborative partnerships. With visitor use increasing across our established trail systems, it is paramount to ensure that forest visitors can safely access the lauded landscapes of southwest Colorado, while ensuring the rural recreation economy is productive and sustainable.

The DRD is committed to supporting this project by assisting with logistical planning, supplies, equipment and hiring DRD seasonals to collaboratively work with SJMA on this project.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MORAN  
District Ranger





PO Box 682  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

September 15, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216

Re: Non-Motorized Trail Grant, Rio Grande National Forest Trail Stewardship Crew

Dear Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trail Program,

San Juan Back Country Horsemen (SJBCH) of Pagosa Springs is providing this letter of support and endorsement of the San Juan Mountain Association's application to the Non-Motorized Trail Program Trail Stewardship Crew pilot to provide trail maintenance and access improvements within the Divide Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF). Trails across the district have been severely impacted by beetle infestation and resulting tree mortality, along with the 2013 West Fork Fire Complex, resulting in hazardous and inaccessible trail conditions that require increased capacity and attention.

San Juan Mountains Association has a 35-year history of providing conservation stewardship in Southwest Colorado, including maintaining wilderness trails and resource monitoring in partnership with the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests. SJMA is well suited to provide the services outlined in their proposal to improve access and trail conditions on as many as 19 individual trails next year. In coordination with USFS staff, SJMA's four-person 2023 RGNF crew opened over 20 trails, clearing more than 2,300 downed trees, and completing thousands of linear feet of corridor clearing and tread improvements.

This project aligns perfectly with SJBCH objectives to assist various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of backcountry trails. With recreational use increasing across our established trail systems, it is paramount to ensure that locals and visitors alike can safely access the premier landscapes of southwest Colorado, that natural resources are protected, and that we help ensure the rural recreation economy is productive and sustainable.

SJMA's efforts are also consistent with SJBCH's goal to work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use and to perpetuate the commonsense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness. Toward that end, SJBCH pledges \$5,000 for grant matching funds as well as in-kind volunteer services, e.g. horse packing to support trail crews on at least one hitch and for our own volunteer hours helping with trail work as we can.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

  
John Nelson  
President, SJBCH



9.21.23

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

6060 Broadway

Denver, CO 80216

Re: Non-Motorized Trail Grant, Rio Grande National Forest Trail Stewardship Crew



Dear Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trail Program,

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) is providing this letter of support to express our endorsement of the San Juan Mountain Association's application to the Non-Motorized Trail Program Trail Stewardship Crew pilot to provide trail maintenance and access improvements within the Divide Ranger District. Trails across the district have been severely impacted by beetle infestation and resulting tree mortality, along with the 2013 West Fork Fire Complex, resulting in hazardous and inaccessible trail conditions that require increased capacity and attention.

San Juan Mountains Association has a 35 year history of providing conservation stewardship in Southwest Colorado, including maintaining wilderness trails and completing required monitoring in partnership with the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests. SJMA is well suited to provide the services outlined in their proposal to improve access and trail conditions on as many as 19 individual trails. In coordination with USFS staff, SJMA's four-person 2023 RGNF crew opened up over 20 trails, clearing more than 2,300 trees and completing thousands of linear feet of corridor clearing and tread improvements.

This project aligns with VOC's objectives in the San Luis Valley, to assist and support the Rio Grande National Forest with trail maintenance work and to increase volunteer capacity to implement such projects that could potentially be supported by the SJMA crew. With recreational use increasing across our established trail systems, it is paramount to ensure that locals and visitors alike can safely access the lauded landscapes of southwest Colorado, while ensuring the rural recreation economy is productive and sustainable.

We urge Colorado Parks and Wildlife to consider granting funds to the San Juan Mountain Association to support the important work they are doing to care for our public lands here in the San Luis Valley. Supporting this proposal will not only help SJMA accomplish more "on the ground" work, but it will also allow them the increased capacity to continue to collaborate with local partners, such as VOC, to use our resources most effectively.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Katie Goodleaf

# Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

## PROJECT DETAILS

Organization

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Project title

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## DOCUMENTS

### PRE-APPLICATION - SEPTEMBER

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

### FULL APPLICATION - OCTOBER

Document	Source	Submission format
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Application form	CPW template	PDF
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Timeline	CPW template	PDF
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Budget	CPW template	Unprotected Excel file
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Photographs & maps	Applicant's own	Merged PDF (5 pages max)
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Letters of support	Various	Merged PDF (5 letters max)
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Resolution	Applicant's own	Signed PDF
<input 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:
- 
15. Volunteers will be utilized on the project  
Name of organization:
- 

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