

SW-M, YC

DL

NOVEMBER 22, 2022

TOM METSA
OHV PROGRAM MANAGER
COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
13787 HWY. 85
LITTLETON, CO. 80125

Dear Tom:

Enclosed you will find the Gunnison Ranger District's State Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Application for 2023-2024. The project is named **Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction**.

The Gunnison Ranger District has repeatedly demonstrated how it can effectively and successfully utilize OHV Grant funding to maintain and restore motorized trails on the ground. The Grizzly Peak-Timberline Trail Grant is a recent example of the Ranger District's success. Previous projects have benefitted motorized recreation on the Gunnison National Forest. We would once again like to thank Colorado Parks and Wildlife for all the support and we look forward to continuing our great working relationship in the future.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact **Greg Austin** at gregory.austin@usda.gov. Thank you for considering this grant application!

Sincerely,



Greg Austin
Project Manager



2023-2024
Off-Highway Vehicle Program
State Trail Grant Application

Name of Project: Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction		Date of Application: 11/1/2022
<i>(Please limit the project name to 5 words or less)</i>		
Total Project Cost: \$ 87,900.00	Grant Request: \$ 69,400.00	
<i>(round off to the nearest \$1)</i>	<i>Amount Requested (round off to the nearest \$1) must match the Project Budget Form.</i>	
PROJECT SPONSOR (Name and Address for entity legally responsible for project)		
Organization Name: Gunnison Ranger District, USFS		
Mailing Address: 216 N. Colorado St., Gunnison, CO. 81230		
		Fax: (970) 642-4425
Telephone: (970) 641-0471		Email: gregory.austin@usda.gov

OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DUNS # (IF REQUIRED): _____

PROJECT CONTACT This is the person with day-to-day responsibility for the managing the project, ensuring the contract scope of work will be fulfilled. Please notify us if <i>Project Contact</i> changes.		
Name: Greg Austin		Title: Trails Manager
Mailing Address: 216 N. Colorado St., Gunnison, CO. 81230		
Telephone:	Fax:	Email:
(970) 641-0471	(970) 642-4425	Is this the primary contact for this grant: YES

PROJECT CLOSE-OUT CONTACT This is the person responsible for submitting receipts for project spending and close-out. Please notify us if <i>Project Contact</i> changes.		
Name: Same as project contact information above		Title:
Mailing Address:		
Telephone:	Fax:	Email:

GRANTS & AGREEMENTS SPECIALIST (USFS only) or BUDGET CONTACT (BLM only)		
Name: Amanda Marr		Title: Agreements Specialist
Mailing Address: USDA Forest Service, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Building 17, Lakewood, CO., 80401		
Telephone: (308) 432-0388	Fax:	Email: amanda.marr@usda.gov

PROJECT LOCATION	
Nearest Town or City: Gunnison	
County(ies): Gunnison	
Township/Range/Section: T50N, R81, 82W, Sec. 16, 19, 20, 25	
State Senate District #: District #5	
State Representative District #: District #3	
LAND OWNERSHIP	
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners:	
2. The trail corridor is controlled by: <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> License <input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-Way <input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition Ownership to be obtained <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (explain): USFS	
TRAIL SYSTEM INFORMATION (List the number of miles for each type of OHV trail in your area)	
Miles of Singletrack: <u> 401 </u>	Miles of 50" or less: <u> 136 </u> Miles of Full-sized: _____
TRAIL USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply to the work planned for this project)	
<input type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Side x Side <input type="checkbox"/> Full Sized 4X4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Four-Wheeling <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible Access
PROJECT INFORMATION (Please check all activities that apply to this project.) Include detailed information for each in the Project Scope of Work.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel Plan Implementation
<input type="checkbox"/> *New Trail Construction miles / ft. _____ (Approved through Travel Mgt Decision)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Protection & Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> *Major Re-Route miles / ft. closed _____ (that will require new or additional environmental approvals) miles / ft. added _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Signs
	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Corps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration/Rehabilitation (existing corridor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitor Contacts & Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital Equipment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition or Other
* New Trail Construction & Major Re-Route: Trail location(s) must be indicated on project map and detailed description of trail work plans must be provided in Project Selection Criteria, Section D-1, #3 Resource Protection, Enhancement & Restoration	
TRAIL ACTIVITIES SUMMARY (Based on your project description and budget, provide the percentage for each of the categories listed below.)	
% of Budget 90%	Program maintenance (e.g., erosion controls, water bars and culverts, trail clearing and brushing, trail hardening and trail tread repairs, bridge construction and repairs, trailhead improvements and maintenance, crew wages, etc.)
5%	Enforcement, Education & Visitor Contacts (e.g., patrols, enforcement, education and visitor contacts, wages, safety contacts, equipment, etc.)
	Planning & Travel Plan Implementation (e.g., planning, engineering, maps, inventorying, travel management signs & installation, decommission non-system routes, rehabilitation, new construction, wages, monitoring, etc.)
5%	Equipment /Materials/ Signs/ Youth Corps/Miscellaneous (e.g., equipment maintenance and repair, personnel training, certification in the use of specialized equipment, program coordination, etc.)
100%	Total: (Note: Percentages should add to 100 %)

SCOPE OF WORK – Project Description:	
Project Name: Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction	Project No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Project Sponsor: Gunnison Ranger District, USFS	Application Year: 2023-2024
Project Contact: Greg Austin	Application No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Total Project Cost: \$ 87,900.00	Grant Request: \$ 69,400.00

Project Description:

WHO?

The USDA Forest Service, Gunnison Ranger District would be responsible for the project. The project is located on Public Lands managed by the Forest Service. It is planned that work will be accomplished by U.S. Forest Service force account trail crew personnel with possible help from Western Colorado Conservation Corp. (WCCC). Volunteers may also help accomplish the project.

WHERE?

The project is located on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forest, Gunnison Ranger District all within Gunnison County, Colorado. This agency and Ranger District are responsible for managing the land which the project is located and is responsible for Canyon Creek Trail #481. The project is east of Gunnison, north of Sargents, Colorado and near the community of Whitepine. Trail sections to be worked on are primarily north of the Buffalo Fork of Canyon Creek itself and south of the Canyon Creek Trail and South Quartz Creek Trail #483 trail junction. Some heavy maintenance may also be performed below the Buffalo Fork towards the junction with Waunita Trail #497. The trail is known for challenging single-track motorcycle riding and backcountry scenery. The condition of Trail #481 varies greatly along its entire length. However, the primary sections of Canyon Creek Trail needing heavy maintenance or reconstruction span the two sections just mentioned. (**See maps**).

WHAT?

The Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction project does not propose to reconstruct the entire length of trail, but the primary objective of the project is **trail reconstruction and heavy maintenance of trail primarily thru the middle portion of Trail #481**. Resource damage is starting to occur and soil migration downhill is occurring. All existing drainage structures will get an overhaul and some new structures will be constructed where needed. Areas of trail where trail has been straightened because of improper user clearing or excessive user speed will be restored to original alignments. Of the \$ 69,400 requested in the grant only \$ 2,000 would be used towards supplies, equipment or repairs. \$ 67,400 would be used towards crew salary and field per diem accomplishing work on the ground. All of the work would meet or exceed Forest Service trail specifications. The primary goal of this project is to **improve user experiences, create more sustainable trail, improve user safety and to protect natural resource.**

WHEN?

Work will primarily be performed in one or two four to five-month field season(s) as two seasons would be available for the Ranger District to complete all work and spend the funding on the trail reconstruction project. If awarded, funding the work would take place in portions of the 2024 and or 2025 summer field seasons. This trail crew will also be splitting their field seasons finishing or starting other grant funded projects so the work will probably occur over portions of those two summer field seasons.

Project Funding Acknowledgement:

If funding is awarded the project will be acknowledged in several ways. On a daily basis, "*Trail Work Ahead*" signs will be placed above and below the working trail crews that will be working on the *Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction* project. The signs include the blue and white Colorado Parks and Wildlife "**Colorado OHV Registration Dollars at Work**" sticker as part of the sign. The signs state that the project is being funded by the Colorado State OHV Registration Fund. Also, the sticker will be prominent on some of the trail crew's equipment. Examples include the motorized power carriers that are used by crews. The sticker is also prominently displayed by the Ranger District's Good Management trail crew. The trail crew members at times will also be wearing the CPW provided OHV Trail Crew shirts that give acknowledgement to the Colorado OHV Registration Program. The project will also most likely get mentioned or covered in the local newspapers as previous Gunnison Ranger District grant projects have been featured. Credit to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife "*OHV Registration Dollars at Work*" is also featured at some of the Ranger District's informational kiosks. The State's annual brochure covering funded projects would also acknowledge the project and the State OHV Grant Program. Lastly, as we partner with college volunteer groups, youth corp. or other organizations, acknowledgement of the funding program will be promoted. This promotion will educate users and volunteers on the importance of OHV Registration and how much the funding supports great trails.

Budget Form

Project Name: Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction

Date Project will be Completed: Nov. 2025

Project Sponsor: Gunnison Ranger District, USFS

****ITEMS LISTED IN THE BUDGET BELOW SHOULD BE SPECIFIC AND CORRESPOND TO THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES INDICATED IN THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK) IN YOUR GRANT APPLICATION.***(Round amounts off to nearest dollar)**

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES <small>List all sources and amounts of project funding in this section (insert additional lines if needed)</small>	CASH	In-Kind (Non-Cash) Contributions	TOTAL
OHV Grant Funding (amount of requested OHV grant funds only)			\$69,400.00
Other Funding Sources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Forest Service	\$ -	\$16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Volunteers, Estimated Value	\$ -	\$2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
USE OF GRANT FUNDING <small>List uses of grant funding (only) below</small>	TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT		\$ 87,900.00

I. Personnel Costs <small>Identify as: Salary/wage, benefits, travel, training, outfitting costs, personal protection equipment, etc.</small>			
Employee Name or Title/Grade	\$ Per Hr		Total Cost
GS-6	\$21.27	12 Weeks	\$10,210.00
GS-5	\$19.08	12 weeks	\$9,158.00
GS-5	\$19.08	12 weeks	\$9,158.00
GS-4	\$17.05	12 Weeks	\$8,184
GS-4 (student)	\$17.50	8 weeks	\$5,600.00
Field Per Diem			\$7,000.00
<small>For CPW use only. Approximate number of workhours</small>	2,318.29		Category Total \$ 49,310.00

II. Project Materials/Supplies <small>Identify as: Signs, rock, lumber, paint, nails, printing, maps/guides, education materials, etc.</small>			
Materials, tools, supplies, repairs	Price Per	Quantity	Total
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
			Category Total \$ 2,000.00

III. Equipment <small>Identify as: Trail Dozers, ATV/UTV, motorcycle, chainsaws, winches, field equipment rentals, equipment fuel, repairs, and operations, etc.</small>			
	\$	-	\$
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
			Category Total \$ -

III.A. FLEET Equipment <small>Identify as: Crew Fleet Vehicles/Trucks monthly FOR & USE, Fleet Equipment monthly USE.</small>			
	\$	-	\$
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
			Category Total \$ -

IV. Contracted Services <small>Identify as: Youth Corps, NEPA, planning, engineering, construction contractor/subcontractor costs</small>			
Western Colorado Conservation Corp. (WCCC) \$4,500/wk. x 4 weeks (2024/2025)	\$	-	\$
	\$ -		\$18,000.00
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
			Category Total \$ 18,000.00

V. Volunteer Support <small>Identify as: <u>For Volunteers Only</u> Safety education, safety gear (gloves/goggles), outfitting, per diem (meals or mileage when travel required by and identified in project scope of work), non-monetary awards or recognition.</small>			
	\$	-	\$
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
			Category Total \$69,310.00

P. Austin

Note: Any changes to the budget must have pre-approval from the Program

PROJECT MANAGER

*ROUNDED UP TO \$109,400

Total

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION and LAND MANAGER APPROVAL

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

Project Name Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction Project Sponsor Gunnison Ranger District

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 titled:

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Date: 9/23/1991

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

Date and title of document:

6/30/2010 Record of Decision, Gunnison National Forest Travel Management, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forest

If not, please state reason and the estimated date when NEPA will be complete. [No funds will be distributed until any required NEPA documentation is completed.]

For more information contact:

Greg Austin, Gunnison Ranger District Trails Manager, 970 641-0471

- 4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for (date).

Print or type Land Manager's Name and Title

Dayle Funka

11/1/2022

Land Manager Signature and Title DAYLE FUNKA, District Ranger

Date

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

**CANYON CREEK
TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION
Gunnison Ranger District****1. *Need for and Benefit of the Project. (25 points):***

This grant request proposes to reconstruct portions of National Forest System Trail (NFST) #481, Canyon Creek Trail. The trail was last re-constructed in 2005 via a Forest Service trail contract. At that time the trail was realigned in places, turnpikes were constructed, heavy drainage structures built and marker posts installed. Drainage structures include ditches, culverts, rolling dips, rock water bars and grade reversals. Since 2005 the trail has been maintained by the district's Good Management crew but only on a 2-4 year cycle because of the large amount of motorcycle single-track on the Gunnison Ranger District. Thus, there is a need to re-visit this trail using OHV Grant funding via a stand-alone trail grant. This trail is a heavy maintenance priority at this time. A local partner (Tomichi Trail Riders) applied for funding in November 2021 but withdrew the application last winter. Thus, the Gunnison Ranger District is now the Trail Grant applicant. There is a need to heavily reconstruct the structures, particular trail segments and to revitalize the investment made by the 2005 Forest Service trail contract. As stated earlier most of the scope of work will be concentrated on a middle segment of the Canyon Creek Trail. (See maps).

Benefits of this project include revitalizing previous investments made to Canyon Creek Trail, improving riding opportunities and user experiences for more motorcycle riders and other recreationists. Aesthetics of the trail and structure function will also be improved if structures are reconstructed, ditches re-excavated and culverts cleaned or replaced. Additional drainage structures need to be constructed primary using available rock. Other benefits include trail improvements to almost un-ridable rocky sections of trail, narrowing of trail back to single-track and original alignments. Users and some user trail clearing has straightened and increased speeds on the Canyon Creek Trail thus increasing impacts to the trail.

A primary project goal is to extend the Canyon Creek Trail's long-term sustainability. If trail funding is secured and heavy maintenance commences in 2024 it will have been 19 years since major reconstruction or heavy maintenance has been performed on the trail. This project will hopefully then extend the trail's sustainability out another 20 years with the district's Good Management Crew maintaining periodically in between.

The primary goal and benefit of this grant proposal is to improve user experiences, maintain sustainable trail and to protect natural resources.

2. **Partnerships, Support and Leverage (25 points):**

A Broad spectrum of support exists for this project. Not only do motorized user groups or vendors support this project but the local mountain bike organizations/non-motorized trail organizations have provided letters supporting the project. All these groups are interested in protecting natural resources and improving user experiences on Canyon Creek Trail #481.

The following is a list of supporters and or partners for this project:

- *Tomichi Trail Riders
- *Gunnison Trails
- *Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association (CBMBA)
- *Gunnison OHV Alliance of Trail Riders (GOATS)
- *Trails Preservation Alliance (TPA)
- *Sun Sports

Six letters of support are attached to the Application

In the letters of support some of our partners have stated the following things as being important to this project:

"The TPA continues our support of OHV trail work within the GRD as this District has shown a notable commitment to multiple-use, motorized recreation and specifically support to motorcycle and motorized single-track recreation."

"Reconstruction of parts of the trail will ensure long term sustainability and create a more enjoyable experience for users of all types."-Gunnison Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance of Trailriders-GOATS

Other support will come from volunteers. The **Tomichi Trail Riders** and **Gunnison Trails** in particular will help with the project. Western Colorado Conservation Corp. (WCCC) may work along-side Forest Service Trail Crews. College student volunteers from Western Colorado University (WCU) may also help with project implementation. Other organizations providing volunteers would be the Gunnison OHV Alliance of Trail Riders (GOATS). The GOATS continue to support our trails by clearing trails and most recently provided help with realignment of the Doctor Park Trail #424 near Matchless Mountain on the Gunnison Ranger District.

The Forest Service will provide project oversight, supervision, hiring of personnel, vehicles, trailers, pack stock and equipment for the project as needed. The Forest Service will also provide grant administration as well as procurement/purchasing duties as related to the project. Grant closeout will be provided by the Forest Service. The Forest Service will also be providing any natural resource specialists or grant agreement specialists that are needed to support grant implementation.

Leverage Total:	Project oversight, supervision, hiring, Procurement, project planning, Grant Administration, vehicles, trailers, equipment, Livestock, etc. (FS Funds)	\$16,000.00
	Volunteer Work Days (Value Estimated) (Various user or college groups, etc.)	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
	Total Leverage	\$18,500.00

As stated earlier, acknowledgement and credit to the OHV grant program will be accomplished in a number of ways. **The primary means of acknowledgement will be the daily posting of “Trail Work Ahead” signs placed above and below the working trail crews that will be working on the Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction Project.** The signs include the blue and white Colorado Parks and Wildlife “Colorado OHV Registration Dollars at Work” sticker as part of the sign. The signs state that the project is being funded by the Colorado State OHV Registration Fund. Also, the sticker will be prominent on some of the equipment used by the Star Trail Maintenance Crew such as the motorized power carriers that are used by trail crews. The grant program is also acknowledged at other locations on the Ranger District and by our Good Management trail crew. Crews also continue to educate all users that funding has been made possible by the State OHV registration program.

3. Resource Protection, Enhancement and Restoration relative to eligible OHV grant activities
(25 points):

The project meets the current and draft Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest Land Use Resource Management Plan guidelines. The project is also consistent with the signed 2010 Gunnison National Forest Travel Management Plan Record of Decision. In 2005 Canyon Creek Trail was reconstructed, re-aligned to more sustainable grades and locations and structures were installed. The 2005 reconstruction project was implemented to protect natural resources, improve user experiences, restore damaged areas and to repair a badly damaged Forest Service Trail. This grant proposal and reconstruction project intends to do the same if awarded funding starting in 2024. This project intends to maintain and make repairs to the 2005 improvements and prolong the life and sustainability Canyon Creek Trail for the foreseeable future. This project will in turn minimize natural resource impacts. Natural resource protection will be enhanced. Restoration of the Canyon Creek Trail is a priority to maintain a previous investment yet still provide a quality OHV riding opportunity and enhanced user experience. The presence of OHV trail use on public lands and the image of motorized recreation will be improved by this project.

4. Travel Management Plan Implementation, Education and Enforcement (25 points):

Travel Management:

This project is consistent with the 2010 Gunnison National Forest Travel Management Plan. This trail is managed primarily for motorcycles and primarily used by motorcycles. However, mountain bikes, hikers and equestrians are allowed uses. The trail will continue to be managed this way for the foreseeable future. Trail reconstruction and repair of the trail can only enhance the trail for motorized recreation as well as improve non-motorized recreation experiences. By improving trail #481 and providing an enhanced motorized trail, travel management compliance in the area is more likely to attain a high standard. Users will continue to use and stay on trails if segments of this trail are reconstructed.

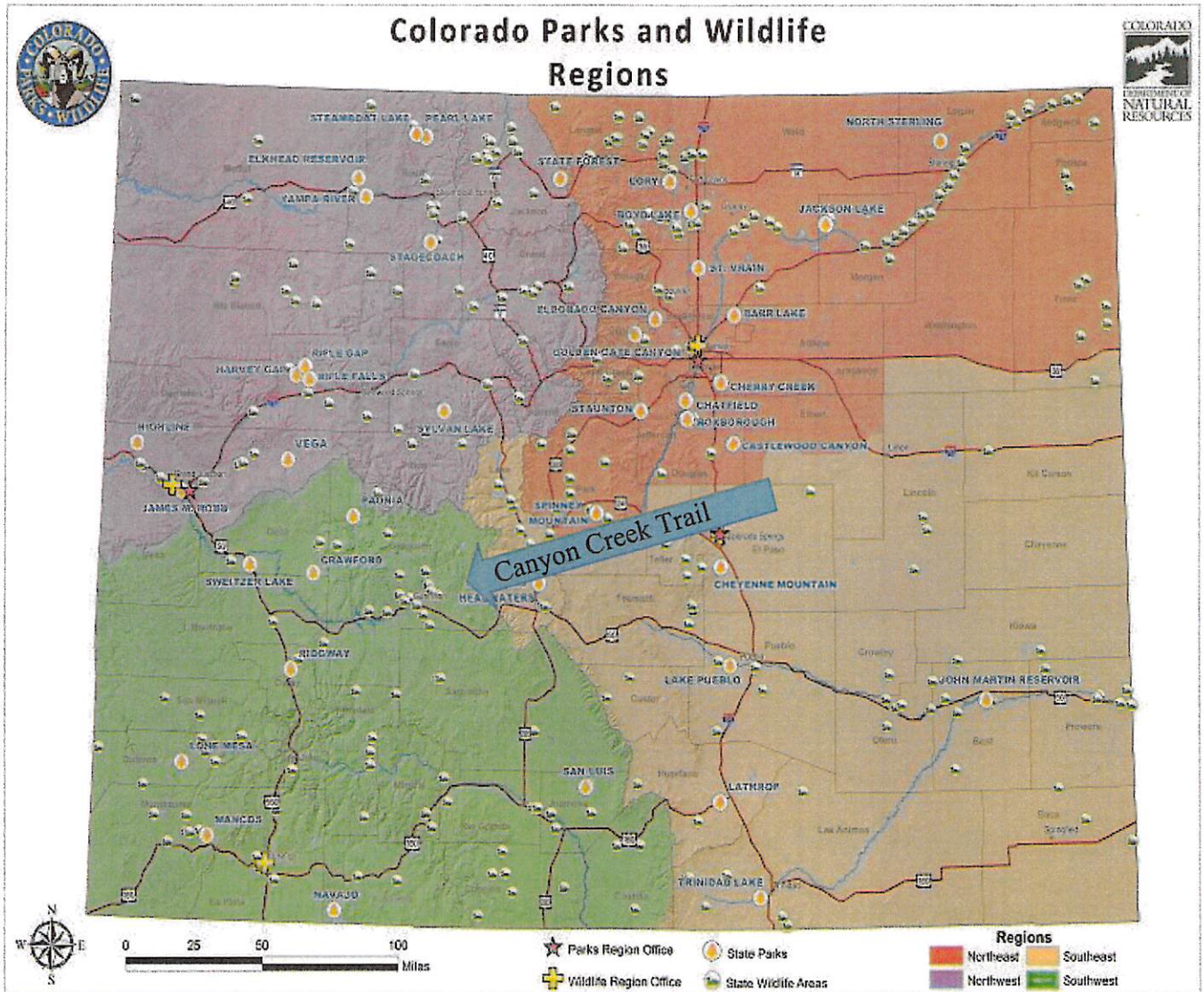
Education

Education of forest users will occur by trail crew members and land managers in the field making public contacts and interacting with trail users. The education will include how OHV registration fees are making their way back to the ground by applying the funds towards resource protection, resource restoration, trail reconstruction and heavy maintenance. Trail maintenance on the ground speaks volumes more than any other thing that Colorado Parks and Wildlife funds thru the trail grant program. This type of project demonstrates how OHV registration fees benefit the public and Public Lands. The district's Good Management Program will also bring attention to this project at special events hosted by the Forest Service and partners promoting "Stay the Trail" user ethics and responsible single-track trail use. The USFS will continue to post Travel Management, Tread Lightly and Stay the Trail user messages at visitor kiosks along with periodic displays of the Colorado "*OHV Registration Dollars at Work*" stickers or posters calling attention to the OHV Program.

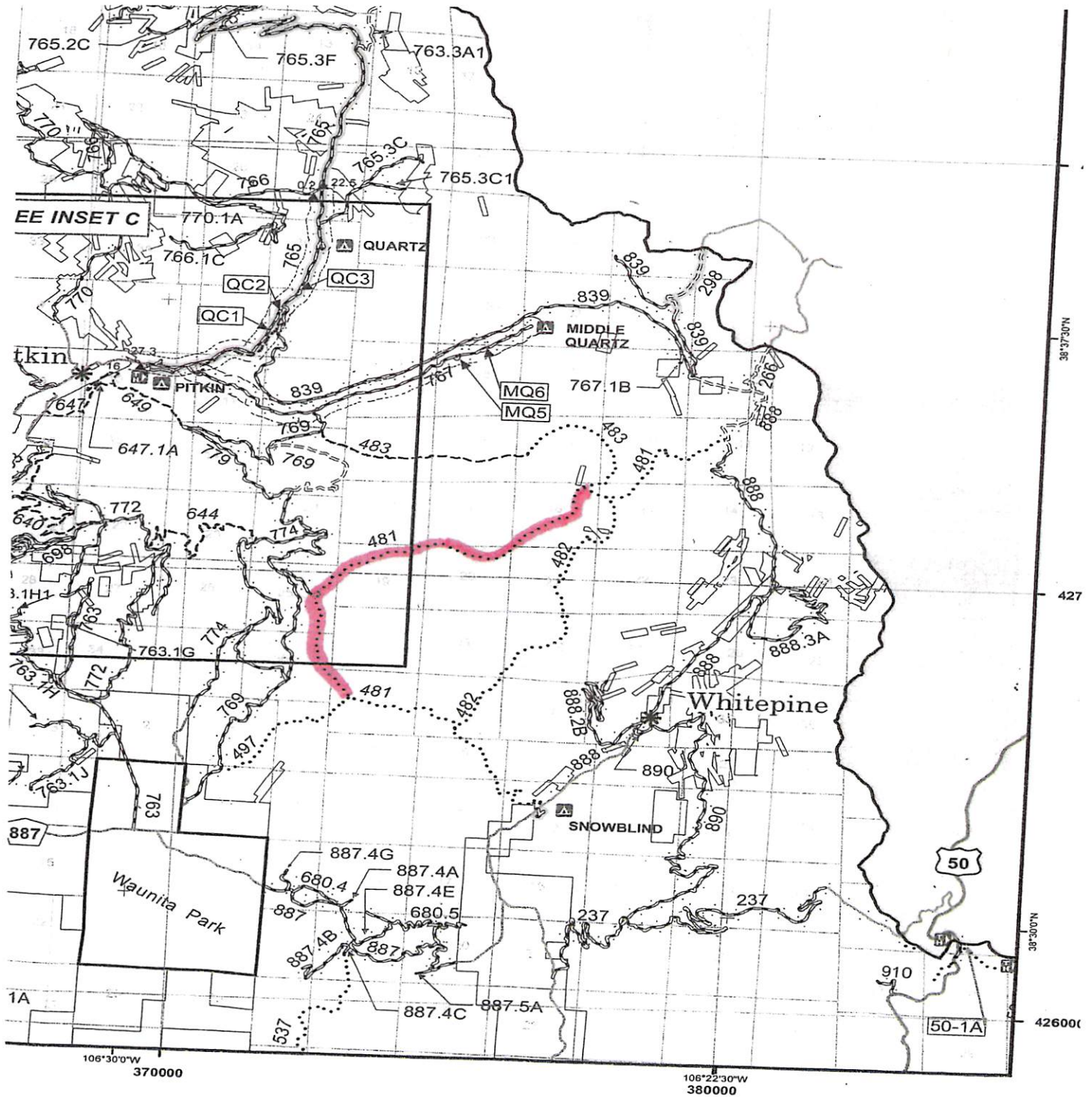
Enforcement and Compliance Activities:

As mentioned above under Travel Management, OHV regulations and staying on designated routes should be enhanced by this project. Compliance with OHV regulations and the Motor Vehicle Map (MVUM) will benefit by providing trails that motorcycle users want to ride. It is estimated that approximately 5% of project time will be spent on education, enforcement and compliance activities. This occurs primarily by trail crew personnel making visitor contacts while they are being observed by the public maintaining the trail included in this project.

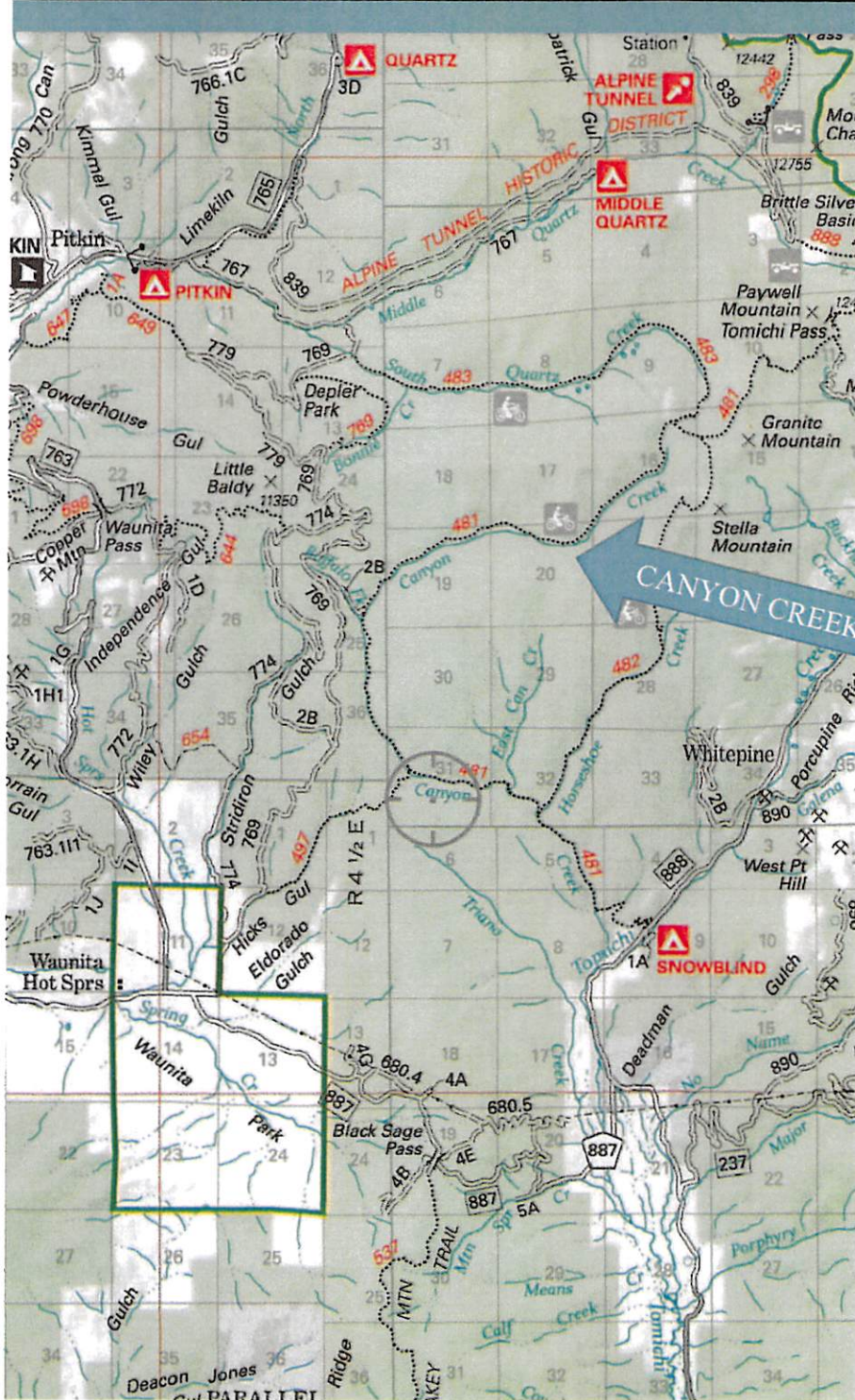
CANYON CREEK TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION



CANYON CREEK TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION MVUM MAP Gunnison Ranger District



CANYON CREEK TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION



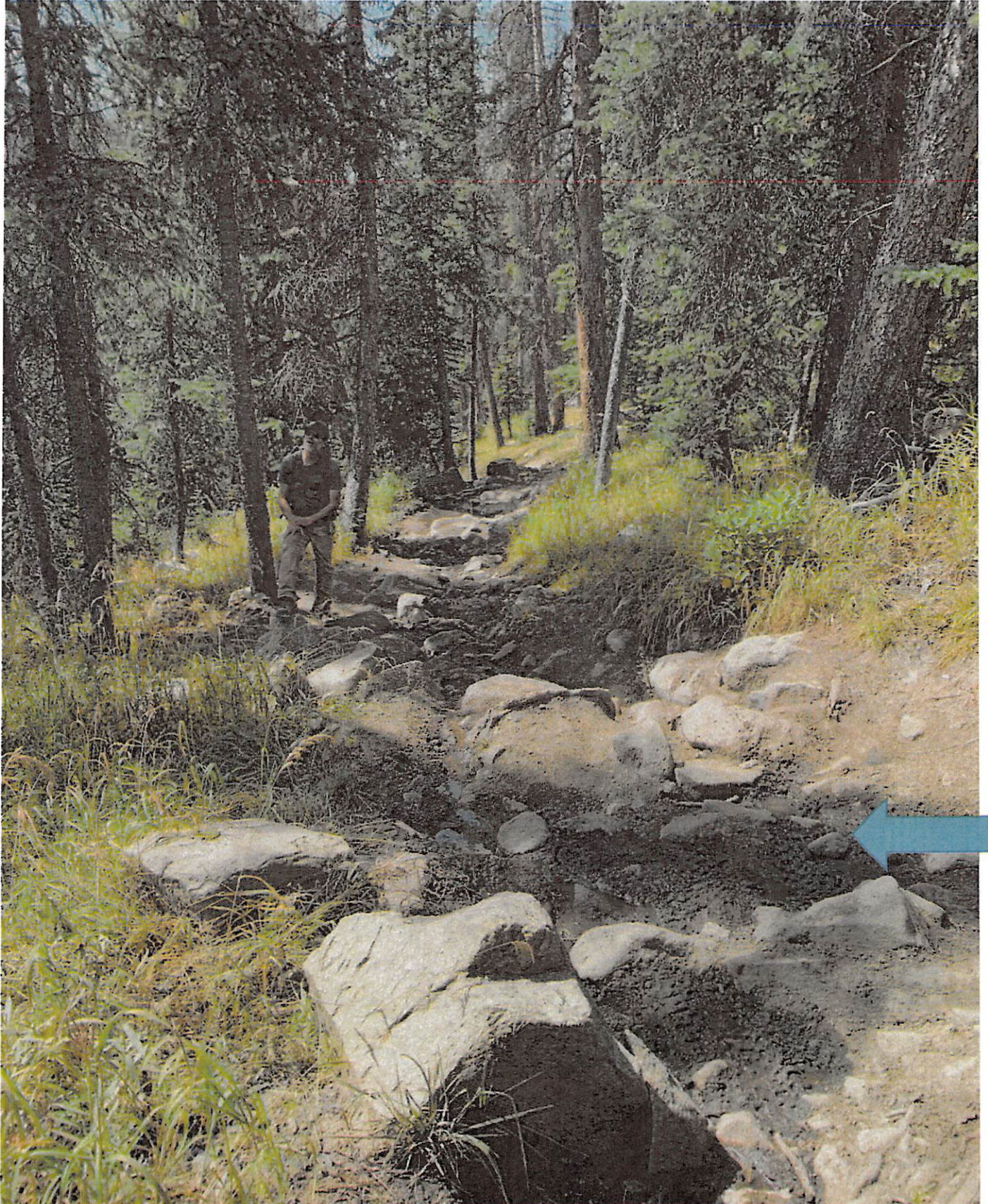
38°32'21.3", -106°27'06.9"

(F) Project Illustrations

*Canyon Creek Trail #481
Current Condition, Fall 2021*



*Drainage Structure, Needing
Reconstruction*



*Canyon Creek Trail #481
Example of User Short Cutting*



Acknowledgement of CPW OHV Grant Program



Letters of Project Support

Eric Hahn
Tomichi Trail Riders
Sargents, CO 81248

November 21, 2022

Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Tom Metsa – OHV Program Manager
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO. 80125

RE: Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction

Dear Mr. Metsa,

The Gunnison Ranger District is applying for a grant to complete heavy maintenance on Canyon Creek Trail #481. The Tomichi Trail Riders fully endorse this project.

National Forest System Trail (NFST) #481 also known as Canyon Creek Trail is approximately 12.5 miles long. The trail is managed as a motorized single-track trail. Hikers, bicyclists and equestrians also use the trail. However, the condition of the trail varies along its entire length. The majority of the reconstruction work on Canyon Creek Trail will occur above what is known as the Buffalo Fork of Canyon Creek but below the junction with South Quartz Creek Trail #483. The trail was last reconstructed via a Forest Service Trail contract in 2005. In 2005 the trail was slightly re-aligned in some areas, turnpikes constructed where needed and dozens of new drainage structures constructed. Some trail sections were also armored with rock plating. Work will primarily entail reconstruction of middle portions of Canyon Creek Trail above the Buffalo Fork of Canyon Creek. Trail reconstruction will include reconstructing drainage structures, building new structures and returning tread to the historic alignments originally constructed in 2005. Reconstruction of some very rocky almost un-ridable sections will also be improved and narrowed back to single-track. Some of the tread has been straightened out due to improper clearing or high speeds. Crews will re-establish tread to more sustainable locations and re-establish grade reversals. More trail armoring with rock will also occur.

Support for this project is important to our community and the visitors who come here and want to experience our trails in a positive way. Safety of motorcycle riders, as well as hikers, bicyclists and equestrians who also use the trail is important and another reason for pursuing this grant funding. This project is intended to protect natural resources, improve user experience and highlight the State OHV Trail Grant program.

Thank you,

Eric Hahn
Tomichi Trail Riders
Sargents, CO 81248



November 18, 2022

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Tom Metsa - OHV Program Manager
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

Re: Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction

Dear Tom,

I am writing in support of the Gunnison Ranger District's grant application to fund heavy maintenance and trail reconstruction work on the Canyon Creek Trail #481. I am the Executive Director of Gunnison Trails, a non-profit, trail advocacy group located in Gunnison, Colorado. Gunnison Trails formed in 2006 to assist our local land managers with trail maintenance and to educate users on responsible trail-based recreation in the Gunnison Valley. We work closely with the Gunnison Ranger District to maintain motorized and non-motorized trails on the Gunnison National Forest and strongly support the much needed maintenance of the Canyon Creek trail.

The Canyon Creek trail is a rugged backcountry trail popular among hikers, mountain bikers and dirt bikers. It is widely considered to be one of the best and most challenging mountain bike trails on the Gunnison National Forest. Riders experience a bit of everything along the trail, including a steep hike-a-bike to the summit, technical alpine riding around the shoulder of Granite Mountain at the start of the descent, fast and flowy trail through dense timber in the middle and loose, sandy sections that parallel Canyon Creek at the finish. The last major reconstruction work on the trail occurred in 2005, and much of the trail above the Buffalo Fork intersection is in need of heavy maintenance to sustain the current tread. Work includes clearing and rebuilding historic drainage structures, constructing new drainage along steep, fall-line portions of trail and replacing lost and eroded soil where the trail has become deeply rutted or widened.

Gunnison Trails has partnered with the Gunnison Ranger District on past projects clearing Canyon Creek and other trails in the Sargents area. Canyon Creek is particularly special among mountain bikers and dirt bikers, both for locals and those traveling from other areas, as it offers an incredible high-alpine, backcountry experience. We're fortunate to have partners like the Gunnison Ranger District to help maintain these amazing and historic trails. We strongly



support the proposed heavy maintenance work on the Canyon Creek trail and we appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Kugler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the "T".

Tim Kugler
Executive Director, Gunnison Trails
tim@gunnisontrails.org
703.599.1873

November 15, 2022

Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Tom Metsa - OHV Program Manager
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO. 80125



Re: Support for Canyon Creek Trail (#481) Reconstruction

The Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association (CBMBA) is in support of the Gunnison Ranger District's OHV Trail Grant application for Trail #481.

CBMBA appreciates and supports trail maintenance, reroutes, and restoration projects for all trails that will improve user experiences and lessen resource impacts and damage.

In 2005, Canyon Creek Trail #481 was slightly re-aligned and improved with drainage structures, surface hardening, and tread realization. Higher visitation and use over the years have continued to degrade those improvements. In addition, natural forces of erosion and certain sections of trail with unsustainable grades, have created more of a need for heavy maintenance and reconstruction efforts.

CBMBA applauds the Gunnison Ranger District for identifying this trail as a high priority for much needed trail improvements and reconstruction. Planning for and implementing heavy maintenance, drainage structures, and sustainable tread will set this trail up for long-lasting sustainability.

Please consider our support for this much needed heavy maintenance project, and we look forward to the District providing the trail magic and hard work they have already put into so much of our vast network of trails, creating memorable and lasting experiences, along with sustainable and manageable routes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ochs'.

David Ochs – Executive Director
Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association
Since 1983
dave@cbmba.org
970.349.7324

RIDE
BUILD
MAINTAIN





Gunnison Ranger District
Attn: Greg Austin
216 N. Colorado
Gunnison, CO 81230

11/10/2022

RE: Letter of Support for Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction Project

To Whom it may concern:

The Canyon Creek Trail is located East of Gunnison, Colorado. It is a 12.5-mile-long mixed use singletrack trail that starts in the high alpine and ends near the town of Whitepine, Colorado. This trail is extremely popular for mountain bike riders, motorcycle riders, hikers and equestrians. As the trail has gained popularity and seen increased use over the last few years, portions of the trail have deteriorated rapidly. There is a large need for reconstructing drainage structure, building new drainage structures, and returning the trail to the historical alignments. Reconstruction of parts of the trail will ensure long term sustainability and create a more enjoyable experience for users of all types.

The Gunnison GOAT's strongly support the Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction Project.

Sincerely,

Geoff Heller

President

GOAT's



14 November 2022

Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Program
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
13787 South Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125

SUBJECT: Letter of Support OHV Grant Application, Gunnison Ranger District - #481 Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction

Dear Mr. Metsa and members of the State Trails Committee, OHV Subcommittee:

Please accept this letter from the Colorado Trails Preservation Alliance (TPA) as a letter of support for the Gunnison Ranger District's (GRD) OHV Grant application for the reconstruction of National Forest System Trail (NFST) #481 known as the Canyon Creek Trail. The TPA is an advocacy organization created to be a viable partner to public lands managers, working with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to preserve the sport of motorized trail riding and multiple-use recreation. The TPA acts as an advocate for the sport and takes the necessary action to ensure that the USFS and BLM allocate a fair and equitable percentage of public lands access to diverse multiple-use trail recreational opportunities.

The TPA supports this grant application submitted by the GRD for the reconstruction of the Canyon Creek Trail. The proposed reconstruction work along the middle portions of the Canyon Creek Trail will generally be focused above the Buffalo Fork of Canyon Creek. The much-needed work includes reconstructing several existing drainage structures, building new drainage infrastructure, rock armoring and returning the trail tread to the historic alignments originally laid out and constructed 17 years ago in 2005. The project will also include improving select, very difficult, extremely rocky sections that will be rebuilt and restored back to single-track width. The TPA endorses the value of investing in these improvements.

The TPA continues our support of OHV trail work within the GRD as this District has shown a notable commitment to multiple-use, motorized recreation and specifically support to motorcycle and motorized single-track recreation.

Sincerely,

Chad Hixon
Executive Director
Trails Preservation Alliance

Canyon Creek Trail Reconstruction

Sun Sports Unlimited in Gunnison, Colorado is in support of the request for grant funding for the reconstruction of Canyon Creek Trail #481. Being a powersports dealership, our employees and customers use and enjoy the many National Forest System Trails in the Gunnison Valley. Canyon Creek Trail offers a moderate to difficult single-track trail that also connects to several other trails in that area. Since it was last reconstructed in 2005, the continued use and weathering has made the trail much wider, more difficult and almost unrideable in sections. Receiving a grant to reconstruct drainage structures, build new structures, and return tread to its original alignments will help to protect and restore natural resources and greatly improve all user's experience. Sun Sports Unlimited will continue to support the State OHV Trail Grant program that help to protect and restore the trail systems that our employees and customers use to recreate.

Sun Sports Unlimited

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