



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

Name of Project: Flat Tops OHV Crew		Date of Application: 11/28/22
<i>(Please limit the project name to 5 words or less)</i>		
Total Project Cost: \$132,000	Grant Request: \$107,000	
<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: White River National Forest, Blanco & Rifle Ranger District		
Mailing Address: 220 E Market St. Meeker, CO 81641		
		Fax: (970) 878-5173
Telephone: (970) 878-6007		Email: aaron.grimes@usda.gov

OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DUNS # (IF REQUIRED):

PROJECT CONTACT		
<small>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.</small>		
Name: Aaron Grimes		Title: Recreation Staff Officer
Mailing Address: 220 E Market St. Meeker, CO 81641		
Telephone: (970) 878-6007	Fax: (970) 878-5173	Email: aaron.grimes@usda.gov
		Is this the primary contact for this grant: YES

PROJECT CLOSE-OUT CONTACT		
<small>This is the person responsible for submitting receipts for project spending and close-out. Please notify us if <i>Project Contact</i> changes.</small>		
Name: Aaron Grimes		Title: Recreation Staff Officer
Mailing Address: 220 E Market St. Meeker, CO 81641		
Telephone: (970) 878-6007	Fax: (970) 878-5173	Email: aaron.grimes@usda.gov

GRANTS & AGREEMENTS SPECIALIST (USFS only) or BUDGET CONTACT (BLM only)		
Name: Clark Woolley		Title: Forest Partnership Coordinator
Mailing Address: 900 Grand Ave. Glenwood Springs, CO 81601		
Telephone: (970) 945-3227	Fax: (970) 945-3266	Email: clark.woolley@usda.gov

PROJECT LOCATION		
Nearest Town or City: Meeker, CO		
County(ies): Rio Blanco and Garfield		
Township/Range/Section: see area map		
State Senate District #: 8		
State Representative District #: 26		
LAND OWNERSHIP		
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners:		
2. The trail corridor is controlled by: <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (explain): _____		
TRAIL SYSTEM INFORMATION (List the number of miles for each type of OHV trail in your area)		
Miles of Singletrack: <u> 10 </u>	Miles of 50"-10" <u> </u> Miles of 62"-97" <u> </u> Miles of Full-sized: <u> 380 </u>	
TRAIL USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply to the work planned for this project)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Side x Side	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Sized 4X4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Four-Wheeling	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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	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.)	
75%	Enforcement, Education & Visitor Contacts (e.g., patrols, enforcement, education and visitor contacts, wages, safety contacts, equipment, etc.)	
10%	Planning & Travel Plan Implementation (e.g., planning, engineering, maps, inventorying, travel management signs & installation, decommission non-system routes, rehabilitation, new construction, wages, monitoring, etc.)	
10%	Equipment /Materials/ Signs/ Youth Corps/Miscellaneous (e.g., equipment maintenance and repair, personnel training, certification in the use of specialized equipment, program coordination, etc.)	
5%	Total: (Note: Percentages should add to 100 %)	

SCOPE OF WORK – Project Description:	
Project Name: Flat Tops OHV Crew	Project No.: <small>(to be completed by CPW)</small>
Project Sponsor: USFS, White River NF, Blanco RD	Application Year: 2023-2024
Project Contact: Aaron Grimes	Application No.: <small>(to be completed by CPW)</small>
Total Project Cost: \$132,000	Grant Request: \$107,000

Project Description: The 2024 Flat Tops Good OHV Management Crew will continue to develop, maintain and improve OHV trails, trailheads, parking, and support facilities; reconstruct OHV trails and related facilities; produce, install and maintain signage for OHV trails and support facilities; develop, deliver and provide education and rider ethics training to the OHV riding community; maintain, supply and operate facilities owned by the USDA Forest Service and BLM used by OHV recreationists; implement approved federal Travel Management Plans; and provide a field presence for visitor contacts, compliance, and enforcement.

The project area consists of two riding zones, providing a spectrum of OHV riding opportunities, emphasizing OHVs 62" or less in width. These trails include sections of Rio Blanco County's Wagon Wheel OHV Trails, which seamlessly link OHV riding from the Town of Meeker to these areas in the forest. The area north of the White River includes roads and trails from Yellowjacket Pass on the west side through Sleepy Cat Peak to Ripple Creek Pass on the east side. South of the White River links Hay Flats on the west through Bar HL Park to Meadow Lake and Blair Mountain area on the east with a series of OHV routes. This southern area includes portions of Garfield County, Rifle Ranger District, and motorized access into the non-wilderness Flat Tops landscape around Blair Mountain.

The Blanco Ranger District of the White River National Forest is submitting this proposal to continue the success of the Flat Tops OHV Crew in maintaining OHV trails and providing outstanding OHV riding opportunities in Northwest Colorado. The requested Good Management Grant funding will provide a trail crew and partner hires for 24 weeks to conduct priority work on nearly 500 miles of public motorized routes and trails. In addition, the requested funding would also provide 4-5 weeks for a BLM employee operating the Yampa Valley Trail Rider's trail dozer to assist the crew in reconstruction, heavy maintenance, and minor reroute projects.

Forest Service funds support the crew: 4x4 crew cab truck, a 62" wide UTV, one ATV, and a utility trailer, and CPW grant funded: 50" UTV, a utility trailer, and three ATVs. The district's Recreation Staff Officer and another Front Country Ranger provide overhead direction, technical support, and training for this crew.

While many OHV riding areas in Colorado do not accommodate UTVs larger than 50" on most routes, the Flat Tops OHV crew manages over 477 miles of motorized trails and roads open to OHV 62" or less, or 477 of 497 miles of routes (96%). The White River Valley is a relatively natural landscape with a high degree of solitude and outstanding scenery. The privacy and views have become the OHV niche for this area, attracting UTV (side-by-side) riders from the region that visit this area to "get away from it all," ride long distances, and enjoy a beautiful landscape that doesn't seem crowded or overused.

The OHV Trail Crew has grown into a group capable of building on the previous accomplishments and making progress toward bringing the area's OHV trail system into an achievable, multi-year maintenance cycle. The program of work is developed and coordinated between both ranger

districts and partner organizations (Wagon Wheel OHV Club, White River Trail Runners, and Yampa Valley Trail Riders), with the Blanco Ranger District leading the overall program, grant administration, hiring, training, and supervising employees, and overseeing day-to-day operations. As available, the local OHV clubs provide a trail dozer for the crew's use and contribute an OHV trailer, personal OHVs, and volunteer labor to leverage each other's assets and skills further. As a group, the OHV crew has learned and acquired various skills over the season, such as chainsaw certifications, Forest Protection Officer training and certification, rock drill and wedge training, swing gate and pinch gate installation experience, fence building skills, developed a technical skill level in OHV riding, and forged an understanding of trail work and maintenance.

The expected 2024 accomplishments for the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew include:

- Provide an experienced OHV crew and partner hires from mid-May to mid-November 2024 and fund another employee for 4-5 weeks to operate the trail dozer, to address priority motorized trail maintenance needs.
- Mid-May through June: Initial season-opening logout and trail opening on nearly 500 miles of motorized roads and trails. Coordinated with local OHV clubs.
- July-September: Reconstruction or heavy maintenance of priority sections of trails with the trail dozer. Coordinated with local OHV clubs. Potential short reroutes will likely be constructed to improve trail sustainability.
- July-September: Maintaining the width-restricting pinch gates to place physical barriers at all width-restricted locations in this area.
- July-October: Reclaim any noticeable illegal off-route motorized use or created trails.
- Mid-October-early November: Hunter patrol and visitor contact emphasis. This area is the busiest time of the year for OHV riding, with many OHV registration checks.
- Season-long installation of signage. We are installing new trail identification signs that include the trail number and the trail name for improved visitor information and navigation.
- Season-long provide visiting riders with information and educational materials, monitor OHV special events, and thank riders for displaying proper OHV registrations.

The funding for these efforts and accomplishments is acknowledged by placing "Colorado Registration Dollars at Work" stickers on all information kiosks, extensive roads, and trail signage and handing out brochures about the program. When in compliance, all OHV riders are thanked for correctly displaying their registration and told about how these dollars have contributed to maintaining their OHV riding opportunities in this area. Yampa Valley Trail Riders trail dozer has a "Dollars at Work" decal. In addition, wagon Wheel OHV Club does social media posts about how sticker dollars maintain and improve local OHV trails.

Budget Form

Project Name: Flat Tops OHV GM Trail Crew-2024

Date Project will be Completed: Nov 2024

Project Sponsor: USFS, White River National Forest, Blanco Ranger District

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)	\$ 107,000		\$ 107,000.00
Forest Service crew cab truck #3206 (monthly fundin/fuel)	\$ -	\$ 3,247	\$ 3,247.00
Forest Service UTV Polaris Ranger #8423 (monthly funding/fuel)	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600.00
Forest Service ATV- Yamaha Grizzly #9351 (monthly funding/fuel)	\$ -	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,350.00
Forest Service UTV TBD (purchasing 2023) (monthly funding/fuel)	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500.00
Recreation Manager GS-11 (25 days @ \$450/day)	\$ -	\$ 11,250	\$ 11,250.00
Recreation Technician GS-7 (12 days @ \$290/day)	\$ -	\$ 3,480	\$ 3,480.00
Misc trainings (OHV, 1st Aid, Chainsaw, etc.)	\$ -	\$ 2,573	\$ 2,573.00
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
USE OF GRANT FUNDING		TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT	\$ 132,000.00

List uses of grant funding (only) below

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
Trail Crew Leader *hourly cost is not wages, but total cost to employer		\$26-34/hour	\$ 33,800.00
2-3 Trail Crew Members	\$ -	\$18-25/hour	\$ 43,200.00
*and/or 2-3 youth corps interns, and/or 2-3 weeks of youth corps trail crews	\$ -		\$ -
Trail Dozer Operator for 4-5 weeks	\$ -	\$48-52/hour	\$ 6,200.00
PPE and uniforms	\$ -		\$ 2,000.00
Pump Sum Payments	\$ -		\$ 2,500.00
Travel/training/per diem	\$ -		\$ 2,500.00
		Category Total	\$ 90,200.00
<small>For CPW use only Approximate number of workhours</small>	Price Per	Quantity	Total
II. Project Materials/Supplies			
<small>Identify as: Signs, rock, lumber, paint, nails, printing, maps/guides, education materials, etc.</small>			
Signage, hardware, gate material, concrete, paint, fasteners, posts, etc	\$ -		\$ 2,500.00
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
		Category Total	\$ 2,500.00
III. Equipment			
<small>Identify as: Trail Dozers, ATV/UTV, motorcycle, chainsaws, winches, field equipment rentals, equipment fuel, repairs, and operations, etc.</small>			
OHV and trailer maintenance and repairs	\$ -		\$ 5,000.00
OHV and chainsaw fuel	\$ -		\$ 2,000.00
Trail dozer maintenance and repairs	\$ -		\$ 3,000.00
new professional grade chainsaw & extra bar-ex. Stihl 362, 462, 491	\$ -		\$ 1,550.00
misc tools and equipment	\$ -		\$ 2,000.00
		Category Total	\$ 13,550.00
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>			
*and/or 2-3 youth corps interns, and/or 2-3 weeks of youth corps trail crews	\$ -		\$ -

See above under Personnels Costs	\$ -		\$ -
		Category Total	\$ -
V. Volunteer Support			
<i>Identify as: For Volunteers Only</i> 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	\$ -		
PPE for local OHV clubs	\$ -		\$ 750.00
		Category Total	\$ 750.00
		Total	\$ 107,000.00

C-1

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 Flat Tops OHV Crew Project Sponsor White River National Forest, Blanco 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:

White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, April 2002 Revision, Record of Decision

Date: April 2002

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

Date and title of document:

White River National Forest Travel Management Plan-August 2011

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:

Aaron Grimes, Acting Blanco District Ranger (970) 878-6007 aaron.grimes@usda.gov

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

Aaron Grimes, Acting District Ranger

Print or type Land Manager's Name and Title

 Acting District Ranger

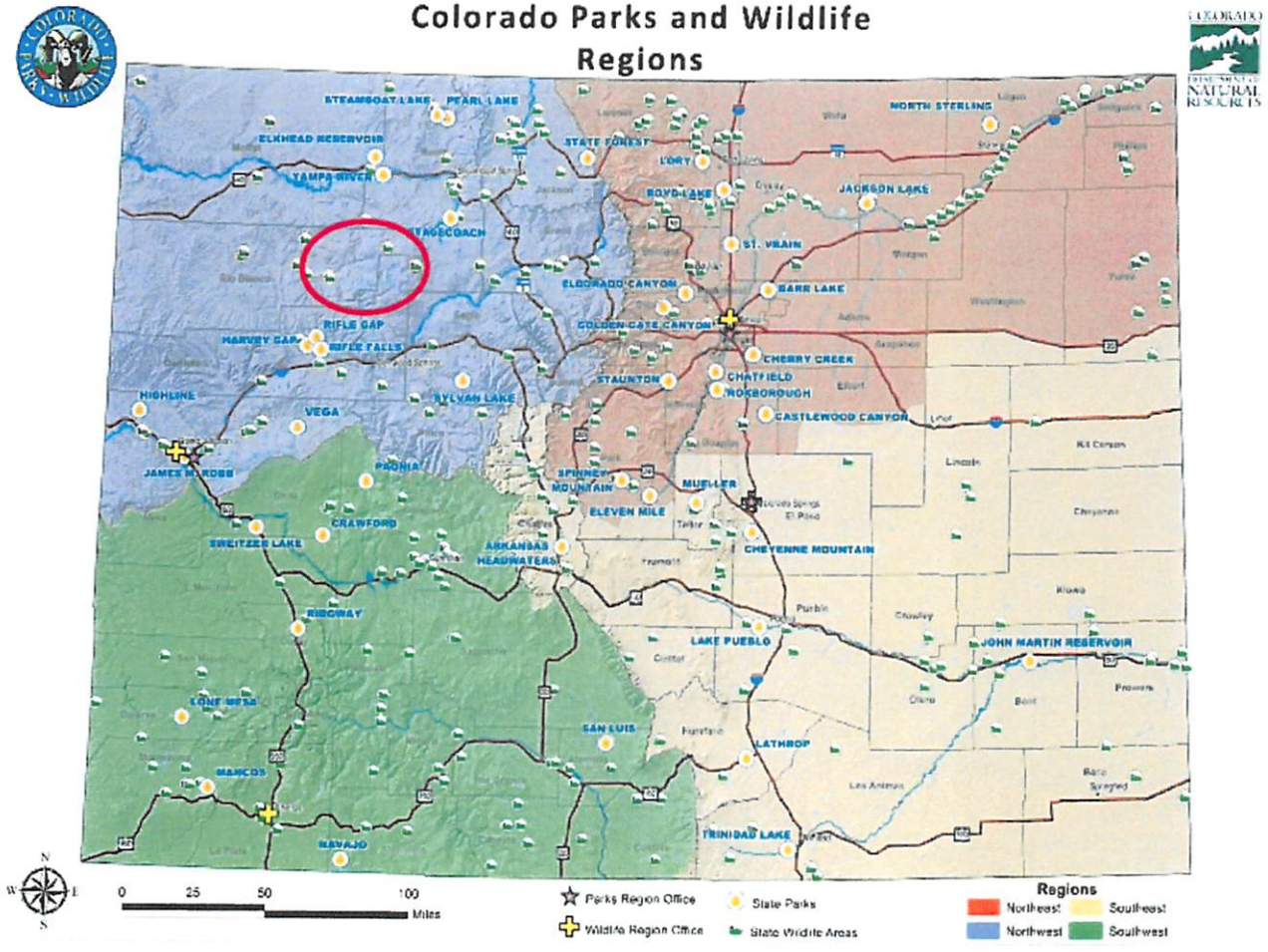
Land Manager Signature and Title

11/28/22

Date

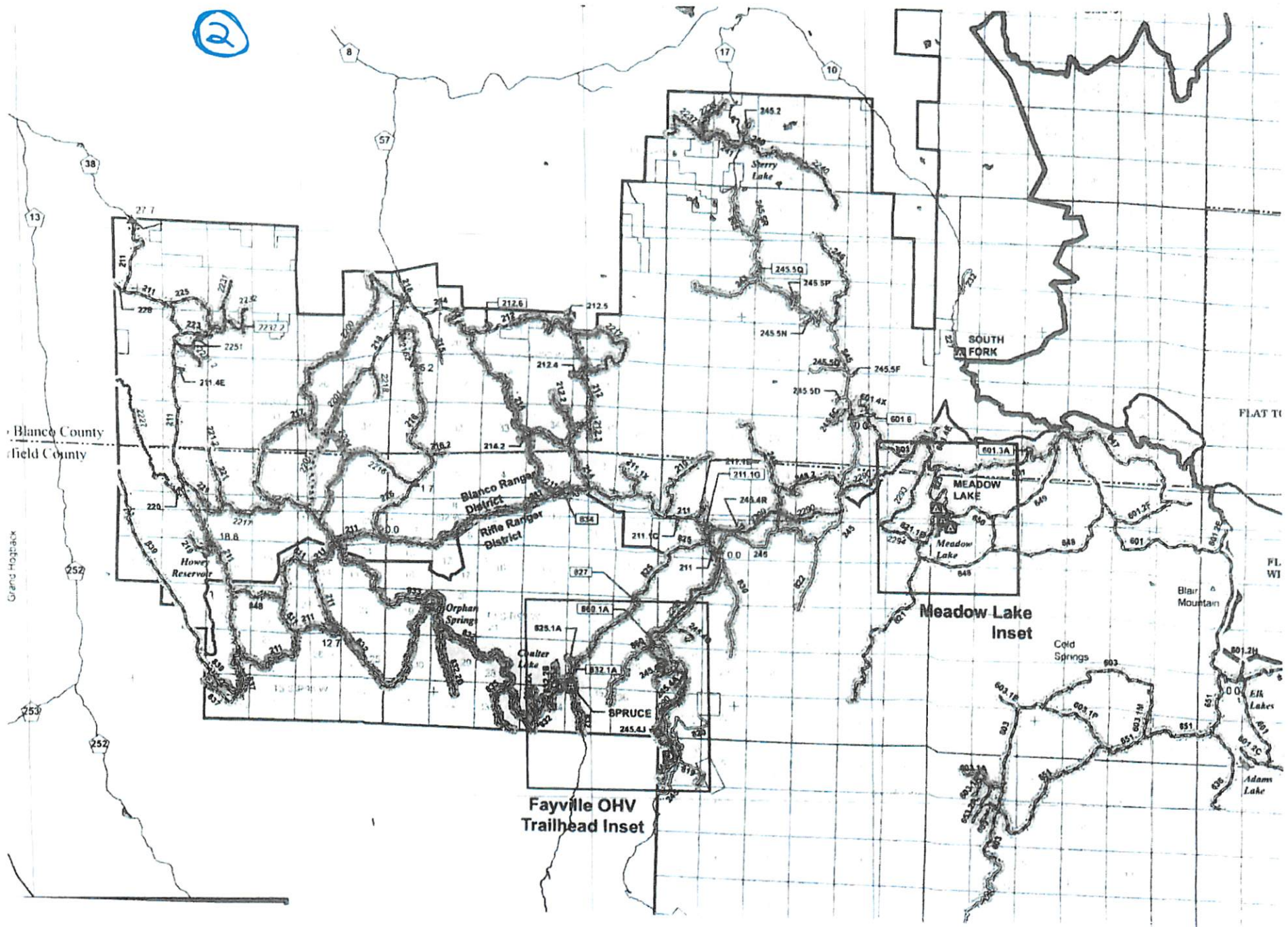
E-1 Vicinity Map & E-2 Project Site Map

E-1 Vicinity Map: Please mark the vicinity where the project is located on the map below.



E-2 Project Map: *see next three pages.

2



(F) Project Illustration

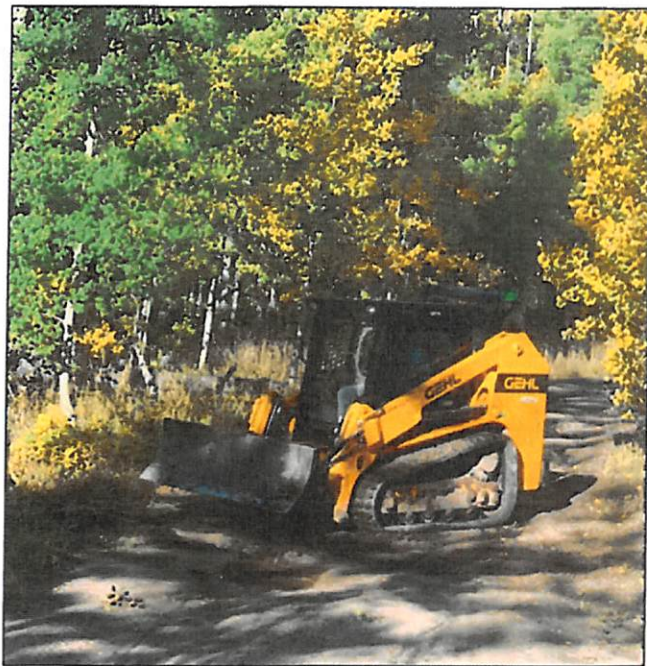
Photographs, Drawings, Engineering Plans, Diagrams



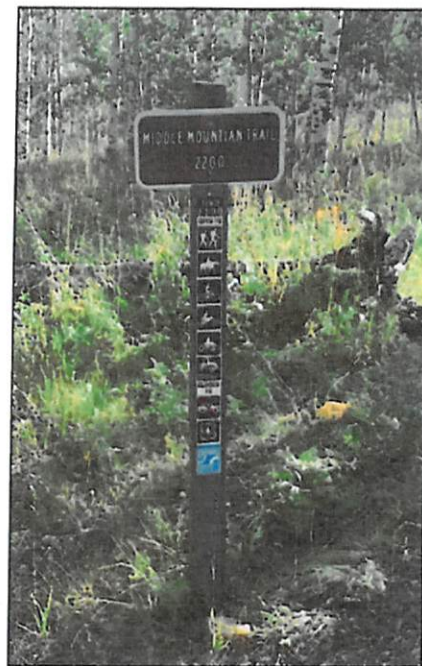
The 2022 Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew: L to R Crew Leader Robert Sosebee (3yrs exp), Crew Member Christopher Gerdes (2yrs exp.), and Crew Member Ashlie Ray (2yrs exp.)



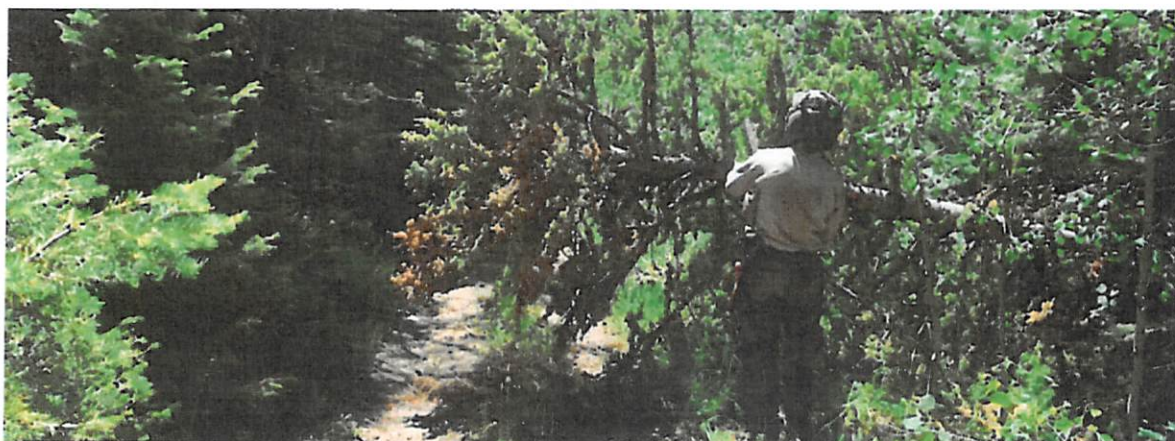
Typical width restrictor gate installation on a 62" or less UTV trail.



Skid steer used for water bar & drainage maintenance.



New signs installed!



(G) Letters of Project Support

Partners that received a draft copy of the grant and budget, and provided an opportunity for input:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife-NW Region Trails Coordinator, Randy Engle

Colorado Parks and Wildlife-Meeker Office, Bill De Vergie

Wagon Wheel OHV Club

Yampa Valley Trail Riders

White River Trail Runners

Rio Blanco County

Town of Meeker-provided a letter of support (enclosed)

Meeker Chamber of Commerce



M E E K E R
C O L O R A D O EST. 1885

345 Market Street, Meeker, CO 81641 - 970.878.5344

November 18, 2022

Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Re: OHV State Trail Grant

The Town of Meeker would like to express its continued support for the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew and appreciation for their service over the years to our public lands and the people that use them year after year.

Since the inception of the Wagon Wheel OHV Trail system, the Town of Meeker has seen a welcome growth in tourism as well as local recreation throughout the White River Valley. Providing premier OHV opportunities has helped diversify our economy and increase marketability, making our community more resilient. We remain grateful for the work that our Forest District puts in to managing and maintaining nearly 500 miles of quality trails.

Upon reviewing the 2022 Annual Accomplishment Report it is abundantly clear that the Flat Tops OHV Crew continues to be a good investment for CPW's Good Management Trail Grant. This year's 3-person crew exceeded the district's work plan, maintaining over 400 miles of motorized trails across the White River Forest. The Town of Meeker endorses their work to keep our region open, safe, and accessible for everyone to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Mandi Etheridge
Town Administrator

Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew



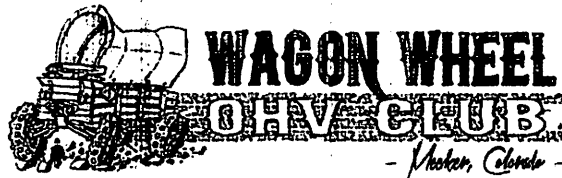
2023 Annual Work Plan

Annual Operations

- **Early season:** Complete any needed trainings, make plans with OHV clubs, prep and organize gear, equipment, and materials, open seasonal gates, start trail clearing, and identify further trail maintenance needs and signs to be ordered.
- **Mid-season:** finish trail clearing, work on trail drainage, tread, and corridor brushing, install signs, perform trail dozer work for 5-6 weeks, width restrictor gate maintenance and installations, and any other minor project work.
- **Late-season:** finish installing any ordered signs and maintain any damaged width restrictor gates, hunter patrols during rifle season, and winterize and repair equipment as needed.

2023 Focus Areas

- **Pagoda Lake Trail (FST 1804)**-Heavy trail maintenance and minor re-routes with trail dozer and labor from youth corps trail crews in partnership with Wagon Wheel OHV Club and Yampa Valley Trail Riders. This will include tread work, armored water crossings, and creating a more sustainable trail with minor re-routes.
- **Illegal Trails**-Shut down, slash in, and sign all illegal trails in the Blanco OHV District trail zones with help from local partners with the Wagon Wheel OHV Club. Focusing on trails in Aldrich Lake, Wilson Park, Milk Creek, and Sawmill Mountain areas.
- **Width Restriction Gate maintenance and repair**- There has been continued vandalism of existing gates. We are finding gates cut with metal saws, broken with winches, and rammed by OHVs, leading to more work re-installing these gates in a more vandal-proof manner. Plans include *Engineering* better ways to install gates and stop users from driving around gates, *Educating* the public about staying on the trail, and *Enforcement* for those users who are struggling to follow the rules. Hopefully, by addressing these issues promptly and deploying new techniques, we will start to see less vandalism.
- **Sawmill Mountain Area Trail Dozer Work**- Once the Pagoda Lake Trail Project is complete, the trail dozer will be mobilized to the Sawmill Mountain area to complete heavy trail maintenance work on Forest Service Trails 2633 (Coal Creek Beginning), 2214 (Coal Creek), 2286 (Columbine), 2267 (Dickerville), and 2268 (Dickerville Spur).
- **Corridor Project**- OHV trail crew will focus on brushing the corridors of trails on Middle Mountain (2216), Big Beaver Basin (2272), and Fayville trail (2290).



November 25, 2022

RE: Letter of support for the Flat Tops Off-Highway Vehicle Trail Crew

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Wagon Wheel OHV Club, I would like to express our support for the proposed grant application for the White River National Forest (WRNF) Flat Tops Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail Crew for trail maintenance and improvement including equipment and supplies. With the ever increasing interest, these trail crews are crucial in maintaining the OHV Trails on the WRNF Flat Tops areas to ensure their continued use as well as future expansion.

The Wagon Wheel OHV Club is looking forward to assisting the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew in any way we can. Working as a team, our volunteers are always willing to assist and learn with any trail maintenance projects keeping continued use and expansion in mind. With a record number of members in 2022, we organized 5 trail clean up/work days and hope to continue in 2023. We realize the value of these trails not only for our personal enjoyment but also as an economic stimulus for our community by promoting tourism and recreation. The WWOHV Club encourages members to attend the Crew Leader Certification and Chainsaw Certification classes when possible.

With the increase in OHV enthusiasts, the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew is an essential part of our OHV trail system and community. We have seen a tremendous increase in all types of outdoor recreation enthusiasts in Rio Blanco County. OHV trail maintenance, enforcement, and education should be a part of every USFS district's annual operating plan.

Thank you for considering White River National Forest (WRNF) Flat Tops Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail Crew for a grant that will keep OHV Recreation alive in our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Murray", is written over a horizontal line.

David Murray

President

Wagon Wheel OHV Club