

GM24
NE-M



COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

**2024-2025
Off-Highway Vehicle Program
State Trail Grant Application**

Name of Project: North Rampart Good OHV Crew 2025		Date of Application: 1 Dec 23
<i>(Please limit the project name to 5 words or less)</i>		
Total Project Cost: \$136,735	Grant Request: \$112,763	
<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: USDA Forest Service, South Platte Ranger District		
Mailing Address: 30403 Kings Valley Dr. Ste 2-115, Conifer, CO 80433		
Telephone: 303-275-5626	Email: marc.grandia@usda.gov	
OFFICIAL USE ONLY – UEI # (IF REQUIRED):		
https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei		
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: Marc Grandia	Title: Natural Resources Specialist	
Mailing Address: 30403 Kings Valley Dr. Ste 2-115, Conifer, CO 80433		
Telephone: 303-275-5626	Email: marc.grandia@usda.gov	
Cell: 720-320-8732	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: Marc Grandia	Title: Natural Resources Specialist	
Mailing Address: 30403 Kings Valley Dr. Ste 2-115, Conifer, CO 80433		
Telephone: 303-275-5626	Email: marc.grandia@usda.gov	
GRANTS & AGREEMENTS SPECIALIST (USFS only) or BUDGET CONTACT (BLM only)		
Name: Jennifer Munn	Title: Grants Management Specialist	
Mailing Address: 1617 Cole Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80401		
Telephone: 605-515-8812	Email: Jennifer.munn@usda.gov	

PROJECT LOCATION		
Nearest Town or City: Sedalia, CO		
County(ies): Douglas		
Forest Road 300, Devils Head Lookout Tower		
Township/Range/Section: Indian Creek Work Center T8S/R69W/S3		
State Senate District #: 4	State Representative District #: 39	
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): <u>USFS</u>		
TRAIL SYSTEM INFORMATION (List the number of miles for each type of OHV trail in your area)		
Miles of Singletrack: <u>~70</u>	Miles of 50" or less: <u>~100</u>	Miles of Full-sized: <u>~18</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 type="checkbox"/> Full Sized 4X4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling	<input 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 checked="" 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.)	
60		
20	Enforcement, Education & Visitor Contacts (e.g., patrols, enforcement, education and visitor contacts, wages, safety contacts, equipment, etc.)	
15	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: North Rampart Good OHV Crew 2025	Project No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Project Sponsor: USDA / USFS South Platte RD	Application Year: 2024-2025
Project Contact: Marc Grandia	Application No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Total Project Cost: \$136,735	Grant Request: \$112,763

Project Description: Please write a brief description of your project and the expected accomplishments. Be sure to include Who, What, When, and Where. This is your scope of work. (This section is not for project background, benefits or anything other than the actual work to be accomplished. Please address this information in question #2 of section D, Project Selection Criteria.)

[Remove all instructional text \(below\) and replace it with information specific to this project request](#)

WHO?

The USFS, South Platte Ranger District, North Rampart OHV Crew will be the responsible party for this project. The four-person crew will focus on trail maintenance, visitor contacts, education, and compliance primarily on the Rampart Range 50” trail system.

WHERE?

The crew and equipment will be stationed at the Indian Creek Workstation near Sedalia, CO; all work will be within the Pike National Forest, South Platte Ranger District, at the Rampart Range Motorized Recreation Area entirely within Douglas County. The crew’s areas of patrol and maintenance consists of all the 50” trails on the North Rampart Range trail system. The trail crew will cover approximately 100 miles of trail on the Rampart Range and all associated trail heads, kiosks, and practice areas.

WHAT? The trail crew will dedicate 60 percent of their time to maintenance of the Rampart Range 50” trails. Crew members not MSF Dirt Bike or ATV certified will complete training and utilize those skills to safely negotiate the trail system. One crewmember will be sent to FPO training, and all crewmembers will be CPR certified. All the Rampart trails have regular tree blow down, drainage issues, and other hazards; this crew will be capable of maintaining the trail system and trail heads. The initial phase of work on the trails will be planned with the Statewide OHV crew, if available, to clear all 50” track from hazards that occurred over the winter season. Crucial drainage work will be done at this time and other needed work will be documented to plan future maintenance days and work parties. The crew will be required to wear uniforms that identify themselves as the OHV trail crew; dirt bikes, ATVs, and Side-by-sides will display the “Colorado OHV Registration Dollars at Work” logo.

Work projects for the season will be as follows:

1. Hazard and hazard tree removal
2. Bridge repair, installation, or removal
3. Tread hardening, drainage remediation
4. Trail braiding and user created trail ripping and rehab
5. Restrictor gate installation and repair
6. Volunteer work parties (6) and special events such as poker runs (2)
7. Sign installation, removal, and replacement
8. On/Off loading ramp repair

Feedback from the public and partner volunteer groups will be solicited to determine if completed work meets safe and sustainable riding standards.

WHEN? The Rampart crew will be onboarded as early as mid-May 2025 and begin trail work as soon as weather conditions permit. If weather and/or the mud-season closure are limiting factors planning, training, and maintenance will be priority. The project will be complete 30 November 2025. The crew will have the OHV program manager on for 14 pay periods, two permanent crewmembers that will be on for a minimum of 13 pay periods, and one additional 1039 trail crewmember.

Program Funding Acknowledgement – The trail crew will display “Colorado Registration Dollars at Work” on both uniforms and machines. Additionally, logos will be displayed at trail heads and kiosks. Educating the public of where their registration dollars go will be ongoing during both maintenance and patrol days.

DEFINITIONS?

MSF-Motorcycle Safety Foundation

FPO-Forest Protection Officer

Budget Form

Project Name: North Rampart Good OHV Crew 2025

Date Project will be Completed: 30-Nov-25

Project Sponsor: USDA Forest Service, South Platte 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)			\$ 112,763.00
Other Funding Sources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GS-07 0462 OHV Grant Admin., Supervision & Vehicle (4 Pay Periods)	\$ 9,960	\$ -	\$ 9,960.00
GS-09 0401 Supervision and Vehicle	\$ 12,512	\$ -	\$ 12,512.00
Forest Service Vehicles/Excavator: Fuel/Maintenance	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
USE OF GRANT FUNDING	TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT		\$ 136,735.00

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
GS-07 0462 OHV Program Manager (18/8) 14 Pay Periods	\$ 26.76			\$ 30,080.00
GS-06 0462 Forestry Technician Trail Crew Member (13/13) 13 Pay Periods	\$ 24.08			\$ 25,135.00
GS-05 0462 Forestry Technician Trail Crew Member (13/13) 13 Pay Periods	\$ 21.61			\$ 22,549.00
GS-05 0462 Forestry Technician Trail Crew Member (1039)	\$ 21.61			\$ 22,549.00
Riding Gear; PPE	\$ -			\$ 2,000.00
COHVCO Training x2 Tuition, Travel, Lodging	\$ -			\$ 1,350.00
<small>For CPW use only. Approximate number of workhours</small>	3,873.80		Category Total	\$ 103,663.00
II. Project Materials/Supplies				
<small>Identify as: Signs, rock, lumber, paint, nails, printing, maps/guides, education materials, etc.</small>				
	Price Per	Quantity	Total	
Grass seed for rehab	\$ 275.00	2	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
Concrete	\$ 225.00	2	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
Signs, hardware, bridge decking, trail marker posts	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
			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>				
ATV and Bike Maintenance	\$ 5,500.00		\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
Chainsaw Maintenance/Replacement	\$ 700.00		\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
			Category Total	\$ 6,200.00
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>				
	\$ -			\$ -
	\$ -			\$ -
	\$ -			\$ -
			Category Total	\$ -
V. Volunteer Support				
<small>Identify as: For Volunteers Only 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>				
Sawyer Certs. RRMMC - 4 Students / Tuition	\$ 100.00	4	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
	\$ -			\$ -
			Category Total	\$ 400.00
			Total	\$ 112,763.00

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

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FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION and LAND MANAGER APPROVAL

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

Project Name	North Rampart Good OHV Crew 2025	Project Sponsor	USDA / USFS South Platte Ranger District
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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:

Pike National Forest Land Use Plan Date: 1984

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

Date and title of document:

July 2005 Rampart Range Recreation Area Motorized Roads and Trails Plan

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:

Jennifer DeWoody, PSICC NEPA Planner Jennifer.dewoody@usda.gov

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

Brian Banks, District Ranger, South Platte Ranger District

Print or type Land Manager's Name and Title



Digitally signed by BRIAN BANKS
Date: 2023.11.28 14:07:05 -07'00'

Land Manager Signature and Title

Date

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PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

Carefully read and provide answers to each of the following four criteria (four page maximum):

All applicants must respond to the following selection criteria questions. You are allowed the space below each question to fill in your answer. If you have an answer that does not fill the entire page, do not feel obligated to fill the space. This application will be scored on a 100 point basis. The maximum number of points that can be awarded for each question is shown in parentheses. Each project will be reviewed by outside reviewers and State Trails staff, and projects will be ranked according to reviewer and staff scores. Failure to provide a response to any question (unless otherwise noted) will reduce your project's score. Please reference all attachments.

1. Need for & Benefit of the Project (25 points):

The Good OHV Trail Crew has and will continue to develop, maintain, and improve or reconstruct OHV trails, trailheads, parking, and support facilities; produce, install, and maintain signage of OHV trails; 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; implement approved federal Travel Management Plans; and provide a field presence for visitor contacts, compliance, and enforcement. They will respond to issues regarding resource damage and handle safety concerns; recognize areas where reroutes need to be considered as well as close off and rehabilitate non-system routes to protect the landscape.

This project crew has been and will continue to be a high priority as the Rampart Range is considered a premier riding destination for thousands of riders from around the country.

The primary objective of the North Rampart Good OHV Trail Crew is to enhance the riding experience for 50" trail users by providing a safe and enjoyable trail system while protecting the resource from damage. These trails are used by not only OHV enthusiast, but also bikers, hikers, and equestrian riders. Providing regular trail maintenance of the entire network of trails is a key goal of the crew. The crew will spend sixty percent of its time maintaining the trails and trail heads. As the population of the front range and the Denver metro area increases, so does the number of people who visit the Rampart Range. The increase in usage by OHV enthusiasts results in trails that are unsustainable and often unsafe; new illegal routes develop, and resource damage occurs. The crew will be able to identify, repair, and rehabilitate these areas. They will also identify areas of trail that need bridge installation or repair, conduct much needed tread hardening, rip braided and illegal routes, and rehabilitate old routes that are no longer sustainable for riding.

Proper planning will begin early. It is our intent to partner with the State OHV crew early in the season to not only remove hazards but to identify future work and work projects with partners. The crew will spend fifteen percent of its time planning, resourcing work projects and identifying items to be purchased with grant dollars. Five percent of their time will be dedicated to maintaining equipment and materials.

The four-person crew will be responsible for providing a presence, distributing information, educating the public, and enforcing applicable forest rules and regulations. One crewmember will receive FPO training to issue warning or violation notices, but just as important, the entire crew will reinforce the importance of OHV registration to the public and how those dollars are being used. This crew will have a positive impact to the thousands of OHV visitors that ride the Rampart trails ensuring that riders have an enjoyable experience while fostering an environment of safe use in a challenging trail network.

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

For over 50 years the Forest Service and the Rampart Range Motorcycle Management Committee (RRMMC) has worked together to maintain, improve, and develop the Rampart Range Motorized Recreation Area into one of the premier riding areas in Colorado. RRMMC's support includes volunteer participation, securing funds for maintenance efforts, utilizing heavy equipment for trail maintenance, hosting work parties, and educating riders on the proper way to enjoy OHV activities. As part of this collaboration, volunteer projects will be dedicated to prioritized maintenance and enhancement projects. This includes the slashing in of closed trails, seeding of ripped trails, sign installation, fence repair and installation, trail hardening, and a variety of other trail maintenance projects. The OHV crew will be instrumental in identifying, planning, and coordinating more labor-intensive volunteer trail projects with the RRMMC. The heavy equipment operators can complete trail maintenance projects that may be too difficult to complete based on the complexity of the landscape. The work the OHV crew and the RRMMC complete together adds an additional level of sustainability. During the 2023 season, the RRMMC was involved in six work parties contributing to 1606 volunteer hours and organized and executed two Poker Runs.

As part of the process to get where we are today, the Forest Service has collected and analyzed data that went into the decision to build these trails and where to locate them. We have gone to extraordinary lengths to involve all interested parties and seek their input. During the scoping phase conducted for the Environmental Assessment, we held four public meetings that were attended by over 500 people. These public meetings were attended by a wide variety of individuals and groups. We have incorporated this input into a plan that considers the needs of all interested parties, including concerns for resource sustainability and habitat protection. This proposed project is a result of that process. While it is impossible to meet the expectations of all interested parties, this project will provide more opportunities for the users, minimize negative impacts to the environment, and provide a basis for sound, comprehensive management of the area.

This proposed project is in accordance with the plan approved in 2005. Since that time the Forest Service has partnered with several groups, clubs, and organizations with a shared objective to see this project implemented. In addition to the RRMMC, other partners include:

Douglas County -The County maintains all the roads located within the Rampart Range Motorized Recreation area including those open to unlicensed motor vehicles. They grade the main Rampart Road at least three times a year and to a lesser degree, trailheads as well as our higher clearance roads open to unlicensed motor vehicles. Additionally, they were heavily involved with the construction of the primary Rampart Trailhead and entrance and completed a new trailhead near the forest boundary on Dakan Road. This facility has proved to be very popular with users in the Castle Rock and Colorado Springs area. It includes a toilet, kiosk, and year-round parking for approximately 25 vehicles.

Douglas County Search and Rescue – Over the years, DCSAR has provided support to riders through critical medical evacuations, been on-site during large scale recreation activities, and assisted motorists and other recreators who have become stranded or lost while traversing the Rampart Range. They conduct training events throughout the year which has familiarized their staff with the complex topography in the area. DCSAR has consistently provided support to the OHV program.

Stay The Trail has been an invaluable resource to the Rampart Range for many years. Their approach to motorized recreation has cultivated a culture of responsible OHV riders across the state; their presence during work parties and recreation events has helped educate riders to be good stewards of public lands. During the 2023 season, Stay the Trail provided the South Platte OHV program with \$2400 worth of additional sign funding.

\$2500 is being requested for purchasing project materials and supplies such as sign material for installation or replacement, construction hardware, concrete, and grass seed for rehabilitation areas.

All personnel associated with this project will display or inform the public that they are funded as a direct result of Colorado OHV registration dollars. In-kind services include overall supervision of the

program which involves approximately 30 percent of the district Travel Management Supervisor's time, engineering support and contracting preparation for the rehabilitation effort. The total project cost is \$136,735.

3. Resource Protection, Enhancement and Restoration relative to eligible OHV grant activities

(25 points):

A main benefit of this project is to emphasize resource protection, enhancement, and restoration. By responding timely to weather events along with regular maintenance, habitat will improve, erosion will be controlled, and over time the visual impacts of closed, non-sustainable routes will fade. The presence provided by the crew will ensure that closed routes remain closed and be restored to their natural condition. The dedicated trail crew will keep the trails clear and maintained.

The project area includes steep slopes, highly erosive soils, sensitive riparian habitats, and populations of federally threatened species such as the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, Pawnee Montane Skipper, and Mexican Spotted owl. Like many trails that have been user created, the sections of trail that are unsustainable have been identified for minor rerouting. These trails are difficult to maintain and have a negative effect on the resource. This damage is primarily the result of trails located too close to riparian or on excessively steep slopes with highly erodible soils. Re-routing trails out of riparian zones and off steep slopes minimizes erosion and keeps sediment on the upper slopes which will substantially improve water quality, improve stream bank stability, and promote enhanced riparian vegetation growth. It is essential that the closed sections of these trails be stabilized and put in a condition that allows for habitat improvement.

Resource Protection – All rerouted trail construction has been approved in accordance with the signed 2005 Environmental Assessment and archeological and biological surveys. Based on these results the original layout has been adjusted to avoid any biological concerns or cultural resources. The crew will help ensure that riders are staying on designated routes, replacing route designation signs, and educating riders on responsible OHV recreation.

Trail braiding is a significant concern throughout the Rampart Range. The crew will identify these problem sites and close off and rehab them. Native grass seed will be planted once these trails are ripped to bring the area back to a natural state. The trail system is constantly being monitored with resource concerns in mind. Sections of trail that are determined to be unsustainable will be evaluated. Any closed sections will be rehabilitated as to minimize any further impacts. This is also the case with trails that may interfere with critical habitat (riparian areas), in sensitive nesting areas (Goshawk), or slopes that are too steep and are contributing sediment to streams. Eliminating the source of erosion and sediment transports can improve fish habitat miles downstream.

Enhancement – This project will not only enhance the experience for OHV riders but other trail and forest users as well. The crew will clear trail on a regular basis and respond to needed repairs in a timely fashion. Improving trails that have erosion issues, vegetation encroachment, and hazards will allow riders of varying skill levels a safer riding experience.

Restoration – The trail system is constantly monitored and evaluated. Maintenance projects are prioritized based on their resource impacts and safety concerns. This project will ensure that resource impacts are addressed, and restoration actions are planned and executed. If a trail is rerouted, closed sections will be rehabilitated by ripping the old trail, followed by slashing in forest debris, and planting of native grass seeds.

Currently there are no plans for new trail construction or major re-routes. As conditions change on the ground minor re-routes will be considered to protect non-sustainable trails; specifically, where deep cut routes consisting of decomposing granite is causing difficult negotiation of trails and user created bypasses.

Large equipment maintenance – Currently, the Rampart OHV crew has one grant purchased mini-excavator. In 2022, it underwent its 500-hour service and in 2023 all fluid lines were replaced. Operator level maintenance is conducted monthly. The mini excavator is used for projects such as digging holes for signposts, post and cable, minor grading operations, and ramp repair.

There is no plan for turn-in or replace the machine as it is in great working condition and used frequently.

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

Travel Management:

This project will implement and be in compliance with applicable portions of the decision made in the 2005 Rampart Range Recreation Area Motorized Roads and Trails Plan. This travel management plan is the result of an extensive process that looked at an area over 92,000 acres in size. All of the existing motorized routes were evaluated for sustainability, resource concerns, and forest plan compliance. Other considerations include user satisfaction and reducing conflicts, and how well the network of trails worked in providing connectivity and loops. This plan identified trails that were to be closed and rehabilitated, trails that are targeted for rerouting, and acknowledged the need for new trails for both 50 inch wide ATV's and UTV's, and single track. By incorporating these recommendations new routes were added to improve loop opportunities, reduce conflicts between users, and provide trail access to areas where there was previously only road access open to licensed OHV's only. The crew will patrol and monitor the "roadless area" east of Dakan Road and to the west of Perry Park. This habitat has seen illegal routes develop near multiple campsites. The crew will rip and rehab these routes to protect the area and patrol and monitor for illegal use. The patrol crew requested in this grant proposal will help to ensure that the decisions made in this travel plan are maintained and adhered to.

Education:

A principle objective of the four person patrol crew is to make as many contacts as possible and educate users on a variety of topics. Every season, this crew makes thousands of visitor contacts which are recorded in the daily diaries. With tens of thousands of visitors each year engaged in a variety of activities it is essential that education play an important role. All trails will be clearly signed and are displayed on the South Platte Ranger District MVUM. MVUMs will be provided at trailhead kiosks and offered as part of every contact. Educating the public on the importance of OHV registration will be a part of the contact conversation and environmental concerns and habitat protection will be discussed. Riders who are not compliant with OHV registration will be asked to register as soon as possible. The message that OHV dollars go back into the trail system will be important for all visitors to understand. Additionally, educating riders on safe practices will be a key point; the use of Forest Service approved spark arrestors will be at the forefront to visitor contact conversation. Those not in compliance with the use of spark arrestors will be told to not ride that machine and potentially receive a violation notice.

Enforcement and Compliance Activities:

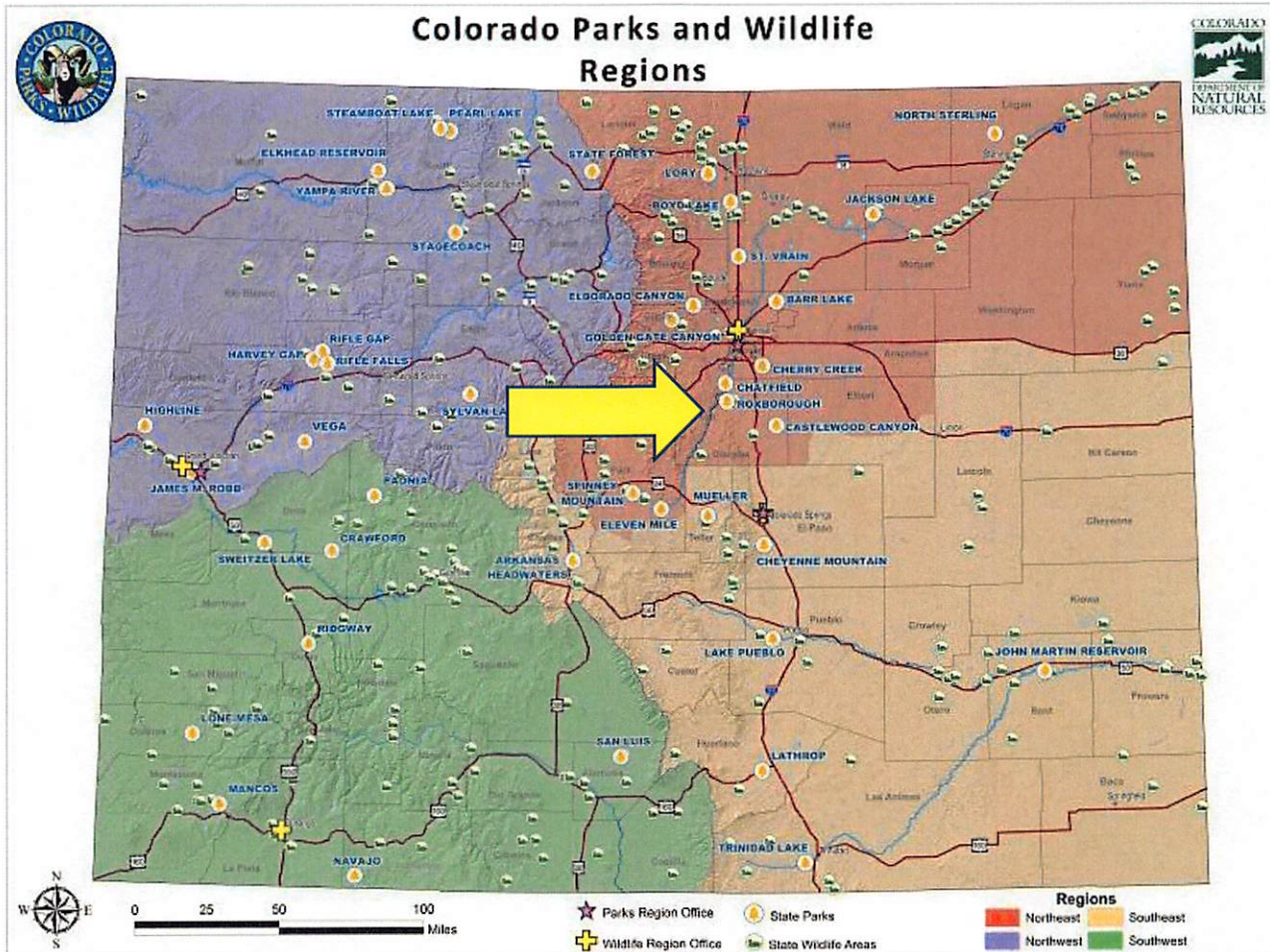
The already busy area is growing significantly in popularity every year. In addition to safe and positive recreation activities, there is a portion of the public that visits the area with nefarious intent. Illegal activities include vandalism, resource damage, graffiti, improper trash disposal, occupancy infringements, irresponsible shooting, drug use, assaults, fire violations, and other violations covered under the Forest Service Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). These activities have a negative effect for those that wish to visit the area for other recreation opportunities. The trail crew will be trained to respond to these incidents either directly or with the assistance of Forest Service or county law enforcement officers to ensure that their own safety as well as the public's is looked after. This crew will inform users of forest rules & regulations and the importance of OHV registration. Forest Protection Officers will write necessary warnings and violation notices. These statistics are tracked for grant administration purposes as well as internally in our Law Enforcement Investigation & Reporting System (LEIRS). Twenty percent of the crew's time will be spent doing visitor contacts, compliance, and enforcement activities.

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

Maps being requested include:

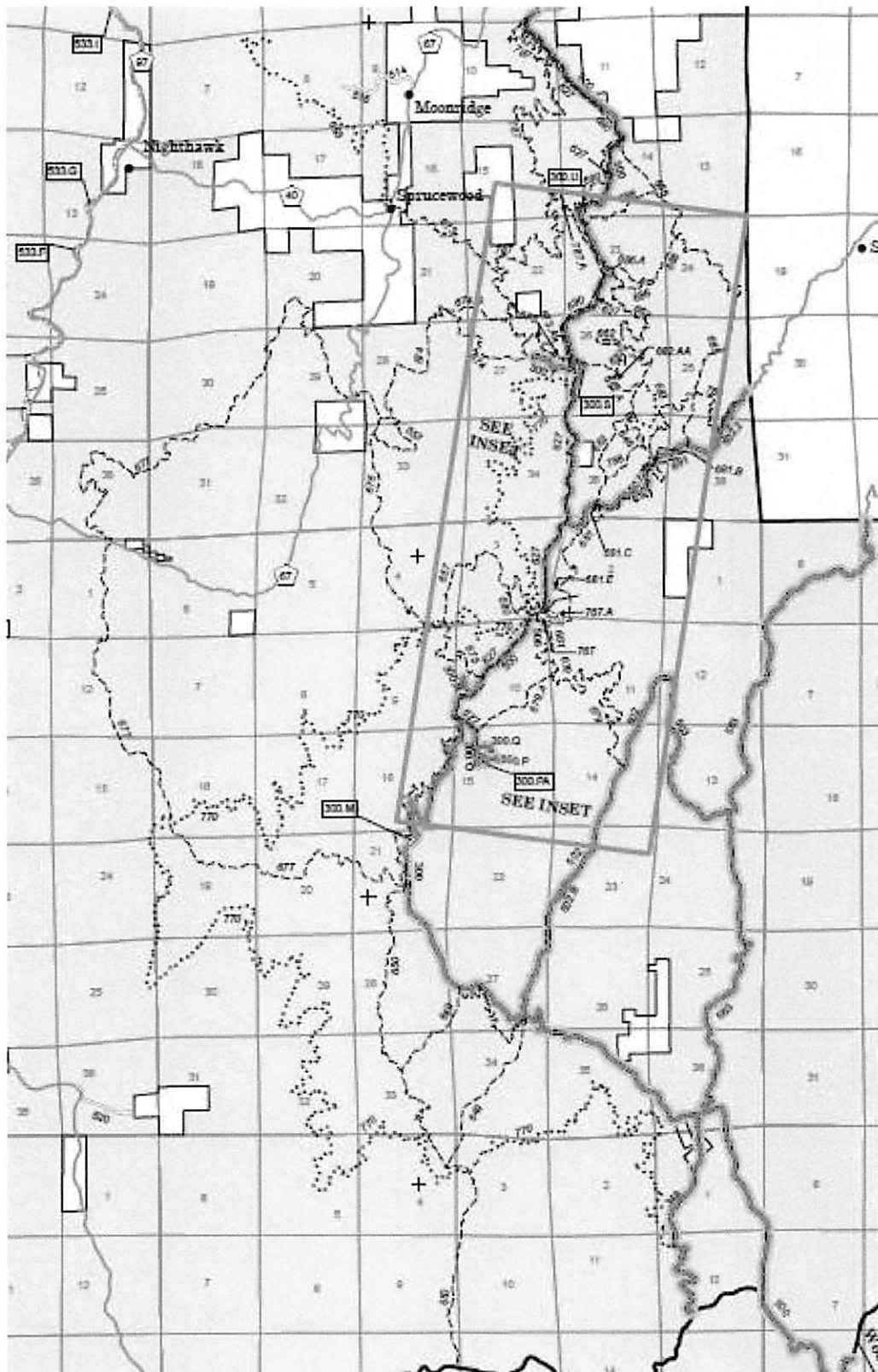
- “General area” (vicinity) map. (E-1)
- A drill-down of that map that shows the *specific* “project vicinity”. (E-2a)
- Another drill down map showing specific trails and/or work area (highlighted). (E-2b)

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



E-2 Project Maps: South Platte Ranger District MVUM (East)

All trails on the Rampart Range up to 50" will be maintained and patrolled by this crew.



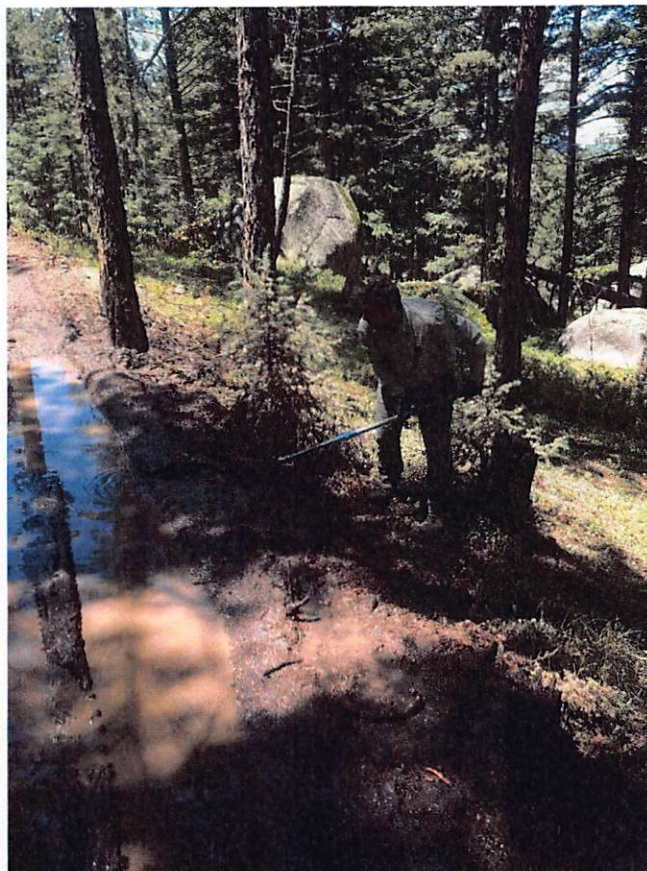
(F) Project Illustration

Photographs, Drawings, Engineering Plans, Diagrams

The below photos are from a segment of the 627 "Beginner" Trail. This is typical on the Rampart trails. This mud bug was three feet at its deepest and spanned approximately 40 feet of trail. Interlocking concrete blocks were used to harden the tread and the segment was filled with decomposing granite to allow proper drainage. Drainage issues that are not repaired often result in user created rerouting, resource damage, and a negative user experience.



Photos below include fence repair and drain work:



(G) Letters of Project Support

Provide up to six (6) letters of support from entities that are supporting the project in ways other than cash or in-kind contributions. Letters should come from at least three of the categories listed below. Letters must be current and must document the need and demand for the proposed project. Please note, identically worded form letters do not sufficiently fulfill this requirement. All letters must be included with the application. Letters mailed directly to the State Trails Program will not be accepted as letters of support for the application, rather they will be treated as public comments on the project as proposed.

- Coalition for the Upper South Platte
- Douglas County Search and Rescue
- Mile High Youth Corps
- Colorado Mountain Club



Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Post Office Box 726
Lake George, Colorado 80827
EIN: 84-1469785

September 21, 2023

Mr. Tom Metsa
OHV Program Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

RE: South Platte Ranger District OHV Grant Applications

Mr. Metsa and OHV Committee Members;

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) supports both OHV applications submitted by the South Platte Ranger District. These applications involved The North Rampart Good OHN Trail Crew grant and the Rampart Trail Crew and Patrol VII grant. Our organization is a longtime partner with the South Platte Ranger District and appreciates their persistent efforts to maintain and improve sustainable motorized trails in the Pike Isabel National Forests. CUSP is a non-profit organization located in Lake George, CO that works in Teller, Jefferson, Douglas, Park and El Paso Counties. We specialize in pre-fire mitigation, forest health, post fire recovery, stream restoration and trail work. Over the years, we have developed many collaborative partnerships throughout the watershed and the state to accomplish work.

The proposed crews will benefit public lands on the South Platte Ranger District by supporting safe and sustainable motorized roads and trails while restoring and enhancing habitat in sensitive areas. In addition, sustainable trails also prevent severe erosion into waterways and thus help riparian areas also. As one of Colorado State Park's first rail coordinators in 2001, I know first-hand the importance of these crews in maintaining trails and more importantly being good ambassadors to OHV riders on the landscape.

These crews are important to continue responsible management of motorized use in the South Platte Ranger District and I strongly recommend it for funding.

Best Regards,

John Geerdes
Executive Director/CEO
Coalition for the Upper South Platte
johngeerdes@cusp.ws



Douglas County Search and Rescue

September 23, 2023

Mr. Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager
Colorado State Parks
13787 So. Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Mr. Metsa,

I am writing this letter in support of the South Platte Ranger District's OHV Trail Grant Program Applications; "North Rampart Good OHV Trail Crew" and "Rampart Trail Crew and Patrol VII (Single Track)". The South Platte Ranger District's work is important in maintaining and patrolling both trails for all riders and single-track trails.

The Rampart Range recreation area is a key outdoor resource for our Douglas County community. And in our search and rescue work in DCSAR, the maintenance of Rampart trails is critical both in enabling safe travel by those using the trails recreationally – and by our mission teams when an incident occurs and we need to get a person or people out in an expedient manner to enable higher medical care. As well, our DCSAR OHV team frequently trains for rescue missions across Rampart Range trails, and the work done in maintaining and patrolling trails is critical for the safety of our OHV team members in day-to-day operations.

I appreciate the OHV Programs support of the South Platte Ranger District and encourage the Colorado State Parks OHV Trail Grant Program to award and fund these grants.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dave Arnett
DCSAR 732 - Field Director and PIO (Public Information Officer)
303-886-7004, dave.732@dcsarco.org
Douglas County Search and Rescue - Safety, Leadership and Commitment Since 1998



SOUTHERN FRONT RANGE

October 31, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Attention: Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager
13787 S. Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: South Platte Ranger District OHV Trail Grant 2025

Dear Mr. Tom Metsa,

On behalf of Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC), I am writing in full support of South Platte Ranger District's (SPRD) two applications to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trails Grant program for the North Rampart Good OHV Trail Crew and the Rampart Trail Crew and Patrol VII (Single Track). Funding will allow SPRD to continue providing safe and accessible OHV opportunities on public lands through the hiring of an OHV Program Manager and up to eight crewmembers. Plans also include partnering with a MHYC trail crew to conduct trail reconstruction and drainage work on single-track routes. This support is critical to advancing the safety and enjoyment of off-highway vehicle use while protecting and sustaining our natural resources.

MHYC is a comprehensive, year-round model serving 250 young adults annually across 23 Colorado counties, having the largest geographic footprint amongst Colorado's eight accredited youth corps. MHYC's Land Conservation program engages young adults, ages 18-24, in conservation-based work focused on environmental improvements on public lands. Simultaneously, the program opens the door to careers in natural resources by giving youth hands-on experience and a greater understanding of the industry. To support project efforts, MHYC is committed to providing dedicated crews of Land Conservation Corpsmembers to assist with OHV trail maintenance projects during the grant period.

We appreciate the huge impact that the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Off-Highway Vehicle Grant has had on public lands across Colorado. We encourage you to look favorably on SPRD's proposals to continue this impact. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or need more information about our program. I can be reached at 303.433.1206 extension 230 or at jesser@mhyc.net.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Roehm', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jesse Roehm
Director: Land Conservation and Operations

HEADQUARTERS

(303) 433-1206
1801 Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO 80204

SOUTHERN FRONT RANGE

(719) 630-7421
417 E. Vermijo Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOUNDRY

(720) 974-0500
953 Decatur St.
Denver, CO 80204

EAST MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY CENTER

(720) 407-7281
6740 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80220

Est. 1992
INFO@MHYC.NET
MILEHIGHYOUTHCORPS.ORG



November 13, 2023

Colorado State Parks
Attention: Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: North Rampart Good OHV Trail Crew – Grant Application 2025

Dear Mr. Metsa,

I am writing this letter in support of the South Platte Ranger District's OHV Trail Grant Program Application: "North Rampart Good OHV Trail." This grant will allow the South Platte Ranger District to properly maintain the Rampart Range Motorized Recreation Area's 50-inch trails while continuing their reputation as professional trail ambassadors.

The South Platte Ranger District in cooperation with the RRMMC and other organizations have spent years constructing some of the region's best OHV trails. This crew will enhance the experience for all OHV trail users while protecting the integrity of the trails and natural resources.

Another critical component of this grant is the education and enforcement aspect. It's in everyone's interest that riders know the best trail practices as this leads to a higher level of safety for the trail users. Being located on site to the trail system this crew is in perfect position to efficiently respond to any issues involving trails as well as be available to help all visitors.

Grant funding from CPW will allow the hiring of up to eight crewmembers, including an OHV Program Manager for the Rampart Range Recreation Area. With increases in use and popularity, this crew will provide essential resources to one of the premier OHV destinations in the state. Additionally, grant funding will provide necessary machine maintenance and crew member certifications.

We are pleased with the South Platte Ranger District's on-going commitment to responsible management of OHV use and support their proposal to further this work. I appreciate the OHV programs' past support of this crew and encourage the Colorado State Parks OHV Trail Grant Program to award and fund this Programmatic OHV Project Grant. Feel free to contact me with any questions about this letter and thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Bergeler
Stewardship Manager
Colorado Mountain Club
brian@cmc.org
256-457-8099

Founded in 1912, the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) is one of the state's leading organizations dedicated to education, conservation and responsible outdoor recreation.

(H) Trail Crew Work Plan (Good Management or reoccurring crews)

Provide a trail crew work plan for the **2024 work season**.

Consider including specific details, such as:

- List 5 of your most important goals for this work season
- Anticipated work the crew will be focused on (e.g., clearing corridor, building drainage systems, tread repair, turnpike repair, etc.)
- Planned location/names of the trails the crew will work on
- Time of year you anticipate the work will be done
- Planned volunteer workdays/events
- Collaboration efforts with OHV user groups / partners (involvement with potential projects)
- Describe any issues encountered during the 2023 season and your plan to overcome them

2024 North Rampart Good OHV Trail Crew Work Plan

Goals

1. Patrol and maintain 100 percent of all 50-inch trails.
2. Increase Forest Protection Officer enforcement of applicable regulations.
3. Maintain OHV fleet 100 percent operational.
4. Eliminate trail braiding and non-system routes.
5. Increase presence near the “roadless area” of Dakan Road.

Anticipated work

1. Hazards and hazard tree removal
2. Bridge repair, installation, removal
3. Tread hardening, drainage remediation
4. Fence repair and installation
5. Illegal route ripping and rehab
6. Sign installation, removal, replacement
7. Loading ramp repair

Location/Names of trails

TBD. Trail conditions change over the winter season.

Time of Year

We anticipate bringing the crew on by mid-May and be completed by the end of November.

Volunteer workdays and events

We will coordinate six work party days with the RRMMC on various trail improvement projects. There will also be two organized permitted “Poker Runs”.

Collaboration efforts

We plan on partnering with the Colorado Mountain Club, RRMMC, and the MHYC to rip and rehab portions of the illegal trail system in the “roadless area”. These illegal trails extend from Dakan Road to Perry Park. Evidence of dirt bike travel is as recent as November 2023.

2023 Issues encountered

The 2023 season started during the off-season when all four of our permanent seasonal crewmembers resigned their positions. Each stated that pay was the overarching reason for leaving the agency, along with seasonal work. We were only able to hire one additional seasonal employee for entire season and had one former FS employee hired on through the ACES program. We hope to hire a permanent OHV Program Manager at the GS-7/9 level and replace the four permanent season 13/13 crewmembers with 18/8 staff at the GS-5/6/7 level. With longer tours of duty and higher pay grades, we hope to hire and retain quality employees.

Vehicle maintenance was an ongoing issue. This is always a problem; however, we identified machine maintenance problems that apparently had not been addressed for numerous seasons. One UTV went in for repair in June and was not completed until November. The repair shop stated that there were supply chain issues and lack of certification with their mechanics. We plan to hire one intermittent maintenance employee who will be able to conduct machine repairs throughout the season. This person would be able to come to the work center as needed to perform necessary repairs.