

# EXHIBIT A



**COLORADO**  
 Parks and Wildlife  
 Department of Natural Resources

## 2022-2023 SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM Grant Application

<b>Name of Project:</b> GLTG Snowcat Project		<b>Date of Application:</b> 4/19/23	
<i>(Please limit the project name to 5 words or less)</i>			
<b>Total Project Cost:</b> \$ 295,000		<b>Grant Request:</b> \$ 175,000	
		<i>Amount Requested (round off to the nearest \$1) must match the Project Budget Form:</i>	
<b>PROJECT SPONSOR</b> (Name and Address for entity legally responsible for project)			
Organization Name: Grand Lake Trail Grooming, Inc.			
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1247			
		Fax:	
Telephone: 970 531-8872		Email: trailgroomers@yahoo.com	
<b>PROJECT CONTACT</b> <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: Craig Wilkerson		Title: Grant Coordinator / Board Member	
Mailing Address: 607 Shadow Mountain Drive, Grand Lake Co 80447			
Telephone: 970 846-8092	Fax:	Email: <a href="mailto:cwilkerson57@yahoo.com">cwilkerson57@yahoo.com</a>	
Is this the primary contact for this grant: YES			
<b>PROJECT CLOSE-OUT CONTACT</b> <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: Craig Wilkerson		Title: Grant Coordinator / Board Member	
Mailing Address: 607 Shadow Mountain Drive, Grand Lake Co 80447			
Telephone: 970 846-8092	Fax:	Email: <a href="mailto:cwilkerson57@yahoo.com">cwilkerson57@yahoo.com</a>	
Mailing Address:			
Telephone:	Fax:	Email:	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
Nearest Town or City: Grand Lake			
County(ies): Grand County			
Township/Range/Section:			
State Senate District #: 16		State Representative District #: 69	
Land Ownership:			
State	Federal	Private X	Local Government

2

Other:			
<b>TRAIL USER INFORMATION :</b>			
Snowmobile	87%	X-Country Skiing	5%
Snow Shoeing	4%	Camping/Hiking	4%

<b>SCOPE OF WORK – Project Description:</b>	
Project Name: GLTG Snowcat Project	Project No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Project Sponsor: Grand Lake Trail Grooming, Inc.	Application Year: 2023-2024
Project Contact: Craig Wilkerson / Cameron Stone	Application No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Total Project Cost: \$ 295,000	Grant Request: \$ 175,000

**Project Description:** Please write a brief description of your project: Only need to describe what you intend to purchase with grant funds. All other information such as project background, needs and benefits will be address in the Project Selection Criteria (Exhibit D).

Grand Lake Trail Grooming, Inc. (GLTG) is requesting a capital grant to support the purchase of a lightly used trail grooming machine to replace one that is near its end of life. Funds would be used to purchase a machine with specifications like a Prinoth Bison Stage V, 2017-22 model year, with between 3,000 and 4000 hours of use. This or a similar machine is expected to cost between \$250,000 and \$300,000. Research on available machines would be conducted in the spring of 2023, once used equipment is on the market, to identify a machine with the greatest value.

**2023-2024 SNOWMOBILE CAPITAL GRANT BUDGET FORM - EXHIBIT B**

**CLUB NAME:** Grand Lake Trail Groomers, Inc.

**PROJECT NAME:** GLTG Snowcat Project

\*\*\*ITEMS LISTED IN THE BUDGET BELOW SHOULD BE SPECIFIC AND CORRESPOND TO THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES INDICATED IN THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK) ON YOUR GRANT APPLICATION.\*\*\*

**PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES (Only enter data in cells that are NOT shaded)**

List all sources and amounts of project funding in this section

SNOWMOBILE CAPITAL GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT			\$175,000.00
Funding Source	In-Kind (Non-Cash) Contributions	Cash	
Club Funds		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Volunteer Support			\$ -
Contributions/Donations			\$ -
Trade In		\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Other			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST (grant request plus other funding sources)</b>			\$ 295,000.00

← Enter amount of grant request

← Worksheet will add this column

**USE OF GRANT FUNDING**

List uses of Capital Grant Request Amount below

Purchase of a used Snowcat	\$ 175,000.00
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
<b>TOTAL USE OF GRANT FUNDING</b>	\$ 175,000.00

← Worksheet will add this column

SHOULD BE THE SAME AS AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST

## Exhibit D

### PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

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#### **Needs and Urgency of the Project (40 points):**

##### **A. Describe the need for this project.**

GLTG currently has three grooming machines that are used to maintain the Grand Lake area trail system. This system is used extensively by snowmobilers and in recent years, increasingly by cross-country skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts. We are encouraged by the diversity of users and feel that the consistency and high quality of our grooming efforts ensure active and growing use. Moreover, the Grand Lake trail system is known nationally and results in significant economic activity for the Grand Lake area which benefits area businesses during the winter months.

Our current fleet of machines consists of a 2008 Prinoth Bison Cab Central with 5400 hours, a 2009 Prinoth Bison S with 6900 hours, and a 2015 Prinoth Bison X with 4500 hours. We have found that having three operable machines at any one time is necessary, with two serving as primary and a third as back-up should a machine go down or when additional capacity is needed during peak times. The 2008 and 2009 machines have incurred mounting maintenance and repair costs over the past several years. For example, the 2008 machine has accumulated over \$61,000 in repairs since March of 2018 and the 2009 machine over \$55,000 over the same period. These repairs are resulting in diminishing returns for ongoing use and require more of our modest budget to go toward maintenance and repairs at a time when dollars could be better spent on ongoing trail improvements and addressing other infrastructure needs.

If awarded funding, GLTG would use funds to purchase a newer year, lightly used machine to decrease maintenance costs and improve our ability to maintain the Grand Lake trail system. Additionally, advances in snowcat technology will result in lighter environmental impacts, and ergonomic improvements in upgraded technology will result in lessened physical impact on the operator. In short, purchase of an updated machine will result in improved efficiency and environmentally sound operations and allow GLTG to invest resources in staff and needed infrastructure improvements. GLTG would cover the balance of the purchase through sale of its 2009 machine, while it retains value, and use reserves for the remaining balance.

##### **B. What is the importance of this project to your grooming program, the Colorado Snowmobile Program and your local community?**

GLTG is dedicated to maintaining over 80 miles of safe, well-groomed, and marked snowmobile trails in Grand Lake, Colorado which sees upwards of forty thousand visitors each year, many of whom are international guests. To support this work, GLTG partners with the US Forest Service and Rocky Mountain National Park to provide winter enthusiasts of all levels and abilities safe and varied terrain. Due in part to our efforts, snowmobiling has become a major anchor activity of the winter economy in Grand County. This brings many tourists to the County and Town of Grand Lake that benefit and strengthen local businesses, including the Colorado Snowmobile Program through increased visitor registration fees. In addition to its recreational benefits, the system also supports practical training and safety operations. This includes Grand County Search and Rescue training exercises designed to improve the ability to rescue injured or lost winter visitors, and by

local Colorado Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Forest and Park Services, and police departments who use trails to practice training exercises.

Replacing one of our aging machines is essential to making sure we are operationally prepared for the '23-'24 snowmobile season and for maintaining our ability to produce a high-quality trail system without significant downtime. As discussed above, acquiring an updated machine will result in many positive benefits, including more efficient use of our funds, smooth grooming operations due to a reduction in repairs, lower impact to staff through better ergonomics and safety features, and lessened environmental impacts due to exhaust and leaks that often result from older machines. We also believe that an updated machine will improve groomed trail quality given newer Posiflex tiller technology. And although our 2009 machine is somewhat dated, it could still be useful to other clubs in the statewide grooming program.

- C. Why is it important to undertake this project now instead of at a later time? Please describe any elements that make this project urgent or time sensitive?

The GLTG Board and operator feel that it is critically important to undertake this project at this time. Due to inflation, costs for materials, fuel, and repairs continue to rise. Also, we will be losing our chief mechanic this season who has been instrumental in helping us keep costs for repairs and maintenance low. His departure will require us to contract with a more expensive mechanic whose services will negatively impact our budget and require added time as he learns the unique characteristics of our existing machines. This is also time-sensitive in that our 2009 machine, which we would seek to sell as a part of this project, still has residual resale value. This value, however, will diminish greatly if our 2009 snowcat is used over '23-'24 seasons; likely adding some 500 hours to that machine or relegating to back up cat for minimal hours.

Finally, we are concerned that relying on two older machines puts our overall fleet at risk. Given the current state of our three machines, there is a greater likelihood that one or both older machines may go down, which threatens our ability to maintain the trail system. The addition of a newer machine would greatly improve the odds that we will not face significant downtime over the '23-'24 winter season, ensuring our ability to maintain the trail system at or above the quality we have seen in previous seasons.

- D. What is the impact on the Statewide Snowmobile Program if this project does not get funded?

While not certain, a number of negative impacts could result should this project not receive funding. These reflect the consequences of having an aging fleet where there are more costs for repairs and maintenance, decreased time for grooming efforts due to downtime, and potential negative impacts to Grand Lake area businesses.

As discussed above, all operating costs are increasing, and we are needing to contract with a new, more expensive mechanic for maintenance and repairs in the coming year. While we enjoy financial support from a diverse set of supporters, our budget is still relatively modest. Thus, avoiding expenses for unnecessary repairs and maintenance helps us maintain a healthy budget and ensures our ability to use resources where they are most needed. In addition, having one or two machines go down, which is more likely with an older fleet, would mean decreased time for grooming which may, in turn, negatively impact riders' experience and perceptions regarding the quality of our trail system. Finally, perceptions

that the system is poorly or groomed could have a negative impact on registration fees and revenue to area businesses should tourism drop.

This, of course, is something of a worst-case scenario and we are not suggesting that all of these connected impacts are likely to occur should funding not be awarded. However, at some level, each of these areas would be impacted, if only at the margin, should we be unable to rely on a fleet of reliable machines. Grand Lake Trail Groomers, Grand County, and the Town of Grand Lake have built a solid reputation for a consistent, well-groomed trail system. A negative experience here may compel visitors to seek other snowmobile destinations in Colorado or out of state.

## Exhibit D

### PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

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#### Benefits (30 points):

- A. What benefits will this project provide to the community and the Colorado Snowmobile Program?

A sufficient fleet of reliable equipment is one of the most critical elements of a maintaining a well-groomed winter trail system. GLTG has built a reputation for providing outstanding and well-maintained snowmobile trails. Because of this reputation, Grand Lake is commonly referred to as the "Snowmobile Capital of Colorado." In addition, our trail system is consistently ranked as one of the Top 10 snowmobile destinations by SnoWest magazine. This reputation brings in a solid stream of winter business, both inside and outside of Grand County. Keeping the trail system in top condition will help preserve this reputation and continue to benefit winter business including snowmobile registration fees from in and out of state. On a local level, the town of Grand Lake relies on snowmobile traffic for business during the winter months which generates revenue from motels and restaurants, entertainment, fuel, equipment parts, and related activities or products. This draw of tourist activity is critical for a mountain community that does not have a ski area. Keeping the trail system in top condition will help preserve our reputation as a destination spot for snowmobilers and will continue to draw winter business including snowmobile registration and permit fees.

- B. How does your grooming program protect and improve winter trail opportunities?

The GLTG program is designed to create a well-marked, well-groomed and accessible trail system so that winter enthusiasts of all levels and abilities can enjoy a safe and varied snowmobiling experience. Our reputation of maintaining a high-quality trail system ensures that repeat winter visitors return to the Grand Lake area year after year while also expanding the number of first-time tourists. Consequently, failure to maintain this high standard may cause visitors to seek snowmobile trails elsewhere.

Our operations provide nightly grooming, five to seven days per week. This amounts to 900 to 1000 hours of grooming time per year. We are also one of the few operations that grooms all the way into the town of Grand Lake, providing direct access to area restaurants, motels, and winter festivities via snowmobile. We also have an extensive social media presence where we provide daily updates on snow conditions and stream grooming activity. Finally, our program is involved in public access issues designed to keep trails and trailheads open and accessible to the public. Each year, we strive to upgrade signage with the aim of improving navigation and reducing search and rescue incidents. Upgrading to newer emission standards may also help protect our continued operation, notably with the town access trail through Rocky Mountain National Park property. Our attention to quality grooming, extensive networking with partners, and outreach to the community ensures ongoing expansion of users across our trail system.

- C. What is unique about your trail system?

Access to and across Rocky Mountain National Park, the Town of Grand Lake, and the Arapaho National Forest are all within our trail system. Snowmobilers also have a unique opportunity to sled into and through town (creating business opportunities like a town with a ski area), in the mountains, on groomed roads, single track trails, across wide open parks,

on open lakes and myriad other possibilities. We take pride in the maintenance of our trail system with grooming provided five to seven nights per week. Trails are also well-marked, and our social media presence provides updated information on weather and trail conditions, as well as videos of grooming activity.

We also enjoy the active support of volunteers from the local snowmobiling club and our Trail Host program, which provides personal support for poker runs, day trips, distribution of maps, and guided trips. Finally, our trails connect to the Gould Trail System, groomed by North Park Sno-Snakes, which provides access to an additional 30 miles of trails northwest of our system and includes backcountry and more challenging terrain for the advanced snowmobiler.

**D. What types and skill level of trail users does your trail system attract?**

Our trail system provides all types of terrain for all rider skill levels. There are wide well-groomed roads, single track trails, open powder parks and mountain top access above the tree line that provide 360-degree panoramic views. There are also miles of safe trails and open powder parks for every riding skill level. Backcountry riding areas are also available which can satisfy expert riders looking for deep untouched powder, challenging terrain, and full-day adventures. For those new to the sport, a number of area rental companies offer sleds for rent, and trails are navigable and safe for even the first timer who has possibly never seen snow before. Finally, our Trail Host volunteer program offers guided rides for both novices and advanced snowmobilers, ensuring visitors have access to and can fully experience our larger trail system.

**E. Does your club offer any educational programs such as snowmobile safe riding or avalanche awareness? Explain what classes were offered last season.**

GLTG assists the Trailblazers snowmobile club with a snowmobile safety certification every December for adults and children. While we do not conduct avalanche awareness classes, we direct visitors to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center on our web site and Mercier Mountain Riding School for specialized training. In addition, GLTG installed and maintains an avalanche beacon test station at the Idleglen staging area. In recent years, our Trail Host efforts have seen increased activity related to guided tours for both novices and experts. This necessarily includes a training component related to snowmobile safety, learning to appreciate and respect nature, avoiding potential conflict with other users of the system, and helping to ensure people have a quality riding experience. In preparation for the '23-'24 season, the Board and the Trail Host volunteers will meet to explore additional opportunities to expand and formalize educational opportunities.



## Exhibit D

### **PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA**

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#### **Partnerships (10 points):**

- A. List all agencies or organizations that your grooming program partners with and how these partnerships enhance and improve each other's program.

GLTG partners with the US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain National Park, the Arapaho National Forest, the Town of Grand Lake, Grand County Search and Rescue and other agencies as needed. We work in cooperation with these groups providing in-field feedback on snow and trail conditions, logistics support for emergency operations, forest safety, land management, and incident reporting. These partnerships help to ensure a safe experience for all trail system visitors. In addition, our trail system is used by the Grand County Sheriff and Division of Wildlife for training new officers and wildlife management personnel.

- B. If your club is awarded this grant, describe how the club will promote or acknowledge the use of Colorado snowmobile registration funds and the capital grant program as a funding source for the project?

GLTG has and will continue to use social media and our internet presence to recognize the importance of Snowmobile registration funds. At the start of each season, a post is published encouraging snowmobile registration and its importance to supporting trail grooming, with a follow-up posted during busy times of the year. This past year, a full page "thank you" letter was published in a local newspaper recognizing our contributors including the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Capital Grant Program and Registration funds as a major source of funding.

If awarded, GLTG will also submit articles for publication to the Trailblazers and Mile High snowmobile club newsletters highlighting the value of the Colorado Snowmobile Registration funds and the Capital Grant Program. GLTG will also leverage its extensive social media following to promote the importance of registration funds. Finally, recognition will be provided in an annual report of operations, posted on our website. This report will highlight funding received from the capital grant program, including pictures of equipment purchased.

## Exhibit D

### PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

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#### **Leverage (20 points):**

- A. List and describe all sources of revenue or in-kind services that will be used to fund your grant funded project. List and explain any donations, contributions or other ways this project will be funded.

Funding support for GLTG operations come from unrestricted and restricted contributions from local individuals and businesses, donation jars, rental donations, membership dues, investment income, and map advertising. Additional grants for operational expenses come from the Board of County Commissioners, the Town of Grand Lake, the Grand Foundation, Colorado State Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Snowmobile Association. Leveraging this diverse array of supporters and funders has helped us maintain a high functioning grooming operation and has allowed us to accumulate resources for ongoing projects and equipment replacement. Funding for this project will consist of three components: dollars from this grant, assuming a successful application; sale of our 2009 snowcat which we hope will bring in between \$90,000 and \$100,000; and use of funds in our operating reserve for the balance of the purchase, depending on overall cost.

- B. Describe what aspects of the clubs' grooming operations are provided by volunteers. Explain and highlight the number of volunteer hours provided last grooming season.

Volunteer assistance is leveraged to help install and maintain trail signage, distribute maps on the trail system, provide directions and guide responsible use of trails, support poker runs and day trip coordination, identify and report trail safety issues, and assist in other duties within their ability level. Our Trail Host program alone accounted for 770 volunteer hours during the '21-'22 winter season (numbers for '22-'23 are not yet available). Volunteers also come from the Trailblazers and Mile High snowmobile clubs as well as community member from the Grand Lake area. GLTG's board members also are entirely voluntary, lending over 500 hours of their time to support Grand Lake Trail Groomers. This includes, but is not limited to, administrative duties, public agency and board meetings, public interaction, events and rides, and Trail Host duties.

- C. Does your program pay, contract or compensate for any services or aspects of its operations. Explain and highlight all compensated expenses from your last grooming season.

GLTG employs paid grooming operators. A grooming foreman and one part-time groomer are scheduled for the '23-'24 season, with a second part time operator under consideration. In addition, we contract our grooming equipment maintenance and repair to a local snow cat repair company and a grant writer is paid to complete requirements for grants throughout the year. We also have a part time accountant and pay for their professional accounting services. The board operates on a volunteer basis and accomplishes all other grooming management and operational activities without compensation.

- D. What are the compensation rates and how are they established?

The compensation rates were researched, established, and approved by the board to be competitive in our area and industry. The groomer foreman is a salaried employee at

\$49,000 per season, part time groomers are paid \$21 per hour, and equipment maintenance is \$100 per hour. A grant writer is employed at \$3,500 per year for all grant responsibilities. The accountant is paid approximately \$300 quarterly for managing the books and filing taxes.

- E. Is your club trading or selling a snow cat or any equipment as part of this grant funded project? What is the value of trade/sale and how was this price established?

As discussed above, our intention is to contribute to the purchase of the proposed snowcat through the sale of our 2009 machine. The value of trade or sale will be established through communication with Prinoth Grand Junction and Mountain States Snowcats, both companies that have experience in buying, selling, and trade-in of snowcats. Our snowcat mechanic will also provide information on used equipment with knowledge of GLTG's snowcats and maintenance program. We will also look at classifieds and postings of snowcats being bought and sold in our area and compare the prices offered and accepted in determining the value of our equipment. Due to the timing of this application, trade-in pricing expressed in the budget, Exhibit B, should be read as a best estimate. Exhibit F will be completed as written quotes and photographs are received.

#### REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Do you wish to present your project to the Review Committee - Yes

Name of Presenter: Cameron Stone

Phone number: (970) 531-8872

E-mail address: trailgroomers@yahoo.com

# GRAND LAKE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM

**SUPPORT  
OUR  
SPONSORS**

**NEVER SUMMER WILDERNESS**

All wilderness areas are restricted to primitive modes of travel  
-- SNOWMOBILES PROHIBITED --

- Basic Rules of the Trail:**
- 1) Don't drink and ride
  - 2) Obey speed limits
  - 3) Respect private property
  - 4) Maintain a safe following distance
  - 5) Stay to your side of the trail
  - 6) Keep the trail clear --
    - a. Don't stop on blind turns
    - b. Don't park double on the trail
  - 7) Ride to your ability
  - 8) Don't ride alone
  - 9) Don't approach or harass wildlife

**EMERGENCY 911**  
 Grand County Sheriff's Office (970) 725-3343  
 Rocky Mountain N.P. (West Side) (970) 627-3471  
 Town of Grand Lake (970) 627-3435  
 U.S. Forest Service (Granby) (970) 887-4100

**AVALANCHE POTENTIAL**  
 Avalanche Center (Denver) (303) 499-9650

**Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce**  
 P.O. Box 429, Grand Lake, CO 80447  
 (970) 627-3402 or (970) 627-3372  
 www.gograndlake.com

**Map Key**

- Maintained Trail
- Maintained Trail (25 MPH)
- Periodically Maintained Trail
- Unmaintained Trail
- Plowed Road
- Other Road
- Play Area
- Private Inholding on National Forest
- National Forest

**AVALANCHE DANGER**  
 is an inherent risk of snowmobiling!  
 -- Stay on maintained routes  
 -- Obtain avalanche training  
 -- Carry proper safety equipment at all times

**Danger from falling trees exists when riding off trail within burn area**

**\$500 fine for riding on private land PLEASE STAY ON TRAIL!**

**Obey Speed Limit 25 MPH Radar Enforced**

**Riding on lakes is dangerous and NOT recommended due to variable ice conditions**

**Obey Speed Limit 25 MPH Radar Enforced**

**ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST**

**BOWEN GULCH PROTECTION AREA**

**Rob Roy Park**

**Chicken Hill**

**Pony Park**

**Willow Park**

**Hot Dog Park**

**Whiskey Park**

**Super Chicken Hill**

**Gravel Mtn.**

**Little Gravel Mtn.**

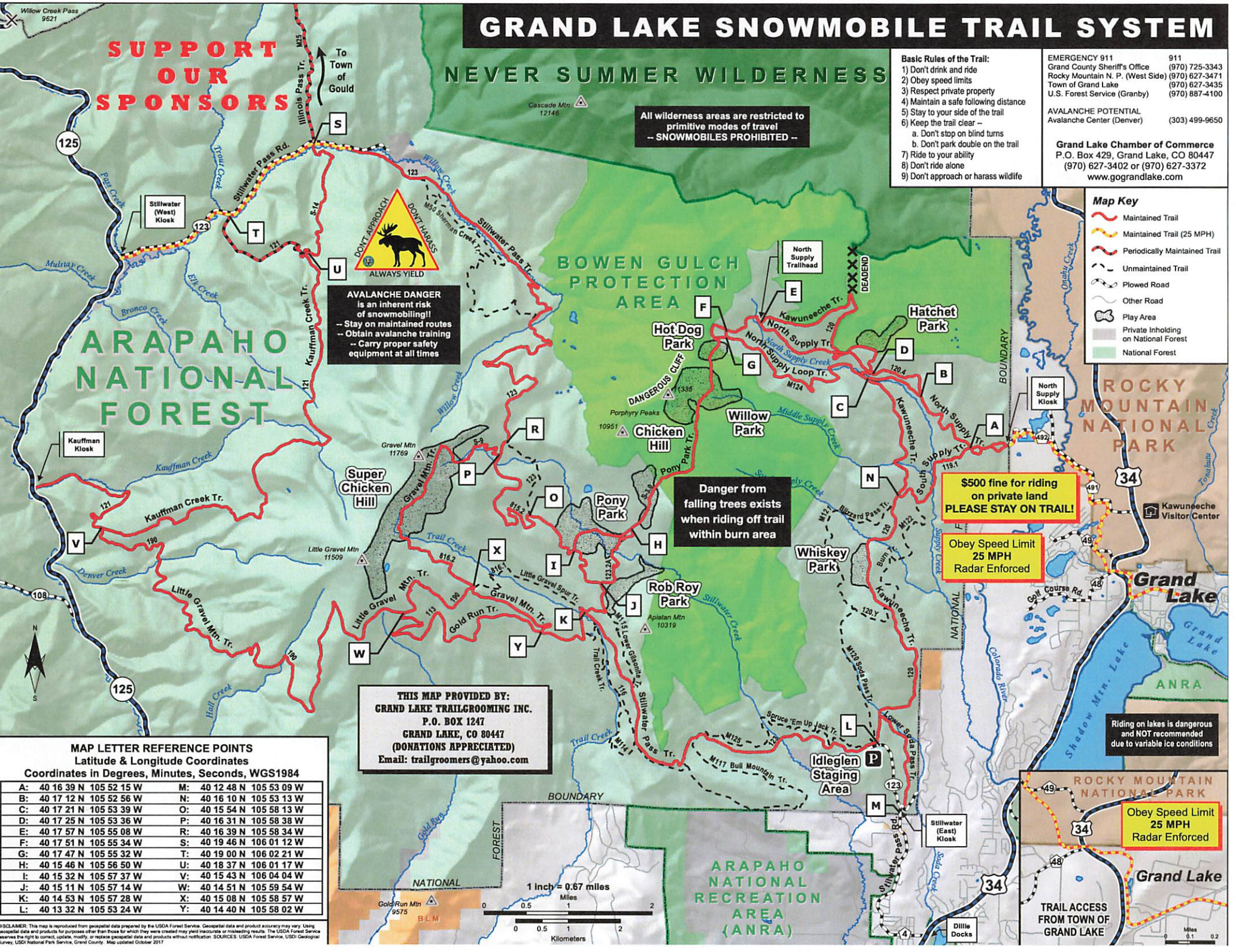
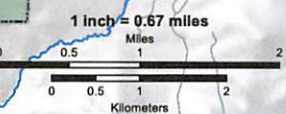
**Gold Run Mtn.**

**THIS MAP PROVIDED BY:  
 GRAND LAKE TRAILGROOMING INC.  
 P.O. BOX 1247  
 GRAND LAKE, CO 80447  
 (DONATIONS APPRECIATED)  
 Email: trailgroomers@yahoo.com**

**MAP LETTER REFERENCE POINTS**  
 Latitude & Longitude Coordinates  
 Coordinates in Degrees, Minutes, Seconds, WGS1984

A: 40 16 39 N 105 52 15 W	M: 40 12 48 N 105 53 09 W
B: 40 17 12 N 105 52 56 W	N: 40 16 10 N 105 53 13 W
C: 40 17 21 N 105 53 39 W	O: 40 15 54 N 105 58 13 W
D: 40 17 25 N 105 53 36 W	P: 40 16 31 N 105 58 38 W
E: 40 17 57 N 105 55 08 W	R: 40 16 39 N 105 58 34 W
F: 40 17 51 N 105 55 34 W	S: 40 19 46 N 106 01 12 W
G: 40 17 47 N 105 55 32 W	T: 40 19 00 N 106 02 21 W
H: 40 15 46 N 105 56 50 W	U: 40 18 37 N 106 01 17 W
I: 40 15 32 N 105 57 37 W	V: 40 15 43 N 106 04 04 W
J: 40 15 11 N 105 57 14 W	W: 40 14 51 N 105 59 54 W
K: 40 14 53 N 105 57 28 W	X: 40 15 08 N 105 58 57 W
L: 40 13 32 N 105 53 24 W	Y: 40 14 40 N 105 58 02 W

DISCLAIMER: This map is reproduced from geospatial data prepared by the USDA Forest Service. Geospatial data and product accuracy may vary. Using geospatial data and products for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USDA Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace geospatial data and products without notification. SOURCES: USDA Forest Service, USDI Geological Survey, USDI National Park Service, Grand County. Map updated October 2017



**EXHIBIT G**  
**Letters of Support**

Attach separately any letters of support for your project



**File Code:** 2350  
**Date:** April 17, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Snowmobile Grant Program

To the CPW Snowmobile Grant Review Committee,

As District Ranger for the Sulphur Ranger District of the Arapaho National Forest, I fully support the Grand Lake Trail Grooming, Inc. (GLTG) grant request to receive funding to purchase a used snowcat. Purchase of this machine is critical to the club's efforts to maintain snowmobile trails in the Grand Lake Trail System (GLTS) during the 2023-2024 season and beyond.

The GLTS is a network of over 86 miles of winter trails that supports world class snowmobiling opportunities as well as other winter recreational activities on the National Forest near the Town of Grand Lake. The groomed snowmobile trails are provided by GLTG through a partnership with the Forest Service that has been ongoing for over 30 years. In a normal season, GLTG averages approximately 100 hours of grooming operations per week over the course of their operating season (mid- December to early April), with many more hours logged during peak use periods when they sometimes operate 3 groomers 7 days a week. Our partnership with GLTG has significantly leveraged the Forest Service's limited resources and ability to provide groomed winter trails for public use.

GLTG continually strives to improve their operations and the quality of trail experiences by maintaining a fleet of reliable snowcats. In doing so, they reduce the long-term costs and impacts of their program by improving the efficiency of their grooming activity, being more environmentally sound, and reducing impact on their operators. If approved, funds from this request will help to upgrade their equipment which will increase their ongoing efforts to provide outstanding snowmobiling opportunities on public lands.

For the reasons stated herein I sincerely hope Colorado Parks and Wildlife will give due consideration to the request by GLTG for grant funding from the CPW snowmobile program.

Sincerely,

**ERIC FREELS**  
Digitally signed by ERIC  
FREELS  
Date: 2023.04.18 21:31:17  
-06'00'

Eric Freels  
District Ranger  
Sulphur Ranger District  
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Rocky Mountain National Park  
Estes Park, Colorado 80517



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
A3815 (ROMO)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
13787 South Highway 85  
Littleton, CO 80125

APR 3 2023

To whom it may concern,

Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) supports the Grand Lake Trailgroomer's request for grant funding from the State of Colorado to support the purchase of a replacement trail grooming machine. The Trailgroomers are responsible for grooming and maintaining the North Supply Access trail that runs through RMNP, connecting the Town of Grand Lake with Forest Service trails.

In 2022, RMNP received over 4.3 million visitors, making it one of the most visited national parks in the country. Many visitors come to Grand Lake, a gateway to the park, to snowmobile on the 100 plus mile trail system just outside the park boundary. The North Supply Access trail is a rare opportunity to ride a snowmobile through a short section of national park and one that attracts many snowmobile users to the area. The Grand Lake Trailgroomers have continuously worked as responsible partners to RMNP and have shown consistent support of our mission of preservation. Improvements to their equipment will continue to benefit the National Park Service mission.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeri Piller, our Colorado River District Ranger at [Jeri\\_Piller@nps.gov](mailto:Jeri_Piller@nps.gov) or by telephone at 970-586-1526.

Sincerely,

Darla Sidles  
Superintendent



1026 Park Ave · PO Box 99  
Grand Lake, CO 80447  
970-627-3435  
[www.townofgrandlake.com](http://www.townofgrandlake.com)

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TO: Colorado State Parks and Wildlife  
FROM: John Crone, Grand Lake Town Manager  
DATE: April 18, 2023  
RE: Grand Lake Trail Grooming

Hello,

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how important Grand Lake Trail Groomers (GLTG) are to the economy and the people of the Town of Grand Lake.

Grand Lake is a unique community that must cope with the fact that for at least six months out of the year, we are at the end of a sixteen-mile dead end road. This would cause economic and social isolation if the Town had not embraced snowmobiling and snowmobilers.

GLTG works very hard to maintain almost ninety miles of groomed trails (including grooming the trail into Town). Over the past several years, the Town has invested over \$300,000 to ensure that we will always have a trail connection between downtown and the snowmobile trail system in Arapaho National Forest. This has allowed us to be one of the few places where you can ride through the forest all day and then ride through town to get something to eat, fill up their gas tanks, stay in one of our hotels, or shop in our stores. We keep snowpack on our roads throughout the winter to give our visitors this unique experience. Without the work of GLTG, we wouldn't be able to offer this experience.

However, snowmobiling means much more to our locals than just the vital economic benefit that it provides. Snowmobiling is part of our culture. It is a key piece of the way that Grand Lakers identify themselves. GLTG is a crucial component of our community, and they are crucial to our ability to get out in the winter to enjoy our beautiful piece of the state.

I cannot stress enough the importance of GLTG to our Town. Once again, I urge you to provide any support you can to GLTG, and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Crone, Town Manager



April 4, 2023

**A letter of support for the Grand Lake Trail Groomers CPW Grant Application**

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jeremy Mercier. I'm a professional snowmobiler and I own Mercier's Mountain Riding School here in Grand County. Our focus is teaching snowmobilers how to ride safely and efficiently in the mountains. We teach Level 1 and Level 2 Avalanche classes and offer avalanche awareness on backcountry riding clinics. We have clients come from all over the United States from Maine to California. They often come and ride with us for a few days then stay an additional few days. They are supporting local lodging, restaurants and generally spending money in our awesome community. The general comment from our clients is how awesome the Grand Lake trail and off trail riding is.

I have been personally using the Grand Lake Trail system for well over 20 years. I originally lived in Vail, Co and when I learned of this amazing riding area I moved to Grand County.

Having the groomed trails is key to my business. It allows us to get to the deeper snow at higher elevations safely and quickly. Having a trail system that is groomed frequently not only makes a safer trail but with the recent burn many of the trails can drift over in a matter of hours, due to the lack of trees, only passable by the best of riders. The Grand Lake Trail system has a reputation for having some of the best trails in the west and access to some of the best snowmobiling in the country. From the perfect corduroy to excellent signage its my favorite. Over the years I've noticed a lot of mid western trail riders coming out and staying in our community. They are typically trail riders so having this system makes their visit possible. And while they are here they are spending money in our community.

The amount of dedication and work that has been done and continues to be done by Grand Lake Trail Groomers is impressive to say the least. After the east troublesome fire GLTG organized a clean up in hopes of getting the trail system open for the winter. What happened next still brings a huge smile every time I think about. They had hundreds of volunteers sign up to help the Forest Service clear hazard trees and etc. The trail opened that winter providing an economic opportunity for the Grand lake community bringing business back to an area that just went through a really tough time.

So as you can tell I'm pretty passionate about the Grand Lake Trail system. It is a key part of my business but also a major contributor to the economy of Grand Lake. After all it is called the snowmobile capital of Colorado for a reason! I would love to see continued support for GLTG.

Thanks for listening,

Jeremy Mercier  
Tabernash, Co  
303-859-1437



## GRAND ADVENTURES

April 15, 2023

To the CPW grant review committee,

The community and stakeholder approach to Grand Lake Trail Grooming is critical to our operations in the winter. Simply put, without their efforts, our business would not be economically feasible. The cooperative approach of public and private funding is essential for the program to continue in its current form. The trail's connection to the Town of Grand Lake is one of the most unique and attractive aspects of the system and has helped make Grand Lake the "Snowmobile Capital of Colorado".

Our operation supports 6 employees in the wintertime and serves thousands of guests from across the state, nation, and world. As we all know, Grand Lake is a world-class trail system, but takes a great deal of effort and expense to maintain. We recognize the importance of Grand Lake Trail Groomers having a reliable fleet of equipment and enthusiastically offer our support to their request for funds that would help them buy a newer used snowcat. Economically, in the winter, Grand Lake is very different than the summer season. Trail access for all users is vital to the economic wellbeing of the community. Between the world class trails and the trail grooming program the trail system provides economic stability in the winter season for all business, employees, and community members.

Continued stakeholder support is critical to the viability of the trail system. We are proud participants as a stakeholder and appreciate everyone's continued support.

If you have any questions or follow-up, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Regards,

Ryan Barwick Owner  
Grand Adventures  
970-726-9247  
rbarwick@grandadventures.com

**Exhibit H – Additional Terms and Conditions**

1. Subject to the obligations and conditions set forth in this document, title to equipment acquired under a grant will vest upon acquisition to the grantee.
2. The grantee’s use of the equipment is subject to the following conditions:
  - a. The grantee shall use the equipment only for activities and uses that are consistent with the uses outlined by the Snowmobile Recreation fund. The equipment shall not be used to benefit private individuals, lands or projects without prior written approval from CPW.
  - b. The grantee shall be liable to CPW for any failure to use the equipment in accordance with the applicable statute, including the premature sale or disposition of the equipment. The grantee’s liability for such a failure shall be equal to funds contributed by CPW under a grant from the purchase or acquisition of equipment.
3. Record Keeping Requirements
  - a. Records must be maintained that include, at a minimum; a description of the equipment; a serial number or other identification number; who holds title; the acquisition date and cost of equipment; the percentage of State or grant funds used in the acquisition of the equipment; the location, use and condition of the equipment; and any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the equipment. CPW shall at all times have the right to inspect these records upon request.
  - b. A physical inventory of the equipment must be taken and the results shared with CPW in order to be reconciled with the property records held by CPW at least once every two years.
  - c. A control system must be developed by grantee to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent loss, damage or theft of equipment. Any confirmed or suspected loss, damage, or theft – whether discovered via the process described in 3.b. or otherwise, shall be investigated by grantee in cooperation with CPW.
  - d. Adequate maintenance procedures must be developed and implemented to keep the equipment in good and working condition.

If awarded a snowmobile capital grant; I acknowledge and agree to the above terms and conditions.

Craig E. Wilkerson  
Signature

Craig E. Wilkerson  
Printed Name

4-19-23  
Date