OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE
STATE TRAIL GRANT APPLICATION

**NAME OF PROJECT**  Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew  (Limit the project name to 5 words or less)

Date of Application 11/25/2013

**GRANT REQUEST**
Amount Requested (round off to the nearest $1 - amount must match Exhibit B, Budget Form):

| Total Project Cost: $ | 102,690.30 | Grant Request: $ | 81,323.30 |

**PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION**
Legal Name and Address for entity legally responsible for project:

- **White River National Forest**
  - Blanco and Rifle Ranger Districts
  - 220 East Market Street
  - Meeker, CO 81641

Phone 970-878-4039  Fax: 970-878-5173

E-Mail: kcoffin@fs.fed.us

**PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION**
Name & Address of Contact Responsible for Project:

- **Patty Wyatt**
  - 220 East Market Street
  - Meeker, CO 81641

Phone: 970-878-6016  Fax: 970-878-5173

E-Mail: pwyatt@fs.fed.us

*This is the person who will be managing the project and be responsible for ensuring the contract scope will be fulfilled. Please notify us if Project Contact changes.

**PROJECT CLOSE-OUT CONTACT INFORMATION**
Name & Address of Contact Responsible for Project Closeout:

- **Patty Wyatt**
  - 220 East Market Street
  - Meeker, CO 81641

Phone: 970-878-6016  Fax: 970-878-5173

E-Mail: pwyatt@fs.fed.us

* Please notify us if Project Close-out Contact changes
PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION
Nearest Town or City: Meeker, Rifle, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, Silt, and Battlement Mesa
County: Rio Blanco and Garfield Counties
Township/Range/Section: Multiple (see map)
State Senate District#: 03
State Representative District#: 57

LAND OWNERSHIP
Name of Land Owner: USDA Forest Service, White River National Forest
Trail corridor-land is controlled by:
☐ Fee Simple ☐ Lease ☐ Easement ☐ License ☐ Right-of-way
☐ Land Acquisition-Ownership to be obtained ☒ Other (Explain): Federally owned land

TRAIL USER INFORMATION
(Check all that apply to this project)
☒ Hiking ☒ Equestrian ☒ Mountain Biking
☒ X-Country Skiing ☒ Four-Wheeling ☒ Motorcycling ☐ Snowshoeing
☒ All-Terrain Vehicle ☐ Snowmobiling ☐ Accessible Access

PROJECT INFORMATION
(Check all activities that apply to your project.)
☐ New Trail construction ☒ Travel Plan Implementation
☒ Resource Protection & Improvement ☐ Capitol Equipment
☒ Programmed Trail Maintenance ☒ Signs
☒ Education ☐ Youth Corps
☒ Visitor Contacts & Law Enforcement ☒ Re-Routed Trails
☒ Restoration/Rehabilitation ☐ Land Acquisition
☐ Planning ☐ Other: _______

TRAIL ACTIVITIES SUMMARY: Based on your project description, provide the percentage of your budget using the categories listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Budget</th>
<th>Categories of Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>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.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Enforcement, Education &amp; Visitor Contacts (e.g., patrols, enforcement, education and visitor contacts, wages, safety contacts, equipment, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Travel Plan Implementation (e.g., planning, engineering, maps, inventorying, travel management signs &amp; installation, decommission non-system routes, rehabilitation, new construction, wages, monitoring, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Equipment / Materials / Signs / Youth Corps / Miscellaneous (e.g., equipment maintenance and repair, personnel training, certification in the use of specialized equipment, program coordination, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals (Note: Percentages in each column should add to 100%.)
PROJECT DESCRIPTION & SUMMARY: SCOPE OF WORK

The Blanco and Rifle Ranger Districts of the White River National Forest are seeking an OHV grant to again hire a three-person motorized trail crew to carry on the work initiated during the 2012 summer season and continued through the 2013 season. Recreation personnel on each district are responsible for the planning with Blanco personnel taking on the management and tracking of the project.

The motorized trail crew will continue to provide a presence along existing and newly designated off-highway vehicle routes, provide maintenance, construction and reclamation activities. The crew will utilize a trail dozer belonging to the Yampa Valley OHV Trailriders Club for use in construction/reconstruction of trails. Two areas the crew will focus on this year are the east end of the Sleepy Cat Trail (FSR 290) and the Pattison Park Trail (2292). Both trails have large boggy areas that will need culverts and/or trail re-route/re-construction. All maintenance and construction will be done according to the Forest Service Trails Management Handbook standards. We will coordinate with the local Wagon Wheel OHV Club to ensure all signage is clear and concise without being overwhelming. The Flat Tops OHV Crew will continue to provide public information on travel management, enforce state OHV regulations where needed, and identify opportunities related to motorized use. They will continue to provide a presence at any organized OHV gathering on the district and they will continue their presence during the fall big game hunting seasons.

The proposed project will fund the following:

- Personnel Cost - $60,523.30 – Personnel costs are for a three-person OHV trail crew made up of seasonal employees for 110-160 days each. We are requesting an increase in number of days for the crew leader to give that person time to hire the crew. State grant funding will be used toward the crews’ salary, benefits, training, travel, uniforms and personal protective equipment.
- Project Materials and Supplies - $5,800 – Materials and supplies funding includes signs, wood for routed signs, materials for printed signs, kiosks, culverts, rock, road fabric, educational materials, and some miscellaneous supplies.
- Equipment - $15,000 – Equipment funding includes the purchase of an ATV, hand tools, chainsaw repairs and maintenance, UTV/ATV repairs and maintenance, fuel, and some miscellaneous equipment.

The crew will be hired for up to 6 months for the late spring/summer/fall season of 2015 (mid-May through November). The crew leader will come on board in the spring prior to the other crew members to prepare for the upcoming season and will stay later in the fall to complete the season and reporting requirements.

The project area is located in Rio Blanco and Garfield Counties on the 550 + miles of motorized routes on the Blanco Ranger District east of Meeker and the Rifle Ranger District both north and south of Rifle. This includes the existing portion of the Wagon Wheel Trail System east of Meeker. The project area extends from Yellowjacket Pass to Ripple Creek pass on the north side of the White River, and from Hay Flats/Big Mountain east through Bar HL Park to Meadow Lake, Blair Mountain and on to the Transfer Trail area north of Glenwood Springs.

Federal funding will be applied toward providing transportation to and from the work site. This includes a truck and trailer, motorcycles/ATV’s/UTV’s, fuel for the truck, sign design and fabrication, orientation and some specialized training (chainsaw certifications, seasonal orientation, first aid/CPR, etc.). Federal funding will also fund the administration of the grant including tracking and monitoring expenditures and budget.

Submitted By: KEN W. COPPIN
Signature: ______________________________
Printed Name: KEN W. COPPIN
Printed Title: DISTRICT RANGER

Accepted by State Parks:

Name _____________________________ Date ________________
## Budget Form

### Flat Tops OHV Crew

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Cash</th>
<th>In-kind</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OHV Grant Funding</td>
<td>$81,323.30</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$81,323.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$21,367.00</td>
<td>$21,367.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Amount</strong></td>
<td><strong>$102,690.30</strong></td>
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### Grant Request

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Request</th>
<th>Date to be Completed</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Funds</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$81,323.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Use of Grant Funding

#### I. Personnel Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Date to be Completed</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GS-6 Leader for 160 days @ $193.81</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$31,009.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS-5 Member for 110 days @ $129.18</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$14,209.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS-4 Member for 110 days @ $115.49</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$12,703.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits, background checks</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel, Per Diem and Training</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPE and Uniforms</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$60,523.30</strong></td>
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#### II. Project Materials/Supplies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Date to be Completed</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signs, sign materials, printing materials, posts, kiosks</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project materials and supplies (culverts, road fabric, rock, h/w, etc.)</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$3,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Materials</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$5,800.00</strong></td>
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#### III. Equipment

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>Grant Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATV w/winch</td>
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<td>$9,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tools (shovels, bars, Pulaskis, drill, etc.)</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chainsaw repairs/maintenance (chain, fuel, oil, etc.)</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTV/ATV repairs/maintenance</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuel for UTVs/ATVs/Trail dozer</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Equip. (straps, camera, saw grip, ATV tool kits, etc)</td>
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<td>$1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$15,000.00</strong></td>
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#### IV. Contracted Services

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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
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#### V. Volunteer Support

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category Total</strong></td>
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<td>$</td>
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#### VI. Insurance

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
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<th>Grant Amount</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
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### VII. Grant Administrative Costs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>Grant Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT** $81,323.30

**Signature:**

**Date:** 01 NOV 2013

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**NOTE:** Any changes to the budget must have pre-approval of the OHV Program.
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 Trail Crew  Project Sponsor: White River National Forest, Blanco And Rifle Ranger Districts

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  Date: April, 2002
- 2002 Revision, Record of Decision

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:

Ken Coffin, District Ranger
District Ranger
220 E. Market Street, Meeker, CO 81641
970-878-6001

OR

Kay Hopkins, Trails Coordinator
White River National Forest Service
900 Grand Avenue, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
970-876-9040

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

Ken Coffin, District Ranger
Print or type Land Manager's Name and Title

[Signature]

Land Manager's Signature and Title

21 NOV 2013

Date
PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA (D-1)

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

The Rifle and Blanco Districts have by far the majority of OHV riding opportunities on the White River National Forest (WRNF). These districts have been identified through forest planning as the "niche" for motorized activities. These Districts manage over 550 miles of routes open to OHV's with the majority of those routes available and open for UTV (64" or less) use. There are also additional opportunities for riding ATV's (50 inches or less) and single track motorcycle riding. A majority of the Wagon Wheel Trail System is a part of the trails managed and maintained by the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew.

The Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew began in 2012 with its first grant from Colorado State Parks and Wildlife and continued through the 2013 summer season. Work completed by this crew and the presence they bring to the districts has proven to be an invaluable resource in maintaining these routes and managing for motorized activities. They have assisted hundreds of visitors with questions on where to ride while at the same time educating them on the WRNF Travel Management Plan objectives while enhancing the Forest Service relationship with the motorized community. The Blanco and Rifle Districts are a popular destination for non-resident big game hunters, most of whom bring with them an ATV or UTV. The OHV crew is a much-needed presence in the field and a huge asset toward assisting hunters during that time.

The Flat Tops Crew continues to provide essential maintenance needs on motorized routes that keep the existing OHV riding opportunities open and available to the public.

In summary, the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew affords the following benefits:

- provides visitor services, information, education, & stay the trail messaging through public contacts
- monitors route conditions,
- conducts maintenance and improvements on system roads and trails,
- performs preventative maintenance and restoration work on routes to minimize resource damage,
- installs and maintains directional, informational and interpretive signs and maps,
- assists in enforcement activities for State OHV regulations and forest regulations,
- works closely with users and partners in identifying issues, additional opportunities and needs, including planning, designing and implementation of projects.

All of these actions are necessary for not only long term sustainability of motorized opportunities, but they also play an important role in resource protection.

Prior to 2012, the primary maintenance of these routes was accomplished through a combination of Forest Service trail crews and the Colorado Statewide OHV Crew and the users. There was a growing backlog of maintenance needs due to falling Forest Service budgets and the fact that the Statewide OHV crew was only available for a two week period each year.

The Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew's first season of operation was the summer of 2012. In that year they completed inspection and assessment on an estimated 500 miles of roads and trails. The crew opened approximately 11 ½ miles on 5 trails that had been closed due to heavy downfall and they repaired/leveled another 2 ½ miles of tread. They installed 7 culverts and repaired at least 25 water bars; they hardened 3 stream crossings and relocated 2 others. They produced and installed 44 wooden directional/informational signs, installed 10 metal signs and one kiosk. The crew made contact with over 500 motorized visitors and removed over 90 pounds of trash.
The work continued over the 2013 summer season. Early in the spring the Flat Tops OHV Crew hit the road again completing inspection of over 700 miles of roads and trails. They removed approximately 1,200 trees and 150 yards of brush from motorized routes. They installed 4 new culverts and completed maintenance work on 7 others. They constructed 5 new water bars and completed maintenance on over 100 others. They rerouted 100 yards of trail to move a stream crossing and they reestablished over 130 yards of trail tread that had washed out. They closed 3 illegal trails and mitigated 5 areas where trail braiding had occurred. The crew installed 30 new carsonite posts with trail numbers, installed 8 “Share the Road” signs and one kiosk. Over the 2013 season the crew made 600 visitor contacts and handed out over 1,000 travel management maps. They removed over 600 pounds of trash and removed 13 illegal fire rings.

The maintenance backlog will be further reduced by the availability of a trail dozer purchased with OHV grant funds awarded in 2012 to the Yampa Valley OHV Trailriders club out of the Craig, Colorado area. Crew members will be trained to operate this dozer so it can be utilized to the full during the time it is available.

Visitors have long enjoyed a connected system of motorized routes and loops from Ripple Creek Pass to Yellowjacket Pass on the North side of the Blanco District and across the motorized section of the White River Plateau commonly known as the Flat Tops which is shared by the Blanco, Eagle, and Rifle Districts. The motorized uses all these areas on a daily basis through the summer and fall and the use is increasing. Not only will The Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew continue to maintain the trails for visitor safety and enjoyment but they will also continue to assist these motorized publics to find the riding opportunities they are seeking.

This necessity of having the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew available at this time is emphasized by several factors:

- The White River Travel Management Plan was signed in August of 2011 and the summer portion went into effect in May of 2012. A continual presence of the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew in the field is needed to help visitors understand the new travel management policy and assist them in finding the riding opportunities they seek is part of what makes this project a priority now and for years to come. Hundreds of ATV, OHV and dirt bike enthusiasts have been educated/informed of the White River National Forest Travel Management Plan during the 2012 and 2013 field seasons. Natural resources have also benefited from increased maintenance of our motorized routes.

- The Wagon Wheel Trail Program in Rio Blanco County is now established and users of this system have and will continue to benefit from a dedicated OHV trail crew presence.

- With increasing population growth in nearby communities the need for increased management is becoming more and more apparent. The Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew will provide necessary on the ground management, including maintenance, information, education and enforcement for a trail system that is designed to provide long-term value and sustainability to local communities and growing numbers of OHV enthusiasts. We have received positive feedback from participants of the 2013 COHVCO Rendezvous held in Meeker.

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

This project combines the support of County and municipal governments, area Chambers of Commerce, local Recreation and Park districts, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, and area OHV clubs and enthusiasts. Letters of support for the project have been submitted by the Rio Blanco County Commissioners, The town of Meeker, The Meeker Chamber of Commerce, The Yampa Valley OHV Trailriders Club, the Wagon Wheel OHV club, Rifle State Parks, the BLM White River Field Office and the White River Trail Runners OHV Club.

Volunteers from area OHV clubs and interested individuals have volunteered time and equipment to assist in the clearing and maintenance of the trails being maintained by the Flat Tops OHV Crew. Members of the Boy Scouts of America in the area have cooperated in the clearing, maintenance and reconstruction of some of the trails as Eagle Scout projects. The Yampa Valley OHV Trailriders Club obtained a trail dozer using State OHV Grant Funds which will assist in completing maintenance and improvements to trail conditions throughout the area in partnership with the Flat Tops Crew. The Town of Meeker and Rio Blanco County have supported OHV activities through the Wagon Wheel Trail Program and the BLM is attempting to complete their travel management and add
more motorized routes that will be available to the OHV community. These supporters are interested in promoting and enhancing motorized recreation on the National Forest and in northwest Colorado and have offered assistance in various ways. We are not aware of any controversy being caused in any of the local communities served by this project which include, Craig, DeBeque, Glenwood Springs, Meeker, Hayden, New Castle, Parachute, Rifle, Silt, and Steamboat Springs.

The total estimated project cost is $102,690.30. The Forest Service will contribute $21,367.00. The following table details these contributions. In addition to the Forest Service contributions the Yampa Valley OHV Trailriders club and the White River Trailrunners have voiced commitment to continue their volunteer efforts to assist the crew as has the newly formed Wagon Wheel OHV Club.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Name: FLAT TOPS OHV TRAIL CREW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck - $354/month and $0.52/mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trailer - $152/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew Supervision/Planning/Budget Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS-9 for 30 Days @ $307/day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign Fabrication Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabrication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Service Training Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATV Certification, Defensive Driving and Trailering Certifications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Service Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chainsaw Certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Service Grand Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

During 2013 the Flat Tops OHV Crew completed dozens of trail improvement projects that have protected water and soil resources. More than 100 water bars were maintained or constructed. Installation of 4 culverts has reversed ongoing damage to multiple streams and will prevent further soil erosion in areas where trail braiding has occurred. Additionally, 3 stream crossings were hardened utilizing local rock sources. We have identified many other locations where additional trail improvements will protect soil and water resources.

The crew continues to assist in signing, educating and enforcing temporary seasonal closures for elk calving along several trails from 5/21 to 6/21 annually. With the continued presence of the Flat Tops Trail Crew made available by this grant funding, a recurring maintenance schedule has been established and will be implemented with ongoing benefits to the recreating public and natural resources.

Finally, the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew has enhanced visitor experiences by helping motorized users find the riding opportunities and experiences they are seeking. These visitor contacts provide for ongoing communication between motorized users and the Forest Service resulting in greater awareness of the need to protect soil and water quality.
4. Travel Management Plan Implementation, Education and Enforcement (25 points):

Implementation, Education and Enforcement of the White River National Forest Summer Travel Management Plan continues to be a key duty of the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew. The summer portion of this plan went into effect in May of 2012. Field presence of the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew is crucial in helping visitors understand the new travel management policy. In 2013 approximately 600 individual contacts were made and more than 1,000 Motor Vehicle Use Maps were distributed. We are beginning to see better compliance on some critical routes such as the Buford-New Castle Road where OHV use is no longer allowed for safety reasons. This makes the continued funding of this crew a priority for the forest now and for years to come. The forest anticipates that not only will ATV, OHV and dirt bike enthusiasts benefit from having this continued presence but other trail users such as hikers, horse users and bicyclists will also benefit from improved trail maintenance, compliance, and cooperation, education efforts and having personnel in the field.

Educational tools and training from sources such as Stay the Trail and Tread Lightly will enhance the ability of the OHV Crew to improve the public’s understanding and compliance with regulations, helping them understand the reasons and the underlying principles behind these regulations as well as the benefits that will come from their cooperation. The OHV Trail Crew will continue to utilize existing educational materials such as the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), travel information kiosks, district maps, brochures and handouts from Stay the Trail and Tread Lightly, and on the ground visitor contacts in their efforts to educate the public. The crew worked with the Wagon Wheel Trail organization in 2013 to create visitor guides and maps that highlight loop opportunities and OHV systems for various OHV activities as well as providing details of terrain, features, etc. Throughout the summer season, the crew submits trail reports which are posted on the White River National Forest website weekly so visitors will be aware of up-to-date conditions. One goal is to work with the Tread Lightly Master Tread Trainer program for Colorado to assist the crew in educating the public at local special events. Efforts will also be made to incorporate more of the Tread Lightly and Stay the Trail messages in local newspapers and radio stations.

The OHV crew will assist in the installation and maintenance of signs and kiosks that inform the public of not only regulations and opportunities, but also the reasons and principles behind those regulations. More than 40 informational signs were placed in 2013. Signage will be in conformance with the Colorado Natural Resource Group recommendations to provide a consistent message across districts, other Forests and adjacent BLM lands. Carsonite posts with CNRG recommended signing will be at all trail junctions and directional signs will be installed as needed. The crew leader attended a week-long Forest Protection Officer Training in 2013 and has been authorized to issue violation notices if efforts at education and compliance are not effective. In cases where a violation notice is not issued, incident reports will be completed.

Barriers that limit the size of vehicles that can use the trails will be installed where illegal vehicles become a problem. It is estimated that 30% of the time and funds will be devoted to visitor contacts, education, information and compliance with law enforcement actions as a final resort. The Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew is a key component to successfully implementing and enforcing the new travel management plan.

One visitor told the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew during the 2013 summer season, “We ride Forest Service ATV trails in four states and these are the best maintained.” We would like to continue the work we have begun in order to receive more comments like that and with your help, we can.

TOTAL POINTS 100
The area covered by this symbol is where the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew performs their duties as outlined in the accompanying application and the general area covered by the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for the White River National Forest – Flat Tops and Rifle Ranger Districts maps (E-2)
The Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew has made great strides in improving our motorized trail system. As use in the area continues to grow we hope to maintain the trails in good, usable condition. These are examples of some of the work performed in 2013 by the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew.

Before Culvert installed in wet seep After

Draining muddy areas

Clearing trail - a never ending chore
Before Clearing brush to increase site distance After

Before Tread work done to level a trail After

Lots of areas still in desperate need of attention
Installed share the road and travel management signage

Repaired, reset or replaced damaged signs across both districts

Trash removal is another continual chore
OHV Enthusiasts Enjoying Some of the Routes Maintained by the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew

Groups to the area include the COHVCO Rendezvous and the Rio Blanco County Search and Rescue Poker Run
21 November 2013

Colorado State Parks OHV Program
13787 South Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Rio Blanco County Board of Commissioners I am writing this letter in support of the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle State Trail Grant Application submitted by the United States Forest Service – White River National Forest/Blanco Ranger District and Rifle Ranger District for the Flat Tops Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail Crew. Rio Blanco County feels the partnerships they have formed with several entities including the USFS has been of great beneficial value in the developing of OHV recreational opportunities in Northwest Colorado.

The Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew was established in 2012 to provide a presence along existing and newly designated routes, provide maintenance, construction and reclamation activities, install signage and directional markers, enforce state OHV regulation and to be a point of contact to assist with the partnership of local OHV clubs to maintain and identify opportunities related to motorize use. In 2013 the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew continued with their program making hundreds of public contacts and providing maintenance on trails across the Blanco and Rifle Ranger Districts.

The continued funding of the project will enable the USFS OHV Trail Crew to focus on the east end of the Sleepy Cat Trail (FSR 290) and the Pattison Park Trail (2292). Both Trails have large boggy areas that will need reroute/reconstruction. The Crew will continue with signage and providing public information on travel management.

Rio Blanco County Commissioners recognize the value this project brings to the overall effort to increase tourism and stimulate the economy in Northwest Colorado.

Sincerely,

Shawn J. Bolton, Chairman
Rio Blanco County Board of Commissioners
In Reply Refer To:
8340 (CO-LLCON05000)

November 21, 2013

Tom Metsa, Program Manager
State Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program
Colorado Parks & Wildlife
13787 South Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

Mr. Tom Metsa, OHV Subcommittee, State Trails Committee, and Parks & Wildlife Commission:

On behalf of the Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, I am writing this letter in support of the White River National Forest, Blanco Ranger District's OHV grant request for the Flat Tops OHV Trail Crew. This project primarily provides funding to maintain, construct, and sign OHV trails on the Blanco and Rifle Ranger Districts of the White River National Forest as well as provide visitor information and OHV law enforcement.

The White River Field Office and Blanco Ranger District not only share the same office building and serve the same communities, but also provide complementing OHV opportunities in Northwest Colorado. This grant would allow Blanco Ranger District the ability to continue delivering trail maintenance necessary to providing excellent OHV riding opportunities on public lands east of the White River Field Office. These trails complement the existing and planned OHV riding opportunities on the White River Field Office and contribute to establishing Northwest Colorado as a high quality OHV destination in the state. We appreciate the White River National Forest's commitment in continuing to provide outstanding OHV riding opportunities in Northwest Colorado and support their 2014-2015 OHV grant funding request.

If you would like more information or have any questions in regards to this information please contact Aaron Grimes, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at (970) 878-3837.

Sincerely,

James R. Roberts
Assistant Field Office Manager
November 20, 2013

RE: Letter of Support for the Blanco District of the White River National Forest for the Flat Tops Trail Crew Program grant application

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Town of Meeker, I am writing this letter of support for the grant application being requested by the Blanco District of the White River National Forest for supporting the three-person motorized trail crew to carry on the work initiated during the 2013 summer season. This proposal and regional collaboration efforts continually strive to promote and enhance the trail system and recreational opportunities near Meeker on our vast public lands.

The ongoing efforts and grant support for projects such as this one bring much valued tourism, recreation and commerce to our community and Town.

The Town appreciates the opportunity to write this letter supporting the Forest Service’s proposal. The request has our full endorsement, support and backing.

Sincerely,

Mandi Etheridge
Mayor
On behalf of the Board of Trustees
November 22, 2013

RE: Letter of support for the Blanco and Rifle Districts of the White River National Forest Off-Highway Vehicle State Grant Application

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 of the Blanco and Rifle Districts of the White River National Forest for trail maintenance and improvement. These trail crews are crucial in maintaining the Wagon Wheel OHV Trails system to ensure their continued use as well as future expansion.

The communication between our local representatives of the National Forest Service and our community has been a key to the success we have experienced over the past few years in developing our trail system and we are committed to continuing that communication for the benefit of all OHV enthusiasts.

The Wagon Wheel OHV Club is looking forward to assisting the Blanco and Rifle Districts of the White River National Forest in any way we can. Under their direction our volunteers are willing to assist with any trail maintenance projects where we can be of use to ensure the continued use and expansion of OHV trial systems in our area. 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.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Daniel R Ilgen
President
Wagon Wheel OHV Club
November 24, 2013

Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager
Colorado State Parks
13787 South Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125

To Grant Selection Committee:

On behalf of the Yampa Valley OHV Trailriders club in Craig, I am writing this letter in support of the Flattop OHV Motorized Trail Crew application being requested by the US Forest Service.

Our OHV club was organized in 2009 and one of our priorities is to help our local Forest Service and BLM personnel maintain trails and educate OHV and other trail users in proper use of the trails.

In 2012, the club was able to purchase a trail dozer through the Colorado State Parks grant. This dozer has been used to assist the local Forest Service and BLM offices. This will continue to be a great addition to help with the work of the Trail Crews. The dozer was used during 2013 on some projects, and is currently being scheduled to work on projects for the summer of 2014.

Northwest Colorado has a multitude of trail systems and with this the responsibility of maintaining these trails. The continuation of the 3-person motorized trail crew would be very beneficial in monitoring the trails. Having the additional personnel who can spot “problem areas” or areas of concern before too much damage occurs would make a huge impact in maintaining our trails. In addition having the crews trained in operating the trail dozer will provide a significant positive impact to the trail maintenance program. The addition of the crew would also be beneficial as they would be able to work with local volunteers, such as OHV clubs and other trail users, to organize trail “work days” and trail “clean-up days.”

The public trails are all of our responsibility. The trail crew would be instrumental in education of “Stay the Trail” and “Tread Lightly” and assist all trail users in understanding the need to protect and preserve our trails for all of us, as well as for future generations.

The Yampa Valley OHV Trailriders look forward to their continued work with the Forest Service and BLM as volunteers in trail maintenance, clean-up and OHV education on our public trails.

We hope you will give considerable consideration to this grant application.

Sincerely,

DeLaine Brown
President
Yampa Valley OHV Trailriders
November 26, 2013

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager
13787 South Hwy 85
Littleton, Colorado 80125

It is with great support that I write this letter for the United States Forest Service – Blanco and Rifle Ranger District’s 2014 OHV State Trail Grant Application. The USFS has worked collaboratively with us over the past several years to create the marketable trail system known as the ‘Wagon Wheel OHV Trail System’ which currently utilizes USFS trails. The USFS’ grant request compliments all other actions taken and is an integral part in the continuation of increasing OHV riding opportunities on Federal lands.

The requested grant funds will be used to hire a motorized trail crew to continue trail work that was started in 2012. The motorized trail crew will provide maintenance, construction and reclamation activities resulting in a better riding experience and offering sustainability for the existing trail system. This crew will continue to provide public information, enforce state OHV regulations as needed, and identify opportunities pertaining to motorized OHV riding to ensure the riding opportunities are not diminished.

The USFS’ efforts compliment all efforts the Meeker Chamber of Commerce is initiating, and on a local level, we have seen an increase in economic activity related to motorized recreation, which is imperative to our business community. Awarding these requested grant dollars to the USFS will only enhance our economic impact, and aid our communities in being more economically stable.

If you have any questions pertaining to my support of this grant, or regarding our OHV activities as a whole, please contact me via the information listed below.

Sincerely,

Katelin Cook
Executive Director
(970) 878-5510
director@meekerchamber.com