

# COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PREPARED BY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	
<u>2025-26 Snowmobile Program</u> <u>Grant Recommendations</u>	<u>Gabrielle Smiley</u>	<u>6/3/25</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION <u>  X</u> ITEM	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION _____ ITEM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DRAFT <u>  X</u> COPY	<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL _____ COPY

## **PURPOSE:**

To request the State Recreational Trails Committee’s (the Committee) approval for the Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee’s grant rankings and funding recommendations for the 2025-2026 Snowmobile Program Grants.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The State Trails Program, a statewide program within Colorado’s Parks and Wildlife Division (CPW), administers grants for trail-related projects on an annual basis. Local, county, and state governments, federal agencies, special recreation districts, and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands may apply for and are eligible to receive snowmobile grants.

### **Colorado’s Snowmobile Program**

The Snowmobile Program is statutorily created, C.R.S. 33-14-101 through 33-14-119, and is funded through the sale of snowmobile registrations and use permits. It is estimated that over 33,000 vehicles will be registered in the 2025-2026 season. The price of an annual snowmobile registration is \$30.25. Funds are used to support the Statewide Snowmobile Grant and Grooming Programs as well as support for snowmobile registration operations. Funding is also made available to support safety, education and enforcement patrols. Funding is also provided to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CIAC). The program’s primary goal is to improve and enhance snowmobile recreation opportunities across the state while promoting the safe and responsible use of snowmobiles. The Snowmobile Program partners with the Colorado Snowmobile Association (CSA) who represents organized snowmobiling within the state. There are 35 snowmobile clubs under the CSA umbrella; of these 35 clubs, 27 of them participate in the state wide grooming program. Last year, \$735,000.00 was provided from the snowmobile recreation fund to grooming clubs to maintain and sign over 2700 miles of winter trails which are open to all winter sports enthusiasts. Grooming funds enable the clubs to cover the costs of fuel, insurance, equipment maintenance and repairs. Clubs that groom typically apply for grant funding to assist with the purchase of grooming equipment, construction of facilities to house equipment or trailhead improvements.

## **GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS:**

Snowmobile Grant applications are sent out by e-mail, ground mail and are posted on the Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks & Wildlife OHV'S & Snowmobiles Trails website. The grant program is publicized through newsletters, the State website, and e-mail information networks. Technical assistance for grant preparation is provided by the State Trails Coordinators to potential applicants requesting assistance.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) has authorized a subcommittee structure to oversee and organize the grant selection process. Subcommittee members are appointed for the purpose of reviewing and ranking grants and compiling funding recommendations for the Commission.

### **Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Process**

The subcommittee conducts a fair and comprehensive review of all grant applications submitted before making recommendations to the Commission. All projects are evaluated and ranked against each other. The Snowmobile grant review and ranking procedure follows a three-tiered recommendation and approval process. Applications are scored and evaluated by the Snowmobile Subcommittee which ranks the applications in order of recommended funding priority. The ranked applications are passed to the State Trails Committee which evaluates the applications in ranked order and recommends funding strategies to the Commission. The Commission gives final approval of the projects recommended for funding. Public input is solicited as part of the grant review process. Public comment is accepted by e-mail, letter, and during public meetings.

### **Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee**

The Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee is comprised of fourteen (14) scoring members including the subcommittee Chairperson who is a member of the State Trails Committee chosen by the Commission to represent snowmobile interests, and nine (9) snowmobile district representatives, one from each of the state's 9 designated snowmobile areas, who are appointed by the Chairperson; and four (4) Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regional Trail Coordinators.

*Appendix A* lists the members of the Snowmobile Subcommittee members and the area they represent.

### **2025-2026 Snowmobile Grant Application**

Snowmobile Grant applications were due April 19, 2025. Applications for ten (10) eligible projects were received prior to the April 19 deadline, for a total grant request of \$804,544.00. Applicants made presentations to the Snowmobile Subcommittee on May 17, 2025 in-person at the Residents Inn Conference room in Salida, Colorado.

**FUNDING:**

Available funding for the 2025-2026 Snowmobile Grant cycle is \$357,657.00 from the following funding source:

<b>Snowmobile Program Registration Funds</b>	<b>\$357,657.00</b>
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**DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:**

Considering the Trails’ Program’s Strategic Plan, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and input from the Trails Program staff, the Snowmobile subcommittee recommends priority funding of:

<b>Grant Category</b>	<b>Number of Grants</b>	<b>Proposed Funding</b>
<b>Snowmobile Program Grants</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$357,657.00</b>

*Appendix B* is the summaries of the Snowmobile grant applications with their rankings and recommended funding levels.

**DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:**

CPW staff and the Snowmobile Subcommittee have recommended the attached 2025-2026 Snowmobile Grants ranking and funding list (*Appendix C*) for the Committee’s review and recommendation. It is suggested that minor adjustments of project funding levels be permitted at the discretion of the CPW Director or the designee. Furthermore, it is recommended that any additional project money that is received be rolled over into the 2026-2027 snowmobile grant cycle, or into the 2025 - 2026 grooming season.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:**

“In accordance with section 33-11-106 and 33-14-106, Colorado Revised Statutes, I move that the State Recreational Trails Committee approve the 2025-2026 Snowmobile Grant ranking and funding recommendations as provided by the Snowmobile subcommittee. The committee recommends moving this item to the Parks and Wildlife Commission for their approval. The Committee further recommends that minor adjustments of project funding levels be permitted at the discretion of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division to address changes in available funding amounts and funding amounts requested, provided the recommended projects all receive a substantial amount of the funding as otherwise recommended by this Committee.”

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE

June 6, 2025  
DATE

2025 - 2026 Snowmobile Subcommittee Members

Appendix A

SNOWMOBILE SUBCOMITTEE MEMBER	COLORADO SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION DISTRICT REPRESENTATION
Adam Northrup	DISTRICT 1
Ron Spencer	DISTRICT 2
Jim Allerse	DISTRICT 3
Dana Jenick	DISTRICT 4
Ray Doble	DISTRICT 5
Ross Muzik	DISTRICT 6
Tom Carl	DISTRICT 7
Mark Hollingshead	DISTRICT 8
Bryan Meadar	DISTRICT 9
Randy Engle	CPW Northwest Trails Coordinator
Josh Stoudt	CPW Southwest Trails Coordinator
Tappen Brown	CPW Southeast Trails Coordinator
Luke Svare	CPW Northeast Trails Coordinator
Zachery Shacter	Subcommitte Chair- Member of the State Trails Committee representing Snowmobile interest



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

### 2025-2026 Snowmobile Grant

### Summaries

Appendix B

Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Type	Amount Requested	Total Project Cost
1-SW	Groomer Purchase	Westend Sledders	Equipment	\$150,000.00	\$190,000.00
	The Westend Sledders Snowmobile Club is asking for funds to replace a 2004PB Edge with 7600 hours with a 2016 Bison S with 4700 hours. The club has not been able to consistently groom because the cat has so much down time due to break downs.				
2-SW	Groomer Purchase	Silverton Snowmobile Club	Equipment	\$100,000.00	\$233,410.00
	The Silverton Snowmobile Club is requesting funding for an upgraded replacement for their 2017 T4 Bison with 5023 hours to a 2021 Bison X – Stage 5 with approximately 4400. The upgrade is needed to safely maintain the Silverton and Molas trail systems. These trail systems are heavily used by all user groups, and the number of users continues to grow. The club can only groom during daylight hours, so having a state of the art groomer ensures the most efficient way possible.				
3-NW	Groomer Purchase	High Country Snowmobile Club	Equipment	\$130,000.00	\$200,000.00
	The current 2012 Prinoth Bison needs to be replaced due to the age and condition of this cat with 7400 hours. Depending on the amount of the grant award, the club would like to purchase either a 2018 Prinoth Bison X with 4375 hours for \$180,000.00 or a 2019 Bison X with 4400 hours for \$200,000.00.				
4-NW	Groomer Purchase	Mount Sopris Recreational Riders	Equipment	\$135,000.00	\$200,000.00
	Mount Sopris needs to replace an aging & high cost of maintenance 2008 BR350 with over 8400 hours in order to continue to provide reliable and safe groomed on the Sunlight to Powderhorn (SP Trail). The club would like to purchase a 2016 Bison S with approximately 4500 hours.				
5-SW	Groomer Purchase	Arrowhead Snowmobile Club	Equipment	\$180,000.00	\$270,000.00
	Arrowhead Snowmobile Club currently owns a 2009 Bison, the groomer has been well maintained, but it's nearing the end of its useful life. The club would like to replace it with a 2019 Bison or PB400 or an equivalent snow cat.				
6-SE	Track Replacement	Buena Vista Snowmobile Club	Maintenance	\$16,070.00	\$33,824.64
	The Buena Vista Snowmobile Club applied for a maintenance grant to repair the tracks on both their 2010 PB400 and 2011 PB400.				
7-NW	Grand Lake Groomer Maintenance	Grand Lake Trail Grooming, Inc.	Maintenance	\$12,975.00	\$24,995.00
	Maintenance on their 2008 Bison with 6045 hours is in needed. Which includes repair/replace tracks, replace all belts and hoses, oil change & lube, and replace lights. The groomer will be steam cleaned and have a full inspection.				
8-NW	Groomer Repair	Holy Cross Powder Hounds	Maintenance	\$30,000.00	\$33,118.00
	The Holy Cross Powder Riders is requesting this grant to have major maintenance performed by a professional snow cat mechanic. The club has done its own maintenance for years, but now it requires maintenance by the dealer that the club cannot do themselves.				

<b>Project Number/Region</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
<b>9-NW</b>	<b>Groomer Building Completion</b>	<b>North Routt Snow Riders</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>\$30,500.00</b>	<b>\$84,300.00</b>
	The club's groomers are stored at the Steamboat Lake State Park's maintenance yard. The park has been awarded a grant for \$150,000.00 to build a new maintenance building. However the \$150,000.00 only covers the cost to erect the shell and the concrete floor. This grant request, along with club funds of \$33,800.00 and numerous volunteer work hours, will purchase building insulation, two 12X20 overhead doors, electrical service & distribution, heating and water, and installation of floor drains.				
<b>10-NW</b>	<b>Summer Maintenance</b>	<b>Northwest Colorado Snowmobile Club</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$18,436.00</b>
	The Club is requesting funds to have a B level maintenance to the club's 2015 Prinoth Bison to check and replace all filters, belts, hoses, fluids, seals, oil, bearings, gaskets, wiper blades, batteries, and fluids.				

2025 - 2026 Snowmoible Application Details Appendix C					Scores														
Application #	Project Spincer	Project Name	Funding Request	Recommended Funding	Adam Northrup	Ron Spencer	Jim Allesre	Dana Jenick	Raymond Doble	Ross Mozik	Tom Carl	Mark Hollingshead	Bryan Meadar	Tappan Brown	Luke Svare	Randy Engle	Josh Stoudt	Zachary Shacter	Score Average
4	Mont Sopris Rec Riders	Groomer Purchase	\$135,000	\$135,000	78	89	91	88	95	87	89	68	78	86	89	93	91	85	86.21
7	Grand Lake Trail Grooming, Inc.	Maintenance	\$12,975	\$12,975	74	78	96	63	90	88	91	96	87	89	92	90	87	85	86.14
6	Buena Vista Snowmobile Club	Maintenance	\$16,069	\$16,069	87	71	85	73	80	88	90	92	79	87	85	86	89	Recused	84.00
8	Holy Cross Powder Hounds	Maintenance	\$30,000	\$30,000	79	71	85	80	80	72	90	78	82	86	90	90	88	77	82.00
9	North Routt Snow Riders	Snowcat Building Completion	\$30,500	\$30,500	79	73	80	70	75	89	88	64	74	89	91	91	86	70	79.93
5	Northwest Colorado Snowmobile Club B-Level Service	Maintenance	\$10,000	\$10,000	68	Recused	71	68	80	88	82	76	92	85	87	84	88	62	79.31
10	Silverton Snowmobile Club	Groomer Purchase	\$100,000	\$100,000	55	89	79	80	80	73	81	60	Recused	85	84	85	84	81	78.15
2	Arrowhead Snowmobile Club	Groomer Purchase	\$180,000		75	79	84	65	90	89	Recused	50	78	85	88	77	85	69	78.00
3	High Country Snowmobile Club	Groomer Purchase	\$140,000	\$23,113	75	72	83	63	70	73	89	54	74	85	86	89	85	67	76.07
1	Westend Sledders	Groomer Purchase	\$150,000		56	71	83	80	65	80	80	73	72	85	83	80	88	61	75.50
TOTAL			\$ 804,544	\$ 357,657															