



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

State Trails Program
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July 15-16, 2021

2021-2022 Snowmobile Program Grant funding awards as recommended by the State Recreational Trails Committee.

This letter is a summary and explanation of the enclosed Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) 2021-2022 Snowmobile Program Grant funding recommendations for Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) approval during the July 2021 meeting. We are recommending approval for 6 grants for a total award amount of \$409,088.87.

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 program 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. During the 2020 field season, 34,105 snowmobiles were registered or permitted for use in Colorado. 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. 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, \$760,213.00 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, and trailhead improvements.

State Trails Committee

The creation and role of the Committee are set forth in sections 33-11-105 to 107, C.R.S. In addition to using the Committee as an advisory body on the expenditure of funds appropriated by the General Assembly, the Commission also uses the Committee as an advisory body on the expenditure of federal and GOCO funds available for recreational trail purposes. The Committee consists of nine members appointed by the Commission representing each of the



seven congressional districts from which one member represents Off Highway Vehicle interests. One At Large member who represents Snowmobile interests and one member represents the GOCO Board. The Committee reviews, scores, ranks and submits recommendations for funding of Recreation Trails Grants to the Commission for their consideration and final approval. Sections 33-11-105 to 33-11-107, C.R.S., describe the roles, responsibilities and relationship of the State Trails Committee in working with the Commission.

GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS:

Snowmobile Program Grant applications are sent out by e-mail, ground mail and are posted on CPW's Trails Program website each year. Trail grant opportunities are 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 Commission, through its Policy A-104, has authorized a subcommittee structure to assist the Committee in formulating its grant recommendations. Subcommittee members are appointed for the purpose of reviewing and ranking grants and compiling funding recommendations for the Committee.

Snowmobile Program Grant Review and Ranking Process

The subcommittee conducts a comprehensive review of all grant applications submitted before making recommendations to the Committee. All projects are evaluated and ranked against each other. The Snowmobile Program grant review and ranking procedure follows a three-tiered recommendation and approval process. Applications are scored and evaluated by the Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking 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 Program Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee

The Snowmobile Program 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 State Trails Committee and members of the Snowmobile Subcommittee and the area they represent.

2021-2022 Snowmobile Program Grant Applications

Snowmobile Program Grant applications were due May 4, 2021. Total application funding requests were as follows:

Grant Category	Number of Applications	Requested Funding
Snowmobile Program Grants	10	\$621,933.52

FUNDING:

Available funding for the 2021-2022 Snowmobile Program Grant cycle is \$409,088.87 from the following funding source:

Source of Funding	Dollars Available
Snowmobile Program Registration Funds	\$409,088.87

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:

Snowmobile Program Grant applicants presented project details before the Subcommittee at the annual presentations meeting held virtually on May 15, 2021. Appendix B is a Project Summary of the 2021-2022 Snowmobile Program Grant applications. Appendix C is a spreadsheet summarizing the scoring results with their rankings and recommended funding levels.

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

Grant Category	Number of Grants	Proposed Funding
Snowmobile Program Grants	6	\$409,088.87

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:

CPW staff and the Snowmobile Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittee have recommended the attached 2021-2022 Snowmobile Program 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 his designee. It is also recommended that any additional project money that is received be rolled over into the 2022-2023 Snowmobile Program Grant Cycle, or into the 2021-2022 grooming season.

Appendix A

2020-21 State Recreational Trails Committee Roster

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT/REPRESENTATION
Jill Ozarski 1 st Term Expiration: 06/30/2021	District 1 NM Subcommittee Chair <u>Non-motorized</u>
Christian Meyer 2 nd Term Expiration: 06/30/2021	District 2 STC Committee Chair OHV Subcommittee Non-motorized <u>Non-motorized</u>
Heather Hormell 1 st Term Expiration: 06/30/2024	District 3 OHV Representative OHV Subcommittee Chair <u>Motorized</u>
Scott Jones 2 nd Term Expiration: 06/30/2024	District 4 STC Committee Vice-chair <u>Diversified</u>
Bill Koerner 2 nd Term Expiration: 06/30/2021	District 5 <u>Non-motorized</u>
Jerry Abboud 1 st Term Expiration: 06/30/2022	District 6 <u>Diversified/Motorized</u>
Wally Piccone 1 st Term Expiration: 06/30/2021	District 7 NM Subcommittee Chair Local Government Representative <u>Non-motorized</u>
Janelle Kukuk 2 nd Term Expiration: 06/30/2024	At Large Snowmobile Representative Snowmobile Subcommittee Chair <u>Motorized</u>
Pam Denahy Term Expiration: N/A	GOCO Representative



Appendix A	
Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2021-2022 Snowmobile Capital Grant Subcommittee Members	
SNOWMOBILE SUB COMMITTEE MEMBER	DISTRICT REPRESENTATION
Bill Rexford	DISTRICT 1
Ron Spencer	DISTRICT 2
Dennis Lynton	DISTRICT 3
Vacant	DISTRICT 4
Ray Doble	DISTRICT 5
Ross Muzik	DISTRICT 6
Tom Carl	DISTRICT 7
Mark Hollingshead	DISTRICT 8
Ken Hilficker	DISTRICT 9
Randy Engle	CPW NORTHWEST REGION TRAILS COORDINATOR
Josh Stoudt	CPW SOUTHWEST REGION TRAILS COORDINATOR
Luke Svare	CPW SOUTHEAST REGION TRAILS COORDINATOR
Ben Plankis	CPW NORTHEAST REGION TRAILS COORDINATOR
Janelle Kukuk	SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR - Member of the State Trails Committee representing Snowmobile interest



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2022 Snowmobile Grant Summaries

Appendix B

Project # /Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Type	Amount Requested	Total Cost
1-NW	Level B Service, new tracks	Northwest Colorado Snowmobile Club	Equipment	\$41,153.57	\$43,453.37
	Perform a B Service on 2006 BR350, and purchase new tracks				
2-NW	Level B Service, new windshield	Uncompahgre Trail Riders	Equipment	\$24,118.00	\$24,118.00
	Perform summer service and purchase a new windshield for their Snow Cat.				
3-SW	Barlow Creek Parking Extension – Phase 2	San Juan Sledders Snowmobile Club	Construction	\$57,725.00	\$57,825.00
	Additional funds are requested to supplement last year's grant award to complete the improvements at the Barlow Creek Parking lot.				
4-SW	Groomer Purchase	Wolf Creek Trail Blazers	Equipment	\$120,000.00	\$260,942.00
	Purchase of a new Pisten Bully 100 Snow Cat replace their 8 year old Snow Cat.				
5-NW	Repair/maintenance	Grand Lake Trail Grooming, Inc,	Equipment	\$22,500.00	\$30,300.00
	Repairs and maintenance for the 2008 Prinoth Bison Snow Cat.				
6-SW	Groomer Purchase	San Juan Sledders	Equipment	\$200,000.00	\$254,403.00
	Purchase of a new Pisten Bully 100 Snow Cat to replace the club's current BR180 Snow Cat.				
7-NW	Level B Service	Steamboat Lake Snow Club	Equipment	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
	Level B service and repair cracked exhaust manifold.				
8-NW	Farwell, Diamond, Ellis Trail Maintenance	Steamboat Lake Snow Cub	Construction	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00
	Reduce the risk of damage to equipment and allows for early season grooming access by pushing significant lodge pole dead fall back from the trail.				
9-SW	Aggregate for Extended Parking at Tucker Ponds	Colorado Snowmobile Association	Construction	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
	This grant will be used to purchase aggregate for the construction of an extended parking lot on the east side of Highway 160 at the Tucker Ponds Road in Mineral County on the East side of Wolf Creek Pass.				
10-SW	Service and Maintenance	Lake City/Continental Divide	Equipment	\$14,436.95	\$16,926.98
	Maintenance and repairs to ensure the safe and dependable operation of the club's Snow Cat.				

[illegible]