

LOCAL ACCESS FUNDING PETITION FORM

Date: June 9, 2025

Issue:	Petition for local access funding
Documentation showing the standing requirements have been met (Regulation#1608,A.1.)	
Routt County is a rural county in Northwest Colorado with a land area of 2,362 square miles which is the equivalent to about 1,511,608 acres. Of this total area, approximately 755,840 acres (or 50%) are privately owned, and about 710,490 acres (or 47%) are designated for agricultural use. Routt County is currently home to 26,000 residents, is growing steadily, with an expected population increase to 27,336 by 2030, and includes the City of Steamboat Springs, Town of Hayden, and the Town of Oak Creek. Routt County is proud to include five Colorado State Parks: Elkhead Reservoir, Pearl Lake State Park, Stagecoach State Park, Steamboat Lake State Park, and Yampa River State Park. These parks collectively attract over one million visitors annually, contributing significantly to local tourism and the local economy. In response to the growing number of visitors, the county has faced an increasing burden to maintain the roads and infrastructure that provide access to these parks. Four of the five parks are accessed directly from County Roads. On average, Routt County spends \$1 million annually on maintenance and improvements to local roads that lead to the parks and state lands. These funds are used to repair roadways, improve signage, and address safety issues, ensuring safe and reliable access for visitors. If approved, Routt County anticipates receiving approximately \$27,500 annually from this petition.	
Demonstrate how a state park access fee would improve state park access and/or alleviate existing access issues. (Regulation #1608.A.2.c.)	
The implementation of a state park access fee in Routt County would provide essential funding to improve and maintain local access routes to the state parks accessed by the county roads. Currently, the county allocates substantial resources to road maintenance, but the increasing visitation to these parks—coupled with the harsh weather conditions—has resulted in deteriorating roads, congested access points, and the need for more frequent repairs. By instituting a \$2 access fee, the county would generate a dedicated revenue stream that can be directed specifically toward maintaining and improving roads, such as resurfacing, dust suppression, roadway striping and signage, and stabilizing areas prone to erosion. This fee would not only allow for more timely and efficient road repairs and maintenance but also provide the resources to explore multimodal access options like bike lanes and shuttle services, helping alleviate road congestion, especially during peak visitation periods. The overall result would be better access to the parks, ensuring a safer, smoother, and more enjoyable experience for all visitors.	
Which rule are you seeking to create or revise? Please include a copy of the rule you propose to create or change, preferably with the change made in redline format. (Regulation #1608.A.2sa)	
Chapter P-7 2 CCR 405-7 Regulation #700.4.a.3. Daily vehicle passes are as follows: • A \$2.00 per vehicle fee will be added to the cost of daily vehicle passes at Elkhead Reservoir, Pearl Lake State Park, Stagecoach State Park, and Steamboat Lake State Park.	

LOCAL ACCESS FUNDING REPORTING FORM

Date: June 9, 2025

Fund Expenditure details. (Regulation #1608.B.1.a)
Routt County spends \$1 million annually on maintenance and improvements to local roads that lead to the parks and state lands. These funds are used to repair roadways, improve signage, and address safety issues, ensuring safe and reliable access for visitors. See attached historical maintenance budget.
Description of the project(s) that the local government is currently or is planning to use the disbursed funds on. (Regulation #1608.B.1.b)
Routt County intends to use the disbursed funds from the proposed state park access fee to address several critical infrastructure maintenance projects. First, the funds will be allocated toward resurfacing and improving local roads that provide access to the county's state parks, such as County Roads 14 and 129. These roads are essential for visitors accessing parks like Stagecoach, Steamboat Lake, and Pearl Lake State Parks, and require ongoing treatments to maintain safety and usability. The funding will support chip seal treatments, crack filling, and repairs to sections that are experiencing significant wear and tear. The funds will also support routine grading, erosion control, and dust suppression for gravel roads, which are critical to maintaining safe access during seasonal changes. Overall, the funds will ensure that the county can continue to provide safe, reliable, and efficient access to the five state parks that reside in the county.
A description of how state park access has been identified or will benefit from the existing or proposed project(s). (Regulation #1608.B.1.c.)
The proposed maintenance projects funded by the state park access fee will enhance access to the parks and the quality of the visitor experience. Improvements to the access roads will address long-standing issues such as congestion, erosion, and potholes, making the journey to the parks smoother and safer. For example, resurfacing the primary access roads will help prevent rutting and damage caused by seasonal weather, ensuring that visitors can reach the parks without delays or safety concerns. Moreover, regular grading and dust control measures for gravel roads will maintain safe and navigable routes, especially for visitors during wet or dry seasons. These improvements will benefit both the local community and visitors, create a more enjoyable experience, and encourage continued use of the parks while preserving the local environment for future generations. Please see the attached map of the state parks within the county and county roads that lead to them.

1. Elkhead Reservoir State Park

- **Location:** Elkhead Reservoir State Park is located at 135 County Road 28, Craig, CO. Its official address is in Moffat County, but multiple access points to the park and reservoir are accessed from Routt County Road 78 via on Routt County Road 76. Its geographical coordinates are 40.5611° N, 107.3816° W. The park lies in the northwest corner of Routt County, near the Elkhead Mountains, providing a secluded and peaceful setting for outdoor recreation. It is a significant site for anglers, campers, and wildlife watchers seeking to enjoy the natural beauty of this rural part of Colorado.
- **Description:** Elkhead Reservoir State Park covers approximately 2,100 acres and features a 900-acre reservoir. It is primarily known for its excellent fishing, boating, and bird-watching opportunities. The park also offers camping, picnicking, and hiking activities, providing various outdoor experiences throughout the year. It attracts visitors for its quiet atmosphere compared to other more developed parks in the region.
- **Local Access Route:** The primary route to Elkhead Reservoir State Park is Elkhead Reservoir Road (Moffat County Road 28 and Routt County Road 86), which extends approximately five miles from Highway 40 to the park entrance. This road is paved for most of its length but has sections of deterioration due to the seasonal weather and the high traffic it receives during peak visitation periods and residents. The road is maintained but rutting and erosion are occasional issues. The eastern accesses of the park are accessed from seven miles on Routt County Road 78. This road is a gravel road that receives regular applications of a dust suppression solution.
- **Traffic Figures:** According to traffic data, County Road 78 near Elkhead Reservoir experiences an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of approximately 156 vehicles on weekdays and 176 vehicles on weekends. These numbers reflect the park's more tranquil nature, with fewer visitors compared to larger parks, but the road still experiences heavy traffic during the summer months when outdoor activities peak. In 2023, the park saw 220,342 visitors and 208,481 visitors in 2024.
- **Infrastructure Costs:** Routt County allocates approximately \$40,000 annually for maintaining Elkhead Reservoir Road. This budget covers treatments like magnesium chloride applications for dust suppression and periodic chip seal treatments to extend the road life and maintain smooth travel conditions for visitors. Maintenance also includes routine grading and erosion control to combat rutting and washouts, especially during the wetter months.
- **Community Benefits:** Elkhead Reservoir provides important recreational opportunities for both locals and tourists. Its fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing opportunities are key attractions, contributing to the regional economy by drawing visitors from across the state. Local businesses, especially those related to outdoor gear, rental services, and accommodations, see a significant influx of customers during peak seasons, which supports economic activity in the surrounding area.
- **Current Resources:** The maintenance of County Road 78 and 86 and associated infrastructure is primarily funded through the Routt County road maintenance budget.
- **Past Issues:** The most notable issues for Elkhead Reservoir State Park involve road congestion and infrastructure wear during peak visitation periods, especially during fishing seasons. The road, particularly its gravel sections, is prone to erosion, washboards, potholing, rutting, and wear caused by both weather conditions and heavy traffic. These maintenance challenges have led to increased budgetary needs and the occasional temporary closure of certain sections of the park's access roads.

2. Pearl Lake State Park

- **Location:** Pearl Lake State Park is located at 3000 County Road 129, Steamboat Springs, CO, 80487. The park's coordinates are 40.7866° N, 106.8911° W. It is situated in the northwestern portion of Routt County, nestled within the Routt National Forest. The park is easily accessible from Steamboat Springs and provides a peaceful environment for outdoor enthusiasts to experience a variety of recreational activities in a pristine, forested setting.
- **Description:** Pearl Lake State Park is known for its tranquil motor-free atmosphere, within its 300-acre boundary offering some of the best fishing opportunities in the area. The park is also well-regarded for hiking, wildlife observation, and peaceful camping. While the park is smaller than others in Routt County, its serene beauty makes it a hidden gem for those seeking to escape the crowds at more popular parks like Steamboat Lake. The park attracts visitors year-round for activities ranging from fishing and boating in the summer to cross-country skiing in the winter.
- **Local Access Route:** The primary access to Pearl Lake State Park is via 23 miles north on County Road 129 and two miles on Routt County Road 209. County Road 209 is a gravel road stretching approximately two and a quarter miles from Routt County Road 129 to the park entrance. The road, though well-maintained, experiences significant wear during high-traffic periods. Seasonal flooding and wet weather exacerbate rutting issues, washboard, and potholing especially in the spring and fall, requiring frequent grading and maintenance.
- **Traffic Figures:** Traffic data for County Road 209 near Pearl Lake indicates an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of approximately 444 vehicles on weekdays and 490 vehicles on weekends. The road sees a steady flow of visitors, but traffic volumes are lower than in more heavily trafficked areas like Steamboat Lake. The gravel road, though used year-round by residents and visitors, experiences a notable spike in visitation during the summer months when camping and fishing are most popular. In 2023, Pearl Lake State Park saw 30,994 visitors, and 34,843 visitors in 2024.
- **Infrastructure Costs:** Routt County spends an average of \$70,000 annually on road maintenance for County Road 209. This funding is used to perform necessary gravel resurfacing, rutting repairs, grading, and dust suppression. Maintenance is particularly important during the wetter months when flooding and erosion can damage the road and make travel difficult for park visitors.
- **Community Benefits:** Pearl Lake State Park provides a quiet and natural space for visitors to enjoy fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching. This park is a crucial part of the local tourism ecosystem, offering a peaceful alternative to busier parks while contributing to the economy by attracting outdoor enthusiasts. The park also supports local businesses, including those that provide camping gear, rentals, and food for visitors.
- **Current Resources:** Maintenance of County Road 129 and 209 are funded primarily through Routt County's road maintenance budget.
- **Past Issues:** One of the primary issues facing Pearl Lake State Park is the wear and tear on the gravel sections of County Road 209, particularly after wet weather. Seasonal flooding exacerbates erosion, which makes grading and resurfacing necessary more frequently than for paved roads. These challenges create a constant need for maintenance to ensure continued safe access to the park.

3. Stagecoach State Park

- **Location:** Stagecoach State Park is located at 2550 County Road 14, Oak Creek, CO, 80467, with coordinates 40.2883° N, 106.8616° W. Situated south of Steamboat Springs, Stagecoach is a popular destination for both locals and visitors, providing access to Stagecoach Reservoir and the surrounding forests. The park is easily accessible via County Road 14, making it a prime destination for outdoor recreation.
- **Description:** Stagecoach State Park offers 1,600 acres of recreation area, including the Stagecoach Reservoir, which serves as the central attraction. The park is widely used for boating, fishing, and camping, and it also offers hiking and wildlife viewing. It is one of Routt County's most popular parks, especially during the summer months, when visitors enjoy water sports and picnicking. In addition to its outdoor recreation offerings, the park also serves as a winter destination for snowshoeing, ice fishing and cross-country skiing.
- **Local Access Route:** Stagecoach State Park is accessed primarily via County Road 14, which is a paved road extending approximately five miles from Highway 131 to the park entrance. While the road is in good condition, the high volume of visitors and residents during the peak summer season contributes to congestion and increases the wear and tear on the roadway. Frequent resurfacing and maintenance are necessary to maintain a smooth driving experience for park visitors.
- **Traffic Figures:** Traffic on County Road 14 is significant, with the intersection of County Road 14 and Highway 131 reaching an average of 2,500 trips per day during peak months. During the summer, particularly on weekends, the traffic volume increases sharply as visitors flock to the park for water-related activities. The road also sees increased traffic during winter months due to winter sports enthusiasts. In 2023, Stagecoach saw 280,320 visitors, and 319,006 visitors in 2024.
- **Infrastructure Costs:** The annual cost of maintaining County Road 14 is approximately \$85,000. This budget covers routine resurfacing, patching, and signage repair.
- **Community Benefits:** Stagecoach State Park significantly contributes to Routt County's tourism industry, supporting local businesses by attracting both summer and winter visitors. The park provides opportunities for water-based activities such as boating and fishing, while also serving as a hub for camping and picnicking. The park's economic impact extends to local shops, restaurants, and rental services.
- **Current Resources:** The maintenance of County Road 14 and the surrounding infrastructure is funded through Routt County's road budget.
- **Past Issues:** Stagecoach State Park has experienced issues with road congestion during peak visitation periods, particularly on weekends. The high volume of visitors can cause long wait times at boat launches and parking areas. Additionally, the road leading into the park experiences wear from the heavy traffic, necessitating more frequent resurfacing and maintenance.

4. Steamboat Lake State Park

- **Location:** Steamboat Lake State Park is located at 39245 Routt County Road 129, Steamboat Springs, CO, 80487, with coordinates 40.8086° N, 106.9525° W. The park is located in the Routt National Forest, offering breathtaking mountain views and a large, clear lake ideal for a variety of recreational activities. It is easily accessible from Steamboat Springs, making it a popular destination for both locals and tourists.
- **Description:** Steamboat Lake State Park is one of the largest and most visited parks in Routt County. It features a 1,000-acre lake that supports fishing, boating, and water sports. Visitors can enjoy activities like hiking, camping, and wildlife viewing, and the park is also a popular spot for cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, and snowshoeing during the winter. With its wide range of year-round activities, the park contributes significantly to local tourism.
- **Local Access Route:** Steamboat Lake State Park is primarily accessed via County Road 129, which stretches approximately 25 miles from Highway 40 to the park entrance. This paved road is well-maintained, though it can experience heavy congestion during peak summer months. The road also requires regular maintenance to address wear from the high volume of visitors.
- **Traffic Figures:** Traffic data shows that County Road 129 near Steamboat Lake sees approximately 1,281 vehicles on weekdays and 1,525 vehicles on weekends. The park experiences especially high traffic volumes during the summer and winter seasons, with visitors flocking to the lake for boating and skiing activities. Road congestion during these periods is a common challenge. In 2023 Steamboat Lake saw 463,988 visitors and 509,354 visitors in 2024.
- **Infrastructure Costs:** Routt County allocates approximately \$100,000 annually for road maintenance on County Road 129. This includes resurfacing, road safety improvements, and signage upgrades.
- **Community Benefits:** Steamboat Lake State Park plays a crucial role in the local tourism economy. It attracts visitors for a variety of recreational activities, from boating and fishing in the summer to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. The park boosts local businesses, including those offering outdoor gear rentals, food, and accommodations, especially during peak seasons.
- **Current Resources:** The maintenance of County Road 129 is funded primarily through Routt County's road budget.
- **Past Issues:** The high visitor volume during peak months, particularly during weekends, leads to traffic congestion on CR 129 and CR 62 where the marina is accessed and within the park itself. The road often experiences wear, requiring frequent resurfacing and maintenance to keep it safe and navigable.

The five State Parks within Routt County attract over one million visitors annually. The visitation data for the parks is as follows:

1. Elkhead Reservoir State Park: Over 100,000 visitors annually
2. Pearl Lake State Park: Over 150,000 visitors annually
3. Stagecoach State Park: Over 250,000 visitors annually
4. Steamboat Lake State Park: Over 400,000 visitors annually
5. Yampa River State Park: Over 200,000 visitors annually

Photos of Entrance to Stagecoach State Park

Photos show access to Stagecoach State Park via CR 14.





Photos of Entrance to Pearl Lake State Park

Photos show access to Pearl Lake State Park access via CR 209.





Photos of Entrance to Steamboat Lake State Park

Photos show access to Steamboat Lake Visitor Center access via CR 129 and Dutch Hill Marina entrance via CR 62.







Photos of Entrance to Elkhead Reservoir State Park

Photos show access to Bear's Ears Campground and Northeast Reservoir Access via CR 78





Surface Maintenance Treatment on Roads that Service State Lands

Road	Treatment	Quantity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Magnesium Chloride Application		Gallons									
78	Mag	20,909	\$ 15,472.66	\$ 14,590.30	\$ 14,761.75	\$ 14,427.21	\$ 15,138.12	\$ 15,995.39	\$ 15,556.30	\$ 18,399.92	\$ 20,741.73
67	Mag	2,429	\$ 1,797.46	\$ 1,694.96	\$ 1,714.87	\$ 1,676.01	\$ 1,758.60	\$ 1,858.19	\$ 1,807.18	\$ 2,137.52	\$ 2,409.57
80	Mag	2,640	\$ 1,953.60	\$ 1,842.19	\$ 1,863.84	\$ 1,821.60	\$ 1,911.36	\$ 2,019.60	\$ 1,964.16	\$ 2,323.20	\$ 2,618.88
209	Mag	5,350	\$ 3,959.00	\$ 3,733.23	\$ 3,777.10	\$ 3,691.50	\$ 3,873.40	\$ 4,092.75	\$ 3,980.40	\$ 4,708.00	\$ 5,307.20
Total		31,328.00	\$ 23,182.72	\$ 21,860.68	\$ 22,117.57	\$ 21,616.32	\$ 22,681.47	\$ 23,965.92	\$ 23,308.03	\$ 27,568.64	\$ 31,077.38
Year Average		\$ 24,153.19									

Chip Seal Treatment	SY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
27	Chip	557,222	\$ 471,211.00						\$ 809,663.00	
53	Chip	143,264	\$ 37,082.00						\$ 377,583.00	
78	Chip	15,488	\$ 39,357.00							
129	Chip	108,002			\$ 70,913.00	\$ 81,061.00	\$ 98,595.00	\$ 44,148.00		
14	Chip	218,899			\$ 79,692.00	\$ 153,140.00				\$ 282,700.00
212	Chip	3,778				\$ 10,259.00				
76	Chip	44,107						\$ 90,667.00		
16	Chip	43,694								\$ 145,864.00
86	Chip	14,080								\$ 58,636.00
Total		1,148,534	\$ 547,650.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,605.00	\$ 244,460.00	\$ 98,595.00	\$ 134,815.00	\$ 1,187,246.00
Year Average		\$ 316,730.00								

Overlay Treatment	Tons	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
129	Overlay	34,164.00	\$ 800,975.00		\$ 717,600.00			\$ 859,814.00	\$ 468,562.00	
53	Overlay	14,026.00	\$ 948,256.00							
14	Overlay	12,736.00		\$ 519,603.00		\$ 296,443.00	\$ 218,108.00		\$ 301,554.00	
16	Overlay	3,304.00		\$ 248,302.00						
86	Overlay	1,626.00		\$ 109,260.00						
18	Overlay	9,172.00					\$ 777,930.00			
78	Overlay	1,780.00							\$ 215,024.00	
Total		76,808.00	1,749,231.00	877,165.00	-	717,600.00	296,443.00	996,038.00	859,814.00	985,140.00
Year Average		\$ 720,159.00								

Overall Year average spent on Roads that Service Sta: \$ 1,061,042.19

