



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

State Trails Program
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Littleton, CO 80125
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March 17-18, 2021

2021 Non-Motorized Trail 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 Non-Motorized Trail Grant funding recommendations for Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) approval during the March 2021 meeting. We are requesting approval for 20 grants for a total award amount of \$3,520,752.00.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division's (CPW) Trails Program, a statewide program within 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 non-motorized and motorized trail grants.

Colorado's Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Program

CPW's Trails Program was created with the adoption of Colorado's "Recreational Trails Act of 1971" codified in sections 33-11-101 through 33-11-112, Colorado Revised Statutes. The Grant Program provides funding for trail planning projects as well as small and large trail construction and maintenance projects. The Grant Program is a multi-agency partnership that includes CPW, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Colorado Lottery, Federal Recreation Trails Funds (RTP) and the Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF).

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. (Appendix A lists the current Committee members.) 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.

The Non-Motorized Recreation Trails Grant Application Process

Trail Grant applications were posted on the Trails Program website on August 1st, 2020. Trail grant opportunities are publicized annually through press releases, newsletters, the state website, and e-mail information networks. Technical assistance for grant preparation is provided by CPW Trails Program staff to potential applicants. The submission deadline for non-motorized Trail Grant applications was the first business day in October.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) has authorized a subcommittee structure to assist the Committee in formulating its grant recommendations. Subcommittees for each grant category and their members are appointed for the purpose of reviewing and ranking grants and compiling funding recommendations for the Committee. Subcommittee members include Committee members, representatives from GOCO, CPW Trails Program staff, and volunteer peer reviewers. Appendix A lists the individual members who served on each subcommittee.

After receiving recommendations from the Committee and approval from the Commission, grants are awarded for non-motorized trails projects on an annual basis.

The Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Grant Review and Ranking Process

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 to review and rank grant applications and to assist in compiling funding recommendations for the Committee's consideration. To solicit public comment, all grant applications are posted on the CPW Trails Program's website and every public comment is evaluated as part of a subcommittee's grant review and ranking process.

All non-motorized trail grant applications are evaluated and ranked against each other. CPW's trail grant application review and ranking process follows a four-tiered review and approval protocol. All grant applications are first reviewed by CPW wildlife field biologists and regional CPW staff. This process allows CPW to flag potential wildlife issues prior to the review by the subcommittees. While concerns may be flagged during this review, CPW's field staff attempt to resolve these concerns prior to the subcommittee's review. These Regional Wildlife Impact summaries are shared with the subcommittee (Appendix E).

Next, applications are evaluated by three grant review and ranking subcommittees; *the Construction subcommittee, the Maintenance, and the Planning/Support subcommittee*. Grant scores are the average of subcommittee member scores (up to 10 volunteer reviewers per grant application) plus the average score of the CPW and GOCO staff reviewers, for a combined average score. The ranking subcommittees set a minimum grant funding score of 70 for the 2021 Non-Motorized Recreation Trails Grant application cycle. The volunteer reviewers represent a full spectrum of trail recreation interests including trail enthusiasts and

park and natural resource professionals. The funding recommendations provided by the subcommittees and staff are based on a grant’s rank and public input. The ranked applications are then passed to the Committee to evaluate the applications in ranked order and recommend funding strategies to the Commission. The Commission provides the final approval to the funded projects.

This process invites public review and comment at four separate stages; upon grant application submission, before the subcommittees, before the State Trails Committee and then before the Commission. To solicit public comment, proposed project descriptions are posted on the CPW Trails Program’s website and all public comment is evaluated as part of the grant selection process. Appendix B lists the scores for each grant application as determined by each grant reviewer within each grant category.

2021 Non-motorized Recreational Trails Grants

The breakdown of received grant applications and amounts requested by the four grant categories are as follows:

Grant Categories	Applications	Total \$ Requested
Construction	11	\$ 2,331,959.00
Maintenance	21	\$ 2,736,906.98
Planning/Support	16	\$ 619,745.00
Land and Water Conservation Fund	4	\$ 2,320,087.00
Total Recreational Trail Grants	52	\$ 8,008,697.98

FUNDING

For the 2021 Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Grant cycle, approximately \$3,520,752.00 is available from the following funding sources:

Source of Funding	Dollars Awarded
GOCO State Parks	\$ 1,000,000.00
Federal Recreational Trails Program - Non-Motorized & Diversified (RTP)	\$ 938,015.00
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	\$ 1,582,737.00
Total	\$ 3,520,752.00

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

For 2021, applications were reviewed and scored by volunteer reviewers, GOCO, and CPW Trails Program staff. Three LWCF applications were withdrawn by the applicant before final scoring and several projects were allowed to compete in that category as they met the requirements for scoring.

Using direction from the Trails Program’s Strategic Plan, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Committee’s grant funding policies, the recommended funding allocations for each grant category for this year are as follows:

Grant Category	Number of Grants	Recommended Funding
Construction	3	\$ 749,487.00
Maintenance	9	\$ 1,009,228.00
Planning	2	\$ 89,300.00
Support	2	\$ 90,000.00
Land and Water Conservation Fund	4	\$ 1,582,737.00
Total Recreational Trail Grants	20	\$ 3,520,752.00

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION

Staff has provided the recommended funding spreadsheets for 2021 Non-Motorized Trails Grants (Appendix C) and Project Summaries (Appendix D) for the Commission’s review and approval. It is suggested that minor adjustments of project funding levels be permitted at the discretion of the Division Director.

If you have any questions on this information, or anything else related to the trails program, feel free to give me a call prior to the Commission meeting. Thank you.

Appendix A

State Recreation Trails Committee Members

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT/REPRESENTATION
Jill Ozarski 1st Term Expiration 06/30/2021	District 1 Non-Motorized Sub-Committee Chair Non-Motorized Representative
Christian Meyer 2nd Term Expiration 06/30/2021	District 2 STC Committee Chair OHV Subcommittee Non-Motorized Non-Motorized Representative
Heather Hormell 1st Term Expiration 06/30/2024	District 3 OHV Sub-Committee Chair 1 st Term Expiration 06/30/2024 Motorized Representative
Scott Jones 1st Term Expiration: 06/30/2020	District 4 STC Committee Vice Chair Non-Motorized Sub-Committee Chair Motorized/Diversified Representative
Bill Koerner 2nd Term Expiration: 06/30/2021	District 5 Non-motorized Representative
Jerry Abboud 1st Term Expiration 06/30/2022	District 6 Motorized/Diversified Representative
Wally Piccone 1st Term Expiration: 06/30/2021	District 7 Local Government Non-Motorized Sub-Committee Chair Non-Motorized Representative
Janelle Kukuk 1st Term Expiration 06/30/2020	At Large Snowmobile Representative Snowmobile Subcommittee Chair Motorized/ Diversified Representative
Pamela Denahy 1st Term Expiration: N/A	GOCO Representative Non-Motorized Sub-Committee Member Non-Motorized Representative

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

Appendix A Colorado State Parks - Trails Program Non-motorized Trail Grant Application Reviewers

Application Reviewers

Subcommittee

Jill Ozarski, *State Trails Committee, District 1*
Chad Schneckenburger, *U.S. Forest Service*
Ben Lara, *U.S. Forest Service*
Hedda Peterson, *Gunnison County*
Loretta Pineda, *Environmental Learning for Kids*
Linda Strand, *Non-Profit/City*
Ture Nycum, *City of Fruita*

Construction

Scott Jones, *State Trails Committee, District 4*
Lisa Bondi, *Trails and Recreation Management*
Pam Denahy, *State Trails Committee, GOCO Representative*
Tilah Larson, *City of Colorado Springs*
Teresa Martinez, *Continental Divide Trail Coalition*
Jack Placchi, *Bureau of Land Management*
John Marriott, *City of Arvada*

Maintenance

Wally Piccone, *State Trails Committee, District 7*
Anne Lowe, *Town of Breckenridge*
Cinceré Eades, *City and County of Denver*
Tom Furgason, *Colorado Mountain Bike Association*
Loretta McElhiney, *U.S. Forest Service*
Patrick Ortiz, *San Luis Valley Great Outdoors*
Kalem Lenard, *Bureau of Land Management*

Planning/Support

Reviewed All Grant Applications

Emily Orbanek *GOCO*
Chris Yuan-Farrell *GOCO*
Josh Stoudt *SW Trails Coordinator*
Randy Engle *NW Trails Coordinator*
Ben Plankis *NE Trails Coordinator*
Lucas Svare *SE Trails Coordinator*
Fletcher Jacobs *State Trails Program*

Appendix B – Grant Reviewer Scores

2021 Construction

Grant #	Project Name/Sponsor	Volunteer Reviewer Scores							Outsider Score Averages	Averages with Outliers Removed	Staff Reviewer Scores					Staff Score Averages	Averages with Outliers Removed	Final Score
		Jill Ozarski	Chad Schneckenburger	Ben Lara	Hedda Peterson	Loretta Pineda	Linda Strand	Ture Nycum			Randy Engle	Ben Plankis	Josh Stoudt	Luke Svare	GOCO Rep			
	Subcommittee-Construction																	
1	Sterling Loop Trail, Phase 2 City of Sterling	73	89	67	73	49	89	70	73	76.83	87	91	85	78	69	82.00	82.00	79.42
3	Poudre River Regional Trail Larimer County	95	87	76	80	77	78	88	83	83.00	93	79	67	87	79	81.00	81.00	82.00
4	Cucharas River Trail Project, Ph. 1 Town of La Veta	79	86	85	72	49	85	72	75	79.83	80	82	83	92	75	82.40	82.40	81.12
5	Daniel's Pass Trail Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation	96	88	67	94	80	94	93	87	90.83	89	84	94	91	95	90.60	90.60	90.72
6	Electric Hills Trails COPMOBA	51	74	69	82	68	64	80	70	72.83	77	62	64	81	67	70.20	70.20	71.52
7	Spring Valley Trails Project Colorado Mountain College Foundation	95	92	81	85	81	92	89	88	87.86	89	79	89	84	81	84.40	84.40	86.13
8	Grand Hogback Trail System, Ph. 2 City of Rifle	93	86	79	89	69	91	92	86	88.33	82	76	85	88	89	84.00	84.00	86.17
9	Phases Trail Improvement Project Headwaters Trails Alliance	96	90	62	93	60	84	93	83	86.33	90	85	90	85	86	87.20	87.20	86.77
10	Fraser River Trail Expansion Town of Winter Park	74	79	65	84	60	68	81	73	73.00	74	68	82	79	69	74.40	74.40	73.70
11	San Luis Valley Trails Expansion San Luis Valley Great Outdoors	90	90	86	88	78	81	82	85	85.00	81	90	88	90	78	85.40	85.40	85.20
12	Naturita Town Park Perimeter Trail LWCF Town of Naturita	87	90	72	96	74	81	89	84	84.14	80	87	85	93	73	83.60	83.60	83.87
13	Virginia Canyon Mountain Park Trails City of Idaho Springs	85	90	76	86	73	87	89	84	85.50	88	87	93	93	90	90.20	90.20	87.85
14	Heron Pond_Carpio-Sanguinette LWCF Town of Naturita	91	91	81	96	RECUSE	91	92	90	92.20	84	90	91	89	88	88.40	88.40	90.30

2021 Maintenance

Grant #	Project Name/Sponsor	Volunteer Reviewer Scores							Outsider Score Averages	Averages with Outliers Removed	STAFF REVIEWER SCORES					Staff Score Averages	Averages with Outliers Removed	Final Score
		Scott Jones	Lisa Bondi	Pam Denahy	Tillah Larson	Teresa Martinez	Jack Placchi	John Marriott			Randy Engle	Ben Plankis	Josh Stoudt	Luke Svare	GOCO Rep			
	Subcommittee-Maintenance																	
17	High Line Canal Trail Improvements Denver Parks and Recreation	80	69	60	71	73	80	70	72	73.83	85	77	77	83	79	80.20	80.20	77.02
18	Poudre River Trail - Duran Section City of Greeley	77	77	70	76	73	85	70	75	75.43	86	76	78	83	80	80.60	80.60	78.01
19	OMBA Trail Agent Project Overland Mtn. Bike Association	73	RECUSE	82	77	81	81	90	81	80.67	87	89	89	94	89	89.60	89.60	85.13
20	Rich Creek Trail Reroute Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative	71	72	69	81	78	86	80	77	76.71	87	82	80	82	90	84.20	84.20	80.46
21	Estes Park Trails Maintenance Town of Estes Park	75	69	60	69	69	79	74	71	72.50	77	74	70	80	79	76.00	76.00	74.25
22	Climbing Community Trails Maintenance Boulder Climbing Community	78	RECUSE	80	84	74	85	86	81	81.17	90	84	78	85	82	83.80	83.80	82.48
23	PLC Trail Recovery and Enhancement Poudre Learning Center Foundation	81	74	64	76	69	76	70	73	74.33	80	75	77	84	76	78.40	78.40	76.37
24	Davidson Mesa Open Space Resurface City of Louisville	80	80	70	78	73	79	82	77	77.43	78	73	75	89	79	78.80	76.25	76.84
25	Guffey Gorge Trail Maintenance BLM, Royal Gorge Field Office	93	83	95	RECUSE	81	86	96	89	89.00	90	89	84	97	88	89.60	89.60	89.30
26	CFRT Trail Improvements Town of Castle Rock	80	73	63	80	73	82	80	76	78.00	77	80	85	84	73	79.80	79.80	78.90
27	Whipple Trail Reconstruction Town of Buena Vista	72	74	81	77	75	80	82	77	77.29	84	77	84	86	87	83.60	83.60	80.44
28	S. Fooses Creek-CO Trail Reroute Colorado Mountain Club	73	73	88	88	80	87	88	82	82.43	78	84	87	91	88	85.60	85.60	84.01
29	N. Mt. Elbert Maintenance National Forest Foundation	89	88	93	90	72	91	90	88	90.17	85	90	92	94	90	90.20	90.20	90.18
30	Carhart Trail Maintenance Southern Colorado Trail Builders	93	83	98	87	93	93	97	92	92.00	95	81	88	95	86	89.00	89.00	90.50
31	Mesa County Trail Maintenance Mesa County Public Health	95	89	92	87	70	97	91	89	91.83	92	86	89	88	94	89.80	89.80	90.82
32	Summit County Recpath Shouldering Summit County Open Space	76	74	72	76	68	83	76	75	75.00	90	72	78	77	68	77.00	73.75	74.38
33	Bear Creek Trail Maintenance USFS Dolores Ranger District	88	72	78	75	77	77	82	78	78.43	84	75	85	87	84	83.00	83.00	80.71
34	Elk Creek-CO Trail Avalanches USFS Columbine Ranger District	89	81	81	89	88	90	89	87	86.71	87	88	90	92	87	88.80	88.80	87.76
35	Ouray RD Trail Maintenance USFS Ouray Ranger District	85	68	76	79	71	84	70	76	76.14	80	75	80	84	82	80.20	80.20	78.17
36	Fourteeners Maintenance 2021-22 Colorado Fourteeners Initiative	87	91	89	90	83	90	93	89	90.00	92	91	90	93	85	90.20	90.20	90.10
37	WRV Partnership for Stewardship 2021 Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	86	87	90	88	75	85	85	85	86.83	93	90	90	88	90	90.20	90.20	88.52

2021 Planning and Support

Grant #	Project Name/Sponsor	Volunteer Reviewer Scores							Outsider Score Averages	Averages with Outliers Removed	STAFF REVIEWER SCORES					Staff Score Averages	Averages with Outliers Removed	Final Score
		Wally Piccone	Anne Lowe	Cinceré Eades	Tom Furgason	Loretta McElhiney	Patrick Ortiz	Kalem Lenard			Randy Engle	Ben Plankis	Josh Stoudt	Luke Svare	GOCO Rep			
Subcommittee-Planning-Support																		
PLANNING APPLICATIONS																		
38	Tabor Lake Trail Extension City of Wheat Ridge	79	79	79	77	84	81	69	78	78.29	84	84	77	79	63	77	81.00	79.64
39	Dutch Creek Regional Trail Foothills Park and Rec District	87	77	77	77	72	78	79	78	78.14	82	88	76	84	73	81	80.60	79.37
40	Poudre to South Platte Plan City of Greeley/PRT Trail Corridor	82	72	87	85	78	92	86	83	83.14	90	87	74	79	63	79	82.50	82.82
41	Clear Creek Rec in the Outdoors Clear Creek County	65	65	64	RECUSE	86	80	63	71	70.50	74	68	90	87	76	79	79.00	74.75
42	Century Link Open Space Plan Town of Superior	64	77	73	72	63	78	64	70	70.14	89	77	79	88	63	79	79.20	74.67
43	The Trailhead Initiative Colorado City	88	84	74	79	88	93	74	83	82.86	79	90	78	91	90	86	85.60	84.23
44	N. Fruita Desert Biological Studies City of Fruita	84	78	64	84	89	79	78	79	82.00	92	76	84	85	74	82	82.20	82.10
45	Eagle Valley Trail ECO Trails/Eagle County	70	85	77	76	84	90	76	80	79.71	90	85	84	78	79	83	83.20	81.46
46	Muddy Pass & Cochetopa Hills Continental Divide Trail Coalition	75	70	77	74	72	71	65	72	72.00	90	71	66	88	63	76	75.60	73.80
47	Rio Grande Southern Dolores- Placer Connection Town of Rico	74	68	83	68	86	82	80	77	77.29	91	66	84	87	85	83	82.60	79.94
48	Pioneer's Redefined, Phase 2 Montrose West Recreation	82	78	79	83	86	73	87	81	81.14	84	85	85	84	65	81	84.50	82.82
49	Nature Connection Pathways Delta County School District	86	72	88	87	93	95	88	87	89.50	87	94	90	90	86	89	89.40	89.45
50	Riparian Park to Refuge Trails City of Alamosa	82	88	88	88	98	RECUSE	75	87	86.50	79	93	84	90	71	83	83.40	84.95
SUPPORT APPLICATIONS																		
51	GMUG Snow Rangers Colorado Mountain Club	63	75	72	70	83	76	66	72	72.14	67	61	71	89	89	75	75.40	73.77
52	Enhancing Volunteer Capacity Rocky Mountain Field Institute	69	73	88	87	RECUSE	77	89	81	80.50	81	72	91	91	94	86	85.80	83.15
53	WRV Leadership Dev. & Tools Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	75	74	92	81	RECUSE	79	84	81	80.83	89	91	82	86	85	87	86.60	83.72

Appendix C – Recommended Funding

2021 CONSTRUCTION [GOCO/RTP]							
Grant #	Volunteer Reviewer Score	Staff Reviewer Score	Final Score	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended Funded
5	90.83	90.60	90.72	Daniel's Pass, Phase 1	Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
13	85.50	90.20	87.85	Virginia Canyon Mountain Park Trails	City of Idaho Springs	\$ 249,487.00	\$ 249,487.00
9	86.33	87.20	86.77	Phases Trail Improvement Project	Headwaters Trails Alliance	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
8	88.33	84.00	86.17	Grand Hogback Trail System, Phase 2	City of Rifle	\$ 198,567.00	-
7	87.86	84.40	86.13	Spring Valley Trails	Colorado Mountain College Foundation	\$ 250,000.00	-
11	85.00	85.40	85.20	Eastern San Luis Valley Trails Expansion	San Luis Valley Great Outdoors	\$ 147,356.00	-
3	83.00	81.00	82.00	Poudre River Regional Trail Windsor-Timnath	Larimer County	\$ 250,000.00	-
4	79.83	82.40	81.12	Cucharas River Trail, Phase 1	Town of La Veta	\$ 175,000.00	-
1	76.83	82.00	79.42	Sterling Loop Trail, Phase 2	City of Sterling	\$ 140,000.00	-
10	73.00	74.40	73.70	Fraser River Trail Expansion	Town of Winter Park	\$ 250,000.00	-
6	72.83	70.20	71.52	Electric Hills Trails	Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Association	\$ 204,781.00	-
							\$ 749,487.00

2021 MAINTENANCE [GOCO/RTP]							
Grant #	Volunteer Reviewer Score	Staff Reviewer Score	Final Score	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended Funded
31	91.83	89.80	90.82	Mesa County Trail Maintenance	Mesa County Public Health	\$ 114,500.00	\$ 114,500.00
30	92.00	89.00	90.50	Carhart Trail Maintenance	Southern Colorado Trail Builders	\$ 5,377.00	\$ 5,377.00
29	90.17	90.20	90.18	N. Mt. Elbert Maintenance	National Forest Foundation	\$ 245,000.00	\$ 245,000.00
36	90.00	90.20	90.10	Fourteeners Trail Maintenance 2021-2022	Colorado Fourteeners Initiative	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
25	89.00	89.60	89.30	Guffey Gorge Trail Maintenance	BLM, Royal Gorge Field Office	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 125,000.00
37	86.83	90.20	88.52	WRV Partnership for Stewardship 2021	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	\$ 159,336.66	\$ 98,790.04
34	86.71	88.80	87.76	Elk Creek-Colorado Trail Avalanches	USFS Columbine Ranger District	\$ 55,810.00	\$ 55,810.00
19	80.67	89.60	85.13	OMBA Trail Agent Project	Overland Mountain Bike Association	\$ 44,425.00	\$ 44,425.00
28	82.43	85.60	84.01	S. Fooses Creek - Colorado Trail Reroute	Colorado Mountain Club	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 70,325.96
22	81.17	83.80	82.48	Climbing Community Trails Maintenance	Boulder Climbing Community	\$ 60,000.00	-
33	78.43	83.00	80.71	Bear Creek Trail Maintenance	USFS Dolores Ranger District	\$ 68,500.00	-
20	76.71	84.20	80.46	Rich Creek Trail Reroute	Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative	\$ 17,605.00	-
27	77.29	83.60	80.44	Whipple Trail Reconstruction	Town of Buena Vista	\$ 36,725.00	-
26	78.00	79.80	78.90	Colorado Front Range Trail Improvements	Town of Castle Rock	\$ 250,000.00	-
35	76.14	80.20	78.17	Ouray Ranger District Maintenance	USFS Ouray Ranger District	\$ 25,200.00	-
17	73.83	80.20	77.02	High Line Canal Trail Improvements-Windsor	Denver Parks and Recreation	\$ 250,000.00	-
23	74.33	78.40	76.37	PLC Trail Recovery and Enhancement	Poudre Learning Center Foundation	\$ 28,734.32	-
32	75.00	73.75	74.38	Summit County Recpath Shouldering	Summit County Open Space and Trails	\$ 59,500.00	-
21	72.50	76.00	74.25	Estes Park Trails Maintenance	Town of Estes Park	\$ 166,194.00	-
							\$ 1,009,228.00

2021 PLANNING [GOCO]							
Grant App #	Volunteer Reviewer Score	Staff Reviewer Score	Final Score	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended Funded
49	89.50	89.40	89.45	Nature Connection Pathways	Delta County School District/The Nature Connection	\$ 44,300.00	\$ 44,300.00
50	86.50	83.40	84.95	Riparian Park to Refuge Trails Plan	City of Alamosa	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
43	82.86	85.60	84.23	The Trailhead Initiative	Colorado City	\$ 35,075.00	\$ -
40	83.14	82.50	82.82	Poudre to South Platte Master Plan	Poudre River Trail Corridor, City of Greeley	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -
48	81.14	75.60	82.82	Pioneer's Redefined Master Plan, Phase 2	Montrose West Recreation	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -
44	82.00	82.20	82.10	N. Fruita Desert Biological Studies	City of Fruita	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -
45	79.71	83.20	81.46	Eagle Valley Trail: Dowd Junction to Minturn	Eagle County ECO Trails	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -
38	78.29	81.00	79.94	Tabor Lake Trail Extension	City of Wheat Ridge	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -
47	77.29	82.60	79.94	Rio Grande Southern Dolores-Placer Connection	Town of Rico	\$ 17,500.00	\$ -
39	78.14	80.60	79.37	Dutch Creek Regional Trail	Foothills Park and Recreation District	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -
41	70.50	79.00	74.75	Clear Creek Recreation in the Outdoors Mgmt.	Clear Creek County	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -
42	70.14	79.20	74.67	Century Link Open Space Trail Plan	Town of Superior	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
46	72.00	75.60	73.80	Muddy Pass & Cochetopa Hills Planning	Continental Divide Trail Coalition	\$ 27,870.00	\$ -
							\$ 89,300.00

2021 SUPPORT [GOCO/RTP]							
Grant App #	Volunteer Reviewer Score	Staff Reviewer Score	Final Score	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended Funded
53	80.83	86.00	83.72	WRV Leadership Development & Trail Tools	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
52	80.50	87.00	83.15	Enhancing Volunteer Capacity in SE Colorado	Rocky Mountain Field Institute	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
51	72.14	75.00	73.77	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison Snow Rangers	Colorado Mountain Club	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -
							\$ 90,000.00

2021 LWCF							
Grant App #	Volunteer Reviewer Score	Staff Reviewer Score	Final Score	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended Funded
14	92.20	88.40	90.30	Heron Pond-Carpio-Sanguinette Park, Ph. 2	City and County of Denver	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
12	84.14	83.80	83.87	Naturita Town Park Perimeter Trail	Town of Naturita	\$ 320,760.00	\$ 320,760.00
18	75.43	80.60	78.01	Poudre River Trail-Duran Section Reconstruction	City of Greeley	\$ 261,977.00	\$ 261,977.00
24	77.43	76.25	76.84	Davidson Mesa Open Space Resurfacing	City of Louisville	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
							\$ 1,582,737.00

Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Type	Amount Requested	Total Cost
1-NE	Sterling Loop Trail, Ph. 2	City of Sterling	Const	\$140,000.00	\$182,000.00
	Install a 3,900 linear foot, 10' wide concrete trail along the Pioneer Seepage Ditch. The trail is located one mile from downtown Sterling and runs from Cheyenne Blvd. to West Main Street.				
3-NE	Poudre River Regional Trail – Windsor-Timnath	Larimer County	Const	\$250,000.00	\$2,136,568.00
	Larimer County and the Town of Timnath will construct the remaining 1.9 miles of 8-10 ft. wide concrete trail between Windsor and Timnath. Grant funds will be used for muck excavation, erosion control, crusher fines, pedestrian/bike crossing and wetlands/native seeding. The completed project will provide the only non-motorized, detached trail connection linking Timnath, Windsor and Greeley.				
4-SE	Cucharas River Trail, Ph. 1	Town of La Veta	Const	\$175,000.00	\$290,521.00
	Phase 1 of the CRT is a 1.5-mile 6 ft. wide segment of a planned 3-mile trail that will connect four open spaces. It will be constructed of natural surface and/or crusher fines and will be ADA compliant. A major feature will be construction of a pedestrian-bicycle bridge over the Cucharas River that will connect the CRT to the community-based system and to the Southern Mountain Loop Bike Trail.				
5-SE	Daniel's Pass, Phase 1	Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation	Const	\$250,000.00	\$340,000.00
	The Daniel's Pass Trail System is located in one of the city's most popular regional parks – North Cheyenne Cañon Park. Construction of the new Daniel's Pass Trail will include trailhead development, 3.4 miles of new sustainable soft surface trail, 2 pedestrian fiberglass bridges, trail wayfinding and interpretive signage. Unsustainable social trails will be closed.				
6-SW	Electric Hills Trails	Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Assoc.	Const	\$204,781.00	\$278,266.60
	COPMOBA plans to construct 15.43 miles of natural surface, singletrack (18-24" width) trail. The trail system will be located on approximately 1000 acres of BLM land, located 8 miles southwest of Montrose. The system will help alleviate crowding and user conflicts on existing trails. Although designed with mountain biking in mind, the trails will be open to other forms of non-motorized use.				
7-NW	Spring Valley Trails	Colorado Mountain College Foundation	Const	\$250,000.00	\$381,760.00
	Construct a series of trails on and around the CMC campus. Four bike trails will be built with 24-36" tread on natural surface with varying degrees of difficulty. The adaptive system has been designed based on experiences with Ascendigo, a program for people with autism. The walking trails will accommodate walking meetings and educational nature walks for visitors and students. These trails will have 48-60"-wide tread, and will be topped with crusher fines.				
8-NW	Grand Hogback Trail System, Phase 2	City of Rifle	Const	\$198,567.00	\$398,442.02
	The City, the BLM and other project partners will develop a natural surface single-track trail system for hikers and mountain bikers in the Rifle area. Phase 2 will complete the system by constructing				

Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Type	Amount Requested	Total Cost
	12.5 miles of trails and a new trailhead parking lot for 40+ vehicles. The trails will consist of a natural surface with a tread width of 18-36 inches, offering ideal mountain biking for all experience levels.				
9-NW	Phases Trail Improvement Project	Headwaters Trails Alliance	Const	\$250,000.00	\$507,170.00
	This trail system is locally referred to as the “Phases”, part of the BLM’s Strawberry SRMA in Grand County. This project will mitigate ecological damage from trails, particularly social trails. The plan includes new trail and trail reroutes, decommissioning, restoration, bridge construction, hazard tree mitigation/forest fuels reduction, and maintenance improvements on over 15 trails.				
10-NW	Fraser River Trail Expansion	Town of Winter Park	Const	\$250,000.00	\$642,465.00
	The Fraser River Trail (FRT) is an 8-ft. wide paved asphalt path that runs adjacent to the river. The Town will extend the FRT to continue along the river through a newly acquired section of property. Plans include construction of 0.60 miles of new 10’-wide gravel trail, installation of a 10’-wide boardwalk over wetlands, a bridge spanning the Fraser River and two “nature play” areas.				
11-SW	Eastern San Luis Valley Trails Expansion	San Luis Valley Great Outdoors	Const	\$224,814.00	\$321,219.00
	The project will develop two trails in the eastern San Luis Valley to serve the rural communities of San Luis and Crestone. Constructed from natural surface materials, the 3.1 mile-long Carpenter Ranch Trail will give residents of San Luis walking access to the Carpenter Ranch. The Baca Nature and Heritage Trail connects the Crestone entrance to the Baca National Wildlife Refuge.				
12-SW	Naturita Town Park Perimeter Trail	Town of Naturita	Const	\$216,255.00	\$286,365.00
	The Town plans to construct a perimeter trail loop around the existing Town Park. The ½-mile concrete loop will provide a safe, easy place to walk, roller blade, or bike and will be ADA accessible. The majority of the trail will be 6 ft. wide and a small portion that runs adjacent to the San Miguel River will be 10 ft. wide. The trail will also be a starting point for future connecting trail systems.				
13-NE	Virginia Canyon Mountain Park Trails	City of Idaho Springs	LWCF	\$635,087.00	\$1,273,537.00
	Development of a network of trails for hikers, runners and mountain bikers totaling 10.04 miles. The trail network will include three segments for hiking and uphill biking, two hiking loops and five downhill or loop trails for bikes only. The project scope includes signage, kiosks and a central trail hub near a viewing area. Trail alignments have been adjusted to accommodate Bighorn Sheep and the City will implement strict dog leash and stay-on-trail ordinances to mitigate user impact. The City is working in close partnership with the Colorado Mountain Biking Association on this project.				
14-NE	Heron Pond-Carpio-Sanguinette Park, Ph. 2	City and County of Denver	LWCF	\$750,000.00	\$1,769,987.00
	The 80-acre park is located in the community of Globeville, just northwest of downtown Denver. Phase II will build the Alameda trail access nodes and install lighting to improve safety along the trail.				

Project Number/Region	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Type	Amount Requested	Total Cost
	The Alameda is a 60-foot wide tree lined path made of concrete and crusher fines. This includes four new access points with trail wayfinding to encourage increased use of the park.				
15-NE	N. St. Vrain Trail & Pedestrian Bridge	Town of Lyons	LWCF	\$185,000.00	\$870,000.00
	The Town will construct a multi-modal soft surface trail, which will create an important connection and complete the missing link between Bohn Park, Sandstone Park and LaVern Johnson Park. There will be a complimentary ADA approach and pedestrian bridge over the North St. Vrain Creek.				
16-SE	Campaign for Pikes Peak Summit	City of Colorado Springs	LWCF	\$750,000.00	\$1,760,419.50
	Specifically, the project will create 8,850 sq. ft. of new interpretive pedestrian trails that will be safe and accessible to all visitors and will avoid native tundra areas and sensitive ecological habitat. Trails will be built using a sustainable elevated concrete plank walkway system and asphalt trail connectors.				
17-NE	High Line Canal Trail Improvements-Windsor	Denver Parks and Recreation	Maint	\$250,000.00	\$325,000.00
	In partnership with the High Line Canal Conservancy, DPR plans to design and reconstruct a 2.4-mile segment of the High Line Canal trail between S. Parker Drive and S. Havana Street in Denver. This segment has a deteriorated asphalt surface with inconsistent informal social paths. The project will reconstruct the trail in concrete and provide a consistent soft surface side path. The existing trail alignment will remain in place and un-disturbed areas will not be impacted.				
18-NE	Poudre River Trail – Duran Section Reconstruction	City of Greeley Natural Areas and Trails	Maint	\$250,000.00	\$417,494.00
	This project will restore and stabilize approximately 200 linear feet of the south bank of the Cache la Poudre River and reconstruct the adjacent concrete Poudre River Trail, referred to as the Duran Section. The river has migrated south over several major flood events and spring high water flows, resulting in erosion under the trail. The next high water flows may cause additional erosion, resulting in trail collapse into the river.				
19-NE	OMBA Trail Agent Project	Overland Mountain Bike Association	Maint	\$44,425.00	\$124,925.00
	OMBA Trail Agents will evaluate all 110 miles of non-motorized multi-use trails open to biking in the Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest’s Canyon Lakes Ranger District. Work will include corridor clearing, improving drainage features, minor re-routes and tread stability improvements. Agents will carry packable tools while riding mountain bikes to conduct necessary maintenance as the above issues are encountered. Formal trail surveys with guidance from Forest District staff will be done to determine additional trail needs, such as major maintenance or larger re-routes.				

20-NE	Rich Creek Trail Reroute	Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative	Maint	\$17,605.00	\$39,115.00
	Rich Creek Trail is a hiking/equestrian trail in the South Park Ranger District, Pike National Forest. The proposed reroute will provide a safer more sustainable trail that reduces erosion into the creek while still maintaining user experience. Due to wilderness proximity, a Southwest Conservation Corps adult crew will use hand tools to close a 1.9-mile social trail and develop the reroute just above it. On-site materials will be used for the work, including rocks and fallen trees.				
21-NE	Estes Park Trails Maintenance	Town of Estes Park	Maint	\$166,194.00	\$216,052.11
	This project will improve selected trails and segments with enhanced safety measures where trails intersect streets; repair damaged areas and add in measures to preserve trails for the future; use a crack seal treatment to prevent further degradation and replace an asphalt segment with concrete. These repairs will aid in trail performance, ensure a better experience for users and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.				
22-NE	Climbing Community Trails Maintenance	Boulder Climbing Community	Maint	\$60,000.00	\$181,144.00
	BCC is planning to perform critical trail maintenance on three different trails across the Boulder Ranger District. Work will include reroutes of existing trails to more sustainable alignments, stone structures, retaining walls and other intensive trail techniques to limit erosion and resource issues in surrounding watersheds.				
23-NE	PLC Trail Recovery and Enhancement	Poudre Learning Center Foundation	Maint	\$28,734.32	\$37,574.32
	PLC is requesting funds for a seasonal employee and maintenance materials for trail maintenance on a 3-mile trail system that provides educational opportunities to 37,000+ K-12 students and the public. Tasks include repairing excessive widening and erosion of trails and elimination of social trails. Key deliverables will be 3.7 miles of restored trail, groomed and maintained for public accessibility, reduction of litter and establishment of a volunteer crew to continue long-term maintenance.				
24-NE	Davidson Mesa Open Space Resurfacing	City of Louisville	Maint	\$250,000.00	\$400,000.00
	The trail was last resurfaced over a decade ago. It has degraded significantly due to heavy use and natural weathering. Work will consist of repairing and resurfacing all trail sections as well as widening a 0.3-mile segment that does not meet current trail design specs. Trails will be excavated and scraped. Existing crusher fines will be loosened and graded by machinery and new crusher fines will be added. The trail will be regraded to a maximum slope of 5% with a trail width of 10-14 ft.				
25-NE	Guffey Gorge Trail Maintenance	BLM, Royal Gorge Field Office	Maint	\$250,000.00	\$489,241.55
	The BLM and Rocky Mtn. Field Institute (RMFI) propose a trail maintenance project at Guffey Gorge/Paradise Cove. All work components are designed to address the high volume of use that the site receives, including emergency access and protection of resources. The work includes one re-route, widening of a trail section, hardening other sections with timber steps, and installing/replacing bridges and fences.				

26-NE	Colorado Front Range Trail Improvements	Town of Castle Rock	Maint	\$250,000.00	\$364,015.90
	The Woodlands Bowl asphalt trail reconstruction addresses ADA and access issues with 0.2 miles of existing cracked and crumbling trail that will be restored. This section of trail is part of the proposed southern crossroads of the CFRT. The South Perry Street connection in downtown Castle Rock addresses ADA, access and connectivity to the paved East Plum Creek Trail. The trail will be resurfaced with concrete over an existing compacted dirt access road.				
27-SE	Whipple Trail Reconstruction	Town of Buena Vista	Maint	\$36,725.00	\$51,005.00
	The goal of this project is to restore and improve Whipple Trail safety, sustainability, and level of service for all users. New decking will be installed on a pedestrian bridge over the Arkansas River. 1200 ft. of trail will be reconstructed to a width of 36-48 inches. Some areas will be rerouted to meet the width requirements and avoid large rocks. Four river access points will be constructed to provide safe walkways from the Whipple Trail to the river.				
28-SE	S. Fooses Creek – Colorado Trail Reroute	Colorado Mountain Club	Maint	\$150,000.00	\$305,069.12
	CMC will work with the Salida Ranger District and other partners to complete a critical trail maintenance issue on the South Fooses segment of the Colorado Trail. Unsustainable alignment at the top of the trail is causing severe user safety and resource degradation issues. The project includes pin flagging of the new route, corridor clearing, construction of the new segment, and closure and restoration of the existing trail.				
29-SE	N. Mt. Elbert Maintenance	National Forest Foundation	Maint	\$245,000.00	\$320,312.20
	The NFF will work with the Leadville Ranger District, youth corps and other partners to complete the final rehabilitation phase of Mt. Elbert's north and south trail systems. This phase will prioritize needs on 3.5 miles of the N. Mt. Elbert Trail for maintenance and restoration, including a 0.25-mile technical trail alignment between 13,400 and 13,680 feet. The NFF and partners will maintain and restore the fragile alpine tundra and ensure long-term sustainable access to the summit.				
30-SE	Carhart Trail Maintenance	Southern Colorado Trail Builders	Maint	\$5,377.00	\$6,990.10
	The Carhart Trail is located on land owned and maintained by the City of Pueblo, referred to as Pueblo Mountain Park. The goal is to address six sections of trail that do not meet the criteria for safe and sustainable trails. The maintenance list includes widening of some sections and adding a retaining structure. One section is narrow and steep and requires steps or other in-tread erosion mitigation. A trailhead sign will be installed to mark the start of the trail.				
31-NW	Mesa County Trail Maintenance	Mesa County Public Health	Maint	\$114,500.00	\$339,588.25
	With support from the BLM, USFS and Western CO Conservation Corps, crews will focus on maintenance needs throughout Mesa County. They will predominantly work on three main trail systems managed by the BLM (Kokopelli, North Fruita Desert and Lunch Loops) as well as Forest				

	Service lands on the Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre National Forests. The labor consists of technical rockwork, re-vegetation of social trails, erosion control, tread rehabilitation and corridor clearing.				
32-NW	Summit County Recpath Shouldering	Summit County Open Space & Trails	Maint	\$59,500.00	\$79,500.00
	The five-mile section of Recreation Path that connects the Town of Dillon to the Town of Frisco along the Dillon Reservoir was constructed over 20 years ago and is in need of repair. The focus of this project will be to repair and construct sustainable shoulders. The work will address/reduce erosion damage to the asphalt surface and will bring the Recpath up to current standards. Dry stack boulder retaining structures will be added, and areas will be revegetated with a native seed mix.				
33-SW	Bear Creek Trail Maintenance	USFS Dolores Ranger District	Maint	\$68,500.00	\$90,532.80
	This portion of the Bear Creek Trail system includes 12 miles of single-track, non-motorized trails, upstream of Dolores, CO in Montezuma County. Crews will work on trail and tread maintenance including minor trail reroutes, brush clearing, drainage feature repair or construction, full bench construction stabilization, climbing turn maintenance and sign replacement.				
34-SW	Elk Creek – Colorado Trail Avalanches	USFS Columbine Ranger District	Maint	\$55,810.00	\$112,021.75
	The historic avalanche cycle of 2019 left four large debris fields along the Elk Creek section of the Colorado Trail in the Weminuche Wilderness. The Forest Service is seeking additional resources to continue a large-scale trail-clearing project along Elk Creek. There are three phases to this project: logistics, blasting and clearing, and tread and drainage. All work will be performed by hand with crosscut saws, rigging equipment and digging tools.				
35-SW	Ouray RD Maintenance	USFS Ouray Ranger District	Maint	\$25,200.00	\$50,900.00
	The USFS will coordinate with the Colorado Mountain Club to hire a non-motorized trail crew to focus on trail maintenance of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails within the Mountain Division of the Ouray District. The overall emphasis of this project will be to provide for public safety, resource protection, and user satisfaction on approximately 150 miles of non-motorized trails.				
36-NW/SW	Fourteeners Trail Maintenance 2021-2022	Colorado Fourteeners Initiative	Maint	\$250,000.00	\$855,238.56
	Eight experienced trail crew leaders will directly perform and/or oversee volunteers on 40 miles of routine trail maintenance. 5 or more miles will need intensive trail reconstruction. Crews will close, stabilize and restore up to 2 miles of old social trails on 15 peaks across the state, including Grays Peak, Mt. Democrat, Quandary Peak, Torreys Peak, and Mt. Wilson.				
37-NE/NW	WRV Partnership for Stewardship 2021	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	Maint	159,336.66	\$504,829.24
	WRV, volunteers and community partners will conduct trail maintenance/reconstruction at four different sites. They will be working on heavily used and impacted trail sites including trails in the Arapahoe and White River National Forests, Dillon Ranger District and the USFS Region 2 Wilderness Program. They will also assess and conduct trail rehabilitation in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District following the Cameron Peak fire. The project will engage Youth Corps crews and 274 volunteers.				

38-NE	Tabor Lake Trail Extension	City of Wheat Ridge	Planning	\$45,000.00	\$93,891.00
	The City of Wheat Ridge seeks funding to support a feasibility assessment, cost estimate, and preliminary design of an ADA-accessible trail around Tabor Lake. The lake currently has a .7-mile rough dirt trail encircling it, with the paved Clear Creek Trail running along the south side of the lake. This plan will assess the structure of the trail, mitigating erosion, trail grade, and added amenities such as lake access, picnic tables, shelters, benches, trash/recycling, fishing piers, etc.				
39-NE	Dutch Creek Regional Trail	Foothills Park and Recreation District	Planning	\$45,000.00	\$58,500.00
	The Dutch Creek Regional Trail is located in the southern part of unincorporated Jefferson County. The planning grant will be used for designing the trail connections, alignment of the trail, two creek crossings, easements and community outreach. The project will also develop a Master Plan with a goal to connect open gaps and provide a direct connection to other regional trail networks. The trail will be 10'-wide with 6" thick concrete and will meet ADA guidelines.				
40-NE	Poudre to South Platte Master Plan	Poudre River Trail Corridor, City of Greeley	Planning	\$20,000.00	\$27,006.00
	This project will update the 2009 Master Plan with the intent to guide the creation of a multi-use trail and greenway that incorporates the Cache la Poudre and South Platte River corridors in and around Greeley, Evans, and Weld County. The goal is to provide the community with a sustainable, multi-use river amenity and resource linked by a continuous, user-friendly pedestrian and bicycle corridor.				
41-NE	Clear Creek Recreation in the Outdoors Mgmt.	Clear Creek County	Planning	\$45,000.00	\$58,550.00
	The County seeks funding for Phase 1 of an inclusive planning process to develop a countywide recreation plan. This phase will focus on gathering data and identifying a collective vision and key priorities to guide our recreation and resource management, mitigation and protection actions. The completed plan will be a tool to improve coordination and clarity among land managers, deliver conceptual designs and draft partnership agreements.				
42-NE	Century Link Open Space Trail Plan	Town of Superior	Planning	\$25,000.00	\$32,500.00
	Superior's recently acquired 182-acre parcel of open space consists of steep, gullied, mixed-grass prairie, diverse wildlife, and a small wetland. Due to existing social trails, steep slopes and random entry points, the property is experiencing undue impact. The Town will produce a Master Plan for the purpose of trail consolidation, designation of trailhead locations, and erosion mitigation. The plan will provide direction for the Town to preserve the property with organized pathways for recreation.				
43-SE	The Trailhead Initiative	Colorado City	Planning	\$35,075.00	\$50,115.00
	The Colorado City Metro District and partners will hire a professional consultant to facilitate public engagement and create plans for an interpretive trail system in the Greenhorn Valley, including way-finding and educational signage. A biological study and mapping of non-native plants is planned. This planning effort will address financial feasibility and safety considerations. It will seek to eliminate social trails that have a negative impact on wildlife and the environment.				

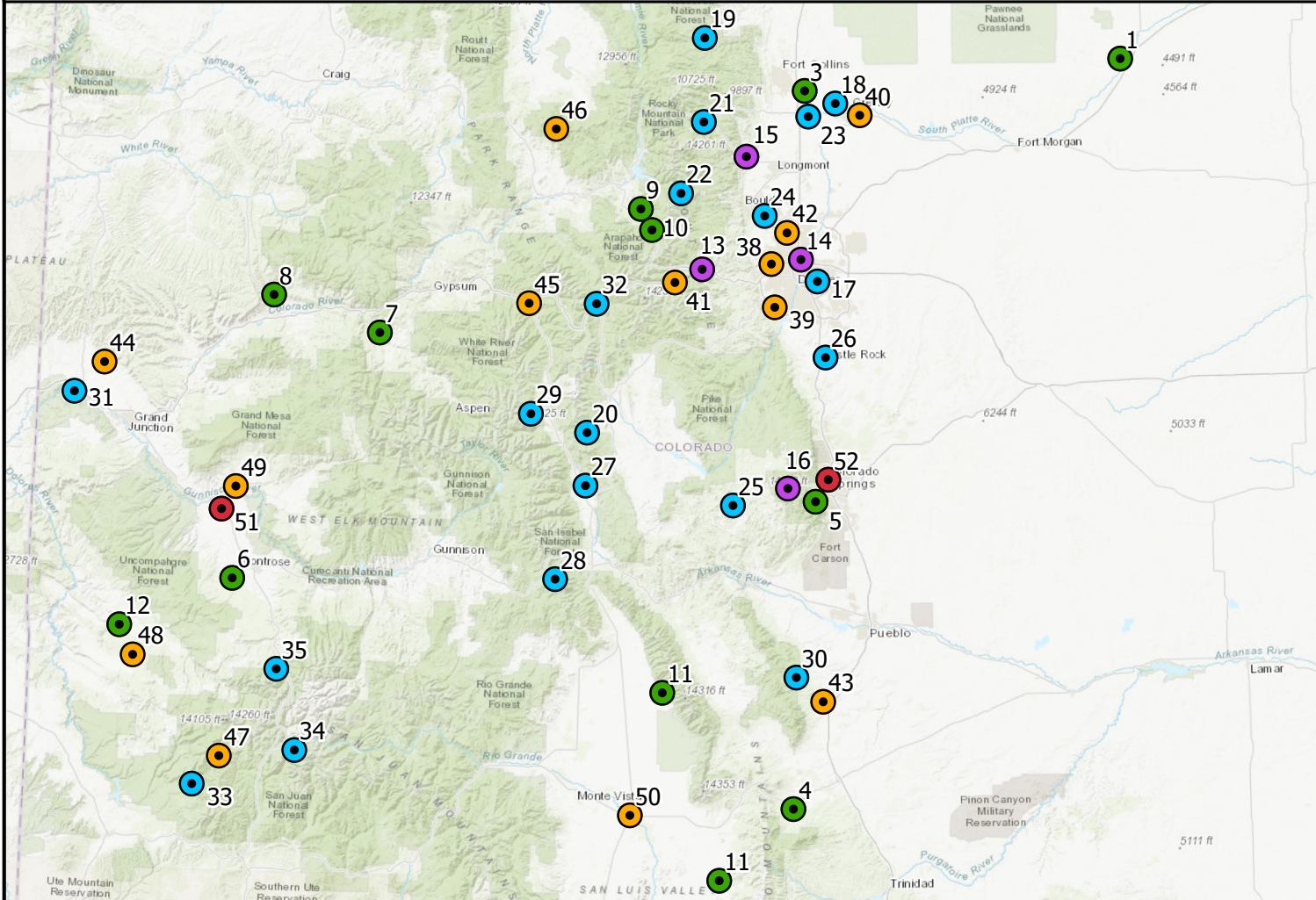
44-NW	N. Fruita Desert Biological Studies	City of Fruita	Planning	\$45,000.00	\$60,000.00
	The City developed a Trails Master Plan in 2019, with the goal of producing a diversity of mountain biking opportunities that add to visitors' quality of life while contributing to the local economy and fostering stewardship of natural resources. This proposal will fund consultants to conduct fieldwork and prepare reports analyzing impacts on biological resources from the proposed construction. These surveys will allow the BLM to prepare and complete the NEPA process.				
45-NW	Eagle Valley Trail: Dowd Junction to Minturn	Eagle County ECO Trails	Planning	\$45,000.00	\$169,000.00
	This final segment of the Eagle Valley Trail will connect the Town of Minturn to an existing paved trail in Dowd Junction. Users will have direct access to other regional trail systems on a continuous, paved, non-motorized trail. This grant will fund final design work prior to requesting construction bids. Several studies were previously completed, including wetlands delineation, wildlife habitat, archeology-historical and geologic hazard, but several will need to be updated.				
46-NW	Muddy Pass & Cochetopa Hills Planning	Continental Divide Trail Coalition	Planning	\$27,870.00	\$41,590.00
	The Muddy Pass project will support development and identification of 30 new miles of safe and scenic non-motorized trail for a diverse group of trail travelers. The Cochetopa project will focus on 32 miles of new trail in the Saguache Mountains of Southern Colorado. CDTC will conduct critical planning and partnership development, including field scouting to verify proposed trail alignments. This planning effort will support a decision process that is transparent and collaborative.				
47-SW	Rio Grande Southern Dolores-Placer Connection	Town of Rico	Planning	\$17,500.00	\$25,000.00
	The goal of this project is to plan for the final construction phase of the Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer Connection Trail. The Town will hire a contractor to do environmental assessments and an engineer to produce a set of construction plans for a bridge and abutments. Constructing the proposed trail will require the installation of approximately 4150 linear feet of naturally surfaced single track and a prefabricated bridge across the Dolores River.				
48-SW	Pioneer's Redefined Master Plan, Phase 2	Montrose West Recreation	Planning	\$45,000.00	\$116,250.00
	Montrose West Recreation will work with contractors to perform field inventorying on 58 miles of trail corridor necessary for required cultural resource and rare plant surveys. The inventory will be used to help design the trail system through the NEPA, EA process. These studies will focus on two areas – Naturita Flattops and an area within the Paradox Valley Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). The two areas will allow year-round recreational use on loop trail systems.				
49-SW	Nature Connection Pathways	Delta County School District/ The Nature Connection	Planning	\$44,300.00	\$61,608.00
	The Nature Connection is a program of the Delta County School District, with a goal of breaking down barriers to outdoor activities in the community. This project will provide all preconstruction costs				

	including design, engineering, surveys, legal assistance in easements, and community engagement for two trails in the North Fork Valley. Additionally, there will be a community engagement process to discuss the alignment and tangible design plans for trails in Cedaredge and Delta.				
50-SW	Riparian Park to Refuge Trails Plan	City of Alamosa	Planning	\$45,000.00	\$62,924.00
	The goal of this project is to create a master plan that will be the roadmap for future trail development and trail connections. The plan will assist the City in determining priority property acquisitions, right of ways, and needed infrastructure to connect four main open spaces – Alamosa Riparian Park; Alamosa City Ranch; Malm Trail Network and Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge.				
51-NW	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison Snow Rangers	Colorado Mountain Club	Support	\$45,000.00	\$86,962.88
	As winter snow sports grow in popularity, it is essential to have an educational and management presence in the field. CMC will hire two 2-person teams of snow rangers, whose duties will include patrolling, visitor education, user counts, and partnership development at popular winter recreation sites. Outreach will include communication with users about avalanche safety, local ecology, travel restrictions, Leave-No-Trace etiquette and more. Information will be shared with the USFS.				
52-SE	Enhancing Volunteer Capacity in SE Colorado	Rocky Mountain Field Institute	Support	\$45,000.00	\$96,000.00
	Enhance volunteer capacity and engagement in Southern Colorado through support of a full-time Volunteer & Partnership Coordinator position at RMFI. Funding will support half of the salary and benefits of the position for 2 years. Responsibilities include recruiting and engaging 2,000+ community volunteers from diverse backgrounds, ages and experience levels, outreach and education initiatives. Volunteers will work alongside RMFI staff on trail and restoration projects.				
53-Statewide	WRV Leadership Development & Trail Tools	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	Support	\$45,000.00	\$163,950.60
	This proposal seeks to increase regional capacity to engage volunteers in trails stewardship by increasing leadership, skills, and equipment. WRV will recruit and train volunteers and volunteer leaders, certify staff as Wilderness First Responders, and in Drystack Rock Walling. Tools such as grip-hoists and related supplies for rigging and rockwork will be purchased. A website upgrade is needed to integrate online registration software and training and volunteer courses.				



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Non-Motorized Grant Submissions Fiscal Year 2021

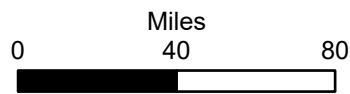


Grant Name & No.

1	Sterling Loop Trail
3	Poudre River Regional Trail: Windsor-Timnath
4	Cucharas River Trail - Phase I
5	Daniel's Pass, Phase I
6	Electric Hills Trails
7	Spring Valley Trails
8	Grand Hogback Trail System, Phase II
9	Phases Trail Improvement Project
10	Fraser River Trail Expansion
11	Eastern San Luis Valley Trails Expansion
12	Naturita Town Park Perimeter Trail
13	Virginia Canyon Mountain Park Trails
14	Heron Pond-Carpio Sanguinette Park, Phase II
15	North St. Vrain Trail & Pedestrian Bridge
16	Campaign for Pikes Peak Summit
17	High Line Canal Trail Improvements - Windsor
18	Poudre River Trail: Duran Reconstruction
19	OMBA Trail Agent Project
20	Rich Creek Trail Reroute
21	Estes Park Trails Maintenance
22	Climbing Community Trails Maint.
23	PLC Trail Recovery & Enhancement
24	Davidson Mesa Open Space Resurfacing
25	Guffey Gorge Trail Maintenance
26	Colorado Front Range Trail Improvements
27	Whipple Trail Reconstruction
28	S. Fooses Creek - Colorado Trail Reroute
29	N. Mt. Elbert Maintenance
30	Carhart Trail Maintenance
31	Mesa County Trail Maintenance
32	Summit County Recpath Shouldering
33	Bear Creek Trail Maintenance
34	Elk Creek - Colorado Trail Avalanches
35	Ouray RD Maintenance
36	Fourteeners Trail Maintenance 2021-2022
37	WRV Statewide Partnership for Stewardship 2021
38	Tabor Lake Trail Extension

Grant Category

- Construction
- Maintenance
- LWCF
- Support
- Planning

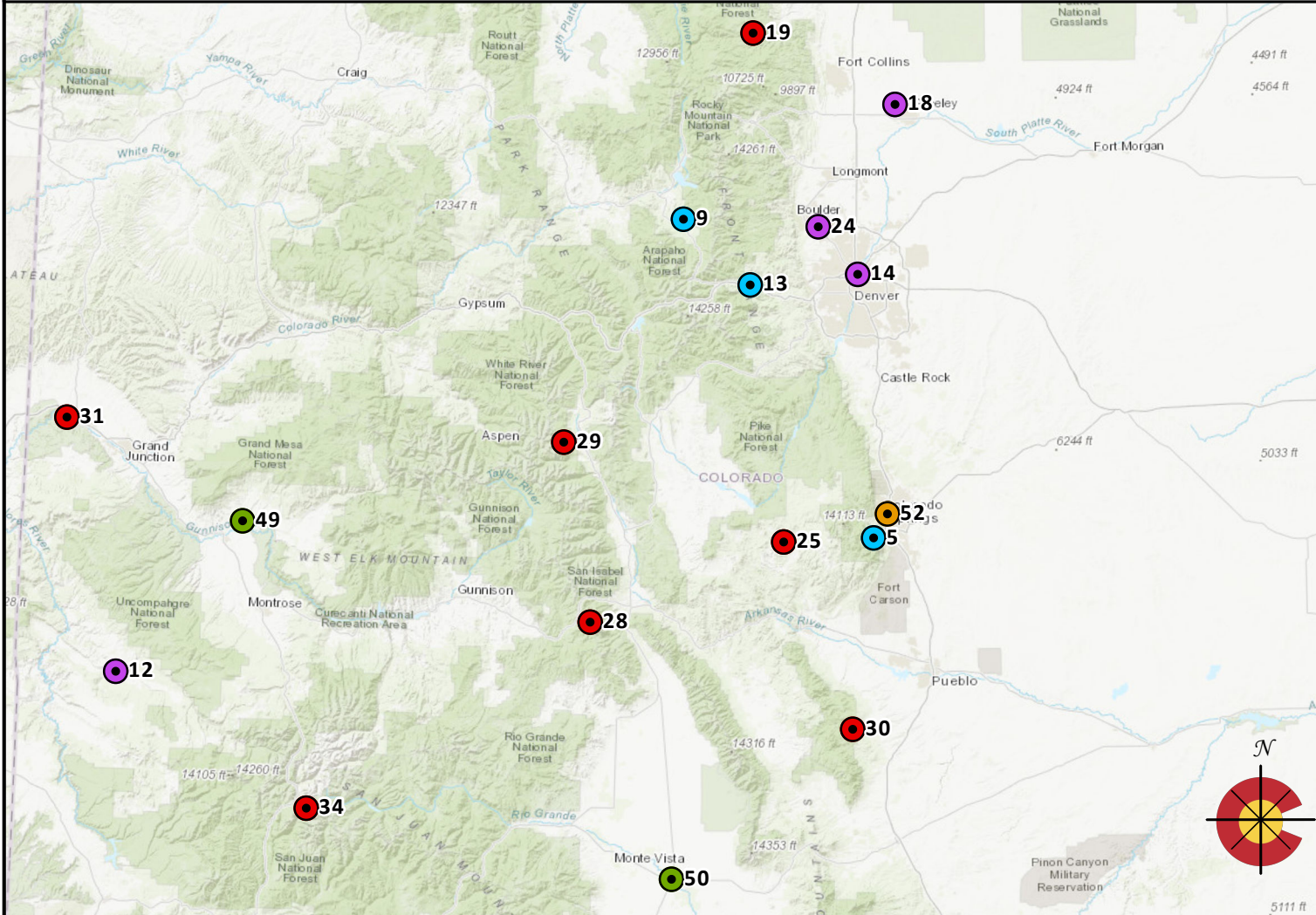


47	Rio Grande Southern Dolores-Placer Conn.	39	Dutch Creek Regional Trail
48	Pioneer's Redefined Master Plan Phase II	40	Poudre to South Platte Master Plan
49	Nature Connection Pathways	41	Clear Creek Rec. in the Outdoors Mgmt.
50	Riparian Park to Refuge Trails Plan	42	Century Link Open Space Trail Plan
51	Grand Mesa/Uncompahgre/Gunnison Snow Rangers	43	The Trailhead Initiative
52	Enhancing Volunteer Capacity in SE CO	44	N. Fruita Desert Biological Studies
53	WRV Leadership Dev. & Trail Tools	45	Eagle Valley Trails Dowd Junctions-Minturn
		46	Muddy Pass & Cochetopa Hills Planning



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Non-Motorized Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2021

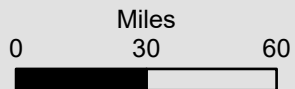


Grants Recommended for Funding

Construction Grants		
5	Daniel's Pass, Phase I	\$250,000.00
9	Phases Trail Improvement Project	\$250,000.00
13	Virginia Canyon Mountain Park Trails	\$249,487.00
Maintenance Grants		
19	OMBA Trail Agent Project	\$44,425.00
25	Guffey Gorge Trail Maintenance	\$125,000.00
28	S. Fooses Creek - Colorado Trail Reroute	\$70,325.96
29	N. Mt. Elbert Maintenance	\$245,000.00
30	Carhart Trail Maintenance	\$5,377.00
31	Mesa County Trail Maintenance	\$114,500.00
34	Elk Creek - Colorado Trail Avalanches	\$55,810.00
36	Fourteeners Trail Maintenance 2021-2022 (Statewide)	\$250,000.00
37	WRV Partnership for Stewardship 2021 (Statewide)	\$98,709.04
LWCF Grants		
12	Naturita Town Park Perimeter Trail	\$320,760.00
14	Heron Pond-Carpio Sanguinette Park, Phase II	\$750,000.00
18	Poudre River Trail - Duran Section Reconstruction	\$261,977.00
24	Davidson Mesa Open Space Resurfacing	\$250,000.00

Support Grants		
52	Enhancing Volunteer Capacity in SE Colorado	\$45,000.00
53	WRV Leadership Development & Trail Tools (Statewide)	\$45,000.00

Planning Grants		
49	Nature Connection Pathways	\$44,300.00
50	Riparian Park to Refuge Trails Plan	\$45,000.00



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 2nd, 2020

TO: Fletcher Jacobs, State Trails Program Manager

FROM: Mark Leslie, Northeast Regional Manager

SUBJECT: Wildlife Impacts Review, 2020 Non-Motorized Trail Grant Cycle

The Northeast Region received 20 trail project applications for wildlife impacts review. These applications were sent to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Area field staff (Area Wildlife Managers and District Wildlife Managers) for review and comment. The comments were then reviewed and organized by Northeast Region Trails Coordinator Ben Plankis, Deputy Regional Manager Scott Roush, and Regional Manager Mark Leslie.

Below is a synopsis of applications with their associated wildlife impacts and CPW's mitigation recommendations:

Construction Grants:

- **Poudre River Trail**
 - No significant impacts
- **Sterling Loop**
 - No significant impacts
- **Superior Connector Trail**
 - No significant impacts
- **Heron Pond Phase 2**
 - No significant impacts



- **St. Vrain Trail and Bridge**

- No significant impacts

- **Virginia Canyon Mountain Park:**

- In 2005, CPW initiated a collaring study to determine sub herds located in the Georgetown Bighorn sheep herd. From this data CPW was able to determine home ranges of these sub herds as well as survival and lambing areas.

The Idaho Springs sub herd occupies primarily the area within ½ mile north of Clear Creek (and parallel US Highway 6 and Interstate 70) from the junction of Highways 6 and 119 to Fall River Road. Collar data shows that ewes from this sub herd rarely move west of Virginia Canyon in Idaho Springs, but occasionally move up to 6 miles east of their core range. Rams in this sub herd range from Golden to Fall River Road.

The Dumont sub herd ranges primarily within ½ mile north of Clear Creek from the junction of Interstate 70 and US Highway 6 east of the Central City Parkway to the Junction of Interstate 70 and US Highway 40 at Empire Junction. These ewes occasionally move as far east as the junction of Highways 6 and 119 and move 2 miles up Mill Creek from Dumont. Both ewes and rams from both sub herds use the area of Virginia Canyon Mountain Park year round. These animals have been observed in the park during both winter and summer sheep counts and by CPW staff while on patrol.

The mountain park is also located within the winter range and severe winter range identified by CPW. Lambing areas for the Dumont sub herd were identified west of Idaho Springs near Hukill Gulch as well as to the east near the Central City Parkway. Ewes from the Idaho Springs Sub herd used lambing areas east of Idaho Springs near the Central City Parkway and Clear Creek Canyon.

- **Suggestions to minimize impacts to bighorn:**
 - **Seasonal closures** - The biggest concern for CPW is the impact to bighorn sheep movements and lambing. Trail use during critical times, plus the inclusion of dogs, could have a large negative impact on bighorn if not mitigated. CPW recommends that a seasonal closure is implement between 12/1 - 3/31 each year.
 - **Construction timing** - Lambing production areas are not located on the property, but are nearby. Impacts to these nearby areas

can be mitigated by not conducting heavy construction from 4/15 - 6/30.

- **Dogs** - Dogs have a major negative impact on Bighorn Sheep. CPW's preference is to not allow any dogs on the property, but recognizes the importance of people being able to walk their dogs on the property. Although, not CPW's preferred alternative, CPW is willing to try allowing dogs as long as a strict on leash policy is enforced. However, if it is determined that users are not obeying the leash requirement, it is CPW's recommendation for Idaho Springs to then restrict dogs from the property at all times.
- **Personnel** - CPW suggest hiring employees, dedicated to act as Trail Patrollers or Park Rangers, which would help alleviate impacts to wildlife by ensuring seasonal closures are adhered to, that dogs stay on leash, and trail users stay on designated trails. If these rules are not followed by trail users this project could have a negative impact on Bighorn Sheep, and trail users are more likely to follow park rules when there are staff members present.
- **Bear Proof Trash Containers** - This needs to be mandatory.
- **Evaluation Meeting** - CPW suggest a yearly stakeholder (Idaho Springs, CPW, and other involved groups) meeting to evaluate use, issues and improvements to reduce impacts to wildlife and improve facilities.

Maintenance:

• Climbing Community Trails

- Concern with this proposal is proximity to raptor nests. At this time the CPW Raptor Nest Database does not show any active nests within .5 mile radius of the proposed work sites, but project managers should check with CPW prior to beginning work to ensure that no new nests have been built, or work with USFS biologists to conduct pre-construction surveys. Overall, this project seems like a much needed improvement on the landscape.

- **Davidson Mesa**

- Overall, there will likely be minimal impacts to wildlife. CPW and the applicant did discuss coordinating the timing of the project to avoid ground nesting birds, and possibly conducting a few burrowing owl surveys to ensure that there will be no impacts to that species (none of which are currently known to be in the Davidson Mesa area). CPW encourages Louisville to continue their fantastic open communication and keep CPW in the loop concerning surveys/wildlife in the area.

- **Estes Park Trail Maintenance**

- No significant impacts

- **Guffey Gorge**

- No significant impacts

- **Highline Canal**

- No significant impacts

- **OMBA Trail Maintenance**

- No significant impacts

- **Poudre Learning Center**

- No significant impacts

- **Poudre River Trail**

- No significant impacts

- **Rich Creek Trail Reroute**

- No significant impacts

- **Partnership for Stewardship**

- No significant impacts

Planning:

- **Centurylink Open Space Master Plan**

- As suburban communities expand, it is critical that properties that provide resources for a variety of wildlife species are maintained to allow for coexistence with wildlife. This parcel may seem barren, but its complex topography helps support a variety of species including deer, elk, coyotes, foxes, many other small mammal species, and multiple raptor species. Creating a plan that establishes sustainable recreation in a way that can coexist with these species is crucial. Throughout the planning phase, CPW encourages the Town of Louisville to include stakeholders such as CPW and other Natural Resources agencies, and to utilize a biological consulting firm for resource protection. CPW can provide input on trail alignment and access points to avoid important habitat components, timing of construction activities, and educational signing about wildlife resources in the area.

- **Dutch Creek Trail**

- No significant impacts

- **Poudre to South Platte**

- No significant impacts

- **Tabor Lake Trail**

- No significant impacts

-

MEMORANDUM

To: State Trails Committee

From: J.T. Romatzke
Northwest Region Manager

Subject: 2021 Non-Motorized trail grant applications review and comments

Date 12/2/20

District and Area Wildlife Managers and staff have reviewed and provided comments on the Non-Motorized trail grants for applications proposing work in the Northwest Region. Below is a list by application name with a summary of our comments and concerns. Should more information be desired on any of our comments please do not hesitate to contact Randy Engle (randy.engle@state.co.us or 970 260 2379) as he has all the source data from the Area Managers. We hope that the reviewers and staff find the enclosed information useful in evaluating and scoring the grant applications.

Maintenance Grants

WRV Partnership For Trail Stewardship 2021

There are 3 distinct projects in the NW Region.

1. Hanging Lake – The NW Region recommends that due care is taken during construction to avoid stream sedimentation and impacts to wetlands areas. We also strongly recommend packing out trash etc. on a daily basis to avoid attracting or conflict with bears. If nesting raptors are present, crews need to adhere to the one half mile buffer rule until the chicks have fledged off the nest.
2. Peaks Trail – The NW Region has no concerns with this project at this time.
3. Wilderness trail clearing – The NW Region requests that best management practices be followed during these projects (raptor nest avoidance, bear conflict avoidance etc.)

Statewide 14er Trail Maintenance Project (21-22)

The NW Region has no wildlife concerns with this grant.

Summit County Rec Path Shouldering

The NW Region has no concerns with this grant

Mesa County Trail Maintenance Crew

The NW Region supports this grant. Unlike many higher elevation areas, the Grand Valley receives use virtually year round. While federal land managers should include long term maintenance into their planning and funding process, continued degradation of these main trail systems will continue until this is accomplished. Mesa County recognizes this and is innovative in approaching maintenance.

Construction

Grand Hogback Trail System – Phase 2

The NW Region supports seasonal closures for wildlife protection from Dec1 to April 15 at this location. We further recommend that physical closure gates and associated signage be installed at access points to deter users from violating seasonal closures. This may also include gates to block the parking lot from the highway. The NW Region also recommends that the applicant use wildlife friendly fencing and to not use barbed wire. Please contact your local District Wildlife Manager or the Area 7 Office for more information on wildlife friendly fencing design.

Phases Trail Improvement Project

The NW Region realizes that RMZ1 has become a high use trail system and as such is functioning as a wildlife sacrifice area. We understand that it is in need of redevelopment for sustainability and to close and rehabilitate social trails. The Region is aware that there are several non-system routes between the Phases system and adjacent USFS lands. We do not support these trails and recommend that these be blocked, signed closed and revegetated. We do not support further expansion of the overall footprint of the Phases system outside the existing area. The Region and Area 9 look forward to working with HTA and their partners as this project moves forward. The NW Region encourages the applicant and BLM to pursue adaptive management strategies to include seasonal closure for the RMZ1 system.

CMC Spring Valley Trails Project

The NW Region requests that the CMC adhere to the seasonal closure dates that CMC proposed of December 1 to April 30 of each year to protect wintering wildlife.

Fraser River Trail Expansion

The NW Region does not support this application. Placing the trail adjacent to the river will have negative impacts on both habitat and wildlife. The riverine corridor will cease to function as a movement corridor for multiple species. The adjacent Roam housing development where we suggested that the trail be placed will have similar impacts on the river corridor regardless of the trail location. We do understand that there is a public safety need to provide for casual pedestrian traffic away from higher speed traffic on the main Fraser River Trail adjacent to Hwy 40. Our preferred route would be either through the Roam development or adjacent to the existing trail. The NW Region would most likely support a planning grant for this trail to find a more wildlife friendly route but cannot support this construction grant as written.

Planning

North Fruita Desert Biological Studies

As an important stakeholder in the North Fruita Desert (NFD) planning and management process the NW Region recommends that the biological studies should identify areas receiving high wildlife use. This information should be used in trail planning to minimize intrusion into sensitive habitats and to identify areas where seasonal closures are needed. In particular the surveys should focus on: mule deer winter range as relates to the sagebrush and juniper habitats in and surrounding the Bookcliff area, raptors (including cliff nesting species if new trails are cited near cliff habitat), prairie dog towns, potential burrowing owl use of prairie dog habitats, longnose leopard lizard use of the desert shrub habitat, and other species that may be on the BLM sensitive species list.

CDTC Muddy Pass and Cochetopa Hills Project Planning

The NW Region supports the portion of this grant in the NW Region and has been working with the applicant to determine where a connection trail could be placed. The NW Region has serious concerns that due to the complexity of land ownership and management that there may not be a viable solution here. There are many stakeholders that will need to be closely involved as the planning process moves forward including private property owners, agricultural interests, BLM, USFS, State Land Board, sportsmen's groups and others. Extreme care will need to be taken by the applicant and all parties during the planning and negotiation process to locate a trail alignment that meets the users' needs while protecting wildlife and other stakeholders concerns. Should the process not produce a viable alignment, the applicant needs to be prepared to accept "no" as a valid outcome of the planning process. The current alignment along Highways 40 and 14 has worked thus far with no accidents involving trail users and traffic.

Eagle Valley Trail: Dowd Junction to Minturn

The NW Region looks forward to working with the applicant as this planning process moves forward. The NW Region does have some serious concerns about how this project may impact wildlife and big game in particular. This is due to overall heard sizes in the area dropping dramatically in the past few years. Among our immediate recommendations are the following:

1. Realignment of the proposed trail to lie between County Road and the Union Pacific rail line. Human disturbance has a radiating effect, and any distance from critical wildlife habitat that can be achieved by realignment will be beneficial.
2. Seasonal closures to mirror that of the Mud Springs/Dowd Junction Deer Underpass SWA, which is closed from November 1 to June 15. Closure of the trail could further be accomplished by foregoing any snow removal throughout the course of the winter.
3. Educational signage informing the public of why and where seasonal closures exist.
4. Budgeting for closure gates to deter human entry during wildlife closures.
5. Shifting of construction phase timeline to avoid winter months.
6. Exploration and continued discussion of how the county or the Town of Minturn intends on enforcing seasonal wildlife closures of this or any portion of the ECO Trails network.

GMUG Snow Rangers

The NW Region has no wildlife concerns at this time. CPW staff would like to work with the Snow Ranger program on the Grand Mesa to address specific needs, such as moose sightings, avoiding moose conflicts, and coordinating with the State's recreating responsibly outside campaign.



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Fletcher Jacobs
Mark Leslie

FROM: Brett Ackerman
SE Region Manager

SUBJECT: SE Region Review of 2021 Non-Motorized Trail Grant Applications

Review of the 2021 non-motorized trail grant applications in the Southeast Region has been completed. No significant wildlife impacts have been found for the projects listed below.

UNIVERSAL COMMENTS FOR ALL PROJECT APPLICATIONS

Staff encourages maintenance of existing trails to become more sustainable long term. Applicants and all trail project workers/contractors should be "bear aware" in those areas where overnight camping is required for maintenance/construction activities to avoid creating any human/bear conflicts. Do not feed any wildlife and leave any young of the year where found. Applicants should encourage the reduction of "social trails" and actively educate users to prevent additional creation of them or take action to close/repair when needed. CPW recommends that buffer distances to any raptor nests be maintained during construction to minimize disturbance. If vegetation is to be removed, CPW recommends searching for active passerine nests as well and waiting until after young fledge before vegetation removal at the nest.

<u>Construction</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>
#4 - Cucharas River Trail, Phase 1 - Town of La Veta	- \$175,000
#5 - Daniel's Pass, Phase 1 - Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation	- \$250,000
<u>Maintenance</u>	
#27 - Whipple Trail Reconstruction - Town of Buena Vista	- \$36,725
#28 - S. Fooses Creek/Colorado Trail Reroute - Colorado Mountain Club	- \$150,000
#29 - N. Mt. Elbert Maintenance - National Forest Foundation	- \$245,000
#30 - Carhart Trail Maintenance - Southern Colorado Trail Builders	- \$5,377
<u>Planning/Support</u>	
#43 - The Trailhead Initiative - Colorado City	- \$35,075
<u>Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)</u>	
#16 - Campaign for Pikes Peak Summit - City of Colorado Springs	-\$250,000

December 10, 2020

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
State Trails Program- Non-Motorized Grant Cycle
2020-2021 Southwest Region Grant Application Review

There are a total of thirteen (13) Non-Motorized grant applications within the Southwest Region requesting funding from the State Trails Program for the 2020-2021 process. These applications were sent to the CPW Area Field Staff (Area Wildlife Managers, District Wildlife Managers, and Biologists) for review and comment. In addition, the comments were reviewed and discussed by SW Region Staff including Regional Manager, Cory Chick, Deputy Regional Manager, Heath Kehm, Regional Land Use Coordinator, Brian Magee, and Regional Trails Coordinator, Josh Stoudt.

The background information provided below is not intended to be comprehensive discussion on the best available science regarding trail development, trail use, and the subsequent impacts to wildlife. It is, rather, a brief overview of the wildlife management issues CPW Staff considers when evaluating the individual trail grant proposals with the intent to inform and educate the Statewide Trail Committee members. In addition, the individual grant comments and CPW Staff recommendations are detailed below.

Background information on trail related impacts to wildlife

Overall, the public and trail users are poorly informed on the potential impacts of non-motorized trails on wildlife, and how those impacts can manifest themselves into complex management issues for CPW. A recent study found that approximately 50% of recreationists felt that recreation was not having a negative effect on wildlife. Furthermore, recreationists tend to blame other recreation groups for adverse impacts to wildlife rather than themselves (Taylor and Knight 2005).

Big Game winter habitats and migratory corridors are known to be limiting factors on big game populations in western Colorado and other high mountain areas of the western United States (Sawyer et al. 2009, Bishop et al. 2009, Bartman et al. 1992). The protection and conservation of mule deer and elk winter range habitat is one of the foremost management objectives for CPW. These habitats are important for a variety of reasons, including:

1. Deer and elk tend to concentrate at lower elevations during winter months as snow accumulates at higher elevations.
2. Mule deer and elk typically display strong site fidelity to winter range, preferring to use the same areas year-after-year. CPW maps these areas as winter range, severe winter range and winter concentration areas for elk and deer.
3. Winter habitats for big game provide essential forage and thermal cover to help mule deer and elk minimize energy expenditure. Mule deer and elk are in a nutritional negative energy balance during the winter months, making energy conservation critical for calf and fawn survival and adult female reproductive fitness.

Trail Use Impacts

Outdoor recreation associated with trail influence a variety of wildlife species in multiple ways. Impacts to wildlife from trail use are often negative and are associated with increased direct disturbance and displacement from optimal habitat due to the avoidance of human activities (Larson et al 2016). Elk and deer increase their daily activity levels and movements in the presence of mountain biking and hiking which reduces the time spent feeding and resting (Naylor et al 2009, Wisdom et al. 2004). This increased energy demand occurs simultaneously with decreased forage intake and displacement to areas with poorer quality forage. The net result is a decrease in body condition, which affects individual health, survival and reproduction (Bender et al 2008). Higher energy demand effectively decreases the carrying capacity of an area (Taylor and Knight 2003) and increases stress on individual animals. Many wildlife species also avoid areas of human disturbance completely, which decreases the amount of available habitat (Taylor and Knight 2003). Elk and deer generally do not become habituated to hiking or mountain biking (Wisdom et al. 2004, Wisdom et al 2018, Taylor and Knight 2003). Cumulatively, this leads to both immediate and long-term effects on individual animals and populations by decreasing the available energy for winter survival, growth, and reproduction, reducing the fitness of wildlife, and by displacing wildlife into marginal habitats (Miller et al 2001, Anderson 1995).

There is a large body of evidence documenting displacement of big game from roads and trails (including non-motorized trails) and a decline in habitat effectiveness from big game as road and trail densities increase (Wisdom et al. 2018, Preisler et al. 2013, Sawyer et al., 2013, WAFWA 2013, Rogala et al. 2011, Wilber et al. 2008, Rowland et al. 2005, Rowland et al. 2000, Phillips and Alldredge 2000). The presence of a dog with a recreationist is likely to result in a greater area of negative influence from trail use, including amplified avoidance distances of mule deer movements (Miller et al 2001).

2020-2021 Non-Motorized Grant Comments: The following summary are grant specific comments received from CPW Wildlife staff.

No wildlife specific comments were received on the following applications:

- #11 Eastern San Luis Valley Trails Expansion
- #12 Naturita Town Park Perimeter Trail
- #34 Elk Creek- Colorado Trail Avalanches
- #35 Ouray Ranger District Trail Maintenance
- #36 Statewide 14er Trail Maintenance Project (2021-2022)
- #48 Pioneers Redefined- West End Trails Master Plan Phase 2
- #49 Nature Connection Pathways: Backyards to Backcountry
- #50 Riparian Park to Refuge Trails Master Plan

Wildlife specific comments on the following applications:

#47 Rio Grande Southern Dolores Place Connection: Clearing or other disturbance of willows, cottonwoods, alder and other woody vegetation in the riparian zone should be avoided May 15th -July 15th to avoid disturbance or destruction of nests.

#33 Bear Creek Trail Maintenance Project: Clearing or other disturbance of willows, cottonwoods, alder and other woody vegetation in the riparian zone should be avoided May 15th – July 15th to avoid disturbance or destruction of nests.

#51 GMUG Snow Rangers: The geographic area of this grant request covers both the Northwest and Southwest Regions. CPW would like to work with the Snow Ranger Program to address specific program educational needs, such as moose sightings and avoiding moose conflicts.

Applications with outstanding and unresolved concerns:

#6 Shavano Gateway Recreation Area Electric Hills Trails: Grant #6 requests funding for the construction of new non-motorized trails on BLM lands near Montrose. COPMOBA applied for and obtained a State Trails planning grant in 2017-2018 to identify opportunities for expanded non-motorized trail development. All of the areas that COPMOBA identified are within critical winter ranges for deer and elk. CPW staff worked diligently with COPMOBA to develop the Uncompaghere Single Track Plan (US Plan) to address the wildlife related issues with expanded trail networks and use. The US Plan identifies avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures necessary to ensure that the area remains functional wildlife habitat while accommodating new trail development.

Electric Hills is one of several areas identified in the US Plan. BLM approved the Electric Hills trails project in the fall of 2019 with modifications. During our review of the grant request, we discovered several discrepancies between the US Plan and the BLM approved trail system. CPW engaged with COPMOBA and BLM to discuss the details of these changes. As it currently exists the Electric Hills trail system is out of compliance with the US Plan that was developed collaboratively with CPW and will not sufficiently protect wildlife resources once full trail development is realized. All parties have a strong desire to resolve these discrepancies for the benefit of wildlife and recreation users. We believe that this can and will be accomplished.

To that end, we recommend that this grant be funded conditional to COPMOBA, BLM, and CPW resolving the discrepancies and bringing the Electric Hills project back into compliance with the US Plan. These issues include:

- Evaluating and addressing the comprehensive seasonal wildlife closures to all trail users;
- Preparing and adopting a route reclamation and habitat improvement operational plan;
- Evaluating and accounting for the increased mileages within the Electric Hills area and the overall mileages and density within US Plan.

On its face, it could be easy to conclude that funding for this project should not occur at this time. However, we believe that this approach will not help proactively resolve the discrepancies between BLM's approved trails project and the US Plan. Thus, CPW recommends that this grant or a modified version of this grant be conditionally approved with final funding released by CPW upon satisfaction of the conditions described above.

#46 CDTC Muddy Pass & Cochetopa Hills Project Planning: These comments apply only to the Cochetopa Hills portion of CDTC's application. For future applications, we would encourage applicants to submit separate applications when proposed projects span significantly disparate geographic areas and materially different deliverables.

This grant request is to fund facilitated communications between trail advocates and stakeholders to create a plan with alternatives for the USFS to review regarding the Cochetopa Hills realignment of the existing Continental Divide Trail (CDT). An environmental assessment (EA) was completed for the project in 2013 by the USFS. The EA analyzed various alternatives, one alternative was selected, decision made, and approved. However, due to procedural matters internal to the USFS the Decision was subsequently withdrawn and project construction has not taken place. This project was and continues to be controversial between various user groups and interested stakeholders.

The USFS is currently completing a supplemental information report to determine if the NEPA analysis conducted in 2013 is still valid for the CDT reroute. CPW provided extensive comments on the CDT realignment project dating back as early as 2010. CPW's main concerns continue to be direct loss of habitat, fragmentation of habitat, and changes in habitat effectiveness and wildlife use resulting from new trail construction and increasing use of the CDT.

The USFS is not a party to this grant-funding application, nor has the USFS informed CPW that they are supportive of funding a decision support process on the USFS's behalf. Therefore, the grant request would potentially fund an unsolicited and duplicative process that could be in direct conflict with the USFS review process or even their subsequent decision. CPW will continue to engage with the USFS in providing the most up to date information and data for their supplemental EA report, and their existing process to evaluate and analyze potential impacts of the CDT reroute. At this time, utilizing the existing infrastructure in the Cochetopa Hills will continue to accommodate a diverse trail user experience, while preserving the current wildlife values along undeveloped portions of the Continental Divide.

This request for funding is out of step and unnecessary. In our view, these funds could be put to better use and we recommend not award funding for this request at this time.

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