

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

OHV CYCA RFP
TOPIC

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PREPARED BY

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DATE

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PURPOSE:

To present information on the Colorado Youth Corps Association OHV Projects RFP for the 2023 Field Season.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. OHV Program

The Off-Highway Vehicle Program (OHV) is funded through the sale of OHV registrations. During the 2021 field season, 226,772 OHVs were registered or permitted for use in Colorado. The price of an annual OHV registration is \$25.25. Funds are used to support the statewide OHV program, registration program and OHV trail grant program. Non-profits, federal agencies, state and local government are eligible for OHV grants.

2. Grant Funding

Each year the OHV program awards approximately \$4.3 million of grant funding for OHV projects. This funding is made up of \$4 million of state funding from OHV registrations and approximately \$300,000 from federal RTP funds. Approximately 55-70 projects are funded each season. The state OHV funding is considered capital construction funding and has spending authority that lasts for three years.

3. Unspent/ Returned Funding

Most grant-funded projects are contracted for one year. After the contract is over and the work season is complete, some grantees do not spend all of the funding that was awarded for their OHV grant project and this funding is returned to the CPW OHV Program. This funding can go unspent because of many issues such as weather-shortened season, staff hiring problems, staffing changes, contracting problems or other annual anomalies such as continued supply issues for equipment. It is not uncommon for \$500,000+ to go unspent from the \$4.3 million awarded. Due to the continued issue with returned money, Trails Program staff and the State Trails Committee decided to continue the additional OHV grant opportunity that utilizes an existing agreement between CPW (DNR) and CYCA to speed up approvals and contracting timelines.

4. CYCA OHV Project RFP for the 2023 Season

CPW Trails Program staff worked closely with BLM and FS to develop the Colorado Youth Corps Association OHV Request for Projects for the coming season. The following types of proposals were requested:

- Trail maintenance work with a heavy emphasis on corridor clearing to repair and improve existing motorized routes.
- Repair damage and minimize potential soil erosion and impacts resulting from fire activity and heavy monsoonal rains.
- Convert existing 2-track primitive roads to single track OHV trails.
- Fire Fuel mitigation, post fire tree removal, and downed trees to allow for access to motorized routes – chainsaw crews available.
- Restoration work including installation of erosion and water run-off control structures and rehabilitation of illegal OHV routes.
- Installation and upkeep of boundary and vehicle containment fencing, width restrictor gates, signage, and kiosks.
- Trail reroutes, reconstruction, and bridge replacements to restore trail continuity, increase safety, and provide better access to public lands.

5. Applications Received

Applications were due on November 17, 2022. Applications were received for 13 projects with a total funding request of \$519,629. Projects requested a range of youth corps weeks from 2 weeks to the largest request of 12 weeks. Youth corps crew cost per week are: Day Crew \$8,679.25/week, Camping Crew \$9,423.18/week, Saw Crew \$11,159.03/week and Hybrid Crew \$9,857.49/week. All applicants were made aware of the funding request and highly encouraged to enter into the normal OHV Grant Cycle to increase their chances of getting their project funded.

6. Project Reviews

All applications will be reviewed by Regional Wildlife Staff with comments due by Dec. 15, 2022. Projects will then be evaluated and ranked by a Subcommittee including CPW Trails Staff, CPW Regional Trails Coordinators, a CYCA staff member, a STC member and advisory from BLM and FS staff.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

SUGGESTED MOTION:

N/A



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1-SW	OHV Trail Maintenance Project on CPRD	USFS Conejos Peak RD	12 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$108,614.50
	<p>The USDA Forest Service will work to repair and improve existing motorized trails within the Rio Grande National Forest/Conejos Peak Ranger District (CPRD). The Forest Service Recreation crew will recon the trails to be maintained, and work alongside the Youth Crew. The goal of the project is to take care of deferred maintenance that accumulates on our 56 miles of single-track trails. The work that the project will entail is as follows: Trail Clearing (tree removal) Tread work, Corridor Cleaning, Drainage Work, Trailhead Improvement.</p>			
2-NW	Dillon RD Motorcycle Trail Maintenance 2023	USFS Dillon RD	4 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$39,429.96
	<p>The work will take place exclusively on motorized single-track trails. The trail crews will work in the Tenderfoot Mountain Motorcycle Trail System and Golden Horseshoe OHV Trail System. Despite having a good management OHV trail crew on the Dillon RD there is still a tremendous need for additional heavy trail maintenance with an 8-10 person Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) trail crew. The anticipated outcome of this work will be 4 miles of restored motorized single track.</p>			
3-NW	BLM Kremmling FO OHV Projects	BLM Kremmling FO	3 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$29,572.47
	<p>This proposal is to utilize a Youth Corp Crew to implement trail projects within the Wolford SRMA. Wolford currently has 23 miles of motorized single track that needs some attention. The crew would help maintain and rebuild the single track in the Wolford area to increase sustainability. Additional work is needed within the North Sand Hills SRMA. This project is to delineate access trails to the designated Open sand dune areas, identify areas open for camping and install boundary fencing for a designated seasonal closure to protect wintering wildlife.</p>			
4-NW	Pagoda Lake Trail Project	USFS Blanco RD	2 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$ 18,846.36
	<p>This project will focus on improving tread and trail drainage as well as wet area and stream crossings on Forest Service Trail 1804. The goal of this project is to address these areas with a variety of trail maintenance techniques to create a more sustainable trail with improved access to the surrounding public lands. The Wagon Wheel OHV Club has identified this as a priority trail for us to work on.</p>			
5-SW	Colorado Trail	USFS Rio Grande NF	2 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$18,846.36
	<p>There are two locations for this project; Lujan Pass off Rt. 114 in Gunnison County, and Headwaters Hill off Marshal Pass in Saguache County. The trail system is the Colorado Trail # 813. The goal for both locations is to do more trail work than what we have done for the past four years, (removing blowdowns.) Most of the work will be digging new waterbars, installing additional check dams and fixing existing waterbars and check dams. The trail relocations are small but will involve cutting a new trail, defining a new tread, and filling in the old trail.</p>			



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6-NW	Grand Lake & Williams Fork OHV Trail System Fire Rehab	USFS Sulphur RD	6 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$66,954.18
	Due to the devastation of our motorized trail systems by the historical wildfires on the Sulphur Ranger District in the Fall of 2020 and the critical resource protection considerations associated with runoff and benched trail tread in burn scars, we believe this project is of the upmost importance to our forest, state and region. Work will include rehabilitation and reconstruction of the fire affected Williams Fork/Keyser Creek and Grand Lake Trail Systems, including signage, kiosks, resource protection fencing, trail structures (bridges etc.), and the routes themselves.			
7-NW	Eagle Zoned Youth Corps Support	USFS Eagle-Holy Cross RD	2 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$22,318.06
	The requested two weeks of saw Youth Corps will be utilized to complete trail clearing and corridor clearing for a high-use motorized singletrack system that connects the communities of Basalt and Gypsum. In addition, the crew will complete corridor clearing along Forest System Routes leading to the trailheads. The crew will focus on chain saw work to improve user access and experience and closing non-system routes connecting to the legal routes with slash they remove from the trail corridor.			
8-SW	BLM-SCC Limekiln Motorized Trail System	BLM San Louis Valley FO	8 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$ 75,385.44
	The purpose of this project is to continue converting 2-track primitive roads into single track public lands-style trails per the SLVFO's travel management plan decisions, and to provide maintenance and repairs to numerous system trails damaged by intense monsoonal storms last summer. Trail signage is also necessary in much of the system.			
9-NW	HPBE RMYC Crews for OHV Trails	USFS HPBE RD	2 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$18,846.36
	RMYC will assist the OHV Trail Crew in replacing bridges, abutments and turnpikes along OHV trails on the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District. 2 bridges need to be replaced along the Ellis Trail 1155, one along Farwell Connector 1203.1B, and one on Nipple Peak Trail 1147. There are a series of turnpikes that need to be replaced along Ellis Trail 1155 and Wyoming/CDT Trail 1101 if the crews finish the bridges.			
10-SE	Rainbow Trail	Central Colorado Mountain Riders	6 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$56,539.18
	The goal of this grant is to provide maintenance on the first 12 miles of the Rainbow Trail between Silver Creek trailhead and Highway 285. The plan is for the SCC to do drainage installation, berm removal, build crib walls to widen trail sections, remove large rocks from the trail tread, and trim limbs. Corps members will work to install check dams, armor tread, and stabilize/re-establish critical edge loss.			

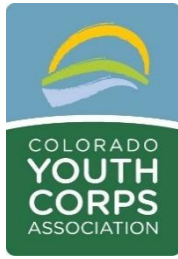


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11-NW	Grand Valley CYC OHV Support	USFS Grand Valley RD	2 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$22,318.06
	<p>This project is a priority because of the high use of these trails and the amount of water they received this season. Two weeks of a youth corps saw crew would accomplish major corridor clearing along the Boundary trail located on the Grand Mesa. The corridor would receive 2-3 feet of brushing on either side of the trail tread with added attention to grubbing out root wads around drain structures allowing for better drainage, which will slow sedimentation of the drainages.</p>			
12-NE	Rampart Range Single Track Rehab	USFS South Platte RD	2 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$19,714.98
	<p>Trail 770 is the most popular track on the Rampart Range and is not open to ATVs nor Side-by-Sides. Trail maintenance and rehab of illegal routes will be the primary objective. Many parts of Trail 770 receive limited coverage during the OHV season, and it is often difficult to get work completed with a limited OHV staff. Segments along the trail identified for work would consist of repairing drainage issues, erosion control, trimming vegetation through the corridor, and slashing in and rehabbing illegal routes such as hill climb areas and route braiding.</p>			
13-SE	RGFO Trail Maintenance	BLM Royal Gorge FO	2 CYCA Crew Weeks	\$ 18,846.36
	<p>The project location will be either Seep Springs or Penrose Commons. The Seep Springs area needs vehicle containment, corridor trimming and basic trail maintenance. Work within the Penrose Commons area is dependent on a pending NEPA decision, but would include vehicle barriers constructed to contain traffic to designated routes.</p>			



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2023 Colorado Conservation Service Corps / CPW OHV Project Partnership Request for Proposals

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program is partnering with the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) to hire youth corps crews for the **2023 season** to work on projects related to recreational use of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) and protecting resources in those areas on lands open to the public. These funds are available from OHV user fees to address resource damage due to wildfires and increased visitation in motorized recreation areas.

Projects can include (but not limited to):

- Trail maintenance work to repair and improve existing motorized routes to address backlogged maintenance needs
- Repair damages and minimize potential soil erosion and impacts resulting from fire suppression activities and increased multiple use in motorized recreation areas
- Fire Fuel mitigation, post fire tree removal, and downed trees to allow for access to motorized routes – chainsaw crews available
- Restoration work including mulching, seeding, installation of erosion and water run-off control structures in motorized recreation view sheds
- Repairs the hand and dozer fire lines, roads, trails, staging areas, safety zones, and drop points in motorized recreation view sheds
- Restoring burned habitat, reforestation, other planting or seeding, monitoring fire effects, replacing burned fences, and installing signs in areas where motorized recreation is jeopardized with closure or to assist with reopening
- Completing projects in high use OHV recreation areas including improvement of trail connections to relieve increased recreational pressure in adjacent systems

The application deadline is **5pm on Thursday, November 17th, 2022**. Successful projects will be announced in early January 2023 and crews will complete the proposed work in 2023. Applicants can apply for conservation service corps crews (ages 16-35) to complete a variety of stewardship projects to address resource damage in areas that have motorized recreation in areas that allow motorized recreation. There is a 2 week project minimum. The actual amount of crew weeks will be based on available funding, the type of crews, and the skill levels needed to accomplish the proposed projects.

Collaboration with existing project partners (such as volunteer groups) is encouraged but not required. These funds are intended to be used for trail maintenance and resource damage improvement and not for new trail construction. Applicants are asked to work directly with local corps staff to make sure they are fully aware of, and agree to, the scope of the project, budget, and timeline outlined in the application.

These projects receive OHV funding through a Colorado Department of Natural Resources Master Agreement with the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) to complete priority projects on public lands in 2023. CYCA and their accredited corps around the state employ and train youth and young adults on land, water and energy conservation projects. These projects engage Colorado’s youth, young adults, and veterans in meaningful outdoor work that helps them build an ethic of natural resource stewardship and fosters an awareness of careers within the field of Natural Resources. CYCA-accredited corps will provide participants with meaningful work experiences on public lands that involve motorized recreation. Their services will include mentoring, transference of conservation and stewardship ethics, development of employable skills, and career transition counseling for program participants. Corps crews will allow agencies to complete priority projects in the coming years as well as the opportunity to develop tomorrow’s workforce.

A Conservation Service Corps Crew Week Consists Of:

- 8-10 people including two adult supervisors
- Food, equipment, camping gear
- Transportation
- 320 hours per week—though some projects may require a smaller crew; please discuss this with your local corps before applying.

CYCA Master Agreement Weekly Crew Rates:		
Day Crew	A crew that travels to and from the project site every day and corps members go home at the end of the day.	\$8,679.25
Camping Crew	The crew camps at or near the project site. Applicants should work with the conservation service corps to help secure free camping sites.	\$9,423.18
Saw Crew	For projects requiring chainsaw experience, a specialty saw crew will have no less than 75% of its members chainsaw trained and fully equipped with saws and safety gear. Corps members on specialty crews are often 18 years old or older.	\$11,159.03
Hybrid Crew	Crews are qualified to work on projects that require a significantly higher skill level. For example, the work may require that the crew camp in the backcountry and work above tree line for one or more project weeks. If a project only requires 1 or 2 chainsaws, we may be able to do a hybrid crew.	\$9,857.49

Working with a Corps:

From project planning to completion, it is easy to use a conservation service corps. Corps are high-capacity organizations that are well-prepared; they arrive with the equipment, skills and supervision to succeed. **We strongly encourage applicants who have never worked with corps before to reach out to their local corps before submitting their proposal.** You can find an interactive map showing where each corps is located, and the project development contact for that corps, on CYCA's website: <https://www.cyca.org/hire-a-corps/>.

Expectations and Tips for Successful Corp Projects:

- Work is appropriate for a high school-age crew (ages 14-17) or an adult crew (ages 18-25) and ample for a crew of 8-10 corps members and adult crew supervisor. A full-size corps crew will work a minimum of 320 crew hours in a five-day period.
- Work is meaningful, providing an opportunity for corps members to understand its relationship to stewardship, trails, resource protection, etc.
- Direct supervision of corps members is provided by the local corps crew supervisor. Project sponsors are expected to provide technical project oversight and complete follow-up evaluation feedback when requested.

Shared Project Responsibility:

Hosting a conservation service corps requires cooperation, communication, and shared responsibility. Many sponsors ask, "what do I need to provide?" The chart below details how corps generally share responsibility. Of course, a project may require a different breakdown of responsibilities which you can discuss with corps staff as you plan the project.

Conservation Service Corps Responsibilities	Project Sponsor Responsibilities
Pre-project walk-through with sponsor's staff	Project planning
Adult supervision	Pre-project walk-through with corps staff
Youth/young adult crew (at least 8 people and 320 hours of labor)	Specialty tools (if necessary)
Basic tools	Sponsor staff person available to answer questions and check work regularly
Transportation	Complete an end-of-project evaluation

What Conservation Service Corps Are:

- Youth, young adult and veteran workforce development programs
- Programs focused on developing youth and young adults through service
- Programs focused on providing veterans experience for post-service conservation careers
- Programs focused on environmental education and ethic of stewardship

What Conservation Service Corps Are Not:

- Professional contract-work crews
- Volunteer programs
- Recreation or summer camp programs
- Court-ordered or juvenile-offender diversion programs
- Wilderness therapy or mental health counseling

Eligibility Requirements:

Government agencies and non-profit OHV project sponsors are eligible to apply for grants of up to 100% of project cost. Applicants and Land Managing Agencies must comply and operate in a manner consistent with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 33, Article 14.5 and State Trails Program policy.

Project Review Process:

Applications will be reviewed by CYCA and CPW and evaluated based on the relative merits and overall qualities of each project, priority of the work from a statewide perspective, and ability of youth corps crews to complete the work.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions concerning this RFP, please contact CYCA via Scott Segerstrom at 303-863-0604 or ssegerstrom@cyca.org or the State Trails Program at trails@state.co.us.

To locate and contact the conservation service corps serving your area, please visit:

<https://www.cyca.org/hire-a-corps/>

Deadline for submission:

Applicants must submit applications to both ssegerstrom@cyca.org and trails@state.co.us no later than 5:00 pm on **Thursday, November 17th, 2022**. We strongly encourage early submissions to avoid missing the application deadline. Grant awards are anticipated to be made by **January 6, 2023** though this date is subject to change.

Applicants are asked to submit proposals using the attached application form.