

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

MANDATORY:

- Signed letter of resolution from Governing Body
- Exhibit A - Application
- Exhibit B - Budget (Unprotected Excel CPW form)
- Environmental Forms (not required for Regional Trails Planning grants)
- Maps/Photographs/Graphics (5 page max, pdf, letter sized pages)
- Letters of Support (maximum of 5). No letters from clubs or groups specifically working on the project
- Project can be completed within 2.5 years from receiving grant
- Required MATCH funding is secured, including CASH match funds
- CPW District Wildlife Manager has been contacted and informed of construction projects by July 1st. Note that ALL projects will be reviewed by CPW for wildlife impacts
- (Construction only) Project area is owned by public land agency or has easement that designates the area to be open to public outdoor recreation for at least 25 years
- (Construction Only) Formal Environmental Assessment (EA) or NEPA has been completed with final approval for the project area (federal lands only).

ADDITIONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Youth Corps or youth organization will be used on the project (name of organization)
- Volunteers will be utilized on the project (name organization)

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Envision Recreation in Balance - Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application

Resolution from County of Chaffee

444464

444464 7/24/2018 8:30 AM RESL Lori A Mitchell
1 of 2 R\$0 D\$0 N\$0 S\$0 M\$0 E\$0 Chaffee County Clerk

CHAFFEE COUNTY COLORADO RESOLUTION 2018-41

AUTHORIZING THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE (CPW) FOR THE ENVISION “RECREATION IN BALANCE” PROJECT AND STATING THE COUNTY’S COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

- A. The County has been invited to submit an application for funding for the Envision “Recreation in Balance” Project (the “Project”) through the Colorado the Beautiful, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) State Trail Program.
- B. The Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners (the “BoCC”) supports the CPW State Trail Program grant application for the Project. If the grant is awarded, the BoCC supports the completion of the Project.
- C. Chaffee County is requesting funding up to \$100,000 from CPW to be used for the Project and is willing to provide \$2,000.00 cash match for the Project.

RESOLUTION:

Based on the above findings, the BoCC resolves as follows:

1. The BoCC strongly supports the grant application and is strongly committed to completing the Project within the State Trail’s Program goals and objectives.
2. Chaffee County agrees to sponsor the Grant and authorize the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of the Grant awarded.
3. Chaffee County will provide \$2,000 toward the match requirement.
4. Chaffee County appreciates the goals of the Grant and welcomes the outcomes to be incorporated into the comprehensive plans within the County.
5. The BoCC recognizes that as the recipient of the grant, the Project site must provide reasonable public access.
6. If the grant is awarded, the BoCC authorizes the Board Chair or Vice Chair to sign the grant agreement with GOCO, following review of the agreement by the County Attorney.
7. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately.

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COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL REGIONAL TRAILS PLANNING APPLICATION

Applicant or Organization Name: County of Chaffee		
Mailing Address: PO Box 669 Salida CO 81201		
Applicant Lead Contact Name: Robert Christiansen		Title: County Administrator
Telephone: 719.539.2218	Email: bchristiansen@chaffeecounty.org	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DUNS # (IF REQUIRED):

PROJECT MANAGER (this person will have day-to-day responsibility for the project)

Name: Ben Lara, Recreation Manager, Salida Ranger District, PP&SI NF	
Mailing Address: 5575 Cleora Road, Salida CO 81201	
Telephone: 719.539.3591	Email: blara@fs.fed.us

PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Name: Envision Chaffee County, Central Colorado Conservancy		
Mailing Address: PO Box 942, Salida CO 81201		
Partner Contact Name: Cindy Williams		Title: Board Chair
Telephone: 720.935.0094	Email: boardpresident@centralcoloradoconservancy.org	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Project Title: Envision Recreation in Balance	
Grant Request: \$ 99,366.70	Required Match: \$120,815 in-kind plus \$ \$10,000 Cash Match
Total Project Cost: \$230,181.90	

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

Project Description:

Envision Recreation in Balance is a unique, community-driven program that will develop sustainable solutions to the urgent challenge of managing the rapid expansion of outdoor recreation in balance with watershed health and diverse stakeholder needs.

Who: The program was created by *Envision Chaffee County*, a county-wide community visioning and planning process convened by the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners in 2017. Envision engaged 1,500 citizens, 4 local governments, and 72 non-profit organizations, businesses and natural resource agencies to create a variety of citizen-led programs. *Envision Recreation in Balance* represents one of the community's most urgent priorities.

The program is sponsored by the county commissioners and top local U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management leaders. The effort will be managed by Ben Lara, USFS Recreation Manager, with program design and facilitation support by Cindy Williams, *Envision Chaffee County* Co-Lead. Completion of project deliverables will be supported by the *Recreation in Balance Taskforce*, a team of ten leaders representing key non-profit organizations, agencies and businesses that will provide resources and connections to their stakeholder groups and state-wide programs. Extensive volunteer services will be provided by additional user groups (Figure 1).

What: *Envision Recreation in Balance* will deliver new solutions that will balance rapid growth in outdoor recreation with watershed health protection. The program approach and resultant systems will be transferable to communities state-wide. The effort includes four deliverables:

1. A **Recreation and Natural Resource Atlas** will capture the current state of county-wide recreational amenities (e.g., trails, roads, restroom facilities, parking and camping areas), natural resource assets (e.g., critical wildlife habitat, wetland-riparian zones), and traditional use areas (e.g., cattle drive routes).
2. A **Recreation Impact Monitoring System** will measure recreational impacts (e.g., sediment generation potential and habitat impacts at dispersed campsites) and collect consistent, county-wide impact data using trained user group volunteers.
3. **Rapid Response Projects** will identify existing impacts that need to be addressed immediately (for example, reclaiming campsites generating large sediment loads into aquatic habitats).
4. A **Balanced Recreation Plan** will guide new recreation development and watershed protection in coordination with existing local, state, and federal agency planning efforts.

Where: The program includes all county-wide recreation and natural resource assets (Figures 2 and 3). Deliverables will also be shared regionally with adjacent counties, across the broad service areas of taskforce members (Figure 1) and with USFS leadership working on similar issues at the national level. *Envision Recreation in Balance* complements USFS's *Framework for Sustainable Recreation* initiative, and agency leadership is aware of this funding proposal and are closely following the program in order to replicate successful approaches nationally. Additionally, agencies and governments advancing regional planning efforts are engaged in the program and will ensure results inform broader comprehensive plans, such as the USFS Management Plan.

Envision Recreation in Balance offers the right time, right place, and right resources to develop new sustainable recreation growth solutions for Chaffee County and for the West.

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Acronyms used in the project application:

- AHRA – Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
- BLM – Bureau of Land Management
- CCC – Central Colorado Conservancy
- CCPH – Chaffee County Public Health
- CCTAB – Chaffee County Transportation Advisory Board
- CCVB – Chaffee County Visitors Bureau
- CMC – Colorado Mountain Club
- CNHP – Colorado Natural Heritage Program
- CPW – Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- CWCB – Colorado Water Conservation Board
- GARNA – Greater Arkansas River Nature Association
- GOCO – Great Outdoors Colorado
- SCC – Southwest Conservation Corps
- SMT – Salida Mountain Trails
- SPOT – Salida-area Parks, Open-space & Trails
- USFS – United States Forest Service
- USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LAND OWNERSHIP

1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: CPW, USFS, BLM, State of Colorado, County of Chaffee, and municipalities of Buena Vista, Salida, and Poncha Springs.

2. The trail corridor is controlled by: Fee Simple Lease Easement License Right-of-Way
 Other: various land managers by various instruments

USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking	<input type="checkbox"/> Four-Wheeling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Running	<input type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Line Skating	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X-Country Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
TRAIL SURFACE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crusher Fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
PROJECT LOCATION (For multiple project sites attach a separate list.)		
Nearest Town or City: Buena Vista, Salida, Poncha Springs		
County: Chaffee County		
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates: NA		
State Senate District #:5		
State Representative District #: 60		
Acreage of new trailhead		Miles of trail grooming
Miles of new trail construction		Miles of trail being planned
Miles of trail maintenance		Miles of trail reroute
Miles of trail reconstruction		Miles of inter-connecting trail
Miles of trail to be signed		Other
Miles of trail restoration		Other

Applicant Authorized Signature: *Robert J. Clinton* Date: 7/30/18
 (From Applicant Organization)

Land Agency Authorized Signature: *Samuel* Date: 7/24/18
 (From project location land agency, if different from applicant)

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TIMELINE

PRELIMINARY TIMELINE ESTIMATE

Key Milestones (TASKS)	Jun-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021
Stakeholder Engagement										
Complete stakeholder mapping	█									
Deliver communications	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Complete facilitated engagement sessions	█		█			█	█	█		
Develop Recreation and Natural Resource Atlas										
Compile data	█									
Collate data, develop atlas	█									
Develop, Test and Implement Recreation Impact Monitoring System										
Research available monitoring systems	█									
Compile available use and impact data	█	█								
Develop pilot system	█	█								
Develop software application and database		█								
Pilot test system and adjust			█	█						
Train volunteer monitors				█	█					
Collect baseline data					█	█				
Develop impact report card and system documentation						█	█			
Identify and Advance Rapid Response Projects										
Identify, prioritize, plan, fund and execute projects			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Deliver Balanced Recreation Plan										
Collate proposed asset additions/modifications						█	█			
Complete community planning							█	█		
Deliver proposed plan								█	█	
Develop sustainable user group monitoring agreements									█	
Develop sustainable funding and management framework									█	█
Complete Reporting and Closeout										
Deliver final report/atlas maps										█
Communicate results										█
Fiscal closeout										█

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1. COMMUNITY NEED & BENEFIT (20 points)

Overview: The *Recreation in Balance* program was developed and ranked as a top priority by *Envision Chaffee County* (Envision), as documented in the Envision Chaffee County Community Action Plan (available at <http://envisionchaffeecounty.org>). Envision is a county-wide community planning effort convened by the board of county commissioners and involving 1,500 citizens, 4 local governments and 72 non-profit organizations, agencies, and businesses. The Envision process created a shared understanding of the urgent need for systems and collaborative community solutions to sustainably manage rapidly growing outdoor recreation. The *Envision Recreation in Balance* program was developed by the community to support sustainable growth. The program is enabled by powerful citizen, non-profit, agency, and government support, **including \$120,815 of in-kind support plus \$10,000 in cash match to the requested \$99,366.70 grant request**, or 120% leverage to CPW funds.

The *Envision* framework provides a unique opportunity to develop new, transferable approaches and systems to sustainably manage growing recreation, in balance with natural resources and watershed health.

Recreation in Balance will build on the success of the Envision process by developing four deliverables: a **Recreation and Natural Resource Atlas, Recreation Impact Monitoring System, Rapid Response Projects** and a **Balanced Recreation Plan**.

Urgent need: As demonstrated through the Envision process, local communities see an urgent need to protect Chaffee County's world-class recreational assets and natural resources (Figure 3). The assets are unique, expanding outdoor recreation is having measurable impacts and agencies, local government and citizens are voicing concern.

The Arkansas River, a community-defining feature, has the most rafted section of whitewater in the world and is home to 62% of the state's Gold Medal Trout Waters. Mountain ranges surrounding local communities include a fifth of Colorado's fourteen thousand foot peaks, enjoyed by up to 110,000 visitors a year. The county is at the center of the Colorado Trail (Poncha Springs), a Gateway Community (Salida) to the Continental Divide Trail and the northern access point to the Rainbow Trail. Community collaboration has created horseback, hiking and mountain bike and OHV trail networks, river parks and successful rails-to-trails projects. Skiing, wildlife viewing, hunting, hiking, mountain biking, and all forms of motorized use round out recreational assets. Envision data indicate healthy watersheds and recreational opportunities are the primary reason people visit and live here.

Unplanned growth in outdoor recreation is impacting these assets. For example, use of dispersed campsites in one measured area is increasing at 17% per year. As a result, compacted and de-vegetated areas have expanded 100% since 2004, and mounting human waste, trash, sediment erosion and illegal road development are urgent issues (Figures 4 to 6). The community is concerned that increasing impacts to wildlife and watershed will reach unacceptable and unrecoverable levels. Currently there is a lack of

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baseline data and monitoring systems so that natural resource agencies and the community can develop appropriate solutions.

Regional agency leaders express immediate concerns including: 1) lack of a framework to track and manage recreational impacts, 2) lack of community consensus on what constitutes unacceptable impact and acceptable solutions, and 3) an outdoor recreation industry that promotes the economic benefits of growth without addressing impacts. See USFS-BLM letter of support and contribution commitment.

Local municipal governments and the Salida Chamber of Commerce highlight the importance of sustainable outdoor recreation growth to economic development. For example, a 2009 City of Salida survey documented that 80% of overnight guests are attracted by local recreation amenities. See municipal and chamber letters of support.

The 2017 Envision Chaffee County survey of 1,203 citizens documented citizen concern about recreation growth, with 2 out of 3 citizens prioritizing management of recreational impacts over development of additional amenities. Envision and local non-profit organizations further indicate concern about increasing impacts including: 1) dispersed campsite footprints increasing at 7-10% per year, with associated increase in human waste, trash, and soil erosion; 2) impacts to wildlife (e.g., CPW data indicate a potentially related 33% decline in deer population in the past decade); and 3) impacts to agricultural production. See non-profit organization letter of support and Figures 4 to 6.

For Chaffee County Public Health, these environmental concerns mirror potential human health concerns related to poorly-managed human waste and increasing sediment in drinking water sources. The *Recreation in Balance* program will also support and enhance community health benefits such as by coordinating with *Livewell Chaffee County*, a program focused on decreasing obesity and promoting healthy lifestyles, as well as a *GOCO Inspire Initiative* planning effort through CCPH and GARNA. Specific support will include identification of opportunities to connect people to recreation within 10 minutes of their homes and education on the benefits of healthy lifestyles. See Chaffee County Public Health letter of support.

Growing recreation is resulting in unacceptable and growing impacts to watershed health, yet sustainable recreation is a critical element for economic development. There is urgent need for facilitated community engagement to deliver a Balanced Recreation Plan and a system to monitor and manage recreational impacts.

Benefits: Program deliverables will provide multiple benefits to Chaffee County and may also provide an approach likely transferable to other communities in Colorado and the West. Deliverables will be applied not only in Chaffee County, but also shared with other communities through the broad service areas of closely involved non-profit organizations, some of whom have state-wide and multi-state service areas. Local land management agencies – the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office and the USFS Salida Ranger District – are looking to this effort to be expanded to central and southern parts of the state that encompass over 20 counties.

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The four program deliverables provide the following community benefits:

1. The **Recreation and Natural Resources Atlas** will support current tourism and business industry needs, provide a platform for community planning, and serve as a pilot project for the Colorado Statewide Outdoor Recreation Comprehensive Plan.
2. The **Recreation Impact Monitoring System** will provide a system to monitor critical use and impact trends, that may benefit many communities. The system will: 1) provide consistent, replicable measures of impact such as sediment generation potential and critical habitat impacts, 2) use local non-profit organization and user group volunteer networks to economically collect impact data, 3) employ existing and new TrafX counters to record use data, 4) develop a mobile friendly application and database to collect and manage data, and 5) produce impact trend reports that will support agency and local government management plans. They also support development of a sustainable recreation economy benefitting business. Tying these user groups in will also support a separate Envision project, not funded through this proposal, called “Now This Is How We Recreate.” Led by GARNA, this campaign will develop and disseminate materials about locally relevant *Leave No Trace/Tread Lightly/Stay The Trail* behaviors and increase awareness of recreational assets and visitor use impacts, while increasing the benefits of healthy lifestyles in underserved populations and the larger community.
3. The impact monitoring system will also identify a list of **Rapid Response Projects** and appropriate remedies that will immediately benefit recreational assets, natural resources, and community health (see Figure 6B for an example project).
4. Finally, a **Balanced Recreation Plan** will provide agencies and local governments with community-supported recommendations for future (10-year horizon) recreational asset development and monitoring. Examples of asset development might include connecting trails to enable all citizens access to recreational opportunities within 10 minutes of their homes, connectors between regional trail systems, and solutions to “pinch points” such as parking availability. Examples of natural resource development might include identification of areas for habitat protection, enhancements benefiting watershed health, and restoration projects to improve the sustainability of hunting and fishing amenities. The plan will immediately benefit in progress regional planning efforts currently underway by USFS, BLM, CPW, and Chaffee County.

Community Engagement: Program deliverables are ambitious, but success is enabled by two unique factors: *Envision Chaffee County* and the *Recreation in Balance Taskforce*. Community engagement will be guided by Envision Chaffee County professional planning and facilitation and catalyzed by the expertise and connections of the recreation taskforce.

Envision Chaffee County is a professionally facilitated community visioning and planning process. The program engaged citizens to develop a shared vision, assess current trends relative to that vision, identify opportunities for positive change, and develop community-led projects to make the visions a reality. The Envision Chaffee

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County project team has the proven ability to engage diverse stakeholders to generate solutions strongly supported by local government, agencies, businesses, non-profits, and citizens. The Envision team and Chaffee County are committed to support *Recreation in Balance* program with in-kind technical support and connections to 72 non-profit organizations, agencies and businesses.

The *Recreation in Balance Taskforce* is a powerful team comprised of leaders from key non-profit organizations, agencies, and the community (Figure 1). The taskforce will support program management and execution, and leverage member's broad community connections, technical skills, and regional reach.

Critical stakeholders are already engaged in the *Recreation in Balance* program, including three municipal governments, the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners, local natural resource agencies (e.g., USFS, BLM, CPW, and AHRA), Salida Chamber of Commerce, Chaffee County Public Health, and non-profit organizations.

As the program progresses, proven Envision process community engagement will broaden to include diverse user groups, the business community, and underserved communities. Key process steps will include development of shared understanding of recreational impacts (positive and negative), listening to community needs, and development of a shared vision and priorities for balanced recreation.

The taskforce is aware that underserved communities can be difficult to engage, so it will employ strategies to ensure their needs are met. For example, GARNA is advancing a Western State Colorado University master's student project to engage the small, unincorporated Nathrop community in planning youth outdoor access in the Browns Canyon National Monument.

2. URGENCY (5 points)

Advancing the *Recreation in Balance* program immediately is important for 3 reasons: rapid growth in outdoor recreation, connection to regional planning efforts, and momentum.

First, outdoor recreation use is growing by as much as 17% per year and resulting in immediate impacts to habitat, water quality, and human health. This rate and these impacts are not sustainable (Figures 4 to 6). For example, expanding dispersed camping sites are multiplying and impacting sensitive wetland and riparian areas, generating increasingly visible human waste, and increasing potential for erosion and sedimentation into Gold Medal trout waters and the heavily-rafted Arkansas River. These impacts will ultimately affect the attractiveness of area recreation and eventually impact the local outdoor recreation economy contributing 33% of local economic product. The processes and products detailed above under the four deliverables are urgently needed to identify and track the assets and impacts, and to develop community alignment regarding the way forward.

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Second, completing the *Recreation in Balance* program in the near term is essential to connect deliverables to regional planning efforts, including:

- 2019-2020 Chaffee County Comprehensive Plan Update,
- 2019-2023 USFS Pike and San Isabel Forest Management Plan update,
- 2015-2019 BLM Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan update,
- 2019 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan SCORP update – where the project may provide pilot systems,
- 2017-2020 Browns Canyon National Monument Plan development, and
- 2019-2020 Chaffee County Transportation Advisory Board Multimodal Transportation Plan development.

Third, the project currently benefits from unique and critical momentum generated by the Envision Chaffee County program. Based on that 2-year process, natural resource agencies, local governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, and citizens are currently engaged and supportive – as evidenced by \$120,815 of budgeted in-kind services and \$10,000 in cash support. This momentum is a primary reason the project team believes our ambitious and regionally impactful deliverables are possible – at this moment in time.

3. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS (15 points)

In 2018, the CPW Partners in the Outdoors conference stressed the need for balancing recreation and conservation. The *Envision Recreation in Balance* program was developed over two years with the intention of establishing that balance.

Regional impact: In terms of regional impact, the program includes all county-wide recreation and natural resource assets and will also be shared regionally with adjacent counties, in the larger service areas of taskforce members, and with USFS and BLM leadership working on the issue at the national scale. The USFS's *Framework for Sustainable Recreation* team and agency leadership are aware of funding proposal and are closing following the success in order to replicate throughout the country. Additionally, results will directly inform multiple regional planning efforts as listed above.

Balanced and Comprehensive Planning: *Recreation in Balance* was designed to **address the full recreation system and the ecosystem in which it operates**. The program will address not only motorized and non-motorized trails, but also roads, access points, parking facilities, sanitary facilities, dispersed and designated campsites, and traditional use areas such as grazing and hunting access. Rapid growth must be addressed on a systems scale. *Recreation in Balance* will consider the benefits of increasing recreation use to economy and community health planned in balance with protection of healthy watersheds, also vital to community health and economy.

Long Term Maintenance: The Recreation Impact Monitoring System will continually collect and update information, track impacts and changes, and create agency and community actions to maintain a balanced system. Components of the system, such as the volunteer data-gathering app and the associated database, will build on a system previously developed through Colorado Mountain Club and which will be integrated with

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existing county and natural resource agency systems. When new opportunities or issues are identified, they will be addressed through the Rapid Response Project mechanism, advancing activities such as campsite relocation and habitat reclamation.

4. WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES (10 points)

Envision Recreation in Balance is designed to address the long term needs of wildlife, habitat and watershed health “in balance” with outdoor recreation growth. This will be accomplished through completion of the four program deliverables.

Habitat Data: Current wildlife and habitat data will be provided by CPW and CNHP and compiled for the first time in the **Recreation and Natural Resource Atlas**. In addition, cutting-edge new data will be incorporated. For example, Central Colorado Conservancy (CCC) has been leading the CPW-sponsored Upper Arkansas Wetlands Focus Area Committee. The committee has collaborated with CNHP to produce a map and ranked attribute data for upper Arkansas basin wetlands and riparian areas. CCC, in collaboration with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, can also connect an ongoing citizen science study on a key indicator species (Lewis Woodpecker) to the program. Finally, Envision Chaffee County includes a “Keep Chaffee Wild” program leveraging citizen science to develop data on 25 indicator species to better track ecosystem health. All this data will help inform robust and balanced planning and sustainable management.

Systems and Action: A system is urgently needed to consistently monitor visitor use impacts and their relationship to the health of wildlife and natural resources. The Recreational Impact Monitoring System will deliver consistent tracking of that information. For example, dispersed campsite monitoring may include: sediment generation potential – impacting aquatic habitats and water quality, impacts to wetland and riparian systems and impact to critical habitat. This will be done by assessing tools being used by other communities and incorporating best practices into a comprehensive system. Issues critically impacting wildlife and watershed health will be immediately addressed through Rapid Response Projects. Identification of these projects and funding to address pilot actions is included in this grant application. Additional funding sources will be developed to support completion of the full set of prioritized projects.

Balanced Planning: The *Balanced Recreation Plan* will consider all of this information. The plan will answer the question of how the community can balance recreation growth AND provide non-fragmented habitat, migration connectivity and healthy wetland/riparian areas. The goal is to support a sustainable system of thriving wildlife and thriving recreation. The plan will include a map of proposed recreational asset additions and a map of proposed areas for protection, asset/access relocation, and habitat enhancement. At the request of local CPW leadership, the plan will also include proposed best management practices for new and ongoing recreation sites (e.g. wildlife monitoring to inform new trail development).

5. COLLABORATION (15 points)

As described above, the *Envision Recreation in Balance* program is part of the *Envision Chaffee County* program. The *Envision* framework provides the support of local

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governments, citizens, and 72 local non-profit organizations, agencies, and businesses. The resulting commitment is evidenced by \$130,815 of in-kind and cash project contributions and endorsement letters.

Further, the Recreation in Balance project leaders and the *Recreation in Balance Taskforce* include a robust coalition of agency, non-profit, business, and community leaders as follows:

- Ben Lara, USFS Recreation Program Manager, Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands (Project Co-Lead)
- Cindy Williams, Envision Chaffee County Co-Lead, and Board Chair, Central Colorado Conservancy (Project Co-Lead)
- Dominique Naccarato, Executive Director, GARNA (Project Management)
- Linda Skinner, BLM Recreation Planner, Royal Gorge Field Office
- Kalem Lenard, Assistant Field Manager, Royal Gorge Field Office
- Donna Rhoads, President, Salida Parks, Open Space and Trails
- Nicole Blaser, Executive Director, Southwest Conservation Corp
- Mike Sugaski, Member, Salida Mountain Trails
- Julie Mach, Stewardship Director, Colorado Mountain Club
- Lois Walton, Member, Buena Vista Trails Board
- Tony Boone, Business Owner (Dirt Farmerz - providing trail building expertise)
- Alan Robinson, Friends of Fourmile Liaison to GARNA
- Chuck Azzopardi, realtor and business representative
- Chad Hixon, President, Central Colorado Mountain Riders

Recreation in Balance Taskforce members have agreed to donate extensive in-kind professional services to the effort. Their contribution, however, will extend well beyond staff hours. The combined experience, resources, volunteer networks, and relationships of the taskforce are essential to identify and engage stakeholders and volunteers, research impact monitoring systems and sustainable solutions, develop map products, and connect program outcomes to organizations across the state.

Chaffee County has an established track record of delivering innovative solutions, such as the Arkansas River Voluntary Flow Management System and the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area joint BLM-CPW management framework. The level of current collaboration in Envision *Recreation in Balance* program indicates we are well positioned to do so again, providing new approaches to manage world class recreational assets in balance with the natural resources that sustain them.

6. IMPLEMENTATION (15 points)

The program will deliver a county-wide *Balanced Recreation Plan* and a Recreation Impact Monitoring System to track results and catalyze action. Plan implementation will result in: 1) comprehensive consideration of existing and proposed recreational assets, 2) implementation enabled by continuing the *Envision* process building community alignment, and 3) funding development through traditional and innovative sources.

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Comprehensive Projects: The *Balanced Recreation Plan* will identify projects that will:

- Add to county-wide recreational assets such as trails connecting underserved communities, connections to regional systems, trail heads and parking facilities, and camping and multi-use opportunities.
- Protect and enhance natural resources, such as through relocating inappropriate trails and roads, adding facilities to manage human waste, and restoring critical habitat.
- Manage high-impact activities like dispersed camping with solutions both traditional (e.g., hardening assets, designated dispersed campsites) and perhaps innovative.

Enabled Implementations: In their letters of support, agency leaders cite community agreement on acceptable impacts and solutions as a critical barrier to recreation management. Envision's ground-up, collaborative and facilitated program approach provides community-supported solutions that have already been tested and proved successful.

Funding: Funding and resource availability are barriers to sustainable management of recreation impacts. Again, Envision's collaborative project approach will enhance the community's ability to attract funding and in-kind support. Funding will include traditional sources such as the USFS, BLM, USFWS, GOCO and CWCB. The high level of engagement demonstrated by the Envision process will also encourage the support of local businesses, many of whom already contribute to a voluntary 1% point-of-sales donation program supporting conservation and trails development through the Central Colorado Conservancy, Salida Mountain Trails, and Buena Vista Single Track Coalition. Envision Chaffee County has also: 1) established the Chaffee County Community Foundation with a mission supporting local non-profits, Envision project funding, and improving local capacity, and 2) is currently exploring a potential ballot measure to provide funding support to watershed health and agricultural sustainability. Initial professional polling results indicate strong support at the time of this writing.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT & INVOLVEMENT (10 points)

The Envision *Recreation in Balance* program offers extensive existing community engagement and support as documented above, plus the networks of the 14 *Recreation in Balance Taskforce* members. This momentum will be leveraged and further community engagement accomplished through Envision-supported planning and facilitation in the development of the *Balanced Recreation Plan*, strong agency leadership, and engagement from the unique *Recreation in Balance Taskforce*.

Planned Engagement: Initial mapping has identified 80 stakeholders and stakeholder groups critical to program success. These include diverse local and regional user groups, local recreation and tourism-dependent businesses, agricultural leaders, non-profit organizations, under-represented populations, and natural resource agencies. Program design, facilitation, and leadership will be essential, particularly given that many of these stakeholders have competing desires and needs.

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

Therefore, the program will be professionally planned and facilitated, leveraging proven Envision Chaffee County resources. Envision is providing \$22,500 of in-kind community engagement services from GeoInsights, which has 30 years of stakeholder engagement experience. In addition, the facilitator used during the prior Envision process – Smoyer and Associates – will support program design and provide professional facilitation.

Community engagement will occur through a series of planned, facilitated, and documented sessions designed to: 1) develop a shared understanding of the current state or recreation and natural resources, including issues, opportunities, and barriers to sustainable recreation, 2) advance community-involved consideration of potential solutions, and 3) develop a community-supported plan for the future involving agreed-upon tradeoffs between competing interests and needs.

Strong leadership will be critical to these efforts. USFS is providing \$15,600 of professional staff time to lead the overall effort. The Envision Team is providing planning and facilitation services of \$25,600. Chaffee County is donating \$5,400 of fiscal management services. The *Recreation in Balance Taskforce* will engage recreational stakeholders in the development of research, systems, and solutions. Taskforce members are donating \$33,660 of professional in-kind support, including organizing an additional \$40,555 of volunteer in-kind time for impact monitoring.

8. PLANNING PROCESS & OUTCOME (10 points)

The Envision *Recreation in Balance* process and outcomes will be assessed by tracking three elements: 1) progress and completion of the four program deliverables, 2) effectiveness of community engagement and 3) inclusion of program recommendations into regional planning efforts

Progress toward completion of the four program deliverables will be tracked using key milestones. These are shown in the program timeline above and will be assessed monthly. Any activity behind schedule will be addressed with an action plan. In addition, the number of Rapid Response Projects funded and implemented will be measured.

Effective community engagement is essential to program success and will be tracked using the following metrics:

- Number of community members engaged,
- Number and percentage of key stakeholders engaged and participant surveys,
- Number of volunteers involved and hours logged, and
- Number of organizations supporting the final *Balanced Recreation Plan*.

Finally, inclusion of the Recreation in Balance data and recommendations into county, regional, state and federal plans and programs will help measure long term success.

Envision *Recreation in Balance* provides a unique opportunity to leverage the support of natural resource agencies, non-profits, local governments, businesses and the community to deliver new models for collaborative management of thriving recreation in balance with thriving lands, waters and wildlife.

Exhibit B
Budget Form - Project Name: Envision Recreation in Balance

SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
CASH								
USFS - Salida District	7/15/2018					\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	
BLM - Royal George Field Office	7/15/2018					\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	
County of Chaffee	7/17/2018					\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application	Pending				\$ 99,366.70		\$ 99,366.70	
IN-KIND								
Envision Chaffee County	7/20/2018					\$ 22,500.00	\$ 22,500.00	
USFS Salida District (Salaries)	7/20/2018					\$ 15,600.00	\$ 15,600.00	
Recreation in Balance Taskforce	7/20/2018					\$ 33,660.00	\$ 33,660.00	
Recreation in Balance Volunteer Force	7/20/2018					\$ 40,555.20	\$ 40,555.20	
County of Chaffee	7/17/2018					\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00	
Discounted Services (Rivertown Copy, Barton Design)	7/15/2018					\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,100.00	
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS					\$ 99,366.70	\$ 130,815.20	\$ 230,181.90	
USE OF FUNDS - CASH								
Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]	
Category 1 - Contracted Services								
Smoyer and Associates (Facilitation)	75	\$ 135.00	\$ 10,125.00	\$ 10,125.00		\$ 10,125.00	0	
Scales Consulting (Facilitation)	625	\$ 26.00	\$ 16,250.00	\$ 16,250.00		\$ 16,250.00	0	
Rivertown Copy (Communications)	130	\$ 32.00	\$ 4,160.00	\$ 4,160.00		\$ 4,160.00	0	
GARNA (Program Management)	625	\$ 26.00	\$ 16,250.00	\$ 16,250.00		\$ 16,250.00	0	
Great Outdoors Consultants (GIS Maps)	247	\$ 55.00	\$ 13,585.00	\$ 3,585.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 13,585.00	0	
Colorado Mountain Club (Volunteer Mgt)	1000	\$ 15.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00	0	
Colorado Mountain Club (App and Database Development)	218	\$ 55.00	\$ 12,001.00	\$ 12,001.00		\$ 12,001.00	0	
MHG (Report writing)	85	\$ 55.54	\$ 4,720.90	\$ 4,720.90		\$ 4,720.90	0	
Barton Design (Report Graphics)	66	\$ 30.30	\$ 1,999.80	\$ 1,999.80		\$ 1,999.80	0	
Dove Graphics (Printing)	175	\$ 11.00	\$ 1,925.00	\$ 1,925.00		\$ 1,925.00	0	
Category 2 - Salary/Wages								
N/A			\$ -			\$ -	0	
Category 3 - Materials/Tools								
Meeting Venues	12	\$ 74.00	\$ 888.00	\$ 888.00		\$ 888.00	0	
TraFz Counters	8	\$ 614.00	\$ 4,912.00	\$ 4,912.00		\$ 4,912.00	0	
Rapid Response Project Materials (100 ft Buck and Rail Fence)	1000	\$ 3.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	0	
			\$ -			\$ -	0	
Additional Categories								
Administration (6 hr/month)	175	\$ 26.00	\$ 4,550.00	\$ 4,550.00		\$ 4,550.00	0	
USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL				\$ 99,366.70	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 109,366.70		
IN-KIND								
Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total			Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]	
Category 1 - Contracted Services								
Envision / Geosights (Program Design)	225	\$ 100.00	\$ 22,500.00			\$ 22,500.00	0	
Rivertown Copy (Discounted Service)			\$ 2,600.00			\$ 2,600.00	0	
Barton Design (Discounted Service)			\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00	0	
Category 2 - Salary/Wages								
USFS (Program Leadership)	240	\$ 65.00	\$ 15,600.00			\$ 15,600.00	0	
Recreation in Balance Taskforce (11 professionals, 2 hr/month)	660	\$ 51.00	\$ 33,660.00			\$ 33,660.00	0	
County of Chaffee (Fiscal Management)	72	\$ 75.00	\$ 5,400.00			\$ 5,400.00	0	
Category 3 - Materials/Tools								
N/A			\$ -			\$ -	0	
Additional Categories								
RiB Volunteer Corp. (140 volunteers, 12 hr ea)	1680	\$ 24.14	\$ 40,555.20			\$ 40,555.20	0	
IN-KIND SUBTOTAL				\$ -	\$ 120,815.20	\$ 120,815.20		
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$ 99,366.70	\$ 130,815.20	\$ 230,181.90	
30% REQUIRED MATCH					\$ -	\$ 29,810.01		

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

Figure 1: The *Envision Recreation in Balance* organizational structure, demonstrating extensive active sponsorship, leadership, and community engagement.

Envision Recreation in Balance Organization

Sponsors

Agency Leaders
 J. Pitts, USFS Salida/Leadville District Ranger
 K. Berger, BLM Royal George Field Manager

Envision Chaffee County
 Chaffee County Board of Commissioners
 Commissioner Greg Felt

Leaders

**B. Lara, USFS Recreation Manager
 Program Manager**

**C. Williams, Envision Chaffee County
 Primary Project Partner**

Project Team

Recreation in Balance Taskforce

- Greater Arkansas River Nature Association – Dominique Naccarato, ED
- BLM – Kalem Lenard, Assistant Field Manager; Linda Skinner, Recreation Planner
- Salida-area Parks, Open-space & Trails – Donna Rhoads, President
- Buena Vista Trails Board – Lois Walton, Board Member
- Southwest Conservation Corp – Nicole Blaser, Regional Director
- Colorado Mountain Club – Julie Mach, Conservation Director
- Central Colorado Mountain Riders – Chad Hixon, President
- Local Business – C. Azzopardi, Realtor; Tony Boone, Professional Trail Builder

Recreation in Balance Volunteers

Figure 2. Chaffee County Location map (left) and land ownership map (right).

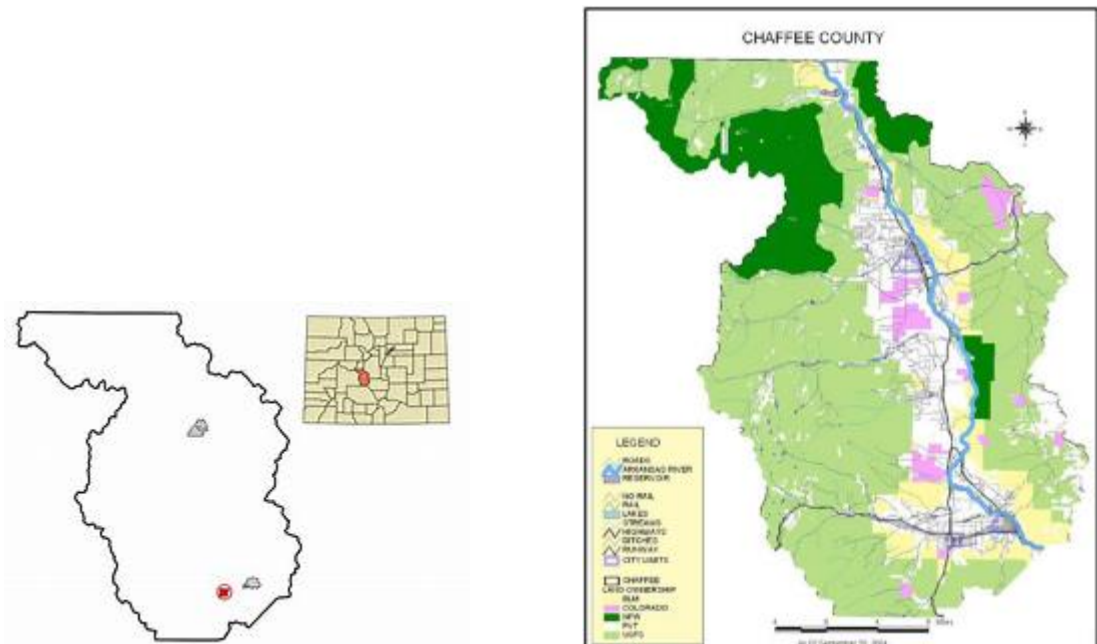


EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

Figure 3. Chaffee County map demonstrating diversity of recreational assets

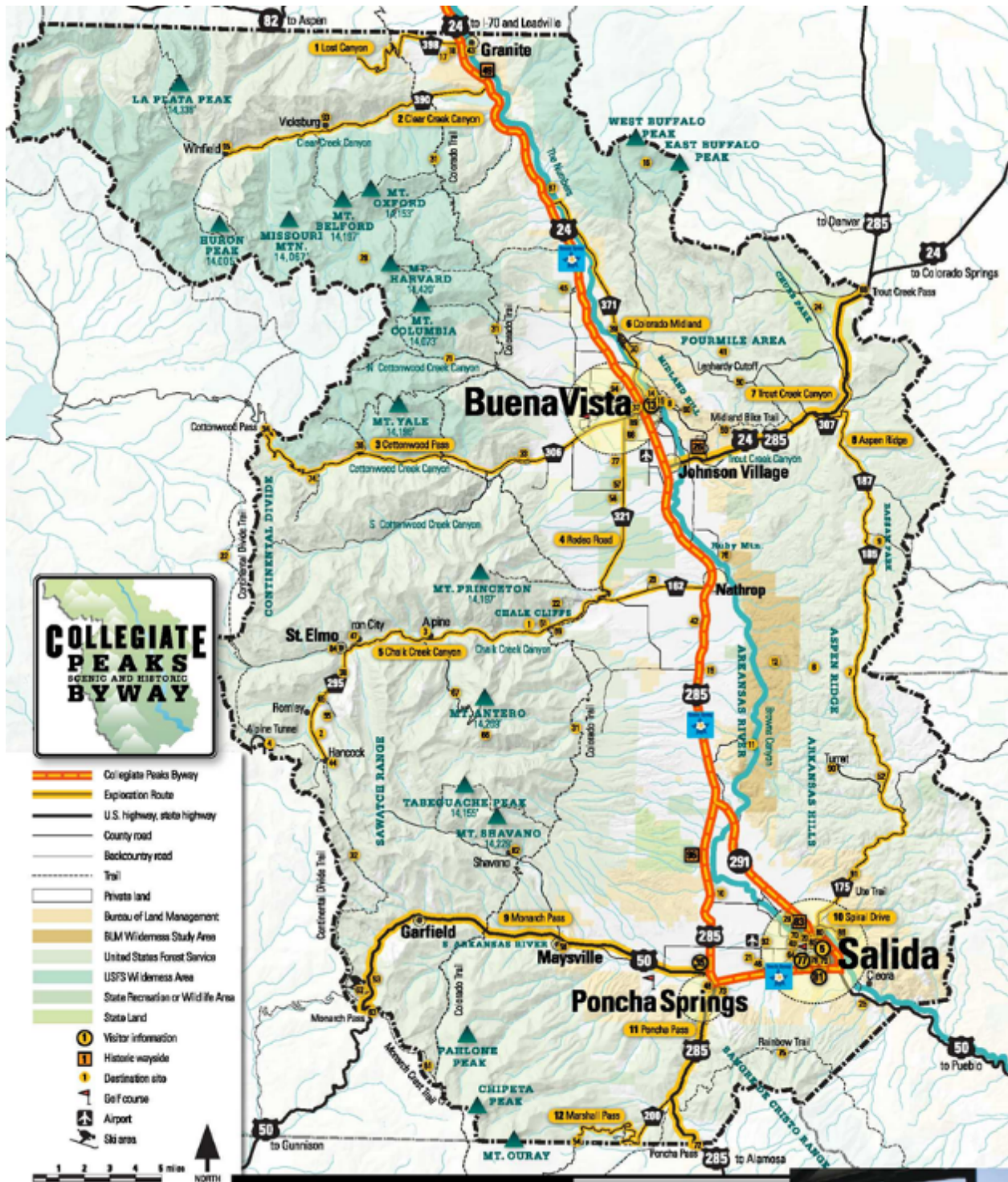


EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

Figure 4. Google Earth display of the 100,000ac jointly-managed USFS-BLM Fourmile Travel Management Area illustrating growth of dispersed campsites from 2004 to 2018. Blue dots identify sites unchanged since 2004, green sites have footprints expanded 2 to 5 times, red sites are new, and orange sites have been closed. Of the 292 current sites, two thirds have expanded or are new since 2004. This information is an example of what community volunteers can contribute to developing the proposed **Recreation Impact Monitoring System**, as coverage is expanded across Chaffee County. Data courtesy of *Friends of Fourmile*, a chapter of GARNA

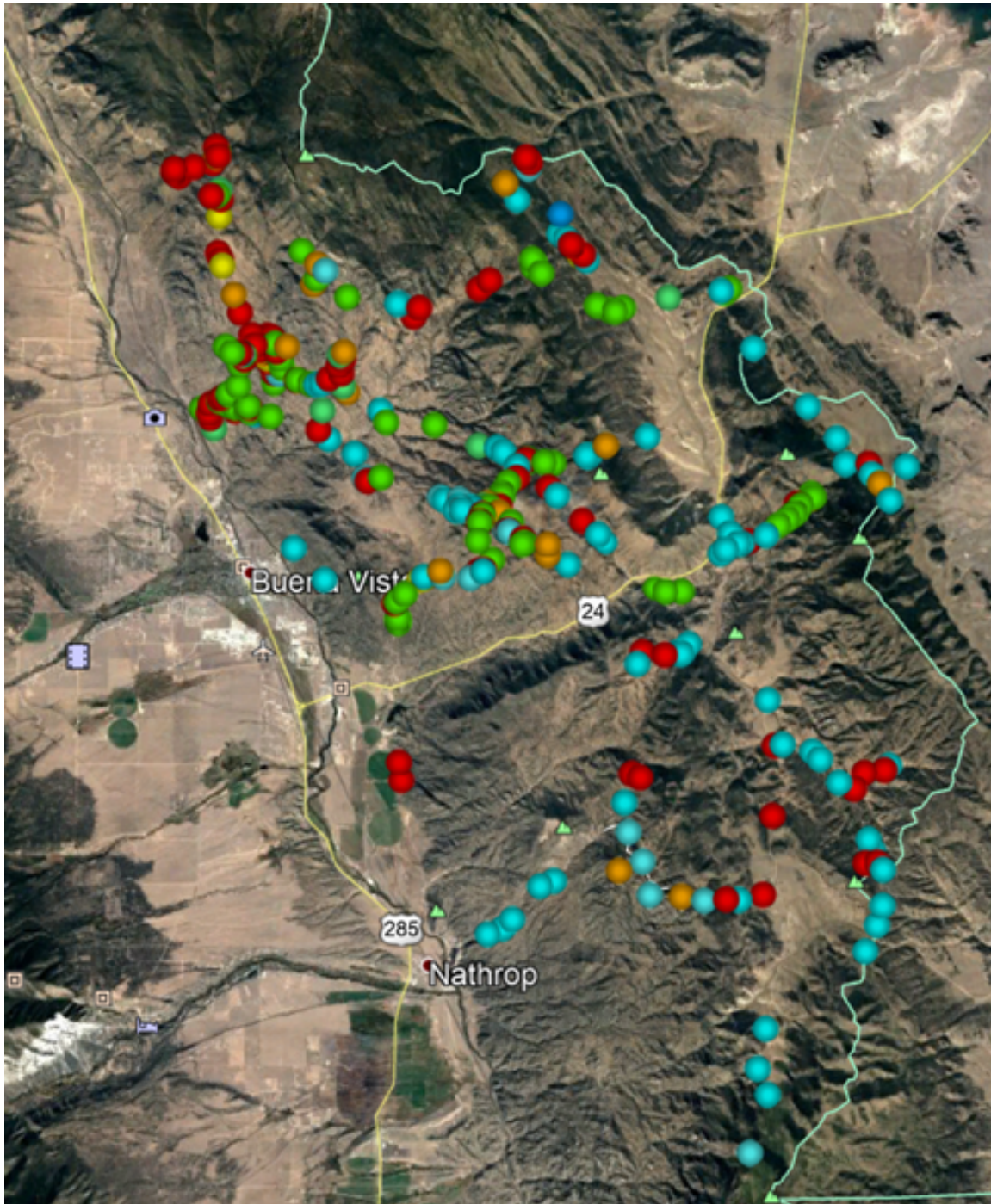


EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

Figure 5. Graphs showing the rapid growth in users and campsite footprint impact area in Fourmile Recreation Area. Left: Number of Memorial Day weekend camping units, documenting 17% per annum growth since 2009. Right: Growth in areas compacted and de-vegetated due to dispersed campsite use, showing roughly 100% increase since 2004. Data courtesy of *Friends of Fourmile*, a chapter of GARNA.

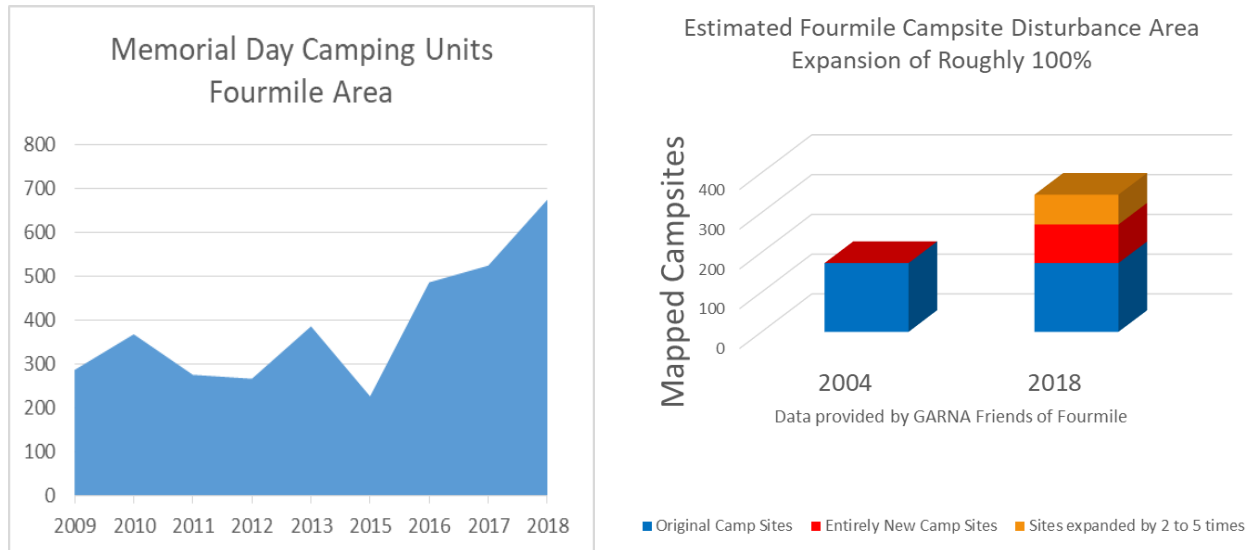


Figure 6A. Photos showing impacts from growing recreational including sediment generation (left and center), live tree and fire damage (upper right) and trash (lower right).

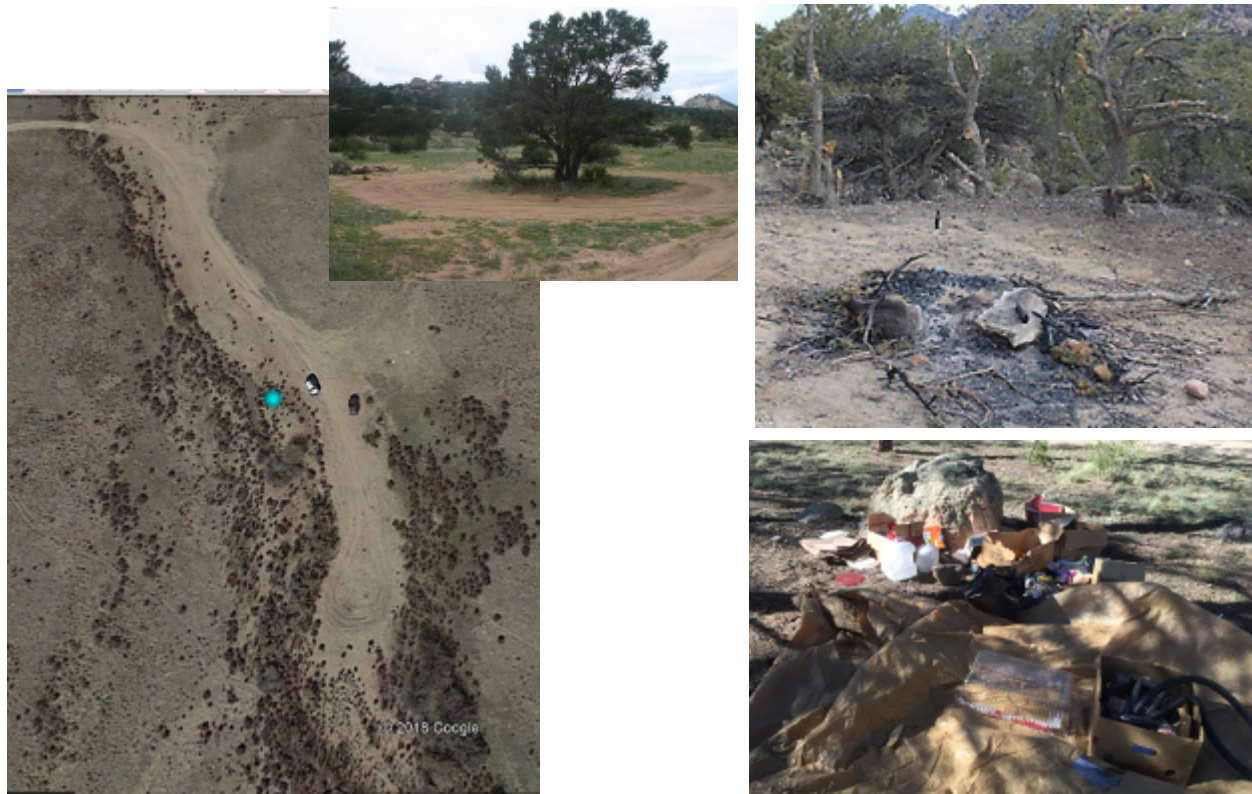


EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

Figure 6B. Fourmile site where unmanaged motorized play delivered sediment to an Arkansas River tributary. In this case, buck and rail barriers placed in 2004 have enabled revegetation. Impacts such as these are increasing as recreation use grows, and are neither consistently identified nor addressed. The proposed **Rapid Response Projects** would include systematic identification of similar issues and volunteer-supported solution implementation.



EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance



Forest Service
Salida Ranger District

5575 Cleora Road
Salida, CO 81201
719-539-3591
FAX: 719-539-3593

File Code: 2310
Date: July 16, 2018

Nick Dellaca
State Trails Program Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
State Trails Program

Dear Mr. Dellaca:

Managing rapid growth in outdoor recreation is a critical challenge for USFS and BLM staff across the west. The Envision Recreation in Balance program provides a unique opportunity to develop new collaborative tools and approaches to manage competing stakeholder needs and ensure protection of wildlife habitat, water quality and watershed health. Envision Chaffee County has connected over 1,500 citizens and 72 nonprofit organizations, businesses and agencies. The level of engagement with agency staff is unprecedented, and very positive. We can and should leverage this engagement with funding to support development of transferable, sustainable systems to collaboratively manage recreation in balance with natural resource health. Outdoor recreation growth is essential to economic development in the upper Arkansas River basin and in Chaffee County – making it a perfect test ground for new approaches. For example, the Arkansas River is the most rafted river in the world and contains 62% of the state's Gold Medal Waters. Based on Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) numbers, river related recreation alone generated \$72M in economic impact in 2017 alone – a 16% increase from the previous year. The County also contains one-fifth of the state's fourteeners with an estimated 75,000 to 110,000 visitors per year.

However, outdoor recreation can create negative impacts to wildlife populations, water quality (due to related erosion, sediment generation and human waste), and to overall watershed health. People living on public lands is growing trend unfortunately and subsequently generating long-term negative impacts in many cases.

As agencies we experience real barriers to managing the challenges of creating balanced and sustainable recreation. This includes: lack of a management framework – while “management frameworks” – policies, process, best practices and funding are in place to help communities manage fire hazard (for example), similar frameworks are not in place to manage recreational impacts. Further there is typically lack of community agreement on what constitutes acceptable impact of effective solutions. Finally, there appears to be a lack of recognition in the outdoor recreation industry of the environmental impacts, focusing solely on the positive economic impacts outdoor recreation brings.

The projects and momentum generated with Envision Chaffee Projects provide a unique occasion to create lasting and exportable solutions to these challenges through facilitated community engagement and an exciting level of skilled in-kind time from experts in many fields – providing more than a 1 to 1 match to requested grant funds. The amazing level of citizen



Caring for the Land and Serving People

Printed on Recycled Paper



EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

Mr. Fred Wilson

2

engagement and leadership in Chaffee County make this an exceptional opportunity that will be strongly supported by agency staff.

The USFS and BLM plan to extensively support the program. We will provide cash donation of \$4,000 per organization. We will also provide meeting venues and the skilled time of senior staff members including:

- Ben Lara – USFS, PSICC Recreation Program Manager,
- Kalem Lenard – BLM, Assistant Field Manager, Royal Gorge Field Office and
- Linda Skinner—BLM, Recreation Planner, Royal Gorge Field Office

This group will donate an estimated 750 staff hours of the 2.5 year program, an in-kind service of roughly \$48,750. The Agencies will also work to ensure that program results are connected and have impact beyond Chaffee County. We have already shared the program with agency leadership based regionally and nationally, and continue to ensure that lessons learned, new tools and community approaches are captured and shared with offices across our agencies. For example, program results hope to be immediately incorporated into a USFS, PSICC’s Forest Management Plan Revision and may also impact the in-progress BLM Resource Management Plan update. We will also be looking for ways to connect trails and new systems to adjacent counties and forests.

Agency staff have been involved with the Envision Process from the inception, and clearly see the value of programs like Envision Recreation in Balance. We will strongly support this program’s success and spread program systems and approaches across agencies. Funding the program is a critical support, and we strongly endorse funding this grant application!

Sincerely,



JAMES P. PITTS
District Ranger

cc: blara@fs.fed.us

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 East Main Street
Cañon City, Colorado 81212

In Reply Refer To:
8300 (COF020, LS)

Nick Dellaca
State Trails Program Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Mr Dellaca:

The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office is pleased to submit this letter of support for Envision Chaffee County's grant application. Managing rapid growth in outdoor recreation is a critical challenge for USFS and BLM staff across the west. The Envision Recreation in Balance program provides a unique opportunity to develop new collaborative tools and approaches to manage competing stakeholder needs and ensure protection of wildlife habitat, water quality and watershed health. Envision Chaffee County has connected over 1,500 citizens and 72 nonprofit organizations, businesses and agencies. The level of engagement with agency staff is unprecedented, and very positive. We can and should leverage this engagement with funding to support development of transferable, sustainable systems to collaboratively manage recreation in balance with natural resource health.

Outdoor recreation growth is essential to economic development in the upper Arkansas River basin and in Chaffee County – making it a perfect test ground for new approaches. For example, the Arkansas River is the most rafted river in the world and contains 62% of the state's Gold Medal Waters. Based on Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) numbers, river related recreation alone generated \$72M in economic impact in 2017 alone – a 16% increase from the previous year. The County also contains one-fifth of the state's fourteeners with an estimated 75,000 to 110,000 visitors per year.

However, outdoor recreation can create negative impacts to wildlife populations, water quality (due to related erosion, sediment generation and human waste), and to overall watershed health. People living on public lands has been increasing and subsequently generating long-term negative impacts in many cases.

As partner agencies, the USFS and BLM experience real barriers to managing the challenges of creating balanced and sustainable recreation. This includes a lack of a management framework – while “management frameworks” – policies, process, best practices and funding are in place to help communities manage fire hazard (for example), similar frameworks are not in place to

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

manage recreational impacts. Further, there is typically lack of community agreement on what constitutes acceptable impact of effective solutions. Finally, there appears to be a lack of recognition in the outdoor recreation industry of the environmental impacts, focusing solely on the positive economic impacts outdoor recreation brings.

The projects and momentum generated with Envision Chaffee Projects provide a unique occasion to create lasting and exportable solutions to these challenges through facilitated community engagement and an exciting level of skilled in-kind time from experts in many fields providing more than a 1 to 1 match to requested grant funds. The amazing level of citizen engagement and leadership in Chaffee County make this an exceptional opportunity and will be strongly supported by agency staff.

The BLM and USFS plan to extensively support the program. We will provide cash donation of \$4,000 per organization. We will also provide meeting venues and the skilled time of senior staff members including:

- Ben Lara USFS, PSICC Recreation Program Manager,
- Kalem Lenard BLM, Assistant Field Manager, Royal Gorge Field Office and
- Linda Skinner BLM, Recreation Planner, Royal Gorge Field Office

This group will donate an estimated 750 staff hours of the 2.5 year program, an in-kind service of roughly \$48,750. The agencies will also work to ensure that program results are connected and have impact beyond Chaffee County. We have already shared the program with agency leadership based regionally and nationally, and continue to ensure that lessons learned, new tools and community approaches are captured and shared with offices across our agencies. For example, program results hope to be immediately incorporated into a USFS, PSICC's Forest Management Plan Revision and may also impact the in-progress BLM Resource Management Plan update. We will also be looking for ways to connect trails and new systems to adjacent counties and forests.

Agency staff have been involved with the Envision Process from the inception, and clearly see the value of programs like Envision Recreation in Balance. We will strongly support this program's success and spread program systems and approaches across agencies. Funding for the program is a critical support, and we strongly endorse funding this grant application.

Sincerely,


Acting for 
Keith E. Berger
Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

July 19, 2018

Nick Dellaca
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
State Trails Program
13787 U.S. Hwy 85N
Littleton, CO 80125

Letter of Support for Envision “Recreation in Balance”

Dear Mr. Dellaca

Nonprofit conservation organizations and local user groups strongly support balancing conservation and trails/access development with funding from the Colorado the Beautiful grant for the Envision Chaffee County Recreation in Balance (RiB) Program. We understand that sustainable outdoor recreation growth is essential for local economic health; with 33% of local economic product directly related to tourism. We also see the growing impacts of outdoor recreation, hear increasing community concern about those impacts, and understand that immediate and active management of impacts to wildlife, water quality and watershed health are essential to support sustainable outdoor recreation.

In one Envision Chaffee County survey of 1,200 Chaffee County citizens, respondents expressed preference for management of recreation impacts three time more frequently than a desire for increased access or trails. In a 2018 follow-up survey of 82 local raft guides, 83% of respondents indicated concerns about the presence of trash both in dispersed campsites and along the river. Another 40% expressed concern about dispersed campsites, including expanding areas of overuse, increasing numbers of fire rings, and impacts due to soil compaction and erosion. Impacts to wildlife were of concern to 33% of respondents. Last, 22% of respondents cited concerns related to improper disposal of human waste. A third Envision survey of local ranch owners identified increasing conflicts between traditional public land users and recreational users, with agricultural operators concerned that impacts could affect the viability of local ranchlands.

While the community is expressing concern, limited baseline data is available to document impacts of recreation and encourage proactive management. The Friends of Fourmile, a chapter of GARNA, which has monitored campsite development in the jointly managed, 100,000 acre, multi-use Fourmile Area, provided one useful data set for Envision. Their monitoring documented a 120% increase in the footprint of dispersed campsites over the past 12 years. While some campsites are appropriate, photographic evidence documents many cases of illegal road development, damage to wetland and riparian areas and de-vegetation of steep slopes and drainages that greatly increases potential for erosion and sediment delivery into aquatic habitats.

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

The Envision RiB program provides a unique opportunity to build on the strong momentum generated by the Envision Chaffee County process. It will tap extensive community interest, skills, relationships and expertise of agency staff, non-profit organizations, businesses and recreational users to develop a **Recreational Asset Atlas** and a sustainable **Recreation Impact Monitoring System**, providing data on all the major recreational assets in Chaffee County. Data will integrate into a **Balanced Recreation Plan** that considers the immediate and future needs of diverse users, healthy wildlife and watersheds. These products, developed collaboratively by nonprofit organizations, businesses and citizens, will provide critical input to guide regional agency and county management plans, catalyzing alignment of community organizations and volunteers to support sustainable recreation.

The program offers extensive community in-kind support. Nonprofit organizations are already committed to serving with citizens and agency representatives on a “Recreation in Balance” Taskforce designed to enable and connect the Envision Recreation in Balance Program. These leaders will donate an estimated 1,800 hours of in-kind professional services over the project duration, for an estimated in-kind contribution of \$91,800. At least 30 additional local user groups and non-profit organizations will also provide volunteer hours to develop baseline data for the Recreation Impact Monitoring System, with volunteer resources estimated at 1,680 hours or \$40,555.

Chaffee County is a unique community with citizens and organizations that care deeply about watershed health, economy and great user experiences. Together, we will create a model for monitoring impacts and proactively planning for the future of recreation that we want to see here and throughout Colorado and the West.

Obtaining funding to support design, development and pilot testing is a critical first step in making this vision of sustainable outdoor recreation management a reality, and we appreciate your consideration of this project.

The following organizations and individuals support the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners application to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, State Trails Program for the *Envision “Recreation in Balance”* (RiB) Planning Grant. The organizations have agreed to provide varying levels of in-kind technical support and volunteer hours as critical “Recreation in Balance” Stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Cindy Williams, Envision Chaffee County Co-lead



EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance



Dominique Naccarato,
Executive Director

D. Naccarato



Andrew Mackie,
Executive Director

Andrew Mackie



Andrew Koransky, President

Andrew Koransky



Donna Rhoads, President

Donna Rhoads



Nicole Blaser, Regional Director

Nicole Blaser



Alan Robinson,
Chapter Leader

Alan Robinson



Julie Mach,
Conservation Director

Julie Mach



Chad Hixon, President
Central Colorado Mountain Riders

Chad Hixon

Mal Sillars, Chapter Leader
Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers

Mal Sillars



Keith Krebs, Board Member
Collegiate Peaks Chapter-TU

Keith Krebs

Linda Gibas, Friends of Browns Canyon
Board Member/Equestrian

Linda Gibas

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

July 15, 2018

Nick Dellaca
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
State Trails Program
13787 U.S. Hwy 85N
Littleton, CO 80125

Letter of Support for Envision Chaffee County “Recreation in Balance” Proposal

Dear Mr. Dellaca,

The following Chaffee County municipalities and ancillary Boards support the Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners’ application to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, State Trails Program Colorado the Beautiful Grant for the **Envision Chaffee County “Recreation in Balance”** (RiB) Planning Proposal.

As municipal governments we aim to represent our constituents by keeping up with needs and services of our citizens and planning for the future ahead us. During this period of rapid growth in tourism, recreation and community development our respective municipalities and boards are grateful for this grant opportunity and the Envision “Recreation in Balance” Taskforce for coordinating this project. A vision for “Recreation in Balance” will be beneficial to us all, as it will centralize and summarize important data that has been collected through the help of many, many recreational Stakeholders. Public input is critical to all municipal decisions and we look forward to the outcomes which will then be incorporated into our regional planning efforts.

We pledge to represent our respective municipalities and Boards as collaborative Recreation in Balance stakeholders; to help collect data, help build a sustainable Recreation Impact Monitoring System, help make achievable recommendations for the future, and to incorporate Recreation in Balance products into future outdoor recreation planning.

Sincerely,



P.T. Wood, Mayor

Diana Porter, Salida Recreation Advisory Board



Duff Lacy, Mayor

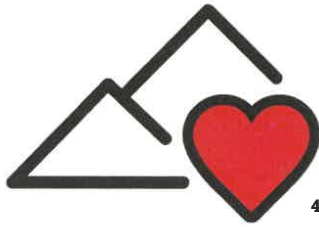
Lois Walton, Buena Vista Trails Advisory Board

Town of Poncha Springs
"The Crossroads of the Rockies"



Ben Scanga, Mayor

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance



SALIDA COLORADO CHAMBER of COMMERCE

406 W. Hwy 50, Salida CO • 719-539-2068 • www.salidachamber.org • lori@salidachamber.org

July 16, 2018

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
State Trails Program
13787 U.S. Hwy 85N
Littleton, CO 80125

Letter of Support for Envision "Recreation in Balance"

Dear Mr. Dellaca:

On behalf of the Salida Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to submit this letter as indication of support for the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners application to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, State Trails Program for the *Envision "Recreation in Balance"* (RIB) Planning Grant. The Salida Chamber of Commerce has a mission to promote vitality within the local business community through economic development, education, and collaboration with our business partners. Currently, the Chamber serves 530 member businesses /associations.

For any outdoor enthusiast, Chaffee County is a dream. With six of every seven acres designated as public land, we are the perfect base camp for everyone from bird watchers to high mountain peak hikers, and alpine anglers. Our business community relies on tourism and since being "discovered" this growth means effective management of our natural resources is essential for sustainable economic development and preservation of our public lands.

As part of the equation in finding this "balance", development of an asset map from the existing Chaffee County Visitor Bureau map is planned, which will be extremely helpful for recreationalists. Additionally, the sustainable recreation impact monitoring system and balanced outdoor recreation plan will provide essential tools for future planning.

"Recreation in Balance" is respect for those who have come before us and for those who will come after. A model of balance with our outdoor recreational industries with consideration of our natural habitats and wildlife is imperative. This is our home and through effective collaboration Chaffee County will continue to welcome our outdoor enthusiast with knowing we have a plan for balanced recreation county-wide.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 719-539-2068.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Roberts".

Lori Roberts, Executive Director

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance



Chaffee County Public Health

448 East 1st Street · Suite 137 · Salida, CO · Phone 719-539-4510 · Fax 719-539-7197

July 17, 2018

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division
Trails Program
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Support for "Recreation in Balance" Project

To the Grant Application Review Committee:

On behalf of Chaffee County Public Health (CCPH) and LiveWell Chaffee County, I would like to express my full support for the "Recreation in Balance" project. This community-wide initiative will determine the current outdoor recreation landscape of Chaffee County while predicting future growth and needs of the flourishing local recreation industry. Because of the impact outdoor recreation has on the natural environment, this project will be the first of its kind in our rural community to take into consideration wildlife, habitat, and watershed health into a recreational map. CCPH also sees this as an opportunity to develop solutions to immediate concerns with the use of outdoor recreation. Rapidly increasing use of dispersed campsites and associated human waste and sediment generation potentially impacting human and watershed health are just a couple of examples.

In partnership with community partners, CCPH strives to promote the physical, mental, social, and environmental health of all residents and visitors of Chaffee County. One of CCPH's long-standing programs is LiveWell Chaffee County- its mission is to reduce obesity and promote healthy nutrition across the state. Active living is an important strategy to reduce obesity. This project will help promote active living options while building a balanced outdoor recreation plan that will be sensitive to environmental health needs. CCPH looks forward to participating in this collaborative process due to its passion for active living through LiveWell Chaffee County and its focus on environmental health programming.

Chaffee County is fortunate to have abundant trails and waterways that make outdoor recreation appealing and accessible. However, as Chaffee County grows and continues to be a popular destination for outdoor recreation, it is imperative to map out and plan for the preservation of natural resources and environments that are impacted by hiking, biking, boating, and camping. Thank you for taking the "Recreation in Balance" proposal into consideration as Chaffee County explores the development of a sustainable, balanced recreation system that will last generations to come.

Sincerely,

Andrea Carlstrom, MBA
Director, Chaffee County Public Health

Promoting an environment where individuals and families in our community are healthy, safe and self sufficient.

EXHIBIT A – Envision Recreation in Balance

Additional Project Highlights - Volunteers

Envision Recreation in Balance provides extensive in-kind value from volunteers. The following organizations have agreed to provide volunteer services. We expect that this list will increase as the program progresses and additional stakeholder groups are engaged.

- GARNA, including Friends of Fourmile and Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers
- USFS Salida Ranger District
- Central Colorado Conservancy, including the Conservation Stewards Network
- BLM Royal Gorge Field Office
- Salida-area Parks Open-space and Trails
- Southwest Conservation Corps
- Salida Mountain Trails
- Colorado Mountain Club, including management of the local USFS volunteer network
- Central Colorado Mountain Riders