



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

2018 Colorado the Beautiful Large Construction Grant Application

GRANT APPLICATION CHECK LIST

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, include link to EA).

BLM - [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=60924)

[office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=60924](https://eplanning/blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=60924)

Forest Service - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51858&exp=detail>

ADDITIONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- ☐ Youth Corps or youth organization will be used on the project (name of organization)
- ☒ Volunteers will be utilized on the project (Salida Mountain Trails volunteer organization)



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)

State Trails Committee
Colorado State Parks, State Trails Program
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

JUL 10 2018

Dear Grant Review Committee Member:

The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office is pleased to submit this letter of support of Salida Mountain Trail organization's grant application for additional trails within the existing Arkansas Hills Trails System and the Methodist Mountain Trail System. This project has inspired considerable community support and will be a cooperative effort between Salida Mountain Trails (SMT), US Forest Service, BLM, and the City of Salida.

Our office has worked extensively on trail projects on public lands surrounding the city of Salida and has seen first-hand how these types of projects impact the local community. We have documented dramatic increases in recreation use on the adjoining trail systems which has resulted in increased local youth participation, economic diversification for the local economy and a community focused on trails and the enjoyment that they provide. We can also attest to the capability of the partners involved in accomplishing these projects.

The BLM lands targeted for the proposed trail construction are under BLM management. NEPA documents: DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2017-0085DN and DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2017-0021DN approve the construction and designation of the trails (signed on 9/18/17 and 6/27/18 respectively). Salida Mountain Trails has been a strong reliable partner for the past 10 years. Their organization works with BLM through a Cooperative Management Agreement and is committed to assist in the maintenance of all trails in both the Arkansas Hills and Methodist Mountain Trails systems. We hope you will look favorably upon this application.

Sincerely,

Keith E. Berger
Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office

EXHIBIT A

COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION

Applicant or Organization Name: Salida Mountain Trails

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 612 Salida, CO 81281

Applicant Lead Contact Name: Michael Smith

Title: SMT Board Secretary

Telephone: 720-470-9786

Email: mikecolorado@msn.com

Is this the primary contact for this grant: ☒ YES ☐ NO

OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DUNS # (IF REQUIRED):

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

Name: Michael Smith

Mailing Address: 818 Crestone Ave. Salida, CO 81201

Telephone: 720-470-9786

Email: mikecolorado@msn.com

PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Name: N/A

Mailing Address:

Partner Contact Name:

Title:

Telephone:

Email:

Is this the primary contact for this grant: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Project Title: Methodist Mountain Trail Construction / Reconstruction Project

Grant Request: \$269,951

Required Match: \$80,895

Total Project Cost: \$351,733

The Methodist Mountain Trail Construction / Reconstruction Project ' will provide:

- Construction of 3 new trail segments totaling 6 miles of new multi-use non-motorized trail.
- Reconstruction of 2 existing trail segments totaling 5 miles of reconstructed non-motorized and motorized trail.
- New trailhead parking lot (20 parking spaces) for greatly improved access.
- Trail Signage for all new/existing trail segments, seasonal closure gates, and new trailhead kiosk/signage.

Goals of the project:

- Completion of the Methodist Mountain Trail System - per the current master plan developed with the BLM.
- 2 connections to the iconic Rainbow Trail (regional trail system). No direct connections to that trail system currently exist from the Methodist Mountain Trail System.
- Improved access from downtown Salida to the Methodist Mountain system: 1) A direct connection to new City of Salida trails (no direct connection currently exists). 2) A new parking lot for the Methodist Mountain system for a heavily used access point.

Salida Mountain Trails (SMT) is an all-volunteer not for profit 501c3 organization whose mission is to build and maintain non-motorized multi-use trails near the city of Salida. Over the past 13 years, SMT has established both the Methodist Mountain Trail System and the Arkansas Hills Trails System and has built and/or maintained over 35 miles of trail for these 2 systems. SMT will direct, manage, and actively participate in all professionally contracted trail construction work and will ensure successful completion of this project. All these trail segments will be built to FS/BLM/IMBA standards by professional trail building companies – each of which we have established strong working relationships. The new and reconstructed trail segments including name, location, linear feet, objective, and projected cost/foot are detailed as individual line items on the Budget Form and depicted on the project site map.

All of the work on this project is in Chaffee County on BLM (Royal Gorge Field Office/ and USFS (Salida Ranger District) and have received all necessary final BLM and USFS EA approval. The BLM trail segments have additionally received final trail corridor ground check approval and are shovel ready.

EXHIBIT A

LAND OWNERSHIP			
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners:			
2. The trail corridor is controlled by: <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> License <input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-Way <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: BLM and USFS			
USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking	<input type="checkbox"/> Four-Wheeling	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Running	<input type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Line Skating	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X-Country Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
TRAIL SURFACE			
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher Fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
PROJECT LOCATION (For multiple project sites attach a separate list.)			
Nearest Town or City: Salida, CO			
County: Chaffee			
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates: 38.5347° N, 105.9989° W			
State Senate District #: SD 5			
State Representative District #: HD60			
Acreage of new trailhead	85 ft. x 100 ft.	Miles of trail grooming	
Miles of new trail construction	6	Miles of trail being planned	
Miles of trail maintenance		Miles of trail reroute	
Miles of trail reconstruction	5	Miles of inter-connecting trail	
Miles of trail to be signed	11	Other	
Miles of trail restoration		Other	

Applicant Authorized Signature: Michael H. Smith Michael Smith SMT Board Secretary Date: 7-20-2018
 (From Applicant Organization)

Land Agency Authorized Signature: Keith E. Berger - Field Manager – BLM Date: 7-20-2018
 (For actual signature, see attached letter of resolution from Governing Body and Federal Environmental Form)

EXHIBIT A

TIMELINE

Provide a timeline estimate using the following form. Remember that the project is to be completed within two and a half years of the award date. Any proposed changes, including extensions or modifications in the project timeline, must be requested in writing and approved in advance by the State Trails Program.

PRELIMINARY TIMELINE ESTIMATE

TASK	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
Project Initiation										
<i>BLM and FS final approval – complete now</i>										
<i>High level design – complete-now</i>										
Construction/Maintenance Phase										
<i>Trailhead parking lot construction</i>	June 2019									
<i>Lower Sole Train Construction</i>	June 2019									
<i>Upper Sole Train Trail – construction</i>	Sept 2019									
<i>Sand Gulch Trail construction</i>		Nov 2019								
<i>Rainbow Trail and Gutz Trail reconstruction</i>				Jun 2020						
<i>Trail Signage, trailhead signage, seasonal closure signage – all complete</i>				Jun 2020						
Administrative Close-Out					Aug 2020					
Grand Opening				Jun 2020						

EXHIBIT A

1. **COMMUNITY NEED: (15 points)**

Introduce the community this project will serve. Provide population and income data. Discuss the recreational interests of your community and how this project ties in to those? Provide estimates of trail usage in your community. Discuss the ways in which the community currently is or is not compensating for the lack of the proposed project components. Why does the community need this trail segment and why is it important to them? Discuss the significance of this trail segment to its users.

Community - Salida is a small town of 5,400 people with estimated per capita income of around \$30,000 (city-data.com). Our local residents are passionate about our 2 trail systems and their proximity to downtown. We hold regional running races, mountain bike races, and charity walks/events on our trails numerous times a year. Our high school mountain biking team and cross country running teams use our trails daily for training – and they are consistently highly ranked statewide!

Outdoor recreation including hiking and mountain biking are growing as a significant economic driver for our area. Many of our local businesses, city government, and county government support SMT financially to the extent possible and know of the growing importance of great outdoor recreation within walking/biking distance from town for locals and visitors alike. We have 3 successful bike shops and several outdoor recreation based businesses (see letters of support from Absolute Bikes and Salida Mountain Sports). Both of these businesses are supporters of SMT, but their support is passionate in many ways. SMT has over 200 dues paying members and 33 local businesses that support us on some level (see list of 2018 business supporters at the end of this document).

Trail Usage - Both our trail systems (Arkansas Hills Trail System and Methodist Mountain Trail System) are heavily used. In 2010 BLM installed trail use monitoring devices - one each on the most used trail for each of the 2 systems. For the year 2017 – just over 36,000 trail uses were recorded. This is over 30% increase from the previous year which recorded 27,000 uses (see BLM user data chart in photos section). We can also supply BLM's detailed data for the past 8 years if needed. This user data is actually a good bit lower than actual, as the counting devices are often bypassed depending on the users' route and access points. The take away is that use of the 2 systems is increasing significantly over time.

Need - Our Methodist Mountain Trail System (the subject of this grant) is currently primarily comprised of a linear main trail with limited looping possibilities, and less than ideal direct connectivity to downtown, requiring riding, hiking, or driving on paved/dirt roads for access. The City of Salida has obtained 90 acres on the south side of town (near our Methodist Mountain Trail system), and this property is being developed with open space and in-town trails. Better connectivity to this new city property is a key goal of this project. There is also currently no connection from the Methodist Mountain Trail System up to the iconic Rainbow Trail (a regional 100 mile trail system) which is relatively close. This project will provide 2 trail segment connections.

Significance of these new trail segments to community - This project addresses this need by significantly improving access: 1) connecting The Methodist Mountain Trail System to new city of Salida trails. 2) Connecting via 2 trail segments up to and down from the Rainbow (regional) Trail system. 3) Providing improved access via additional trailhead parking lot. It also provides the needed looping and variation to address the significant increased use, which will disperse users and provide continued quality trail experiences for all (see our Project Site map for the best depiction of all of this).

EXHIBIT A

Community currently compensating - Our community and visitors often compensate for the lack of connectivity and easy access by driving farther to access these trails from downtown instead of hiking or riding. We also feel this trail system is underutilized due to limited looping and variety. Most importantly, for the iconic Rainbow Trail, despite being relatively close to the Methodist Mountain Trail System (approximately 2 miles above), its closest trail segment is largely underutilized and needs reconstruction. This project addresses these connectivity and access issues in an effective and exciting way!

2. **SCOPE (15 points)** Describe the proposed project including the length/width of trail construction, any major components necessary to complete the trail such as under/overpasses, bridges, trail heads, etc. – describe what exactly will be built. Discuss the ownership status of the trail corridor and any easements or land acquisitions necessary to complete the proposed trail. Address each trail component separately, specifically mentioning its characteristics. If the project is intended to enhance or replace an existing trail and/or trail amenities, describe their existing state, why they are no longer acceptable, and how they arrived at the condition they're in. Discuss the significance of the trail segment to users. List each user group and estimate their percentage of overall trail use, e.g., motorized users – 20% mountain bikers – 70%, hikers – 10%) How did you arrive at those estimates? Include any site photos.

Project, ownership, Location - All of this project is located in Chaffee County on BLM (Royal Gorge Field Office) and USFS (Salida Ranger District) land and has received all necessary final BLM and USFS EA approval. All trails constructed / reconstructed for this project will comply with BLM, FS, and IMBA standards for grades/widths/sustainability/drainage. The new parking lot has been designed by BLM engineers.

Lower Sole Train Trail (1.7 mile new non-motorized trail on BLM) - The goal of this trail will provide intermediate mountain bike riders a flow trail that will be challenging/fun. This trail will end on CR108 just across from 90 acres of newly acquired city property within city limits which is planned to have extensive in-town urban trails along with a trailhead parking lot. SMT is working with Salida Parks Open-space and Trails (SPOT) who are implementing those trails to best connect this in-town area to our Methodist Mountain Trail System. (See our letter of support from SPOT).

Upper Sole Train Trail (2.3 mile new non-motorized trail on BLM) - The goal of this trail is to provide the intermediate/advanced bicycle rider a downhill flow trail that will offer several alternative lines to allow the user to choose more/less challenging lines. This new trail at its high point, touches the FS border. We have worked with both BLM and FS to receive final approval of an existing social trail (Gutz Trail) that currently descends down 2 miles from the well-known Rainbow Trail and intersects at this point.

Gutz Trail - (2 mile reconstructed non-motorized trail FS/BLM) – Both the FS and BLM have issued their final decision documents approving this formally social trail to now be a system trail that will connect the Rainbow Trail to our Methodist Mountain Trail system via the new Upper Sole Train Trail. Reconstruction will concentrate on making this trail sustainable, providing reroutes where needed, and improving drainage and sustainability. Parts of this trail are heavily eroded and require these long term solutions.

Sand Gulch Trail - (2 mile new non-motorized trail FS/BLM) - This trail will provide great new access from the Rainbow Trail to the western end of our existing Double Rainbow Trail (Methodist Mountain Trail System). This trail will provide an important climbable trail up to the Rainbow Trail and exciting biking/hiking loops and connectivity to/from the Rainbow Trail.

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Rainbow Trail - CR108 to Sands Gulch - (3 mile reconstructed motorized / non-motorized trail FS). The entire Rainbow Trail is also open to motorized users, but this section is currently highly underused by non-motorized users due to its lack of connectivity to viable hiking/biking routes, steep eroded grades, and narrow tread on side slopes. Portions of this section will be reconstructed for sustainability, and 4 sections will be reconstructed to provide for alternate routes to vastly improve the ride-ability and overall experience for mountain biking, hiking, and running - without affecting the existing motorized user experience.

SMT has a good working relationship with our local motorized group (Central Colorado Mountain Riders –CCMR). SMT has held joint work days with CCMR during the past 2 years to do trail work days on other sections of the Rainbow Trail. Work on this section of the Rainbow Trail will be closely coordinated with CCMR and the FS throughout the project. This grant marks the first opportunity we have had to obtain funding to work on a motorized trail together, as our previous grant requests have been for non-motorized trails only.

New Trailhead Parking Lot - (20 parking spaces). The new Spartan trailhead parking lot will address increased use and improved accessibility of the Methodist Mountain Trail System. The parking lot has been designed by BLM engineers and is located where Spartan East and West Trails cross BLM road. These trails have quickly become very popular and a trailhead parking lot is sorely needed to get folks directly onto the system. (See attached photo of vehicles parked along CR110 where these trails begin and near the location of the new parking lot.)

Significance of the project trail segments to users by user group – We do not have hard data on breakdown of user groups for our Methodist Mountain Trail System, but empirical data (we believe) shows that mountain biking use is around 70% with most all else hiking and running. We have very few Equestrian users, as there are so many larger more remote areas available for their use along with better accommodating trailhead facilities.

- 3. TIMELINE (15 points)** List the permits, licenses, and approvals required to complete this project. For each one, discuss where you are in the process of securing it and when you anticipate securing it. For easements or land acquisitions, provide details on where you are in negotiations with the landowner. Discuss any wildlife concerns that may impact the implementation of this project. How will they be addressed? Have CPW wildlife specialists provided input or consultation on this project? Reviewers will evaluate the responses using CPW's Wildlife Assessment and the applicant's Environmental Forms.

Approvals - All of the work on this project is in Chaffee County on BLM (Royal Gorge Field Office/ and USFS (Salida Ranger District) and has received all necessary final BLM and USFS EA approval.

BLM - Approval along with final ground check of both Upper and Lower Sole Train trail corridors have been obtained - DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2015-0017-EA – see:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=60924>

FS - Final Decision memo authorizing Gutz Trail and approving Sands Gulch trail has been signed/finalized. See:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51858&exp=detail>

Wildlife concerns - SMT has met with our area and district CPW wildlife managers several times over the past 4 years, and have also held a joint meeting with them along with BLM and FS recreation and wildlife specialists. We shared our plans with CPW before the BLM draft EA

EXHIBIT A

was published, which resulted in several published alternatives. CPW has been involved throughout the process and has had input on both the Draft EA, the published EA, and the final BLM decision document. In addition, BLM wildlife biologists have inspected and ground checked each of the 2 approved BLM trails. FS wildlife biologists have inspected and ground checked the 2 approved FS trails.

Seasonal closures - The final BLM and FS decision documents require seasonal closures for Gutz, Upper Sole Train, and Sands Gulch Trails. SMT has a 4 year track record of effective seasonal closure compliance with the FS on the Beasway Trail (Arkansas Hills Trail System) as verified with trail monitoring devices and visual inspection. Please contact FS Recreation Planner, Ben Lara to verify the effectiveness of this closure and SMT's commitment to effective communication each season via local newspaper, web, social media, and email.

4. **ACCESS (10 points)** Describe the larger trail network this project is a part of. How does it contribute to local, regional and/or statewide trail opportunities? Will the proposed trail(s) increase access to existing recreational, open space, and/or environmental education opportunities for youth and families? Will the project increase park, trail, or open space access for marginalized communities and/or serve communities with large prevalence of health conditions (i.e. obesity)? Which studies or community level data were used to make this determination?

Local trail opportunities – Please reference our project site map and reference “2. Scope” above to see the trail description for Lower Sole Train Trail in which we describe the significant contribution that this project will make locally with the increased connectivity of our Methodist Mountain Trail system to downtown Salida.

Regional and State Trail opportunities - Please reference our project site map along with item “2. Scope” to see the trail descriptions for Upper Sole Train Trail, Gutz Trail, and Sand Gulch Trail. These trails will offer for the first time, significantly improved access to the iconic Rainbow Trail. The Rainbow trail is a 100 mile regional trail system whose origin dates back to the 1930's. The western end of the Rainbow Trail (18 miles to the west of this project) connects directly to the Colorado Trail as well as Continental Divide Trail. With the increasing popularity of long distance backpacking and bike packing, this new improved access to regional and state trail opportunities will definitely be utilized.

Increased Access and serve communities - We believe this project will definitely increase access to existing recreational, open space opportunities especially for youth. See our support letter (youth cycling programs) from the head coach of our high school mountain biking team and also director of the youth cycling program. Over 250 youths participate in his programs from across the socioeconomic spectrum. This is huge given our small town.

We also believe the project increases trail and open space access to serve our community to improve overall health. The attached support letter (Chaffee County Public Health) attests to the improvements this project will make to increased access and more use of the trails to promote active healthy living.

5. **PLANNING (10 points)** Describe any comprehensive planning efforts that this project has undertaken or has been a part of. If this project is part of an approved master plan, what priority is it given in that plan? **Public comment and involvement is mandatory for all projects.** Describe the public planning process that identified this trail as a priority. Summarize the

EXHIBIT A

feedback received from the public and describe the involvement of user groups and/or communities that are within the project's region. Have any potential user group conflicts been identified? If so, how will they be addressed/managed? Has this project been deemed a priority by any other agencies or given any significant designations? Has there been public opposition to the proposed project? If so, describe the opposition and what has been done to address it.

Comprehensive planning – The BLM trails included in this project are a part of a long term planning effort that began in 2013 and was refined into a master plan developed with the BLM and others and approved in 2017. All trail descriptions, intended user experiences, and rationale for each additional trail can be found in the approved BLM EA beginning on page 11: https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/60924/99967/121091/DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2015-0017_EA.pdf

The FS trails have also been coordinated via this effort. Both BLM and FS decisions approving these trails have been synchronized to be dependent upon mutual approval. (See approvals “3. Timelines / Approvals”).

Public comment – for BLM, there were 2 separate public comment periods, and the BLM Royal Gorge Office shared with SMT the written comments from the January 2015 - 60 day public scoping period which was part of the Draft Environment Assessment (EA) process. The BLM received over 300 written comments supporting our proposal for the new trails contained in the EA. This is an overwhelming show of support from our small community. SMT and BLM met with all possible of the few individuals that provided comments raising any concerns. These included some hiking enthusiasts and separately, our Area CPW wildlife manager. The BLM of course considered these comments into their final EA. Results of comments:

- 2 of our key proposed trails were omitted from the final BLM decision due to wildlife concerns.
- 1 new trail was approved with the requirement of a seasonal closure.
- 2 hiking only trails were added on the Arkansas Hills system to address that need.

During this time, we also had multiple joint meetings with BLM and FS to coordinate the necessary inter agency collaboration that also allowed for the approval of the trails connecting up to FS land. For the FS trail segments, their proposed action had one 30 day successful public comment period.

- 6. COLLABORATION AND MATCHING FUNDS (10 points)** Discuss partnerships established for this project and their contributions. Discuss the sources of matching funds. How much match is secured beyond the required 30%? How much of it is yet to be raised and what are your plans for raising those additional funds? Submit letters of commitment/support from landowners and/or funders as a separate attachment. Beyond these letters you may submit up to 5 letters of non-cash support.

Our cash for this grant:

\$12,000 from Chaffee County - Our Chaffee County commissioners consistently give us \$6,000/year for our trail construction/maintenance efforts based on our track record of effective use of those funds. If we are awarded this grant, they will double that amount to \$12,000. In short, this grant will garner us an additional \$6,000 in county support. We present to the commissioners twice per year to update them on our projects and they are very supportive of our efforts.

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\$10,000 from City of Salida – The City of Salida has a small pool of community funding of which we apply each year, and this is the most we have received as an individual non-profit organization. Our town is small and due to major efforts to improve city infrastructure, there is no other city money possible.

\$12,000 from SMT – We have secured this money and have it set aside for this grant and has been raised via the following events and efforts:

- Annual membership drive – we have over 200 dues paying individual members and 33 supporting local businesses (see list of supporting businesses at the end of this document). We have grown our membership program over the past 4 years and are proud of the success.
- Proceeds from the annual Run Thru Time Marathon.
- Proceeds from the annual Vapor Trail 125 Mountain Bike Race.
- 1% program from the Boathouse Restaurant and Cantina – 1% is added to patron's checks and donated to us.

Our in Kind contributions for this grant:

- Chaffee County will provide over \$21,000 in construction of the new Spartan Trailhead Parking lot.
- BLM will provide installation of seasonal closure gate, fencing, and signage installation. SMT volunteers will also assist.
- SMT volunteers. We have volunteer project leaders for each trail project who have already spent a great deal of time on each trail in the planning phase. Each of these project leaders will continue this work throughout the construction phase. A SMT board member will do all the work to administer this grant.

7. URGENCY AND NEED FOR FUNDS (5 points) Briefly describe the project's urgency. Why are Colorado the Beautiful funds necessary this grant cycle? What opportunities are lost if the grant isn't awarded?

Demand - There is clearly a significant increasing demand for non-motorized trails in our area. As previously mentioned, the BLM recorded an over 30% increase in use of our 2 trail systems in 1 year from 2016 to 2017 (see BLM user data chart in photos section). Our community is looking to our organization to plan, build, and maintain trails to meet the growing demand for quality diverse healthy enjoyment of our public lands. This project will greatly help to disperse users and continue to provide quality sustainable trails experiences for all.

Momentum - We currently have 200 dues paying members and have 33 local business members/sponsors. We also have a strong, actively engaged board who do field work as well as paperwork. All these folks want us to succeed now. We have applied for State Trails grants for the past 2 years without success, and now our best chance to succeed is approval of this grant. If we do not get this grant funding, we will only be able to build on average 1 mile of trail per year of the proposed 6 miles of new trails and 5 miles of reconstructed trails. We have worked very hard to get these trails planned and approved over the past 4 years and have built great momentum that we fear we will otherwise lose.

Partner funds will be lost if State Trails funds are not awarded - Per the answer to question 6, we would lose \$6,000 of funding from Chaffee County. We could lose \$10,000 from City of Salida. We would also lose \$21,000 from Chaffee County in in-kind parking lot construction costs.

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- 8. MAINTENANCE (10 points)** Describe how the project will be developed, maintained, and managed for long-term sustainability. Has an Operations and Maintenance Plan been developed for the project areas? Prior to considering new trail construction, have current trail reroute options been considered for current on-the-ground unsustainable trails and trail sections in the project area? Estimate the annual costs to maintain the project. How did you derive those numbers; how do you intend to fund operations and maintenance; and who is responsible?

Project development – All new trails constructed for this project will comply with BLM and IMBA standards for grades/sustainability/drainage, and routine maintenance will be scheduled periodically along with other trails in the area in ongoing coordination with SMT the BLM and FS. BLM and FS will be involved in finalizing and approving each trail project design and build.

Operations and maintenance plan - All BLM trails included in this project are incorporated into the BLM long-term travel management plan. Maintenance of all trails in both the Arkansas Hills and Methodist Mountain Trail Systems that are on BLM land are an ongoing cooperative effort between the BLM and SMT via a formal cooperative management agreement established in 2010. For the FS trails, SMT also has a cooperative management agreement with FS and will coordinate ongoing maintenance of these new trails, as we have done with other 2 trails in our systems that are on FS land.

New trail construction vs. current on-the-ground unsustainable trails – Reconstruction of Gutz Trail and the Rainbow Trail are great examples of our planning efforts to rehab on the ground unsustainable trails.

Maintenance costs – SMT has successfully maintained all trails in its 2 systems for over 10 years with all-volunteer labor. Of SMT's 2000 total volunteer hours from 2017, 700 of those hours were dedicated to trail maintenance. SMT reports yearly detail/summary of volunteer hours to both BLM and FS and can provide to you if needed.

SMT holds monthly trail work days that typically draw 20-40 volunteers and are mostly focused on existing trail maintenance vs. new trail construction. If critical needs arise due to flood/fire, SMT will schedule additional trail work days for those purposes.

In addition, SMT has launched a successful trail steward program in which many of our existing trails have been adopted by hands on folks that do maintenance and are our eyes on the ground for any additional needs.

- 9. CONTINGENCY/ABILITY (10 points)** What other funding sources have been dedicated or are anticipated to be dedicated to this project? Will applicant and/or partner funds be lost if funds are not awarded? If you are not awarded funding, what measures will be taken to complete the project? Describe your ability to complete the specific grant transaction(s) that will be necessary to accomplish this project. Please provide examples (if any) for grant projects of similar magnitude that demonstrate your ability to manage the requested level of grant funding; including the project title, grantor, award amount and year the project was funded. Was reporting and close-out requirements completed? How well was it managed from your perspective? Will you be applying for additional funding through CPW State Trails Program in the future?

EXHIBIT A

Partner Funds lost - Per the answer to questions 6 & 7, we would lose \$6,000 of direct funding from the county and could lose \$10,000 from City of Salida. Also, we would lose \$21,000 of in-kind funding from Chaffee County.

How will you complete the project if not awarded grant funding? - We have the ability to raise approximately \$18,000 a year on average. Our goal is to have our new trail built professionally to achieve the highest level of sustainability and durability. New trail construction can be \$5-\$7 per linear foot. If we continue to raise \$18,000 a year, it would take us a very long time to fund 6 miles of new trail and 5 miles of reconstructed trail. During this time, we would certainly lose much hard earned momentum, and believe our fundraising, business support, and volunteer efforts would dwindle.

Example of a grant project of similar magnitude that demonstrates your ability to manage the requested level of grant funding - SMT received a Large Construction State Trails Grant in 2014-2015 for the "Cottonwood Trail Construction/Reconstruction Project" which was funded for \$72,350 with a total project cost of \$132,250. The project grant monies were managed by SMT to a highly successful completion. All grant monies were spent and accounted for. The final inspection was done by CPW's Rob Steele who gave a great review of the finished work which included new trail, reconstructed trail, reclaimed trail, trailhead parking lot, and signage. We also have received our successful closeout letter. Also, FS Recreation Planner, Ben Lara will attest to our successful work and partnership on this and other major FS trail projects.

Will you be applying for additional funding through CPW State Trails Program in the future? – We hope to be awarded this grant which will keep us very busy for years to come. It is obviously very important to our entire community.

FYI, as referenced earlier in this document –

SMT 2018 Business Supporters:

Absolute Bikes, Harder Reality, Pinon Real Estate Group, Brady's West, First Colorado Land Office, High Country Bank, Orion Integration Services, Salida Bike Company, Subculture Cyclery, Amigo Lodge, Colorado Mountain Realty, First Street Family Health, Fish Builders, Gone to the Dogs, Land and Water Concepts, Rescue Essentials, Salida Family Dentistry, Salida Mountain Sports, Salida Rentals, Su Casa! Furniture & Sleep Shop, Timberline Partners, Woods Distillery, 7000 Ft Running Store, Collegiate Peaks Bank, Free the Monkey, Landmark Surveying & Mapping, Mi Casa/Hearthstone, Powell and Murphy PC, Roxy's Bottle Shop, Third Street Suites, Yolo, Zier Niemann Consulting, Salida Physical Therapy

Federal Environmental Form and Land Manager Approval
Only to be completed if all or part of the project is located on federal land

The applicant is responsible for securing all necessary permits, licenses, clearances, SHPO, and environmental analysis documentation necessary to comply with local, state, and/or federal laws.

Project Name Salida Trails - New Trail Construction

Project Sponsor BLM and Salida Mountain Trails (SMT)

As the official responsible for management of the land on which the project will be accomplished, I agree to the following:

1. The project as described in this application has my approval.
2. The project is located on federal public lands and is in conformance with the appropriate Forest Management Plan, BLM Resource Area Management Plan or other decision document.

Title of document: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date of document: 5/13/1996

3. A decision has been issued as part of the NEPA environmental review process.

Title of document: DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2017-0085 DN; DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2017-0021 DN

Date of document: 3/13/2017; 6/27/2018

If a decision has not been issued as part of the NEPA environmental review process, please state the reason why. No funds will be distributed until any required NEPA documentation is completed.

For more information about the NEPA environmental review process, contact:

Name: Linda Skinner

Phone number: 719-269-8732

Email: lskinner@blm.gov

4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for TBD.

Land Manager's Name: Keith E. Berger

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature: Field Manager

 JUL 10 2018

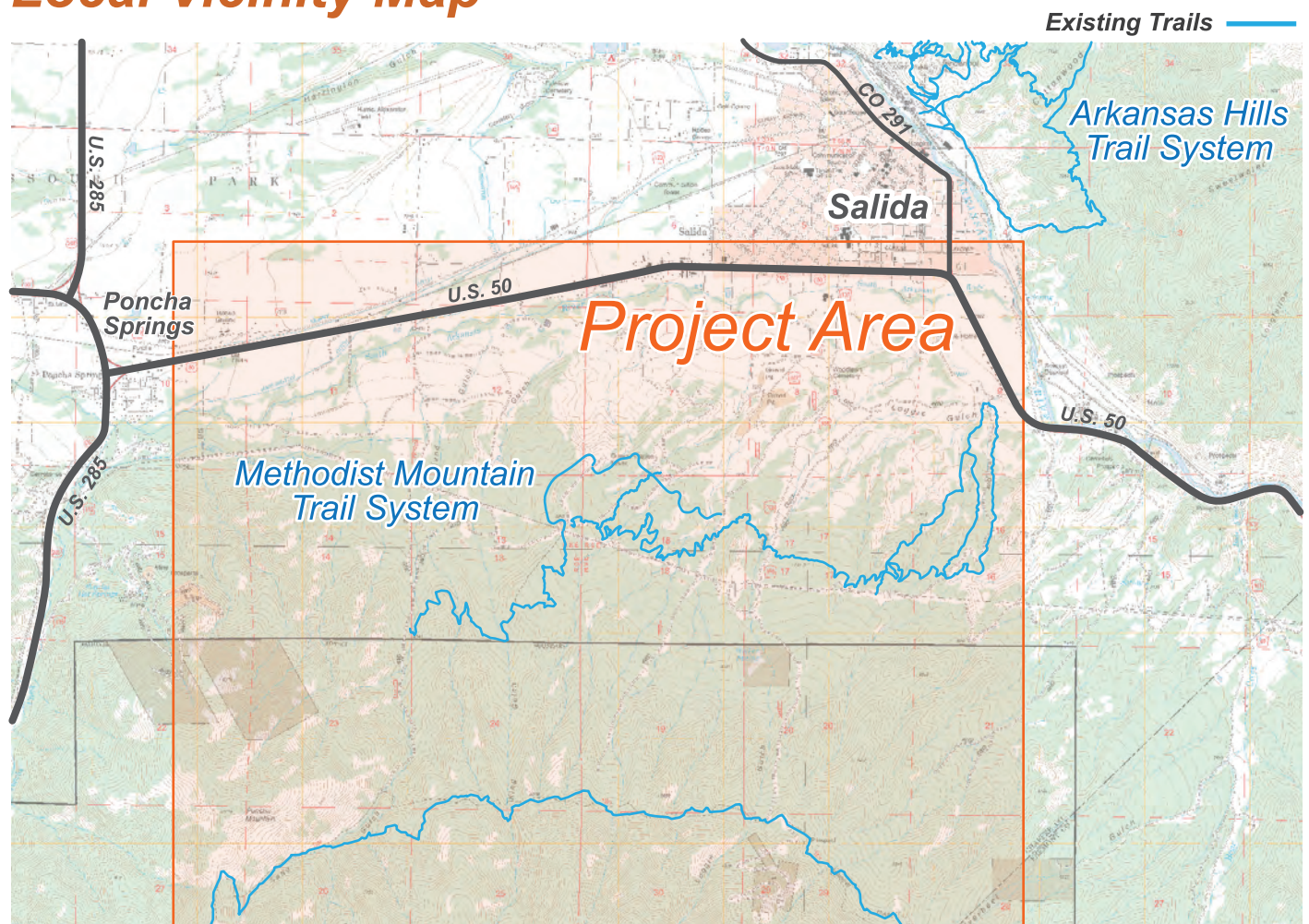




Statewide Vicinity Map



Local Vicinity Map



SMT - Photos 1

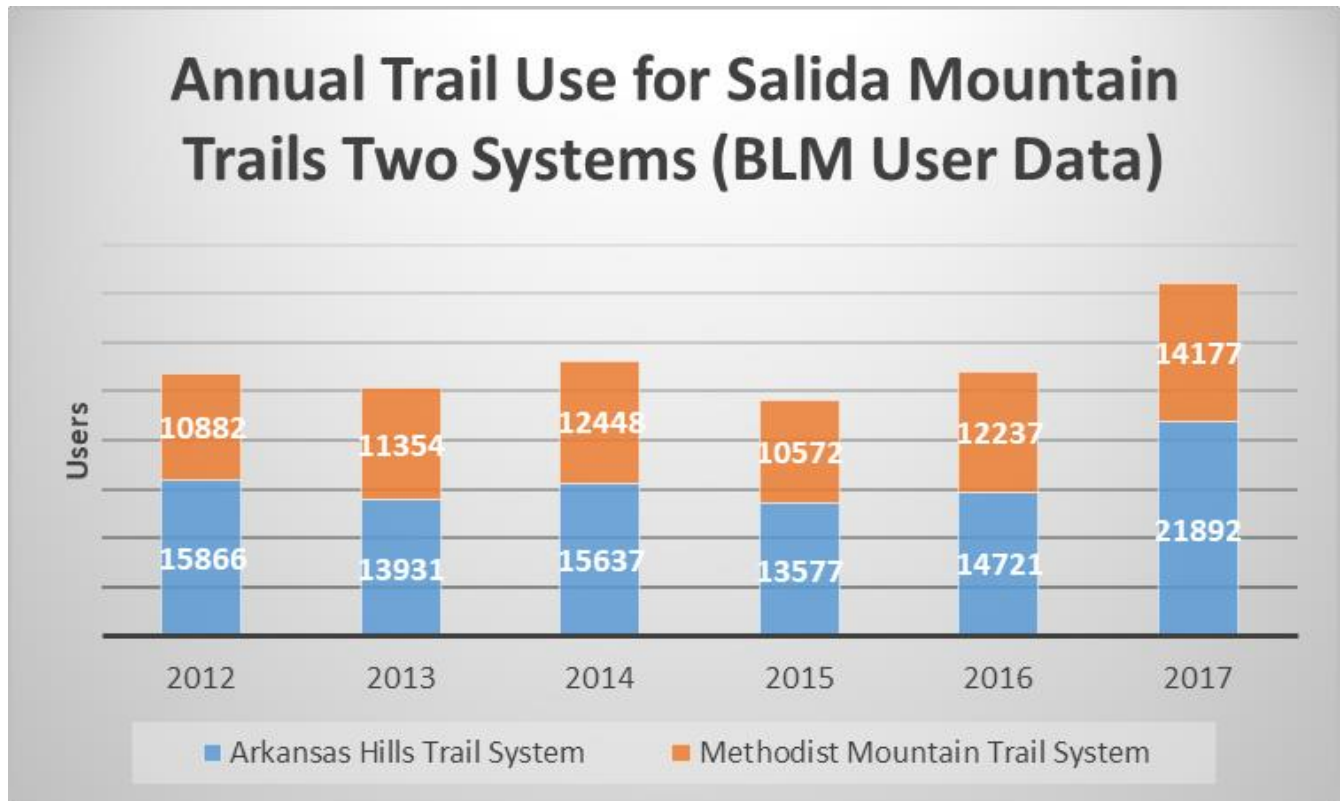
Eroded Gutz Trail that will be reconstructed



Rainbow Trail also for reconstruction and to improve drainage



SMT - Photos 2



User data from BLM trail use monitoring devices - one each on the most used trail for each of the 2 systems.



View from new Upper Sole Train trail corridor showing amazing vistas and also proximity and soon to be better connectivity to downtown Salida.

SMT - Photos 3



9 cars parked on CR110 where the existing Spartan trails cross the road.
This is the approximate location of the new parking lot



Notes:

1. Construct new 85 foot wide by 180 foot long gravel parking area
2. Surround parking lot with buck and pole fence



Colorado

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Site Plan
Spartan Parking Lot - Solida

APPROVED BY: [Signature]
DATE: 18 July 2018

APPROVED BY: [Signature]
DATE: 18 July 2018

APPROVED BY: [Signature]
DATE: 18 July 2018

APPROVED BY: [Signature]
DATE: 18 July 2018

APPROVED BY: [Signature]
DATE: 18 July 2018

APPROVED BY: [Signature]
DATE: 18 July 2018

APPROVED BY: [Signature]
DATE: 18 July 2018

APPROVED BY: [Signature]
DATE: 18 July 2018

BLM design for new 20 spot parking lot. See Project Site map for more perspective.
Engineering drawings/design are also available.

Exhibit B Budget Form - Project Name:					Methodist Mountain Trail / Reconstruction Project		Construction	
SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$)[C]	
CASH								
CtB Grant	TBD				\$ 269,951.00		\$ 269,951.00	
Salida Mountain Trails (SMT)	7/1/2018					\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
Chaffee County	11/1/2018					\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
City of Salida	11/1/2018					\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
IN-KIND								
Chaffee County - parking lot construction						\$ 20,895.29	\$ 20,895.29	
SMT project leaders for 5 trail projects						\$ 13,390.00	\$ 13,390.00	
SMT volunteer for grant administration						\$ 13,497.12	\$ 13,497.12	
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS					\$ 269,951.00	\$ 81,782.41	\$ 351,733.41	
USE OF FUNDS - CASH	Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
Category 1 - Professional Trail Building								
Lower Sole Train Trail (new construction)	1.7 miles (8976 ft.)	8976	\$ 6.00	\$ 53,856.00	\$ 19,856.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 53,856.00	0
Upper Sole Train Trail (new construction)	2.3 miles (12144 ft.)	12144	\$ 6.00	\$ 72,864.00	\$ 72,864.00		\$ 72,864.00	0
Sand Gulch Trail (new construction)	2 miles (10560 ft.)	10560	\$ 6.00	\$ 63,360.00	\$ 63,360.00		\$ 63,360.00	0
Gutz Trail (reconstruction)	2 miles (10560 ft.)	10560	\$ 3.00	\$ 31,680.00	\$ 31,680.00		\$ 31,680.00	0
Rainbow Trail (CR108 to Sand Gulch (reconstruction)	3 miles (15840 ft.)	15840	\$ 4.00	\$ 63,360.00	\$ 63,360.00		\$ 63,360.00	0
Category 2 - Signage								
Signage - Trail name and trail maps signs, posts, hardware	10 signs/posts	10	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	0
Trailhead map/info kiosks with 36/48 inch metal system map	2 kiosks, 2 maps	2	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	0
Seasonal closure gates/fencing/signage as required by BLM decision document	3 sets gates/fencing	3	\$ 800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00		\$ 2,400.00	0
Category 3 - Parking Lot Material Costs								
24-inch corrugated HDPE drainage pipe, smooth inner wall, H20 loading	60 ft. @\$30	60	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00		\$ 1,800.00	0
Wheel Stop	25 @ \$90 each	25	\$ 90.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00		\$ 2,250.00	0
24-inch corrugated HDPE end section	2 @ \$412	2	\$ 412.00	\$ 824.00	\$ 824.00		\$ 824.00	0
Buck and Pole Fence	486 ft. @ \$6/ft.	486	\$ 6.00	\$ 2,916.00	\$ 2,916.00		\$ 2,916.00	0
Crushed Aggregate (CDOT Class 6) (Density 115.5SPCF)	442 tons @\$10.50	442	\$ 10.50	\$ 4,641.00	\$ 4,641.00		\$ 4,641.00	0
note - sub total for material costs = \$12,431				\$ -			\$ -	0
USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL					\$ 269,951.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 303,951.00	
IN-KIND	Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total			Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
Category 1 - Parking Lot Construction Costs from Chaffee County								
Moderate to heavy clearing and grubbing, disposal of tops, limbs, logs, debris	\$1433.25 / Acre	0.35	\$ 1,433.25	\$ 501.64		\$ 501.64	\$ 501.64	0
Brushing (linear) 5-feet wide	\$771.75/mile	0.5	\$ 771.75	\$ 385.88		\$ 385.88	\$ 385.88	0
Site Grading	\$6.41/SY	1700	\$ 6.41	\$ 10,888.50		\$ 10,888.50	\$ 10,888.50	0
Crushed Aggregate (CDOT Class 6) - Delievery	\$2,030/delivery	1	\$ 2,030.00	\$ 2,030.00		\$ 2,030.00	\$ 2,030.00	0
Motor Grader, Cat 12H, JD670D, or similar, with operator.	\$154/hour	16	\$ 154.35	\$ 2,469.60		\$ 2,469.60	\$ 2,469.60	0
Compactor, Vibratory Steel wheel, 5-8 ton, with operator	\$99.23/hour	16	\$ 99.23	\$ 1,587.68		\$ 1,587.68	\$ 1,587.68	0
Mobilization - 10% of project		1	\$ 3,032.00	\$ 3,032.00		\$ 3,032.00	\$ 3,032.00	0
note - Chaffee county in-kind construction cost/value = \$20,895.29				\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0
Category 2 - SMT In-Kind Labor								
SMT volunteer project coordinators: Pin flagging, contracting, managing, and hands on coordination of the work of trail building contractors, signage install (for the 5 individual trail projects)	(100 hrs. per project times 5 projects) 500 hours at @ \$26.78/hour	500	\$ 26.78	\$ 13,390.00		\$ 13,390.00	\$ 13,390.00	0
Grant tracking, budgeting and billing (5% of grant award - per the application instructions)	5% of the total grant award (per list of eligible items)	504	\$ 26.78	\$ 13,497.12		\$ 13,497.12	\$ 13,497.12	0
IN-KIND SUBTOTAL					\$ -	\$ 47,782.41	\$ 47,782.41	
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$ 269,951.00	\$ 81,782.41	\$ 351,733.41	
30% REQUIRED MATCH						\$ 80,985.30		

July 16th, 2018

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



Subject: Support for Salida Mountain Trails' grant application for the
Methodist Mountain Trail Construction / Reconstruction Project

Dear Grant Review Committee,

Absolute Bikes is in support of the trails proposed on Methodist Mountain. At present we have the Rainbow Trail about 2000 feet above the City of Salida but not an easy way to access this great trail. Most available access routes have been 4WD County and FS roads with difficult grades and dangerous roadbeds after dirt washes away and leaves the round and unstable rock surface. Properly designed and built trails such as the proposed Soul Train and Sand Gulch will not only be great connectors but complementary to the already existing trails. These proposed trails are spaced out and will also be very close to the City of Salida owned Vandever Ranch property which also has great potential of connecting into our Town Trails, in and around the Salida City Limits.

A well designed trail system has great economic development opportunities as it allows recreation to start and finish very close to the City of Salida. The Hwy 50 corridor allows easy access and signage to the Methodist Mountain Trail System already, having proper connectors will multiply what is available and make it amazing. Having more choices of miles from these connectors can create destination visitors but also enhance what is available to the already active population which has successful running and mountain bike teams at the High School level.

Salida Mountain Trails has many supporting businesses and individuals. Absolute Bikes has been a contributor for many years and still volunteers on monthly trail work days. Being in retail we also hear public comment and it is extremely positive coming from both residents and visitors. This proposed Methodist Mountain Project will be highly successful if it happens, it is well thought out and the few miles of trails proposed will actually make many more miles available due to the connectivity.

Thank you,

Shawn Gillis

Shawn Gillis
Absolute Bikes
330 West Sackett Ave
Salida CO 81201



Chaffee County Public Health

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

July 13, 2018

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

Subject: Support for Salida Mountain Trails' grant application for the Methodist Mountain Trail Construction/Reconstruction Project

Dear Grant Review Committee,

Chaffee County Public Health (CCPH) is pleased to support Salida Mountain Trails' application for the Methodist Mountain Trail Construction/Reconstruction Project. Salida Mountain Trails (SMT) has a long-standing positive reputation in the southern end of Chaffee County for building and maintaining non-motorized trails for multi-use purposes. Over 20 miles of trails can be credited to the passion and physical labor of SMT volunteers. The expansion of the Methodist Mountain Trail System will provide residents and visitors alike with greater access to mountain biking, running, and hiking trails in a beautiful area of our county. Currently, the trail system is fragmented and not easy to access from downtown. This project would foster greater usage of a trail system that tends to be overlooked in comparison to the Arkansas Hills Trail System which is popular due to its expansive and interconnected trails. CCPH's mission is to elevate community health, and projects that promote active living certainly contribute to the health landscape of our rural and resource-limited county. CCPH hopes that you will consider this project proposal, as expanding the trail system will encourage more outdoor activity options so that Chaffee County residents and visitors can thrive in health and wellness.

Sincerely,

Andrea Carlstrom
Director, Chaffee County Public Health

Nate and Diana Porter
Owners, Salida Mountain Sports

July 13, 2018

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

Subject: Support for Salida Mountain Trails' grant application for the Methodist Mountain Trail Construction / Reconstruction Project

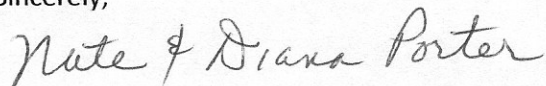
Dear Grant Review Committee,

I am writing in support of the Salida Mountain Trails grant application. Trails and outdoor recreation are very important to this community for many reasons. They are a major economic driver, bringing in many out of town visitors who spend money at local businesses. It's no secret that recreational tourism is a great contributor to the economies of small towns around the west. My family owns an outdoor gear and clothing store, and we can personally attest to the business trails bring into the community. We are also able to employ 10 full and part time employees providing a good wage for this community.

Trails not only help the local economy, they promote good stewardship of the land. If people use and feel a connection to an area, they are more likely to take care of it. All Locals, young & old, will benefit from these trails by having easy to access places to hike, bike, relax and enjoy their public lands. This helps build a healthy, connected community.

I believe this grant will help Salida Mountain Trails accomplish some key goals including long term maintenance of new and existing trails, improved connections to existing trails, and the ability to pursue collaborative efforts with other organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nate & Diana Porter". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Nate and Diana Porter

July 16, 2018

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



Re: State Trails Grant Opportunity

Dear Grant Review Committee,

The Board of Directors of Salida-area Parks, Open-space & Trails (SPOT) wholeheartedly supports Salida Mountain Trails in their application to CPW State Trails Program for the Methodist Mountain Trail Construction project.

These new trails will provide valuable additions and connections to the existing trails located within the public lands surrounding Salida and Poncha Springs, offering exciting, new recreational opportunities for residents and tourists alike. The Salida Mountain Trails also provide a treasured link to the existing in-town Salida Trail System.

SPOT is a non-profit, volunteer organization that, since 2000, has assisted municipalities, groups and individuals to plan, write grants and implement parks, open-space and trails projects in Chaffee County. For many years SPOT has worked to build the very popular eighteen-mile, non-motorized Salida Trail System with its connections extending out into Chaffee County. SPOT also helped create the Chaffee County Trails Master Plan, which is currently under revision, and has worked with Salida Mountain Trails combining trail planning and building efforts to create trail connections from the valley floor to the public lands above.

These new Salida Mountain Trails complement our planning efforts and will be exciting trail corridors for Southern Chaffee County. SPOT pledges support to the project and offers assistance with further trail development that will provide enjoyable, sustainable trails for our community and our friends to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Donna Rhoads

Donna Rhoads, SPOT President

Donna Rhoads
Planner/Grant Writer
President
539-2992

Katy Grether
Grant Writer/Analyst
Vice-President
539-9656

Samantha Bahn
Educator
Secretary
221-3180

Denise Wentz
Physical Therapist
Treasurer
539-1142

Wayne Sawyer
Consultant
539-6986

Shawn Gillis
Salida Mountain Trails
221-1296

Yvonne Barnes
Cartographer
539-7879

Cheryl Brown-Kovacic
Grant Writer/Educator
539-5372

SPOT PO Box 748 Salida, CO 81201

SPOT aims to promote the creation, preservation, improvement and appreciation of parks, open space and trails in the greater Salida area.

James Haarmeyer
330 W. Sackett Ave
Salida CO 81201

July 11, 2018

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

Subject: Support for Salida Mountain Trails grant application for the Methodist Mountain Trail Construction/Reconstruction Project

Dear Grant Review Committee,

I am writing in support of the above mentioned grant application in my capacity as the Head Coach of the Salida High School Mountain Bike Team and as Program Director and lead coach for Absolute Youth Cycling program. These two cycling programs include kids from 1st through 12th grade and operate during the spring, summer, and fall in Salida, Colorado.

The additions, improvements, and maintenance projects that would be supported by this grant would greatly increase the accessibility and usability of the Methodist Mountain trails. The sum of the projects would actually convert the trails on that side of the valley into a proper, modern trail system. It would connect the trails to town, to the town's trail system, and to the Rainbow Trail.

These changes and improvements would greatly benefit the approximately 250 youth who participate in the organized youth cycling programs that I run, both while they are in my programs and when they are riding outside of the programs with their families, friends, etc. Improving the connectivity to town without having to ride on busy roads would greatly increase safety, reduce vehicle parking/congestion at trail heads, and reduce hurdles to participation in cycling, running, hiking, etc. There are not a lot of options for youth activities in Salida compared to larger communities so improving accessibility can really increase youth participation.

From the perspective of someone who tries to get kids and their families involved in cycling this grant and the improvements it would bring to our community is extremely important.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

James Haarmeyer
James Haarmeyer