



**COLORADO**

**Parks and Wildlife**

Department of Natural Resources

## **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).

### **ADDITIONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Youth Corps or youth organization will be used on the project (Southwest Conservation Corps)
- Volunteers will be utilized on the project (Colorado Mountain Club, Greater Arkansas River Nature Association)



## Chaffee County Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 699/104 Crestone Ave.  
Salida, CO 81201

719.539.2218/[www.chaffeecounty.org](http://www.chaffeecounty.org)

July 27, 2018

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

Dear State Trails Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the Chaffee County Commissioners, I am pleased to submit the enclosed application for funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the Colorado the Beautiful grant program. The County has been working closely with coordinators from the Stage and Rail Trail project to compile this application and the commissioners approved the scope of work and status as fiscal agent for the grant application at their public meeting July 17, 2018. The Stage and Rail Trail project is one of the Governors 16 in 2016 trails and we are eager to see the following projects move ahead because they will enhance connectivity between our communities to the outdoors, and provided important recreation opportunities for both locals and visitors. Information regarding County approval and matching funds is detailed below.

**County Road 313 Trail and Bridge Construction** – This proposed trail was adopted into the Chaffee County Trails Master Plan by resolution on June 3, 2014 (see attached). It provides connectivity and a safe route to school between the Town of Buena Vista and Johnson Village. The 1.9 mile 8-foot wide paved path is within the County Road Right of Way and will provide safe access for pedestrians and cyclists along the road where currently there is no shoulder or trail. The Arizona Street Bridge is an essential component to connect the new 313 trail to existing trail networks within the Buena Vista town limits. Chaffee County has pledged \$65,000 in matching funds for completion of the project. Construction will be completed by the County Road and Bridge department who will also be responsible for ongoing maintenance, plowing, etc. of County Road 313.

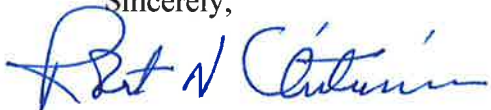
**Granite Rock Trail and Parking Improvements** – The Granite Rock site is an important recreational and interpretive opportunity along the Stage and Rail Trail and will serve as an asset to both County residents and visitors. The site is currently undermanaged and in need of vehicle controls and trail improvements to manage human impacts and minimize damage to natural resources. While the Bureau of Land Management and Arkansas

Headwaters Recreation Area will be primarily responsible for project supervision at this site, the County is eager to see improvements at this highly-visible and popular site.

Signage – Navigability is a key component to promote and enhance use of outdoor trails, including the new routes along CR313 and at Granite Rock. Signage will help both residents and visitors engage in outdoor recreation opportunities and connect to different communities throughout the county. Additionally, interpretive signage will also highlight the transportation history of the county and give users better understanding and respect for natural and cultural resources in the area.

Overall, Chaffee County is excited for the opportunity to apply for Colorado the Beautiful funds and eager to see the proposed projects move ahead in the coming year. Please feel free to contact county administrator Robert Christiansen with any questions regarding the County's support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert N. Christiansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "C".

Robert N. Christiansen  
County Administrator  
[bchristiansen@chaffeecounty.org](mailto:bchristiansen@chaffeecounty.org)  
719-530-5560

**CHAFFEE COUNTY COLORADO  
RESOLUTION 2014-27**

**AMENDING THE CHAFFEE COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

**Findings and Conclusions:**

- A. The Chaffee County Trails Master Plan was adopted in June 2003 and incorporated the plans for the municipalities of Salida, Buena Vista and Poncha Springs.
- B. Since its adoption, some segments have been completed, while others have been modified, relocated, or incorporated into developments. Trails in unincorporated Chaffee County are generally identified and proposed in the plan along existing roads and utility corridors. Two types of County trails are identified: "Spine Trails" and "Connections." Spine trails generally follow arterial roadways, such as the state highways, and connection trails seek to connect developed areas and trails to public lands.
- C. In the Buena Vista area, CR 306 and US 24 are identified as Spine Trail roads. Connection trails are identified along several County Roads, including 361, 321, 350, 371, 304 and 301. Since 2003, the Town has continued development of its trail system.
- D. NC3 was established in late 2013 as a subgroup of the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA), and presented to the County Commissioners a request to add shoulders to several County roads, including CR 350, 313 and 317. The Town of Buena Vista granted approval of the amendment of the Town Trail plan at its March 11, 2014 meeting.
- E. NC3 requests four changes to the Chaffee County Trails Master Plan:
  - a. CR 306. CR 306 is identified in the current Master Plan as a Spine Trail; the requested change would add CR 306 between Town Limits and CR 361 to the list of Connection trails. Listing this segment specifically would show priority of this section of trail as compared to all of CR 306, which extends several more miles to the top of Cottonwood Pass.
  - b. CR 350. CR 350 is identified in the current Master Plan as a Connection trail; the requested change would specify and prioritize the segment from Town Limits west to CR 361.
  - c. CR 313. CR 313 was not included in the Master Plan; the requested change would add CR 313 as a connection trail from Town Limits to US 24/285.
  - d. CR 317. CR 317 was not included in the Master Plan; the requested change would add CR 317 as a connection trail from Town Limits to CR 313.

- F. The map submitted by NC3 also shows CR 361 as the link between CR 306 and CR 350.
- G. Public hearings were held following publication in *The Mountain Mail* and *Chaffee County Times*, respectively, both newspapers of general circulation within Chaffee County, for the purpose of receiving public comments with respect to the proposed adoption of the changes to the Trails Master Plan, Northern Chaffee County Trail Connections.
- H. The people of Chaffee County have had an opportunity to review the proposed changes to the Chaffee County Trails Master Plan and have had an opportunity to make public comment for or against adoption of the proposed changes and the public voiced no objection to the changes.
- I. At its April 29, 2014 regular meeting, the County Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners ("BoCC") approval of the proposed amendments to the County's Trails Master Plan, with an understanding that condemnation would only be used as a last resort to acquire property.
- J. At its May 20, 2014 regular meeting, the BoCC had an opportunity to review public comments with respect to the proposed changes and found that publication of notice of the public hearing has been properly published and the requirements have been satisfied with respect to the public hearing.
- K. The BoCC further found and declared it will better promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of and visitors to Chaffee County if it adopts the proposed amendment to the County's Trails Master Plan as proposed and set forth in Exhibit A.
- L. At its May 20, 2014 regular meeting, the BoCC approved the proposed amendment as outlined in this Resolution and directed the County attorney to prepare a written resolution outlining the findings of the Board for consideration at its next regular meeting.

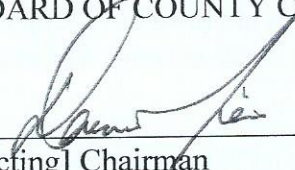
**Resolution:**

Be it unanimously resolved by the BoCC as follows:

1. Amendments to the County's Trails Master Plan. The BoCC hereby amends the County's Trails Master Plan set forth in Exhibit A to this Resolution. Except as set forth in Exhibit A, the Trails Master Plan shall remain in full force and effect.
2. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon adoption by the Board.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners on June 3, 2014.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

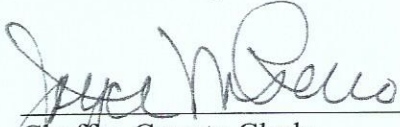
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[Acting] Chairman

The vote on the above Resolution was as follows:

- Commissioner Dennis Giese                      Yes
- Commissioner Frank F. Holman                Yes
- Commissioner Dave Potts                      Yes

STATE OF COLORADO, CHAFFEE COUNTY  
ATTEST:

The above is a true and correct record of Resolution 2014-27 duly adopted by the Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners by a 3-0 vote at a regular meeting, properly noticed and held on June 3, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chaffee County Clerk



***Request that the following changes (in red italics) be made to the  
Chaffee County Trails Master Plan, Rev. January, 2003***

**B. County Connections**

County connections to public lands are county roads to remain open for public access to public lands. These connections may also be considered for future trail enhancements. These trails will be within County easements. The County Connections are divided into four geographic areas. After each county road (CR) number is a reference/access point location name. See also maps of Chaffee County - Chapter VI  
Lead agency: Chaffee County

**North/West County Connections (NW)** Connections between Buena Vista and mountains to the west

CR 390 (Colorado Trail/Continental Divide Trail)  
CR 388 (Pine Creek Trailhead)  
CR 368, 368A, 368B (Harvard Lakes Trailhead)  
CR 365 (North Cottonwood & Silver Creek Trailheads)  
CR 361 (to CR 365 & 368A & B) (also between CR 306 and CR 350)  
CR 344 (Cottonwood Lake)  
CR 321 to 322 (Mt. Princeton Trailhead)  
CR 162 (St. Elmo)  
CR 350 (Crossman Ave) (West to CR 361)

*Add:*

*CR 306 (West Main to CR 361)*

**North/East County Connections (NE)** Connections between Buena Vista to the east

CR 371 (BLM/Fourmile)  
CR 375 (Fourmile Trailhead)  
CR 301 (Fisherman's Bridge)  
CR 304 (Midland Trail)  
CR305 (Midland/Lenhardy Cut Off)  
CR 187 (Aspen Ridge)  
CR 307 to 308 (USFS/Fourmile)  
CR 311 (USFS/Fourmile)  
CR 300 (Ruby Mt.)  
CR 309 (USFS/Fourmile)  
CR 185 north (Aspen Ridge)

*Add:*

*CR 313 (from Buena Vista Town limits to Highway 24 in Johnson Village)*

*CR 317 (from Buena Vista Town limits, southeast to CR 313)*

# EXHIBIT A

## Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

### COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION

Applicant or Organization Name: Chaffee County

Mailing Address: PO Box 699, 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:  YES  NO

### OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DUNS # (IF REQUIRED):

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

Name: Julie Mach

Mailing Address: 710 10<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 200 Golden, CO 80401

Telephone: (303)996-2764

Email: juliemach@cmc.org

### PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Name:

Mailing Address:

Partner Contact Name:

Title:

Telephone:

Email:

Is this the primary contact for this grant:  YES  NO

Project Title: Stage and Rail Trail Construction

Grant Request: \$313,063.67

Required Match: \$93,919.10

Total Project Cost: \$552,977.67

**Project Description:** Please write a 3-4 paragraph description of your project and the expected accomplishments. Be sure to include Who, What, When, and Where.) **This is your scope of work.** (This section is not the place to talk about the project background, the benefits, the funding, or anything other than the actual work to be accomplished. Please address this information in question #1 of the Selection Criteria.)

**WHO?** Who will complete the work and who will oversee the project? Provide a description of your community or organization, highlighting its mission and purpose.

**WHAT?** Explain what you are going to do or accomplish. What is the goal or the reason for your project? Break down the project into a list of specific activities to be completed. These should be quantifiable items that correspond to the categories on your budget page. Include quantity or quality as part of your description of work to be performed. How long? How many? How many feet? How many miles? What materials will be used? Is a specific standard or guideline being used?

**WHERE?** Explain in detail the location of your project. Where is the project located? What county? What National Forest/ BLM Field Office? Provide the names of the trail(s) or trail system and where the work will be performed? What agency manages or is responsible for the land the project is on?

**DEFINITIONS?** Please define all acronyms and specialized terms that are used in your project description.



# EXHIBIT A

## Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

In partnership with the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA) and the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC), Chaffee county will complete high priority construction projects along the Stage and Rail Trail to provide better connectivity between communities and enhance interpretive opportunities for residents and visitors. The Stage and Rail Trail is a 70-mile route from Salida to Leadville and one of the Governor's 16 in 2016 priority trails. The majority of the route is accessible by passenger vehicle and several segments, including those proposed in this application, will be appropriate for pedestrian and cycling use.

### Part 1 – Chaffee County Road 313 (CR 313) Paved Trail & Bridge Construction

Trail construction of an 8-foot-wide asphalt path will take place alongside County Road 313 to connect the Town of Buena Vista south to Johnson Village. The 1.9 mile section of trail will provide connectivity and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists and include a bridge at the north end of the route to connect the new trail to existing routes within the Town of Buena Vista's jurisdiction. The new trail will also facilitate non-motorized access for this segment of the Stage and Rail Trail which continues through Buena Vista and north another 9 miles.

### Part 2 – Granite Rock Trail Construction and Trailhead Improvements

Trail construction and trailhead improvements will enhance visitor use at the Granite Rock site while better managing human impacts to protect natural resources. Granite Rock is located north of Buena Vista, south of the Town of Granite between the west bank of the Arkansas River and Highway 24. The parcel is owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and leased by the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) but currently has no trails or infrastructure in place. A phased approach to management will include trailhead improvements to improve drainage and parking, and construction of a buck and rail fence to control vehicle use and prevent development of new user-created routes. Additionally, construction of 0.65 miles of trail will direct pedestrian traffic along a sustainable route to the top and bottom of Granite Rock where hiking and commercial rappelling takes place.

### Part 3 – Signage

To enhance navigability, access and education along these segments of the Stage and Rail Trail, both directional and interpretive signage will be installed. Interpretive signage will include kiosks and panels that describe the transportation history of the Upper Arkansas Valley, and also cover topics including local ecology, geology, agriculture, recreation and outdoor ethics. Signs will be placed periodically along the CR 313 Trail and Granite Rock Trails.

The project is a collaborative partnership between the county, local non-profit organizations, and state and federal land management agencies that will enhance community trail connectivity and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in northern Chaffee County. Volunteers and youth corps crews will help with project implementation and the project will help achieve the regional goals of the Stage and Rail Trail project.

# EXHIBIT A

## LAND OWNERSHIP

1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: Part 1: Chaffee County Right-of-Way; Part 2: Bureau of Land Management

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

## USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)

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

## TRAIL SURFACE

X Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
X Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher Fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

## PROJECT LOCATION (For multiple project sites attach a separate list.)

Nearest Town or City: Buena Vista, CO

County: Chaffee

Latitude & Longitude Coordinates: 38.835909, -106.118095

State Senate District #: 5

State Representative District #: 60

Acreage of new trailhead		Miles of trail grooming	
Miles of new trail construction	2.55	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	2.55	Other	
Miles of trail restoration		Other	

Applicant Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (From Applicant Organization)



Date: 7-27-18

Land Agency Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (From project location land agency, if different from applicant)



Date: 7/25/18

# EXHIBIT A

## Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

### 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										
Mobilization										
Construction/Maintenance Phase										
CR313 Trail Construction										
Arizona St. Bridge Construction										
Granite Rock Trailhead Improvements										
Granite Rock Trail Construction										
Signage										
Administrative Close-Out										
Grand Openings										

**EXHIBIT A - Project Narrative**  
Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

**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.

Chaffee County is a rural community in Central Colorado with a population of 19,638 (according to the US Census Bureau 2017 estimates). The county is predominately Caucasian (85.2%) with a growing Hispanic/Latino community (10.1%). Median household income is \$50,993, with a poverty rate 11.4% and an unemployment rate 2.2%. In the northern half of the county, Buena Vista sits on the Arkansas River with a backdrop of the Collegiate Peaks and is home to 2,778 residents, with approximately 5,000 more living in the surrounding unincorporated areas. The town's reputation for access to outdoor recreation has grown in recent years beyond that of a whitewater destination with the development of new hiking and mountain biking trails, as well as development of a river park and local climbing areas. The town has developed over 5 miles of municipal trails and bike lanes which connect to another 20 mile network of singletrack trails on adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands. Just a few miles south, Johnson Village's 246 residents are not yet fully integrated into the recreation economy or lifestyle with no direct connection to the Buena Vista trails network

Development of the Stage and Rail Trail will benefit local residents in these two communities by increasing connectivity to over 25 miles of existing trails and providing new recreation opportunities. The 1.9 mile trail along County Road 313 will connect residential neighborhoods in Johnson Village with existing municipal trails in Buena Vista and be designated as a Safe Route to School for students traveling by foot or bicycle. The trail will also facilitate access to downtown Buena Vista, the River Park, sports fields, bouldering gardens, and the skate park. Better access to these amenities will help promote physical activity for both kids and adults and help to develop healthy lifestyles through increased outdoor recreation. The Granite Rock trails will improve accessibility and sustainability at this iconic site located just 15 miles north of Buena Vista. Both sites will offer educational and interpretive opportunities for local residents and school groups to learn about the transportation history of the area and gain a better appreciation for the area's ecological resources.

Additionally, trail construction and signage along the Stage and Rail Trail will help to attract visitors and support economic development through tourism spending in gateway communities. According to a Headwaters Economics study of National Forest Socio-Economic Indicators, the Travel and Tourism industry accounts for 33.7% of private employment in Chaffee County. Buena Vista and Johnson Village both rely on tourism to support local businesses and recent growth is largely tied to the development of trail and recreation infrastructure. Enhancing the Stage and Rail Trail will offer visitors a new and unique experience, attract heritage tourists, families and long-distance trail users, and route tourists directly through the downtown business corridor. The Granite Rock site will also serve as a central feature to highlight the Stage and Rail Trail in its entirety and direct people into surrounding communities. It is located along Highway 24 in a highly visible location along the existing Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic

**EXHIBIT A - Project Narrative**  
Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

Byway and will help attract passers-by who may not be familiar with the area. Interpretive signage, information and resources will help them learn more about Chaffee County and plan future trips to explore the area.

- 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.

**County Road 313 Trail:** An 8-foot wide asphalt pathway will be constructed along the East side of Chaffee County Road 313 to accommodate non-motorized traffic between Buena Vista and Johnson Village. The entire 1.9 mile trail will be located within the county right-of-way. The southern terminus will be located at the intersection of CR 313 and Highway 24/285 in Johnson Village, outside of the Colorado Department of Transportation right of way. The northern terminus will be located at the intersection of CR 313 and Marquette Ave at the Town of Buena Vista boundary. The trail will start alongside residential neighborhoods in Johnson Village before passing the Buena Vista Correctional Facility property (located on the opposite side of the road) and then winding through rural properties parallel to the Arkansas River. A foot bridge (described below) will connect the northern terminus of the trail to the existing trail on Arizona Street which leads to downtown Buena Vista. Cross walks will be striped at the intersection of Marquette Ave and County Road 317 to facilitate safe connections to other existing trails. Currently there is no trail along CR 313 and the road is narrow with no shoulder to accommodate safe access for non-motorized users. The trail will primarily serve walkers, joggers and cyclists, though skateboarding, rollerblading and other non-motorized uses will be allowed and are expected.

**Arizona Street Bridge:** A pre-fabricated non-motorized bridge measuring 80 feet long by 10 feet wide will be constructed over Cottonwood Creek to connect the northern terminus of the CR 313 trail to existing trails in Buena Vista. The Town of Buena Vista owns the properties on both the north and south banks of the creek where the bridge will be constructed. The current motor vehicle bridge on Arizona Street is very narrow with no shoulder so cyclists or pedestrians must travel in the roadway to cross the creek. The new non-motorized bridge will provide much safer access for users and provide connectivity between the new CR 313 trail and existing municipal trails in downtown Buena Vista.

**Granite Rock Trailhead Improvements:** Unmanaged vehicle use in the Granite Rock area has resulted in excessive resource damage including a multitude of user-created routes, deep ruts and mud puddles, and severe erosion. An important first step in managing recreation at this site is controlling vehicle use and parking by repairing damaged routes, establishing designated parking

**EXHIBIT A - Project Narrative**  
Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

areas, and installing boulders and fencing to prevent unauthorized route proliferation. Grading and road base fill will address the erosion and mud puddles at the site entrance and establish hardened, sustainable routes for passenger vehicles. Two small parking areas will be established in areas already impacted by vehicle use. Basic grading and road base will also be applied along approximately 1800 feet of existing routes to reduce erosion and improve route sustainability. Large boulders and buck-and-rail fencing will be installed intermittently to direct vehicle traffic on these routes and prevent user-created route proliferation. These trailhead improvements will allow users to access popular dispersed campsites and new trails but also minimize future damage to vegetation and soils.

**Granite Rock Trail Construction:**

Designed Use: Pedestrian. Allowed Use: Equestrian, Cycling

This trail is designed to facilitate existing use at Granite Rock by replacing social trails with sustainable routes, creating loop opportunities, providing an engaging interpretive trail experience, and eventually establishing a connection to the Clear Creek fishing access area. The trail will help protect the natural and cultural resources of the area as well as provide safe and convenient access for visitors. Users will have the opportunity to be educated about the railroad and stage route history and to explore the recreational assets of the Granite Rock area. This trail has been designed to also provide a greater awareness of the larger S&RT project and therefore help to increase support for the regional S&RT project goals.

A phased approach was utilized in the design of this trail in order to address the most urgent access and sustainability needs (see Project Map 2 & Table 1). Currently, commercially permitted outfitters lead rappelling trips from the top of Granite Rock but there are no sustainable trails to facilitate this access. Phases 1 & 2 would establish 0.65 miles of routes to facilitate this existing use and provide access from the river and parking areas to Granite Rock. Phase 3 would create loop opportunities by adding an additional 0.54 miles of trail and provide additional interpretive and recreation opportunities for visitors. Phase 4 would connect Granite Rock with the Clear Creek Fishing Access via a 0.73 mile extension running along the Arkansas River to facilitate more sustainable fishing access, longer hiking or cycling opportunities and additional interpretive sites. Potential trail alignments have been identified and ground-truthed. The routes in Phases 1 & 2 (total 0.65 miles of trail) are proposed for construction as part of this Colorado the Beautiful grant application and will undergo final site-specific analysis by the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office, including inventories for cultural resources and sensitive plant species. Construction of phases 3 & 4 are anticipated in future years once Environmental Assessments are complete.

The proposed trail has been designed and would be constructed following best management practices to reduce impacts to soils, the Arkansas River and adjacent riparian zones, cultural sites as well as provide a high quality trail experience. These best management practices include: Contouring on hillsides; Utilizing optimal grades for the designed use and soil type; Designing and constructing trails with appropriate width for the type of use and intended difficulty; Incorporating grade reversals to maximize drainage off of the trail; Utilizing native rock to armor steep sections of the trail to reduce erosion and increase user safety; Designing the trail to take into account other anticipated uses to provide a high quality experience for multiple user groups where appropriate.

**EXHIBIT A - Project Narrative**  
Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

The S&RT Granite Rock Interpretive Trail is currently designed as a Class Four Pedestrian Trail as defined by the Federal Interagency Trail Standards. Class Four Pedestrian Trail Design Parameters:

- Design Tread Width: 24”-60” (anticipated 24” width)
- Design Surface:
  - Type: Native with improved sections of borrow or imported material, and routine grading, minor roughness.
  - Protrusions: ≤ 3 ”Uncommon, not continuous.
  - Obstacles (maximum): ≤ 8”
- Design Grade:
  - Target Grade: 2-10%
  - Short Pitch Maximum: 15%
  - Maximum Pitch Density: 5-20% of trail.
- Design Cross Slope:
  - Target Cross Slope: 3-7%
- Design Clearing:
  - Height: 8’-10’
  - Width: 48”-72”
- Design Turn Radius: 4’-8’

**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.

The Country Road 313 Trail has been approved by Chaffee County and was adopted into the Trails Master Plan on June 3, 2014. The trail will be constructed within the county right-of-way so no additional permits or licenses are required. A contracted Wildlife Biologist reviewed this segment of the proposal, in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff, and did not find any major environmental impacts. Minor impacts to waterways and invasive species will be mitigated appropriately. Construction can begin as soon as funds are awarded, a bidding process is complete, and a contractor has been identified.

The Arizona Street Bridge has been approved by the Town of Buena Vista who owns property on the southern bank and has just recently acquired property on the north bank in order to complete this project. Construction can begin after a bidding process is complete and a contractor has been identified.

The parking improvements, vehicle controls and trail construction proposed at Granite Rock all address existing uses at the site and should be approved using a Determination of NEPA Adequacy by the Bureau of Land Management in the fall of 2018. BLM resource specialists will

**EXHIBIT A - Project Narrative**  
Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

review final trail alignments and trailhead improvements before construction takes place. Once resource inventories are complete, construction can begin as soon as funds are awarded and agreements with partners and contractors are in place. Seasonal restrictions on activities that require vegetation disturbance would be avoided from May 15 through July 15. This is the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado Migratory birds so trail construction activities would be avoided during this time.

Sign installation will take place upon completion of each component of the project.

- 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?

The Stage and Rail Trail project was selected as one of the Governor's 16 in 2016 routes because it connects a series of trail networks and helps to enhance both local and regional access to trails. As a whole, the 70-mile route connects the communities of Salida, Buena Vista and Leadville which each have both municipal and singletrack trail networks that connect to the Stage and Rail Trail. In Salida, the route starts at the F Street bridge which also serves as an access point to over 30 miles of singletrack hiking and mountain biking trails on BLM lands. Similarly in Buena Vista, the route passes through the downtown river park where another 20 miles of existing singletrack trails. In Leadville, the route intersects the Mineral Belt Trail – an 11.7 mile loop for walkers, joggers, cyclists and Nordic skiers. From here, users can access singletrack trails behind the Colorado Mountain College campus as well as roads and trails on federal lands. Lastly, the Stage and Rail Trail will also provide access to the proposed Fremont Pathway which will extend from Leadville to Copper Mountain in the future. When both the Stage and Rail and Fremont trails are completed there will exist a continuous regional trail from Salida to Copper Mountain, from which there are extensive further connections west to Vail and east to Breckenridge.

On a more local level, the proposed trail construction projects along the Stage and Rail route will increase access to municipal trail networks, outdoor recreation amenities and educational opportunities in Chaffee County. Residents in Johnson Village are currently disconnected from trails and parks in Buena Vista but the CR 313 trail will establish access to existing trail networks as well as provide a Safe Route to School for local youth. At Granite Rock, the trail construction project will provide safe and sustainable access for hikers and rappellers to the high point of the site where users can enjoy sweeping views of the river, mountains and surrounding landscape. The short distance and easy nature of the trails will make the area accessible to all ages and abilities and will provide the feeling of a primitive Colorado experience from a highly accessible roadside access point. Additionally, the trail improvements at Granite Rock will enhance fishing access along the Arkansas River and provide other recreation opportunities for overnight campers, rafters and climbers who utilize the site. The long-term plan for Granite Rock includes future development of a loop trail and a connector trail that runs downstream along the river to the Clear Creek fishing access and Stone Cabin fishing and recreation area.



**EXHIBIT A - Project Narrative**  
Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

Connectivity through this narrow corridor will link several Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area sites together and provide longer and looped recreation opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers, campers and other users.

Interpretive signage along the new trails will provide opportunities for environmental education to visitors and residents who travel these routes. Signage will focus around local transportation history but also include ecology, geology and recreation topics. Groups like the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association who provide ecological literacy programs for local school groups as well as their adult members will be better able to utilize these sites for interpretive hikes and environmental education.

**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 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.

The Stage and Rail Trail has been in the planning stages for over ten years and this project will help support some of the first phases of implementation and construction along the route. In 2011/2012 a feasibility study was conducted to assess potential routes and gather community feedback through a series of Open House events and stakeholder meetings. The study considered: Potential Partners, Historic Preservation Benefits, Educational Opportunities, Regional Trail Connections, Potential Wildlife Impacts, Local Economic Benefits, Adjacent Landowner Concerns, and long-term management and maintenance. In 2016, a draft Master Plan for the Stage and Rail Trail was published which included both preferred and alternative routes. Currently a Partner Advisory Board oversees the project and includes over 15 representatives from local government, state and federal agencies, non-profit groups, businesses and more. The Partner Advisory Board identified several of the highest priority segments of the Stage and Rail Trail to focus on and both Granite Rock and the Buena Vista corridor were selected. Ongoing communication with Chaffee County, the Bureau of Land Management and the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area has taken place throughout the planning process and local agency managers see both the need for and benefit of these local projects. Both projects have been introduced at public open houses and public commissioners meetings on multiple occasions. No major user group conflicts or public opposition have arisen with regard to these segments of the route and none are anticipated.

**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

**EXHIBIT A - Project Narrative**  
Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

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.

Chaffee County will be working closely with a number of partners to ensure successful implementation of this project. Previous grant-funded projects for planning and design of the Stage and Rail Trail have utilized the non-profit Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA) as the fiscal agent but, given the scope of this proposal, the County was selected as the project applicant because both proposed activities lie within its jurisdiction. The County is uniquely qualified to oversee the CR 313 road work, and equally committed to ensuring that the Granite Rock area is well managed and safely serving Chaffee County visitors to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area and traveling along the Collegiate Peaks Byway. The County has allocated \$65,000 as cash match from its Conservation Trust Funds for completion of this project.

The Town of Buena Vista is an important partner and supporter of this project, particularly for the Arizona Bridge and County Road 313 components. \$162,000 in funding from the Colorado Department of Transportation was secured for the Arizona Bridge project in 2014 and will be utilized in 2019 for this project.

GARNA will continue to serve on the Stage and Rail Trail Partner Advisory Board and help to oversee completion of these projects. Over the past year, Colorado Mountain Club has served as the Project Coordinator for the Stage and Rail Trail project and will continue to assist with project management. Volunteers and other community partners involved in the Stage and Rail Trail project will also continue to provide support and in-kind volunteer labor to complete project goals. The Stage and Rail Trail project will host several volunteer events to complete trail construction, fencing and sign installation, anticipating over 150 service hours (an in-kind value of \$3,894 based on the Independent Sector Rate of \$25.96/hour).

The Southwest Conservation Corps, base in southern Chaffee County, will provide crews of young adults to complete three weeks of trail construction and fencing work at Granite Rock. Their in-kind contribution of \$3,000 includes administrative costs and staff support for their crews.

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area and Bureau of Land Management are also key partners on the Granite Rock project and will assist in project oversight. AHRA and BLM staff are both active on the Stage and Rail Trail Partner Advisory Board and have completed several site visits with the Stage and Rail Project Coordinator to review and approve the trail alignment and trailhead design for the Granite Rock site. AHRA has committed \$4,020 of in-kind staff support as well as \$2,000 in cash match for improvements to the Granite Rock site.

Over 40% of the required project match has been secured for this project. The Stage and Rail Trail project coordinator and Partner Advisory Board will also continue to raise additional foundation and corporate funds, not reflected in this grant, to support general project coordination and interpretation on other segments of the route.

**EXHIBIT A - Project Narrative**  
Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

**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?

The Stage and Rail Trail has been in the planning process for many years and urgently needs to begin implementation in order to remain relevant and to provide tangible benefits to local communities. The projects identified in this application were identified by local community members as high priority projects to enhance connectivity and establish key segments of the Stage and Rail Trail. The County has set aside matching funds for construction of the CR313 trail but cannot complete the project without support from this grant. At Granite Rock, the damage to natural resources is accelerating without proper management of visitor usage. Already there are large devegetated areas, erosion, and new routes forming from unmanaged vehicle use while hikers and rappellers create new social trails as they scramble through steep terrain. The site needs vehicle control mechanisms and sustainable trails in order to appropriately manage the current uses and withstand any increased use as the demand for recreation opportunities increases. The Bureau of Land Management and Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area would like to keep this a fee-free site so people can still hike and camp with minimal development but this also means the agencies do not have much funding for the necessary improvements. The parking and trail construction efforts at Granite Rock will not happen without support from the Colorado the Beautiful grant program. While both the CR313 trail and Granite Rock improvements are both high-priority projects for the Stage and Rail Trail project and surrounding communities, they could be considered separately for the purposes of this funding opportunity. However, some administrative and project coordination efficiencies would be lost by separating the two projects and together they will enhance connectivity along the northern segment of the Stage and Rail Trail project between Johnson Village and Granite.

**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?

The County Road 313 trail will be maintained and managed by the county through their Road and Bridge plowing and maintenance programs. This will be absorbed by the county's annual budget at estimated cost of \$5,000 per year.

At Granite Rock, the new trails have been designed in a sustainable fashion so there should be minimal annual maintenance costs. The BLM and Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area will ultimately be responsible for maintenance of the new infrastructure and trails but may seek help to cover shortfalls. Partner groups, including the Stage and Rail Trail Partner Advisory Board, will help to raise funds for ongoing trail maintenance, and partner groups will be responsible for sign maintenance and replacement as necessary.

**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

**EXHIBIT A - Project Narrative**  
Chaffee County – Stage & Rail Trail Construction

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?

The county has allocated \$65,000 for the trail construction work along County Road 313 but cannot complete the project without support from the Colorado the Beautiful grant program. Without this grant, the county will plan to reallocate those funds towards other projects and they will no longer be available for trail construction. Funds for the Arizona Bridge project were secured in 2014 through a Colorado Department of Transportation grant but, without funding for the CR313 trail, the bridge does not provide the optimal level of connectivity between the town of Buena Vista and Johnson Village. The vehicle controls and new trail development at Granite Rock will not be possible without this grant. The agencies may be able to do some in-kind parking improvements, but without fencing and sustainable trail development, ongoing resource damage will continue in this area.

Chaffee County is experienced in managing and administering large grants including:

- Currently a companion in the Cottonwood Pass FLAP road rehabilitation- Federal government granted 83% funding with county providing a 17% match or \$ 2,318,810 of the \$ 18,600,000 19 mile project.
- Salida Airport Runway Rehabilitation: Managed the grant process for this \$ 6,000,000 AIP project from CY 2011 thru CY 2012
- City and County Toubert Building Remodel 2009 and 2010: Completed project oversight on the fully gutted and re-design of the 43,000 square foot building. Project Budget \$2.8 million, received a \$1,750,000 DOLA grant to assist in the remodel.

The county had no issues managing these funds, coordinating with project contractors and completing reporting requirements. Through this project, Chaffee County will work with the Stage and Rail Trail project coordinator who will be primarily responsible for overseeing the implementation and reporting for this grant. As the Stage and Rail Trail project continues its phased implementation, the advisory board may seek funding through the CPW State Trails Program in the future if the Colorado the Beautiful and other funding sources do not meet the needs of the project.

## Non-Federal Environmental Form

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHECK LIST (for projects outside of NEPA requirements) (Construction Grants Only)

Applicants are responsible to complete this form with local agency staff or an environmental consultant to address any environmental impacts associated with the project, including: securing all necessary permits, licenses, clearances, and environmental analysis documentation necessary to comply with local, state, or federal law. Please fill out the table below and associated narratives.

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS</b> Indicate potential for adverse impacts	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> Resource does not exist	<b>NEGLIGIBLE IMPACTS</b> Exists but no or negligible impacts	<b>MINOR IMPACTS</b>	<b>IMPACTS EXCEED MINOR</b>	<b>MORE DATA NEEDED TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF IMPACT</b>
1. Plants/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/federal listed or proposed for listing*	X				
2. Unique or important aquatic habitat; e.g. fish passage	X				
3. Water quality/quantity – surface and ground water considerations		X			
4. Stream flow characteristics	X				
5. River corridors/lakes/ponds/ seasonal water ways**			X		
6. Wetlands/floodplains	X				
7. Storm water runoff		X			
8. Sedimentation		X			
9. Disturbances to neighboring properties		X			
10. Soil/erosion		X			
11. Introduction or promotion of non-native species			X		
12. Environmental disturbances during construction		X			

\*If the proposed project affects threatened or endangered species or critical habitat listed at the federal or state level, concurrence with a CPW wildlife manager or biologist is required prior to the submission of this application

\*\*If the proposed project lies within 200 feet of a stream, river, lake, pond, seasonal stream or reservoir, concurrence with a CPW aquatic biologist is required prior to the submission of this application

**MITIGATION:** Please describe how any impacts exceeding negligible will be mitigated, some considerations below:

- Alternative design or trail route system
- Seasonal Closures

SEE ATTACHMENT FOR MITIGATION + BENEFITS

## Non-Federal Environmental Form

- Screening of users from wildlife area, protection of critical habitat, channeling use through less sensitive habitat areas
- Re-vegetation of disturbed areas and control of invasive species
- Management of users and related activities with signs, fencing, and education programs
- Consideration of runoff when selecting project materials, such as uncured concrete that would encourage seepage
- Comprehensive storm water runoff plan

**BENEFIT:** Please describe if the project will have a positive impact on wildlife and/or sensitive species; some consideration below:

- Habitat improvement such as restoration of native habitat, wetlands restoration, erosion reduction, sediment reduction, river corridor clean-up, or plantings with a diversity of species and plant types for habitat restoration, and the reduction or elimination of non-native plant species
- Education of users through environmental education programs, opportunities for "watchable wildlife," and wildlife impact monitoring

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:** The applicant is responsible for adhering to all applicable environmental compliance regulations including: Migratory Bird Treaty Act; concurrence with US Fish and Wildlife Service if any federally listed species of concern exist in project area; Clean Water Act section 404; US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permits; raptor buffer guidelines and incorporation of CPW recommended wildlife best management practices; CO Senate Bill 40 (33-5-101-107, CRS 1973 as amended); Colorado Historical, Prehistoric and Archeological Resources Act.

DAVID N Potts Chaffee County Commissioner  
Printed name of applicant:

An authorized person must sign here, such as the applicant's executive director, county commission chairperson, or city council chairperson. Must be same person as Application Checklist.

David N Potts 7-27-18  
Signature of applicant Date

CINDY LAWRENCE Wildlife Biologist, Lawrence Ecological Services LLC  
Printed name, title of authority:

Agency natural resource specialist or hired consultant that completed this checklist must sign here. The applicant and title of authority must be different.

[Signature] 7-26-18  
Signature authority: Date

**Non-Federal Environmental Form Attachment**

**Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application Supplement  
for  
Stage and Rail Trail – County Road 313 Paved Trail and Bridge Construction,  
Chaffee County, Colorado**

**Prepared by Cindy Lawrence, Wildlife Biologist  
Lawrence Ecological Services, LLC**

**July 26, 2018**

**Environmental Checklist Suggested Mitigation Measures for Impacts Exceeding Negligible:**

Two of the 12 environmental considerations were determined to potentially result in minor impacts; river corridors/lakes/ponds/seasonal waterways and introduction or promotion of non-native species. Considerations are as follows:

**A. River corridors/lakes/ponds/seasonal waterways:**

Minor impacts could occur as a result of trail construction. A portion of the north end of the proposed trail would parallel the Cottonwood Creek Irrigation Ditch. The trail would be constructed by widening the existing County Road 313 by 8 feet along the west side of the road, thereby designating the additional 8 feet as the trail for pedestrian and bike use. At two locations, the distance between County Road 313 and the Cottonwood Creek Irrigation Ditch is less than 8-feet wide. At these locations, the trail would have to decrease in width from 8 feet to approximately 4 feet to avoid encroachment upon the ditch. A possible mitigation measure could be to place a 4-foot wide northbound trail along the northbound lane and place a 4-foot wide southbound trail along the southbound lane for the entirety of County Road 313. This design would also allow for bikers to travel with the flow of traffic. If it proves necessary to narrow the trail at the above-mentioned locations, it is suggested that ditch-side vegetation remain in place, a berm be constructed, or another such barrier be placed to reduce storm water flow into the ditch during storm events.

Cumulative impacts regarding surface and ground water considerations and potential increases in storm water runoff and sedimentation are not expected to exceed negligible impacts as a result of increasing the width of existing County Road 313 by 8 feet. This is due to relatively level terrain, surrounding porous soil composition, and the presence of dense vegetation along the majority of the irrigation ditch.

**B. Introduction or promotion of non-native species:**

Minor impacts could occur as a result of trail construction. There are 25 List A species, 40 List B species, and 16 List C species of noxious weeds listed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in 2017. Six of these species were found adjacent to and

within County Road 313 right-of-way (ROW) during a pedestrian survey conducted on July 25, 2018.

Noxious Weeds found within County Road 313 ROW
Class A Species
None
Class B Species
Canada thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> )
Dalmatian toadflax ( <i>Linaria dalmatica</i> )
Class C Species
Cheat grass ( <i>Bromus tectorum</i> )
Common mullein ( <i>Verbascum Thapsus</i> )
Field bindweed ( <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> )
Redstem filaree ( <i>Erodium cicutarium</i> )

The Colorado Department of Agriculture describe List A, B, and C species as follows:

List A: Species in Colorado that are designated by the Commissioner for eradication.

List B: Species for which the Commissioner, in consultation with the state noxious weed advisory committee, local governments, and other interested parties, develops and implements state noxious weed management plans designed to stop the continued spread of these species.

List C: Species for which the Commissioner, in consultation with the state noxious weed advisory committee, local governments, and other interested parties, will develop and implement state noxious weed management plans designed to support the efforts of local governing bodies to facilitate more effective integrated weed management on private and public lands. The goal of such plans will not be to stop the continued spread of these species but to provide additional education, research, and biological control resources to jurisdictions that choose to require management of List C species.

Mitigation measures include re-seeding disturbed areas with an approved Chaffee County seed mixture. The construction contractor, Chaffee County, and the Town of Buena Vista would ensure that noxious weed seed is not introduced into unaffected areas or further spread in infested areas. Workers should be aware of removing seeds from vehicles, equipment, and clothing before moving onto or off the job site in order to keep noxious weeds from becoming established or spreading within the construction area and/or surrounding areas. The six noxious weed species already occurring within the ROW, could be controlled by the county or town by using approved and effective weed-control methods as these weeds are not yet wide-spread throughout the ROW.

**Project Benefits:**

Environmental benefits of the proposed trail include the potential reduction or elimination of non-native plant species. In addition, trail users will be offered a safe



alternative from walking or biking directly along County Road 313 allowing them to enjoy wildlife viewing while traveling a historic travel route.

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**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.

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Project Name Stage and Rail Trail Construction

Project Sponsor Chaffee County

**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: 5/1996

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

Title of document:

Date of document:

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:

*The project requires site specific analysis including inventories for cultural resources to sensitive plant species.*

Name: Kalem Lenard

Phone number: 719-269-8538

Email: jlenard@blm.gov

4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for N/A.

Land Manager's Name: Keith Berger

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature: Field Manager

Acting for: 

**Exhibit B**  
**Budget Form - Project Name:** Stage and Rail Trail Construction

SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
<b>CASH</b>								
Colorado the Beautiful Grant	Pending				\$ 313,063.67		\$ 313,063.67	
Chaffee County Conservation Trust Funds	7/17/2018					\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	
Colorado Department of Transportation	2014					\$ 162,000.00	\$ 162,000.00	
Arkansas Headwaters Area - Operating Funds	7/31/2018					\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
<b>IN-KIND</b>								
Volunteer Labor	Anticipated					\$ 3,894.00	\$ 3,894.00	
Arkansas Headwaters Area Staff Time	Anticipated					\$ 4,020.00	\$ 4,020.00	
Southwest Conservation Corps - 3 crew weeks	Anticipated					\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>					<b>\$ 313,063.67</b>	<b>\$ 239,914.00</b>	<b>\$ 552,977.67</b>	
<b>USE OF FUNDS - CASH</b>								
USE OF FUNDS - CASH	Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
<b>Category 1 - Contracted Services</b>								
County Road 313 Trail Construction & Materials - Estimate from Chaffee County Road and Bridge Department	Linear Feet	10,000	\$ 26.00	\$ 260,000.00	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 260,000.00	0
Arizona Street Bridge Construction & Materials - Estimate from Molson Associates	Prefabricated Br	1	\$ 162,000.00	\$ 162,000.00		\$ 162,000.00	\$ 162,000.00	0
Granite Rock Trailhead Improvements - Grading and parking areas construction and materials - Estimate from ACA Products	Project Estimate	1	\$ 40,994.17	\$ 40,994.17	\$ 40,994.17		\$ 40,994.17	0
Granite Rock Trailhead Improvements - Road Base Materials and Installation on 1800' of Existing Routes - Estimate from ACA Products	Per 100 linear feet	18	\$ 1,770.25	\$ 31,864.50	\$ 29,864.50	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 31,864.50	0
Granite Rock Trailhead Improvements - Boulders and installation for vehicle controls - Estimate from ACA Products	Per 100 linear feet	1	\$ 2,905.00	\$ 2,905.00	\$ 2,905.00		\$ 2,905.00	0
Granite Rock Trail & Fence Construction - Southwest Conservation Corps	Weekly crew rate	3	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 19,500.00		\$ 19,500.00	0
Granite Rock Project Design & Coordination	Hourly Rate	160	\$ 40.00	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 6,400.00		\$ 6,400.00	0
Sign Installation	Hourly Rate	80	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	0
Signage Project Coordination	Hourly Rate	120	\$ 40.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00		\$ 4,800.00	0
<b>Category 2 - Salary/Wages</b>								
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>Category 3 - Materials/Tools</b>								
Granite Rock Buck & Rail Fencing Materials	Linear Feet	1000	\$ 8.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 8,000.00	0
Signage - Directional	Cost per sign	30	\$ 40.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00		\$ 1,200.00	0
Signage - Interpretive	Cost per sign	6	\$ 400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00		\$ 2,400.00	0
<b>Additional Categories</b>								
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>\$ 313,063.67</b>	<b>\$ 229,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 542,063.67</b>	
<b>IN-KIND</b>								
IN-KIND	Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total			Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
<b>Category 1 - Contracted Services</b>								
Granite Rock Trail & Fence Construction - Southwest Conservation Corps	Weekly crew rate	3	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	0
<b>Category 2 - Salary/Wages</b>								
Arkansas Headwaters Area Staff - Park Manager	Hourly Rate	40	\$ 60.00	\$ 2,400.00		\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	0
Arkansas Headwaters Area Staff - Ops Manager	Hourly Rate	20	\$ 46.00	\$ 920.00		\$ 920.00	\$ 920.00	0
Arkansas Headwaters Area Staff - PRT	Hourly Rate	20	\$ 35.00	\$ 700.00		\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	0
<b>Category 3 - Materials/Tools</b>								
				\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0
<b>Additional Categories</b>								
Volunteer Labor - Granite Rock Trail & Fence Construction		150	\$ 25.96	\$ 3,894.00		\$ 3,894.00	\$ 3,894.00	0
<b>IN-KIND SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 10,914.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,914.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>					<b>\$ 313,063.67</b>	<b>\$ 239,914.00</b>	<b>\$ 552,977.67</b>	
<b>30% REQUIRED MATCH</b>						<b>\$ 93,919.10</b>		



## TOWN OF BUENA VISTA

Post Office Box 2002  
Buena Vista, CO 81211  
Phone: (719) 395-8643  
Fax: (719) 395-8644

July 31, 2018

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

Dear State Trails Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the Town of Buena Vista, I am pleased to submit a letter of support for Chaffee County's application for funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the Colorado the Beautiful grant program. The "Stage and Rail Trail Construction Project" is the first phase of implementation for one of the Governors 16 in 2016 trails and we are eager to see the following projects move ahead because they will enhance connectivity between our communities to the outdoors, and provided important recreation opportunities for both locals and visitors.

The Town of Buena Vista is located in the center of the full Stage and Rail Trail project and in close proximity to the implementation sites proposed in this application. We are especially eager to see improvements along County Road 313 to complement the new Arizona Street bridge construction at the northern terminus of that segment. The Town has recently acquired the final parcel of land to complete the bridge project which will connect County Road 313 to existing routes within the Buena Vista town limits. The new trail and bridge will provide connectivity and a safe route to school between the Town of Buena Vista and Johnson Village and allow safe access for pedestrians and cyclists along the road where currently there is no shoulder or trail. Interpretive opportunities along the route will also help to highlight the historical and ecological importance of the adjacent Arkansas River and surrounding agricultural lands in the valley.

Granite Rock Trail and Parking Improvements – The Granite Rock site is an important recreational and interpretive opportunity along the Stage and Rail Trail and will serve as an asset to both County residents and visitors. The site is currently undermanaged and in need of vehicle controls and trail improvements to manage human impacts and minimize damage to natural resources. Better parking and new trails will provide more sustainable access for hikers, youth and adult education groups, and other users.

Signage – Navigability is a key component to promote and enhance use of outdoor trails, including the new routes along CR313 and at Granite Rock. Signage will help both residents and visitors engage in outdoor recreation opportunities and connect to different communities throughout the county. Additionally, interpretive signage will also highlight the transportation history of the county and give users better understanding and respect for natural and cultural resources in the area.

The construction project proposed by Chaffee County will provide great benefits to both local users and visitors in the area and we urge you to support their application with full funding.



## TOWN OF BUENA VISTA

Post Office Box 2002  
Buena Vista, CO 81211  
Phone: (719) 395-8643  
Fax: (719) 395-8644

Please feel free to contact Phillip Puckett, 719-581-1031 with any questions regarding our support for this project.

Sincerely,

Phillip Puckett  
Town Administrator

**Greater Arkansas River Nature Association**  
*Nature Centered, Community Driven.*

PO Box 1522  
Salida, Colorado 81201

719.539.5106  
[www.garna.org](http://www.garna.org)  
[dominique@garna.org](mailto:dominique@garna.org)



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

Dear State Trails Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA), I am pleased to submit a letter of support for Chaffee County's application for funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the Colorado the Beautiful grant program. The "Stage and Rail Trail Construction Project" is the first phase of implementation for one of the Governors 16 in 2016 trails and we are eager to see the following projects move ahead because they will enhance connectivity between our communities to the outdoors, and provided important recreation opportunities for both locals and visitors.

GARNA's mission is to foster stewardship of the resources of the greater Arkansas River region through education, volunteerism, and experiences. GARNA accomplishes their mission through formal partnerships with natural resource agencies and work with local, like-minded organizations. GARNA has been a fiscal sponsor for the Stage and Rail Trail project for over eight years and we are excited to see the project move from the planning phase to the implementation phase.

County Road 313 Trail and Bridge Construction – The 1.9 mile 8-foot wide paved path will provide connectivity and a safe route to school between the Town of Buena Vista and Johnson Village and allow safe access for pedestrians and cyclists along the road where currently there is no shoulder or trail. The Arizona Street Bridge is an essential component to connect the new 313 trail to existing trail networks within the Buena Vista town limits. Interpretive opportunities along the route will also help to highlight the historical and ecological importance of the adjacent Arkansas River and surrounding agricultural lands in the valley.

Granite Rock Trail and Parking Improvements – The Granite Rock site is an important recreational and interpretive opportunity along the Stage and Rail Trail and will serve as an asset to both County residents and visitors. The site is currently undermanaged and in need of vehicle controls and trail improvements to manage human impacts and minimize damage to natural resources. Better parking and new trails will provide more sustainable access for hikers, youth and adult education groups, and other users.

Signage – Navigability is a key component to promote and enhance use of outdoor trails, including the new routes along CR313 and at Granite Rock. Signage will help both residents and visitors engage in outdoor recreation opportunities and connect to different communities throughout the county. Additionally, interpretive signage will also highlight the transportation history of the county and give users better understanding and respect for natural and cultural resources in the area.

The construction project proposed by Chaffee County will provide great benefits to both local users and visitors in the area and we urge you to support their application with full funding. Please feel free to contact Dominique Naccarato at [Dominique@garna.org](mailto:Dominique@garna.org), 719-539-5106, with any questions regarding our support for this project.

Sincerely,

Dominique Naccarato  
GARNA Executive Director  
[Dominique@garna.org](mailto:Dominique@garna.org)  
719-539-5106

# Buena Vista Trails Advisory Board



July 30, 2018

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

Dear State Trails Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the Buena Vista Trails Advisory Board, I am pleased to submit a letter of support for Chaffee County's application for funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the Colorado the Beautiful grant program. CRS 29-7-101(2) authorizes the Town of Buena Vista to acquire, own, operate, and maintain public recreation lands and facilities. To assist in that effort, the Buena Vista Trails Advisory Board was established in January, 2007. This board provides recommendations to the Buena Vista Board of Trustees on trail development and maintenance within the town and in the Buena Vista/Bureau of Land Management Cooperative Management Area.

The "Stage and Rail Trail Construction Project" is the first phase of implementation for one of the Governors 16 in 2016 trails and we are eager to see the following projects move ahead because they will enhance connectivity between our communities to the outdoors, and provided important recreation opportunities for both locals and visitors:

- ***County Road 313 Trail and Bridge Construction*** –The 1.9 mile 8-foot wide paved path will provide connectivity and a safe route to school between the Town of Buena Vista and Johnson Village and allow safe access for pedestrians and cyclists along the road where currently there is no shoulder or trail. The Arizona Street Bridge is an essential component to connect the new 313 trail to existing trail networks within the Buena Vista town limits. Interpretive opportunities along the route will also help to highlight the historical and ecological importance of the adjacent Arkansas River and surrounding agricultural lands in the valley.
- ***Granite Rock Trail and Parking Improvements*** – The Granite Rock site is an important recreational and interpretive opportunity along the Stage and Rail Trail and will serve as an asset to both County residents and visitors. The site is currently undermanaged and in need of vehicle controls and trail improvements to manage human impacts and minimize damage to natural resources. Better parking and new trails will provide more sustainable access for hikers, youth and adult education groups, and other users.
- ***Signage*** – Navigability is a key component to promote and enhance use of outdoor trails, including the new routes along CR313 and at Granite Rock. Signage will help both residents and visitors engage in outdoor recreation opportunities and connect to different communities throughout the county. Additionally, interpretive signage will also highlight the transportation history of the county and give users better understanding and respect for natural and cultural resources in the area.

## Buena Vista Trails Advisory Board



The construction project proposed by Chaffee County will provide great benefits to both local users and visitors in the area and we urge you to support their application with full funding. Please feel free to contact Lois Walton at [lw Walton4elk@hotmail.com](mailto:lw Walton4elk@hotmail.com) or 719-395-8346 with any questions regarding our support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lois Walton', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

for

Lois Walton  
Chair, Buena Vista Trails Advisory Board  
33960 Surrey Lane  
Buena Vista, CO 81211  
[Lwalton4elk@hotmail.com](mailto:Lwalton4elk@hotmail.com)  
719-395-8346





GARNA's Stage and Rail Trail Working Group

Alan Robinson [robinsonalanh@gmail.com](mailto:robinsonalanh@gmail.com)

Kathy McCoy [katherinemccoy@earthlink.net](mailto:katherinemccoy@earthlink.net)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

State Trails Program 13787 U.S. Hwy. 85 N., Littleton, CO 80125

July 30, 2018

Dear State Trails Grant Review Committee,

As representatives of the volunteer Stage and Rail Trail Working Group under the non-profit nature association GARNA, we are pleased to submit a letter of support for Chaffee County's application for funding the "Stage and Rail Trail Construction Project." Alan is a retired US and international natural resource and protected area planner with more than 40 years' experience; Kathy is a professional graphic designer with more than 40 years' experience including leadership in graduate level academics and national professional organizations.

Our Working Group has been active under GARNA for the past decade, responsible for writing and overseeing a succession of successful CPR Trails Program grants with GARNA as applicant and financial sponsor. These have taken the "S&RT" through a Feasibility Study (2012) and draft Master Plan (2015-<http://garna.org/stageandrail/>) and its first implementation phase (2017-2018). With the support of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, through which the trail runs in key sections, the S&RT was recognized as one of Colorado the Beautiful's 16 Trails in 2016.

This complex 70-mile hiking, biking and driving trail has progressed to a point that individual sections, such as the CR 313 Trail and Bridge and Granite Rock Trail and Parking Improvements (proposed in the current application) are ready for development. In this instance, Chaffee County is the Applicant, and the Colorado Mountain Club is Project Manager. Future segments may follow the same approach, utilizing Applicants (fiscal sponsors), Managers, and Partners that are the most relevant for that segment.

We enthusiastically support the specific elements in the proposal.

The **County Road 313 Trail and Bridge Construction** is explicitly included as the future route of the S&RT in the draft Master Plan. Not only would it facilitate safer and more-informed use by S&RT cyclists and pedestrians, it would serve a wider public including youth in Johnson Village as a Safe Route to School.

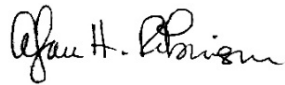
The **Granite Rock** proposal is an important recreational and interpretive opportunity in the long term, and it is especially important in the shorter term in because it will serve to introduce and educate users about the wider S&RT project. Developing an even-stronger "constituency" for the S&RT is important as we seek support for implementing additional segments. The proposed interpretive and access trails are combined with needed control of unmanaged camping and road use - an example of how trails can stimulate better management and use of the areas they pass through.

The proposed **directional and interpretive signage** in these two locations supports one of the fundamental tripartite goals (Preservation-Interpretation-Experience) of the full S&RT project. The trail

seeks not only to provide a quality recreational experience but to educate users to the historical significance of the old stage road and the Midland RR as well as other transportation corridors. Educated users are more likely to respect these and other natural and cultural resources of our local Heritage.

We urge you to support the Chaffee County application with full funding. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Alan H. Robinson



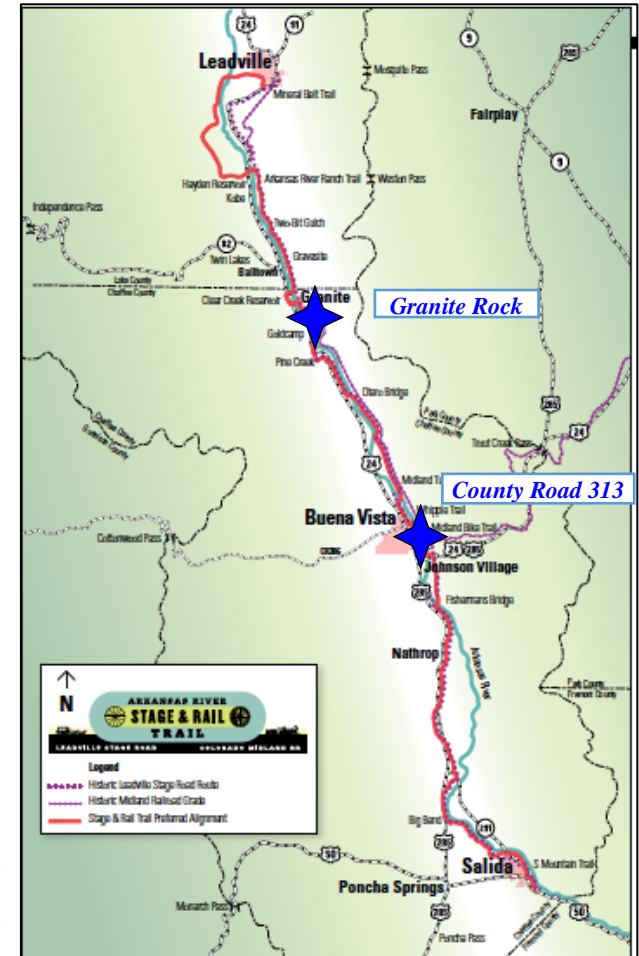
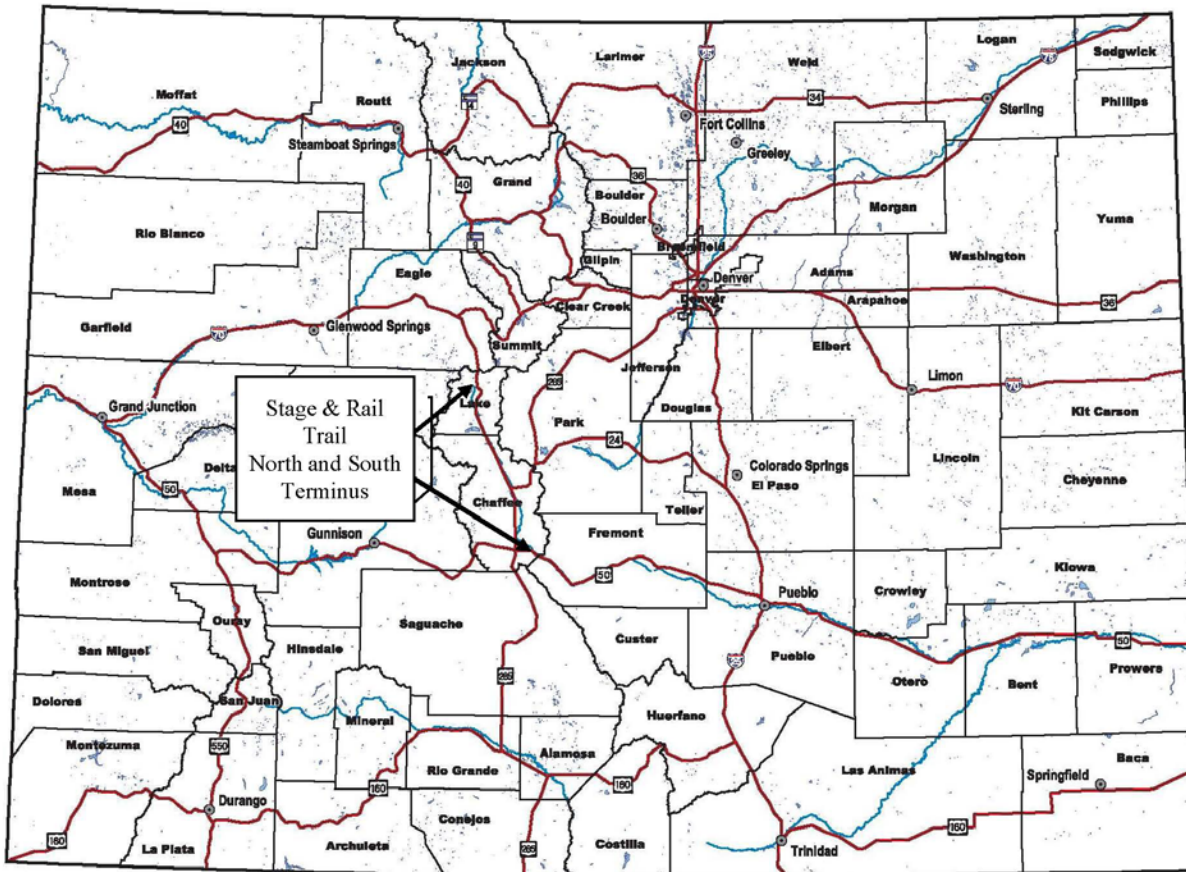
Kathy McCoy

S&RT Working Group Volunteers



Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application  
Chaffee County – Stage and Rail Trail Construction  
August 2018  
MAPS AND PHOTOS

Vicinity Maps





Project Map 2 – Granite Rock Trail and Trailhead Improvements

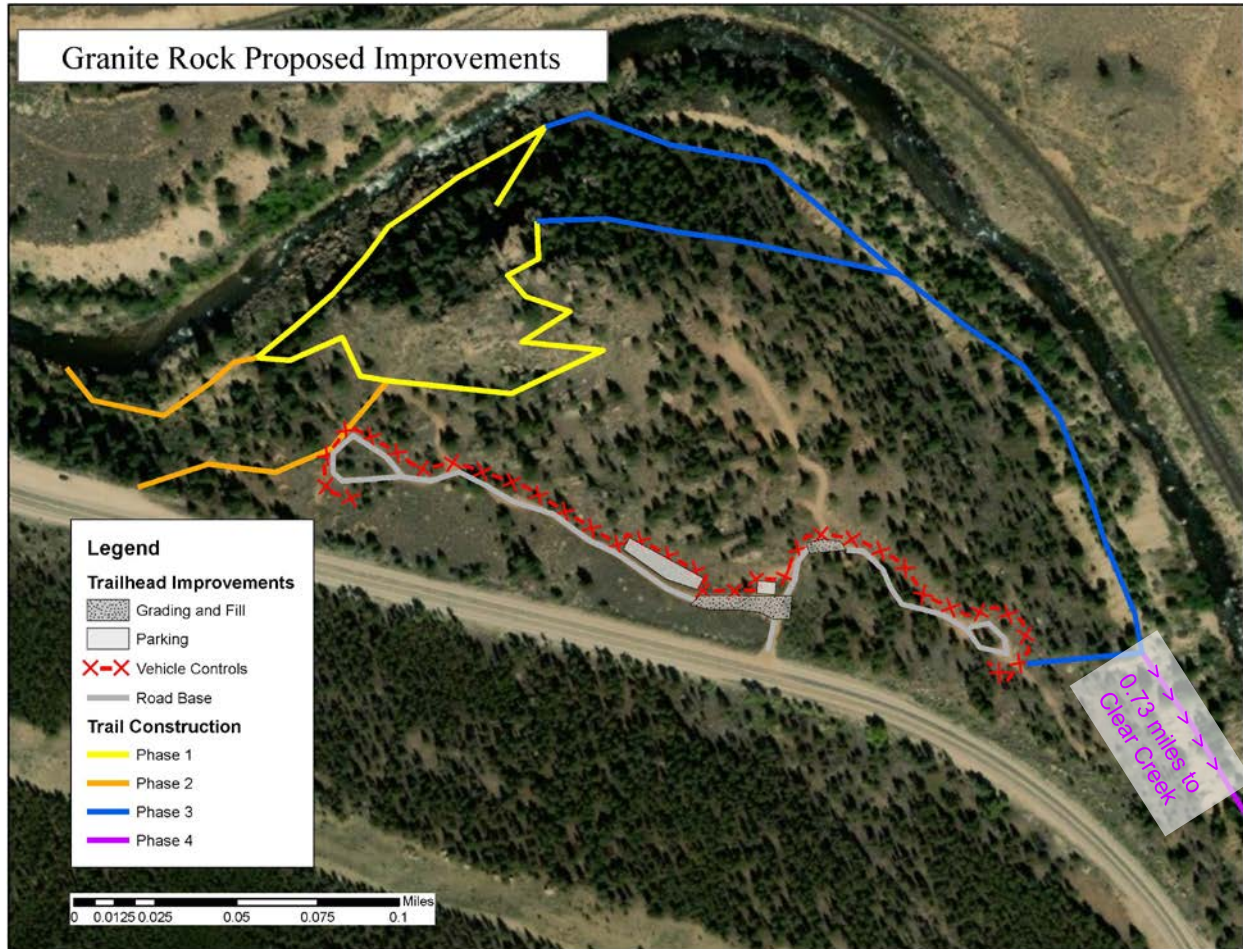


Table 1 – Granite Rock

Item	Phase	Name	Mileage
Fence	1	Fencing	0.38
<b>Fencing Total</b>			<b>0.38</b>
Trail	1	Steep Grade	0.06
Trail	1	Granite Rock Base Access	0.18
Trail	1	Granite Rock Top Access	0.20
Trail	2	Pullout Connector	0.12
Trail	2	Fishing Access/Beach Connector	0.09
<b>Phase 1 &amp; 2 Total (2018 proposal)</b>			<b>0.65</b>
Trail	3	<i>Short Loop</i>	<i>0.31</i>
Trail	3	<i>Long Loop</i>	<i>0.23</i>
Trail	4	<i>Connection to Clear Creek</i>	<i>0.73</i>
<b>Phase 3 &amp; 4 Total</b>			<b>0.73</b>
<b>Trail Total</b>			<b>1.93</b>

Photo 1 - Northern Terminus of County Road 313 Trail looking north at intersection of Arizona Street and Marquette Ave shows existing Cottonwood Creek vehicle bridge



Photo 2 – County Road 313 in Johnson Village. New trail will be located on West (left) side of road



Photo 3 – Resource Damage at Granite Rock

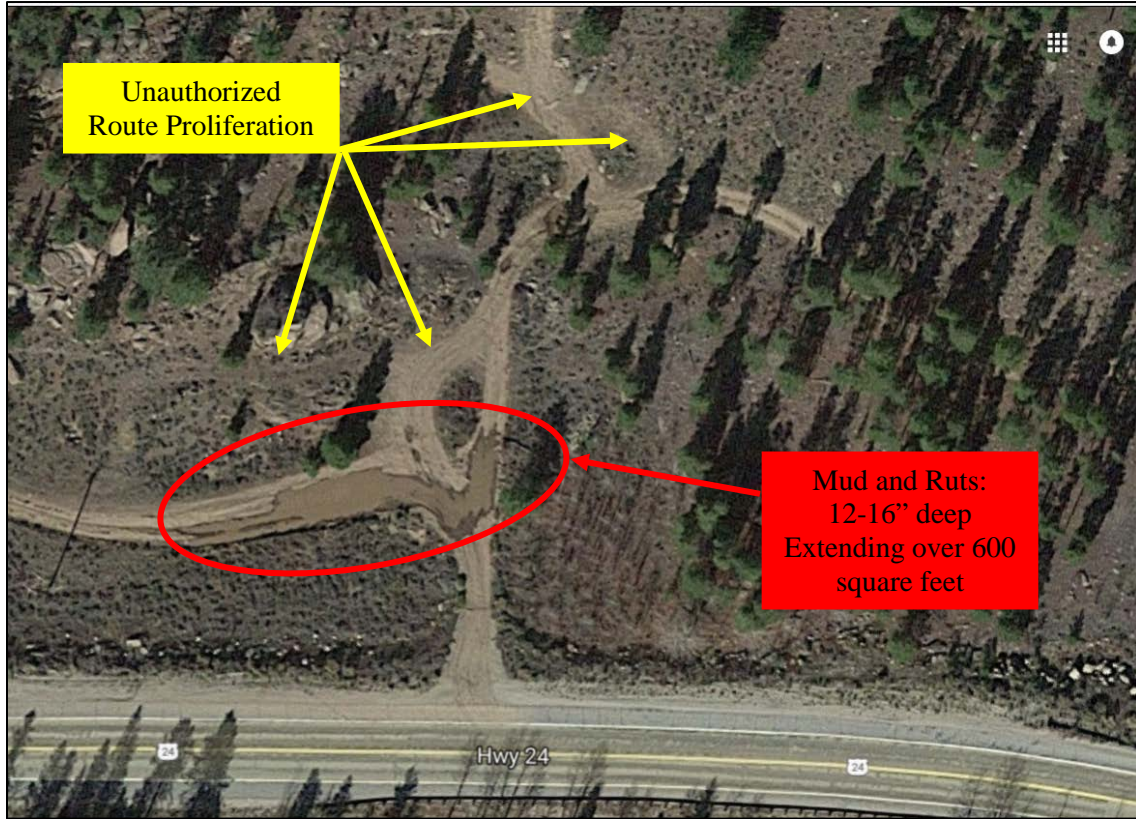


Photo 4 – View from the top of Granite Rock

