



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, include link to EA).

ADDITIONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

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



Colorado Parks & Wildlife Beautification Trails Grant 8-1-2018

The Palisade Plunge



Palisade Plunge Partners:



**MESA
COUNTY**



**CITY OF
Grand Junction
COLORADO**



powderhorn
MOUNTAIN RESORT

**GRAND JUNCTION economic
PARTNERSHIP**

MESA COUNTY, COLORADO
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR MESA COUNTY, COLORADO, SUPPORTING THE AWARD OF THE COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PALISADE PLUNGE 2018

WHEREAS, The Colorado the Beautiful Grant Program funds projects through large trail construction grants and regional trails planning grants. In 2016 Governor Hickenlooper announced the Colorado the Beautiful Initiative. Its vision is that within a generation, every Coloradan will live within 10 minutes of a park, trail, or vibrant green space. This new grant program works towards that goal by increasing access to public lands for Coloradans and visitors alike. The Palisade Plunge was one of the trails to be constructed, and

WHEREAS, Mesa County and the Town of Palisade received grants for the planning and environmental process for the Palisade Plunge for the purpose of creating construction ready documents, and

Bureau of Land Management

WHEREAS, the NEPA documents were signed by the U.S. ~~National Forest Service~~ approving the EA of the Planning documents of the Palisade Plunge Trail, and

Amb
7/31/18

WHEREAS, the NEPA documents have a time limit of 2 years of signing for the construction of the trail to be completed, making the grant reward very important for 2018,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR MESA COUNTY, COLORADO THAT:

The County Commissioners of Mesa County, Colorado support the award of the Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application and authorizes the county staff to manage the grant.

RESOLVED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 30th day of July, 2018.

(Seal)



MESA COUNTY, COLORADO

John Justman

John Justman, Chair Mesa County Board of
County Commissioners

ATTEST:

[Signature]

EXHIBIT A

COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION

Applicant or Organization Name: Mesa County		
Mailing Address: 544 Rood Avenue, PO Box 20,000, Grand Junction, CO 81502		
Applicant Lead Contact Name: Peter Baier, P.E., MPA		Title: Deputy Administrator Operations/ Public Works
Telephone: 970-244-1689	Email: peter.baier@mesacounty.us	Is this the primary contact for this grant: X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DUNS # (IF REQUIRED):

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

Name: Peter Baier	
Mailing Address: PO Box 20,000, Grand Junction, CO 81502	
Telephone: 970-244-1689	Email: peter.baier@mesacounty.us

PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Name: Town of Palisade		
Mailing Address: 175 East 3 rd Street, PO Box 128, Palisade, CO		
Partner Contact Name: Janet Hawkinson		Title: Town Administrator
Telephone: (970) 464-5602	Email: jhawkinson@townofpalisade.org	Is this the primary contact for this grant: YES

Project Title: Palisade Plunge Phase I Construction	
Grant Request: \$527,000.00	Required Match: \$158,100.00
Total Project Cost: \$685,249.08	
<p>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.)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>DEFINITIONS? Please define all acronyms and specialized terms that are used in your project description.</p>	

EXHIBIT A

Project Description: The Palisade Plunge

WHO?

The Palisade Plunge Trail (Plunge) is a community effort of the Grand Valley. The work will be completed by Mesa County with support from the Town of Palisade, City of Grand Junction, Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, Powderhorn Mountain Resort and Western Colorado Conservation Corps.

This project integrates the youth corps (Western Colorado Conservation Corps), as an employment and educational experience for a diverse population of youth ranging in age from 16-25. Corps Members are given the opportunity to learn life skills and provide service to their community, as well as take on civic and environmental responsibilities designed to enrich their lives and their surroundings. The Western Colorado Conservation Corps is committed to spend four weeks working on constructing, and/or maintaining the Palisade Plunge Trail. The actual cost of this effort is \$30,400.00, with a \$2,400 in-kind service for this grant. (Please see attached letter of support for details).

The project will be managed and overseen by the Mesa County Public Works Department. The above organizations formed a team to successfully complete the planning phase of this project, obtain National Environmental Policy Act approval of the trail system, land owner approval, and now to initiate the construction of this one of a kind trail. The mission of the members of the Palisade Plunge is: *connecting people of varying levels in abilities and ages, to the scenic beauty of the Grand Mesa and the Grand Valley with this unique trail system.*

WHAT?

The complete Palisade Plunge is a 33.8 mile long, destination single track trail, open to non-motorized uses including bikers, hikers and equestrians. The approved route descends from approximately 10,700 feet to approximately 4,700 feet, providing 6,000 feet of vertical relief. The trail connects existing alpine elevation trail networks, including connections to Powderhorn Mountain Resort. The resort provides chair-lift access to trail routes, extending trail use to beginner & intermediate recreational enthusiasts, youth, and family user groups.

The trail ends at the valley floor in Palisade, connecting the urban environment and business services to the great outdoors. The final 2.1 miles of the route will utilize portions of N. River Rd, where the County will expand shoulder width to improve rider safety, among other benefits. The Phase one effort identified for this application will create 13.5 mi of single track trail, plus rework of existing paved path near the intersection of N. River Rd and US Highway 6. Single track trail construction would follow best practices according to International Mountain Biking Association, US Forest Service, and US Bureau of Land Management standards and be between 18" and 24" wide in most places.

Route signage has been mapped and will follow Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service sign standards. Attached to this grant is the map and signage

EXHIBIT A

needs at each designated area. The sign locations are for information, safety, and access control. Fencing will be installed in three key locations to limit user access from private property and biological resources. Additionally, a maintenance plan is created, forming a working agreement among partners and a funding model to provide support for ongoing trail maintenance needs.

WHERE?

The overall Plunge route utilizes land either owned or managed by five property owners: US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction, Mesa County and Town of Palisade. The start of the Plunge is the existing Mesa Top Trailhead, located near the County Line trail system in US Forest Service managed public lands. The Palisade Plunge utilizes part of the Mesa Top Trail, which connects to the Flowing Park Trail, Deep Creek Trail, and other Forest Service trails in the area which can be utilized to create multiple long distance trail routes.

Connections also exist along the top of the Grand Mesa via Deep Creek and the West Bench trails to Powderhorn Mountain Resort. The Phase 1 portion of the project covered under this application exists primarily on Bureau of Land Management administered lands, beginning at the USFS/BLM boundary at MP 18.23, and includes use of small portions of City of Grand Junction and Town of Palisade owned property, crosses a single private property easement, a Bureau of Reclamation administered segment and CDOT ROW at MP 31.58 until the completion of dirt path at MP 31.72.

In addition, the end of the trail in the Town of Palisade offers nearby trail connection opportunities to: the Riverfront Trail (also a 16 in 2016 selection), the Fruit and Wine Byway, and a future trail along the Colorado River to the Cameo Sport Shooting Complex and the eastern end of the James Robb Colorado River State Park.

DEFINITIONS?

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

BOR: Bureau of Reclamation

CDOT: Colorado Department of Transportation

CMU: Colorado Mesa University

COPMOBA: Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, Inc.

CPW: Colorado Parks and Wildlife

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act

PLUNGE: The Palisade Plunge Trail

USFS: United States Forest Service

EXHIBIT A

LAND OWNERSHIP

1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management,
Mesa County, City of Grand Junction, Town of Palisade
2. The trail corridor is controlled by: X Fee Simple X Lease X Easement License
X Right-of-Way Other:

USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking	<input type="checkbox"/> Four-Wheeling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible – small portion
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Country Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

TRAIL SURFACE

<input checked="" 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: Town of Palisade

County: Mesa County

Latitude & Longitude Coordinates: 39.11846 -108.311788

State Senate District #: 7

State Representative District #: 54

Acreage of new trailhead	1	Miles of trail grooming	0
Miles of new trail construction	14	Miles of trail being planned	33
Miles of trail maintenance	0	Miles of trail reroute	0
Miles of trail reconstruction	0	Miles of inter-connecting trail	52
Miles of trail to be signed	14	Other	
Miles of trail restoration	0	Other	

EXHIBIT A

Applicant Authorized Signature: Peter v. Bain

Date: 7-22-2018 (From Applicant Organization)

Land Agency Authorized Signature: Peter v. Bain

Date: 7-22-2018 (From project location land agency, if different from applicant)

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										
Mobilization										
Construction/Maintenance Phase										
Administrative Close-Out										
Grand Opening										

1. COMMUNITY NEED (15 points)

The community this project will serve is the Grand Valley in Mesa County. Historically, the area's economy has predominantly been driven by extractive industries, which respond to market forces outside of local influence. The recent past significant downturn of the national, regional, and local economies was yet another reminder of the challenges of local overdependence upon a single industry and its cyclical nature. Since that time, the community has focused on our regional strengths in developing and expanding additional sources of economic activity from manufacturing to recreational tourism. The Plunge has been planned and crafted to capitalize upon existing resources in creating a recreational tourist destination to help drive the regional economy. Recreational interests in the community include: active non-motorized and motorized trail use, hiking, equestrian and mountain bike non-motorized users and active hunting and skiing communities.

Mountain bike trail-based recreation is well known in the region, intensively used by locals and visitors, with international visibility and a reputation for high quality. In 2017, the BLM Grand Junction Field Office counted 249,092 unique visitors at the three main mountain biking trailheads in the Grand Valley. Those systems are nested loop style networks of varying levels of technicality, all in high desert environments.

The Plunge will expand upon and complement existing recreational activities. Current users travel to trails similar to the plunge and to areas with lift served riding, because of the lack of local trails of this nature.

Presently, the population of Mesa County is approximately 148,000, with approximately 68,000 employed, 16.3% poverty rate, and the median household income of \$50,070. The County, Palisade, Grand Junction and the city of Fruita, continuously work together to improve the economic opportunities of this area. The Plunge route will stand out among a very small number of similar routes around the United States that provide the unique opportunity to connect substantially diverse elevations via high quality trail in challenging, yet accessible terrain. Even more unique is the opportunity to create such a trail with an endpoint in a municipality, capitalizing upon the services available there and maximizing economic impact. The trail users are provided with lodging, entertainment, food and other complimentary services. The agricultural, wine, and diverse outdoor recreation opportunities of the region would be keenly complimented by such a new and iconic trail asset.

The Plunge compares very favorably (in terms of mileage and vertical relief) to existing routes such as the *Monarch Crest Trail* (Salida, Colorado), the *Whole Enchilada Trail* (Moab, Utah), and the *Downieville Downhill Trail* (Downieville, California). These routes are recognized as substantial regional economic drivers. A conservative annual economic impact estimate can be considered to be in excess of \$5M, based on 2017 Monarch Crest user data, and trail user numbers at Grand Junction BLM trailheads from 2007 – 2017. It is anticipated that the Plunge can create a similar economic impact for the Grand Valley.

The Plunge route will benefit the public by:

- providing unique and high quality recreational trail opportunities connecting upper elevation trail areas to local municipalities and services;
- utilizing existing infrastructure to the best advantage; including the use of existing

trail, trailhead installations, and direct and high-quality transportation access (immediate I-70 exit access, US Hwy 6 corridor, and Grand Junction airport);

- serving as an iconic trail with which to market the already recognized world-class trail resources of the Grand Valley region;
- encouraging a diverse trail user base with access to Powderhorn, creating shorter routes and lift access to portions of the trail;
- providing interconnection with existing trail networks in the area, substantial vertical relief, access adjacent to local areas targeted for trail-based recreation in the current BLM Resource Management Plan;
- supporting local outdoor recreation focused economic development efforts as recently identified in the *Northstar Study* commissioned by Grand Junction and Mesa County.

Recreational trails have been identified as a meaningful asset for communities, providing opportunity for residents and tourists, to experience the beauty, solitude, and health benefits of activity in the local landscape. Recreational trails create a draw for visitors to the area, resulting in a positive economic impact. Examples of local trail networks and their impacts abound within the Grand Valley. These successful trail networks include: the “North Fruita Desert” in Fruita; “Kokopelli Trail” network in Loma; the “Lunch Loops Trail” system in Grand Junction, and the “Riverfront Trail”, connecting communities in the County. A 2017 study by Colorado Mesa University (CMU) defines the direct economic impact by visitors to the three mountain bike trail systems noted as \$14.6M annually, supporting 345 jobs in the County with a \$9M annual total labor income.

2. SCOPE (15 points) – *photos are attached at the end -

The Plunge working group has completed the trail alignment, signage, parking, and construction plans, obtained necessary easements and property purchase, and obtained NEPA approval by BLM in June, 2018. The proposed project is the Phase 1 portion of route construction, including 13.5 mi of natural surface trail, typically 24" to 36" tread, and approximately 0.5 mi of paved roadway shoulder construction as a part of the County's North River Rd construction activity. This phase will require the creation and placement of signage, fencing, and gates to support and manage trail use and area livestock needs in some areas. Access to necessary lands has been secured, including the purchase of a single private property easement, and the purchase of a previously private parcel, to obtain the preferred trail alignment. Near the end of the natural surface path, the route passes over an underground Orchard Mesa Irrigation District siphon, and crosses US Hwy 6. Agreements for both points of access have been obtained. The entire route additionally includes the use of public lands managed by both the USFS and BLM, and property owned by Grand Junction and Palisade. Agreement for access to all property has been obtained through the planning process.

The Palisade Plunge is envisioned as a world class, destination single track mountain bike trail, additionally open to non-motorized users such as hikers and equestrians. The proposed route descends from a peak elevation of approximately 10,700 feet to a final elevation of about 4,700 feet, providing 6,000 feet of vertical relief and connecting alpine elevation trail networks to the valley floor, finishing in Palisade

with its many hospitality and business services. The Plunge was named as one of the “16 in 2016” projects by the State of Colorado as part of Governor Hickenlooper’s Colorado the Beautiful initiative.

The Plunge begins on USFS managed lands at the existing Mesa Top trailhead with existing paved parking, restroom, and changing facilities. The route continues generally westward atop the upper elevations of the Grand Mesa, intersecting multiple existing routes, to ultimately attain the area of Shirrtail Point. This will be the location of a to-be-developed parking, restroom, and signage facility. Here the route accesses a historical route created by John Otto, initial advocate for Colorado National Monument. This rugged route traverses steep and rocky terrain to depart the top elevations of the Mesa, entering the basin below. The route continues northward, crossing the regionally important Land’s End Rd, and enters Whitewater Basin on existing USFS#700 to the Cliff Lake area. The route soon crosses the USFS/BLM boundary, later entering property owned by Grand Junction. Avoiding the “Blowout”, a major natural feature, the route departs Grand Junction property, briefly entering Palisade property before departing to BLM-managed lands on a northward trend. Thus, begins a sustained descent along the recently BLM established boundary of Palisade Rims Special Recreation Management Area. The route enters the SRMA, descending to an area near the existing Palisade Rim Trail.

Two short connector links will be created to the Palisade Rim Trail as the Plunge route completes its alignment by traversing a substantial drainage on its way to an ultimate crossing of US Highway 6 along the Colorado River. The route ends at the center of Palisade via a 2.1 mi extent along the expanded shoulder area of N. River Road.

The majority of the trail is on USFS and BLM managed land, as well as property owned by Grand Junction and Palisade. A single easement was negotiated with and obtained from a private property owner, and a parcel was purchased from an adjoining private property owner to preserve the final preferred alignment for the route. In response to community comment, the project also includes a proposal for rehabilitation of an existing unauthorized trail where it intersects the Plunge corridor on BLM land in order to discourage use of the unauthorized trail.

The total trail length is 33.8 miles. Single track trail construction would follow best practices according to IMBA and BLM standards and be between 18” and 24” wide in most places with pull outs at overlooks and appropriate rest or safety points. Roadway portions of the trail will be 6’ wide. The route will be closed to motorized users and is expected to be predominantly utilized by mountain bikers, though fully open to pedestrian, and equestrian use on the USFS portion of the route.

A 2018 CMU study of trail users at trailheads indicates 97% of users are bikers, 1.8% pedestrian, and the balance with miscellaneous activities. Some, but not all, of the interview locations are open to equestrian users. Non-winter trail use at existing trails emanating from the Mesa Top Trailhead is predominantly bike and foot based, though annual equestrian and distance running events do take place on the Mesa Top Trail. It is anticipated that foot and equestrian use will be slightly higher than the CMU study.

3. TIMELINE (15 points)

The following is a list of the land owners and permits:

- a. Town of Palisade - Watershed Permit. It's anticipated that the watershed permit application will be submitted before end of 2018, with approval anticipated prior to construction start 2019.
- b. United States Forest Service – Environmental Assessment (EA) completed. This does not affect Phase 1 construction activities.
- c. City of Grand Junction - access to city owned property has been approved.
- d. Bureau of Land Management - EA completed and approved.
- e. Mesa County is presently coordinating right of way with CDOT.
- f. Army Corps of Engineers- Pre-Construction Notification has been filed.
- g. CPW Consultation – extensive project evaluation and review completed in planning and confirmed with District Wildlife Manager at time of this application.
- h. Colorado Department of Health & Environment and Mesa County – will obtain required storm water permit before construction.

All necessary easements and land acquisitions were completed by February 2018. No further wildlife concerns are present that impact the project. CPW involvement was extensive and continuous throughout the planning phase and coordinated closely with BLM and USFS as part of the NEPA EA process.

4. ACCESS (10 points)

The importance of the Plunge route lies in the connection of multiple existing trails and recreation areas with local municipalities and services, taking advantage of the very unique opportunity to connect alpine elevations with the valley floor while capitalizing upon existing trail, infrastructure, and transportation access. In addition, the connection of upper alpine elevations with the valley floor also expands the season for trail usage throughout the summer as trail users seek cooler climates.

The starting trailhead is located adjacent to Scenic Byway Highway 65, and the terminus is in Palisade. The access to the start and finish of the trail is very convenient using the existing highway system. The start of the trail is located at the Mesa Top Trailhead, near the County Line trail system. Currently, the Delta Area Mountain Bikers and the Grand Valley Canyons chapters of COPMOBA are developing trails for summer use in this system. As described above, the Plunge utilizes part of the Mesa Top Trail, which connects to the Flowing Park, Crane Lake, Carson Lake, Deep Creek, and Drop Off trails can be utilized to create multiple loop options. A connection also exists with the Rim View and West Bench Trails to reach Powderhorn Resort.

In addition, the end of the trail in Palisade offers nearby cycling opportunities such as the Riverfront Trail (also a “16 in 2016” selection), the *Fruit and Wine Loop*, and a new planned trail along the Colorado River to the Cameo Sport Shooting Complex and the eastern end of the James Robb Colorado River State Park. This network connectivity will expand the usage of existing routes in the upper elevations of the Grand Mesa. Additionally, the 2015 approved Recreation Management Plan for the BLM, designates two new trail-based recreation focus areas near Palisade. One area will be on the bench upon which sits the Palisade Rim Trail, adjacent to the Plunge trail terminus, and the other in the Horse Mountain area.

Connectivity with these recreation focus areas enhances the overall trail access for the local residents and visitors. In comparison with the balance of the Grand Valley, the Palisade area does not have a stacked loop trail system in close proximity. As a part of the Plunge project activities, the County health department will perform both marketing outreach to illustrate the health benefits available from the trail and connections and will evaluate the impacts of the trail on community health.

5. PLANNING (10 points)

Trail based connections between the valley floor and the top elevations of the Grand Mesa have been a recurring theme in federal and community planning activities for decades. Multiple evaluations, concepts, and proposals were found in documented planning efforts from prior generations. All concepts share similarities that pertain to the limited geographical opportunities that provide for connectivity, as well as the community interest in creating these connections. Through intensive public outreach, including open houses, comment periods, and detailed discussions of area characteristics and public goals, the BLM Grand Junction Field Office completed its' 2015 approved Recreation Management Plan. The process created a master planning process for non-motorized trails as the planning review process of multiple alternatives took place. Within that plan, the BLM included a trail descending from the higher elevations of the Grand Mesa to the valley floor in the approximate location of the Plunge route as a stated goal.

The Plunge started in the conceptualization stage in 2011, with initial planning and route finding. The goal was to create a quality trail route that maximally capitalized upon existing resources to connect the existing trails and expanding trail networks at the top elevations of the Grand Mesa with the valley floor adjacent to a municipality.

The Plunge concept was planned to capitalize upon regional notoriety for quality trail based recreation, mesh with and complement those resources, provide critical system connectivity, and serve as a key economic driver for the region due to its distinct characteristics. In 2013, ongoing planning by COPMOBA and initial community exposure was started. The BLM and USFS were initially approached with the concept in 2013. Broader community outreach began in 2015 with multiple concept presentations to publicly accessible community groups, and Palisade community meetings. Substantial discussion and comment took place, including with user groups such as the local motorized community and the West Slope Colorado Oil & Gas Association, with multiple substantial changes to the proposed route taking place. Formal planning continued through 2016 via a public working group, including representatives from Palisade, Grand Junction, BLM, USFS, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, COPMOBA, and the community.

CPW involvement began in 2015 with a wildlife review of the general route concept and continued through major routing revisions for wildlife concerns including: winter range, hunting considerations, avoidance of high quality habitat, minimization of habitat fragmentation, and migratory routes for multiple species of concern.

Multiple additional public meetings took place, primarily through interaction with Grand Junction, as an accord was reached with them and the party that leases their land for livestock grazing and hunting, and detailed planning was completed.

Additionally, formal public outreach and comment periods are included as required of the federal NEPA process, which took place throughout 2017 - 2018.

Outreach continues to date, with recent fundraisers generating in excess of \$55,000 in donations to support the construction and maintenance of the Plunge trail.

Palisade and partners received a great deal of community support for this project. Some concerns about the project were raised throughout the planning process, but all were addressed through changes or deemed to be unqualified to affect the project through the NEPA EA process.

COPMOBA has generated tremendous community support for the project concept from surrounding cities, Chambers of Commerce, the Grand Junction Visitor and Convention Bureau and the Outdoor Recreation Coalition, West Slope COGA, and others. Additionally, the project's appointment to the "Colorado's 16" trail program identified it as one of the sixteen highest priority projects in the state to meet the goals of that program.

6. COLLABORATION AND MATCHING FUNDS (10 points)

COPMOBA is a primary proponent of the Plunge. COPMOBA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that has been planning, building and maintaining single track mountain bike trails for more than 29 years. COPMOBA has chapters in the Grand Valley, Delta, Montrose, Ridgway and the West End (Nucla and Naturita areas). COPMOBA has a great track record planning, constructing and maintaining trails with its own volunteers and contracted professional trail building crews.

Other local supporters and partners include, the County, the Grand Junction Visitor and Convention Bureau, the Grand Valley Trail Alliance, the Western Colorado Business Development Corporation (Business Incubator), USFS – Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, BLM, Powderhorn, Fruita, the Outdoor Recreation Coalition, the Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission, Palisade and Grand Junction Chambers of Commerce, and the Grand Junction Economic Partnership.

A working group partnership was established in the Spring of 2016 to pursue planning of the project as an identified priority for the region. Local municipalities (Fruita, Grand Junction, Palisade), local businesses (Powderhorn, Rapid Creek Cycles), and other entities (Grand Junction Economic partnership, One Riverfront, Over The Edge Trail Fund), have all committed matching funds to this grant opportunity.

Additionally, nine local businesses have committed to a five-year minimum funding of an ongoing annual maintenance fund, to the cumulative value of over \$8,700 annually. COPMOBA also recently raised over \$55,000 from local and nationwide contributors for the support of the project. We raised more funding over the 30% required for \$500,000.

7. URGENCY AND NEED FOR FUNDS (5 points)

The urgency of the Plunge project relates to its designation as one of the "16 in 2016" projects with statewide attention. Due to the scope and size of this project, and a possible three years until construction completion of the project will be delayed if funding is not achieved during this grant cycle. The result will be loss of momentum and statewide attention that was generated by the Plunge's inclusion on the Colorado's 16 list of priority projects by the State of Colorado.

In addition, the approved NEPA documents also create high urgency and need for this grant funding. Some studies within the EA are only valid for 2 years, requiring

the construction of the trail to be completed by June 2020. It is of high importance to obtain the CPW grant funding because of the money already invested in the planning of this project. The planning process cost approximately \$300,000, with Palisade providing \$95,000 and the County providing \$200,000, through grant and matching funds. It is best to see these planning funds capitalized upon via construction initiation, rather than allowing the expiration of some planning efforts, thus creating the need to readdress the EA at a future date.

Additional urgency in obtaining these grant funds pertains to the County providing match value with the North River Road Project as a portion of the Plunge project. This work will begin in 2019. By obtaining this funding, Palisade and the County will also be in a position to apply for a Department of Local Affairs Grant and Greater Outdoors Colorado Grant in 2019, for the construction of the second phase of the trail, meeting the pending expiration dates of short-term environmental surveys.

8. MAINTENANCE (10 points)

Maintenance of the Palisade Plunge Trail will be a combined effort among multiple partners, including the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, the Town of Palisade, Mesa County, the City of Grand Junction, the BLM, BOR, USFS and local citizens and community businesses.

Elements of the Maintenance Plan:

• **Funding:** Through outreach to trail users, supporters, and the business community, the cooperators will establish an ongoing maintenance funding model based upon annual financial commitments by various supporters. This funding may be used to support maintenance activities through cooperative efforts with the federal land management agencies. Initial structure of the fund identifies multiple business community contributions for 5 year periods, with initial cumulative value of \$43,750. The goal is to establish a \$10K/y repetitive funding base, which when combined with the minimum 120 hr volunteer commitment is greater than the IMBA maintenance recommendation of 1-1.6% of construction budget annually. This value supplements federal maintenance and additional volunteer efforts.

2018 Maintenance Funding Commitment List - Palisade Plunge Trail

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Annual Commitment</u>	<u># year</u>	<u>Total</u>
Rapid Creek Cycles	\$ 2,000	5	\$ 10,000
Powderhorn Mountain Resort	\$ 2,000	5	\$ 10,000
Peach Street Distillery	\$ 1,000	5	\$ 5,000
Palisade Brewery	\$ 1,000	5	\$ 5,000
Colorado Weedery	\$ 500	5	\$ 2,500
Palisade Chamber of Commerce	\$ 500	5	\$ 2,500
Palisade Basecamp RV Resort	\$ 500	5	\$ 2,500
Palisade Café 11.0	\$ 500	5	\$ 2,500
Columbine Liquors	\$ 500	5	\$ 2,500
Gear Junction	\$ 250	5	\$ 1,250
Total	\$ 8,750	5	\$ 43,750

• **Structure:** Create and use a cooperative maintenance agreement to define the roles and responsibilities of each project partner listed above. Fund and support trail maintenance through a combination of volunteer labor, community fundraising, grant funding, in-kind donations, and agency, county and municipal budget allocations. Keep accepting donations and define initial commitment structure for funding from local business community and COPMOBA.

• **Implementation:** Establish a trail maintenance committee with representatives from each partner organization. The committee would meet regularly (monthly) to discuss trail maintenance status. Create and use a standardized trail condition assessment form. Gather trail condition information from on-trail evaluations made by COPMOBA, BLM, USFS, and other partners and trail users. Identify and prioritize trail maintenance needs. The committee will develop an Operations and Maintenance Plan which will ensure that the trail is assessed and maintained on a scheduled regular basis.

• **Partner Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Mesa County - address road crossing areas for issues such as road base, ditch/drainage features, local tread integrity at crossings, engineered structures, safety signage or control measures, etc.
- Town of Palisade – address way finding signage from single dirt track to pavement and into the downtown area where facilities are provided.
- City of Grand Junction - provide review/evaluation of trail status and impacts near areas of water collection & retention structures within the affected GJ watershed area.
- BLM – provide general oversight of trail maintenance activities on BLM administered portions of the trail. Ensure that maintenance work is completed to BLM standards using best management practices, and that all volunteer hours are documented.
- USFS - provide general oversight of trail maintenance activities on USFS-administered portions of the trail. Ensure that maintenance work is completed to USFS standards using best management practices.
- BOR - provide general oversight of trail maintenance activities on BOR administered portions of the trail. Ensure that maintenance work is completed to BOR standards using best management practices.
- COPMOBA - in partnership with, and support of, BLM and USFS staff, through volunteer coordination and fundraising efforts, will support primary review, prioritization, and maintenance of the natural surface route. COPMOBA will work to address issues including general tread health, vegetation clearing, erosion mitigation, identification and mitigation of user-created issues, on-route signage repair/replacement/updating, among others. COPMOBA will provide a primary presence for on-trail inspection and evaluation on short term basis (monthly). An initial annual target of 120 hrs of volunteer time on the Palisade Plunge Trail effort is established and will be documented throughout the year per BLM and USFS volunteer agreements.
- Mesa County Youth Organization: will be utilized periodically for trail maintenance.

• **Historic Perspective on Volunteer Trail maintenance:** Through its 29+ year history in the region, the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, Inc. (COPMOBA) has provided consistent and ongoing maintenance to trails, primarily on public lands, in cooperation with the BLM, USFS, local municipalities, and other community partners. COPMOBA provides leadership training, volunteer training, volunteer coordination, tools, supplies, and planning and implementation support for thousands of hours of volunteer work annually. These maintenance activities take place in areas including major and minor trailheads and trail networks throughout the Grand Valley and Grand Mesa region.

The ongoing commitment of the organization and of the regions trail based recreation users is well documented, and substantially relied upon by the federal land management agencies and the City of Grand Junction in addressing the maintenance goals and needs for the trail networks and resources in the region. City of GJ staff recognize the importance and benefit of COPMOBA volunteer work, noting that; "The City of Grand Junction, Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association have supported a long standing multi agency agreement to provide management and maintenance operations for a large mountain biking destination known as the Lunch Loop Area.

The relationship among the three agencies has remained very strong through the years due to the continued commitment of the volunteers associated with COPMOBA. Due to their dependable oversight of this property, The Lunch Loop Area has developed into one of the most widely used biking destinations in the Grand Valley for bikers of all ages." COPMOBA is not alone in the overall trail maintenance process, working side by side with organizations such as the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Back Country Horsemen, and regional youth organizations, to name a few. The commitment by COPMOBA to the creation and maintenance of the Palisade Plunge project will similarly be subject to the longstanding and consistently demonstrated ethic of responsible use of, and care for, our public lands. COPMOBA is proud to be a committed partner.

9. CONTINGENCY / ABILITY (10 points)

Potential sources of funding include grant opportunities through GOCO, DOLA, County Federal Mineral Lease District, private foundations such as El Pomar & Gates Family Foundation, National Forest Foundation, CPW State Trails grant program, and local/regional community fundraising.

Lacking this funding, partners will continue to pursue funding from noted sources as well as initiate volunteer construction activities.

Ability to complete this trail project can be viewed from several perspectives: Mesa County as applicant, possesses a long history of successful grant execution. Palisade has recently successfully executed complex projects which included grant funding such as the Main Street reconstruction, and the Cameo Sport Shooting Complex. COPMOBA has also recently completed complex projects that included grant funding, including the Ridgway Area Trails project, and the Uncompahgre Single-track Plan (2018). It is likely that the Plunge project may be an applicant for future CPW State Trails Program funding in the future. Mesa County maintains experienced staff, capacity, and funds, to accurately administer all awarded grants in a timely manner.

**Exhibit B
Budget Form - Project Name:**

Palisade Plunge - Phase 1

SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]
CASH							
Colorado Parks & Wildlife					\$ 527,000.00	\$ -	\$ 527,000.00
Town of Palisade	24-Jul-18					\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
City of Grand Junction	24-Jul-18					\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Grand Junction Economic Partnership	30-Jul-18					\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
City of Fruita	26-Jul-18					\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Powderhorn Mountain Resort	24-Jul-18					\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Rapid Creek Cycles, LLC	24-Jul-18					\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Riverfront Foundation	24-Jul-18					\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Over the Edge Trail Fund - Fruita	30-Jul-18					\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Maintenance Fund - breakdown in separate table	26-Jul-18					\$ 8,750.00	\$ 8,750.00
COPMOBA	27-Jul-18					\$ 43,534.08	\$ 43,534.08
IN-KIND							
Mesa County - Roadway portion trail construction	24-Jul-18					\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Mesa County Health Department - marketing, data gathering	27-Jul-18					\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Town of Palisade - Hodges property purchase	27-Feb-18					\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
Town of Palisade - Henderson easement purchase	27-Nov-17					\$ 1,430.00	\$ 1,430.00
Town of Palisade - fundraiser materials support	24-Jul-18					\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
COPMOBA - Volunteer construction labor, 250 hrs	24-Jul-18					\$ 6,035.00	\$ 6,035.00
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS					527,000.00	158,249.08	\$ 685,249.08

USE OF FUNDS - CASH	Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance (should be 0)
Category 1 - Contracted Services								
Construct Linear Trail								
Mile 18.23 (BLM/USFS boundary) - 19.0	\$/ft	4066	\$ 6.80	\$ 27,648.80	\$ 25,160.41	\$ 2,488.39	\$ 27,648.80	0
Mile 19.0 - 19.5	\$/ft	2640	\$ 6.80	\$ 17,952.00	\$ 16,336.32	\$ 1,615.68	\$ 17,952.00	0
Mile 19.5 - 20.0	\$/ft	2640	\$ 5.95	\$ 15,708.00	\$ 14,294.28	\$ 1,413.72	\$ 15,708.00	0
Mile 20.0 - 20.5	\$/ft	2640	\$ 5.95	\$ 15,708.00	\$ 14,294.28	\$ 1,413.72	\$ 15,708.00	0
Mile 20.5 - 21.0	\$/ft	2640	\$ 6.80	\$ 17,952.00	\$ 16,336.32	\$ 1,615.68	\$ 17,952.00	0
Mile 21.0 - 21.5	\$/ft	2640	\$ 6.80	\$ 17,952.00	\$ 16,336.32	\$ 1,615.68	\$ 17,952.00	0
Mile 21.5 - 22.0	\$/ft	2640	\$ 5.95	\$ 15,708.00	\$ 14,294.28	\$ 1,413.72	\$ 15,708.00	0
Mile 22.0 - 23.0	\$/ft	5280	\$ 6.80	\$ 35,904.00	\$ 32,672.64	\$ 3,231.36	\$ 35,904.00	0
Mile 23.0 - 24.0	\$/ft	5280	\$ 7.93	\$ 41,870.40	\$ 38,102.06	\$ 3,768.34	\$ 41,870.40	0
Mile 24.0 - 25.0	\$/ft	5280	\$ 7.93	\$ 41,870.40	\$ 38,102.06	\$ 3,768.34	\$ 41,870.40	0
Mile 25.0 - 26.0	\$/ft	5280	\$ 6.80	\$ 35,904.00	\$ 32,672.64	\$ 3,231.36	\$ 35,904.00	0
Mile 26.0 - 27.0	\$/ft	5280	\$ 6.80	\$ 35,904.00	\$ 32,672.64	\$ 3,231.36	\$ 35,904.00	0
Mile 27.0 - 28.0	\$/ft	5280	\$ 6.80	\$ 35,904.00	\$ 32,672.64	\$ 3,231.36	\$ 35,904.00	0
Mile 28.0 - 29.0	\$/ft	5280	\$ 6.80	\$ 35,904.00	\$ 32,672.64	\$ 3,231.36	\$ 35,904.00	0
Mile 29.0 - 30.0	\$/ft	5280	\$ 6.80	\$ 35,904.00	\$ 32,672.64	\$ 3,231.36	\$ 35,904.00	0
Mile 30.0 - 31.0	\$/ft	5280	\$ 6.80	\$ 35,904.00	\$ 32,672.64	\$ 3,231.36	\$ 35,904.00	0
Mile 31.0 - 31.45	\$/ft	2376	\$ 5.23	\$ 12,426.48	\$ 11,308.10	\$ 1,118.38	\$ 12,426.48	0
Construct Turns								
7 locations MP 24.5 - 26.5	\$/turn	7	\$ 1,190.00	\$ 8,330.00	\$ 7,580.30	\$ 749.70	\$ 8,330.00	0
25 locations MP 26.5 - 30.5	\$/turn	25	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 31,875.00	\$ 29,006.25	\$ 2,868.75	\$ 31,875.00	0
3 locations MP 30.5 - 31.72	\$/turn	3	\$ 941.67	\$ 2,825.00	\$ 2,570.75	\$ 254.25	\$ 2,825.00	0
Category 2 - Salary/Wages								
Project Manager	Salary	1	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 27,300.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 30,000.00	0
Category 3 - Materials/Tools								
Signage - 20 locations - ref signage plan from FS/BLM boundary	Lot	1	\$ 23,380.00	\$ 23,380.00	\$ 21,275.80	\$ 2,104.20	\$ 23,380.00	0
Fencing & Barriers - MP 20.47, GJ Property	Lot	1	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 5,993.99	\$ 12,006.01	\$ 18,000.00	0
Fencing - Henderson property boundary, 450'	Lot	1	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	0
Additional Categories								
Establish Maintenance Fund	Fund Bal	1	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 8,750.00		\$ 8,750.00	\$ 8,750.00	0
USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL					527,000.00	\$ 76,284.08	\$ 603,284.08	

IN-KIND	Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total		Total Funding (\$)	Balance (should be 0)	
Category 1 - Contracted Services								
Improvements to North River Road Intersection and roadcrossing with Highway 6	Project Cost	1	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	0
Category 2 - Salary/Wages								
Mesa County Health Dept - 0.2 FTE Salary, marketing, data gathering	salary	0.2	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	0
Category 3 - Materials/Tools								
				\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0
Additional Categories								
Town of Palisade fundraiser materials	lot	1	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	0
Hodges Property Purchase - 2/27/2018	completed purchase	1	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00		\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	0
Henderson Easement Purchase - 11/27/2017	completed purchase	1	\$ 1,430.00	\$ 1,430.00		\$ 1,430.00	\$ 1,430.00	0
COPMOBA - Volunteer construction MP 31.45 - 31.72 plus Upper & Lower Palisade Rim Connector Trails	Vol hourly rate	250	\$ 24.14	\$ 6,035.00		\$ 6,035.00	\$ 6,035.00	0
IN-KIND SUBTOTAL					\$ -	\$ 81,965.00	\$ 81,965.00	
TOTAL PROJECT COST					527,000.00	158,249.08	685,249.08	
30% REQUIRED MATCH						\$ 158,100.00		

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 Palisade Plunge Project Sponsor Mesa County and Town of Palisade

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: Environmental Assessment
Palisade Plunge Trail
DOI-BLM-CO-S080-2017-0030-EA

Date of document:

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

Title of document: Decision record for the Palisade Plunge Trail

Date of document: June 19, 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: Christina Stark

Phone number: 970-244-3027

Email: cstark@blm.gov

4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for n/a.

Land Manager's Name: Katie Stevens, Field Manager

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature: 

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.

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

*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

DOI BLM 5080-2017-0030 EA
evaluated in EA

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.

Peter m. Baier

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.

Peter m Baier

Signature of applicant

7/30/18

Date

Carrie Gudorf - Regulatory Programs Manager

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.

Carrie Gudorf

Signature authority:

7/30/18

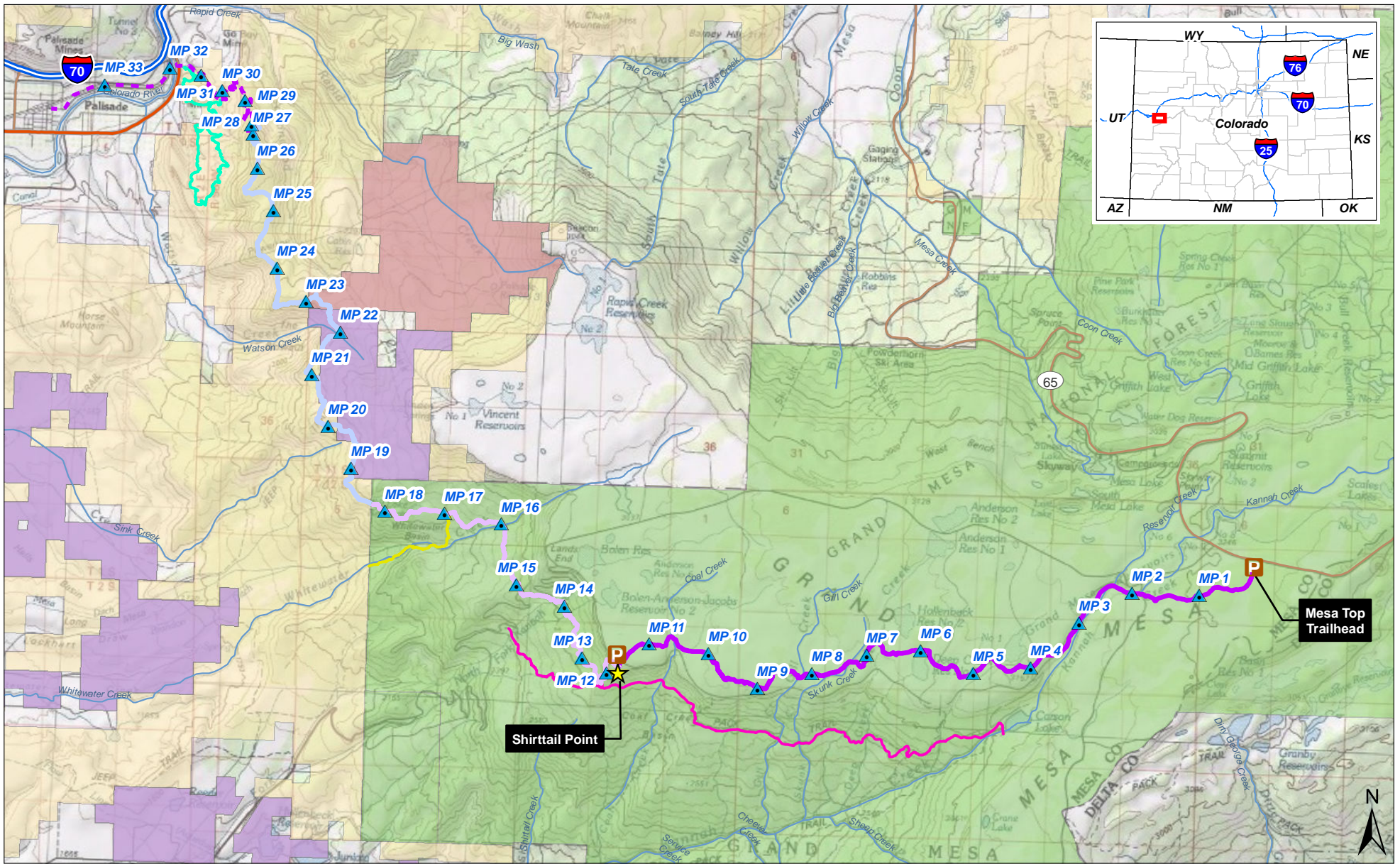
Date

EA – Palisade Plunge Link

[DOI-BLM-CO-S080-2017-0030-EA - BLM ePlanning - Bureau of Land ...](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?...)
<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?...>

1.

Jun 19, 2018 - GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE **PALISADE**
PLUNGE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NEWS - Final Environmental
Assessment, Finding ...

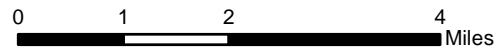


Legend

- Milepost
- Palisade Plunge Trail**
- Bicycle and Foot Only*
- Bicycle and Foot Only with Seasonal Closure
- Bicycle, Horse, and Foot Only
- Bicycle, Horse, and Foot Only with Seasonal Closure
- Whitewater Basin Trail
- Coal Creek Trail
- Palisade Rim Trail

- Surface Ownership**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Forest Service
 - City of Grand Junction
 - Town of Palisade
 - Private
 - Streams

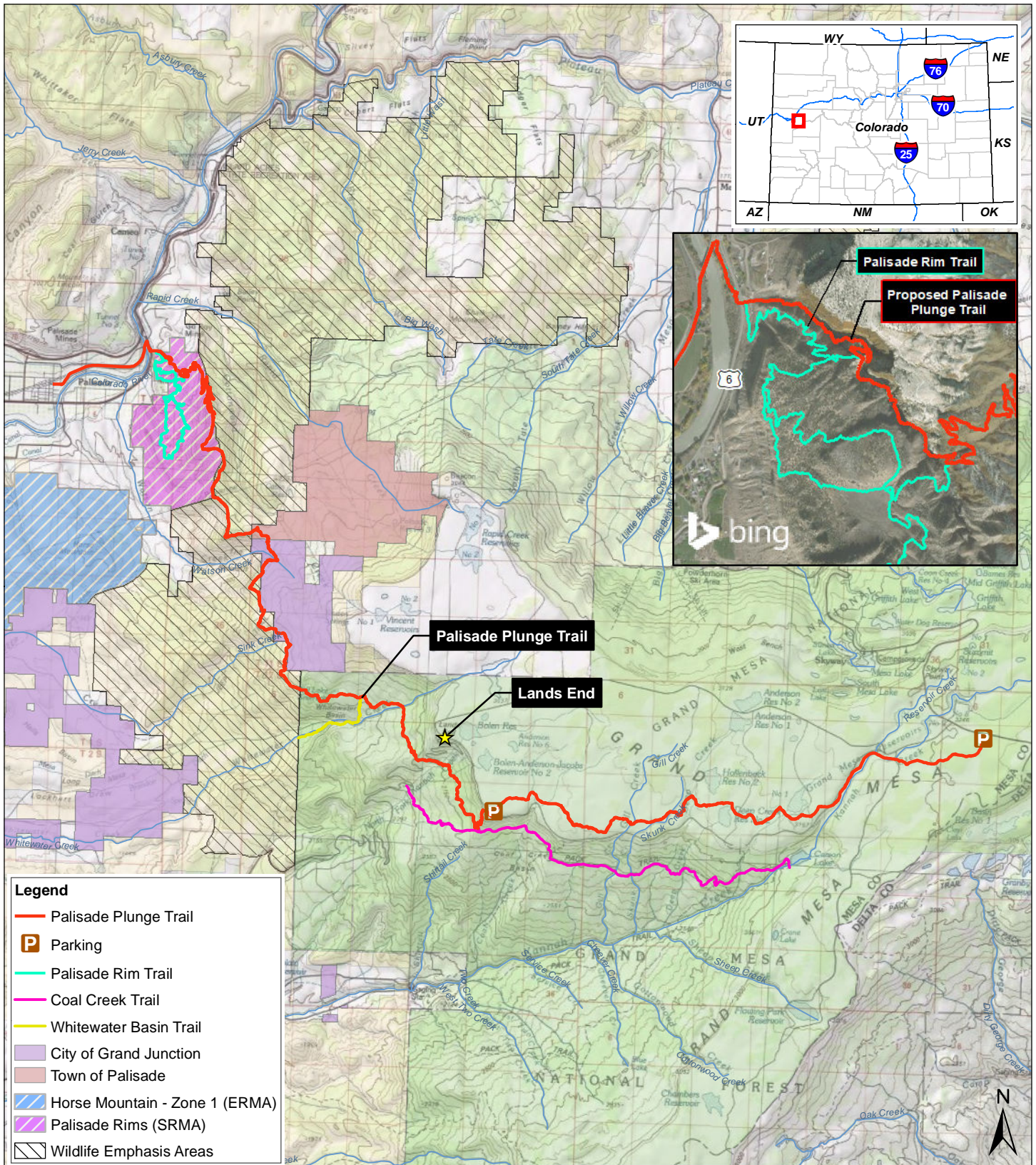
*Winter Closure may be moved to the intersection near MP 30.4 if there are violations of the closure past MP 27.48



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This project was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice.

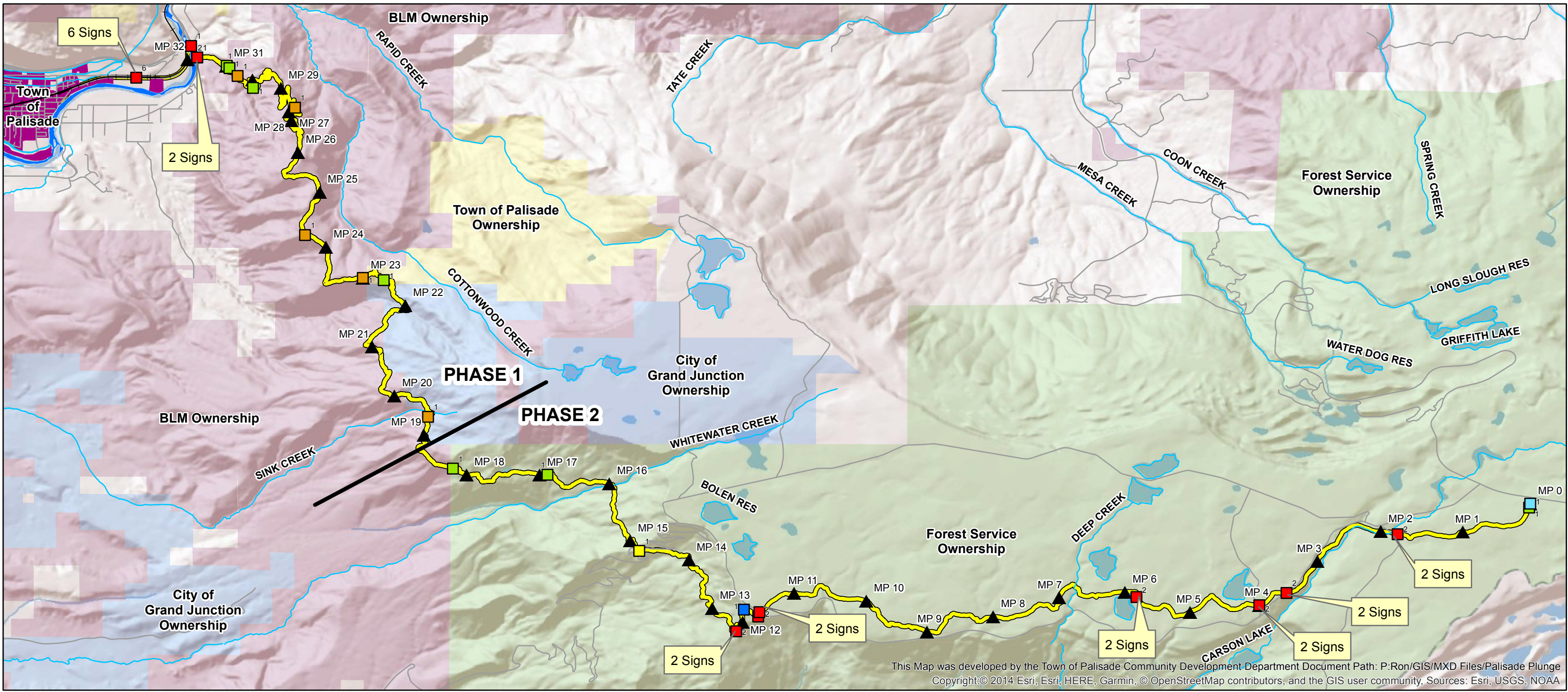
Palisade Plunge Trail
Mesa County, Colorado

Map 1
General Project Location



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This project was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice.

Palisade Plunge Trail Scoping - Revision December 21, 2017



This Map was developed by the Town of Palisade Community Development Department Document Path: P:\Ron\GIS\MXD Files\Palisade Plunge
 Copyright:© 2014 Esri, Esri, HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community, Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

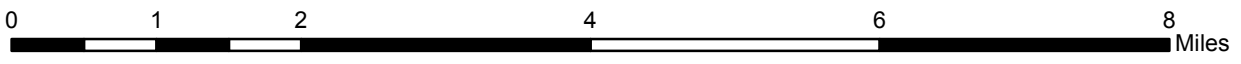
SIGN TYPE

- Identification and Panel (BLM Standard)
- Guide (BLM Standard)
- Guide and Routine (BLM Standard and MUTCD)
- Informational (BLM Standard)
- Informational and Panel (BLM Standard)
- Informational and Routine (BLM Standard and MUTCD)

Palisade Plunge Trail Sign Placements

— Palisade Plunge Trail

▲ Mile Markers





CPW - 2018 Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application

Exhibit: Photographs



The Palisade Plunge:

Connecting:

people & places

resorts & agritourism

family & friends





CPW - 2018 Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application

Exhibit: Photographs





CPW - 2018 Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application

Exhibit: Photographs





7/16/2018

RE: Palisade Plunge Trail Project - CPW/GOCO "Colorado the Beautiful" Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern,


I am writing this letter of support and commitment of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps for the Colorado the Beautiful grant application for the Palisade Plunge Trail Project.

The Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) is an employment and educational experience for a diverse population of youth ranging in age from 16-25. Corps Members have the opportunity to learn life skills and provide service to their community, as well as take on civic and environmental responsibilities designed to enrich their lives and their surroundings. The WCCC's purpose is to serve youth in western Colorado through service by improving their community and gaining valuable life experience for their success in the future.

The proposal clearly fits the mission of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) by providing youth the opportunities to work on a valuable project with your agency. Youth from the cities of Grand Junction and surrounding areas, who are able to participate in the program, will gain a sense of accomplishment and a strong work ethic they will need in the future. These youth become better stewards of the land and receive a sense of civic and environmental responsibility because they're working in their own community.

Below is the commitment of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps to assist with the Palisade Plunge Trail. The crew will spend four weeks working on constructing, and or maintaining the Palisade Plunge Trail.

- WCCC will provide a trained trail crew to assist with the construction and maintenance of the Palisade Plunge trail system at a cost of \$7,600.00 for the week.
- Total cost for the trail crew for 4 weeks will be \$30,400.00
- WCCC's actual cost for this effort is \$32,800.00 for the four weeks, but we will provide the balance, \$2,400, as in-kind services.



Jeff Roberts, Director
Western Colorado Conservation Corps
2818 ½ North Ave.
Grand Junction Co. 81504
970-241-1027 x 12

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

From: Powderhorn Mountain Resort

Subject: Grant Application - Palisade Plunge Trail Construction

Date: July 26, 2018

Powderhorn Mountain Resort (PMR) fully supports the application by the Mesa County, supported by the Town of Palisade, for grant funding for the Palisade Plunge project construction.

Powderhorn Ski Company is very supportive of the Palisade Plunge and its potential long term economic impact for the entire Grand Valley. The Plunge will, over the next 5 to 10 years and beyond, be a critical link to the future success of Powderhorn and will unlock huge potential for the Grand Valley. The Plunge has the potential to be an Iconic Ride and attract visitors from throughout the US and even International Travelers.

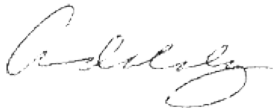
The Northstar Report concluded that Outdoor Recreation was an Industry that was one of the best in terms of helping to diversify The Grand Valley beyond the volatility of the oil and gas industry. Our owners and leadership team has been very engaged in The Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) and the Outdoor Recreation Coalition because we believe Outdoor Recreation can be a leading industry for both the economic vitality and the health and wellness of our community. Powderhorn being the “local favorite” and by far closest ski resort to Grand Junction has for 50+ years been an important part of this outdoor community.

Powderhorn’s long term success depends on developing a business model where our customers can enjoy year-round activity. Particularly in light of the terrible snow year we experienced in 2017/18 it is even MORE CRITICAL that we diversify beyond just skiing in order to be viable. We believe mountain biking to be the primary activity where we can build our business during the non-ski months. Our goal is to have biking and other activities that are very family friendly and can be enjoyed by everyone. The Palisade Plunge, over time, will be a critical part of this trail network. We have hired IMBA Trail Solutions (IMBA TS) to provide us with 2 products to help us chart the course of the next 5 to 10 years and beyond. The First, and larger project, is to assess the current mountain bike (and also road cycling and hiking to some degree) network in the Grand Valley and to collect input in the community as to how to build a strategic trail plan for the long term economic impact and the health and wellness impact of the Grand Valley. The second project for IMBA TS is to assess and make recommendations

regarding the mountain bike trails we currently have and are building and to help us look at the best network and strategy specifically for Powderhorn. Powderhorn employs 300+ during the ski season and the Company desires to employ more of these folks in the summer season providing solid year-round jobs. As a commitment to the Plunge and the Grand Valley, Powderhorn commits \$5,000 towards the completion of planning and construction of this remarkable trail. In addition, we pledge \$2,000 annually for the first five years of operation for ongoing maintenance.

It is also important to note that the Palisade Plunge will be beneficial to Fruita and other communities on the Western Slope. Because of the heat in the summer months in Fruita for an example, the higher elevation provides relief at 11,000 feet elevation. Also, an Alpine Downhill experience is something different for the huge amount of people driving to Moab and Fruita that the bike community is very excited about to increase their customer base. And thank you for your efforts and those of COPMOBA in making the Plunge a reality.

Sincerely,



Andy Daly
Managing Member, Powderhorn Partners, LLC

July 28, 2018

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

RE: Grant Application for Trail Construction

To Whom It May Concern:

The Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) fully supports the Palisade Plunge project, which directly aligns with our mission to create a diversified and thriving economy and improved quality of life for our community. In addition to this letter, we've committed \$1000 to the construction of the project.

Mesa County is quickly becoming an outdoor mecca for the State of Colorado and all of our communities have benefited economically from the growth of outdoor recreation tourism and outdoor recreation manufacturing.

Not only will the Palisade Plunge project result in a direct increase in jobs, through the construction and maintenance of the trail, it will also add significantly to our tourism economy and expand job opportunities in Palisade, Grand Junction and throughout Mesa County.

The Palisade Plunge project will provide a one-of-a-kind, unique trail experience in our backyard that adds to our overall quality of place and provides a unique selling proposition for any business that is considering Mesa County for their relocation or expansion.

We appreciate your attention to this crucial economic development matter and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you should you wish.

Sincerely,



Robin Brown
Executive Director



**MESA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**
Working Together for a Healthy Community

P.O. Box 20,000
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5033
(970) 248-6900
www.health.mesacounty.us

Date: July 27, 2018
To: Colorado Parks & Wildlife, State Trails Program
13787 U.S. Highway 85N. Littleton, CO 80125
From: Mesa County Public Health
Re: Grant Application – Palisade Plunge Trail Construction

On behalf of Mesa County Public Health, I am pleased to support the Palisade Plunge project and subsequent application for construction funding. Our mission, to *maintain and improve health through assessment of community health status, policy development to support effective programs, and assurance of high quality, effective education and service*, is the driving force behind our programming and community collaborations.

Mesa County Public Health is committed to the project and is providing an in-kind contribution of \$10,000 in staff support (.2 FTE) dedicated to marketing, communication, data collection and analysis.

Jeff Kuhr, PhD
Executive Director



PO Box 89
Grand Junction, CO 81502

205 N. 4th St. Suite 403
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Phone 970.733.2198
www.WSCOGA.org

July 31, 2018

Great Outdoors Colorado
RE: Delivered Electronically

Re: Grant Application Support

Dear Great Outdoors Colorado,

On behalf of the natural gas industry of Western Colorado please accept this letter as endorsement of and support for the proposed Palisade Plunge Trail Project.

Our membership is highly supportive of outdoor recreation in Western Colorado. In fact, many of our members are looking forward to utilizing this unique biking feature.

Our industry understands outdoor recreation, tourism and other economic diversifiers should thrive side-by-side with existing economies like the natural gas industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Ludlam".

David Ludlam
Executive Director
West Slope Colorado Oil & Gas Association





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Grand Junction Field Office

2815 H Road

Grand Junction, Colorado 81506



Dear Grant Committee,

25 July 2018

I understand that Mesa County, with support from the Town of Palisade, has applied for a construction grant through the Colorado the Beautiful program to construct a portion of the Palisade Plunge.

The Palisade Plunge was accepted as a “Colorado 16” project by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has worked very closely with partners including the Town of Palisade, the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, the US Forest Service, the US Bureau of Reclamation, Mesa County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Department of Transportation, and many others in comprehensive project planning and to complete the environmental analysis for construction on public land administered by the US Forest Service and the BLM.. The EA was completed in June, and no significant issues that would prevent the trail’s construction were identified. The BLM approved the project on June 19, and the US Forest Service is currently in the final administrative review period, which closes in early August 2018.

The BLM has been supportive of this project for two primary reasons: first, the trail will fill a unique niche in the spectrum of mountain biking opportunities available in the Grand Valley. Three existing stacked-loop mountain bike trail systems provide a variety of opportunities for different skill levels and riding styles, but none provide a sustained long-distance descent opportunity. The project is also important in that it starts in and traverses a remote alpine environment, promoting connectivity with other trails on BLM- and USFS-administered public land, and with a community, the town of Palisade. This interface between high alpine and high desert, as well as the chance to experience a remote alpine backcountry recreation experience and then transition directly into a vibrant local community for post-ride entertainment and celebration, is something we understand users want. These types of experiences are a key part of the Grand Valley experience that our partners are marketing and promoting (see the Grand Day video at <https://vimeo.com/172846393>, for example), and speak to the BLM’s “Backyard to Backcountry” recreation brand. The Palisade Plunge will fill these unique recreation opportunity and user experience niches for both tourists and area residents.

Additionally, this project is strongly supported by area communities. The BLM has direction to listen specifically to what our communities are telling us through Department of Interior (DOI) and BLM national priorities (DOI Mission Area 3-Expanding Outdoor Recreation and Access, and BLM National Priority-Restore Trust and Be a Good Neighbor). This project also fulfills key elements of the BLM’s overall long-term (2014-2019) recreation strategy that this office has been working toward for the past five years (<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/our-strategy>) and longer. Specifically, our longstanding strategic direction encourages us to:

- Goal 1: Plan and Manage Recreation Efforts to Achieve Specific and Desired Benefits to [communities],

- Goal 2: Facilitate Greater Well-Being and Economic Benefits within Communities,
 - Strategic Focus 1: Capitalize on and Protect BLM's "Backyard to Backcountry" Brand"
 - Strategic Focus 3: Give Priority to Those Recreation Opportunities that Promise the Most Significant Social and Economic Benefits, That are Within the Productive Capacity of the Community's Delivery Systems, and That Best Fit the Character/Setting of Place-Based Recreation.
- Goal 2: Ensure That BLM Participation in Partnerships Remains Relevant and Effective (Strategic Focus 1: Stay up to Date about the Interests of Network Providers and Primary Recreation-Tourism Visitors).

In keeping with these strategic goals, the feedback from area communities and economic development partners regarding the importance of this project has been consistent and positive. The BLM has listened carefully to the Town of Palisade, the City of Grand Junction, and Mesa County; as well as the Grand Junction Economic Partnership, Visit Grand Junction, the Outdoor Recreation Coalition, and the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. All of these entities have been strongly supportive of this project. They expect that this trail will draw visitors specifically to ride this trail, as well as encouraging them to extend other visits to Grand Junction, Palisade and Fruita. They note both the value of its potential economic contribution (estimated at \$2.5 million annually), as well as the general importance of recreation as a key force in diversifying area economies.

In recognition of our multiple use mission, the potential impact of this project on wildlife and especially wintering wildlife was an important factor considered in the environmental analysis. The trail alignment was specifically routed/tailored to minimize impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitats, and it will be closed seasonally to protect wintering wildlife. The BLM is committed to enforcing that seasonal habitat protection based on feedback from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, with whom we also worked closely during development and consideration of the project.

The BLM also appreciates the contributions of the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA) to this project. The BLM Grand Junction Field Office has a nearly 30-year history of working productively and proactively with this group to address challenges and find solutions to enhance trail-based mountain bike recreation. From our experience over the years, any project that has their sustained attention will be successful in the long run. This group is uniquely experienced and successful at finding solutions and assisting the BLM in collaborative trail development and maintenance, and we look forward to working with them on building and maintaining the Palisade Plunge. They bring significant resources to bear on projects they are involved in, and they have expressed a long-term commitment to the Palisade Plunge.

As an example, there were comments on the preliminary environmental analysis, primarily from the motorized recreation community, about how maintenance would be funded. COPMOBA is working diligently to further develop a maintenance schedule and identify private and non-profit mechanisms for maintenance. COPMOBA is also leading and piloting partnerships with local businesses as a funding stream for maintenance, and currently has commitments by nine local businesses to contribute annually to a trail maintenance fund. This innovative approach is still in

its infancy, but is expected to grow with time. We welcome and value these kinds of public-private partnerships around the issue of trail maintenance and development.

If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, kasteven@blm.gov or 970-244-3010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie A Stevens", with a decorative flourish at the end.

Katie Stevens,
Field Manager



Date: July 26, 2018
To: Colorado Parks & Wildlife, State Trails Program
13787 U.S. Highway 85N. Littleton, CO 80125
From: Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, Inc. (COPMOBA)
Re: Grant Application - Palisade Plunge Trail Construction

COPMOBA is a 29+ year, all volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advocacy for, and construction and maintenance of, non-motorized singletrack trail and features in western Colorado. COPMOBA partners with many entities, including BLM, USFS, CPW, municipalities, counties, motorized trail organizations, youth organizations, diverse trail user groups, land conservation organizations, and others to pursue projects within our communities.

COPMOBA has been a constant member of the diverse working group that planned the Palisade Plunge project, and took it through the completion of the federal NEPA process. With BLM's signing of the FONSI for this project, COPMOBA encourages the approval of this construction grant application to avoid possible lapse of project momentum as well as that of some studies with the EA process that have limited time of applicability.

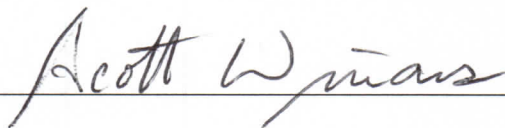
COPMOBA has substantial experience with the lifestyle and economic benefits and needs of trail systems in our communities. By design, the Palisade Plunge project leverages many local resources such as transportation corridors, local airport access, existing trailheads, proximity to and connectivity among existing trails and networks, access to and through an established BLM Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), proximity to a municipality and many businesses, connectivity to agritourism areas and to the Colorado Riverfront Trail, and important trail corridor in the region.

The Plunge trail will provide a long desired and much needed connection between the upper elevations of the Grand Mesa and the adjacent valley floor where the majority of trail networks exist, and where the majority of users access trails. This will include multiple new connections to the existing trails and networks of Mesa Top/Flowing Park/Crane Lake/Deep Creek/Rim View/West Bench, and the County Line and Skyway trail systems. These connections will create multiple new loop and system options based on existing trail mileage. Additionally, the route will connect people, businesses, and recreational activities between the Mesa and Valley regions. It will also provide a totally unique addition to the region, a long distance high quality route with 6000' of vertical relief, that ends at a municipality to provide services to users. This alone is very unique trail situation, equaled in very few areas around the world, and huge economic drivers in each region where they exist. This coupled with existing well recognized trail systems of the area is a recipe for positive economic impact from the creation of the new trail, capitalizing upon existing resources.

COPMOBA strongly supports the application for construction funding, and contributes a minimum of \$43,534 in funds towards grant match funds, and a minimum of 250 hrs of coordinated volunteer labor as in-kind value to the construction of the Palisade Plunge Trail. Additionally we recognize the need for planned and ongoing maintenance of our trails and area, and commit a minimum of 120 hrs/yr of volunteer labor for maintenance activities, to be coordinated with BLM and USFS partners through a maintenance committee process.

Scott Winans

President - COPMOBA:





Chamber of Commerce

Palisade Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 729

Palisade, Colorado 81526

(970) 464-7458

July 26, 2018

Dear Mesa County Commissioners,

Please accept this letter of support from the Palisade Chamber of Commerce for your consideration of the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Grant application for the proposed Palisade Plunge with the Town of Palisade and Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, Inc (COPMOBA).

The slogan of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce is, "Life Tastes Good Here, All Year Long". As the community's business advocate, our goal is to improve the quality of life through strong and sustainable economic development. We believe this project fully meets the criteria for which the county supports in terms of economic development, sustainability, connectivity, access and safety. Given the complex nature of the proposed trail, careful study and planning has gone into the selection of the best and most appropriate route which also incorporates community input.

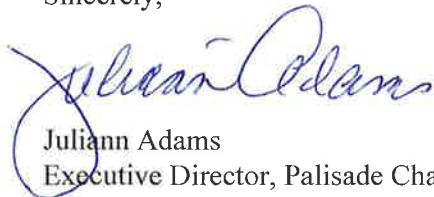
The proposed "Palisade Plunge" trail is one of sixteen trails identified in Gov. Hickenlooper's "16 Trails in 2016" initiative as a part of the "Colorado the Beautiful" program. The Palisade Plunge, when complete, will be a natural surface, single-track trail that begins at the Mesa Top Trail and ends at the Palisade Rim Trail Special Recreation Management Area near the Town of Palisade. This mountain bike trail which will descend 6,000 vertical feet through some of the most diverse terrain in the State of Colorado will draw people from around the world.

The Chamber fully supports the efforts of the Town of Palisade and COPMOBA and has the full support of other outdoor recreational organizations in the Grand Valley.

The Grand Junction Economic Partnership recognizes the impact the Palisade Plunge Trail will have on their efforts to promote Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Manufacturing. Most importantly to us and our members, the Palisade Plunge will enhance economic growth within our community: increased visitation will positively impact restaurants and retail establishments; hotel occupancy rates will increase, as will bicycle rentals and purchases of consumables such as groceries and gasoline and our agritourism partners – the wineries and orchards will see their visits go up as well. To conclude, we believe the value of these enhanced experiences will help drive a bustling economy in and around Palisade including Grand Junction and Fruita.

We strongly encourage you to partner with the Town of Palisade and COPMOBA in seeking this grant opportunity and help make the Palisade Plunge a resource for our area to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,



Juliann Adams
Executive Director, Palisade Chamber of Commerce

July 10, 2018

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the grant proposal for the construction of the Palisade Plunge Trail project. It's designation as a 16 in '16 trail project through the Governor's Connect Initiative, highlights the importance of this project not only for the Western Slope, but the entire State of Colorado.

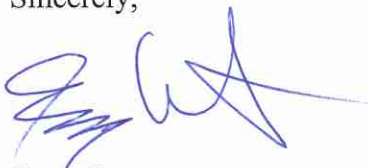
While the Town of Palisade is the coordinating agency for this project, they have received strong support from other governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector. Representatives from all these areas along with the public will be heavily involved in the overall planning and construction process of this trail. In support, the City of Grand Junction will contribute \$5,000.00 to the project.

The Grand Mesa offers a plethora of opportunities including agricultural, environmental and recreational. It is a popular destination for fishing, hiking, camping and skiing. The Palisade Plunge Trail will complement the Grand Valley's reputation as one of the premier mountain bike destinations in the country.

The Mesa is also the main source of drinking and irrigation water for the City of Grand Junction and other municipalities. This construction grant will be a vital part of creating the long-term vision for this area. It is crucial that careful and thoughtful planning secures a balance of recreational use together with water quality and environmental protection.

The City of Grand Junction is proud to be a supporter of this exciting project for the Grand Valley, and looks forward to the many benefits that will be achieved upon the completion of the trail. This project supports our mission of enhanced economic development in the Valley, and we strongly support this request for trail construction funds.

Sincerely,



Greg Caton
City Manager