

## GRANT APPLICATION CHECK LIST

### MANDATORY:

- NA Signed letter of resolution from Governing Body
- Exhibit A - Application
- Exhibit B - Budget (Unprotected Excel CPW form)
- NA 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 Area 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
- NA (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
- NA (Construction Only) Formal Environmental Assessment (EA) or NEPA has been completed with final approval for the project area (federal lands only).

### ADDITIONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

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

# EXHIBIT A

## COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL REGIONAL TRAILS PLANNING APPLICATION

Applicant or Organization Name: Rio Grande National Forest, Divide Ranger District		
Mailing Address: 13308 W Hwy 160, Del Norte CO 81132		
Applicant Lead Contact Name: Martha Williamson		Title: Divide District Ranger
Telephone: 719.850.2356	Email: Martha.williamson@usda.gov	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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

Name: Martha Williamson		
Mailing Address: 13308 W Hwy 160, Del Norte CO 81132		
Telephone: 719.850.2356	Email: Martha.williamson@usda.gov	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

## PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Name:		
Mailing Address:		
Partner Contact Name:		Title:
Telephone:	Email:	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Project Title: Planning for long-term sustainable recreation on the Divide Ranger District	
Grant Request: \$ 68,900	Required Match: \$20,670
Total Project Cost: \$130,250	

**Project Summary:** Please write a short (1-paragraph) summary of your project. This information will be posted online and in grant application and reviewer information packets.

The Divide Ranger District is seeing a noticeable increase in recreation use. The window for proactively channeling this use in order to support access to public land while managing resource impacts and minimizing user conflicts is narrowing. This project will prioritize actions needed to address resource and social vulnerabilities based on lessons learned from other areas further ahead on the recreation use curve and develop public education messages and delivery options. The action list will identify the NEPA compliance pathway and potential funding sources.

**Detailed Project Description:** Please write a 3-4 paragraph description of your project and the expected accomplishments. Be sure to include Who, 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?**

The Divide District Ranger will oversee the project and Rio Grande National Forest staff will have primary responsibility for completing the work. The primary reason for having this project completed in-house is that this keeps the planning effort tied to the entity with jurisdiction for implementation. In addition, district staff have intimate knowledge of the non-recreation use on the district that needs to be considered, local credibility, contacts and access to internal databases to make this successful. Existing staff would be dedicated to this project for its duration.



# EXHIBIT A

Agency personnel will work with San Luis Valley organizations to dovetail in concurrent efforts: the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project's current Stream Management Planning project and priority projects identified in the completed Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment; San Luis Valley Great Outdoors' comprehensive plan; Colorado Mountain Club's visitor use data collection app developed for Recreation in Balance; and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado will assist in providing volunteers to gather baseline data and implement project identified.

## WHAT?

This project will identify lessons learned from other areas that have seen similar recreation growth; characterize the baseline recreation use and infrastructure (including trails, trailheads and dispersed campsites); identify and prioritize locations vulnerable to increased recreation use based on current and foreseeable resource impacts and user conflicts; identify actions to mitigate resource impacts, chart the National Environmental Policy Act compliance pathway, and identify funding opportunities; and identify and develop public education and outreach messages, identify outlets and specific mechanisms to share these stewardship messages. The Scope of Work outlined on pages 6 - 8 details the process.

## WHERE?

This project focuses on the Divide Ranger District (RD) of the Rio Grande National Forest. The Divide RD encompasses 983,000 acres in Rio Grande, Mineral, Hinsdale, Saguache, and San Juan counties. The district hosts the full suite of recreation activities: portions of the Weminuche and La Garita Wilderness areas, Wolf Creek Ski Area, 40 miles of the Rio Grande river and its headwaters, a special draw hunt unit, 720 total miles of trail for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, and OHV recreationists including 178 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and portions of the Colorado Trail. There are 258 miles of motorized trails, 278 miles of non-motorized ones, and 184 miles of trail in Wilderness. There are places to hike, ride horses, mountain bike, ATV, UTV, dirtbike, dispersed camp, camp in a campground, hunt, fish, and enjoy the snow whether through motorized or non-motorized means. This diversity of recreation opportunity and use under one ownership and one responsible official puts the Divide RD in a unique position to respond to foreseeable challenges.

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

- ATV: All Terrain Vehicle
- CPW: Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- DiRT: Divide Trails Roundtable
- DWM: District Wildlife Manager
- NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
- OHV: Off-Highway Vehicle
- RD: Ranger District
- RGHRP: Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project
- RGNF: Rio Grande National Forest
- RWEACT: Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team
- SLV: San Luis Valley
- SLV GO: SLV Great Outdoors
- USFS: United States Forest Service
- UTV: Utility Terrain Vehicle
- VOC: Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

## LAND OWNERSHIP

1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: Rio Grande National Forest
2. The trail corridor is controlled by:  Fee Simple  Lease  Easement  License  Right-of-Way  
 Other: not applicable

## USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Four-Wheeling	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Access
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Running	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

# EXHIBIT A

<input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding	<input checked="" 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"/> X-Country Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<b>TRAIL SURFACE</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crusher Fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION (For multiple project sites attach a separate list.)</b>			
Nearest Town or City: Multiple: Monte Vista, Del Norte, South Fork, Creede, Lake City			
County: Rio Grande, Mineral, Hinsdale, Saguache, San Juan			
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates: See attached map			
State Senate District #: 5, 6, 35		Refer to <a href="https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator">https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator</a>	
State Representative District #: 59, 62			
Acreage of new trailhead	NA	Miles of trail grooming	NA
Miles of new trail construction	NA	Miles of trail being planned	NA
Miles of trail maintenance	NA	Miles of trail reroute	NA
Miles of trail reconstruction	NA	Miles of inter-connecting trail	NA
Miles of trail to be signed	NA	Other	
Miles of trail restoration	NA	Other	

Applicant Authorized Signature:  Date: 8/1/19  
(From Applicant Organization)

Land Agency Authorized Signature:  Date: 8/1/19  
(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 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Jan-Mar 2022	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022
Project Initiation										
<b>Objective 1:</b> Look for lessons learned from communities 10 years further along than the San Luis Valley										
<b>Objective 2:</b> Identify Divide RD baseline										
<b>Objective 3:</b> Identify foreseeable challenges based on lessons learned in Objective 1 and baseline identified in Objective 2										
<b>Objective 4:</b> Identify and phase actions to be taken to accommodate additional recreation use										
<b>Objective 4:</b> Implement pilot project at 30-mile stock unloading area and Park Creek										
<b>Objective 5:</b> Identify NEPA pathway for all actions identified in Objective 4										
<b>Objective 6:</b> Identify funding opportunities for actions identified in Objective 4										
<b>Objective 7:</b> Identify public education and outreach opportunities and develop products										
Administrative Close-Out										

# EXHIBIT A

---

All applicants must respond to the following selection criteria questions in **nine pages or less in 12-point font with 1" page margins**. Answers can be longer than one page, as long as the total number of pages is less than or equal to nine.

This application will be scored on a 100-point basis. The maximum number of points that can be awarded for each question is shown in parentheses. Projects that make it beyond the initial review will be scored by outside reviewers, State Trails, GOCO, and DNR staff. Projects will be ranked according to reviewer and staff scores.

Failure to provide a response to any question (unless otherwise noted) will reduce your project's score. Please read and understand all application questions prior to answering. Reference all attachments.

---

## **SCOPE OF WORK:**

The following scope of work proposed for this project will facilitate answering the scoring criteria questions.

### Objective 1:

Look for lessons learned from communities 10 years further along than the San Luis Valley

### *Tasks:*

- a. Identify analogous communities in Colorado or intermountain western states that have grown in size and recreation use in the last ten years
- b. Determine what their primary recreation pressures have been (dispersed camping, trailhead congestion for example)
- c. Identify the unintended consequences of recreation and tourism/population influx to those communities
  - i. Identify the unintended consequences of recreation and tourism/population influx to non-recreation forest users in those communities (for example livestock growers and loggers)
- d. Glean lessons learned from their experience
- e. Look to the National Park Service and Colorado State Parks for lessons learned on managing high visitor traffic areas in order to minimize resource impacts.



# EXHIBIT A

## Objective 2:

Identify Divide RD baseline

### *Tasks:*

- a. Catalog current recreation use— river, road, trail, and winter recreation; motorized and non-motorized
- b. Catalog current infrastructure capacity (developed campgrounds, dispersed sites, trailheads, river put-ins, etc.) on the Divide District

## Objective 3:

Identify foreseeable challenges based on lessons learned in Objective 1 and baseline identified in Objective 2 (this includes involving CPW DWMs and other partner organizations)

### *Tasks:*

- a. Based on Task 2a identify areas that are most vulnerable to additional recreation volume because of current resource impacts
  - i. Resource considerations: wildlife, water quality, cultural resources
    - a. Use Park Creek and 30-mile (upper Rio Grande above River Hill) as pilot areas
- b. Identify areas that are most vulnerable to additional recreation volume because of reasonably foreseeable future resource impacts
  - i. Resource considerations: wildlife, water quality, cultural resources
- c. Based on Task 2a identify areas that need infrastructure upgrades (for example campground upgrades to accommodate larger RVs or trailhead parking size and organization)
- d. Vet results with stakeholder group

## Objective 4:

Identify and phase actions to be taken to accommodate additional recreation use: (this includes involving CPW DWMs and other partner organizations)

### *Tasks:*

- a. Actions to mitigate current and prevent future resource damage (for example: delineate dispersed camping areas in the uplands to limit riparian impacts)

## EXHIBIT A

- i. Use Park Creek and 30-mile (upper Rio Grande above River Hill) as pilot areas
- b. Actions to channel increasing use to areas that can absorb it with minimal resource damage
- c. Actions needed based on proximity to adjacent high density recreation areas on other jurisdictions (for example: proximity to Alpine Loop)
- d. Opportunities to maintain, upgrade or expand existing recreation infrastructure
- e. Opportunities to expand or alter trail system within areas that present minimal concern for wildlife and water quality
- f. Vet results with stakeholder group

### Objective 5:

Identify NEPA pathway for all actions identified in Objective 4

#### *Task:*

- a. Identify NEPA pathway for all actions identified in Objective 4

### Objective 6:

Identify funding opportunities for actions identified in Objective 4

#### *Task:*

- a. Identify funding opportunities for actions identified in Objective 4

### Objective 7:

Identify public education and outreach opportunities and develop products (this includes involving CPW DWMs and other partner organizations)

#### *Tasks:*

- a. Physical sign messaging
- b. Other ways to communicate with recreationists
  - i. Etiquette videos
  - ii. Additional mechanisms for sharing stewardship message
- c. Determine strategies for effective distribution
- d. Determine strategies for engaging current and future user groups in on-going stewardship
- e. Vet results with stakeholder group



# EXHIBIT A

## 1. COMMUNITY NEED & BENEFIT (20 points)

The ultimate goal of this project is to chart a course for welcoming additional recreation use on the Divide District while navigating around resource and social impacts. The vision is that with some foresight, we can channel use towards places that can handle it, away from those that can't and have ready-to-deploy strategies for managing use that exceeds that capacity in a multiple-use landscape. Having this plan in place and the stepwise approach to action items identified will help the local communities continue to grow gracefully.

The communities within and around the Divide Ranger District rely heavily on public land, this is particularly true in the counties that are over 90% federal land. In these communities, economic diversity – tourism, recreation, agriculture and other industry - secures a stable future. The National Forest System provides for many of these sectors. While the economic incentive to draw recreation and tourism to the area is clear, it is essential to these communities' longevity that the increase in use meld with community character and existing sectors. In this context, the proposed project will benefit the communities in and around the Divide RD in the following ways:

- Public education and outreach messages will speak to the Forest Service's multiple-use mission – watershed, wildlife, timber, grazing, mining, as well as recreation (Objective 7)
- Public education and outreach messages will speak to how to take care of the land (Objective 7)
- The prioritized list of action items with NEPA pathways and funding opportunities identified (Objectives 4, 5, and 6) will provide concrete, implementable projects that will mitigate natural resource concerns and alleviate the potential for user conflicts
- In the specific recreation setting, marginalized communities include those that depend on the forest for non-recreation related livelihoods. This includes livestock growers, the timber operators, and firewood cutters among others. These groups' input will be gathered during Objective 1, Task c; all tasks under Objectives 3, 4, and 7.

## 2. URGENCY (5 points)

This planning effort is important to undertake now because the Divide Ranger District is just starting to see the increase in recreation use now. Anecdotal evidence from the forest's law enforcement officers indicates that at our busiest forest road intersections, UTV traffic in specific has increased to 40 vehicles per hour this year over the 1-2 seen previously. We have the uncommon opportunity to get ahead right now and either avoid or mitigate the resource damage, user conflicts, and community division that comes from waiting until we are in a position to have to react.

## 3. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS (15 points)

This project focuses on district-wide recreation and resource planning with the intent to understand how to achieve the balance between anticipated recreation use, wildlife and natural resource conservation, and long-term maintenance. The Divide RD covers nearly one million acres and contains an extensive road and trail network



## EXHIBIT A

as well as existing recreation infrastructure. This project proposes to look at the entire district's interrelated recreation components, integrate this with lessons learned from other areas that have already addressed increased recreation use, and consider known and foreseeable future wildlife, water quality, and cultural resource impacts.

Tasks planned under Objectives 1 (all tasks) and 3 (Tasks a and b) will ensure that we apply lessons learned elsewhere and focus on the areas that are the most vulnerable to additional recreation use.

Objective 4, Task c ensures that this project considers the cumulative impact of high density recreation use on adjacent jurisdictions and captures the potential for spillover.

#### **4. WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES (10 points)**

Objectives 3 and 4, all tasks, specify where in the planning process wildlife, water quality, and cultural resource concerns will be evaluated. This project aims to identify areas with wildlife and natural resource concerns and develop action items to either avoid or mitigate these concerns as recreation use increases. CPW DWMs and RGNF staff resource specialists (biologists, hydrologist, and soil scientists) will be at the table for work to meet Objectives 3 and 4 and a heritage resource probability model will help identify potential cultural resource concerns.

The recently-completed Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment has identified and prioritized projects that improve the function of the uplands, and aquatic and riparian ecosystems. This document provides a starting point for considering recreation impacts to water quality.

#### **5. COLLABORATION (15 points).**

The Divide Trails Roundtable (DiRT) is a multi-user roundtable that focuses on maintaining and promoting a shared stewardship ethic in the SLV and on the Divide RD in particular. DiRT gathers representatives from non-motorized, motorized, and sportsmen recreation user groups, VOC, SLV GO, the CPW State Trails Coordinator, and the Divide RD. The need an urgency for the proposed project has been front and center for the roundtable since its inception. DiRT's representation of different user groups and access to community networks will help ensure the project's success. The roundtable will be integral to meeting Objectives 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.

The Divide RD has long-standing, successful partnerships with county government, particularly Hinsdale and Mineral Counties, and non-governmental organizations like the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project and the Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team. This project will lean on these relationships to meet all objectives except Objective 6.



## EXHIBIT A

The Divide RD will rely on its permitted outfitters, guides, grazing permittees, permitted water rights owners, timber purchasers, and community members to develop a complete picture for Objectives 2, 3, 4 and 7.

All of these partners are personally - frequently generationally - invested in the area and willing to come to the table to help the Divide RD determine existing conditions and anticipated needs. These partners will help flesh out the local knowledge component of current condition and community character that we want to hold on to. The partners are in large part resource stewards in their own right during the week and recreate on public lands on the weekends. This provides an invaluable perspective that will lead to a resonant plan.

### **6. IMPLEMENTATION (15 points)**

The scope of work outlined at the beginning of this section provides the full implementation plan. Objective 5 is to identify the NEPA pathway and Objective 6 is to identify funding opportunities for the action items identified in Objective 4.

The Divide RD, working in partnership with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project and the Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team, has started work to implement a site-specific and single-drainage pilots of the proposed project. This example demonstrates this project's feasibility, the concrete improvements that can result, and a potential funding source for implementing the action items. The Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment identified dispersed camping and a road crossing in the Park Creek drainage and stock watering at the 30-mile stock unloading area (upper Rio Grande) as priority areas to address due to sediment contributions to the creek and river. Lessons learned from other areas show that, left unaddressed, resource impacts from dispersed camping adjacent to riparian areas can lead to closing the dispersed sites and pushing that camping use elsewhere. This 'elsewhere' is frequently a previously-undisturbed area, which leads to accumulating resource impacts and a downward spiral of interactions between the public and the agency. The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project secured grant funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to delineate the dispersed sites in upland areas, repair the road crossing, harden an OHV unloading area and develop and post public education signs. Delineating the dispersed camp sites in particular will allow the camping use to continue, if not increase, while mitigating the water quality and riparian ecosystem resource concerns. Work on the road crossing and OHV unloading area are identified for the fall of 2019; dispersed site delineation and public education is scheduled for implementation in the summer of 2020.

A similar, smaller-scale pilot is identified in the 30-mile area, in the upper Rio Grande above River Hill. The Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment identified dispersed camping and stock watering at the 30-mile stock unloading area as an area to address due to sediment contributions to the river. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding for this project is secured and work is planned for 2020.



## EXHIBIT A

The proposed project is needed in order to apply these concepts at the District scale.

### **7. PUBLIC COMMENT & INVOLVEMENT (10 points)**

As described in the Collaboration section, a multi-user group roundtable identified the need for this project. These partner groups and the ones identified in the Collaboration section will be integral to meeting Objectives 1-4 and 6-7. Tapping into these networks, and expanding them to include chambers of commerce and the public at large, in particular will ensure that the actions identified in Objective 4 are consistent with community messaging and that public outreach and education messages and mechanisms identified in Objective 7 will resonate.

Stakeholder group input is specifically identified as a step in meeting Objectives 3, 4 and 7. CPW DWM input is specifically identified in these three objectives as well.

Implementation of projects identified in Objective 4 may only occur after NEPA compliance is met. Objective 5 is to identify the NEPA pathway for these actions. Public involvement is a basic component of the NEPA process. The public involvement mechanism will be identified as part of this Objective.

No opposition to this project is anticipated, however tension between opinions on increased recreation use is. Opposition may occur as specific actions proposed as a result of this planning effort are proposed, however the intent of this proposed project is to weave in broad support for the concept so that projects proposed as a result face limited opposition.

### **8. PLANNING PROCESS & OUTCOME (10 points)**

The strategy for monitoring and evaluating project planning, and for defining and measuring the success of the planning effort involves the following:

1. A fully successful planning effort will:
  - a. Complete the identified tasks and develop the end products on time and within budget
  - b. Create a plan that is implementable; as defined by clear steps, reasonable NEPA timelines and funding sources
  - c. Identify a metric for determining the effectiveness of public outreach and education
  - d. Implements the two pilot projects and identifies lessons learned
2. A planning effort that exceeds fully successful will:
  - a. Identify trigger points for each action item (For example: when the number of fisherman at Freemon's Day Use Area gets to X, then begin NEPA for Y with implementation scheduled for Z year following)
  - b. Include a produced pilot short video encouraging recreation etiquette, distributed to SLV outlets



# EXHIBIT A

## **Objectives and Tasks:**

Objectives and tasks are specifically identified in the Scope of Work on pages 6-8.

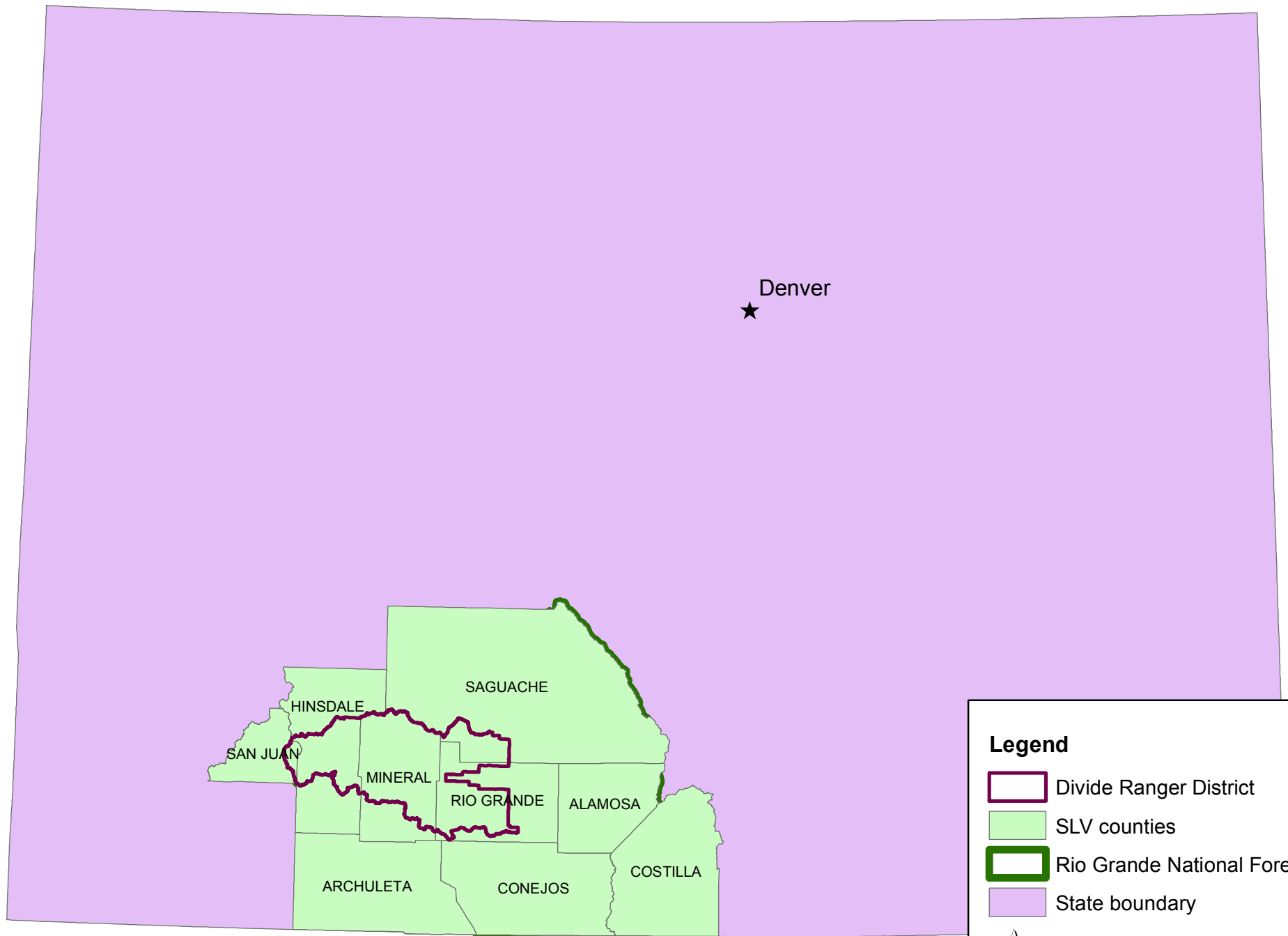
## **End products:**

1. Plan that includes:
  - a. Lessons learned
  - b. Baseline information
  - c. Prioritized action list with trigger points for implementation, NEPA pathway and funding opportunities identified
2. Public information and education:
  - a. Physical sign messaging plan (content and location)
  - b. Alternate communication methods, messages, and distribution strategy
  - c. Pilot etiquette videos for distribution in local area
3. Complete Park Creek and 30-mile pilot projects





Exhibit B Budget Form - Project Name:					Planning for long-term sustainable			
SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
<b>CASH</b>								
Colorado Parks and Wildlife/Colorado The Beautiful Grant	TBD				\$ 68,900.00		\$ 68,900.00	
CWCB Water Plan Grant: Park Creek Pilot	5/24/2019					\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00	
CWCB Water Plan Grant: 30-Mile Pilot	5/24/2019					\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
Resource Advisory Committee (RAC): Videographer	Pending - award date 9/16/19					\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
<b>IN-KIND</b>								
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado	7/22/2019					\$ 15,200.00	\$ 15,200.00	
Partner organizations and entities	Jul-19					\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	
Rio Grande National Forest	Jul-19					\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	
							\$ -	
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>					<b>\$ 68,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 61,350.00</b>	<b>\$ 130,250.00</b>	
<b>[CASH] Description of Work</b>								
	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance (should be 0)
<b>CATEGORY 1-Contracted Services</b> Identify as: Youth Corps, Engineering, Contractor, etc.								
Videographer for etiquette videos, focused on sharing forest etiquette targeting different user groups. Convey responsible OHV use and public land stewardship, dispersed camping and welcome to the land of many uses.	10	Produced minute	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>Category 2 - Salary/Wages</b>								
Colorado Parks and Wildlife/Colorado the Beautiful Grant	130	Days	\$ 530.00	\$ 68,900.00	\$ 68,900.00		\$ 68,900.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>CATEGORY 3-Materials/Supplies</b> Identify as: Signs, crusherfines, native seed, weed barrier, etc.								
Educational sign -22x36, double sided, on a metal base.	1	Each	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00		\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00	0
Road base, coarse cobble, boulders, buck and rail fence materials, willow starts.	1	Each	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>Additional Categories</b>								
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>\$ 68,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,350.00</b>	<b>\$ 105,250.00</b>	
<b>[IN-KIND] Description of Work</b>								
	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)			Total Funding (\$)	Balance (should be 0)
<b>Category 1 - Contracted Services</b>								
				\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0
<b>Category 2 - Salary/Wages</b>								
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado: work to gather baseline data on Divide RD use (Objective 2)	640	Hour	\$ 23.75	\$ 15,200.00		\$ 15,200.00	\$ 15,200.00	0
Partner entities: work to gather baseline, identify resource vulnerabilities, and identify actions to remedy (Objectives 2, 3, and 4)	160	Hour	\$ 50.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	0
Rio Grande National Forest: resource specialists	40	Hour	\$ 45.00	\$ 1,800.00		\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	0
<b>Category 3 - Materials/Tools</b>								
				\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0
<b>Additional Categories</b>								
				\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0
<b>IN-KIND SUBTOTAL</b>						<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>					<b>\$ 68,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 61,350.00</b>	<b>\$ 130,250.00</b>	
<b>30% REQUIRED MATCH</b>						<b>\$ 20,670.00</b>		



# Planning for long-term sustainable recreation on the Divide Ranger District



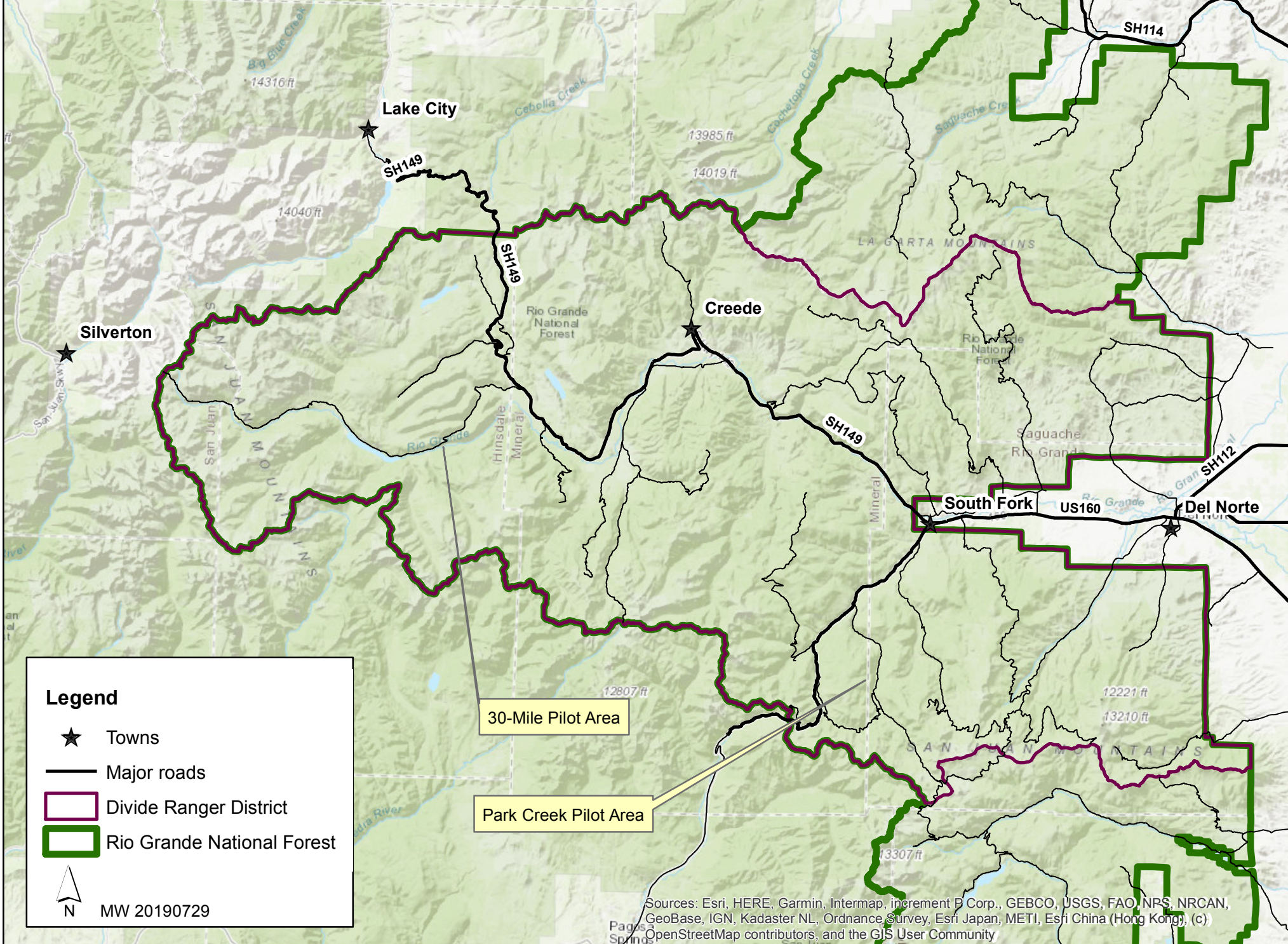
## Legend

-  Divide Ranger District
-  SLV counties
-  Rio Grande National Forest
-  State boundary



MW 20190729

# Planning for long-term sustainable recreation on the Divide Ranger District



## Legend

- ★ Towns
- Major roads
- ▭ Divide Ranger District
- ▭ Rio Grande National Forest

N  
MW 20190729

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NRS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community





311 N. Henson St. Lake City, Colorado 81235 970-944-2225 [www.hinsdalecountycolorado.us](http://www.hinsdalecountycolorado.us)

---

July 24, 2019

Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
*Colorado the Beautiful* Grant (Trails and Recreation Planning Grant)  
1313 Sherman Street, 6th Floor  
Denver, CO 80203

Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners is pleased to support the grant application from the Divide Ranger District for the Colorado the Beautiful grant program.

The Rio Grande National Forest (which includes the Divide Ranger District) is one of three national forests found within Hinsdale County land – along with one Bureau of Land Management Field Office. We have five 14,000+ peaks, three wildernesses, and two wilderness study areas. The Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway, the Silver Thread Scenic & Historic Byway, the Continental Divide Trail, and the Colorado Trail all traverse our County. With 96% public lands, our partnership with federal land management and state agencies is crucial to our tourist-based economy.

This grant application seeks to proactively plan recreational experiences, address infrastructure upgrades needed, and prepare our region to accommodate a potential increase in use while minimizing impact to the forest's natural resources. Our County supports multiple types of year-round uses on trails and would benefit greatly from this planning work.

The proposal will fund personnel (whether for Forest Service salary, contractor, or other non-profit partnerships) to:

1. Identify and look for lessons learned from other communities with similar challenges; determine their primary recreation pressures; identify the unintended consequences of recreation and tourism/population influx; and further develop appropriate partnerships
2. Identify the baseline for recreation in the Divide Ranger District; catalog current recreation use by geography, season, and infrastructure capacity
3. Identify foreseeable challenges based on lessons learned and baseline; identify vulnerabilities and infrastructure upgrades
4. Identify and plan actions to accommodate additional recreation use
5. Identify NEPA pathway for all actions
6. Identify public education and outreach opportunities and develop products including physical sign messaging and other education methods

Hinsdale County is committed to an ongoing partnership with the Divide Ranger District and the Rio Grande National Forest is preparing for and addressing public lands impacts and programs within our County boundaries. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

  
Stan Whinnery  
Chair, Hinsdale Board of County Commissioners

Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation  
Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project  
623 Fourth Street  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
(719) 589-2230



July 26, 2019

RE: Divide Ranger District's Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application

Dear Grant Review Committee:

I am writing to express the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project's (RGHRP) support for the Divide Ranger District's application for the Colorado The Beautiful grant. The RGHRP was formed in 2001 to implement a restoration master plan for 91 miles of the Upper Rio Grande in Colorado. Over the years, the RGHRP has worked with private entities, other nonprofits, and local, state, and federal government partners to implement diverse restoration projects that improve the health of the Rio Grande watershed.

In 2019, the RGHRP worked with the USFS and stakeholders in the watershed to complete an assessment of the headwaters and major tributaries of the Rio Grande on the Divide Ranger District, the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment. The assessment surveyed the condition of the mainstem of the Rio Grande, major tributaries, and upland ecosystems within the upper Rio Grande Basin, identified causes of concern, and prioritized projects that improve the function of uplands, and aquatic and the riparian ecosystems.

One of the key findings of the Assessment was the extent of the existing impact of recreation on riparian function, which includes loss of riparian vegetation from trampling, sedimentation and channel widening from stream crossings, and loss of upland stability from off road travel and camping. The Assessment also documented areas where aging, hazardous, or inadequate infrastructure impacts recreation experiences.

Since the completion of the Assessment, the RGHRP and USFS have partnered to implement key recommendations to mitigate recreation impacts in the Park Creek drainage, which was a priority project identified through the assessment.

The proposed project will build off previous planning efforts and will provide the needed resources for the Divide District to proactively prepare for the anticipated influx of visitors to the District. By working with local stakeholders to thoughtfully consider how to maintain quality recreation resources, the District will be able to protect important natural resources and the experience visitors to the area expect.

The RGHRP is pleased to offer support for this project and will be thrilled to participate in the effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Emma Reesor  
Executive Director, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project





600 South Marion Parkway  
Denver, CO 80209  
303.715.1010  
[voc.org](http://voc.org)

July 22, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Rio Grande National Forest Divide Ranger District's grant proposal for the Colorado the Beautiful grant. The Divide Ranger District's (DRD) proposal to complete a broad scope of research and planning regarding recreational use on public lands is proactive and demonstrated intelligence and foresight in land amangement.

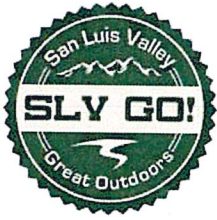
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado has a robust relationship with the DRD and as the San Luis Valley Volunteer and Partnership Manager who works in direct coordination with the DRD to identify and implement successful volunteer projects, I am excited to see proactive planning being considered, instead of reactive project identification to address abuse and negative impacts. I hope that through this planning grant the DRD will be able to prepare a well-founded plan of action for future on-the-ground work projects to upgrade or expand existing recreation infrastructure and/or to expand or alter trail system within areas that present minimal concern for wildlife and water quality. I hope that by identifying these projects ahead of time, volunteers will be able to assist in the work that is identified out of the planning, and that the public can thus be directly engaged in solutions on our public lands.

Regards,

Sally Wier  
San Luis Valley Volunteer and Partnership Manager



1803 W. U.S. Hwy 160  
Monte Vista, CO 81144  
(Office) 719-852-6234



Colorado Parks and Wildlife Headquarters  
1313 Sherman Street, 6th Floor  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Colorado the Beautiful Grant Committee,

The San Luis Valley Great Outdoors Coalition (SLVGO) unanimously supports the Rio Grande National Forest Service - Divide Ranger District's application for a Colorado the Beautiful (CtB) Planning Grant. SLV GO! shares the same concern as the Divide Ranger District, in that we are facing a future influx of recreationists coming to the San Luis Valley. SLV GO! agrees that we need to create a comprehensive plan to accommodate these new users and monitor their impact on trails, waterways, campgrounds, and other recreation areas.

SLV GO! is a diverse group of stakeholders, including the Forest Service, that's collaborating to create and assist in the implementation of a long-term plan to increase physical activity, and access to trails and other recreational infrastructure/activities in the San Luis Valley. We feel that now is the time for local stakeholders to figure out what work can be done prior to this migration of recreationists and tourists.

In recent surveys and community meetings held throughout the six county San Luis Valley, the need for promoting a culture of stewardship of existing recreation assets and more trail maintenance was seen as a priority. We also believe thoughtfully cataloging and identifying areas to accommodate additional recreational use to be a vital part for sustainability of our current recreation assets and protect the dollars already invested in our recreation infrastructure. SLV GO! further believes funding of this grant will assist in garnering more public support for community recreation, stewardship, economy, and community health and wellness opportunities.

The San Luis Valley Great Outdoors Coalition continues to facilitate planning efforts of the greater San Luis Valley which includes numerous recreation and trail projects currently happening within the Valley. The goal is to provide communication and collaboration on trails and recreation infrastructure projects for the public lands in and around communities of the San Luis Valley.

The SLVGO Coalition hopes the CtB grant committee will favorably consider this application and recommended its funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mick Daniel".

Mick Daniel, Executive Director

San Luis Valley Great Outdoors Coalition  
PO Box 300  
Alamosa CO 81101  
[www.slvgo.com](http://www.slvgo.com)





July 30, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
Colorado the Beautiful grant  
1313 Sherman Street, 6th Floor  
Denver, CO 80203

The Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT) is pleased to support the Divide Ranger District's application for a Colorado the Beautiful grant.

This grant application will plan recreational experiences, address infrastructure upgrades needed, and prepare our region to accommodate a potential increase in use while minimizing impact to the forest's natural resources.

The proposal will:

- Understand lessons learned from other communities with similar recreational issues, look for consequences of recreation, and develop appropriate partnerships
- Identify the baseline for recreation in the Divide Ranger District with current recreation use by geography, season, and infrastructure capacity
- Determine foreseeable challenges based on lessons learned and baseline and vulnerabilities with need for infrastructure upgrades
- Plan actions to accommodate additional recreation use, including necessary NEPA work
- Identify public education and outreach opportunities and develop products to increase public enjoyment of the natural and cultural resources

RWEACT was established in July 2013 in response to the West Fork Complex Fire. RWEACT brings together local, state and federal agencies, organizations and individuals in a coordinated approach to address fire-caused hazards, early notification, and future resiliency of our natural and economic communities. Working closely with the Rio Grande National Forest, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the counties of Hinsdale, Mineral, and Rio Grande, and more than 70 additional partners, RWEACT has implemented 200 projects and endeavors. We have increased the geographical representation of our Board of Directors now to also include Saguache, Alamosa, and Costilla counties.

The West Fork Complex Fire increased collaboration between counties and other local governments. Current work of RWEACT includes an Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment, participation in efforts to bring regional Radar to the area, improved Emergency Communications, post-disaster economic recovery, and stewardship activities. Our post-disaster economic recovery efforts identifying "increasing access to outdoor recreation" as a regional effort. This project supports that finding and action.

RWEACT's mission to promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities and watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado. More information about our organization can be found at [www.rweact.org](http://www.rweact.org) Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kristine Borchers  
Program Manager, RWEACT  
kristineborchers@yahoo.com  
970-596-9071

**From:** [Williamson, Martha A -FS](#)  
**To:** [Basagoitia, Rick WL360](#)  
**Cc:** [Josh Stoudt](#)  
**Subject:** Divide Ranger District Colorado the Beautiful planning grant concept  
**Date:** Friday, June 28, 2019 12:52:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---

Hello Rick,

I'm following up on the conversation we had on Monday about the Colorado the Beautiful grant application. Here is a summary of my interest in pursuing this grant opportunity and an outline of the scope of work. I've specified the steps in this project where input from the DWMs will be essential to success and I've highlighted the steps at which paying particular attention to wildlife concerns is a priority. Please give me a call or send me an email if you have any questions.

The Divide Ranger District is the recreation outlet for three San Luis Valley (SLV) communities: Del Norte, Creede, and South Fork. The SLV has fewer people than other places in CO and is fortunate to not have the recreation pressure seen on the I70 corridor and the Front Range, yet. Three of the five counties on the Divide District have over 92 % federal land and in part because of that, they are attracting outdoor recreation tourism and an influx of new residents. While Colorado has seen a net in-migration rate of 50,000-70,000 people per year with the Denver area, north and south Front Ranges seeing the bulk of the increase, mountain communities within a short drive of the front range like Salida are seeing the secondary effects of this increase: long-time front range residents are moving to the smaller communities with quicker access to recreation. In turn, long-time residents of places like Salida are turning to the SLV in search of the small-community feel they used to have. This tertiary influx to the SLV is getting established.

I'm a public land manager, not a demographer, and what seems pretty near certain to me is that the SLV, the Rio Grande National Forest and the Divide RD in specific have a narrowing window during which we can plan for the likely influx of recreationists. We need to prepare in order to accommodate an increase in use with minimal impact to the forest's natural resources and with the grace that helps set the tone for non-confrontational user interactions in the future.

The CtB planning grant will be used for salary (FS employee, contractor, or non-profit partner organization employee) for the following scope of work:

1. Look for lessons learned from communities 10 years further along than the SLV (160 hours including site visits)
  - a. Identify analogous communities in Colorado or intermountain western states that have grown in size and recreation use in the last ten years
  - b. Determine what their primary recreation pressures have been (dispersed camping, trailhead congestion for example)
  - c. Identify the unintended consequences of recreation and tourism/population influx to those communities



- d. Glean lessons learned from their experience
2. Identify Divide RD baseline (40 hours using available datasets, add 120 hours to include field verification)
  - a. Catalog current recreation use– river, road, trail, and winter recreation; motorized and non-motorized
  - b. Catalog current infrastructure capacity (developed campgrounds, dispersed sites, trailheads, river put-ins) on the Divide District
3. Identify foreseeable challenges based on lessons learned in Step 1 and baseline identified in Step 2 (320 hours, including involving CPW DWMs and other partner organizations like Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project and the Divide Trails Roundtable)
  - a. Based on 2a identify areas that are most vulnerable to additional recreation volume because of current resource impacts
    - i. Resource considerations: wildlife, water quality
  - b. Identify areas that are most vulnerable to additional recreation volume because of reasonably foreseeable future resource impacts
    - i. Resource considerations: wildlife, water quality
  - c. Based on 2a identify areas that need infrastructure upgrades (CG upgrades to accommodate larger RVs or trailhead parking size and organization)
4. Identify and phase actions to be taken to accommodate additional recreation use: (160 hours, including involving CPW DWMs and other partner organizations like Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project)
  - a. Actions to mitigate current and prevent future resource damage (for example: delineate dispersed camping areas in the uplands to limit riparian impacts)
  - b. Actions to channel increasing use to areas that can absorb it with minimal resource damage
  - c. Opportunities to upgrade or expand existing recreation infrastructure
  - d. Opportunities to expand or alter trail system within areas that present minimal concern for wildlife and water quality
5. Identify NEPA pathway for all actions identified in Step 4 (40 hours)
6. Identify public education and outreach opportunities and develop products (120 hours, including involving CPW DWMs and other partner organizations like Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project)
  - a. Physical sign messaging
  - b. Other ways to communicate with recreationists

The following organizations are likely partners to this effort: CPW, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT), Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Horsemen, Boothill Motorcycle Club, MountainSkillz, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.



**Martha A. Williamson**  
**District Ranger**  
**Forest Service**  
**Rio Grande National Forest, Divide Ranger District**

p: 719-657-6007  
 c: 719-850-2356  
[martha.williamson@usda.gov](mailto:martha.williamson@usda.gov)

13308 W Hwy 160  
 Del Norte, CO 81132  
[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)



**Caring for the land and serving people**