

EXHIBIT A

COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION

Applicant or Organization Name: National Forest Foundation		
Mailing Address: 390 Union Blvd, Ste 400, Denver, CO 80228-1556		
Applicant Lead Contact Name: Emily Olsen		Title: Colorado Program Mgr
Telephone: 720-219-0682	Email: eolsen@nationalforests.org	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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

Name: Loretta McElhiney, Fourteener Program Manager, Region 2, U.S. Forest Service		
Mailing Address: 810 Front Street, Leadville, CO 80461		
Telephone: 719-486-7444	Email: lmcelhiney@fs.fed.us	

PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Name: Rocky Mountain Field Institute		
Mailing Address: 815 South 25th Street, Suite 101, Colorado Springs, CO 80904		
Partner Contact Name: Jennifer Peterson		Title: Executive Director
Telephone: (719) 471-7736	Email: jennifer@rmfi.org	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

Project Title: Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project	
Grant Request: \$280,720.00	Required Match: \$84,216.00(30%)
Total Project Cost: \$365,944.66	

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 Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project is a multi-year, collaborative project designed to enhance ecological resiliency and improve recreational opportunities on Pikes Peak, America's Mountain. Pikes Peak is the highest summit of the southern Front Range of the Rocky Mountains in North America. Gazing out at the stunning views of the Rockies from Pikes Peak, Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to pen "America the Beautiful." We propose to help protect and better connect this special place. Together with the U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Mile High Youth Corps, local government, and volunteers, the National Forest Foundation will coordinate four miles of construction and realignment of the Devil's Playground Trail on the west flank of Pikes Peak, one of Colorado's 54 peaks above 14,000 feet. The trail is badly incised and over-widened, which affects the fragile alpine ecosystem and poses a serious safety hazard to hikers. The trail's compromised drainage further exacerbates the negative impact on the environment and visitor experience.

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Detailed 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.)

The National Forest Foundation (NFF), in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service), Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC), local government, and volunteers, will help coordinate construction and realignment of the Devil's Playground Trail on the west flank of Pikes Peak. As the congressionally chartered nonprofit partner to the Forest Service, the NFF unites Americans to restore and enhance our country's National Forests. On Pikes Peak, the NFF serves as the grant manager and facilitates collaboration and coordination between local partners.

A popular trail to the summit, the Devil's Playground Trail is suffering the strains of over-use, making a negative impact on a fragile alpine ecosystem and posing a serious safety hazard to hikers. To address the trail's deep incisions and over-widening, partners have been spending a limited number of weeks "triaging" the Devil's Playground Trail since 2017. After securing environmental clearances in 2019, the RMFI and partners began constructing an ambitious 4-mile trail re-route to place the trail in an alignment designed to protect the tundra and enhance recreational access.

However, additional funds are needed to successfully complete this effort. We propose to utilize the Colorado the Beautiful Grant Program's funding to support the Devil's Playground Trail Project in 2020, 2021, and 2022. The timeline for this proposal partially overlaps with Phase I and Phase II of the project. During Phase I, launched in 2019 and expected to continue through 2021, the grant through Colorado the Beautiful would support our efforts to finish construction of three miles of trail in 2020 and 2021. During the final phase, Phase II, planned to cover 2022 and 2023, the funding would support construction of the final one mile of trail as well as the decommissioning and restoration of approximately 2.44 miles of old trail. The objective of the full project is to complete four miles of new trail construction. Project partners also plan to engage volunteers for approximately 180 individual volunteer days over three field seasons.

Located on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Pikes Peak is the highest summit of the southern Front Range of the Rocky Mountains in North America. Located on the northwest slope of Pikes Peak, the Devil's Playground Trail lies entirely on public lands and is managed by the Pikes Peak Ranger District. The trailhead is accessed off Highway 67, approximately 20 miles south of Divide in Teller County and 26 miles west of Colorado Springs and El Paso County.

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GRANT APPLICATION CHECK LIST

MANDATORY:

- Signed letter of resolution from Governing Body (*The NFF will submit this letter by 9/1/19, per email correspondence with Colorado State Trails Program staff.*)
- 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 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
- (Construction only) Project area is owned by public land agency or has easement that designates the area to be open to public outdoor recreation for at least 25 years
- (Construction Only) Formal Environmental Assessment (EA) or NEPA has been completed with final approval for the project area (federal lands only).

ADDITIONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Youth Corps or youth organization will be used on the project (Mile High Youth Corps)
- Volunteers will be utilized on the project (Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Friends of the Peak, National Forest Foundation, Colorado Mountain Club)



RESOLUTION No. 001
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
The National Forest Foundation
FOR THE
Find Your Fourteener Campaign – Devil’s Playground Trail
Improvement Project
Pikes Peak Ranger District, Pike and San Isabel National
Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources,
Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application

WHEREAS, the National Forest Foundation was created by Congress to encourage, accept and administer private gifts of money and property to further the purposes and programs of the National Forest System, and

WHEREAS, The National Forest Foundation intends to work with the United States Forest Service and local nonprofit partners to realign and construct the Devil’s Playground Trail to Pikes Peak as part of the Find Your Fourteener Campaign – a Treasured Landscape site.

WHEREAS, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program administers grants for trail-related projects, including the Colorado the Beautiful Grant. Local, county, and state governments, federal agencies, special recreation districts, and nonprofit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands may apply for trail grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION HEREBY:

1. Approves and fully supports the filing of an application for funding from the Colorado the Beautiful Grant program; and
2. Certifies that the National Forest Foundation, Applicant, recognizes the financial and legal obligations of the project. Applicant will responsibly manage grant funds. Applicant will comply with all federal, state and local environmental and other appropriate laws and regulations applicable to the project and will ensure that the other project partners obtain all appropriate permits applicable to the project; and
3. Further commits to the terms and conditions specified in the grant application.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THE 9TH DAY OF AUGUST 2019.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the National Forest Foundation.

Craig Barrett
Chairman
Board of Directors

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LAND OWNERSHIP			
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: U.S. Forest Service, Pike & San Isabel National Forest, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands			
2. The trail corridor is controlled by: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> License <input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-Way <input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> ADA Access	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Running	<input type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Picnicking	
<input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outfitter and Guide Permits	
<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	
TRAIL SURFACE			
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher Fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
PROJECT LOCATION (For multiple project sites attach a separate list.)			
Nearest Town or City: Divide, Colorado			
County: Teller County			
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates: 38°52'16.19" N, 105°07'10.19W			
State Senate District #: 2	Refer to https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator		
State Representative District #: 39			
Acreage of new trailhead		Miles of trail grooming	
Miles of new trail construction	4	Miles of trail being planned	
Miles of trail maintenance		Miles of trail reroute	4
Miles of trail reconstruction		Miles of inter-connecting trail	100+
Miles of trail to be signed	4	Other	
Miles of trail restoration		Other	

Applicant Authorized Signature: *Emily Olson* Date: 30 July 2019
(From Applicant Organization)

Land Agency Authorized Signature: *Kimberly D. Woody* Date: 29 July 2019
(From project location land agency, if different from applicant)
FOR OSCAR MARTINEZ

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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 yourf project’s score. Please read and understand all application questions prior to answering. Reference all attachments.

1. COMMUNITY NEED: (15 points)

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

The Devil’s Playground Trail Project represents a result of a multi-year, collaborative process with direction and support provided by the community, a variety of stakeholder organizations, and land managers through the Forest Service’s planning process and the NFF’s *Find Your Fourteener* campaign, a long-term effort to ensure that Colorado’s 14,000-foot peaks, known as “Fourteeners,” remain healthy, accessible, and inviting for decades to come.

The Project will serve the local, regional, and national community of Fourteener aficionados who flock to Colorado to summit Pikes Peak and other iconic mountains. The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, using TRAFx recorders, estimates that Colorado’s Fourteeners experienced 334,000 hiker use days in 2017 – including an estimated 15,000-20,000 hiker use days on Pikes Peak. While many hikers may donate to stewardship organizations, unfortunately, currently there are no mechanisms in place to capture value from these hikers in a way that compensates for the impact to trails such as the Devil’s Playground.

The Project will more directly serve the Pikes Peak Region, specifically the communities of Teller and El Paso Counties. Teller County, population 23,769, has experienced between 2 percent and 3 percent population growth on an annual basis. The median age of Teller County citizens is 49.8, and the median household income is \$66,809. The poverty rate is 7.47 percent. Although nearby El Paso County is much more populous (population 699,250), the median household income is slightly lower (\$65,370) and the poverty rate hovers just above 11 percent.

We know that outdoor recreation is very important to these communities, of which Pikes Peak (and the Devil’s Playground Trail) is an anchor in terms of opportunities for access to open space, adventure, solitude, and exercise. In Teller County’s 2018-2022 Community Health Assessment, outdoor recreation was ranked first in a list of top community strengths and assets. The Devil’s Playground Trail is a major portal in Teller County, and a center piece of Teller County’s open space and outdoor recreational opportunities. Nearby El Paso County has similarly prioritized trail access and outdoor recreation. In the 2018-2022 El Paso County Community Health Improvement Plan, the Health Community Collaborative (of which RMFI is a participant), “increasing access to safe parks, sidewalks and trails” is listed as a key strategy to promote Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) outcomes within the County. Colorado Springs, located in El Paso

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County, has also shared the importance of recreational amenities, including Pikes Peak. PlanCOS, the 2019 Colorado Springs Comprehensive Plan notes, "...Colorado Springs will become a vibrant community that reflects our engaging outdoor setting as pioneers of health and recreation. Our city will be...sustainably designed around our natural environment." The City also makes the case for the importance of Pikes Peak, noting, "Studies show strong economic returns and health benefits from investing in recreation amenities. Our future challenges will be in identifying necessary funding options to retain and enhance this high level of community-valued amenities." These statements are backed by use: hiking and backpacking are among the top five activities reported by overnight visitors to Colorado Springs in the 2015 Visitor Report.

The importance of the Devil's Playground Trail to the local communities and the need for the trail's new alignment were summarized perfectly by the RMFI's Program Director, Joe Lavorini, in a 2018 Colorado Springs Gazette article: "America's Mountain deserves better."

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

The Devil's Playground Trail (also known as the Craggs Trail) traverses approximately seven miles and 4,300 feet. The trail is aligned with the fall line in many locations and lacks proper stabilization structures in areas where the slope exceeds gradient standards. This has led to incision of up to four feet in some areas, both above and below treeline. Due to poor drainage, channelized water flows have scoured soil, leading to mass wasting of vegetation loss and loose rock. The social trail has scoured away around rocks, creating the potential for rock fall over a 1,500-foot segment. It is a high safety hazard for trail users. Also, large swaths of bare ground in many places show the trail's extensive damage to the fragile alpine plant habitat. The current trail also crosses environmentally fragile areas, including populations of sensitive alpine plants, such as Pikes Peak alpine parsley. Hikers pick their way up the trail, often times stepping on sensitive alpine vegetation rather than sticking to durable surfaces.

RMFI and other local groups have worked for many years to minimize the impacts. However, the only long-term sustainable solution is a trail re-route, which the Project partners ambitiously began in 2019 through the NFF's *Find Your Fourteener* campaign. The Project has a dual emphasis on trail construction and ecological restoration, underscoring our strong-shared belief that outdoor recreation and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. The new Devil's Playground Trail design focuses on long-term sustainability by:

- Ensuring the trail is located in areas with acceptable levels of natural drainage and proper soil and slope conditions.
- Building the trail through stable talus fields and away from environmentally sensitive areas.
- Keeping, whenever possible, the grade below a 30-degree slope.
- Utilizing stabilizing structures, such as rock steps, drainage dips, and retaining walls.

The overall project goal, expected to be completed between 2019 and 2024, is to construct four miles of a new sustainable trail and once the re-route is complete, to restore the old alignment (approximately 2.44 miles) to avoid further degradation to the fragile alpine ecosystem.

The newly constructed trail will have a 5 to 40 percent grade, a tread of 24", and a natural surface of dirt or cobbled rock. The steeper sections of the trail are unavoidable due to the high relief, cliff bands, and fins of

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rock. The trail utilizes a sustainable corridor on the Peak's North Slope. Where the grade exceeds 30 degrees, the route utilizes bedrock features and planned stabilization structures to prevent erosion. The project will require the construction of hundreds of rock structures built with 200-400 pound rocks found and shaped on-site. Rock retaining walls will require comparable-sized rocks. Construction strives to meet the Forest Service Class II trail standards except where the landscape prohibits it. Work crews will build rock steps, risers, and retaining walls to gain elevation on grassy slopes and within talus fields. Locally sourced rock will aid in a more natural and visually appealing trail. The location and availability of building rock is intermittent along the trail route and is a large variable in the pace and productivity of the project. The amount of structures that need to be built, combined with the remote, high-altitude location, results in thousands of hours of strenuous labor.

Part of the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service manages Pikes Peak. The project is located entirely on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests. The trail is managed by the Colorado Springs-based Pikes Peak Ranger District in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region Fourteeners Program Manager.

The Devil's Playground Trail is one of two primary hiking trails to the summit of Pikes Peak (the other is Barr Trail). Pikes Peak is accepted to be one of the most visited mountains in the world, and hiker use data suggests that 15,000-20,000 people hike to the summit each year, with 7,000-10,000 of those hikers coming from the Devil's Playground Trail. Hikers often take this route for scenic views, year-round access, and potentially more solitude than is found on the Barr Trail. The Devil's Playground, so named because of the way lightning jumps between the sandstone rock formations during thunderstorms, is located at 13,000 feet and – as the Teller County highpoint – is a unique and scenic destination in its own right. Visitors to this high alpine trail are estimated to be 80 percent pedestrian (hiking, backpacking, trail running), 10 percent snowboarding/skiing, and 10 percent mountain climbing. These estimates are based on direct and indirect observations.

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

Environmental Analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act was required to complete this project. This analysis was completed in December 2018 when Pikes Peak District Ranger, Oscar Martinez, issued a decision determining that the Project ("action") is categorically excluded from the documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment. The action was found to be consistent with all applicable laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Pike National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

This decision also determined that the Project would have no effect on plant and wildlife species federally protected as endangered or threatened, nor on the designated or proposed critical habitat for such. This determination was made, following extensive analysis and discussion – particularly related to wildlife.

During the planning phase of the Project, ecological specialists visited the project site to determine what impacts a new summit trail might have on the area's natural resources. The north slope of Pikes Peak is habitat for three sensitive wildlife species: the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Brown-capped Rosy Finch, and American Pika. Over a two-year period, Forest Service personnel worked with Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) Wildlife Managers to evaluate and assess potential impacts to wildlife. The trail re-route was first proposed to the north of the existing trail, however after additional study and deliberation with

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CPW, it was determined this area was a primary migration route for the population of Bighorn during the winter and fall. There were concerns about impacts that could result in increased energy expenditure by sheep during a time when they are inherently energy-limited. The population of Bighorn do not appear to use this area during breeding and lambing seasons in the spring and summer. In addition to the Bighorn sheep, there is one Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) tracked rare plant within the project area: the endemic Pikes Peak Parsley.

Consequently, the Forest Service scrapped the first proposed trail alignment and identified a new route to the south of the existing trail to accommodate the Bighorn sheep and their unique needs. CPW was more supportive of the second proposed trail alignment (the southern option), due to much fewer observations of radio-collared sheep in this area. The second proposed trail is also fairly close to the current alignment, meaning the sheep will not experience drastic changes as the new trail is constructed.

Trail design and construction takes into account conservation measures to protect sensitive wildlife and plant species. Furthermore, we believe that the project will benefit sensitive species by better delineating the trail, which is currently hard to follow in places and results in hikers being spread out all over the northern slope of Pikes Peak, causing widespread damage and disturbance to plants and wildlife.

CPW Southeast Trail Coordinator, Robert Seel, visited the project site in summer of 2018 and reported support for the project. Robert's replacement, Jason Hagan, has also been briefed on the project. Project partners have also been in contact with Frank McGee, CPW Area Wildlife Manager, regarding the proposed scope of work.

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

The Devil's Playground Trail is one of two primary routes to the summit of Pikes Peak and an integral part of an extensive trail system on the Peak, one of the most visited and accessible mountains in the world. Pikes Peak is a prominent focal point in Colorado Springs, and is the highest point in El Paso County. It's also the most visited mountain in North America and the second most visited mountain in the world behind Japan's Mount Fuji. At an altitude of 14,115 feet above sea level, Pikes Peak is the 31st highest peak out of 54 Colorado Fourteeners. Named for the unique sandstone rock formations rising above the tundra, the Devil's Playground Trail provides hikers with stunning views of mountain ranges and year-round recreation opportunities. Compared to the Barr Trail, the main route to the summit from the eastside, the Devil's Playground Trail is shorter and less crowded. It begins at the Craggs Trail, a popular easy/moderate hiking trail, but quickly veers off and follows switchbacks up Pikes Peak.

When completed, the Project will make important connections to other trails and communities around the Pikes Peak Massif. The most highly anticipated connection is with the Ring the Peak Trail; when Ring the Peak is completed, it will represent the culmination of decades of work by trail advocates. The Project will also provide significant access from the northwest slope of Pikes Peak for visitors living in and traveling through Divide and Woodland Park. If users chose to take the Devil's Playground Trail to the summit and Barr Trail to descend, they will be able to connect to dozens of miles of trails on the south slope of Pikes Peak and to parks and open spaces within the cities of Cascade, Manitou Springs, and Colorado Springs. Theoretically, a hiker could take the Devil's Playground Trail to the summit, descend, and then take the Rampart Range Road (an off-road trail that's open to hikers and bikers) to connect to the Colorado Trail, and

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from there, the Continental Divide Trail! With these connections in mind, we can confidently say that thousands – or really, an endless number = of miles of connections can be made.

Locally, regionally, and nationally, Pikes Peak is a beloved mountain. It is rare to build a new trail to the summit of any Fourteener, let alone America's Mountain. As a result, we anticipate significant attention from local communities as the project is being done and once it is completed, a considerable increase in connectivity of local open space resources.

The Devil's Playground Trail is located entirely in Teller County. We expect that the residents of this and the adjacent El Paso County will benefit the most from the project work. According to the Public Health Assessment 2018-2022, Teller County is age dependent because it has a very different age distribution compared to the State of Colorado. The County has a much larger percentage of people between the ages of 45 to 64 as compared to the rest of Colorado, 37.4 percent to 25.7 percent, respectively. Those 65 and over comprise 19 percent of Teller County's total population compared to only 13 percent of Colorado's population. For this large age group, availability of safe and strongly connected outdoor recreation opportunities, especially close to their community, is critical. We strongly believe that the Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project will greatly improve the trail system connectivity and safety on Pikes Peak.

Additionally, El Paso County faces a different public health challenge. According to the El Paso County Community Health Improvement Plan 2018-2022, the County is only one of two in the state that have higher proportions of adult obesity as compared to the rest of Colorado, 23.6 percent compared to 22.3 percent, respectively. We believe that the project would help encourage the county residents, especially from Colorado Springs, to come outside regularly and enjoy the outstanding natural resource safely, in particular in light of efforts such as El Paso County's Healthy Community Collaborative and the Community Health Improvement Plan previously referenced.

5. PLANNING (10 points) Describe any comprehensive planning efforts that this project has undertaken or has been a part of. If this project is part of an approved master plan, what priority is it given in that plan? ***Public comment and involvement is mandatory for all projects.*** Describe the public planning process that identified this trail as a priority. Summarize the feedback received from the public and describe the involvement of user groups and/or communities that are within the project's region. Have any potential user group conflicts been identified? If so, how will they be addressed/managed? Has this project been deemed a priority by any other agencies or given any significant designations? Has there been public opposition to the proposed project? If so, describe the opposition and what has been done to address it.

The Devil's Playground Trail Project is a result of a multi-year collaborative planning effort with direction and support provided by the community, a variety of stakeholder organizations, and land managers through the Forest Service's planning process and the *Find Your Fourteener* campaign. Together, we launched the *Find Your Fourteener* campaign in 2017 to increase the pace and scale of Fourteener stewardship on priority peaks across Colorado, including Pikes Peak.

The *Find Your Fourteener* campaign is one of the NFF's 14 priority sites under our national *Treasured Landscapes: Unforgettable Experiences* Conservation Initiative. The NFF strategically makes *Treasured Landscape* site selections based on many criteria, including visitation, ecological needs, and opportunities to add value. For each project, the NFF strategically commits to invest funds over many years, coordinate activities on the ground, and serve as a general contractor. The *Find Your Fourteener* campaign is the NFF's largest recreation-focused effort. Pikes Peak, specifically the Devil's Playground Trail, is one of three original priority peaks and projects, as determined in consultation with local partners and the Forest Service. We are proud to call this project our national conservation priority.

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The Project has also gained national recognition from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Following a nomination by the NFF, RMFI, and other partners in 2016, Fourteeners on National Forests, including Pikes Peak, were designated as priority trail maintenance areas through the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. Nationally, the Secretary of Agriculture selected only 15 priority areas.

In Colorado, the Devil's Playground Trail Project is also part of the five-year program of work for the Forest Service's Fourteener Program. Fourteener planning on National Forest System lands typically involves a four-year process, including project initiation, exploration, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and design. The Forest Service designed this Project so that the trail will withstand increasing visitation, thus ensuring sustainable access for years to come. Public scoping and tribal consultation took place in the fall of 2018. The Forest Service sent letters inviting comment to interested and potentially affected parties, including adjacent landowners or other Forest users. The Forest Service has not identified user conflicts and did not receive comments that conflicted with the project.

Finally, although the Devil's Playground Trail Project is a new priority for the NFF, our primary partner, RMFI, has been planning and preparing for this project for years (and previously submitted a grant request to Colorado State Trails for the same project). RMFI started working in the Sangres in the early 1990's and has built summit trails on the following 14ers: Kit Carson Peak, Crestone Needle, Crestone Peak, Blanca Peak, Ellingwood Point, Humboldt Peak, Huron Peak, and La Plata Peak. RMFI has helped to set the standard for how to design and construct sustainable trails in the sensitive alpine ecosystem, and we are thrilled to be collaborating with such a world-class partner to bring this project to the finish line.

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

The NFF has established several partnerships for this Project and continues building new corporate and philanthropic partnerships to support the work over the next several years. We have established funding partnerships with Southwest Airlines (2017), REI (2017-2018), Gates Family Foundation (2017-2019) and the Telluray Foundation (2019) to support the Devil's Playground Trail Project. We are working to secure support from some of these sources, as well as other foundations, for 2020-2024 of this project.

We are also working closely with the Forest Service, our key federal partner, to strengthen partnerships that we hope will support Fourteener maintenance, restoration, and construction activities on National Forests. Our project implementation partners, primarily RMFI and MHYC, are deeply committed to the project and provide significant time, expertise and in-kind resources on an annual basis. RMFI and MHYC are able to leverage funds with volunteer time and other cash and in-kind resources. On average, the NFF leverages every \$1 invested through on-the-ground projects into \$2.81 in conservation results through matching contributions and volunteerism.

Regarding matching funds, we are very grateful for a grant from the State Trails Program to RMFI for \$250,000 to support this project in 2019, 2020 and 2021. We anticipate applying \$116,200 of these funds as match toward this request for 2020 and 2021. The NFF has secured and committed \$5,000 in matching funds, although we hope to exceed this amount. In total, we have secured \$162,437.50 in match (cash and in-kind resources), which exceeds the required match amount by \$35,000. Expenses not captured in this Project proposal include the costs of additional staff time, operating expenses, crew training(s), crew housing, crew food and vehicle use, and other services, which we will work to secure on an annual basis.

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

The Devil's Playground Trail Project has momentum. Due to the extreme erosion and habitat impacts to the Devil's Playground Trail, and rapidly growing use, the NFF prioritized the project through the *Find Your Fourteener* campaign in 2016. Since then, many exciting things have happened. RMFI and partners worked for two seasons to triage and stabilize the existing trail while environmental clearances and funding were secured to help launch this project. With the NFF's help and matching funds, RMFI also secured a \$250,000 grant from State Trails – the largest in the organization's history – to launch the project in 2019. The Forest Service Fourteeners Program worked *very* efficiently to complete NEPA and design for the project in time to kick things off in June 2019. The analysis was a monumental partnership between the Forest Service at the local and regional levels and CPW. Beyond that, the community has rallied to provide amazing support, as witnessed during a successful "Fund Your Fourteener" fundraising even in Colorado Springs hosted by the NFF and RMFI in May 2019.

A grant through the Colorado the Beautiful Program would provide critical funding to expand the scope of this project in 2020, 2021 and 2022 in order to finish within 6 years (by 2024) as planned. The Project is extremely timely and widely supported. We have been working very hard to raise necessary funding, and support from the Colorado the Beautiful program would bring the finish line within reach! We hope that we can continue to take this amazing opportunity to give America's Mountain and the communities a new, sustainably aligned Devil's Playground Trail.

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

The new Devil's Playground Trail design achieves long-term sustainability by: ensuring the trail is located in areas with acceptable levels of natural drainage and proper soil and slope conditions, building the trail through stable talus fields and away from environmentally sensitive areas, whenever possible keeping the trail grade below 30-degree slope, and utilizing stabilizing structures such as rock steps, risers, drainage dips, and retaining walls.

Through its two decades of work on the high peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range and its 37-year stewardship history across Colorado, RMFI has become a recognized leader in alpine trail construction and restoration. Through the leadership of the late Mark Hesse (RMFI's founder) and the experiences of dozens of highly skilled trail workers, mountain climbers, and conservationists, among others, RMFI has developed trail design standards that take into account the unique characteristics of the alpine environment. These standards include: working as much as possible with pre-existing disturbance, such as reconstructing existing user-created trails to standards when a re-route is not desirable; avoiding trail construction in environmentally fragile terrain; protecting the vegetation on the perimeter of trails on steep grades by constructing retaining walls; using native material to make the trail look and feel natural for users; and restoring user-created trails to pre-disturbance conditions. These standards were created to help minimize disturbance to the surrounding ecosystem and future trail maintenance needs.

EXHIBIT A

RMFI, MHYC, and NFF will utilize detailed construction notes and plans developed in conjunction with the Forest Service Fourteener Program Manager to implement the Project. The construction notes are organized by linear foot, matching up with 100-foot increments identified with geo-referenced wood stakes on the ground. The construction notes list the work item, percent grade, percent slope, description of the task to be completed, and estimated person hours to complete the task. This document is an integral tool in estimating the amount of work that can be completed by work crews as well as helping to plan seasonal and day-to-day objectives.

The Project is also sustainable because the trail is designed to address predicted increases in use through trail-specific adjustments to switchback radius, surface obstacles, and clearing width, while enhancing the experience of traditional pedestrian users. All users will benefit from the stability of a well-constructed trail versus the steep, braided, and eroded routes currently in use. As described previously, the Forest Service considered several options during the trail design process, and designed two trail alignments, the second of which was determined to be most sustainable.

Once a sustainably designed trail is fully constructed and/or realigned, RMFI and other stewardship partners typically use field crews and volunteers to perform maintenance activities on the trails every 1-2 years, which the Forest Service Fourteeners Program Manager oversees according to a long-term program of work. Although the long-term maintenance responsibilities ultimately fall to the Forest Service, in practice, stewardship partners and volunteer organizations conduct maintenance activities to help fill the gap created by decreasing Forest Service funding and staffing for recreation infrastructure and management.

Through its national and local grant programs, such as the Ski Conservation Fund and the Matching Awards Program, the NFF has over 10 years' worth of investments in maintenance activities conducted on Fourteener trails by local partners. Through the *Find Your Fourteener* campaign we have increased our commitment to Fourteener maintenance, construction, and restoration activities. With our local partners, our goal is to raise \$5 million for Fourteener trails over the next 5 years, and we are interested in developing an endowment to support long-term maintenance of newly constructed trails. Fourteener trails are designed so that maintenance needs are minimal; however, semi-annual maintenance can still cost tens of thousands of dollars. The NFF is one of several important funders for Fourteener maintenance. The Colorado State Recreational Trails Program has generously supported sustainable trails on Fourteeners for many years. In particular, State Trails Program funding for regional maintenance proposals from the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative has supported critical statewide maintenance activities. The Forest Service also supports Fourteener maintenance; six Colorado National Forests annually contribute funding to support the Forest Service's Fourteeners Program.

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

To date, the NFF has been successful in raising funds to support and match funding provided to the Project through the Colorado State Trails Program. However, major funds are needed in 2021 and 2022 to complete the scope of work. Additionally, to keep the Project on track for 2024 completion, we need to scale up the number of workdays from 63 to 90+ in 2020, 2021 and 2022, a significant cost. Receiving a multi-year funding commitment through the Colorado the Beautiful Grant Program would help us complete this project

EXHIBIT A

in 6 years, and provide a significant source of “anchor funding” so that we can raise other matching funding in the years ahead. We’ve been successful in doing this in the past; for example, in 2019, the NFF raised \$40,000 to match the project dollars from State Trails secured by RMFI.

The NFF has a proven track record of successfully implementing millions of dollars in projects across the National Forest System annually. Below are several examples demonstrating our ability to manage a Colorado the Beautiful grant. All examples show reimbursable grants; the NFF has excellent financial systems in place to complete projects through a reimbursable format. We would be happy to provide additional examples if needed.

Project Title: Phase II, Mount Elbert Project (Pike and San Isabel National Forest, CO)

Grantor: Colorado State Trails Non-motorized Trails Program

Award Amount and Year: \$250,000 in 2017

The NFF is currently implementing this project in collaboration with the Forest Service, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and Wildland Restoration Volunteers. We have worked closely with State Trails staff to determine the appropriate procedures to manage a grant with so many partners. The project is moving forward smoothly.

Project Title: Big Tujunga Canyon Restoration (Angeles National Forest, CA), Little Truckee River Fish Habitat Restoration (Tahoe National Forest, CA), and Truckee River Watershed Forest Enhancement (Tahoe National Forest, CA)

Grantor: California Wildlife Conservation Board

Award Amount and Year: \$1,245,000 in 2014; \$190,000 in 2014; and \$775,000 in 2015

The NFF has submitted all invoices and status reports regarding the sustainable recreation, restoration, and wildlife habitat improvement tasks to achieve the agreed upon goals. We provided regular updates, photographs, and tours to show the progress and document desired deliverables.

Project Title: Tuckerman Ravine – Bridge 2 Construction Project and Boott Spur Link Bridge Project to Restore Damage from Tropical Storm Irene (White Mountain National Forest, NH)

Grantor: New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, Bureau of Trails Recreational Trails Program

Award Amount and Year: \$50,000 in 2015 and \$80,000 2017

Construction for the Bridge 2 project was completed in October 2016. The NFF submitted all invoicing, interim reports, and photos in a timely manner. The Bureau of Trails was pleased with the work and awarded the NFF a second grant for \$80,000 in 2017.

Project Title: Goat Creek Complexity for Confluentus Restoration (Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, WA)

Grantor: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Award Amount and Year: \$102,500 in 2014

The project was successfully completed in 2017. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board was thrilled with NFF’s management of the project because of our ability to work with the Forest Service to get it timely completed. All interim reports were successfully submitted on time. The NFF finished the project under budget, so the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grants administrator suggested an extension through the end of 2017 to do additional maintenance, which we successfully completed.

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 Devil's Playground Trail Reroute Project

Project Sponsor National Forest Foundation (NFF)

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: Pike and San Isabel National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan

Date of document: 1984

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

Title of document: Decision Memo - Devil's Playground Trail Reroute Project

Date of document: December 20, 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: Jennifer DeWoody, NEPA Planner

Phone number: 719-477-4217

Email: jennifer.dewoody@usda.gov

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

Land Manager's Name: Oscar Martinez

Land Manager's Title

Land Manager's Signature: District Ranger

JENNIFER DEWOODY Digitally signed by JENNIFER DEWOODY

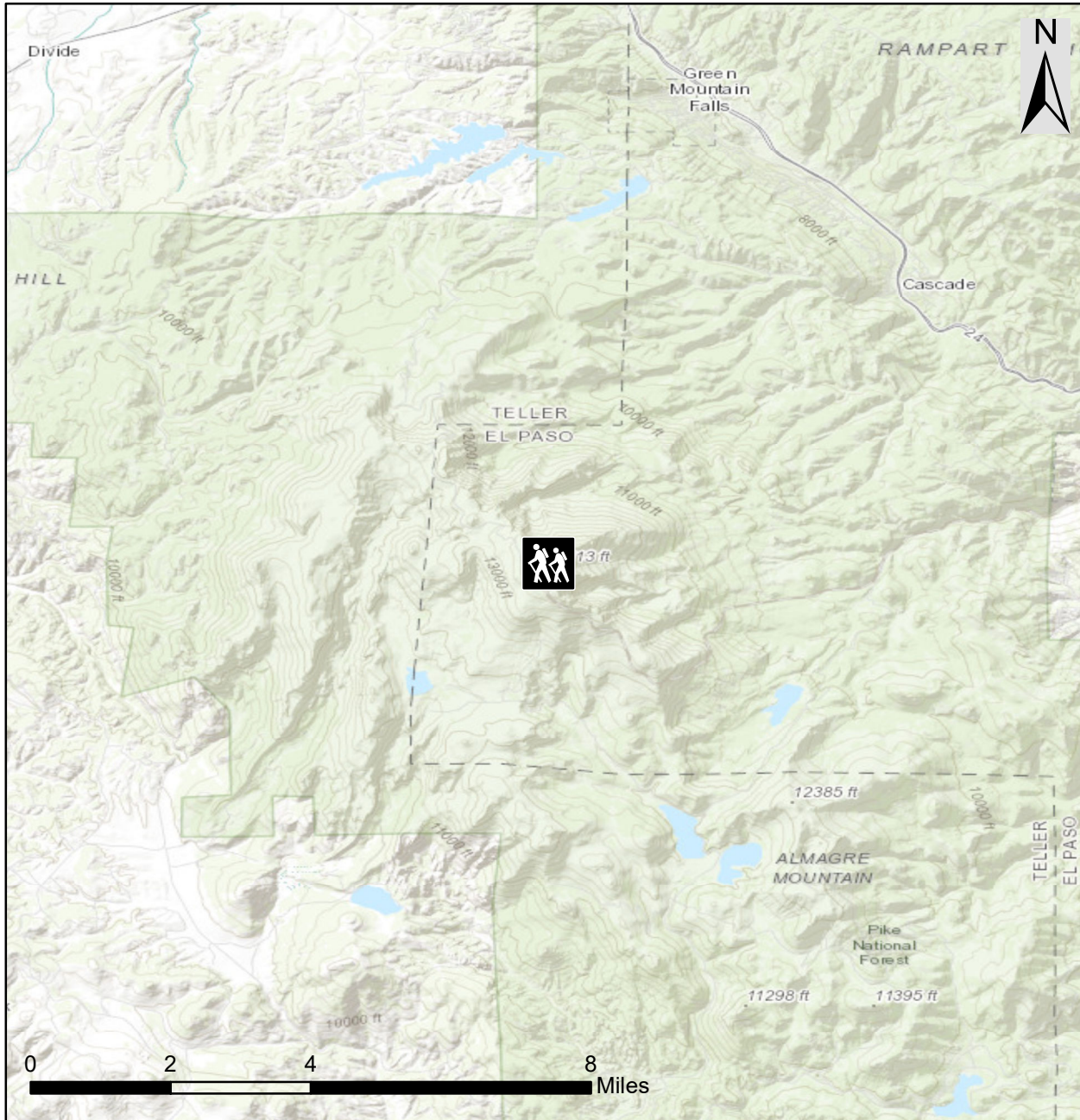
Date: 2019.07.26 12:59:34 -06'00'

ACTING

Exhibit B
Budget Form - Project Name: Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project

SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
CASH								
Colorado the Beautiful Grant (Colorado Parks and Wildlife, requested/proposed)	TBD				\$ 280,720.00		\$ 280,720.00	
National Forest Foundation	10/30/2019					\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
IN-KIND								
Volunteers (264 volunteer days x 2112 hours x \$25.96/hour over the life of the project)	Commitment secured 8/1/19; Ltr expected 8/19/19						\$ 54,827.52	\$ 54,827.52
USDA Forest Service Fourteener Program	Commitment secured 8/1/19; Ltr expected 8/19/19						\$ 5,397.14	\$ 5,397.14
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS					\$ 280,720.00	\$ 85,224.66	\$ 365,944.66	
[CASH] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
CATEGORY 1-Contracted Services <small>Identify as: Youth Corps, Engineering, Contractor, etc.</small>								
Youth Corps Hybrid Crew (@\$7,200/week) - 10 weeks in 2022	10	weeks	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 57,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 72,000.00	0
RMFI Project Management Staff (3 staff x 3 seasons)	115	days	\$ 350.00	\$ 40,250.00	\$ 30,250.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 40,250.00	0
RMFI Seasonal Field Staff (staff overseeing youth corps crew and/or serving as standalone trail crew)	816	days	\$ 210.00	\$ 171,360.00	\$ 171,360.00		\$ 171,360.00	0
CATEGORY 2-Materials/Supplies <small>Identify as: Signs, crusherfines, native seed, weed barrier, etc.</small>								
Annually: tents, tools, hard hats, propane, water filters, first aid, etc.	2.5	years	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 6,250.00		\$ 6,250.00	
Signage for Trail Restoration Areas/Trailhead	3	each	\$ 170.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 510.00		\$ 510.00	0
Additional Categories								
NFF financial management expenses; NFF is requesting funds to cover a portion of costs associated with tasks such as invoicing, reporting, managing funds and sub-contracting for this grant - <5%.	100	weeks	\$ 140.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00		\$ 14,000.00	0
Volunteer recognition (t-shirt, hoodies, hats)	90	each	\$ 15.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00		\$ 1,350.00	0
USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL					\$ 280,720.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 305,720.00	
[IN-KIND] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)			Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
Category 2 - Salary/Wages								
Volunteers (264 volunteer days x 2112 hours x \$25.96/hour over the life of the project)	2112	hours	\$ 25.96	\$ 54,827.52			\$ 54,827.52	0
USDA Forest Service Fourteener Program Manager & Design Specialist	14 days/\$385.51 per day	14	\$ 385.51	\$ 5,397.14			\$ 5,397.14	0
Category 3 - Materials/Tools								
IN-KIND SUBTOTAL							\$ 60,224.66	\$ 60,224.66
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$ 280,720.00	\$ 85,224.66	\$ 365,944.66	
30% REQUIRED MATCH						\$ 84,216.00		

Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project: Statewide Map



Legend



Devil's Playground Trail Project

Maps are for graphical purposes only.
They do not represent a legal survey.
NFF makes no warranty, expressed or implied,
nor does the fact of distribution constitute such
a warranty. This information was produced on
07/29/2019 by Bri Tiffany.

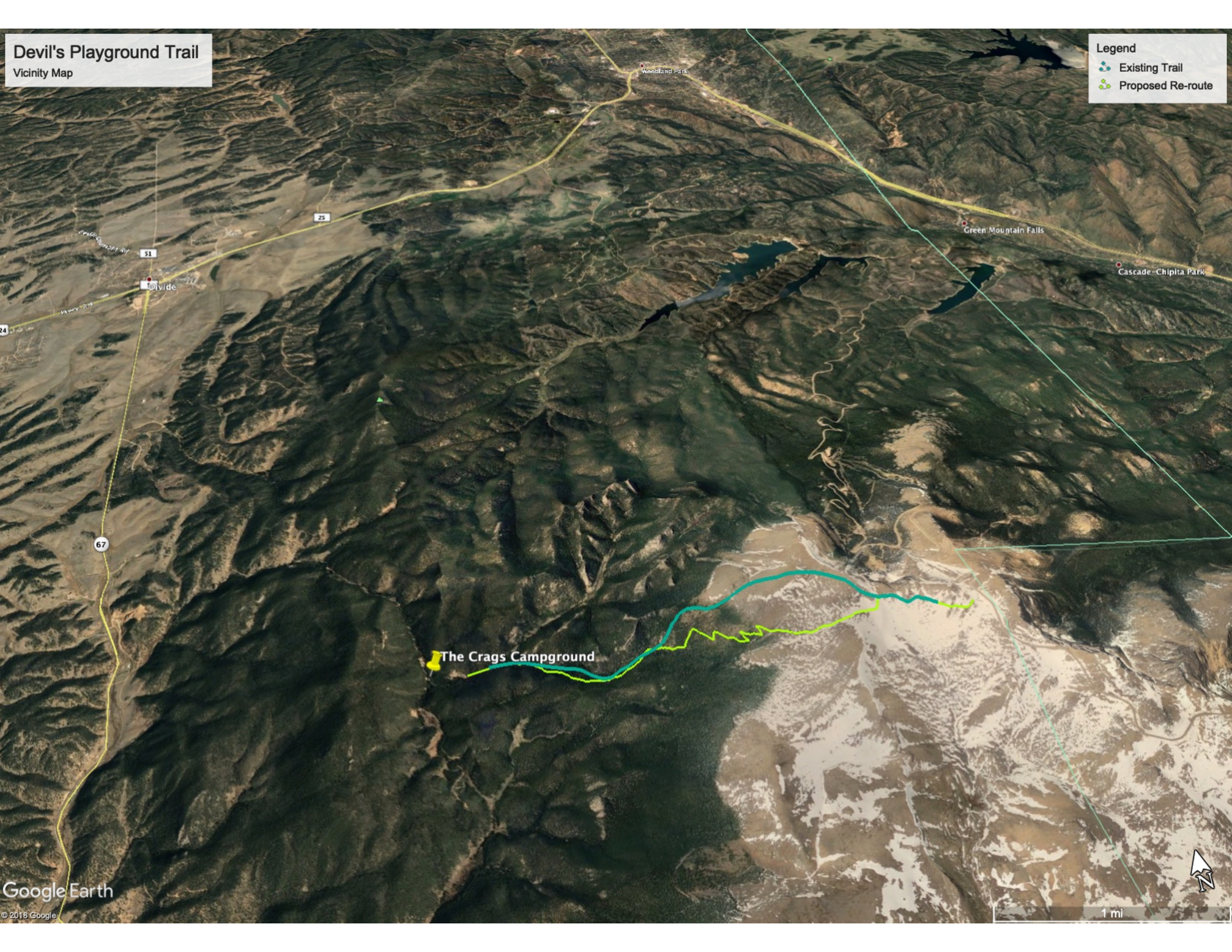


Devil's Playground Trail

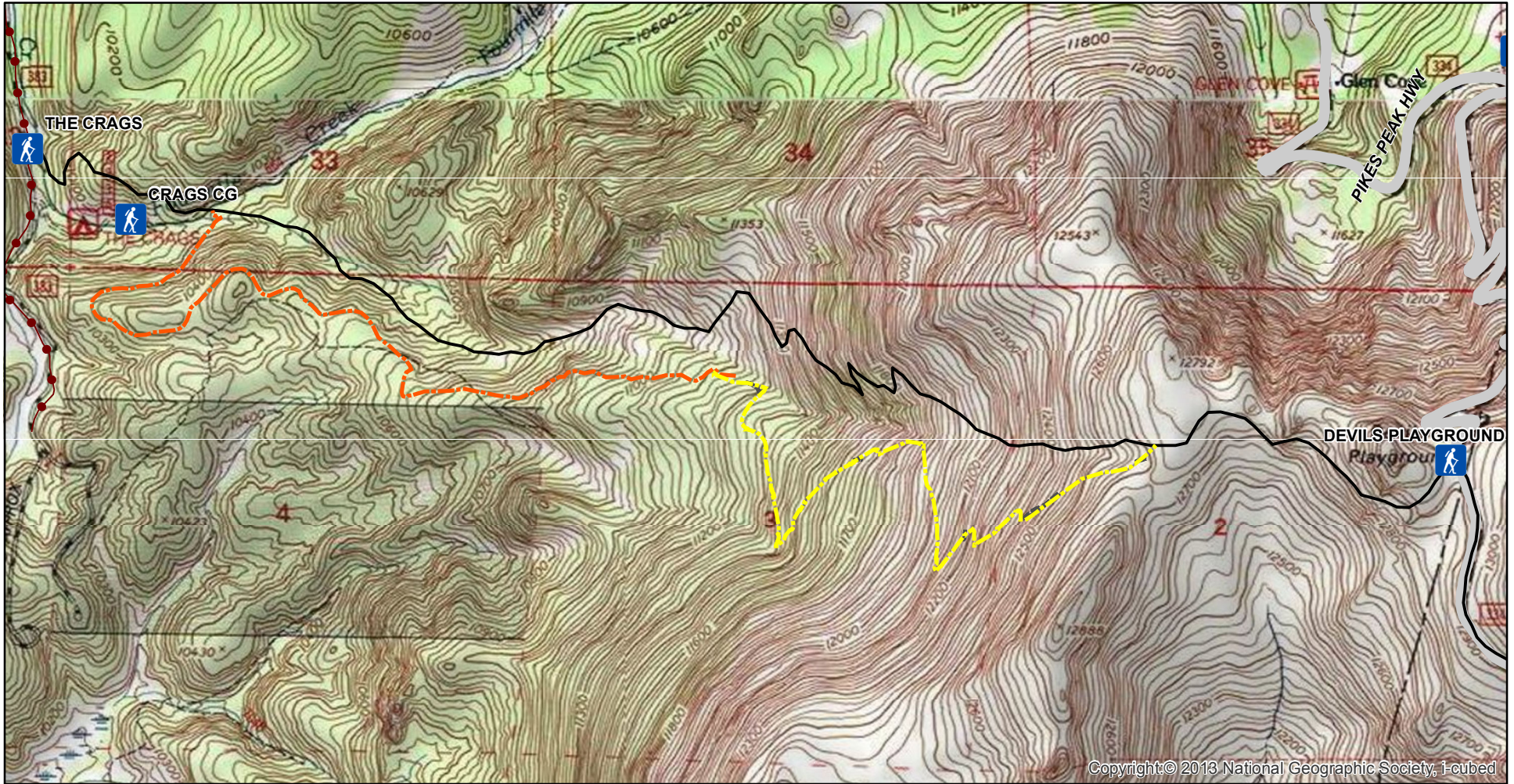
Vicinity Map

Legend

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Re-route







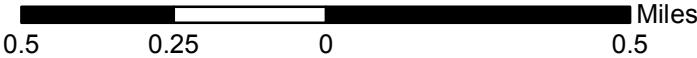
Devils Playground Proposed Re-Route



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For Official Use Only

-  Pikes Peak THs
-  Four Mile RD
-  Crags/Devils Playground Trail
-  **Proposed Alignment**



1:20,000



Date: September 2018

Map Created By: Dana Young,
edited by Joe Lavorini

Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project: Photos



Fourteener Program Manager Loretta McEllhiney points out sections of trail suffering from erosion, resulting in deep gullies that increase destructive water flow. The gullies also cause hikers to step off the trail, further exacerbating the problem. *Photos by Emily Olsen, NFF*





Rocky Mountain Field Institute staff orient and lead volunteers during a collaborative work day, with Friends of the Peak, Colorado Mountain Club and NFF, organized to “triage” and stabilize eroded sections of trail in 2018.

Photos by Kellon Spencer





July 25, 2019

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado State Trails Program
c/o Mr. Fletcher Jacobs, Program Manager
13787 U.S. Hwy 85 N.
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application – Devils Playground Project

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

We are writing to share our support for the Colorado the Beautiful grant submitted by the National Forest Foundation for the Devils Playground Trail Reroute Project.

As managers of *Pikes Peak - America's Mountain*, home of the Pikes Peak Highway, the City of Colorado Springs has participated in the Pikes Peak “peak team” facilitated by the National Forest Foundation, and have participated in past efforts to organize a volunteer event on the Devils Playground Trail. Volunteers were able to take the highway to the volunteer base camp, which made the volunteer opportunity more accessible.

As the proposed project moves forward with key partners such as Rocky Mountain Field Institute leading the way, we’re excited to see how the growing scope of work will engage more members of our community in volunteer stewardship and project planning. With our collective efforts, hikers, runners, backpackers, climbers and other users will soon have a more sustainable, safer hiking trail to the summit of Pikes Peak.

The Pikes Peak Highway is a 19-mile toll road that runs from Cascade, Colorado to the summit of Pikes Peak in El Paso County, at an altitude of 14,115 feet. All offer visitor services and basic necessities to the day enjoyable and memorable. And the visitor services that we offer engage visitors coming to the Summit via car, bike *and* foot; hikers making their way to the summit via the Craggs Trail cross the highway to the Devils Playground Trail before reaching the top, and often stop in the Summit House before heading down the mountain.

We are thrilled to be involved in this project. Please contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,


Jack Glavan, Manager



July 29, 2019

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado State Trails Program
c/o Mr. Fletcher Jacobs, Program Manager
13787 U.S. Hwy 85 N.
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application – Devil’s Playground Project

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

This letter is presented by the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA) in support of the Devil’s Playground Trail Improvement Project proposal submitted by the National Forest Foundation. This project proposal, developed with the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) and Mile High Youth Corps, is designed to support important trail construction and realignment on Pikes Peak. This project will improve outdoor recreation on America’s Mountain and make for a safer, more enjoyable user experience while protecting fragile vegetation and area wildlife.

Pikes Peak is an extremely popular fourteener that is enjoyed by locals and visitors across the U.S. as well as internationally. But the experience is becoming less than desirable with one of only two trails, Barr Trail, heavily used and the second, Devil’s Playground Trail, in poor and worsening condition due to poor alignment, steep grades, loose rocks, and poor drainage. This project’s planned trail re-route will make it easier to navigate and more appealing to hike there. Hikers deserve a safe and enjoyable experience on this iconic mountain and improving this trail will help to achieve this goal.

As an organization focused on promoting outdoor recreation, we are pleased to support efforts such as the Devil’s Playground Improvement Project that will provide better and safer outdoor recreation experiences for local residents and visitors alike, while at the same time protecting surrounding landscapes and wildlife.

We hope that you will look favorably upon our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Leinweber". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Becky Leinweber
Executive Director, Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance



File Code: 2300
Date: July 26, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

I am writing to convey the U.S. Forest Service's support for the Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project proposal submitted by the National Forest Foundation. This proposed project is located on and managed by the Pikes Peak Ranger District on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands.

The National Forest Foundation has been convening several of our key partner organizations, including the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), Mile High Youth Corps, Colorado Mountain Club, and Friends of the Peak, to plan this trail construction and restoration project with us. Beginning in 2019, RMFI has successfully led implementation of this important project. Together, we are engaging in shared stewardship of "America's Mountain" – a truly unique and treasured resource.

We are proud to partner with our partners to implement the Devil's Playground Trail project, and we appreciate your consideration of their funding application.

Thank you for your time and attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

FOR
OSCAR MARTINEZ
District Ranger

cc: eolsen@nationalforests.org





July 26, 2019

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado State Trails Program
c/o Mr. Fletcher Jacobs, Program Manager
13787 U.S. Hwy 85 N.
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application – Devil’s Playground Project

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

I am writing to convey our support for the Devil’s Playground Trail Improvement Project proposal submitted by the National Forest Foundation. This project proposal, developed with the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) and Mile High Youth Corps, is designed to support important trail construction and realignment on Pikes Peak.

Friends of the Peak has a long history of stewarding Pikes Peak, including the Devil’s Playground/Crags Trail. We are excited about this multi-year, collaborative project, and have already participated in two “collaborative volunteer events” with the project partners. We plan to continue volunteering to support construction of this new trail alignment.

The new Devil’s Playground trail alignment will enhance the ecological resiliency of and improve the recreational opportunities on Pikes Peak, “America’s Mountain.” Together with the U.S. Forest Service, local stewardship organizations such as ours, local government, and volunteers, the project partners will focus on construction and realignment to remedy the existing alignment’s issues – it’s badly incised and over-widened, and affects the fragile alpine ecosystem.

We are proud to recommend the Devil’s Playground Trail project for funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Bremner

Steve Bremner
Friends of the Peak



BUILDING 27, SUITE 3 ► FORT MISSOULA ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59804
TEL 406 542-2805 ► FAX 406 542-2810
WWW.NATIONALFORESTS.ORG

July 29, 2019

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

Re: National Forest Foundation Matching Support for Devil's Playground Project

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is pleased to submit our *Colorado the Beautiful* application for the Devil's Playground Trail to Pikes Peak. Pikes Peak has been designed as a priority peak through the *Find Your Fourteener* Campaign, and as a result, since 2016 the NFF has invested in the Devil's Playground Trail Project and coordinated development of scopes of work and budgets for the project. In 2020-2022, we anticipate raising and investing at least \$10,000 per year toward the Project as matching dollars to any funds that may be provided through the Colorado the Beautiful program. We have a history of past support for this project and our goal to raise and provide funding necessary to complete the project in 2023.

The *Find Your Fourteener* campaign is one of 10 national priorities designated as part of the NFF *Treasured Landscapes: Unforgettable Experiences* program. For each of the national priorities, the NFF strategically commits to invest funds over several years, in addition to coordinating and implementing project work. The NFF has committed to raise \$5 million to support *Find Your Fourteener* priority peaks – including Pikes Peak. The NFF works closely with our partners to raise funding, and we also have the ability to invest federal funds. The NFF invests funds in *Find Your Fourteener* priority peaks by making strategic grants, which are *not* competitive, to our campaign partners who are leading the work on each peak.

Please contact us if you have additional questions. We look forward to supporting the Devil's Playground Trail Project through its completion!

Sincerely,

Mary Mitsos
President & CEO

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