

Exhibit A – Project Information

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS PLANNING APPLICATION

Applicant or Organization Name: Rico Trails Alliance		
Complete Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25, Rico Colorado, 81332		
Applicant Lead Contact Name: Kari Distefano		Title: Consultant
Telephone: (970) 901-3420	Email: smckarid@yahoo.com	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: Kari Distefano	
Telephone: (970) 901-3420	Email: smckarid@yahoo.com

PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Name: Town of Rico		
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9, Rico Colorado, 81332		
Partner Contact Name: Chauncey McCarthy		Title: Manager
Telephone: (970) 967-2863	Email: townmanager@ricocolorado.gov	Is this the primary contact for this grant? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Title: Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer Connection	
Grant Request: \$ 13,500.00	Match Amount (Min. 25%): \$ 15,000.00
Total Project Cost: \$ 28,500.00	
<p>Project Description: Please write a 2-3 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 that information in question #1 of the Selection Criteria.)</p> <p>WHO? Who will complete the work, and who will oversee the project? Provide a brief description of your community or organization, highlighting its mission and purpose.</p> <p>WHAT? Explain what you are going to do or accomplish. What is the goal or the reason for your project? Break down the project into a list of specific activities to be completed. These should be quantifiable items that correspond to the categories on your budget page. Include quantity or quality as part of your description of work to be performed. How long? How many? How many feet? How many miles? What materials will be used? Is a specific standard or guideline being used?</p> <p>WHERE? Explain in detail the location of your project. Where is the project located? What county? What National Forest/BLM Office? Provide the names of the trail(s) or trail system and where the work will be performed. List the land manager agency or municipality.</p> <p>DEFINITIONS? Please define all acronyms and specialized terms that are used in your project description.</p>	

Exhibit A – Project Information

Project Description

The Town of Rico and the Rico Trails Alliance are seeking funding to facilitate the planning of a segment of trail that would connect important sections of the historic Rio Grande Southern (RGS) railroad grade trail. This proposed section through a parcel known as the Dolores Placer would connect the existing RGS Trail within the Town of Rico to the portion of the RGS Trail that is on San Juan National Forest property located south of Rico. This trail would be a segment of the regional Galloping Goose Trail that follows the path of the historic Rio Grande Southern railway from Ridgway to Durango.

Who: The Rico Trails Alliance and the Town of Rico will be partnering in this undertaking. The mission of the Rico Trails Alliance is "To steward the local and regional trail systems in and around Rico, Colorado, focusing on user education and the access, development, and use of non-motorized trails." The Town of Rico is a small community located in the Southern San Juan Mountains. The Rico Regional Master Plan cites a commitment to trail construction.

What: The goal of this project is to hire a consultant(s) to produce an environmental assessment including a Section 106 Historic Review and to hire an engineer to design a bridge across the Dolores River.

Where: The project will take place on a privately owned parcel known as the Dolores Placer that lies in Dolores County approximately one mile south of Rico and adjacent to San Juan National Forest land administered by the Dolores Ranger District.

Previous CPW grants awarded (last 3 years) List award year, category and project name

The Rico Trails Alliance has not received any CPW grant funding within the last three years.

RESOLUTION 2022-03

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF RICO BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUPPORTING THE
SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM COLORADO PARKS AND
WILDLIFE NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL FUND**

WHEREAS, the Town of Rico supports the Rico Trails Alliance’s application to Colorado Parks and Wildlife to fund the planning studies and assessments required for construction of a pedestrian bridge across the Dolores River to connect the recently approved US Forrest Service trail, in the San Juan National Forest, with the Town’s public trail across the parcel known as the Dolores Placer; and

WHEREAS, with these grant funds, the Town of Rico intends to provide local funding dedicated to parks, open space and trails to accompany the financial support from the Rico Trails Alliance, a Colorado 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, for the planning of a trail and a bridge, subject to the award and execution of a grant agreement.

NOW, THEREFOR, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF RICO THAT:

SECTION 1: The Town Board of Trustees hereby expresses its support for the CPW planning grant application, and if awarded, supports completion of the project and long-term maintenance of the Town’s public trail across the parcel known as the Dolores Placer for which it has a perpetual, non-exclusive trail easement for non-motorized, pedestrian, equestrian, skier and other recreational access for the benefit of the public.

SECTION 2: The Town Board of Trustees has authorized the expenditure of funds in amounts approved by the Board of Trustees to accompany the financial support contributed by the Rico Trails Alliance, to meet the terms and obligations of the CPW’s Non-motorized Trails planning grant agreement, if awarded.

ADOPTED this 21st day of September, 2022, by the Board of Trustees for the Town of Rico, Colorado.



Patricia Fallon, Mayor Pro Tem
Town of Rico, Colorado

Attest:



Anna Wolf , Town Clerk
Town of Rico, Colorado

PLANNING GRANT SCORING CRITERIA

All applicants must respond to the criteria questions. Use the numbered blank pages at the end of this sections. 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. Outside reviewers and State Trails staff will review each project. Projects will be ranked according to reviewer and staff scores.

Grant review subcommittee members review and score grant applications based on the totality of information available. This may include not only the answers provided to the application questions, but also additional information provided to the review subcommittee from agency staff and subcommittee member knowledge and information that is relevant to the proposed project.

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.

Respond in **12-point font**. Reference all attachments.

1. Scope (10 points)

Describe the proposed project. What are the benefits of this effort to trail users and groups in the communities, region, and/or state? Describe how the planning project will lead to trail system improvements, the development of tangible trails, trailheads, amenities, or recreation projects in the area. Please include potential site photos and a map of the proposed planning area(s). Discuss the ownership status of the proposed area - including any information regarding easements and/or recent land acquisitions. Is this a multi-phase project, and if so, how many phases is it and how will future phases be funded?

2. Community Need & Benefit (10 points)

Describe how the project will tie into existing management plans and demonstrate a significant improvement to community trail systems and larger connectivity throughout communities and existing trail systems. Summarize the community need for the project (letters of support should clearly document this need). How will this project specifically address the needs described? Describe how the project communities will benefit from the project. Why is it important to undertake this planning effort now, instead of at a later time? How will community health benefits and the equity of underserved communities be considered, evaluated, and prioritized in the plan? Will underserved communities be involved in decision making processes (i.e. where trails will be located, what they will look like, recreation prioritization, etc.) through citizen advisory boards or other means of public involvement?

3. Planning and Prioritization Process (10 points)

Explain the extent to which this project focuses on regional trail and resource planning. Is

this project part of an existing master plan, federal Forest or Resource Management Plan, or a landscape level regional planning effort (such as an Outdoor Regional Partnership)? If so, what priority is this project given in that plan? How will the plan evaluate multiple trail systems' cumulative impacts together in a comprehensive plan? How will trail development be evaluated and balanced with existing trail system management, wildlife and natural resource conservation, and long-term maintenance?

4. Wildlife & Natural Resources (15 points)

Describe how potential impacts to wildlife and natural resources will be evaluated during the planning process for the plan (such as utilizing resources listed in Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind)? Describe any plans for avoiding sensitive habitat as well as minimizing, and/or mitigating wildlife and natural resource impacts. Describe how you will develop plans for trail management and monitoring after the trail is complete. How will CPW staff be engaged in the planning process? Describe how their recommendations will be implemented. For example, if a seasonal closure is recommended, what are the dates of the closure and how will it be implemented to be effective (signage, gates, game cameras, etc.)?

5. Collaboration (10 points)

Explain the extent to which the project demonstrates unique, innovative, and/or important multi-agency, organization and/or private partnerships. Describe which stakeholders will be involved with the planning process - public agencies, conservation groups, stewardship groups, recreational groups, environmental groups, non-profit organizations, schools, businesses, and/or individuals. Describe how these stakeholders will be engaged and these partnerships will be a benefit to the planning, development, and long-term management/maintenance of the trail systems. Will a professional consultant be hired to help facilitate this process?

6. Sustainability (10 points)

What is the long-term vision for the future of the work supported by this grant? What are potential sources of funding and resources for both trail construction and maintenance and how will these be considered and incorporated into the planning process? Is there committed funding and/or personnel and volunteer stewardship resources to support the long-term maintenance of the project?

7. Public Engagement (10 points)

Public notification is mandatory for all projects.

Describe the process you will use to engage the public in the project. Do you anticipate public opposition to this plan or its implementation? If so, how will that be addressed? Describe how potential user conflicts will be identified, addressed and managed.

8. Implementation Process and Outcome (5 points)

Describe the strategy for monitoring and evaluating project planning. What tangible or measurable products will result from this planning project? What is the anticipated timeline of the process and necessary reviews (such as NEPA if on federal land)? In analyzing options for the project, discuss how different alternatives for trail development will be evaluated in the planning process. How will project success be defined?

List (in bulleted form) and provide a brief, specific description for each:

- Objectives
- Tasks / Project Milestones
- End products and/or deliverables that will result from this planning effort

9. Matching Funds and Partnerships (10 points)

Discuss partnerships established for this project and their contributions. What other funding sources have been dedicated or are anticipated to be dedicated to this project? If matching funds are not yet secured, what are the plans for raising those additional funds? Will applicant and/or partner funds be lost if State Trails funds are not awarded? Submit letters of commitment/support from landowners and/or funders as a separate attachment (resolution from the governing body should include support and resource commitment; a separate support letter is not required). Beyond these letters, up to 5 non-funding letters of support may be submitted.

10. Ability/Contingency (5 points)

Describe your organization's 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 organization's ability to manage the requested level of grant funding; including the project title, grantor, award amount and year the project was funded. If State Trails funding is not awarded, what is the plan to complete the project?

1. Scope of Work (10 points)

As indicated in the description, the proposed trail would be a segment of the regional Galloping Goose Trail, that follows the path of the historic Rio Grande Southern railway from Ridgway to Durango. This trail is unique in the Southern San Juans in that it lacks the steep grades and technical aspects that are the hallmark of most trails located in the Southern San Juans. The railroad, by necessity was limited to grades of three to four percent. This component of the Galloping Goose Trail makes the regional trail system more accessible to more people than many of other trail in the area, thus providing more recreational opportunities to regional residents and visitors.

The scope of work will be:

- To hire a consultant to complete the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Environmental forms and the Section 106 Historic review that will be required to apply through the CPW Program and other grant sources for construction funding.
- To hire an engineer to determine the exact location of the proposed bridge and to produce a set of plans for the bridge that would enable the partners to get accurate cost estimates and to hire a contractor to construct the bridge and the abutments.

The goal of this planning project is to obtain the documents and cost estimates that we need to build the bridge and the single track through the Dolores Placer that would connect the portion of the existing Rio Grande Southern trail that lies within the town of Rico to the portion of the trail that lies on the San Juan National Forest.

The proposed bridge will be located on a recreational easement held by the Town of Rico on a piece of private property known as the Dolores Placer. Please see attached maps.

2. Community Need and Benefit (15 points)

Like most of the communities in the southern San Juans, precious metals and the lure of easy money brought early Anglo settlers to the Town of Rico. Following the discovery of rich silver ore in 1879, the town quickly grew to accommodate a population of 2,500 that supported two newspapers, a theater, and 23 saloons. Constructed by Otto Mears, the Rio Grande Southern railway arrived in Rico in 1891. This ensured a degree of continuing prosperity until the railroad was abandoned in 1951.

In the mid-1970s when the Argentine Mine closed for good, Rico struggled to redefine itself as a town. The population dwindled to 76 and the miners left for other jobs. The spectacular beauty, the vibrant big game population, and fishing in the Dolores River made recreation the obvious choice as a new economic driver.

Rico is currently home to many recreational opportunities including hiking, cycling, hunting, fishing, and skiing. Unfortunately, though, the COVID 19 pandemic hurt Rico's main street businesses. This has in turn impacted the Town of Rico's ability to provide services to residents and visitors. Rico's scenic beauty and abundant recreational resources represent an opportunity to grow the local economy. Additional trails will play an important role in attracting visitors and thus helping our economy return to a more normal state.

The Rico Trails Alliance includes in their mission statement " To steward the local and regional trail systems in and around Rico, Colorado, focusing on user education and the access, development, and use of non-motorized trails". The Rico Regional Master Plan cites a commitment to trail construction as one of the objectives listed in the section that addresses Parks, Open Space and Trails. Planning this trail now, will allow the Rico Trails Alliance and the

Town of Rico ample opportunity to determine what this project will cost and begin to explore a variety of grant opportunities and potentially take advantage of money provided by the State and Federal governments that has been made available to help communities recover from the economic devastation of COVID.

According to the "Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool" made available by the Federal Government to help identify disadvantaged and underserved population, none of the census tracts in Dolores County are considered as such, however Dolores County has not enjoyed the prosperity of much of Colorado and has a median income that puts it in the bottom ten Counties in the State. This trail is also close to census tracts in Montezuma County that do fall into that category, census tracts that are close enough to offer a pleasant day or weekend outing to people residing in those areas.

26.2% of the Dolores County population is over 65. Walking is widely viewed as a health benefit to people of all ages but is especially attractive to older people as it does not require special skills or equipment. Adding a trail that is not as technically challenging as most other trails in the area will provide hiking, cycling, and cross-country skiing opportunities for people for whom the steeper trails are inaccessible.

3. Planning and Prioritization Process (10 points)

During the mining era, the Rio Grande Southern Railway wound its way through the Southern San Juans between Ridgway and Durango stopping along the way in Telluride, Rico, Dolores, and Mancos transporting ore, stock and other goods. In October of 1992 there was a collaborative effort between the San Miguel County Trails Council, the Norwood Ranger District, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service that began planning and constructing a trail system, which would make use of the Rio Grande Southern railroad grade from Ridgway to Durango.

This is an ambitious effort since much of the railroad grade was destroyed when Highway 62, Highway 145, Highway 184, and Highway 160 were built. Further, portions of the RGS railroad grade that had been easements dedicated to the railroad rather than owned by the railroad reverted to the underlying property owners when the railroad went into receivership in the early 1950s. This made it impossible to regain access to certain portions of the railroad grade. Nevertheless, progress has been made on this undertaking and a segment near Dallas Divide between County Road 60X and County Road X48, a segment between Sawpit and Deep Creek Road, a segment from Ilium to Telluride and Ilium to the top of Lizardhead Pass have been completed. Please see attached map. The proposed connection between the Town of Rico and the San Juan National Forest will add another stretch of RGS trail to the inventory.

The Rio Grande Southern Trail Decision of Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact by the USFS for the Rico Trails Project dated November 17th, 2021 describes the proposed trail as following the alignment of the former Rio Grande Southern rail line, parallel to, and west of, the Dolores River, providing a non-motorized connection from the Town of Rico (from National Forest System Route #422) to the existing Scotch Creek and Salt Creek/Ryman trailheads. The bridge and the single track through the Dolores Placer will connect the portion of the existing Rio Grande Southern trail that lies within the town of Rico to the portion of the trail that lies on the San Juan National Forest.

In addition to adding to the overall progress of the construction of the Rio Grande Southern Trail, this connection would add an important link for those folks wishing to leave the Town of Rico and head south to ride or hike from Town along the RGS Dolores Placer Connection to the Scotch Creek Trail and farther south to the Scotch Creek and Salt/Ryman Creek Trail trails or loop back to Rico by way of the Wildcat Trail.

4. Wildlife and Natural Resources (15 points)

Maps and a description of this project were given to Matt Sturdevant on August 19th, 2022, the CPW representative for the Rico area. On September 23rd, Matt Sturdevant, Brian McGee, Peter Foote, and Kari Distefano met over Zoom to discuss the project and its potential impacts on wildlife around the proposed trail. While they agreed that the trail would not be a major impact to wildlife, they expressed concern that wetlands may be impacted, and that the movement of wildlife may be altered. They also said we should ensure that the bridge does not impact other recreational uses such as boating or fishing on the Dolores. It is our intention to direct the bridge design engineer to avoid wetlands and to make sure there is adequate clearance under the bridge to allow boating. Since this will be a single-track trail, we do not expect it to inhibit wildlife movement. A map of available wildlife habitat information is included in this application.

Colorado's 2021 "Guide for Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind" suggests that four steps should be taken during the planning process.

- Step A – Outcomes: Identify community trail recreational needs, including desired user experiences and related benefits.

These needs and benefits have been described in detail in the "Community Need & Benefit" portion of this application, but in short, our area needs trails that are more accessible (lower gradients and less technical) to a larger portion of the population.

- Step B – Opportunities and Needs: Identify trail opportunities as well as wildlife needs that may limit trails.

Wetlands are generally considered to be high quality habitat. In the immediate vicinity of the proposed bridge and trail, wetlands have been delineated by Terra Firma, Inc. to ensure that bridge construction will not impact wetland areas. Understanding that wetlands should be avoided, not only to protect wildlife habitat, but also for ease of trail construction, the easement agreement that is designated for recreational use, sought to avoid wetlands areas and the final alignment of the trail will circumvent wetlands.

Any construction would occur in the summer (single track to be completed by Rico Trails Alliance volunteers) and autumn (bridge construction to avoid high water) so as not to impact nesting of migratory birds.

- Step C – Siting: Identify the potential trail of trail systems sites that could meet needs and opportunities.

The site for this trail was determined by public processes described in the "Planning and Prioritization Process" question of this application.

- Step D – Management: Develop land use plan, management action, allowable uses, and implementation actions.

Steps taken to address this step are described in detail in the following "Collaboration" and "Public Engagement" questions.

5. Collaboration (10 points)

The River Corridor Tract Map was recorded in the Dolores Clerk and Records office memorializing protection of the Dolores River Corridor and public access to the portion of the RGS trail through the Town of Rico. Private property owners including the owners of Disposition Properties, Rico River Village, Linda Burnette and Kevin O'Grady signed this agreement. On September 30th, 2020, a recreational easement agreement between the Town of Rico and the owner of the Lazy Rooster Ranch was recorded.

These easement agreements specify that the trail be available for non-motorized uses only except for potentially cross-country ski grooming equipment and emergency vehicles and illustrate a collaboration of private property owners and the Town of Rico to preserve riparian areas and recreational access.

The construction of the trail will be a collaborative effort between the Town of Rico and the Rico Trails Alliance. To formalize this arrangement, on September 16th, 2020, the Town of Rico and the Rico Trails Alliance signed a memorandum of understanding that addresses the cooperative effort to plan, construct and maintain the trail. The Statement of Primary Actions with respect to the RGS Trail connection include the following:

- Cooperation in trail construction, realignment, and restoration on the existing Town segment of the RGS Trail.
- Cooperation in the installation of gates, boulders or other barricades and signage on the Town's segment of the RGS Trail in compliance with the Dolores Placer landowner's easement agreement and Town use regulations and ordinances.
- Cooperatively identifying and securing funding for the pedestrian bridge on the Dolores Placer pursuant to the terms of the recreational easement agreement.
- Cooperatively identifying and developing an unpaved parking area near the RGS Trail's trailhead on the Town's River Corridor dedication property, if determined necessary by the Town
- Cooperation and coordination of grooming and maintaining the Town's segment of the RGS Trail in conjunction with RTA's performance of the same or similar activities on sections of the RGS Trail located on the San Juan National Forest.
- Cooperatively implementing publicity efforts related to the RGS Trail.
- Cooperatively educating the general public as to use restrictions and historic features of the RGS Trail.
- Cooperatively developing and implementing an operating plan for year-round use of the RGS Trail.
- Developing and continuing to build upon good working relationships with private property owners, public agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, regional trails associations and local and regional historic preservation organizations.
- Cooperatively communicating with CDOT related to any highway crossings and parking issues if and as necessary and appropriate.

The project ties into the draft Rico West Dolores Forest Plan Amendment, which shows the non-motorized Rio Grande Southern 3, connecting to the Ryman Creek Trail and the Salt Creek Trail, both of which are also non-motorized. A map of that draft amendment is attached to this application.

6. Sustainability (10 points)

As described in the previous question, the Rico Trails Alliance and the Town of Rico will cooperate in fundraising, improvements, and maintenance of this trail. The Rico Trails Alliance holds two fundraising events annually. One is a cooperative effort with the Town of Rico called the Winter Carnival. This event features a fat tire bike tour, pond hockey and cross-country ski tours and lessons. The other event takes place in mid-summer and features hiking and mountain biking tours as well as a silent auction.

RTA has worked with the US Forest Service for the last several years to get the Circle Trail re-designated as an official USFS system trail. After receiving official designation in 2021, RTA hosted two weekends of trail work to complete a much needed section of trail between the top of the Circle Trail and Section Point of the Colorado Trail, connecting Rico to the CT. This project was difficult to access, and volunteers had to first drive a 4x4 road and then hike miles of trail just to get to the work area. Using grant funding provided by the National Forest Foundation, RTA community donations, and Scott Sports, RTA contracted Southwest Trail Solutions to lead each volunteer workday and help train our volunteers.

The Rico Trails Alliance has obtained over \$70,000 in grant funding and fundraising activities. In addition, the RTA has a robust membership that routinely participates in trail maintenance activities.

7. Public Engagement (10 points)

The Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer Connection has been a part of the Town of Rico Work Plan since 2018. All work plans are subject to public comment and adopted by the Rico Board of Trustees. There has been further public discussion at Rico Board of Trustee's meetings in December of 2019, January of 2020, and August of 2020. The project was discussed again and voted upon by the Rico Board of Trustees at the September 16th, 2020, meeting prior to the submittal of an earlier CPW planning grant application. A more recent resolution to support this project was passed by the Rio Board of Trustees on September 21, 2022.

All Rico Board of Trustee's meetings are noticed to the public according to Rico's Home Rule Charter which, specifies that all meetings of the Board of Trustees be public and advertised at the Rico Town Hall and the Rico Post Office.

Details about this project are posted on the Town of Rico's website at <https://townofrico.colorado.gov/>.

Rico Trails Alliance meetings occur monthly and are open to the public.

8. Implementation Process and Outcome (5 points)

- Objective: To plan the construction of a trail connection between the Rio Grande Southern Trail within the Town of Rico to the RGS Trail on the San Juan National Forest. Construction of this segment of trail will require the installation of approximately 4150 lineal feet of naturally surfaced single tract and a pedestrian bridge across the Dolores River. This planning would be a step toward the ultimate goal of this project which is the final construction of this trail.

- o Task: To hire a consulting firm to conduct an environmental assessment at the location of a proposed trail and bridge on a parcel of land that follows the Dolores River.

- o End Product: An environmental assessment of the proposed trail location.

- o Task: To obtain guidance from the consulting firm for mechanisms by which we can minimize impacts to wildlife should we be successful in constructing the trail.

- o End Product: Guidance toward minimizing trail impact on wildlife.

- o Task: To hire an engineering firm to generate plans and a cost estimate for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Dolores River that would complete the RGS Trail connection between the Town of Rico and the San Juan National Forest.

- o End Product: Engineered bridge plans and cost estimate for a bridge over the Dolores River.

9. Matching Funds and Partnerships (10 points)

The Rico Trails Alliance and the Town of Rico have secured the following in matching funds:

From San Miguel Power Association - \$5,000

From Basin Bank - \$2,500

From the Rico Trails Alliance - \$3,750

From Town of Rico – \$3,750

These funds have been secured. They will not be lost. If State Trails funds are not awarded, the Rico Trails Alliance and the Town of Rico will pursue other funding opportunities.

10. Ability/Contingency (5 points)

Since its inception the Rico Trails Alliance successfully secured and administered the following grant applications:

RTA received a grant of \$60k from The Rico Center. This money was utilized to excavate the new Ryman Creek Trail connector last fall. Specifically, 1.75 miles of existing trail was rebuilt and 2.5 miles of new trail was excavated from the Ryman Creek meadow switchbacking up a steep slope to the preexisting upper Ryman Creek Trail segment that connects to the Colorado Trail.

In 2021, RTA was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the National Forest Foundation for the construction of the upper .79 mile section of the US Forest Service's newly commissioned Circle Trail. This was a historic trail that was not part of the US Forest Service's inventory until 2019. Because an excavator cannot reach this area, five volunteer days were organized to improve and reroute the trail by hand.

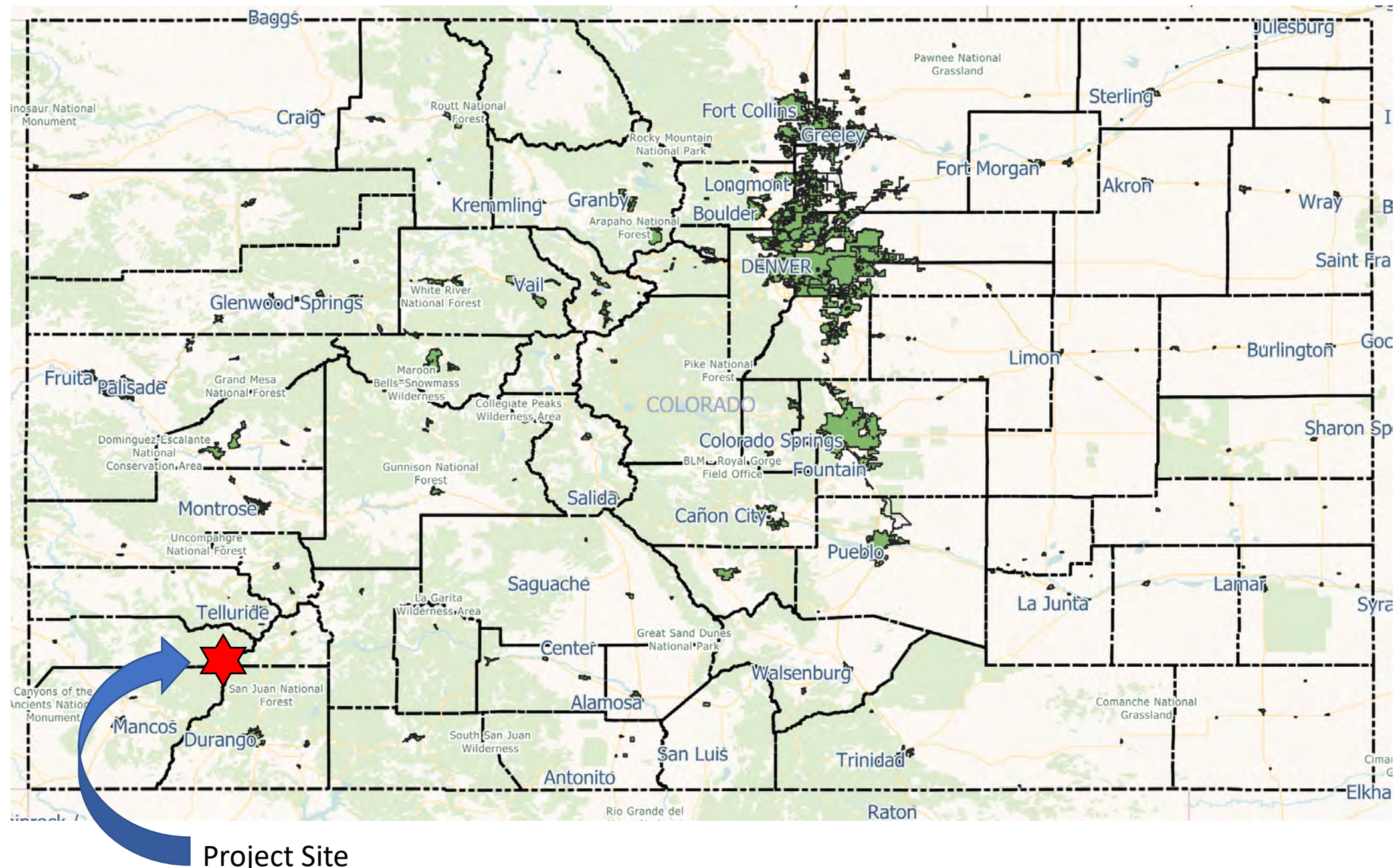
After 4 years of coordination between RTA and the USFS, the Rio Grande Southern trail project has been approved! This important project will convert 3 miles of historic railroad grade to trail, and will include trail connections from the Montelores bridge at the Montezuma County/Dolores County line, to the Burnett Creek road southwest of Rico. This project includes authorization of a foot bridge to connect Scotch Creek road to the rail road grade. RTA, through grant funding provided by the Rico Center, contracted Woods Canyon Archeological Consultants, who conducted level II cultural resource documentation of historic resources along the project route to support this work. RTA expects the RGS Trail Project trail work to be completed in 2022.

Of the 64 counties in Colorado, Dolores County ranks 54th in terms of per capita income. This project will help spur the local economy and the partners intend to pursue other grant funding tenaciously, but it cannot be completed without grant funding.

Should grant funding for this project be denied by the CPW, the partners will apply for funding through the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Tourism and the Rico Center.

Section 3 - Project Budget

Project Name: Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer Connection		Office Use:						
SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
CASH								
CPW Non-Motorized Grant Funding	TBD				\$ 13,500.00		\$ 13,500.00	
Town of Rico	9/21/2022					\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,750.00	
Rico Trails Alliance	9/1/2020					\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,750.00	
Basin Bank	11/1/2020					\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	
San Miguel Power Association	11/1/2020					\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
IN-KIND								
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS					\$ 13,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 28,500.00	
[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 Identify as: Youth Corps, Engineering, Contractor, etc.								
Environment Assessment	1	EA	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	0
Historic Assessment	1	EA	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	0
Bridge Design	1	EA	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 16,000.00	0
USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL					\$ 13,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 28,500.00	0
*ESTIMATE NUMBER OF CREW HOURS [GRANT AND MATCH] CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE								*REQUIRED INPUT
[IN-KIND] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)			Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
				\$ -			\$ -	0
IN-KIND SUBTOTAL							\$ -	
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$ 13,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 28,500.00	
25% REQUIRED MATCH						\$ 3,375.00		

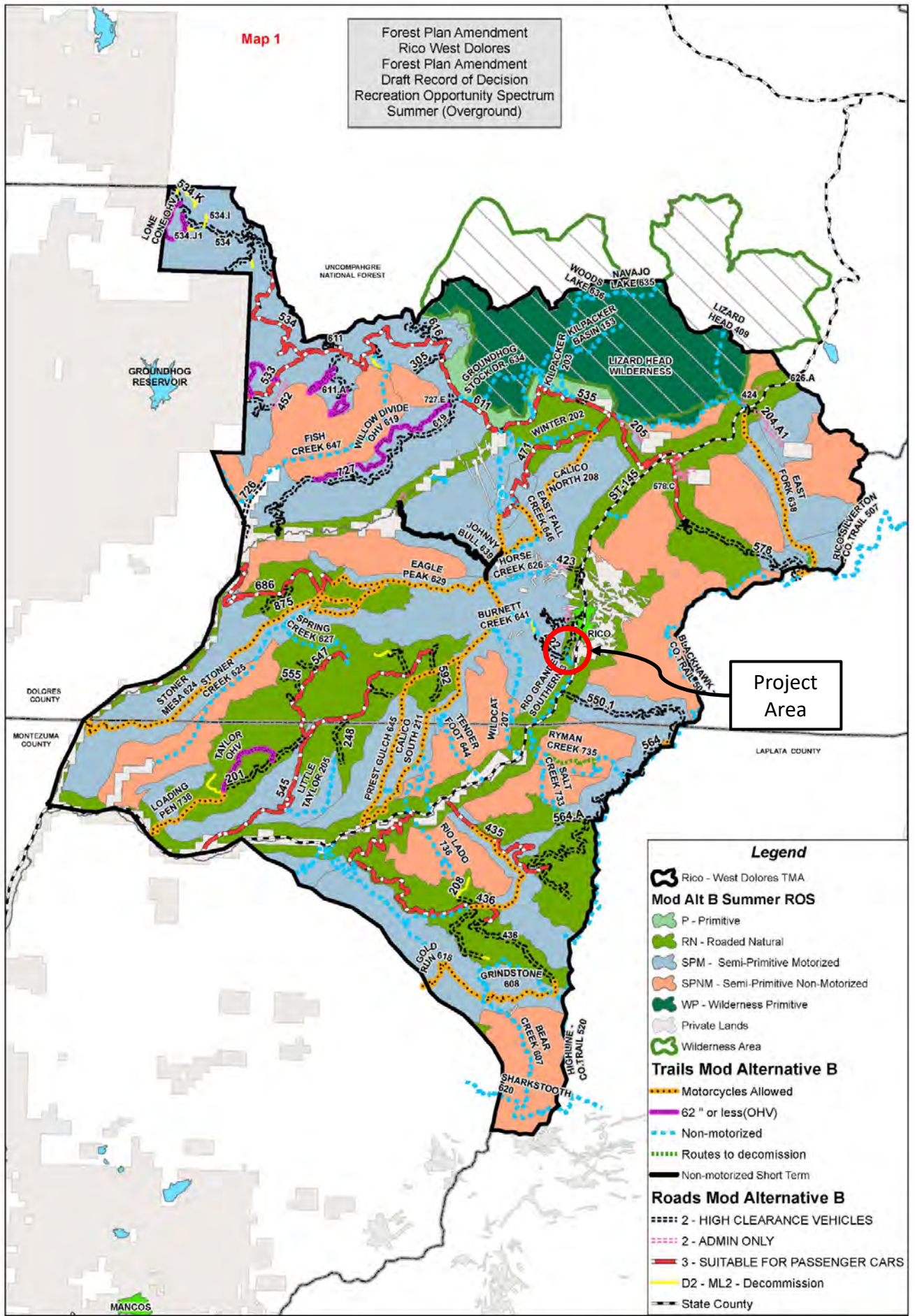


Project Site

Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer Connection Vicinity Map

Map 1

Forest Plan Amendment
 Rico West Dolores
 Forest Plan Amendment
 Draft Record of Decision
 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
 Summer (Overground)

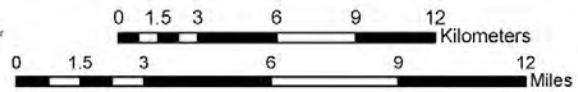


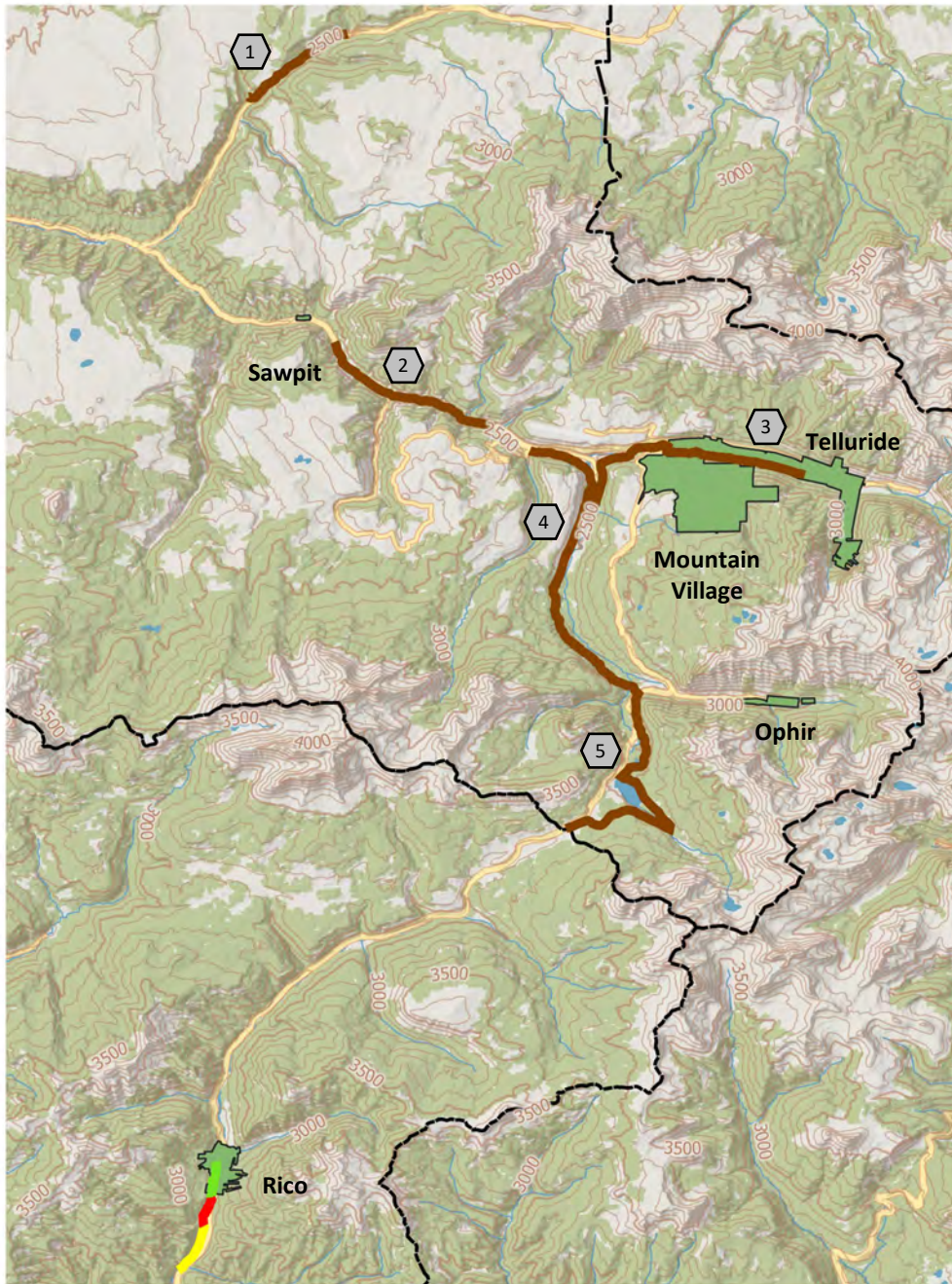
Project Area

Legend

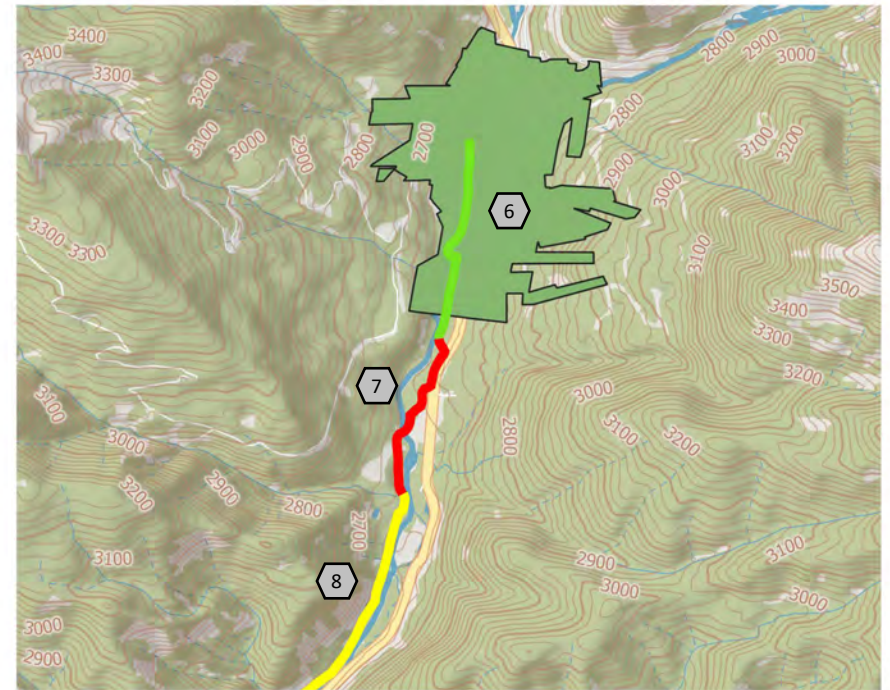
- Rico - West Dolores TMA
- Mod Alt B Summer ROS**
- P - Primitive
- RN - Rooded Natural
- SPM - Semi-Primitive Motorized
- SPNM - Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized
- WP - Wilderness Primitive
- Private Lands
- Wilderness Area
- Trails Mod Alternative B**
- Motorcycles Allowed
- 62" or less (OHV)
- Non-motorized
- Routes to decommission
- Non-motorized Short Term
- Roads Mod Alternative B**
- 2 - HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES
- 2 - ADMIN ONLY
- 3 - SUITABLE FOR PASSENGER CARS
- D2 - ML2 - Decommission
- State County

The USFS and BLM attempt to use the most current and complete geospatial data available. Geospatial data accuracy varies by theme on the map. Using the map for other than their intended purpose may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USFS and BLM reserve the right to correct, update, or modify geospatial inputs without notification.





Galloping Goose Trail Vicinity Map



Project Area

Galloping Goose Trail System Trails

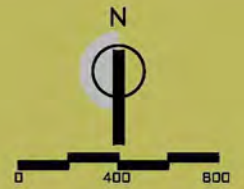
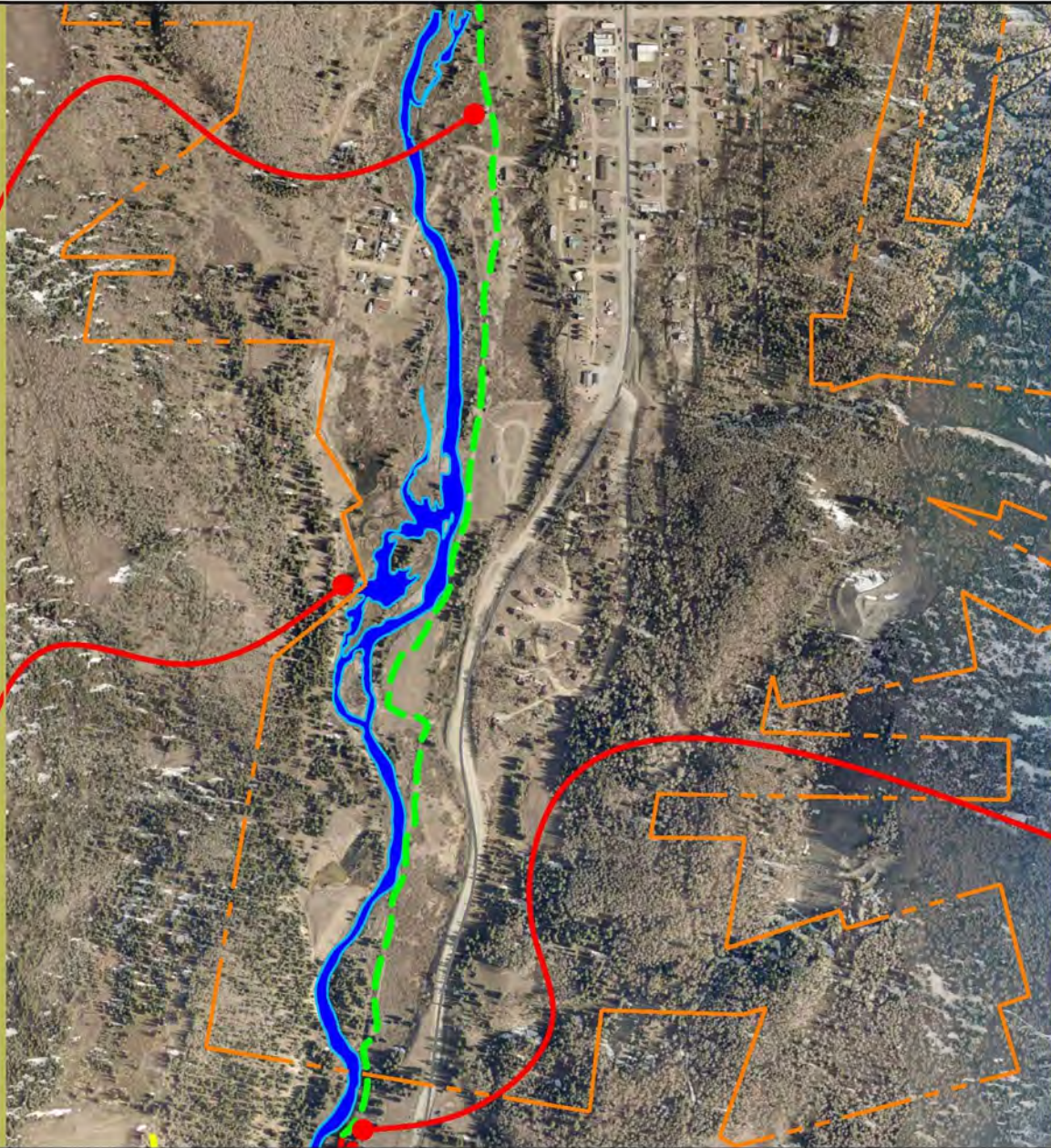
- ① Whiskey Charlie Segment – 4.7 Miles
- ② River Trail Segment – 4.3 Miles
- ③ Valley Floor Segment – 3 Miles
- ④ Alexander Trail & Coal Chutes Segment – 3.1 Miles
- ⑤ Galloping Goose Trail Segment – 15.5 Miles
- ⑥ Town of Rico Segment – 1 Mile
- ⑦ Rio Grande Southern Dolores Placer Connection Segment – 0.8 Mile
- ⑧ RGS USFS Segment – 4 Miles










R.G.S. WATER TANK

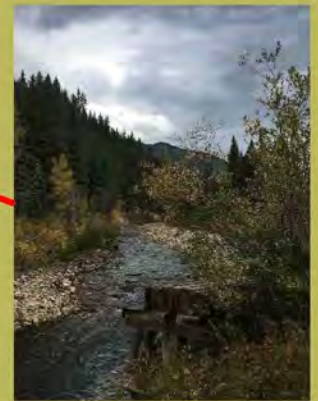


VIEW ALONG TRAIL



LEGEND

-  R.G.S. DOLORES PLAGER CONNECTION
-  R.G.S. U.S.F.S. SEGMENT
-  R.G.S. TOWN OF RICO SEGMENT
-  EXAMPLE OF POTENTIAL FUTURE CONNECTION
-  TOWN OF RICO
-  HIGHWAY 145
-  DOLORES RIVER



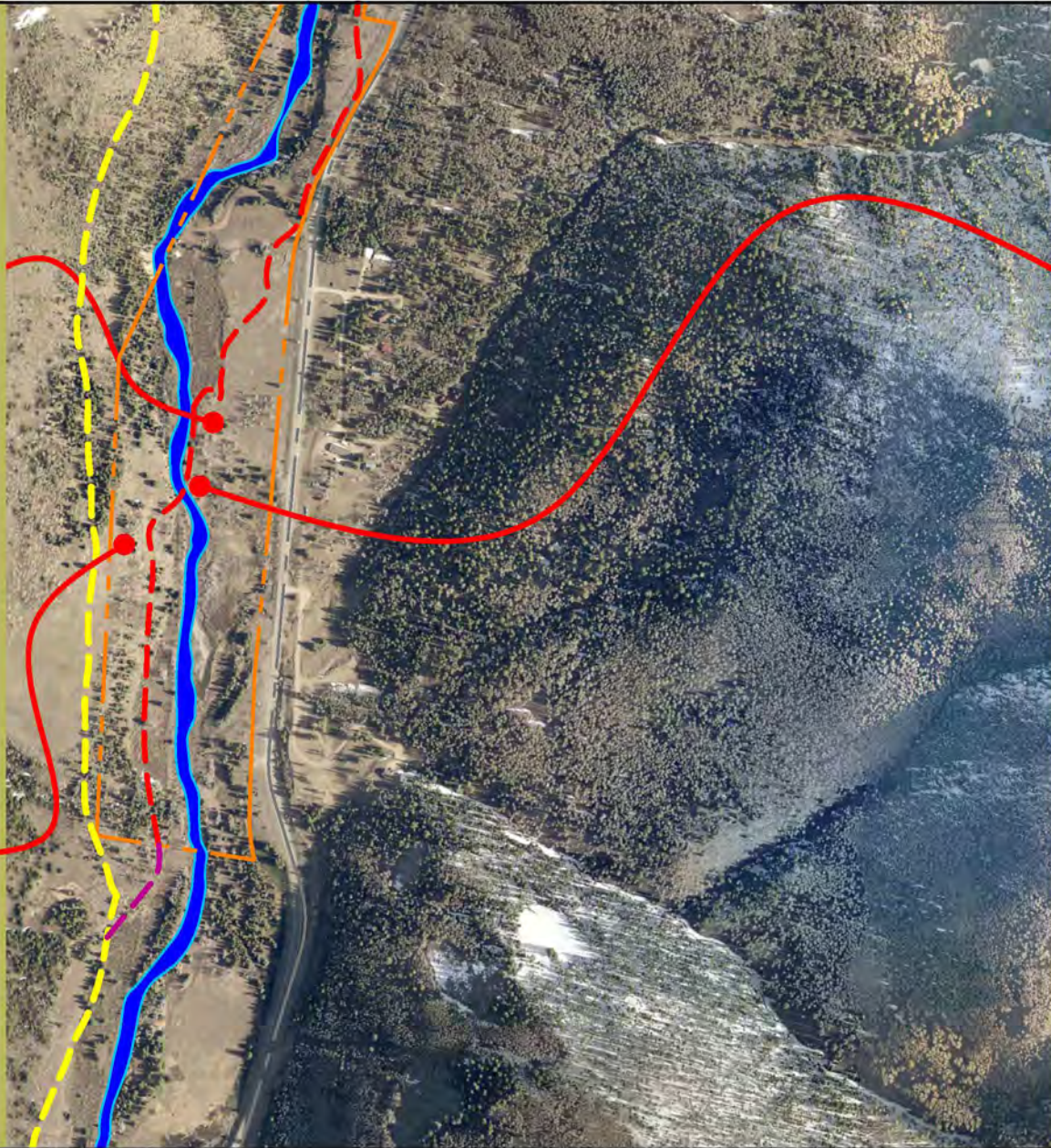
REMNENTS OF TRESTLE



RUINS










HISTORIC COKE OVENS
THEY CAN STILL BE SEEN



REMNENTS OF TRESTLE
LOCATION OF PROPOSED BRIDGE



LEGEND

-  R.G.S. DOLORES PLACER CONNECTION
-  R.G.S. U.S.F.S. SEGMENT IN N.E.P.A. PLANNING PROCESS
-  R.G.S. TOWN OF RICO SEGMENT
-  EXAMPLE OF POTENTIAL FUTURE CONNECTION
-  DOLORES PLACER
-  HIGHWAY 145
-  DOLORES RIVER

DON CORAM
State Senator
State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203
Capitol: (303) 866-4884
don.coram.senate@state.co.us



COMMITTEES
Member of:
Agriculture and Natural
Resources
Local Government
Interim Water Resources and
Review Committee

COLORADO STATE SENATE

September 18, 2022

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division

Trails Program

13787 S. Highway 85

Littleton, CO 80125

I am providing this letter of support on behalf of the Town of Rico and the Rico Trails Alliance's application for a Non-Motorized Trails Planning Grant. If awarded, the grant would fund engineering design and impact assessments for a pedestrian bridge needed to connect two sections of a non-motorized recreational bridge along the historic Rio Grange Southern Railroad ("RGS") south of Rico, Colorado.

The RGS Trail has several historic structures dating back to the turn of the 19th century, including railroad trestle remnants, coal shoots and 2 large, dome shaped stone ovens that once converted coal into industrial coke used for blacksmiths to smelt iron ore during Rico's silver mining boom. Without the bridge the RGS trail could not extend from the historic mining town of Rico, Colorado to the South approximately 4.5 miles through the East Fork of the Dolores River's valley. The pedestrian bridge will be installed in the same location as the historic RGS bridge that was dismantled in the 1950's. The RGSail will allow non-motorized users to travel from the Town of Rico to nearby United States Forest Service (USFS) trails without using Highway 145, improving safety for all.

CPW funding will play a critical role in establishing this invaluable asset.

Thank you for your consideration.

Senator Don Coram

200 East Colfax

Denver, CO 80203

303-866 4884

don@doncoram.com



State Representative
MARC CATLIN
Colorado State Capitol
60756 Spring Creek Road
Montrose, CO 81403
Business: 970-209-3436
Office: 303-866-2955
marc.catlin.house@state.co.us



Vice Chair:
Agriculture, Livestock &
Water Committee
Member:
Transportation & Local
Government Committee

COLORADO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State Capitol
Denver
80203

September 19, 2022

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am providing this letter of support on behalf of the Town of Rico and the Rico Trails Alliance's application for a Non-Motorized Trails Planning Grant. If awarded, the grant would fund engineering, design and impact assessments for a pedestrian bridge needed to connect two sections of a non-motorized recreational trail along the historic Rio Grande Southern Railroad ("RGS") south of Rico, Colorado.

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CPW funding will play a critical role in establishing this invaluable community asset. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Catlin". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Marc Catlin
State Representative



Board of County Commissioners

P O Box 608
Dove Creek, CO 81324

Phone: (970) 677 2383 Fax: (970) 677-2815

dcdolocnty@fone.net

September 15, 2022

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

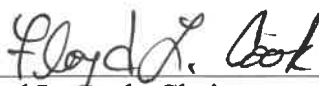
We are providing this letter of support on behalf of the Town of Rico and the Rico Trails Alliance's application for a Non-Motorized Trails Planning Grant. If awarded, the grant would fund engineering, design and impact assessments for a pedestrian bridge needed to connect two sections of a non-motorized recreational trail along the historic Rio Grande Southern Railroad ("RGS") south of Rico, Colorado.

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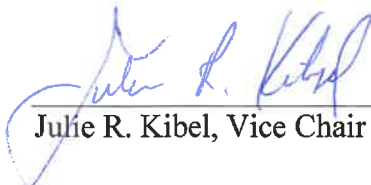
CPW funding will play a critical role in establishing this invaluable community asset.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dolores County Board of County Commissioners



Floyd L. Cook, Chair



Julie R. Kibel, Vice Chair



Steve Garchar



The Galloping Goose Historical Society of Dolores, Inc.

*P. O. Box 297 Dolores, Colorado 81323-0297
(970) 882-7082*

September 19, 2022

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

RE: Town of Rico and the Rico Trails Alliance's Application for a Non-Motorized Trails Planning Grant

The Galloping Goose Historical Society gives full support to this grant request.

Our organization's mission is to foster knowledge and continued interest in the history of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad and its historical impact on the economic development in Southwestern Colorado. In Dolores CO, we operate a railroad museum in Flander's Park and operate historic railcar RGS Goose No. 5 during Town of Dolores celebrations. We create a full day "living history" experience by occasionally organizing trips on local narrow-gauge railroads using the "Goose."



Constructing a bicycle/hiking trail on the former Rio Grande Southern Railroad's right of way southwest from Rico CO would help our organization continue its mission. Similar to the Galloping Goose Trail from Telluride to Lizard Head Pass, trail users could experience travel and scenery similar to when the railroad ran a daily passenger train using the Galloping Geese. Railroad history and stories could be shared with trail users with interpretative signage. Remote historical sites would become more easily accessible.

For this proposed trail to be successful, the Dolores River needs to be bridged near Montelores, the Montezuma/Dolores County line. This bridge would not only provide access to the proposed trailhead on Colorado State Highway 145, but would provide easy access to the other side of the river for day hikers and fishermen.

Our society fully supports this request for a planning grant to determine the feasibility of this project.

Joe Becker
President
Galloping Goose Historical Society

www.GallopingGoose5.org

gghs5@centurytel.net

October 2, 2022

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

Re: Support for Rico's Pedestrian Bridge Planning Grant

We operate the Mine Shaft Inn bed and breakfast in the Town of Rico, Colorado. As one of just a few local businesses, we strongly support the Rico Trails Alliance's application for a Non-Motorized Trails Planning Grant. If awarded, the grant would fund engineering, design and impact assessments for a pedestrian bridge needed to connect two sections of new trail along the Rio Grande Southern Railroad along the East Fork of the Dolores River that extends through and south of our Town.

The Pedestrian bridge is the critical link to this incredible non-motorized recreation amenity. Given the mountainous terrain surrounding Rico, the RGS grade's gentle slope affords the only non-motorized recreational path, that's accessible to beginner and intermediate hikers, cyclists and Nordic skiers. This amenity will bring the visitors needed to support our local recreation-based economy.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Rico and Colorado's great outdoors.

Sincerely,

MINESHAFT INN



Andrew Romanyshyn (Oct 2, 2022 15:01 MDT)

Andrew Romanyshyn
20 S. Glasgow Ave.
Rico, CO 8133
<https://ricominshaftinn.com>

PLANNING OR SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

MANDATORY:

- Signed letter of resolution from the Governing Body (Board of Directors or Commissioners, City or Town Government, etc.) that includes resources/support committed to the project
- Timeline form has been filled out
- Budget uploaded as an unprotected Excel document
- Maps/Photos/Graphics uploaded as PDF document(s)
- Letters of Support (maximum of five) uploaded. No letters from clubs, groups or individuals who are specifically working on the project. No letters from CPW staff.
- Project should be completed within 2.5 years from receiving grant
- Required MATCH funding is secured, including CASH match funds. If not secured at time of application, add a note in the additional comments sections at the bottom of this form.
- Scope of work and project location map emailed to CPW Area Manager & Regional Trail Coordinator by September 6, 2022 (not required for Support grants).

ALL projects will be reviewed for wildlife impacts

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 of organization)

Comments