

## Exhibit A – Project Information

### NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL MAINTENANCE APPLICATION

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

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

Name:	
Telephone:	Email:

### PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

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

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Title:	
Grant Request: \$	Match Amount (Min. 25%): \$
Total Project Cost: \$	
<p><b>Project Description:</b> Please write a 2-3 paragraph description of your project and the expected accomplishments. Be sure to include Who, What, When and Where. <b>This is your scope of work.</b> (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><b>WHO?</b> 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><b>WHAT?</b> 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><b>WHERE?</b> 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><b>DEFINITIONS?</b> Please define all acronyms and specialized terms that are used in your project description.</p>	

## Exhibit A – Project Information

Project Description

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

Gerald Cisneros, Chairman  
John Galusha, Commissioner  
Arica Andreatta, Commissioner



## HUERFANO COUNTY GOVERNMENT GRANT APPROVAL MEMORANDUM

**Date:** October 11, 2022  
**To:** Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners  
**From:** Conor Orr and Lester Berry  
**Cc:** Carl Young, County Administrator  
**Re:** CPW Trails Maintenance and Planning Grants  
**Attachments:** Maintenance Grant Application and Planning Grant Application

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**Summary:** This is a request to approve the submission of two grants to Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Committee. One would fund the training, salary, and acquisition of tools and materials for the Huerfano Youth Conservation Corps for the month of June 2023 as they carry out trail maintenance and weed/fire mitigation in furtherance of the development of the Walsenburg Riverwalk into healthy and accessible nature recreational space. One of these grants would also fund the engineering and consultation with a land architect that would take place during the course of the development of a plan leading from current conditions to a healthy ecosystem and full ADA compliance.

### **Requested Motion/Action:**

- A motion to approve the submission of both the Maintenance and Planning Grants to the CPW Non-Motorized Trails Grant Committee in a combined amount not to exceed \$70,000 in grant funding and \$17,500 in match – of which \$7,000 must be cash.

### **Grant Program:**

- “The Colorado State Recreational Trails Grant Program funds projects to continue to improve outdoor recreation opportunities, including trail construction, maintenance, planning, and support while protecting wildlife, habitat, and cultural resources.”  
(cpw.state.co.us)

### **Our Project:**

The Walsenburg Riverwalk Renovation Project would enable the re-opening and vast improvement of the Walsenburg Riverwalk through systematic clearance and mitigation work in the vicinity of the Cucharas River paired with the development of an action plan to transform approximately 1500 feet of the trail along the historic flood wall behind Fiesta Park into beautiful and completely ADA-accessible walkway.

The vast majority of the work involved with this project will be performed by the Huerfano Youth Conservation Corps as one of their primary projects for the summer of 2023 and 2024. Their work in 2023 will not be limited to clearing weeds and hauling wood around though – this plan

would see the youth corps meeting with senior members of the community to participate in intergenerational collaborative design. It would also see the hiring of a landscape architect to consult with and assist in the development of a beautiful but realistic park design. Over the course of several months after the summer '23 work season, the plan will be refined into a truly actionable step-by-step process that leads to the installation of lighting, level and sustainable surfacing, and rest areas along this trail and some general improvements in the surrounding public space.

**Alignment with County Objectives:**

- This project has the potential to play a pivotal role in the jumpstarting of serious work being performed on the Huerfano County Trails Master Plan again. It will serve as a proof of concept for the Youth Corps that will lead to further work being performed to increasingly high standards by passionate locals who are getting the training they need to succeed from a young age.

**Financial Considerations:**

- If both grants are awarded in the requested amounts, a sum of \$69,050 will be granted to Huerfano County in early June of 2023 for the execution of this project, which must be met with a 25% match, 10% of which must be cash for a total match value of \$17,262.

**Background:**

This project bears more than a passing resemblance to a project which took place in 2009 under the heading of Electra Johnson which employed some 18 or so local youth for a summer of work on that trail which included tree clearing, weed clearing, trail leveling, and educational opportunities. This was an ambitious project and it resulted in a beautiful concept map for an eventual city-spanning riverwalk which would connect Fiesta Park to Bear Cr. Rd. The proposed work for 2023 could be the first steps toward truly realizing that vision.

DocuSigned by:  
*Gerald Cisneros*  
Signature of the Chair


Approved  *GC*

Denied

## Exhibit A – Project Information

LAND OWNERSHIP			
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: Huerfano County			
2. The trail corridor is controlled by: <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> License <input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-Way <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Huerfano County			
USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking, Walking, Running	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding, In-Line Skating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snow Sports (non-motorized)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
TRAIL SURFACE			
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt	<input checked="" 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: <b>Walsenburg</b>			
County(ies): <b>Huerfano</b>			
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates (in decimal degrees): <b>37.619530, -104.774350</b>			
State Congressional District ( <a href="https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members">https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members</a> ): <b>3rd</b>			
<i>Please fill out all applicable categories for your project:</i>			
Acreage of new trailhead		Miles of trail being planned	
Miles of new trail construction		Miles of trail maintenance	<b>0.5</b>
Miles of inter-connecting trail		Miles of trail reroute	
Miles of trail to be decommissioned		Miles of trail to be restored	
Miles of trail to be signed	<b>1</b>	Miles of trail grooming	<b>1</b>
Other		Other	

Applicant Printed Name: Conor Orr

Applicant Signature:      
 Conor Orr  
2022.09.30 19:04:25 -06'00'     
 Date: **09/30/2022**



## MAINTENANCE GRANT SCORING CRITERIA

All applicants must respond to the criteria questions. Use the numbered blank pages at the end of this section. 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.

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### 1. Scope (10 points)

Describe the proposed project including the length/width of trail maintenance, any major components necessary to complete the trail such as maintenance materials, under/overpasses, bridges, trail heads, trail sections that will be maintained, number of maintenance features, etc. Address each trail component separately, specifically mentioning its characteristics. Describe the state of the existing trail, why it is no longer acceptable, and how it has arrived at its current condition.

### 2. Access/Trail Connections (5 points)

Briefly discuss how this project maintains trail loops, links, or improves and/or restores trail use and connectivity to other trails, park areas, outdoor recreation opportunities, and/or other public recreation and community centers. If the project is connected to a larger trail system, describe the size, extent, and predominant uses of that system.

### 3. Need (15 Points)

Describe the project's urgency and why it is being pursued at this time. Describe what issues this trail project will be addressing (resource damage, user safety, increased trail usage, etc.) and how this project will meet those needs. Why are CPW State Trails funds necessary to complete this project and what opportunities are lost if the grant is not awarded? Describe the community this project will serve and provide population and economic data. Discuss the significance of the trail segment to users. List each user group and estimate their percentage of overall trail use, e.g., bicyclists – 40%, hikers – 50%, equestrian – 10%. What features make this trail suitable for these uses?

#### 4. **Planning and Prioritization Process (10 points)**

Discuss the planning process that identified the maintenance of this trail(s) as a priority. Is this project part of an approved 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 it given in that plan? Has this project been deemed a priority by any other agencies or given any significant designations? Please explain existing trails in the area and describe the need for improvements to this section of trail.

#### 5. **Design and Trail Work (10 points)**

What best management practices will be used to ensure that the trail and its amenities will be sustainable? Who is designing/will design and oversee the trail work, and what are their qualifications? Who will perform the trail work (staff, volunteers, conservation corps, contractors, etc.)? Have trail reroute options been considered for current on-the-ground unsustainable trails and trail sections in the project area? If so, are there plans to decommission and/or restore these sections?

#### 6. **Sustainability (10 points)**

Has an operations and maintenance plan been developed for the project areas for long-term sustainability? If so, please explain the plan in detail including who will be responsible for this work, the estimated annual costs, and funding plans. Is this a multi-phase project, and if so, how many phases is it and how will future phases be funded?

#### 7. **Wildlife and Natural Resources (15 points)**

Describe how potential impacts to wildlife and natural resources were evaluated during the planning process for the trail (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 the plan for trail management and monitoring after the trail work is complete. Were CPW staff 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.)?

#### 8. **Public Engagement (10 points)**

##### **Public notification is mandatory for all projects.**

Describe the public process for this trail project (regular meetings, public meetings, working groups, etc.). Please highlight any collaborative approaches that were taken and summarize the feedback received from the public that determined the need for this project. Describe any received opposition to the project, and how the concerns have been addressed.



**9. Matching Funds and Partnerships (10 points)**

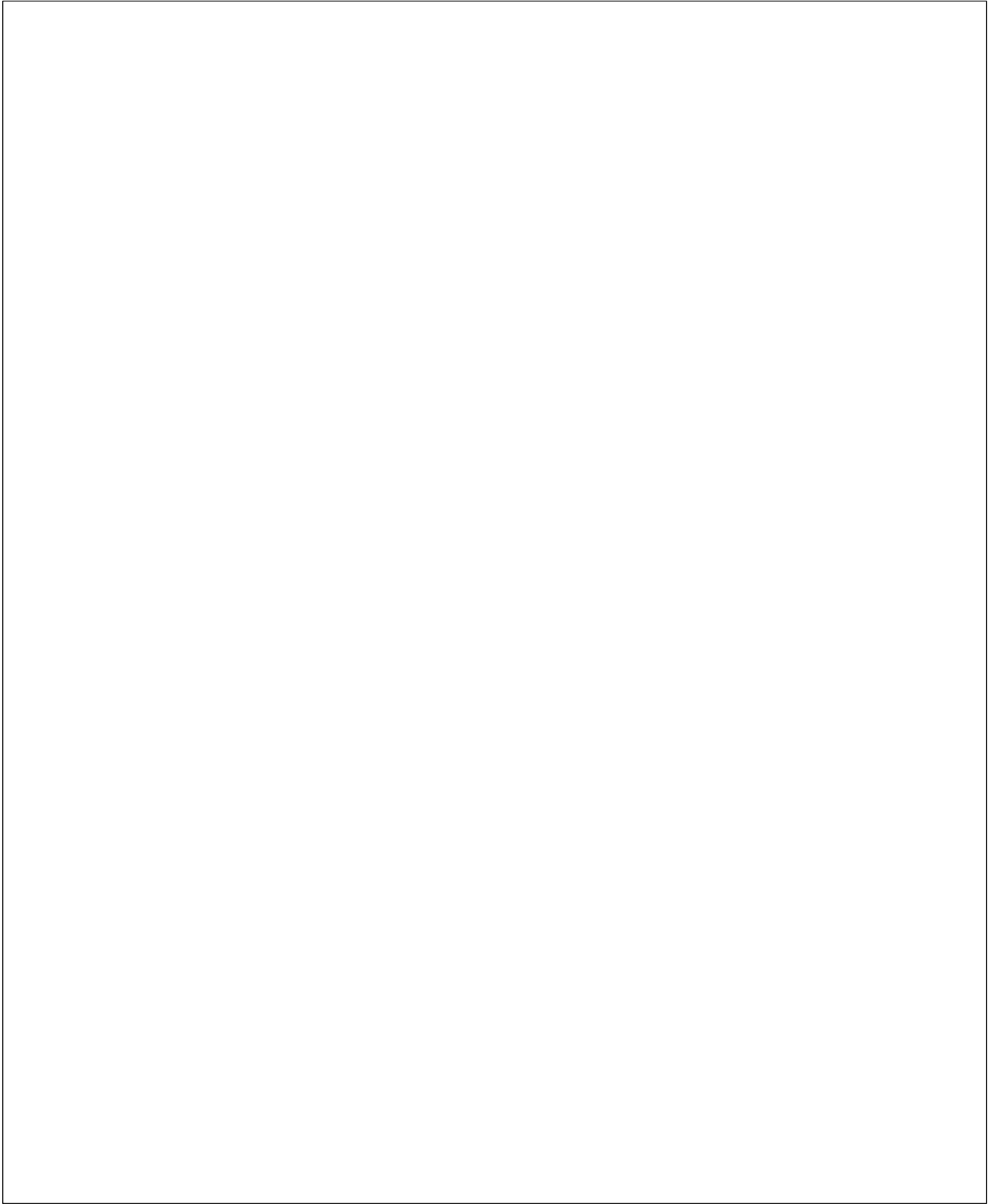
Discuss partnerships established for this project and their contributions. What other funding sources have been dedicated or are anticipated to be dedicated to this project? If matching funds are not yet secured, what are the plans for raising those additional funds? Will applicant and/or partner funds 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)**

**2. Access/Trail Connections (5 points)**



**3. Need (15 points)**

#### 4. Planning and Prioritization Process (10 points)

**5. Design and Trail Work (10 points)**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for the student to provide their design and trail work for this question.

**6. Sustainability (10 points)**

**7. Wildlife and Natural Resources (15 points)**



**8. Public Engagement (10 points)**

**9. Matching Funds and Partnerships (10 points)**

**10. Ability/Contingency (5 points)**

Non-Federal Environmental Form

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECK LIST (for projects outside of NEPA requirements)**  
**(Construction and Maintenance Grants Only)**

Applicants are responsible to complete this form with county/local government staff or an environmental consultant to address the following environmental impacts associated with the project, including: securing all necessary permits, licenses, clearances, and environmental analysis documentation necessary to comply with local, state, or federal law. Please fill out the table below and associated narratives. If an environmental review has already been conducted on your proposal and is still viable, include the citation including any planned mitigation for each applicable resource, and choose an impact level as mitigated. If the resource does not apply to your proposal, mark NA in the first column.

All applicants will be evaluated for wildlife and aquatic impacts in a separate evaluation process by CPW wildlife staff.

**Project Name:** Walsenburg Riverwalk Renovation      **Project Sponsor:**

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS</b> Indicate potential for adverse impacts	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> Resource does not exist	<b>NEGLIGIBLE IMPACTS</b> Exists but no or negligible impacts	<b>MINOR IMPACTS</b>	<b>IMPACTS EXCEED MINOR</b>	<b>MORE DATA NEEDED TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF IMPACT</b>
1. Plants species of special concern and habitat; state/federal listed or proposed for listing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Water quality/quantity – surface and ground water considerations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Wetlands/floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Storm water runoff and/or Sedimentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Disturbances to neighboring properties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Historical/cultural resources, including landscapes, ethnographic, archeological, structures, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Introduction or promotion of non-native species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Environmental disturbances during construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other important environmental resources to address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Use a separate sheet if necessary for the following questions.

Please briefly clarify how each resource could be adversely impacted; any direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that may occur; and any additional data that still needs to be determined. Also explain any planned mitigation already addressed in previous environmental reviews.

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

- Alternative design or trail route system
- Protection of critical habitat, channeling use through less sensitive habitat areas
- Re-vegetation of disturbed areas and control of invasive species
- Management of users and related activities with signs, fencing, and education programs
- Consideration of runoff when selecting project materials, such as uncured concrete to encourage seepage
- Comprehensive storm water runoff plan

A large focus of this project is the protection and rehabilitation of the native habitat, which has been going through hard times. Re-vegetation of disturbed areas will take place in areas where weeds are cleared and features which represent habitat potential, such as select fallen trees, will be preserved on site. The attention to habitat will persist throughout the crew's work which will take place further along the river but outside of this project site. Signage and fencing will be installed in numerous places along the trail to warn of hazards, keep visitors on trail, and create site-specific educational opportunities.

**BENEFIT:** Please describe any positive impacts of the project on sensitive species; some considerations below:

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

This project will result in an initial restoration of native habitat which will be maintained according to the maintenance plan created as a part of activities associated with the corresponding planning grant submission. Beyond the inclusion of educational signage and small gathering spaces, this project will contribute to the education of users in that it will involve training in and practice of conservation practices by this area's youth. Many people in Huerfano County have not been exposed to such ideas and methods, and the encouragement of conservation-minded practice in this area's young people has the potential to create radical future local change.

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

Conor Orr

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Printed name of applicant

Derek Sokoloski - Southeast Area Manager - Colorado State Forest Service

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Printed name and title of environmental authority

Derek Sokoloski Digitally signed by Derek Sokoloski  
Date: 2022.10.18 11:55:46 -06'00'

10/18/2022

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Signature of authority

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Date

*The Governmental authority, natural resource specialist or hired consultant who completed this checklist must sign here. The applicant and authority must be different.*

**Section 3 - Project Budget**

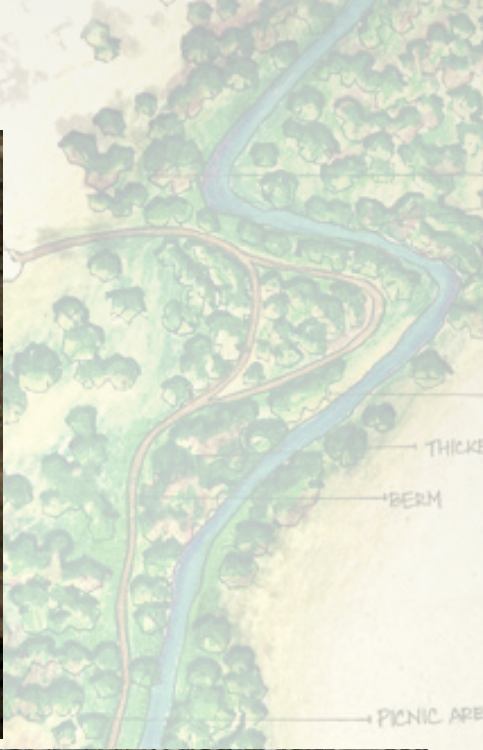
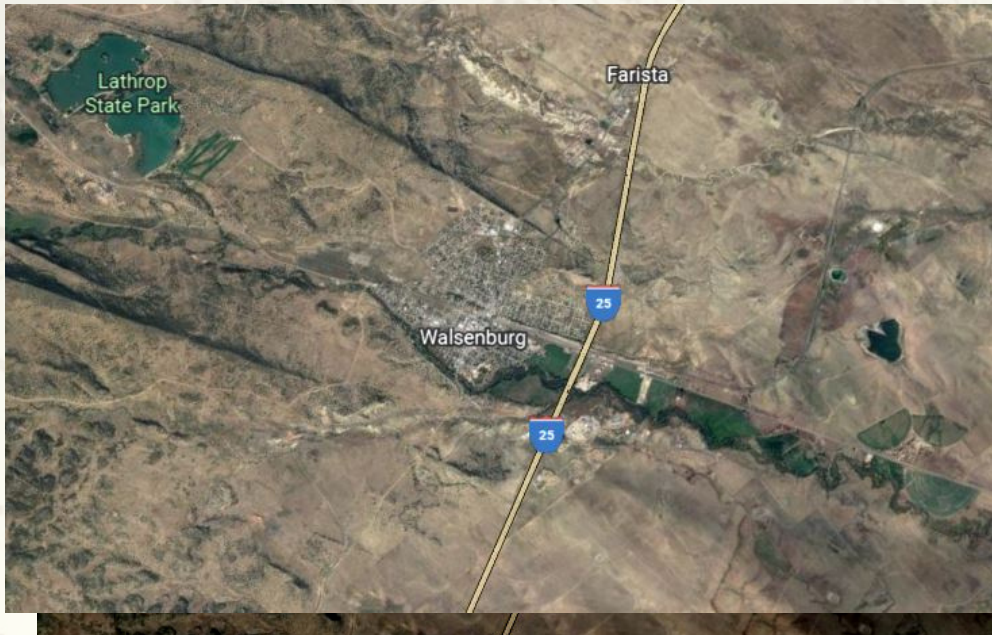
<b>Project Name:</b> 2023 Walsenburg Riverwalk HYCC Maintenance Grant budget		<b>Office Use:</b>						
SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
<b>CASH</b>								
CPW Trails	TBD				\$29,050		\$ 29,050.00	
Huerfano County						\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,400.00	
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>					<b>\$ 29,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,450.00</b>	
[CASH] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
<b>CATEGORY 1-Contracted Services</b> Identify as: Youth Corps, Engineering, Contractor, etc.								
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>Category 2 - Salary/Wages</b>								
Huerfano Youth Conservation Corps	1200	hours	\$ 15.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	0
<b>CATEGORY 3-Materials/Supplies</b> Identify as: Signs, crusherfines, native seed, weed barrier, etc.								
Sign materials	8	asstd.	\$1,000	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 8,000.00	0
Bear-proof trash cans	3	bins	\$2,000	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00	0
Beaver fencing	5	rolls	\$ 90.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00		\$ 450.00	0
<b>Additional Categories</b>								
Tools	1	assrtd.	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 4,000.00	0
<b>USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>\$ 29,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,450.00</b>	
<b>*ESTIMATE NUMBER OF CREW HOURS [GRANT AND MATCH] CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE</b>					<b>800</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>*REQUIRED INPUT</b>	
[IN-KIND] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)			Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
				\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0
				\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0
<b>IN-KIND SUBTOTAL</b>						\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>					<b>\$ 29,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,450.00</b>	
<b>25% REQUIRED MATCH</b>						<b>\$ 7,262.50</b>		



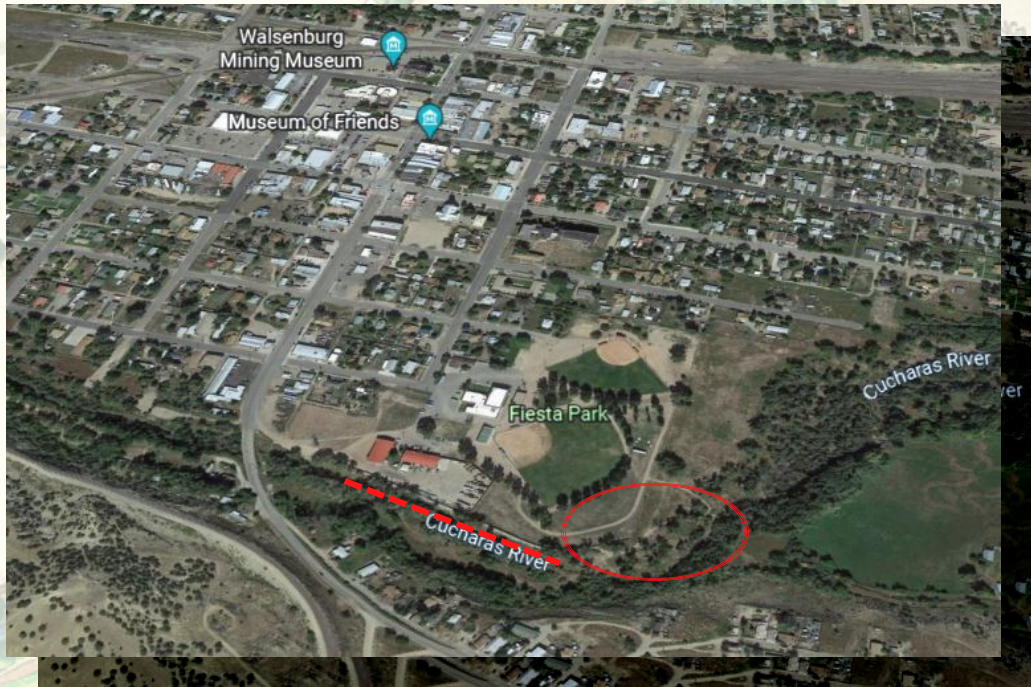
# Walsenburg Riverwalk Renovation: Phase One





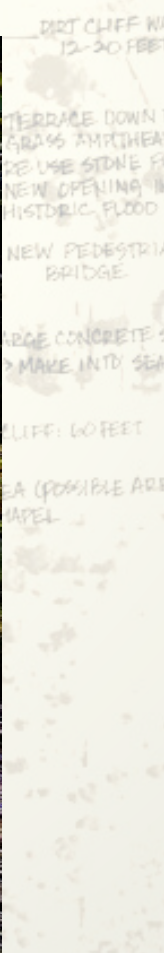


# Proposed Project Location



**Walsenburg,  
CO  
37.619530,  
-104.774350**

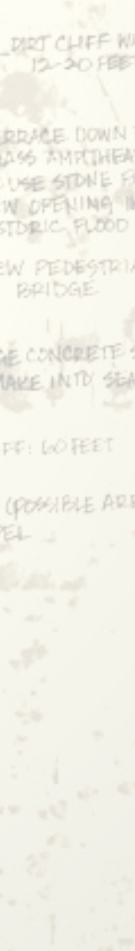
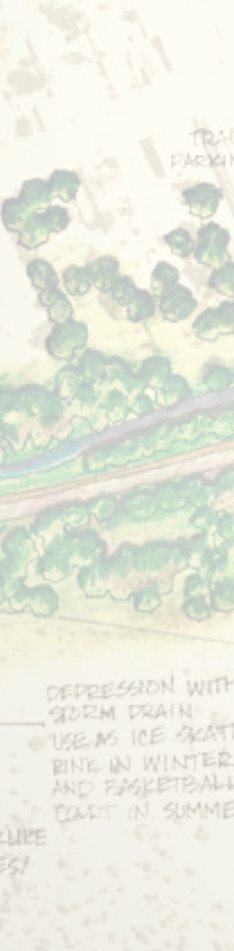
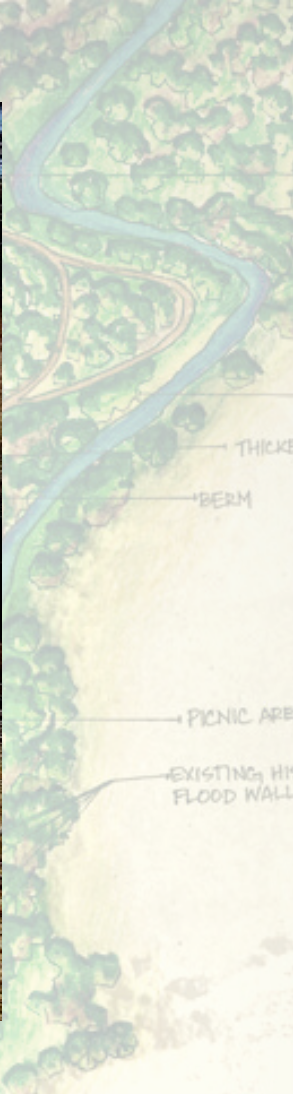














Lester Berry, Recreation Director  
Joshua House, Recreation Coordinator  
Conor Orr, Youth Conservation Corps Coordinator



## Huerfano County Parks & Recreation

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

RE: Walsenburg Riverwalk Project

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of the Walsenburg Riverwalk Project and efforts to seek funding for the proposed Riverwalk project along the Cucharas River. This project will help rejuvenate our business district by attracting tourism and providing a safe engaging place for community activities. I cannot think of more deserving project for public investment.

The Riverwalk Project will benefit our area in many ways:

- Economic

The Riverwalk project creates a boon for tourism and attracts weekday and weekend tourism by its proximity to two major intersections, Interstate 25 and US Highway 160. This will help existing struggling local businesses and be a catalyst for new private-sector investors. By enlivening the Walsenburg Riverwalk Project we enliven the economy of the entire area.

- Health & Safety

It will provide a place for both local residents and visitors to walk for pleasure and for exercise. Safe, engaging places to walk are critically important to this area. Huerfano County's health ranking is the lowest in Colorado. The length of the proposed Riverwalk, and the varied experience provided by the design, will get people moving.

- Community

The Riverwalk will provide space for community activities, potentially engaging young people including those at risk.

In summary, the Riverwalk Project is a great opportunity for Walsenburg and Huerfano County. I sincerely hope this project gets the funding it deserves.

Thank you sincerely,  
Lester Berry

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lester Berry", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Huerfano County, Parks & Recreation Director



September 30, 2022

Dear State Trails Committee Members,

On behalf of Spark the Change Colorado, It is my pleasure write a letter in support of the Huerfano County Government receiving CPW Non-Motorized Trail Planning and Maintenance funding for the Walsenburg River Walk Trail Renovation Project

At Spark the Change Colorado, we spark change and inspire a movement of good through the power of volunteerism, service and civic engagement. We believe community is at the heart of our work. Spark the Change Colorado currently has an AmeriCorps Retired and Senior Volunteer Program in Huerfano County and will soon extend our Mental Wellness Program and AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program into this area. . The goal of AmeriCorps Seniors is to empower an entire ecosystem of service while engaging our aging population to volunteer in their communities. Accessible trails, such as the proposed project, will empower us to expand programming for our aging volunteers and we believe that our community and future clients will benefit greatly from this amenity.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Huerfano County Government as they seek external funding to support their attempt to increase outdoor accessibility through the planning and implementation of their Walsenburg River Walk Trail Renovation Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josephine Boynton". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Josephine Boynton  
Huerfano County RSVP Manager



ELECTRA JOHNSON  
DESIGN & PLANNING LLC.

**October 1, 2022**

**Dear Grant Committee:**

This letter is in support of the Walsenburg Riverwalk Project. The original Riverwalk project for the community of Walsenburg is an idea that came about many years ago. My name is Electra Johnson, I am an architectural Designer and Community Planner, my family immigrated to the Walsenburg area to work in the coal mines in 1900. The Bosque in Walsenburg that runs along the Cuchara's River has long been a treasured place in the southern Colorado town of Walsenburg: my grandmother remembered picnicking down by the river when she was in high school during the great depression. It has been a quiet respite and place of sanctuary for as long as people have inhabited the area. As a child I played by the river and remember the swinging bridge, fishing in the river and the beaver ponds, that were there that were washed out by flooding in the 1970's and 80's. This walk is extremely personal to me as well, as it was the last walk my mother took before she committed suicide in 1975 when I was 18 months old and has been a place of sanctuary for me my entire life- it is undiscovered treasure of the community of Walsenburg and has been a place of sanctuary for many for over 100 years if not more. After I received my masters in Architecture and Planning from the University of Colorado in 2002- I intended to come back to my hometown to create beautiful places that served the local community, and especially the teenagers and the elderly of the local community.

The Bosque and the Riverwalk project was an idea that surfaced in early 2006 and then began to take shape working with then Huerfano County administrator (now County Commissioner) John Gallusha. We developed a program and plan to work with local youth first to remove the Tamerisk and Russian Olive trees that were choking the river, then to develop a trail and path for walking; from the Huerfano Community Center, by the baseball and softball fields along a wall built by the WPA (in my Grandmother's time) . We pulled together multiple funding options; from a homeless youth grant to summer job corps grant for youth, the community center donated meals for the kids, and Safeway donated peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for breakfast, as well as letting us raid their dumpster for cardboard to build the models, the local hardware store donated seeds to plant in our community garden. We put together a 12-week summer program that every one of the 23 kids who started finished. Our local school district donated a bus to take the kids on a field trip to the botanic gardens in Denver, a Patrick Dougherty landscape art piece in Colorado Springs and Colorado College, the Pueblo Riverwalk and to see a real architecture and planning firm Civitas in Denver. Then I worked with the kids over the course of 12 weeks, to design the pathway, to build the path, to learn to draw and make models, to work outside and together. We won a governor's award for the project.

I would love to see the continuation of this project, creating an actual path that is ada accessible, the continuation of a memorial park along the entirety of the Bosque and the creation of a place of nature, bird habitat, riparian study, and solace for the people of Walsenburg with a true riverwalk along the entirety of the river in Walsenburg. This grant is one step along the way to making this vision a reality and reclaiming treasured sacred space for the community.

Sincerely,

Electra Johnson

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October 3, 2022

Re: Support letter-Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance Grant being submitted by the Huerfano Youth Conservation Corps

Dear Committee Members:

As Director of the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department I have recently become aware of the efforts by the Huerfano Youth Conservation Corps (HYCC) toward the improvement of a neglected and underutilized trail that lies alongside the Cuchara River within Walsenburg and their intent to apply for funding through your committee. I would like to convey my wholehearted support for this project and commend the work of the HYCC coordinator Conor Orr. I have witnessed firsthand the positive improvements that the HYCC (under Mr. Orr's leadership) have made upon other trails and recreational areas within Huerfano County and I am certain that any financial assistance provided by CPW towards this project will be utilized in the most effective and efficient means possible.

The lack of regular maintenance on the trail and surrounding area has negatively impacted the public's ability to utilize the site to its full potential. A number of Colorado State List noxious plant species are found at moderate to high densities within the site along with a number of other problematic plant species which are not technically considered "noxious" in Colorado, but are certainly non-native invasive species. Russian olive and tamarisk are the primary woody noxious species of concern while Scotch thistle, Canada thistle and perennial pepperweed are the noxious broadleaved species of greatest concern. The broadleaved species kochia and Russian thistle (non-native invasives) impede travel within the trail corridor the most and also contribute significantly to the threat of wildfire within the riparian habitat.

To reinforce the efforts of the HYCC as it relates to improving the beautiful landscapes and outdoor opportunities that Huerfano County is known for, the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department is willing to assist and leverage department resources as needed to ensure the success of this much needed project. Our department will assist the HYCC by providing both technical and on-the-ground support, particularly as it relates to the mitigation of non-native invasive plant species and conservation of desirable native plant species. The mitigation of these problematic species will not only positively impact the recreational experiences of human visitors, but will more importantly improve wildlife habitat within the site.

While these invasive plant species have existed within the proposed project area for quite some time, they are a relatively new addition when the trail and surroundings area's history is taken into consideration. The degraded trail footprint was established and utilized generations prior to the exponential spread of non-native plant species that now dominate the site. This project will also compliment the efforts that are currently underway to address the ecological health of the Cuchara River corridor in its entirety. Upstream from this site the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department is actively treating and improving the river corridor with the assistance of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Huerfano Water Conservancy District and Upper Huerfano Conservation District. The proposed HYCC trail improvement project will help stakeholders within our area realize the value and potential that this largely unseen and underutilized area can provide to citizens and visitors to our community. It will serve as an example of what is possible when motivated groups and individuals come together behind a set of common concerns and goals..

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Recreational Trails Committee for this opportunity and request that this project be considered for funding during this cycle. Doing so will serve as a catalyst for future improvements to the trail system and wildlife habitat within the Cuchara River corridor.

Respectfully,

Charles R. Bryant-Huerfano\Custer County Noxious Weed Manager

**Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department**  
**1038 Russell St.**  
**Walsenburg, CO 81089**  
**(719)989-1353-----cbryant@huerfano.us**

# CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

## MANDATORY:

Signed letter of resolution from the Governing Body (Board of Directors or Commissioners, City or Town Government, etc.) that states the resources and support committed to the project.

Formal authorization from land manager (federal lands only)

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 comments sections at the bottom of this form.

Scope of work and project location map emailed to CPW Area Manager by September 6, 2022.

Project area is owned by a public land agency or has an easement that designates the area to be open to public outdoor recreation for at least 25 years.

Formal Environmental Assessment (EA) or NEPA (Must be completed prior to applicant presentations in January 2023. Include web link to EA).

Construction projects have been evaluated for required permits. If required, permits have been acquired (404 permit, etc.)

## 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