

Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

PROJECT BASICS

Title **Devils Playground Reroute**

Type Construction Planning
 Maintenance Support

Phased project Yes No If yes, Phase # **2** of **3**

Brief summary

The Devils Playground Reroute includes 4.4 miles of new trail and maintenance activities, including stabilizing and recontouring the trail, plus re-vegetating where possible.

Grant request	\$ 250,000.00	Grant ratio ¹	56 %
Match	\$ 199,647.54	Match ratio	44 %
Total	\$ 449,647.54	Total	100 %

APPLICANT

Type Local County Federal Tribal
 Recreation and Metro Districts Non-Profit

Organization **Rocky Mountain Field Institute**

Postal address **1485 Garden of the Gods Road. Suite 140**

City **Colorado Springs** State **CO** ZIP Code **80907**

General email **rmfi@rmfi.org** UEI # **FE1CD5N28PQ8**

Lead contact **Jolie NeSmith** Title **Executive Director**

Telephone **(719) 471-7736** Email **Jolie@rmfi.org**

Project manager **Carl Woody** Title **Program Director**

Telephone **(719) 471-7736** Email **Carl@rmfi.org**

PARTNER OR CO-SPONSOR

Organization **U.S. Forest Service** N/A

Postal address **810 Front Street**

City **Leadville** State **CO** ZIP Code **80461**

Contact name **Loretta McElhiney** Title **Fourteener Program Manager**

Telephone **(719) 486-7444** Email **loretta.mcellhiney@usda.gov**

¹ Grant ratio = grant request / total. Match ratio = match / total.

PROPERTY			
Nearest town or city	Divide	County	Teller County
Latitude/Longitude	38.871164, -105.11949	Congressional district	5
Name of property owner	U.S. Forest Service		
Trail Corridor controlled by	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee simple	<input type="checkbox"/> Lease	<input type="checkbox"/> Easement
	<input type="checkbox"/> License	<input type="checkbox"/> ROW	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

TRAIL			
Uses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking, walking, running	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
E-bikes allowed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snow sports (non-motorized)
	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible		<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Estimate percentage by type (e.g.,) 50% hiking, etc.	85% hiking, walking, running - 5% equestrian		
Surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete		<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Size of new trailhead (sq. ft.)	NA	Length of trail being planned	NA
Length of new trail construction ²	1.5 miles	Length of trail maintenance	NA
Length of inter-connecting trail	NA	Length of trail reroute	4.4 miles
Length of decommissioned trail	NA	Length of restored trail	NA
Length of trail to be signed	NA	Length of trail grooming	NA
Other:			
Estimated amount of paid crew hours:	Grant 5280	Match:	4080

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the applicant entity, I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is true and correct.

Authorized Representative

Signature	Jolie NeSmith <small>Digitally signed by Jolie NeSmith Date: 2023.10.03 17:28:29 -06'00'</small>	Date	
Name	Jolie NeSmith	Title	Executive Director

² Length of trail – use miles, square feet, linear feet



September 19, 2023

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

Re: 2023 Non-Motorized Trails Grant Application

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Attached, please find Rocky Mountain Field Institute's (RMFI) application for the 2024 Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program. RMFI is applying for funds to support continued work and a re-route of an approximate 4-mile section of the Devils Playground Trail on the western flank of Pikes Peak - America's Mountain, one of the most-visited mountains in the world.

RMFI's 9-member Board of Directors strongly supports the Devils Playground Trail Reroute Project in its entirety, including construction and long-term maintenance. The current state of the trail is poor; the trail is aligned with the fall line in many locations, and it lacks proper stabilization structures in areas where the slope exceeds gradient standards.

In 2016, Pikes Peak was adopted into the Find Your Fourteener campaign, an initiative of the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to accelerate the pace and scale of stewardship work being completed on Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks. Between 2017 and 2018, the U.S. Forest Service completed required NEPA documentation and supporting analysis including an extensive wildlife study with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). In 2019, RMFI officially began the rerouting the trail with support from CPW (and other partners) through a 3-year non-motorized State Trails grant. In 2022 RMFI was not awarded State Trails Grant funding and in 2023 RMFI received a significantly reduced amount which has negatively impacted RMFI's overall ability to meet its organizational goals and mission of conserving and protecting public lands in Southern Colorado. In 2024, RMFI plans to continue construction of the new 3.85-mile trail while utilizing RMFI's professional stewardship crews, Mile High Youth Corps, and community volunteers.

Colorado's 14,000+ foot peaks are continuing to increase in popularity, drawing tens of thousands of visitors each year to experience the challenge and scenery these iconic peaks offer. This project will protect fragile plants and animals, reduce visitor impacts to the area, enhance the quality of the user experience, and improve overall user safety.

We hope that you will look favorably upon our request. We believe that your support will benefit the natural environment as well as the citizens and visitors of Colorado. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Mohrmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Mohrmann
RMFI Board President

Timeline

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION



PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Rocky Mountain Field Institute

Project title Devils Playground Reroute

TASK <small>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</small>	Dates*	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
	June-Aug 2024	Sept-Nov 2024	Dec 2024-Feb 2025	Mar-May 2025	June-Aug 2025	Sept-Nov 2025	Dec 2025-Feb 2026
Construction	X	X		X	X	X	
Annual Mobilization			X				
Staffing			X				
Reporting							X
							June 30, 2026
Administrative Close-out							X

*The timeline is an estimate of your project completion. Remember the project must be completed within 2.5 years of the award date. [Suggestion - use quarterly or multiple month time frames \[Q2/XX; Jun-Sept XX\]](#). Initial grant expiration date will be June 30th or December 31st, dependent upon assigned funding source.

Criteria Questions



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

Organization Rocky Mountain Field Institute

Project title Devils Playground Reroute

PROJECT NEED

- A. Provide a detailed description of the project, including information such as mileage or width of trail maintenance, re-route or restoration plans, and any other trail components/structures.

The entirety of the Devils Playground Trail Reroute consists of approximately 4.2 miles of tread which will provide a more sustainable alignment. Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) will continue working on the final construction of ~1.5 miles of trail reroute, mostly above tree line where the work becomes difficult and includes a large amount of critical rock work. The next phase includes work on ~8,100 linear feet of new trail at a 15-40 percent grades with 24" wide natural trail surface tread, and include ~600 risers/steps and ~10,307 linear feet of barrier, retaining and back walls.

Construction materials are sourced from the surrounding area by hand and converted into resources. This includes timber and rocks for steps, risers and walls as well as crown-fill used to create a more sustainable trail tread. Walls will be constructed in areas of severe slope to support stabilization and to harden the trail's critical edge. Steps and risers will be installed where the trail grade exceeds sustainable standards as defined by the U.S. Forest Service.

- B. Describe the project's urgency and why it is being pursued at this time.

Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) has made progress on the Devils Playground Reroute Project to date, but it is not complete. The current unsustainable route is a network of user created social trails causing significant vegetation and soil loss while also creating high potential to negatively impact downstream water quality.

Not only does this trail need to be rerouted due the negative effects it has on the environment and local wildlife, but because the reroute is over half-way complete and starting to be accessed with more frequency by the public. If this reroute is not completed the risk of having two unsustainable user created trails increases and project costs will escalate tremendously.

- C. Describe the current condition of the existing trail. Include how it arrived at its current condition.

The current Devils Playground Trail is in extremely poor condition and receives no annual maintenance. The existing trail is a user created social trail aligned with the fall-line in many locations and lacks proper stabilization structures and drainage. The trail does not drain properly leading to vast channeling of water flows leading to mass wasting, vegetation loss and loose rock. The trail was already given a Grade C by the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative in 2018 and continues to deteriorate at a rapid pace. The deluge of rain in 2023 only exacerbated matters with incisions reaching up to four feet in areas and trail width often exceeding 20 feet.

2. CO IT E E IT

- A. Describe the community that will benefit from this project. Include relevant demographic and economic data.

Pikes Peak and the Devils Playground Trail are essential recreation destinations for the greater Pikes Peak Region and beyond. According to a 2021 report, over 23 million visitors annually come to visit Colorado Springs and at least 14% (164,285,714) come to visit the outdoors and use the trails. In 2018, the 5th Congressional District was described as an economic powerhouse for outdoor recreation by the Outdoor Industry and described as one of the strongest outdoor recreation economies in the entire country.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimates the contribution of outdoor recreation in terms of its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2019, the value added contribution of outdoor recreation to the U.S. economy was \$459.8 billion, representing 2.1% of GDP. Pikes Peak and its surrounding trails, like the Devils Playground Trail, have a significant economic impact on the region.

- . Outline any deficiencies or barriers to access this project would address or improve for the abovementioned community.

This project not only allows for a more sustainable trail but it also provides a safer and more inviting experience for all trail users. The existing degraded trail continues to increase in areas of unsafe passage as trail incisions and loose rock are accelerated by severe weather patterns. By completing the Devils Playground reroute more users will have access to a safer and more enjoyable route to the summit of Pikes Peak. Not only will this trail increase safety and protect wildlife, but it will simultaneously support dispersing users amongst both Barr Trail and the Devils Playground route with an accessible alternative to the summit.

- C. Estimate the number of people and/or types of user groups that will have access to recreational opportunities as a result of this project. Include methods for determining this estimate.

During 2022 over 279,000 people climbed fourteeners and visitation numbers collected using a TRAFx trail counters show that so far this season (2022-2023) over 21,000 people accessed the summit of Pikes Peak by foot from either the Barr Trail or the existing degraded Devils Playground Trail which is a 15% increase from the year prior. Over half of those users (10,688) utilized the existing Devils Playground Trail.

While hiking is the most popular recreational activity on the Devils Playground Trail, it also sees winter use as an access point for backcountry skiing and showshoeing.

PROJECT A A E E T

- A. Provide a detailed description of who will oversee the trail work. Include who will perform the maintenance activities (staff, volunteers, conservation corps, contractors, etc.)

Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) will continue to oversee all project work in close coordination with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). A small group of RMFI staff will lead a Mile High Youth Corps Crew for six weeks and EarthCorps students for 18 days. A RMFI stewardship crew of 6-8 highly trained staff will make up the primary workforce on the project while providing 24 weeks of work and leading volunteers.

- . Outline any CPW State Trails funding received in the last five years and if the project(s) were completed on time, on budget and within scope. For applicants without prior State Trails funding, provide examples of similar grant funded projects. Include project title, year of award, grant amount, and grantor for each.

Rocky Mountain Field Institute is grateful for the previous support from Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails funding and hopes to continue the positive relationship moving forward.

2023 - Applied for CPW State Trails funding (\$250,000), but was not awarded.

2022 - Applied for CPW State Trails funding (\$250,000) and received a partial award (\$31,792) from unused funds. While funding is always appreciated for projects we were not able to meet the initially proposed project time goals or full scope but the reduced project budget was met.

2021 - Received CPW State Trail Planning/Capacity grant (\$45,000) to enhance volunteer capacity. Project was completed on time, on budget and within scope.

2020 - RMFI did not apply for CPW State Trails Funding.

2019 - Received CPW State Trails funding (\$250,000) for the Kit Carson Peak-Challenger Point Trail Improvement Project - Phase III. Project was completed on time, on budget and within scope.

4. PLA I

A. Discuss the process that identified this maintenance project as a priority.

The Devils Playground Trail was given a Grade C by the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative in 2018 and is part of a statewide initiative to protect Colorado's iconic peak. In 2017, the National Forest Foundation identified a reroute of the Devils Playground Trail as a "Priority Peak" through their Find Your Fourteener Campaign designed to increase the pace and scale of 14er stewardship work. This project is a priority for the Pikes Peak Ranger District since Colorado 14ers are one of the top fifteen national priority areas defined by the U.S. Forest Service. According to the U.S. Forest Service the current unsustainable trail has a total deferred maintenance cost of approximately \$132,000. This figure does not include the anticipated average cost or routine maintenance which was estimated at \$1,898 per mile in 2019.

. List all approved internal master our outdoor recreation plans and/or any external area, regional, or statewide plans this project supports.

The project has the support of local and regional outdoor and environmental groups, including the U.S. Forest Service, Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA), Trails and Open Spaces Coalition (TOSC), City of Colorado Springs, City of Manitou Springs, El Paso County and Teller County. Additionally, the Devils Playground Reroute aligns perfectly with PPORA's Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative which is working to ensure that Colorado's public and private lands, waters, wildlife and communities thrive while providing for equitable access and quality outdoor recreation experiences.

AI TE A CE A D S STAI A ILIT

- A. Explain how the site will be maintained and monitored after the grant funded work is complete (operation and maintenance plans, future budgeting commitments, etc.)

While high alpine trail systems experience natural processes such as freeze-thaw, avalanches, and rock slides that often mandate annual maintenance, the expectation is that annual maintenance will not be required on a brand new trail that has been constructed using the most sustainable design practices. The reroute was designed to endure for decades, providing a recreational benefit now and into the future. While the sustainable design of the trail will drastically reduce maintenance needs, as with all trails, some routine maintenance will likely be required in the future. Routine maintenance of the trail after construction will fall to the U.S. Forest Service with support from partner organizations like Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI). Additionally, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) adopted Pikes Peak as a "Priority Peak", meaning the organization will work to support RMFI's efforts in completing and maintaining the project. The NFF has already contributed more than \$300,000 to the project and has been a steadfast partner in their support of RMFI.

Rocky Mountain Field Institute also completes annual monitoring visits at project locations to assess current conditions and future maintenance needs as well as monitors the trail counters for Devils Playground.

- . Describe the best management practices that will be used to construct the trail to ensure that the trail and its amenities will be sustainable.

The design and construction of the new Devils Playground Reroute adheres to Class II trail standards detailed in the U.S. Forest Service Trail Standards Handbook. The trail was specifically designed to ensure sustainability and longevity. With ever-dwindling resources, it was imperative to design and construct the trail in a manner that limited the need for annual maintenance. The U.S. Forest Service Fourteeners Program Manager, Loretta McElhiney has over three decades of experience designing and constructing 14er trails, and works closely with many partners in the design process to ensure a sustainable, environmentally conscious, and enjoyable trail alignment. The design informed the specific on the ground objectives, and a detailed set of construction notes was developed to guide all project objectives and implementation.

ILDLEAD AT RAL RESOURCES

- A. Describe how potential impacts to wildlife and natural resources were evaluated during the project scoping phase (using Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind, mapping tools, etc.). Include any positive impacts this work will showcase.

Prior to the start of trail construction in 2019, ecological specialists visited the project site to determine what impacts a new summit reroute might have on the natural resources of the area. While all specialists assured environmental compliance, there were significant findings - though no significant impacts. 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 2-year period, USFS personnel worked with CPW Wildlife Managers to ensure the new trail would have no discernible impacts to wildlife.

Additionally, botanical surveys were performed on the proposed reroute in 2017 in which ten rare plant species were located within the existing and proposed trail corridor. By designing routes on constructed (rather than user created) trails on the Fourteeners, impacts to alpine ecosystems can be avoided or minimized.

- . Describe any wildlife and natural resources issues raised by CPW staff during the application consultation.

No issues raised.

- C. Explain how potential wildlife and natural resource impacts will be avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated (trail realignment, seasonal closures (include dates), signage, gates, game cameras, etc.)

The Devils Playground Reroute Project considers conservation measures to protect the above mentioned species and the project will result in increased protection. Due to the current degraded condition of the summit route, users are spread out all over the northern slope of Pikes Peak causing widespread damage and disturbance to plants and wildlife. The new trail and subsequent restoration will further establish wildlife refuges on the Peak and help protect several endemic alpine species known solely from the Colorado alpine. Some of the most concentrated impacts in the alpine zone are on user-created trails accessing 14,000-foot peaks and the current trail continues to negatively impact alpine vegetation, including rare alpine plants. The Devils Playground Reroute will create a well defined and built trail minimizing and avoiding these sensitive areas.

P L I C E A E E T P A R T E R S I P S

A. Outline public engagement activities for this project (public meetings, comment periods, surveys, etc.)

The Devils Playground Reroute Project has followed all federal review processes, including necessary public engagement/involvement, prior to the initiation of the project in 2019. A final decision for the Devils Playground Trail Improvement Project was signed on December 20, 2018.

Public scoping and tribal consultation took place in October 2018. The scoping process consisted of placing a legal notice in the newspaper of record requesting input on the proposed action (the realignment of the Devils Playground Trail). Letters inviting comment were sent to interested and potentially affected parties, including adjacent landowners and other National Forest users. Tribal consultation was initiated in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. While the project followed all traditional public notification guidelines, RMFI has also utilized newer methods to broaden the awareness of our work and future projects, including website, blog, podcasts, social media postings and other media coverage.

. Describe any partnerships that will ensure the project's success (public agencies, conservation or recreation groups, local businesses, etc.)

The Devils Playground Trail project is a highly visible project in the community with many interested stakeholders, groups and individual community members. Primary partners of the Devils Playground Trail Improvement Project include the U.S. Forest Service, Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC), Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and the National Forest Foundation (NFF). Additional community-based partners include the Trails and Open Space Coalition, Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance, Colorado Mountain Club, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and Friends of the Peak.

C. Describe how potential opposition to this project or its implementation will be identified, addressed and managed.

Since the start of the Devils Playground Reroute Project, including 159 Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) Stewardship Crew workdays, 188 RMFI led Mile High Youth Corps work days, and 18 volunteer work days to date, RMFI crews and staff have had the opportunity to interface with the public in the popular Crags Campground and during project work many times. By and large, members of the public have provided exceptionally positive feedback, noting the poor conditions on the existing trail and how a reroute is much-needed.

To speak frankly, the only foreseen potential opposition to this project would be if we are not able to complete it.

DETAILED

- A. Describe the source of match for the project and when it will be secured. Include in-kind donations and partner contributions.

The U.S. Forest Service provides support (\$129,213.66) for the Devils Playground Reroute Project through funding obtained via the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). Rocky Mountain Field Institute also receives financial support for the project from Western Digital (\$10,000) and the City of Colorado Springs Lodgers, Automobile and Renters Tax (\$23,000). All required cash match is secured as of writing.

We are submitting a request for \$250,000 in eligible expenses that RMFI intends to use over the next two seasons with an additional \$162,214 in secured cash to cover additional project expenses, and \$37,434 in eligible in-kind that will be provided by contributions of volunteers.

- . Describe any consequences if this funding application is unsuccessful (loss of partner funds, staff capacity, expiration of surveys, etc.).

Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) serves a large number of projects in the southern portion of the state, especially in El Paso and Teller County. The Devils Playground Reroute is a large half-way completed project that the community supports and wants to see completed. Unfortunately, lack of funding for the project over the last couple of years has slowed work and meant that RMFI had to use funding reserved for other project in order to continue progress on this important reroute. Consequences of not receiving this funding are significant. RMFI hires staff in March for a busy season and plans to have 24+ weeks of work on this trail over the next two years. If funding is not secured work opportunities for our staff could be lost. Additionally, this project needs to move toward completion but the decreased funding support over the last few years is slowing the project and making the public ever more impatient. Last, RMFI does not have the financial capacity to carry this project through to completion without support from this grant opportunity.

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 Devils Playground Trail Reroute Project

Project Sponsor Rocky Mountain Field Institute

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 Forest 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-Devils 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:

[Redacted contact information]

Name: [Redacted]

Phone number: [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for 2026.

Land Manager's Name: Carl R. Bauer, District Ranger

Land Manager's Title: [Redacted]

Land Manager's Signature: [Redacted]

CARL BAUER

Digitally signed by CARL BAUER
Date: 2023.09.20 16:49:58 -06'00'

Project Budget

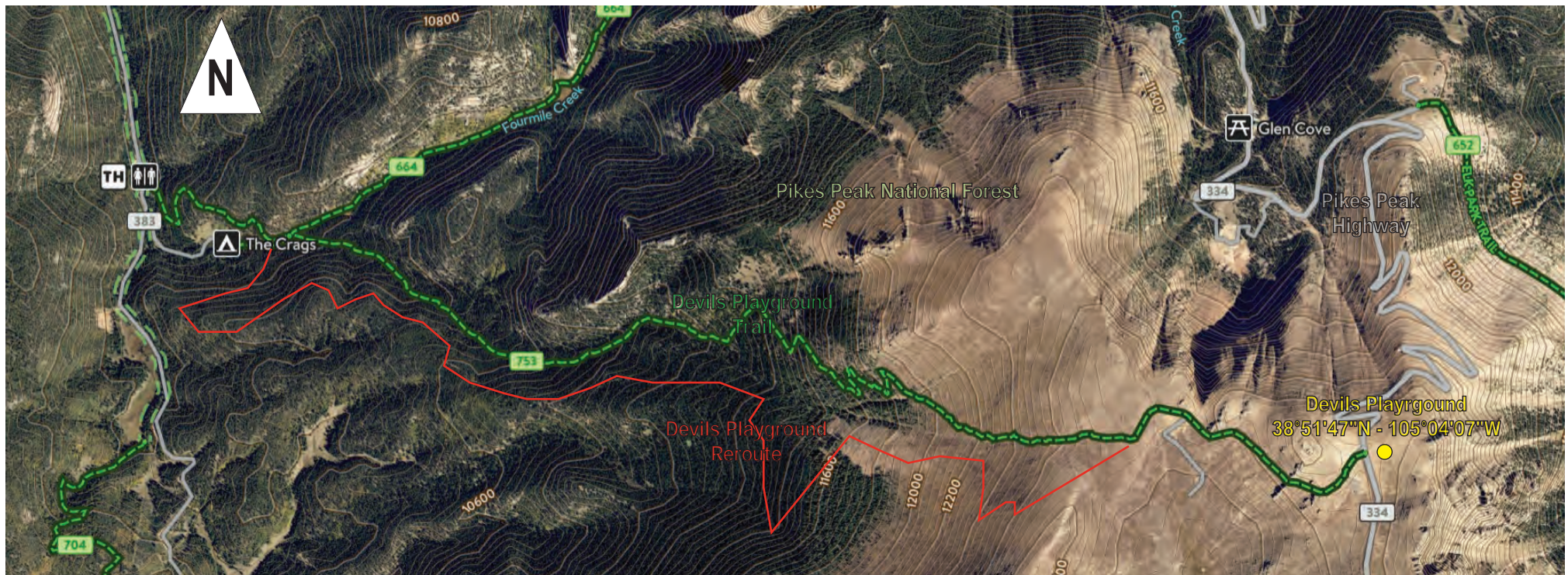
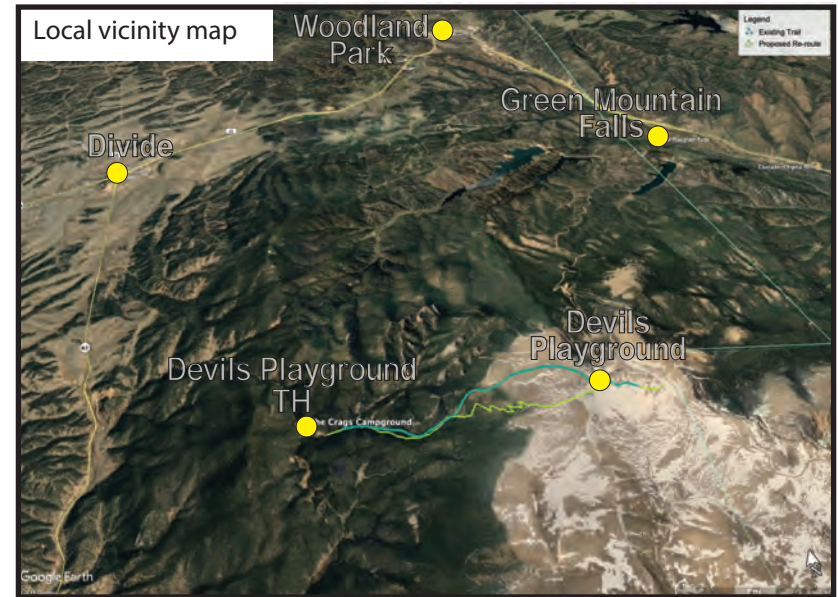
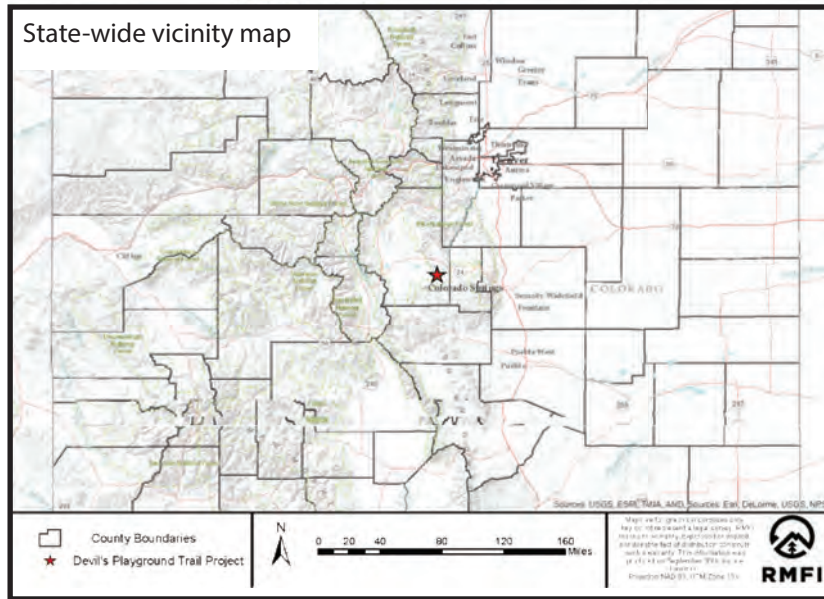


NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT

Project details				Match details			
CPW Grant #				Source of match	Type	Date available	Amount
Organization	Rocky Mountain Field Institute			Colorado Springs LART & Western Digital	Cash	Mar-24	\$ 33,000.00
Project title	Devils Playground Reroute			U.S. Forest Service GAOA Agreement	Cash	Sep-23	\$ 129,213.66
Grant Request (auto populates)	\$ 250,000.00			RMFI Volunteers	In-Kind	May-24	\$ 9,074.88
Local match	\$ 199,647.54	Min. Match	\$ 62,500.00	RMFI EarthCorps Volunteers	In-Kind	May-24	\$ 28,359.00
Project Total	\$ 449,647.54					Match Total	\$ 199,647.54

Description	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	CPW Grant	Local match	Balance
Contracted Services								
Mile High Youth Corps Crew for one season	6	WK	\$ 9,240.00	\$ 55,440.00	Cash		\$ 55,440.00	\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
Salary/Wages								
Record keeping, accounting, and reporting	250	HR	\$ 75.00	\$ 18,750.00	Cash	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 6,750.00	\$ -
Program Manager for two seasons	67	DY	\$ 300.00	\$ 20,100.00	Cash	\$ 10,100.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Program Director for two seasons	48	DY	\$ 450.00	\$ 21,600.00	Cash	\$ 11,600.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
RMFI Stewardship Crew for two seasons (7 ppl)	24	WK	\$ 11,097.88	\$ 266,349.12	Cash	\$ 200,597	\$ 65,752.32	\$ -
RMFI Staff leading MHYC for one season (4 ppl)	6	WK	\$ 4,847.56	\$ 29,085.36	Cash	\$ 14,814.02	\$ 14,271.34	\$ -
Materials/Supplies								
Tools (picks, paleos, McLeods, stakes, etc)	1	LS	\$ 444.59	\$ 444.59	Cash	\$ 444.59		\$ -
PPE (gloves, chaps, helmets, eye pro, etc)	1	LS	\$ 444.59	\$ 444.59	Cash	\$ 444.59		\$ -
Additional Categories								
RMFI Project Volunteers (12 people for 6 hours @ \$31.51/hr)	4	DY	\$ 2,268.72	\$ 9,074.88	In-Kind		\$ 9,074.88	\$ -
RMFI EarthCorps Volunteers (10 students for 10 hours @ 31.51/hr)	9	DY	\$ 3,151.00	\$ 28,359.00	In-Kind		\$ 28,359.00	\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
TOTAL				\$ 449,647.54		\$ 250,000.00	\$ 199,647.54	

Devils Playground Reroute Maps



Devils Playground Trail



Devils Playground Trail Cont'



Devils Playground Trail Cont'



Devils Playground Trail Cont'





File Code: 2350; 1580
Date: September 22, 2023

Colorado State Trails Program
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

Dear Colorado State Trails

This letter is presented in support of Rocky Mountain Field Institute's (RMFI) application for the State Trails Grant to support continued work on the Devils Playground Improvement Project. This challenging and highly technical project has been underway for several years and is planned to continue into 2026 if funding is provided. Pikes Peak, America's Mountain, is among the most visited 14ers in the state with over 500,000 people visiting the summit annually, annual visitation on the Devils Playground Trail is between 7,000-10,000 which demonstrates the popularity of the trail and the need for this project. The existing unsustainable trail was created by years of social use, currently aligns with the fall-line in many locations and lacks opportunities for the establishment of proper drainage. In fact, there are trail incisions up to four feet in some areas, both above and below tree line. Achieving a sustainable trail requires a multiyear effort that is responsive to local needs and opportunities. The USDA Forest Service has committed to the creation of a sustainable trail at Devils Playground by investing Great American Outdoors Act funds and congressionally appropriated funds to this effort.

RMFI's standalone stewardship crews along with RMFI led volunteer groups and Youth Corps crews will continue working to create a sustainable route to the summit of Pikes Peak, America's Mountain. This project not only supports the protection of fragile vegetation and wildlife, but also creates a safer and more enjoyable user experience.

RMFI engages the community and promotes local stewardship by collaborating with youth corps organizations and community volunteers to complete projects. The work that RMFI completes on our trails is impeccable, as they focus on creating sustainable trails while conserving and protecting public lands in Southern Colorado.

I am pleased to support the Devils Playground Improvement Project and hope you will see the importance of this project.

Sincerely,

X Carl R Bauer

Signed by: CARL BAUER

CARL R. BAUER
District Ranger

cc: jolie@rmfi.org





BUILDING 27, SUITE 3, FORT MISSOULA ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59804
TEL. 406.542.2805
NATIONALFORESTS.ORG

September 26, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado State Trails Program
c/o: Colorado Recreation Trails Committee & Staff
13787 U.S. HWY 85 N.
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Letter of support for the Devils Playground Reroute on Pikes Peak

Dear Trails Committee members and staff:

I am writing on behalf of the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to support the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) application for a non-motorized trail construction and re-route of the Devils Playground Trail to the summit of Pikes Peak. The NFF has witnessed the professionalism and diligence that RMFI exhibits since the initiation of this project and on many other projects such as Kit Carson and Broken Hand Pass through the Find Your 14ers Initiative.

In 2017, Pikes Peak was designated as a priority through the NFF's Find Your Fourteener Campaign. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has supported several priority peaks associated with this effort via grants to the NFF, RMFI, and Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI). The NFF, RMFI, CFI, and other partners have been able to leverage these grants to raise significant federal, corporate, and philanthropic funding.

We are grateful for CPW's critical support for America's Mountain through previous State Trails proposals, and kindly thank you for considering additional support. Work in 2024 and beyond will shift to completing more technical project objectives above tree line, including extensive rock structure construction and a full backcountry basecamp. For our part, the NFF will continue working with RMFI and other partners to seek funding for work on Pikes Peak and Colorado's other 14ers via the GOCO-supported Centennial Visioning Process for 14ers.

The NFF values community organizations and recognizes that building their capacity is key to stewardship of National Forests and Grasslands. In this context, the NFF is thrilled to partner with RMFI. Thank you for your consideration for RMFI's Devils Playground proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcus Selig".

Marcus Selig, Chief Conservation Officer
National Forest Foundation



August 25, 2022
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Trails Program
13787 U.S. Hwy 85 N.
Littleton, CO 80125

Re: State Trails Grant Program – Devil’s Playground Improvement Project

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is presented by the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA) in support of Rocky Mountain Field Institute’s application for a State Trails Grant for the Devil’s Playground Improvement Project. This project has been underway since 2019 and will continue into 2023 as crews work to create a shorter and less crowded route to the summit of Pikes Peak. This important trail will improve outdoor recreation on America’s Mountain, Pikes Peak, and make for a safer, more enjoyable user experience while protecting fragile vegetation and area wildlife.

PPORA is excited about the plan to complete not only the construction of the new Devil’s Playground re-route, but also the decommissioning and restoration of the old, unsustainable trail. The new trail connects to the popular Ring the Peak Trail – making it easier for outdoor enthusiasts to navigate the area and more appealing for hikers to experience this area. Rocky Mountain Field Institute engages the community by collaborating with local youth corps organizations and community volunteers to complete their projects. The work that RMFI does on our trails is impeccable, as they focus on creating sustainable trails for greater outdoor recreation opportunities.

As an organization focused on promoting outdoor recreation and to do so in a responsible way, we are pleased to support efforts such as the Devil’s Playground Improvement Project that will provide better, safer, and more sustainable 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 cursive script, reading "Becky Leinweber".

Becky Leinweber
Executive Director, Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance



702 E. Boulder St #200
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719.633.6884
info@trailsandopenspaces.org
www.trailsandopenspaces.org

*We advocate for the creation and conservation of interconnected network of trails,
parks and open spaces across the Pikes Peak region.*

To: State Trails Grant Committee
From: Trails and Open Space Coalition
Re: Devil's Playground Trail Improvement Project Proposal
September 29, 2023

Dear Committee Members,

For 35 years the Trails and Open Space Coalition has advocated for trail connectivity and open space preservation for the Pikes Peak region. Our members and partners look to us to be their voice on issues involving trails, parks and open spaces. We are using that voice today asking for your support.

We are delighted to support the Rocky Mountain Field Institute's request for additional financial consideration for this project. The Devil's Playground Trail is a very popular trail as it is one of only two trails leading to the summit of Pikes Peak. Overuse and neglect have led to severe degradation. RMFI is the appropriate organization to address this challenge and will continue to have our support in this endeavor. Failing to improve this trail will lead to greater degradation. We manage a regional volunteer calendar (Open Space Volunteers) that includes RMFI's work dates and will enthusiastically promote this project as it continues to improve the trail.

Our Ring the Peak Trail planning project (GOCO supported) was completed and we continue to pursue plan supported projects. RMFI just finished improving a portion of the RTP trail to Pancake Rocks. As Craggs Trail connects to the Ring the Peak Trail, your approval of this new proposal will improve trail connectivity on the west side of America's Mountain and indirectly impact the RTP Trail. Improving this trail is not an easy task. We are grateful RMFI is willing to take on the challenge and are grateful you have provided support for this project in the past. RMFI is uniquely qualified to improve this trail.

Addressing the needs of this trail will not only enhance the recreational experience for trail users but improve the conservation values of this neglected portion of Pike National Forest. The wildlife and vegetation in that area deserve better stewardship. Based on past projects I have no doubt RMFI and the volunteers they manage will do an exemplary job repairing the damaged trail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Davies

Susan Davies, Executive Director
Trails and Open Space Coalition

Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Rocky Mountain Field Institute

Project title Devils Playground Reroute

DOCUMENTS

PRE APPLICATION SEPTEMBER

D	S	S
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Scope of work	Applicant's own	PD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Project map	Applicant's own	PD

FINAL APPLICATION OCTOBER

D	S	S
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Application form	CP template	PD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Timeline	CP template	PD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Budget	CP template	unprotected excel file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Photographs maps	Applicant's own	Merged PD (5 pages max)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Letters of support	various	Merged PD (5 letters max)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8. Resolution	Applicant's own	Signed PD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9. Environmental forms	CP Template	Signed PD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10. Normal A or PA*	Federal Template	web link or PD

ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

- 11. Required match funding secured (including cash match funds)
- 12. Construction projects have been evaluated for permits and, if required, permits obtained.
- 13. Project area is owned by a public land agency or has an easement that designates the area be open to the public for at least 25 years.
- 14. Conservation/ Youth Corps or other organization will be used on the project.
Name of organization Mile High Youth Corps
- 15. Volunteers will be utilized on the project
Name of organization Rocky Mountain Field Institute

*Must be completed prior to application presentations in January.