

Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - PLANNING

PROJECT BASICS

Title Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project

Type Construction Planning
 Maintenance Support

Phased project Yes No If yes, Phase # 1 of 3+

Brief summary

To study full trail connectivity between Durango, Mancos, Cortez, Rico, and Dolores, providing the missing links between towns and promoting off-highway continuity for our region.

Grant request	\$ 44,995.33	Grant ratio ¹	80 %
Match	\$ 11,248.00	Match ratio	20 %
Total	\$ 56,244.00	Total	100 %

APPLICANT

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

Organization Durango Trails

Postal address PO Box 3868

City Durango State CO ZIP Code 81302

General email info@durangotrails.org UEI # QPY1JJTHGDM1

Lead contact Mary Monroe Brown Title Executive Director

Telephone (970) 259-4682 Email mary@durangotrails.org

Project manager TJ Hillinger Title Fundraising Officer

Telephone (301) 213-3179 Email tjhillinger@durangotrails.org

PARTNER OR CO-SPONSOR

Organization N/A

Postal address

City State CO ZIP Code

Contact name Title

Telephone Email

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

PROPERTY

Nearest town or city	Durango	County	La Plata
Latitude/Longitude	37.45438°, -108.237504°	Congressional district	3
Name of property owner	NA - project is study of potential corridors		
Trail Corridor controlled by	<input type="checkbox"/> Fee simple	<input type="checkbox"/> Lease	<input type="checkbox"/> Easement
	<input type="checkbox"/> License	<input type="checkbox"/> ROW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Study of ownership

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 type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snow sports (non-motorized)
	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: E-bikes and ADA Accessible will be evaluated as part of the study.		
Estimate percentage by type (e.g.,) 50% hiking, etc.	50% walk, 45% bike, 5% equestrian		
Surface	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Study will identify best surface option.		
Size of new trailhead (sq. ft.)	na	Length of trail being planned	75+ miles
Length of new trail construction ²	pending	Length of trail maintenance	
Length of inter-connecting trail	pending	Length of trail reroute	
Length of decommissioned trail	pending	Length of restored trail	
Length of trail to be signed	pending	Length of trail grooming	
Other:			
Estimated amount of paid crew hours:	Grant na	Match:	na

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	<i>Mary Monroe</i>	Date	10/02/2023
Name	Mary Monroe	Title	Director

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

RESOLUTION 2023-1

Resolution to Endorse Durango Trails' Grant Proposal for Phase 1 of the Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors for Durango Trails supports Durango Trails' 2023 Non-Motorized Trails Grant application for the Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project. Phase 1 of the project is the pursuit of a planning grant to launch planning and will outline the initial scope of understanding to identify the overall viability and challenges of the project. The goal of the project is to envision a regional trails system that will connect the local communities of Rico, Dolores, Mancos, Cortez, and Durango.

WHEREAS, Durango Trails is requesting **\$45,000** from CPW's 2024 Non-Motorized State Trails Grant Program.

WHEREAS, if the grant is awarded, the Board supports the completion of the project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE DURANGO TRAILS BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT:

1. The Board of Directors for Durango Trails supports the grant proposal and, if awarded, ensures timely completion of all elements of the proposal.
2. The Board has appropriated matching funds needed for a grant with CPW's State Trails Program.
3. The Board authorizes expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of any grant awarded.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON: Sept 11, 2023

APPROVED BY: Chrisina Rinderle

Signed: Chrisina Rinderle, Board President

Durango Trails Board of Directors

Timeline

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION



PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Durango Trails

Project title Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project

TASK <small>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</small>	Dates*	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Project Start	X						
RFP for Consultant	X						
Proposal Review/Consultant Hired		X					
Regional Partners Summit for Project Kick Off		X					
Consultant - initial mapping phase		X	X				
Land Manager Discussions		X	X	X			
Inventory of Resources		X	X	X			
Community Input - Public Survey			X	X	X		
Site Visit(s)			X	X	X		
Corridor Opportunity Identification					X		
Incorporation of Public feedback					X	X	
Review of Proposed Corridors/Refine Maps						X	
Final Report and Maps Delivered						X	
Regional Partners Discussion/Vision of Phase 2							X
Budget and outline for phase 2							X
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 - PLANNING

Organization Durango Trails

Project title Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project

1. PROJECT NEED

15 points

- A. Give a detailed description of the project, including information such as trail system improvements, trail development, amenities, and other recreation opportunities.

The Southwest Regional Trails Connector project is a collaborative effort convening high-level stakeholders to envision a regional transportation and trail system connecting the local communities of Durango, Mancos, Cortez, Rico, and Dolores. US Highway 160 is a busy road and major tourist path, lacking any safe off-highway travel option. This project will harness the potential of connectivity to surrounding communities to improve economic impact to rural areas and elevate the physical, mental, and social well-being for residents. The project goal is to create connectivity around the missing links between the Paths to Mesa Verde (chosen by Governor Hickenlooper in 2016 as a Colorado the Beautiful Project) and Durango's SMART 160 project. This connectivity would ultimately provide a full regional opportunity covering Mancos to Lightner Creek and Mancos to Dolores to Rico.

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

The time is right to move forward on this long-envisioned project which was highlighted in the 2000 LaPlata County trails plan. In addition: 1) There is momentum around regional trail connectivity - we can build on the excitement around Paths to Mesa Verde and similar regional and state projects to create safe connectivity options. 2) Outdoor recreation needs are growing, along with tourism and new residents to the area. Planning for future connectivity in the busy corridor helps address the needs of these current and future users. 3) There is a clear link between outdoor recreation opportunities and economic development, and a high level of focus on how to bring these opportunities to rural areas that need them. 4) We have the spark and the vision, partners lined up to support the project, and strong interest in determining feasibility.

- C. Describe how issues such as existing trail system management, wildlife and natural resource conservation, new trail development, and long-term maintenance will be addressed during this process.

The planning project will address the early stages of trail feasibility by identifying potential corridors. As with all new initiatives, Durango Trails approaches efforts collaboratively and in partnership with key stakeholders: land managers, CPW, experts in the field, and more. Wildlife and natural resource conservation will be prioritized very early in planning to ensure sensitive areas are avoided if at all possible. Should the project come to fruition, Durango Trails will utilize best practices applied similarly to managed trail areas to ensure long-term success and sustainability of the project and will communicate regularly with CPW. In addition, public communication and education will foster a sense of stewardship for land and trails considered in the project.

2. COMMUNITY BENEFIT

15 points

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

The Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project will bring substantial benefits to the rural communities of La Plata County (pop. 56,000) and Montezuma County (pop. 26,300). Access to trails promotes health benefits, both physical and mental. While much of the in-town community of Durango has quick access to trails, those living in more remote areas along 160 and north from Mancos towards Rico do not yet have readily available access. In addition, there is a clear link to increased safety when communities push to add off-road paths and lanes. Residents in these communities will gain a valuable alternative for transportation and recreation, filling a gap that currently exists.

Safety, health, and economic development in rural communities is of paramount importance, and the connectivity provided by this project plays a significant role in fostering sustainability. A Headwaters Economics study highlights the pivotal role of recreation in rural development as it diversifies the economy, attracts new residents and workers, and retains a workforce.

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

Within the 160 corridor, a safe and secure off-highway option for travel from Lightner Creek to Mancos or from Mancos to Rico does not currently exist. Residents in these areas must use a vehicle or walk/bike on a busy highway to access established trail systems for recreational purposes. This project will bring our region closer to the widely-recognized objective of the outdoor industry: to have a trail accessible within a 10-minute radius of every home. Indeed, the CPW Statewide Trails Strategic Plan highlights that everyone in Colorado should have easy access to a trail, park, or open space. Trails inherently foster social, racial, gender, and economic equity.

Overall, one primary objective of this project is to diminish deficits in nature accessibility. Our goal is to create an equitable future where everyone can enjoy the outdoors and access nature regardless of skill, place of residence, financial means, or transportation access, thereby breaking down these traditional barriers.

- 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.

This exciting project promotes recreational opportunities for multiple user groups: cyclists, pedestrians, hikers, equestrians, and more - both users recreating on the path to enjoy other areas, and those using the easy access as recreation and transportation in itself.

Much of the population of local counties (85,000) will be in range of full connectivity for the region. The 2023 OIA Outdoor Participation Trends report indicates that 55% of the overall population participates in outdoor recreation - and that percentage is far higher in Colorado. If we apply even the lower overall metric to our population counts, those with access to the trail could number 45,000 or more, not counting new users inspired by easier and safer access. In addition, the Regional Trails Connector Project will provide additional opportunities for one million plus tourists that visit the region each year, many of whom come for outdoor recreation.

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

10 points

- A. Give a detailed description of who will oversee the planning process. Include any pertinent information such as survey needs, facilitation processes and consultant information.

Durango Trails provides the initiative and spark behind the project and will oversee the planning and implementation process. We will create a collaborative planning effort by bringing together the key stakeholders of the Regional Trails Coalition at important milestones and decision points.

Much of the on the ground work will be performed by experienced consultants. Durango Trails will request a proposal from OTAK, who is well established in the local community and played a lead role on related projects like Paths to Mesa Verde, SMART160, and the Animas River Trail. OTAK also provided the estimated budget for this proposal.

- B. 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.

Durango Trails has not received CPW State Trails funding. Below is a list of recent grants:

- 1) CPW Partners in Outdoors Grant - Awarded 2017 - to create and enhance our partnerships with our land managers by working together on creative messaging to educate trail users - Amount: \$2,000
- 2) GOCO Stewardship Fund - Awarded 2021 - Joint grant managed by City of Durango for Durango Trails, BLM, City, Conservation Corp - Amount: \$50,000 in 2021-2022
- 3) Visit Durango - Awarded 2023 - Stewardship Strike Team - to fund a crew specifically to address trail maintenance needs above and beyond our annual work plan - Amount: \$15,000
- 4) LPEA Round Up Foundation - Awarded 2018, 2023 - for Volunteer Program - Amount: \$3,000

In addition, Durango Trails received general operating support grants from the Ballantine Foundation for all years going back to 2016 (\$2,000). We received general operating support from El Pomar Foundation in 2019 (\$5,000).

4. PLANNING **10 points**

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

The history of this project is rich and far-reaching. Regional connectivity has been a longstanding focus for Durango Trails. In fact, connectivity was emphasized as Trails 2000 spearheaded efforts for the La Plata County Trails Plan in 2000, and major projects stemmed from that initial work. In 2016, Durango Trails held a land summit to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its founding. In 2017, through a series of community meetings, public opinion surveys, and input from key stakeholders, regional connectivity rose to the top and further solidified this goal, which was formalized in the Durango Trails master plan and adopted in that same year.

Through this time, two major and key projects - Paths to Mesa Verde and Smart 160 - have moved through various stages of planning, design, and construction. These projects conceptually cover Cortez to Mancos, and Lightner Creek to Three Springs. While overall construction is not complete, the vision to fill in the missing links for full connectivity from Three Springs to Cortez, and north to Rico, became a priority in the Durango Trails master plan. To this day, additional pieces are still in planning/design, illustrating the need for long-term vision and an organization like Durango Trails to initiate the collaboration and assembly of partners to turn the vision into reality. The final spark in the planning process has been the change in the outdoor recreation world, and our region specifically, since COVID. The surge in trail users and tourists accelerated the need to make this component of the master plan a reality. The Regional Trails Coalition formed in 2022 when key stakeholders came together to formalize the vision, generate excitement and buy in, and form a partnership to allow planning to move to the next stage.

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

Below are internal and external area plans that this project supports:

1) 2000 La Plata County Trails Plan - initial concept of connectivity prioritized for region.

2) 2017 Trails 2000 (now Durango Trails) Master Plan - The master plan created a goal to improve connectivity, with three sub goals:

- a) Connect existing trail systems together using pathways, trails, and roads.
- b) Build trail extensions that establish better connectivity and expand route options.
- c) Build trail links that allow continuous trail access from town to backcountry trails.

Specifically, the master plan proposed the goal of total connectivity, aiming to connect towns to each other through paved roads, paths, singletrack and old logging road and railroad. This goal includes connecting specialty sub areas (Phil's World, Montezuma Railroad extension, etc).

3) Durango Trails 2020-2023 Strategic Plan - 2023 objectives included working with Regional Partners on connectivity.

4) 2016-2026 Colorado Statewide Trails Strategic Plan and specifically, but not limited to, the following objectives: (1.1) correcting gaps in how trails serve the public, (1.2) ensuring the trail system allows Coloradans to experience the state's diverse landscape in a variety of ways, (1.3) emphasize sustainable trails that protect the environment, sensitive species and wildlife habitat, (3.3) improve awareness of the essential benefits of trails: health, economics, quality of life, environmental benefits.

5. OUTCOME

10 points

- A. Describe the deliverables for the project and the anticipated timeline of the planning process and potential implemetation.

The final outcome and deliverables of this project will promote collaboration and a forward-looking approach to ignite the next phase of planning. These deliverables are:

- 1) A final report recommending primary corridor and alternate corridors, prioritizing options that will maximize the trail on public lands and will avoid sensitive wildlife areas.
- 2) Overview maps to provide regional partners with tools and preliminary information to reach out in each community to begin the second phase of work: order of magnitude design cost, and grade of difficulty analysis.
- 3) Public outreach will provide an updated pulse on public opinion around regional connectivity.
- 4) Cost and outline for a full design/build study.

The planning process kicks off with consultant selection and a Regional Partners Summit to bring key stakeholders into alignment (Late Spring/Early Summer 2024). After the initial steps, the consultant will begin work including initial mapping, land manager discussions, site visits, and inventory of resources based on the information provided (Summer 2024). Durango Trails and the regional partners will begin public outreach in Winter 2024. Following the on the ground work through Spring 2025, the consultant will then synthesize the findings to move on to the initial phase of final deliverables. This involves a review of mapping and property ownership to identify opportunities within and outside of the US 160 corridor and with emphasis on public land, with additional coordination with land managers, CPW, and other key stakeholders. From July to September 2025 the team and key stakeholders will review proposed corridors, refine maps, and analyze and incorporate community feedback as needed. By the end of this window, we anticipate the final report and delivery of maps.

- B. List (in bulleted form) and provide a brief description of each: Objectives, Tasks/Project Milestones, End product and/or deliverables.

Objectives

- 1) Move Regional Trails Connector Project into initial planning phase
- 2) Provide high-level understanding through mapping of corridor options in survey area
- 3) Promote collaboration and implementation of vision between the Regional Partners
- 4) Provide clear plan for launch of design/build through cost estimates and project outline

Tasks/Project Milestones (dates listed in timeline form)

- 1) Send RFP to finalize consultant, consultant hired
- 2) Project Kick off - Regional Partners summit
- 3) Public Survey - updating the community feedback on trail connectivity
- 4) Consultant kicks off mapping, meets with land managers, inventory of resources, site visits
- 5) Public feedback incorporated into planning phase
- 6) Review of proposed corridors with Regional Partners, refinement of proposal
- 7) Final report and maps
- 8) Vision and Launch of Phase 2

End Productive/Deliverables

- 1) Potential primary corridor and alternate corridors presented through a report and maps, prioritizing options that will maximize the trail on public lands and avoid sensitive wildlife areas.
- 2) Updated Public Opinion survey on prioritization of Regional Trail Connectivity.
- 3) Cost and outline for design/build. This lays the groundwork for the next phase of funding by outlining a clear road map to begin initial property owner engagement, accurate Right of Way/ownership based initial corridors, detailed environmental mapping, and public meetings.

6. WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**15 points**

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

Durango Trails prioritizes trail development and alignment that avoids, minimizes, and mitigates impacts to wildlife. We will adhere to the standards of Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind. First and foremost, the process of identifying potential corridors will involve a core team including land managers and CPW staff, alongside our consultant, to avoid sensitive habitats. In the proposed scope, inventory of resources will identify considerations through desktop analysis and discussions with the core team. After site visits and additional review, proposed trail corridors will be developed with these sensitive areas in mind.

In addition, one added intention of this project is to move more motorists off the road when multi-modal transport becomes a safe option on the 160 corridor. Not only are wildlife vehicle collisions [WVCs] a major concern for wildlife conservation, they also pose a serious concern for traffic and human safety.

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

Given the scope of the project and goal to identify corridors that incorporate CPW feedback, no specific wildlife and natural resources issues have been raised. It is our expectation that significant discussion in the initial scope of understanding will outline issues to inform future corridor options.

- 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.)

Potential impacts to wildlife and natural resources will play a key role in the initial corridors identified for in-depth study. In addition, Durango Trails plays an active role in publicizing sensitive areas and seasonal closures related to our current maintenance region. Seasonal closures are publicized through the popular Trail Conditions page, social media, our e-newsletter, and weekly PSAs on local radio. If and when this regional trail comes to fruition, we will apply the same method of messaging and outreach to ensure closures are adhered to and overall impact is minimized.

7. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS**15 points**

- A. Describe efforts you will undertake to engage the public, especially the community served by the project (number of meetings held, public comments, citizen surveys, etc.) through this grant.

Engaging our local communities is a crucial aspect of ensuring the project's success and relevance. Through this project, we will undertake several efforts to achieve meaningful public engagement. These efforts include community surveys, summits and discussions with key stakeholders, and extensive use of the Durango Trails and regional partners social media and other online platforms. In addition, analysis and incorporation of the feedback is a critical element to inform decisions in the process.

Building on the 2016-2017 public engagement efforts provides a valuable foundation for the current project's public engagement strategy. Here is a phased plan that outlines the methods and tiers of engagement:

Phase 1: Identify the correct process for public engagement by reviewing 2017 engagement, case studies of similar projects, and engaging high-level stakeholders.

Phase 2: Survey and preliminary feedback: refresh survey, analyze results to assess the current level of community support and identify any specific areas of concern.

- B. Include how stakeholders (public agencies, conservation/stewardship/recreational groups, community organizations, school, and/or local businesses) will be identified and involved in the planning process.

Durango Trails leadership gathered the following key stakeholders for pre-planning meetings: Mancos Trails, Rico Trails, Southwest Colorado Cycling Association, and Montezuma County. At the start of the project, Durango Trails will collaborate with area partners to host a summit to bring the full team into alignment on the process and outcome. Over the project term we have identified additional opportunities for buy-in, decision making, and sharing of information. In addition, we will request input from organizations with shared interests including but not limited to: Four Corners Backcountry Horsemen, local youth cycling groups, Fort Lewis College, Bicycle Colorado, Seniors Outdoors, and more.

We look forward to frequent and ongoing engagement with our partners at Colorado Parks and Wildlife. CPW has already provided extensive support on the grant and will be involved throughout the process to ensure the project is aligned with best practices for wildlife and natural resources while balancing goals for transportation and outdoor recreation.

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

When it comes to new paths and trails, opposition is always a possibility. First and foremost, the process of identifying potential corridors will prioritize public lands as much as possible. In addition, we will present corridor opportunities as very clearly preliminary, and they will not be presented for public consumption until later phases of the project after successful land owner conversations.

In addition, following the path of communication of other similar projects will allow us to avoid obvious pitfalls and miscommunication, especially in the very early stages of planning.

To identify opposition, the regional partners must keep an eye and ear out in all possible venues - social media and website feedback, verbal and written communication, and even feedback generated in both user and non-user groups. By applying the survey to non-user groups we will identify opposition and understand core issues to address concerns before they become insurmountable.

8. BUDGET AND FUNDING**10 points**

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

Durango Trails will source the project match through annual revenue, produced primarily by individual members, major donors, corporate contributions, and our annual auction event. The approximately \$11,000 cash match is currently available and will be earmarked in our 2024 budget should the grant be awarded.

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

We are truly grateful for the work of CPW and the State Trails Program. This planning grant opportunity is the best fit to move forward a regionally important project that has been in discussion for many years and will meet several key goals for the State, for CPW, for Durango Trails, and for our regional partners. Should the funding application be unsuccessful, we will use feedback to adjust our proposal and turn to other grant opportunities which will mean a delay in implementation, or a scaling down of scope. But we will not lose faith in the project.

Durango Trails is galvanizing a trail movement to inspire our regional communities to look at our rural areas as recreational opportunities and economic drivers with connectivity between them. These trails will create pathways for safe travel while promoting access to nature and mitigating nature deficits. We have the interest, the experience, partners on board, a collaborative environment, and the momentum to move this project ahead. A successful application is the key ingredient to bring this vision to life.

Thank you for your time and interest in this project.

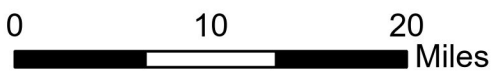
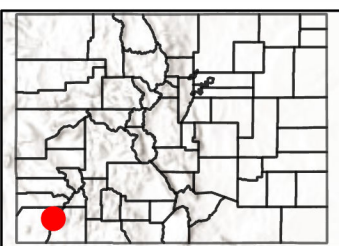
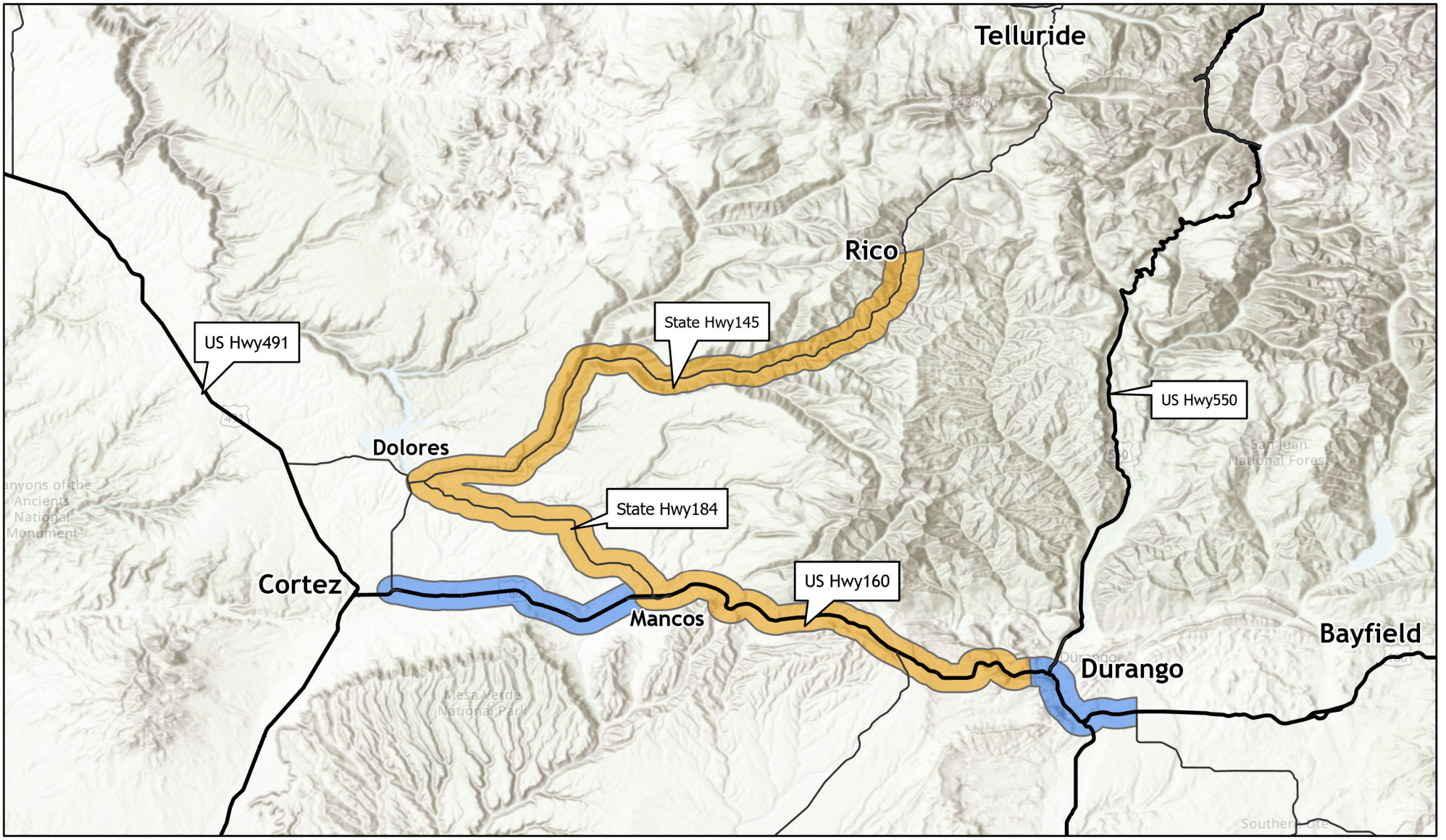


Project Budget

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT

Project details					Match details				
CPW Grant #					Source of match	Type	Date available	Amount	
Organization	Durango Trails				Durango Trails	Cash	Currently	\$ 11,248.83	
Project title	Southwest Regional Trails Connector								
Grant Request (auto populates)	\$	44,995.33							
Local match	\$	11,248.83	Min. Match	\$ 11,248.83					
Project Total	\$	56,244.16					Match Total	\$ 11,248.83	
Description	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	CPW Grant	Local match	Balance	
Contracted Services									
Contractor - Assemble GIS property lines/LiDAR	44	HR	\$ 123.00	\$ 5,412.00	Cash	\$ 4,329.60	\$ 1,082.40	\$ -	
Contractor - Meeting with land managers (3)	16	HR	\$ 253.00	\$ 4,048.00	Cash	\$ 3,238.40	\$ 809.60	\$ -	
Contractor - Inventory of Resources	56	HR	\$ 151.00	\$ 8,456.00	Cash	\$ 6,764.80	\$ 1,691.20	\$ -	
Contractor - Site Visit(s)	48	HR	\$ 260.42	\$ 12,500.16	Cash	\$ 10,000.13	\$ 2,500.03	\$ -	
Contractor - Corridor opportunity identification	120	HR	\$ 181.50	\$ 21,780.00	Cash	\$ 17,424.00	\$ 4,356.00	\$ -	
Contractor - Budget estimate for Phase 2	16	HR	\$ 253.00	\$ 4,048.00	Cash	\$ 3,238.40	\$ 809.60	\$ -	
Salary/Wages									
				\$ -				\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
Materials/Supplies									
				\$ -				\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
Additional Categories									
				\$ -				\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
				\$ -				\$ -	
TOTAL				\$ 56,244.16		\$ 44,995.33	\$ 11,248.83		

Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project-Statewide, Regional, and Project Vicinity Map



Legend

- Proposed Study Area
- Current Trail Projects

Project Center Point:
Latitude: 37.45438
Longitude: -108.237504

* Note each buffer is 1 mile on either side of the highway centerline per CDOT data



*Promoting outstanding trail
experiences in the Mancos
Valley*

2023.08.30

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 81216

Dear Grant Review Committee,

Mancos Trails Group (MTG) is working in partnership with other trail organizations in Southwest Colorado on the Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project. Durango Trails is heading up the project for us, and MTG supports their application for a Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trail Planning Grant. Funds from this grant will launch the first phase of regional planning and will outline the initial scope of understanding to identify the overall viability and challenges of the project.

The overall goal of the project is to develop a regional trails system to connect the local communities of Durango, Mancos, Cortez, Rico, and Dolores. In the first phase the Southwest Regional Trails Connector project will study connectivity between the existing Paths to Mesa Verde project (Cortez to Mancos) and the Smart 160 project (Smart, Multi Modal Regional Trail project by the City of Durango) connecting Durango to Three Springs, thereby providing the missing links between existing projects and promoting off highway continuity for our entire region.

Mancos Trails Group represents non-motorized trail users in the Mancos Valley and currently counts over 1000 local residents and trail users as members and supporters. As such MTG is very focused on helping to provide the best recreation experience for non-motorized trail users, and supports the vision of this project.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife funding will be a critical first step in launching this regionally important project. Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of Mancos Trails Group, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for Phase 1 of the Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project.

Sincerely,

DK Hoffheins

Donald K Hoffheins
MTG Board Chair

For more information, see Mancos Trails Group website at: <http://www.mancostrails.org>



August 27, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 81216

Re: CPW Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program Funding
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TRAILS CONNECTOR PROJECT

Dear CPW Grant Committee:

Rico Trails Alliance was formed in 2017 in order to establish and maintain Rico's regional trail system in collaboration with our sister organizations, local governments and state and federal agencies. We have worked closely with the Town of Rico, Southwest Colorado Cycling Association and the US Forest Service to develop a non-motorized trail system connecting the Colorado Trail to the Town of Rico, with funding raised in part from the National Forest Foundation. We are currently working with the Forest Service on a categorical exclusion that would enable a non-motorized trail extending from the Town of Rico 4.7 miles south to the Montezuma/Dolores county line on the historic Rio Grande Southern railroad grade. We believe that an important next step is a comprehensive regional plan to more closely coordinate our efforts with other trail organizations in southwestern Colorado.

Accordingly, we strongly support Durango Trails', efforts and their request for a CPW Non-Motorized Trail Planning Grant for the SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TRAILS CONNECTOR PROJECT. This initial effort will launch the first phase of planning, namely: establishing the initial project scope; and identifying the overall viability and challenges of the project.

The ultimate goal is to build a regional trails system to connect the communities of Durango, Mancos, Cortez, Rico, and Dolores. The SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TRAILS CONNECTOR PROJECT will study connectivity between the existing "Paths to Mesa Verde" project (connecting Cortez to Mancos) and the

City of Durango's "Smart 160" project (the Smart, Multi Modal Regional Trail connecting Durango and Three Springs). The SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TRAILS CONNECTOR PROJECT will provide the information needed to address the missing links between existing projects and promote off-highway continuity for our entire region.

CPW funding will be a critical first step in launching this regionally important project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Ostrem". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Jim Ostrem, Vice President
Rico Trails Alliance



Board of County Commissioners
Marsha Porter-Norton, Chair
Matt Salka, Vice Chair
Clyde Church, Commissioner

ACCOUNTABILITY · INTEGRITY · RESPECT

1101 East 2nd Ave
Durango, CO 81301
970-382-6219

September 12, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 81216

Dear Grant Review Committee:

The La Plata County Board of County Commissioners is pleased to support Durango Trails' request for a Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Non-Motorized Trail Planning Grant, which will launch the first phase of planning and outline the initial scope of understanding to identify the overall viability and challenges of the Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project.

The goal of the project is to create a regional trails system to connect the local communities of Durango, Mancos, Cortez, Rico and Dolores. The Southwest Regional Trails Connector project will study connectivity between the existing Paths to Mesa Verde Project (Cortez to Mancos) and the Smart 160 Project (Smart, Multi Modal Regional Trail project by the City of Durango) connecting Durango to Three Springs, thereby providing the missing links between existing projects and promoting off highway continuity for our entire region.

This project will encourage collaboration and connection between our rural communities and provide shared economic benefits. In addition, completing a non-motorized trail to connect the US Highway 160 corridor will reduce the chances of human-vehicle collisions to improve safety.

CPW funding will be a critical first step in launching this regionally important project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

LA PLATA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Marsha Porter-Norton
Chair

Matt Salka
Vice Chair

Clyde Church
Commissioner



County Commissioners:

Jim Candelaria
Kent Lindsay
Gerald Koppenhafer

County Administrator:

Travis Anderson

Board of County Commissioners

109 West Main, Room 302

Cortez, CO 81321

(970) 565-8317

(970) 565-3420 Fax

September 12, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 81216

Dear Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of Montezuma County, we are pleased to submit this letter of support for Phase 1 of the Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project. We support Durango Trails' request for a CPW Non-Motorized Trail Planning Grant, which will launch the first phase of planning and will outline the initial scope of understanding to identify the overall viability and challenges of the project.

The goal of the project is to envision a regional trails system to connect the local communities of Durango, Mancos, Cortez, Rico, and Dolores. The Southwest Regional Trails Connector project will study connectivity between the existing Paths to Mesa Verde project (Cortez to Mancos) and the Smart 160 project (Smart, Multi Modal Regional Trail project by the City of Durango) connecting Durango to Three Springs, thereby providing the missing links between existing projects and promoting off highway continuity for our entire region.

Montezuma County supports the vision of this project. A regional, interconnected trail network is an important part of the States' multimodal transportation system. Once complete, the system will provide a safer transportation option to both commuters and recreationalist.

CPW funding will be a critical first step in launching this regionally important project. Thank you for your consideration.

The Montezuma County Board of County Commissioners


Jim Candelaria


Kent Lindsay


Gerald Koppenhafer



September 14, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 81216

Dear Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of Southwest Colorado Cycling Association (SWCCA), I am pleased to submit this letter of support for Phase 1 of the Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project. We support Durango Trails' request for a CPW Non-Motorized Trail Planning Grant, which will launch the first phase of planning and will outline the initial scope of understanding to identify the overall viability and challenges of the project.

The goal of the project is to envision a regional trails system to connect the local communities of Durango, Mancos, Cortez, Rico, and Dolores. The Southwest Regional Trails Connector project will study connectivity between the existing Paths to Mesa Verde project (Cortez to Mancos) and the Smart 160 project (Smart, Multi Modal Regional Trail project by the City of Durango) connecting Durango to Three Springs, thereby providing the missing links between existing projects, and promoting off highway continuity for our entire region.

Southwest Colorado Cycling Association (SWCCA) supports the vision of this project and has been a strong supporter of the Paths to Mesa Verde project. We also spearheaded and completed the Black Goat trail which links the Town of Dolores to the Boggy Draw trail system. We are actively involved with the trails and trail systems in Montezuma County, and we recognize the need for connections that provide an alternative route to highways and high traffic county roads to our public lands and trail systems. These connectors increase safety, encourage active lifestyles, and hold additional value when applied to the youth in our rural communities.

CPW funding will be a critical first step in launching this regionally important project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dani Gregory".

Dani Gregory
SWCCA President
970-749-1060
dani@icnolimits.com
swcca@swcocycling.com

Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – PLANNING OR SUPPORT

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Durango Trails

Project title Southwest Regional Trails Connector Project

DOCUMENTS

PRE-APPLICATION - SEPTEMBER

Document	Source	Submission format
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Scope of work	Applicant's own	PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Project map	Applicant's own	PDF

FULL APPLICATION - OCTOBER

Document	Source	Submission format
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Application form	CPW template	PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Timeline	CPW template	PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Budget	CPW template	Unprotected Excel file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Photographs & maps	Applicant's own	Merged PDF (5 pages max)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Letters of support	Various	Merged PDF (5 letters max)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8. Resolution	Applicant's own	Signed PDF

ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

9. Required match funding secured (including cash match funds)
10. Conservation/Youth Corps or other organization will be used on the project.
Name of organization:
11. Volunteers will be utilized on the project
Name of organization: