NW-M

COLORADO Parks and Wildlife Department of Natural Resources

# 2023-2024 Off-Highway Vehicle Program State Trail Grant Application

Name of Project: Sand Wash Trailhead		Date of Application: 11/19/22				
(Please limit t	he project name to 5 w	vords or less)				
Total Project Cost: \$593,100		Grant R	equest: \$250,000			
(round off to the nearest \$1)		Amount R	equested (round off to the nearest \$1) must match the Project Budget Form.			
PROJECT SPONSOR (Nam	me and Address for	entity legally r	esponsible for project)			
Organization Name: Bureau	of Land Managem	nent				
Mailing Address: 455 Emers	son St Craig, Color	rado 81625				
	the set of		Fax:			
Telephone: 9	70-826-5008	lind her a	Email: wnpatterson@blm.gov			
OFFICIAL USE ONLY - DU	NS # (IF REQUIRE	ED):				
PROJECT CONTACT			bility for the managing the project, ensuring the lease notify us if <i>Project Contact</i> changes.			
Name: Whit Patterson		1	Title: Outdoor Recreation Planner			
Mailing Address: 455 Emers	on St Craig, Colora	ado 81625				
Telephone: 970-826-5008	Fax:		Email: wnpatterson@blm.gov			
			Is this the primary contact for this grant: YES			
PROJECT CLOSE-OUT CC			le for submitting receipts for project spending and notify us if <i>Project Contact</i> changes.			
Name: Whit Patterson		Title: Outdoor Recreation Planner				
Mailing Address: 455 Emers	on St Craig, Colora	ado 81625				
Telephone: 970-826-5008	Fax:	late or	Email: wnpatterson@blm.gov			
GRANTS & AGREEMENTS	SPECIALIST (US	SFS only)	or BUDGET CONTACT (BLM only)			
Name: Valerie Baxter			Title: Assistant Field Office Manager			
Mailing Address: 455 Emers	on St Craig, Colora	ado 81625	12.14			
	-		E			
Telephone: (970) 826-5099	Fax:		Email: vbaxter@blm.gov			

132	•	M-MN					
	PROJECT LC Nearest Town	OCATION or City: Craig, Colorado					
		Routt, Moffat and Rio Blanco					
ļ		ge/Section: The entire BLM Little S	Snake Field Office				
ŀ	State Senate						
┝		entative District #:26 and 57					
ļ	LAND OWNE	RSHIP					
	2. The trail corr	name/s of the property owners: idor is controlled by:	ip to be obtained Other (explain):				
ſ	TRAIL SYSTE	M INFORMATION (List the number	of miles for each type of OHV trail in your area)				
-			ess: <u>50</u> Miles of Full-sized: <u>4,197</u>				
	<del>_</del> <del>_</del>		at apply to the work planned for this project)				
F	All-Terrain		Full Sized 4X4				
	Motorcyclir	ng 🛛 🛛 🛛 Four-Wheelin	g 🛛 🖾 Accessible Access				
	PROJECT INI	FORMATION (Please check all activi Include detailed information for	ties that apply to this project.) each in the Project Scope of Work.				
	🛛 Trail Mainte	nance	☑ Travel Plan Implementation				
		Construction miles / ft	Resource Protection & Improvement				
	🔲 *Major Re-	Route miles / ft. closed	🔀 Signs				
	(that will require additional <i>enviro</i> <i>approvals</i>	new or miles / ft. added	☐ Youth Corps				
	Restoration	Rehabilitation (existing corridor)	🛛 Planning				
	Visitor Cont	acts & Law Enforcement	Capital Equipment				
	Education		Land Acquisition or Other				
	* New Trail	Construction & Major Re-Route: Trail I description of trail work plans must be provid #3 Resource Protection, E	ocation(s) must be indicated on project map and detailed led in Project Selection Criteria, Section D-1, nhancement & Restoration				
	TRAIL ACTIV	ITIES SUMMARY (Based on your project for each of the categ	ct description and budget, provide the percentage ories listed below.)				
	100% <b>Program maintenance</b> (e.g., erosion controls, water bars and culverts, trail clearing and brushing, trail hardening and trail tread repairs, bridge construction and repairs, trailhead improvements and maintenance, crew wages, etc.)						
		Enforcement, Education & Visitor Contacts (e.g., patrols, enforcement, education and visitor contacts, wages, safety contacts, equipment, etc.)					
	Planning & Travel Plan Implementation (e.g., planning, engineering, maps, inventorying, travel management signs & installation, decommission non-system routes, rehabilitation, new construction, wage monitoring, etc.)						
			Corps/Miscellaneous (e.g., equipment maintenance and repair, specialized equipment, program coordination, etc.)				
	100%	Total: (Note: Percentages should add	l to 100 %)				

SCOPE OF WORK – Project Description:	
Project Name: Sand Wash Trailhead	Project No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Project Sponsor: BLM Little Snake	Application Year: 2023-2024
Project Contact: Whit Patterson	Application No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Total Project Cost: \$593,100	Grant Request: \$250,00

## **Project Description:**

The Bureau of Land Management Little Snake Field Office (BLM-LSFO) based in Craig, Colorado is applying for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grant. The BLM-LSFO will be responsible for the project work. This particular project is based in the South Sand Wash Special Recreation Management Area (SSW-SRMA) in Moffat County. The SSW-SRMA is 35,510 acres and is managed as an open play area and also provides areas with designated roads and trails. The SSW-SRMA is also home to the Sand Wash Enduro Race series, which brings in 300 competitors each May.

Through a community led planning effort in the SSW- SRMA the BLM-LSFO has developed a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP). The BLM-LSFO partnered with the Craig Chamber of Commerce to hire a consult firm Logan Simpson to develop the RAMP and the Environmental Assessment. Through this process the BLM-LSFO and Logan Simpson worked closely with the CPW Regional Partnership Northwest Colorado Outdoor Coalition to address needs for signage and infrastructure. The BLM-LSFO also developed a Memorandum of Understanding with CPW to engage in the process. The need to develop a trailhead, staging area and facilities at the main entrance to SSW-SRMA was the top priority.

This project will focus on improving the current trailhead at the SSW-SRMA (T8N, R98W section 26) the planned for amenities and improvements include:

- Increase the staging area size with sustainable driving surface
- Gateway signage for SSW-SRMA
- Two of informational kiosks with maps, and information on OHV use, camping, wildlife and wild horses
- Vault toilet with two restrooms
- Three of shade structures for social interactions, teachable spaces, picnics and for events
- Traffic control features
- Picnic area

Project funding will be acknowledged by several methods. The BLM-LSFO will work with CPW to display Colorado Registration Dollars at Work logo on kiosks and facilities. While working with partners and making contacts will provide information about the projects and equipment that has been funded by the state.

### **Budget Form**

Project Name: Little Snake OHV Crew Date Project will be Completed: 11/30/2024 **Project Sponsor:** \*\*\*ITEMS LISTED IN THE BUDGET BELOW SHOULD BE SPECIFIC AND CORRESPOND TO THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES INDICATED IN THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK) IN YOUR GRANT APPLICATION.\* In-Kind PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES (Non-Cash) List all sources and amounts of project funding in this section (insert additional lines if needed) CASH Contributions TOTAL OHV Grant Funding (amount of requested OHV grant funds only) \$ 250.000.00 BLM Admin: Budget, Tracking, Reporting, etc. (GS-11 @ 3 weeks) \$ 4,400.00 \$ 4,400.00 \$ \_ BLM Contracting, Engineering and Design, Direct Oversight & Project Management (GS-12 @ 5 weeks) \$ \$ 8,700.00 \$ 8,700.00 **BLM Maintenance Funds** \$ 330,000.00 \$ 330,000.00 USE OF GRANT FUNDING TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT \$ 593,100.00 List uses of grant funding (only) below I. Personnel Costs Identify as: Salary/wage, benefits, \*travel, training, outfitting costs, personal protection equipment, etc. Non-Profit organizations will be required to purchase \$ \$ --\$ \$ --\$ \$ --#REF! Category Total \$ -For CPW use only: Approximate number of workhour II. Project Materials/Supplies Identify as: Signs, rock, lumber, paint, nails, printing, maps/guides, education materials, etc. Price Per Quantity Total Subcontract: Matching Construction Funds for Staging Area \$ 250,000.00 1 \$ 250,000.00 \$ 250,000.00 Category Total \$ 250,000.00 III. Equipment Identify as: Trail Dozer, ATV, motorcycle, chainsaws, field equipment rentals, equipment fuel and repairs, fleet vehicle operations, etc. \$ \_ \$ \$ -Category Total \$ -III.A. FLEET Equipment Identify as: Crew Fleet Vehicles/Trucks monthly FOR & USE, Fleet Equipment monthly USE. \$ -\$ \$ Category Total \$ -V. Volunteer Support Identify as: For Volunteers Only Safety education, safety gear (gloves/goggles), outfitting, per diem (meals or mileage when travel required by and identified in project scope of work), non-monetary awards or recognition \$ -\$ -Category Total \$ -VI. Insurance (Non-profit organizations only) -\_

\$ \$ Category Total \$ -VII. Grant Administrative Costs (Non-profit organizations only) Identify as: administrative costs, office supplies, postage, phone charges, computer & printer supplies, etc. (Up to 5% of amount spent) \$ \$ \_ -\$ \$ -\_ Category Total \$ -\* Non-profit organizations that reimburse travel expenses will be required to use OHV Program Travel Forms - provided upon request Total \$ 250,000.00

Note: Any changes to the budget must have pre-approval from the Program

# **C-1**

### FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION and LAND MANAGER APPROVAL

The applicant is responsible for securing all necessary permits, licenses, clearances, and environmental analysis documentation necessary to comply with local, state, and/or federal laws.

Project Name	Sand Wash Trailhead	Project Sponsor	BLM Little Snake Field Office
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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 titled:

**BLM Resource Management Plan** 

Date: 2011

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

Date and title of document:

Little Snake RMP 2011, Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment (ARMPA) 2015, Travel Management Area 2 Plan (2021) and Travel Management Area 1 Plan (2022), South Sand Wash Special Recreation Management Area-Recreation Management Plan (2023)

If not, please state reason and the estimated date when NEPA will be complete. [No funds will be distributed until any required NEPA documentation is completed.]

South Sand Wash Special Recreation Management Area- Recreation Management Plan (2023) Estimated NEPA completion date March 2023

For more information contact:

Bruce Sillitoe, Little Snake Field Office Manager 970-826-5089

Whit Patterson, Little Snake Field Office Outdoor Recreation Planner 970-826-5008

Bruce Sillitoe, Little Snake Field Office Manager

Print or type Land Manager's Name and Title Teld Manager 2022

## **PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA**

Carefully read and provide answers to each of the following four criteria (four page maximum):

All applicants must respond to the following selection criteria questions. You are allowed the space below each question to fill in your answer. If you have an answer that does not fill the entire page, do not feel obligated to fill the space. 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. Each project will be reviewed by outside reviewers and State Trails staff, and projects will be ranked according to reviewer and staff scores. Failure to provide a response to any question (unless otherwise noted) will reduce your project's score. Please reference all attachments.

### 1. Need for & Benefit of the Project (25 points):

This project will focus on the construction phase of implementation of the SWW-SRMA RAMP, in the planning process the BLM-LSFO and stakeholders identified the need for OHV user amenities at the SSW-SRMA. Currently, the amenities at the SSW are lacking with just one outdated kiosk. The OHV community would benefit from the features mentioned in the project description. The SSW is a zone managed as an open play area that attracts riders from the region and outside of the region for the Enduro Race series. With no infrastructure in place the BLM-LSFO often deals with individuals creating there own staging areas and human waste.

 SSW-SRMA RAMP Amenity Construction- The BLM-LSFO along with contractor Logan Simpson have developed a conceptual plan for the trailhead at the main entrance to meet the needs of the OHV users including: expansion of the staging area, improved information kiosks and maps, bathroom facilities, shade structures and traffic control features. The recreation program lead will work with BLM Colorado engineering staff to contract the work done on site.

With the impending shift from a natural resource extraction-based economy, the Northwest region of Colorado is sitting in a position to proactively plan for it's future unlike other regions of Colorado. Areas closer to the front range have had to retroactively pivot management strategies due to the influx of use and visitation. The BLM-LSFO has a blank slate when it comes to potential for recreational OHV developments outside of already designated routes and the designation of the SSW-SRMA.

### 2. Partnerships, Support and Leverage (25 points):

Major partnering organizations include:

Name	Location	Туре
Stay the Trail	Arvada	OHV
Moffat County 4x4 Club	Moffat County	Off-Road Club
Northwest Colorado Trails Corp	Northwest Colorado	Trails Club
Northwest Colorado Outdoor Coalition	Moffat County	Regional Partner
Sand Wash Enduro Race	Craig	Business/Event
Colorado Wildlands Project	Colorado	Conservation
Moffat County Board of Tourism	Moffat County	Tourism
Craig Chamber of Commerce	Craig	Non-Profit

As part of the Partnership in the Outdoors Program initiated by the State of Colorado the BLM-LSFO has developed the Northwest Colorado Outdoor Coalition (NCOC). The BLM-LSFO has been working in conjunction with the NCOC, local community members, and partners to assist with the recreation planning efforts on BLM lands, and to provide balance of recreation and conservation in Moffat County. This project has been a priority for the NCOC and the BLM-LSFO.

Item	Donating Entity	Value	Description
			Construction of amenities
BLM-LSFO Trailhead Construction Funds	BLM	\$ 330,000	and trailhead
BLM Admin, Contracting and Engineering			Administration of the grant,
staff: Budget, Tracking, Reporting,			contracting and overseeing
Contracting etc.	BLM	\$ 13,100	the construction.

The BLM-LSFO's grant proposal is requesting \$250,000 and providing \$343,100 in in-kind and cash contributions. The total project cost is \$593,100.

# 3. Resource Protection, Enhancement and Restoration relative to eligible OHV grant activities

(25 points):

The principle objective of this project is to improve and enhance the SSW experience for OHV riders by providing a sustainable staging area. Providing facilities for users will deter users from creating their own loading and unloading areas, leaving human waste behind and information at the staging area will assist in educating users about the natural resources in SSW. The project will promote protection of the environment by using best practices for design of the amenities, including the location of amenities and construction methods.

This project will include re-vegetation and drainage structures as needed.

### Large Equipment Purchases, Maintenance and Disposition:

Colorado BLM contracting and engineering staff will hire subcontractors with their own equipment to complete the construction of the staging area and all the amenities.

### 4. Travel Management Plan Implementation, Education and Enforcement (25 points):

### Education

Providing the administrative controls such as signs and fencing is a key part of travel management. Perhaps the most important aspect is education of public contacts. Crews will patrol the SSW on weekends and holidays to:

- Explain travel management principles.
- Distribute maps.
- Describe the state grant program.
- Point out "OHV registration dollars" improvements in the area.
- Advertise upcoming volunteer projects.
- Check registrations.
- Describe future trails and projects.
- Explain Stay the Trail principles.

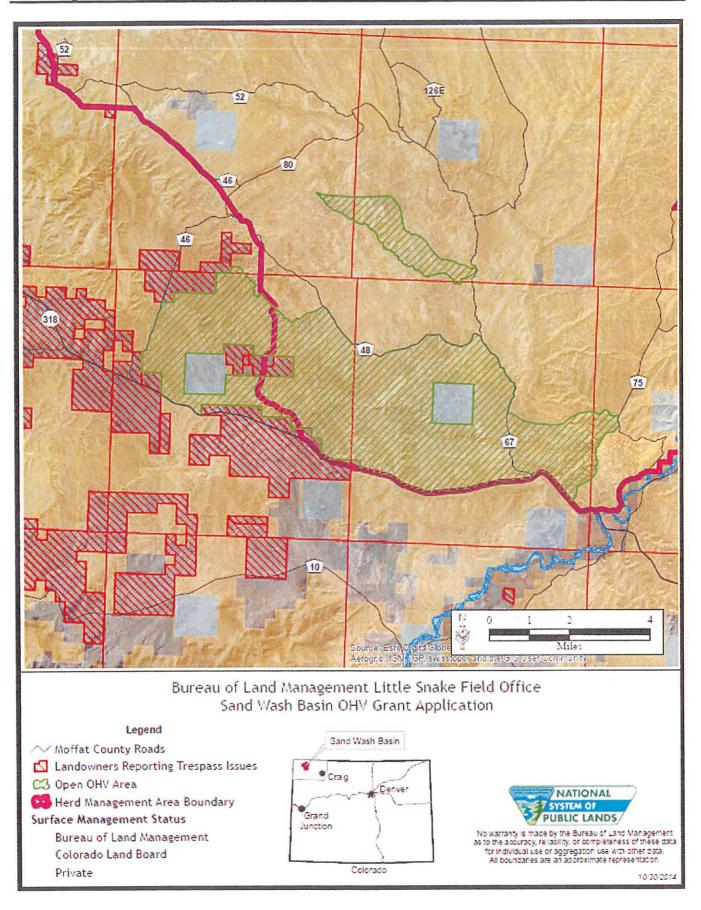
#### **Enforcement and Compliance Activities:**

The project will provide an increase in information at SSW as well as obvious and logical signing with the overall goal of increased compliance. The OHV crew would not be law enforcement officers and no funding would be provided to law enforcement. However, the crew works closely with the BLM law enforcement officer and can provide detailed information on issues that may require this level of compliance measure. The OHV crew knowledge of state OHV regulations and information will be provided to the public.

# E-1 Vicinity Map & E-2 Project Site Map



E-1 <u>Vicinity Map</u>: Please mark the vicinity where the project is located on the map below.



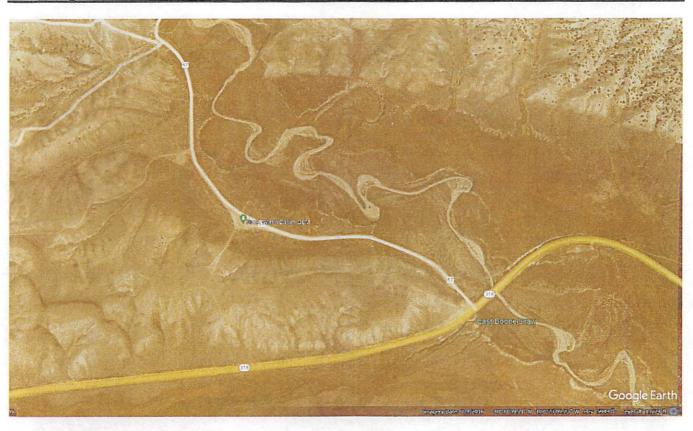


Figure 3- South Sand Wash Special Recreation Management Entrance and Current Trailhead

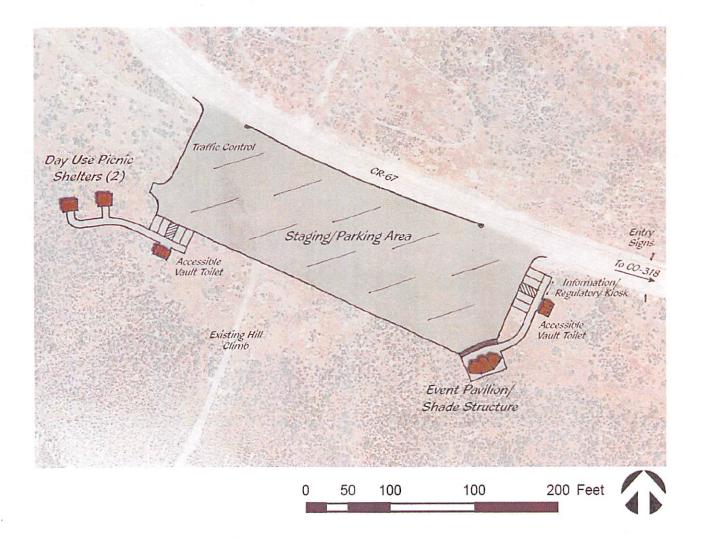
# (F) Project Illustration

Photographs, Drawings, Engineering Plans, Diagrams

Provide project illustrations or photos to further demonstrate the needs of the project.

Items to consider including may be:

- Photos (4-6) of the project area or photos of another project's outcome that illustrates what you will
  do for this project
- Engineering drawings of the project
- Diagrams/plans of the project



Sand Wash East Draw Staging Area Concept

12/1	/2022

	Deve	1.000					
	Desc	Qty	Unit	U	nit Cost	Total	
Mobilization, Temp Fac			1 LS	\$	80,000.00	\$	80,000.00
Clear and Grub							
Vegetation Clearing	areas to be impacted that are currently vegetated		39847 SF	\$	1.50	\$	59,770.50
Earthwork							
Grading	leveling		75074 SF	\$	1.00	\$	75,074.00
Road/Flatwork							
ABC	Parking/Staging Area (SF * 8" depth)		1485 CY	\$	55.00	\$	81,672.98
Geotextile	Under ABC		60735 SF	\$	1.00	\$	60,735.00
Structures							
Shelters (14x18)	includes shelter and concrete pad		1 EA	\$	38,000.00	\$	38,000.00
Shelter (Large, approx. 20	x4 or replace with 3 14x18		1 EA	\$	95,000.00	\$	95,000.00
Vault Toilets (New)			1 EA	\$	60,000.00	\$	60,000.00
Signs (Entry)			2 EA	\$	4,000.00	\$	8,000.00
Signs (Kisok)			1 EA	\$	8,000.00	\$	8,000.00
Fence	<18". Post and single rail or chain to delineate parking area		500 LF	\$	50.00	\$	25,000.00
						\$	
Furnishings	NORTH AND						
Picnic Tables	10 at day use areas		10 EA	\$	1,000.00	\$	10,000.00

Subtotal

\$ 601,252.48

**RE: BLM Application for OHV Funds, Whit Patterson** 

To Whom it May Concern,

The Northwest Colorado Trails Corp would like to express our support of seasonal workers to be hired by BLM using OHV grant funds.

The BLM has been working on Travel Management In Moffat County and has begun working on a Recreation Area Management Plan for the South Sand Wash Open OHV Area. Implementation will need to follow both planning processes.

We frequent Sandwash each season and would like to see progress continue, every year more and more users are drawn to the area. Seeing such an increase in UTV's out on the trails in Sandwash, it is important to us that it is managed so that safety is always kept on the forefront. We are in full support of the work being done currently and would like to see follow through with an OHV crew.

Thank you for considering NW Colorado and BLM for grant funding that will greatly benefit the community.

Sincerely,

Northwest Colorado Trials Corp

Executive Director- Kyra Weidner



CRAIG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 775 Yampa ave Craig, CO 81625

November 30th, 2022

O HV Grant Selection Subcommittee Colorado State Parks O HV Program 13787 South Highway 85 Littleton, CO 80125

To Whom it May Concern,

The Craig Chamber of Commerce would like to express our support of seasonal workers to be hired by BLM using O HV grant funds.

Currently, we have hundreds of acres of open space and one ranger to keep track of it all. In addition, to large recreation spaces, there is a large influx of hunters that bring ATV and UTVs in addition to off-road-type highway vehicles. Having two extra BLM staff will enable better coverage of the recreation spaces, private land and other public land spaces and allow them to protect these lands from damage caused by irresponsible and uneducated O HV users.

In addition to mitigation in the field, we support public leadership that will invite trail crews to do maintenance on trails and to support the responsible recreation education programs the Craig Chamber of Commerce will be implementing this year.

Thank you for considering NW Colorado and BLM for grant funding that will greatly benefit the community.

Sincerely,

followar

Jennifer Holloway Executive Director Craig Chamber of Commerce



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COLORADO'S GREAT NORTHWEST · VISITMOFFATCOUNTY.COM

OHV Grant Selection Committee Colorado State Parks OHV Program 13787 South Hwy 85 Littleton, Colorado 80125

12/01/2022

Committee Members.

The Board of Directors of Visit Moffat County / Moffat County Tourism Association (MCTA) are writing today to support the BLM Little Snake Field Office's 2024 OHV Maintenance Grant Proposal.

We are thankful to the Little Snake Field Office for prioritizing the South Sand Wash Special Recreation Management Area. The construction of an improved staging area and providing additional monitoring assets to this area is fully supported by our organization. Recreational use in this area has grown extensively and the need for protecting both public and private lands must now be a priority. The BLM proposal will offer clear opportunities for the public to use these lands in a responsible manner. Having on the ground seasonal workers would be important for educating all recreationists, this would in turn help protect this important public resource.

The Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Office, is to be commended for seeking these funds for the public. These initiatives will help enhance our tourism profile and lead to the enhancement of our mission to become a true visitor ready community.

We thank you for your consideration of this timely request.

John Husband√ Chairman of the Board Visit Moffat County/ MCTA

Tom Kleinschnitz

Tom Kleinschnitz Director Visit Moffat County / MCTA

VISIT MOFFAT COUNTY / MOFFAT COUNTY TOURISM ASSOCIATION 775 YAMPA AVE, CRAIG COLORADO 81625 970-824-2335 MOBILE/TEXT: 970-629-2035 MCTA#MOFFATCOUNTY.NET



11/21/2022 OHV Grant Selection Subcommittee

Colorado State Parks OHV Program 13787 South Highway 85 Littleton, CO 80125

C/O Bruce Sillitoe - Field Manager

Bureau of Land Management Little Snake Field Office 455 Emerson Street Cralg, Colorado 81625

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing today in support of the Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) 2024 Motorized Grant application. I'm grateful that the Little Snake Field was awarded grant funding for 2023 from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). It's my hope to see continued investments from the 2024 Motorized Grant to address the enormous challenges of managing approximately 1.4 million acres of public land.

Specific infrastructure is needed to ensure a quality experience for users, support travel and tourism, and preserve adjacent lands for other uses such as the enjoyment of solitude, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources.

Moffat County presents as a vast, open country and funding support is needed to implement travel management decisions made in BLM-LSFO's Travel Management Areas 1 & 2 (TMA1 & TMA2). To better provide for OHV experiences, funding is needed to support the implementation of the Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the South Sand Wash Special Recreation Management Area (SSW-SRMA), monitoring of OHV use on lands managed by the BLM-LSFO, and for construction of the Improved staging area at SSW-SRMA. Additionally, funding is needed to support a two-person crew with the necessary time, equipment and materials to carry out the job.

I request that CPW match BLM dollars and mission to be a strong supporter of community and outure in Northwest Colorado with the 2024 Motorized Grant. Specific actions are needed to support community partners with trail maintenance, the installation of signage for newly designated routes (closed, open and administrative use only), new information klosks, reinforce

partnerships with local OHV communities, trailhead and staging area development, restrooms, shade structures and trail monitoring during high use season in our OHV open area.

Significant strides have been made to improve management capacity and community partnerships in the area. During the summer of 2022, the BLM OHV ranger installed over 200 administrative signs and built relationships with area stakeholders and CPW game wardens. I sincerely hope we can continue to make advancements in this realm for the betterment of our public lands and local communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cody M. Perry, Project Director, Rig To Filp

Rig To Filp is a land and water advocacy service focusing on the communities of the Colorado Plateau.



November 28, 2022

OHV Grant Selection Subcommittee Colorado State Parks OHV Program 13787 South Highway 85 Littleton. CO 80125

Dear OHV Sub-Committee Members:

The Colorado Wildlands Project (CWP) supports the 2024 OHV Maintenance Grant Proposal from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) that would be used to continue implementation of LSFO's Travel Management Plan and begin implementation of the Recreation Area Management Plan for the South Sand Wash Special Recreation Management Area, including construction of a new staging area at South Sand Wash. CWP supported the previous successful OHV Maintenance Grant Proposals that LSFO received; these grants have already led to a significant improvement in the monitoring, maintenance, and management of motorized routes in the LSFO, and continuing this work is essential to ensuring that motorized recreation use in the LSFO is managed in ways that minimize impacts to the unique natural, cultural, and wilderness resources of the area.

The Colorado Wildlands Project is a Western Slope based advocacy organization that works to protect wild public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Our staff have engaged in planning efforts in the LSFO for over a decade, including the LSFO Resource Management Plan Revision (2013) and the ongoing LSFO Travel and Transportation Management plans. We are committed to ensuring that the LSFO's planning efforts are implemented as intended, and the funding from this grant proposal would go a long way in assisting those efforts.

We commend the LSFO for seeking support to implement the decisions made in its Resource Management Plan and subsequent Travel and Transportation plans. The LSFO manages over 1.3 million acres of public lands, including over 78,000 acres of Wilderness Study Areas and 166,000 acres of other lands managed to maintain their wilderness character. These areas, such as Vermillion Basin, Cold Springs Mountain, Diamond Breaks, Cross Mountain, and numerous wilderness-quality lands surrounding Dinosaur National Monument are valued for their opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation. And because these areas are managed largely as non-motorized areas, they also harbor some of Colorado's most prized big game and other wildlife habitats.

With support through this grant, we hope that BLM will be able to continue to follow through on their obligation to implement decisions made in the RMP and Travel and Transportation Management plans, including monitoring and enforcement of route designations, reclamation of undesignated and/or closed routes, and ensuring that non-motorized areas such as WSAs and other lands managed to protect their wilderness characteristics are not negatively impacted by illegal OHV use. We also support efforts to better manage OHV use in Sand Wash Basin OHV Open Area, where increased use and lack of funding has led to increased impacts in the OHV area and on surrounding BLM lands, including the Vermillion Basin Protective Management Area.

We thank the LSFO for having the vision to put this grant proposal together and the OHV Grant Selection Subcommittee for giving it the consideration it deserves.

Thanks, Soren Jespersen Field Director, Colorado Wildlands Project Steamboat Springs, CO soren@cowildlands.org



Northwest Colorado Outdoor Coalition 775 Yampa Ave | Craig, CO 81625

November 30th, 2022

**OHV Grant Selection Subcommittee** 

Colorado State Parks OHV Program 13787 South Highway 85 Littleton, CO 80125

Dear OHV Grant Selection Subcommittee -

This letter from the Northwest Colorado Outdoor Coalition (NCOC) is in strong support of the Bureau of Land Management Little Snake Field Office's (LSFO) 2024 OHV Maintenance Grant Proposal to further their implementation of the LSFO Travel Management Plan, begin implementation on the Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the South Sand Wash Special Recreation Management Area (SSW-SRMA), monitor OHV use on lands managed by BLM-LSFO, and for construction of the improved staging area at SSW-SRMA.

NCOC is the Regional Outdoor Partnership representing Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties. As such, we have adopted the Colorado Outdoor Principles. We recognize the value of public access to public lands for recreation with necessary land stewardship. We respect the rights of private landowners and their role in preservation of a greater ecosystem. We maintain that there is a profound positive correlation between the state of our State's ecology, land, and environment and the quality of life experienced by residents and visitors alike. We acknowledge that all recreation has an impact and that we have an ethical obligation to minimize that impact. We champion proactive land management partnered with public education to provide quality conservation and recreation opportunities. We advocate for scientifically informed land management practices and believe diversity of funding sources is essential to support sustainable outdoor recreation.

NCOC sees that the objectives of LSFO's Travel Management Plan and RAMP for SSW-SRMA are in alignment with the Colorado Outdoor Principles and are supported from our local community as welcome and needed. This proactive outdoor recreation development project will provide intentional infrastructure and maintenance to direct motorized recreation activities to areas where they are most appropriate and sustainable and foster increased conservation and protection for our more fragile ecosystems.

We are grateful to LSFO for prioritizing development in this area and request Colorado Parks and Wildlife to match BLM funds in order to fortify the project's stability and longevity by diversifying its funding sources. Dollars spent in Colorado's Northwest Region significantly impact our ability to accommodate new outdoor recreation opportunities. Thank you, OHV Grant Selection Subcommittee, for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Kristin Skowronski Coordinator, Northwest Colorado Outdoor Coalition