

**2024-2025
Off-Highway Vehicle Program
State Trail Grant Application**

02
SW-M, YC



Name of Project: East Fork Trail project		Date of Application: 11/1/23
<i>(Please limit the project name to 5 words or less)</i>		
Total Project Cost: \$87,500.00 126,730 ⁰⁰	Grant Request: \$ 126,730.00 87,500⁰⁰	
<i>(round off to the nearest \$1)</i>	<i>Amount Requested (round off to the nearest \$1) must match the Project Budget Form.</i>	

PROJECT SPONSOR (Name and Address for entity legally responsible for project)

Organization Name: San Juan National Forest, Dolores Ranger District	
Mailing Address: 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO, 81323	
Telephone: 970 882 6843	Email: thomas.b.rice@usda.gov

OFFICIAL USE ONLY – UEI # (IF REQUIRED):

<https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei>

PROJECT CONTACT This is the person with day-to-day responsibility for the managing the project, ensuring the contract scope of work will be fulfilled. Please notify us if *Project Contact* changes.

Name: Tom Rice	Title: Recreation Staff Officer
Mailing Address: 29211 Hwy. 184, Dolores, CO 81323	
Telephone: 970 882 6843	Email: thomas.b.rice@usda.gov
Is this the primary contact for this grant: YES NO	

PROJECT CLOSE-OUT CONTACT This is the person responsible for submitting receipts for project spending and close-out. Please notify us if *Project Contact* changes.

Name: Tom Rice	Title: Recreation Staff Officer
Mailing Address: 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO 81323	
Telephone: 970 882 6843	Email: thomas.b.rice@usda.gov

GRANTS & AGREEMENTS SPECIALIST (USFS only) or BUDGET CONTACT (BLM only)

Name: Rebecca Cuthbertson	Title: G and A Specialist
Mailing Address: 1671 Cole Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80401 (note that this contact will likely change-contact Tom Rice for more info.)	
Telephone: 970 275 8040	Email: rebecca.cuthbertson@usda.gov

PROJECT LOCATION

Nearest Town or City: Rico, CO

County(ies): Dolores

Provide a point of reference for mapping purposes (i.e. a google searchable landscape feature):

Lizard Head Pass

Township/Range/Section: Multiple

State Senate District #: 6 State Representative District #: 58, 59

LAND OWNERSHIP

- 1. Provide the name/s of the property owners:
- 2. The trail corridor is controlled by: Fee Simple Lease Easement License Right-of-Way Land Acquisition Ownership to be obtained Other (explain): Public lands

TRAIL SYSTEM INFORMATION (List the number of miles for each type of OHV trail in your area)

Miles of Singletrack: 120 Miles of 50" or less: 77 Miles of Full-sized: 7.5

TRAIL USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply to the work planned for this project)

- All-Terrain Vehicle Side x Side Full Sized 4X4
- Motorcycling Four-Wheeling Accessible Access

PROJECT INFORMATION (Please check all activities that apply to this project.)
Include detailed information for each in the Project Scope of Work.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel Plan Implementation
<input type="checkbox"/> *New Trail Construction miles / ft. _____ (Approved through Travel Mgt Decision)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Protection & Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> *Major Re-Route miles / ft. closed _____ (that will require new or additional environmental approvals) miles / ft. added _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration/Rehabilitation (existing corridor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Corps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitor Contacts & Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital Equipment
	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition or Other

* New Trail Construction & Major Re-Route: Trail location(s) must be indicated on project map and detailed description of trail work plans must be provided in Project Selection Criteria, Section D-1, #3 Resource Protection, Enhancement & Restoration

TRAIL ACTIVITIES SUMMARY (Based on your project description and budget, provide the percentage for each of the categories listed below.)

% of Budget 30%	Program maintenance (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.)
4%	Enforcement, Education & Visitor Contacts (e.g., patrols, enforcement, education and visitor contacts, wages, safety contacts, equipment, etc.)
2%	Planning & Travel Plan Implementation (e.g., planning, engineering, maps, inventorying, travel management signs & installation, decommission non-system routes, rehabilitation, new construction, wages, monitoring, etc.)
64%	Equipment /Materials/ Signs/ Youth Corps/Miscellaneous (e.g., equipment maintenance and repair, personnel training, certification in the use of specialized equipment, program coordination, etc.)
100%	Total: (Note: Percentages should add to 100 %)

SCOPE OF WORK – Project Description:	
Project Name: East Fork Trail Project	Project No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Project Sponsor: San Juan National Forest, Dolores RD	Application Year: 2024-2025
Project Contact: Tom Rice	Application No.: (to be completed by CPW)
Total Project Cost: \$87,500.00 126,730 ⁰⁰	Grant Request: \$126,730.00 87,500 ⁰⁰

Project Description: The East Fork Trail Project is a collaborative trail maintenance program partnering the San Juan National Forest’s Dolores Ranger District and the Southwest Conservation Corps focusing on the eastern reach of the East Fork trail. The proposed project area is in Dolores County, northeast of the town of Rico in southwest Colorado. It will be managed by the San Juan National Forest, Dolores Ranger District.

Our grant request includes funding to hire a Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) crew for 8 weeks of trail maintenance and mini-ex rental beginning in July of 2025 and ending by October 2025. The focus area is a road decommissioning project that resulted in 2.5 miles of single-track trail authorized in the 2022 Rico West Dolores Travel Management Plan. The decision authorized decommissioning a portion of Forest Service Road 578.B (Tin Can Basin Road) which was converted into an existing motorized single-track trail, the East Fork trail. The SCC crew will focus on less than a mile of the East Fork trail that needs heavy maintenance including tread rehabilitation. This project does not involve new trail construction.

Sections of the trail requires extensive drainage and tread rehabilitation to better define the single-track route and reduce trail braiding. Due to the wet nature of the project area drainage that includes seeps and springs culvert and turn pike installation, tread armoring, grade control, minor reroutes (less than 150’) and brushing will improve the current condition of the trail. Native materials, concrete pavers or treated posts will be utilized to improve trail conditions. Brushing will result in improved line of sight distance.

All trail construction will meet Forest Service specifications that support sustainable trail systems while reducing long term maintenance costs.

Forest Service trail staff will be available weekly to assist SCC crews with technical guidance. They will also be available to contact visitors, post signs indicating that State OHV trail funds paid for the project while also informing visitors that their OHV registration pays for the trail work. If travel management enforcement issues arise in the project area Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) will be available for compliance matters.

This unique trail system offers views of the Lizard Head Wilderness in Southwest Colorado, the San Miguels to the north and Utah to the west. It provides access to a larger motorized system including the Hermosa Creek, Calico, Eagle Peak, Priest Gulch and Stoner Mesa trails as well as other motorized routes on the San Juan that are enjoyed by hundreds of riders each year.

The Dolores Ranger District has utilized Colorado Parks and Wildlife grants and SCC crews for motorized trail maintenance for many years. The successful partnership of funding agencies and Youth Corp Crews has resulted in a successful motorized trail program and a positive experience for thousands of visitors each year. Our success would not be possible without the ongoing support of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife OHV program.

Budget Form

Project Name: East Fork Trail Project

Date Project will be Completed: 12/31/2025

Project Sponsor: San Juan National Forest, Dolores Ranger District

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. (Round amounts off to nearest dollar)

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES <small>List all sources and amounts of project funding in this section (insert additional lines if needed)</small>	CASH	In-Kind (Non-Cash) Contributions	TOTAL
OHV Grant Funding (amount of requested OHV grant funds only)	\$ 87,500		\$ 87,500.00
Other Funding Sources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
San Juan Trail Riders Clearing efforts		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000.00
Dolores RD In Kind support- fleet, administrative support, training, radio, LEO backup, benefits		\$ 12,230.00	\$ 12,230.00
SCC in kind		\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000.00
USE OF GRANT FUNDING <small>List uses of grant funding (only) below</small>	TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT		\$ 126,730.00

I. Personnel Costs <small>Identify as: Salary/wage, benefits, travel, training, outfitting costs, personal protection equipment, etc.</small>			
Employee Name or Title/Grade	\$ Per Hr		Total Cost
<small>For CPW use only: Approximate number of workhours</small>			Category Total \$ -

II. Project Materials/Supplies <small>Identify as: Signs, rock, lumber, paint, nails, printing, maps/guides, education materials, etc.</small>			
	Price Per	Quantity	Total
Signs, rock, lumber, paint, nails, printing, maps/guides, education materials, screws, hardhats; dozer maintenance, saws, gravels, boulders, bank fees associated with federal purchases, filter fabric, packs, PPE, bolts, posts, pavers, posts	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
Category Total			\$ 5,000.00

III. Equipment <small>Identify as: Trail Dozers, ATV/UTV, motorcycle, chainsaws, winches, field equipment rentals, equipment fuel, repairs, and operations, etc.</small>			
	\$	Quantity	Total
Mini Ex rental	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00
	\$ -		\$ -
Category Total			\$ 2,500.00

III.A. FLEET Equipment <small>Identify as: Crew Fleet Vehicles/Trucks monthly FOR & USE, Fleet Equipment monthly USE.</small>			
	\$	Quantity	Total
	\$ -		\$ -
Category Total			\$ -

IV. Contracted Services <small>Identify as: Youth Corps, NEPA, planning, engineering, construction contractor/subcontractor costs</small>			
	\$	Quantity	Total
Southwest Conservation Corps	\$ 10,000.00	8	\$ 80,000.00
	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
Category Total			\$ 80,000.00

V. Volunteer Support <small>Identify as: <u>For Volunteers Only</u> 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.</small>			
	\$	Quantity	Total
	\$ -		\$ -
Category Total			\$ -

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

Total	\$ 87,500.00
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C-1

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION and LAND MANAGER APPROVAL

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 East Fork Trail Project Project Sponsor San Juan National Forest, Dolores Ranger District

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:

San Juan National Forest Land Management Plan Date: 9/2013

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

Date and title of document:

Date and title of document: (4/1/08) Mancos Cortez Travel Management Plan; (12/5/12) Boggy Glade Travel Management Plan; (7/30/2018) Rico West Dolores Travel Management Plan; (9/2013 ;9/29/83) San Juan National Forest Land Management Plan; (2021) Rico Trails Project; (5/23) Dolores Recreation Access and Infrastructure Project

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:

Emma Reinemann, NEPA Specialist

970-882-6822 emma.reinemann@usda.gov

4. The next planning process that may affect this project is planned for (date).

NA

Print or type Land Manager's Name and Title

Ivan Messinger , Acting District Ranger

Land Manager Signature and Title



10/30/2023
Date

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

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

The East Fork Trail Project is a collaborative trail program partnering the Dolores Ranger District and the Southwest Conservation Corp on trail maintenance projects on the East Fork trail.

Our project proposal includes funding to hire a Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) crew for 8 weeks of trail maintenance. The SCC crew will focus on less than a mile of the East Fork trail that needs heavy maintenance.

This unique trail offers views of the Wilson Range, Lizard Head Wilderness, Utah and the Four Corners area. It is a trail with different challenges that satisfies riders of all skill levels including non-motorized visitors. Trail maintenance improves and protects access to a larger motorized system including the Hermosa Creek, Calico, Eagle Peak, Priest Gulch and Stoner Mesa trails. It is an important route to other motorized routes on the San Juan's Dolores and Columbine Ranger Districts improving trail connectivity that many motorcyclists prefer.

It is estimated that over 1000 motorcycles use our trail system annually based on anecdotal data gathered from trail counters, trail users and staff or visitor data on adjacent motorized trails. Work on this trail is a priority due to the growing popularity of this trail section as well the braiding and drainage issues associated with the 2022 road decommissioning efforts. Water from springs, seeps and storm events flow across and down the trail prism resulting in rutting, mud holes and trail braiding. In addition, brushing can be completed on adjacent reaches of the trail that were not part of the 2022 decommissioning project but would benefit the trail system.

As visitation by all users continue to increase the East Fork Trail and many other district trails will require increased maintenance to support a sustainable trail system as well as maintain the long-term investment in the trail.

Motorized single track such as the East Fork Trail provide a challenging trail opportunity for single-track enthusiasts. Sustainable construction of motorized trails demonstrates to all users the compatibility of motorized trails with other local trail users while creating a safer riding opportunity on challenging terrain. Furthermore, sustainable construction and maintenance of motorized trails, especially those in wetter soils or on steep slopes improves soil stability while protecting water quality and important riparian areas. This reduces the perception of motorized uses negatively affecting important ecological sites on the Dolores District.

The benefit of utilizing the Southwest Conservation Corp rather than volunteer organizations on this project is multi-fold. A SCC crew can base itself in the backcountry for multiple days resulting in efficient crew mobilization and demobilization and more effective use of time. SCC trail crews led by experienced crew bosses in partnership with Forest Service trail crew supervisors can accomplish maintenance activities that volunteer groups have not completed. Finally, hiring youth crews in today's challenging economic times results in economic gains for local economies and families while training kids who may be our future leaders.

As Forest Service funding shrinks but maintenance needs continue to grow, smart investment of partnership dollars including OHV funds provide for long-term sustainability of motorized trails. The East Fork Trail project is similar to the reconstruction projects that the SCC has completed on other district trails over the past several years. It has improved access to single track opportunities in the Rico West Dolores Travel Management landscape as well as in other parts of the San Juan National Forest.

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

This project supports the Southwest Conservation Corps and Forest Service partnership base by encouraging a cooperative relationship between the Dolores Public Lands Office and the Corp. The SCC attracts young people, aged 18-24, from the Four Corners and beyond and places them into a crew of six to eight people. The crew along with two experienced crew bosses camp out for up to two-week tours while working on a project.

Beginning in 1998, the Dolores Public Lands Office cultivated a working relationship with the SCC. It has provided many young adults meaningful employment while increasing their environmental awareness and opportunities for multiple-use stewardship of public lands. Local organizations such as the Montezuma County Inspire Program, 9-R School Systems and the Federal Lands Internship Program have enrolled qualified youths in the SCC program. The Dolores District has also collaborated with the SCC Green Veteran Crew program. These recently retired military veterans were part of a SCC hazardous fuels reduction crew working with the district's timber and recreation shops on forest projects. SCC crews have also supported the San Juan Mountain Association, Back Country Horsemen, San Juan Trail Riders and local businesses and trail users. Many of these partners have provided letters of support for our grant included in the application package.

Other partners such as the towns of Dolores and Mancos, individuals and business owners, trail groups as well as local counties who collaborate on other forest projects have provided support letters. The Forest Service recognizes the importance of our partners including CPW's OHV program by placing "Colorado OHV Registration Dollars at Work" stickers on trail system signs throughout the project area.

No Forest is immune to controversy when it comes to decision making simply because we manage land for a diverse population with equally diverse opinions. The East Fork Trail has received some attention over the years from motorized and non-motorized advocates who want the trail managed, in some cases, in divergent ways that includes timing restrictions or non-motorized designation.

Past State Trails funding has addressed many of the resource-based damage pointed out by motorized and non-motorized users resulting in well-engineered sections of the trail system. Past East Fork maintenance projects including turnpike, tread rehabilitation and brushing has improved single-track motorized experiences while reducing resource impacts. Projects such as motorized trail maintenance are a benefit to nearly all visitors as it improves access to public lands while protecting the natural and cultural resources that are important to forest health.

The Dolores Ranger District will provide \$12,230.00 of in-kind match that includes overall project support and supervision by the District Trails Specialist and the Forest Supervisor's engineering program. Specifically, the Forest Service will provide equipment or materials and on the ground technical guidance for the trail crew and their work.

The San Juan Trail Riders trail clearing efforts total to approximately \$10,000.00.

\$5,000 is being requested to purchase materials and supplies. \$80,000 of OHV grant funds is being requested to fund an SCC crew (8 weeks of crew time at \$10,000/week). Funds pay for corps member's stipends, SCC crew leader wages, food, tools, camp equipment, training, environmental education and crew supervision. SCC will be responsible for all other program administration expenses including administrative costs, insurance, planning, business administration, transportation costs and rental of office/warehouse facilities, an approximate \$17,000 in-kind match.

The total SCC, San Juan Trail Riders and Forest Service in-kind contributions total \$39,230, approximately 31% of the \$126,730.00 project cost.

3. Resource Protection, Enhancement and Restoration relative to eligible OHV grant activities (25 points):

The proposed East Fork Trail Project would aid in the reconstruction and maintenance of a decommissioned Forest Service Road (578.B-Tin Can Basin Road) which was converted to a motorized single-track trail. The route provides an important connection to other single-track trails in the northern portion of the Dolores Ranger District as well as other motorized routes on the San Juan National Forest including routes on the Columbine Ranger District.

In 2022, the Dolores Ranger District decommissioned Forest Service Road 578. B to return it to a single-track motorized trail. At the time of the late fall road decommissioning project conditions were extremely wet and snowy. A subsequent wet 2023 spring compounded by spring, seeps and storm events resulted in erosional issues, tread damage, mud holes and trail braiding where users were avoiding damaged portions of the trail. Sustainable trail construction and maintenance that supports motorized and other multi-use opportunities is the goal of this project.

Trail techniques such as hardening the tread or constructing turnpikes reduce pressure on any sensitive ecosystems. Tread work and minor reroutes will be undertaken to decrease head cutting in areas that are eroding. Rutted areas will be hardened with locally sourced rock or pavers to decrease erosion. Installing drainage features such as culverts will move water more effectively and in turn reduce trail damage and future maintenance requirements.

The project will protect sensitive subalpine zones that are an important part of forest health as well as an opportunity for single track motorcycle enthusiasts to ride. Implementation of this project will help improve trail tread paths encouraging users to follow existing trails rather than creating new social trails that affect fragile resources in the watershed including plant and wildlife species. In addition, sound trail maintenance protects forest resources including the many miles of trails that are a costly component of Forest Service infrastructure.

Maintenance of infrastructure including roads, campgrounds and trails is expensive regardless of who is completing the work. The ability of SCC crews to mobilize to remote parts of the Forest for up to two weeks at a time reduces drive time, fuel costs and the safety issues associated with transporting crews and equipment. It also allows the crew to focus on remote sections of trails that are typically difficult to access due to the location while also including a youth component that is an important part of the legislation behind the OHV trail grant program.

As far as indirect benefits to the area, focusing repairs on a high visibility motorized trail that truly solve resource problems shows most members of the public that some sensitive ecosystems can support motorized use through well engineered trail maintenance.

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

Travel Management Implementation-Our proposal complies with overarching long term planning decisions included in the 2018 decision for the Rico West Dolores Travel Management Plan Final EIS and the 2013 San Juan National Forest Land Management Plan that authorized a trail system that is fiscally and ecologically sustainable and manageable. Measures to improve signing, construct width restrictors, rehabilitate decommissioned routes, reduce user conflicts, increase multiple use trail opportunities and improve on the ground enforcement of travel rules were analyzed and implemented in the travel management plans and continue to be implemented on our trail systems.

The program will help control unauthorized routes by closing them which in turn promotes vegetative reclamation and rehabilitation. The East Fork trail project supports the long-term trail plans which includes providing motorized access and sustainable trails.

Education-Clear trail signing and maps is an important part of trail education. We continue to use the “yield triangle” on our shared use trails. The triangle describes how trail users should yield when encountering other users. For example, motorized users should yield to non-motorized users, mountain bikers should yield to hikers and horseback riders and hikers should yield to horseback riders. In addition, mixed motorized and non-motorized intersections of trails will be identified to minimize conflicts between users while increasing the awareness of potential safety issues. Recent signage activities include improved interpretive kiosks at sites that host motorized users including Johnny Bull, Sharktooth and Bear Creek trails. We will continue to install interpretive signs on other motorized trails that target all Forest visitors to educate the public on the benefits of shared trails and Travel Management decisions.

The Dolores Recreation program staff weekends and high use holidays with employees to have an on the ground, targeted contacts with OHV users as well as non-motorized users. This multi-day, boots on the ground staffing approach helps us educate all visitors of the importance of multiple use activities.

We will continue to provide free Motor Vehicle Use maps (and suggest the use of Avenza or CoTrex apps) to all our visitors to educate the public about our motorized trail system.

Our educational material has been paid via other OHV grants or using Forest Service funds.

Enforcement and Compliance Activities-Clear signing allows our visitors to understand how our trails are managed while also enabling our law enforcement officers and Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) to enforce Forest rules and regulations. Implementation of this project will ensure access points, trailheads and trail intersections are well signed and any signs vandalized or damaged can be repaired or replaced with new signs. It also improves compliance through education or by issuing citations for OHV rule violations.

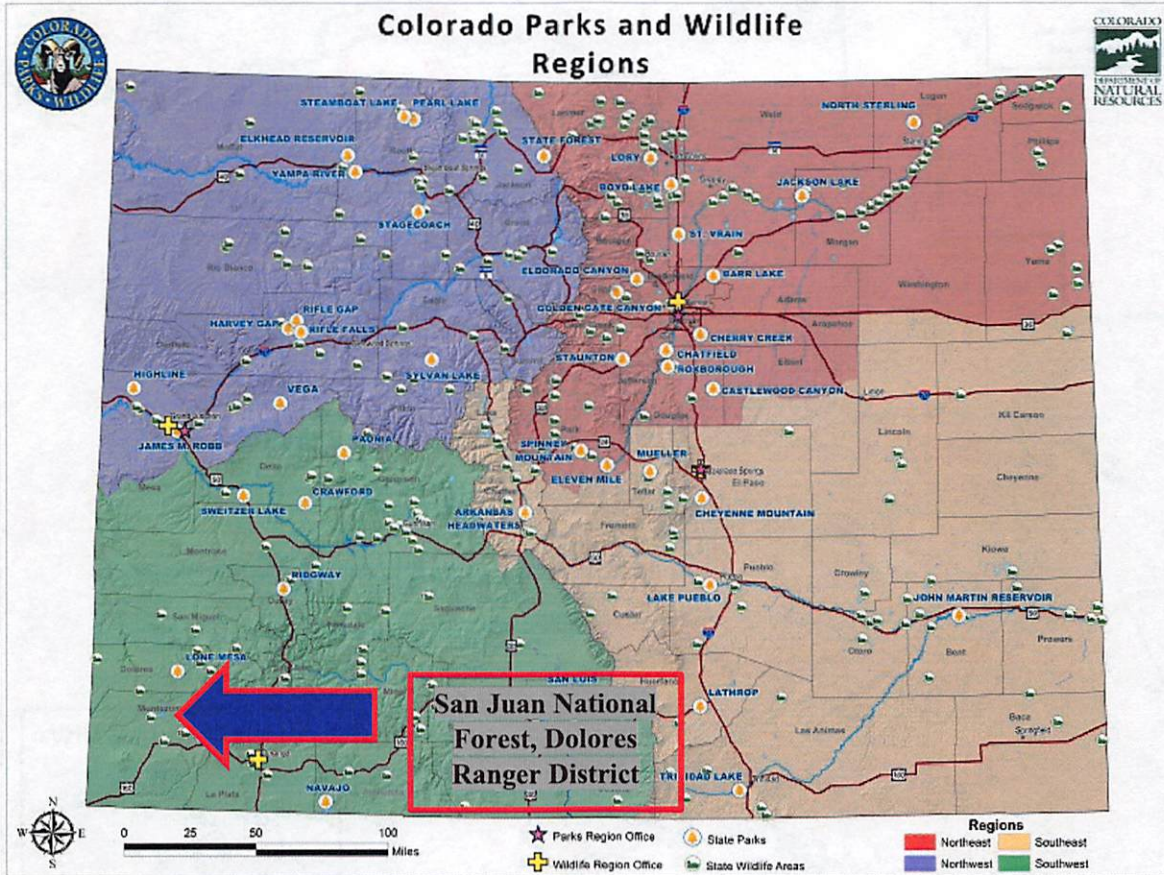
Trail staff will work with Forest Service law enforcement officers and FPOs on enforcement or compliance issues. Many of the District’s FPOs work closely with CPW’s Southwest Regional Trail Coordinator including conducting trail patrols together. We also coordinate with CPW Division of Wildlife law enforcement officers on patrols. District FPO staff typically patrol weekends and Holidays, often using OHVs to contact visitors on our motorized trails. This program costs over \$12,000/ season and is covered by the Forest Service. It has proven to be a cost-effective educational tool. These patrols check OHV registration and remind any motorized users that their registration dollars support motorized trail work. In some cases, FPOs issue citations or warnings to OHV riders who have expired registrations or violate travel rules. Citations are documented using the same database that our Forest Law Enforcement Officers use for their citations. Non-payment of citations can result in additional legal issues for the cited individuals.

Although not directly imbedded with the crew, FPOs are available to the crew in the event of ongoing compliance issues that crews may witness. Crews will also have copies of the San Juan National Forest Dolores Ranger District (MVUM) that can be provided to any visitors they may contact while in the field.

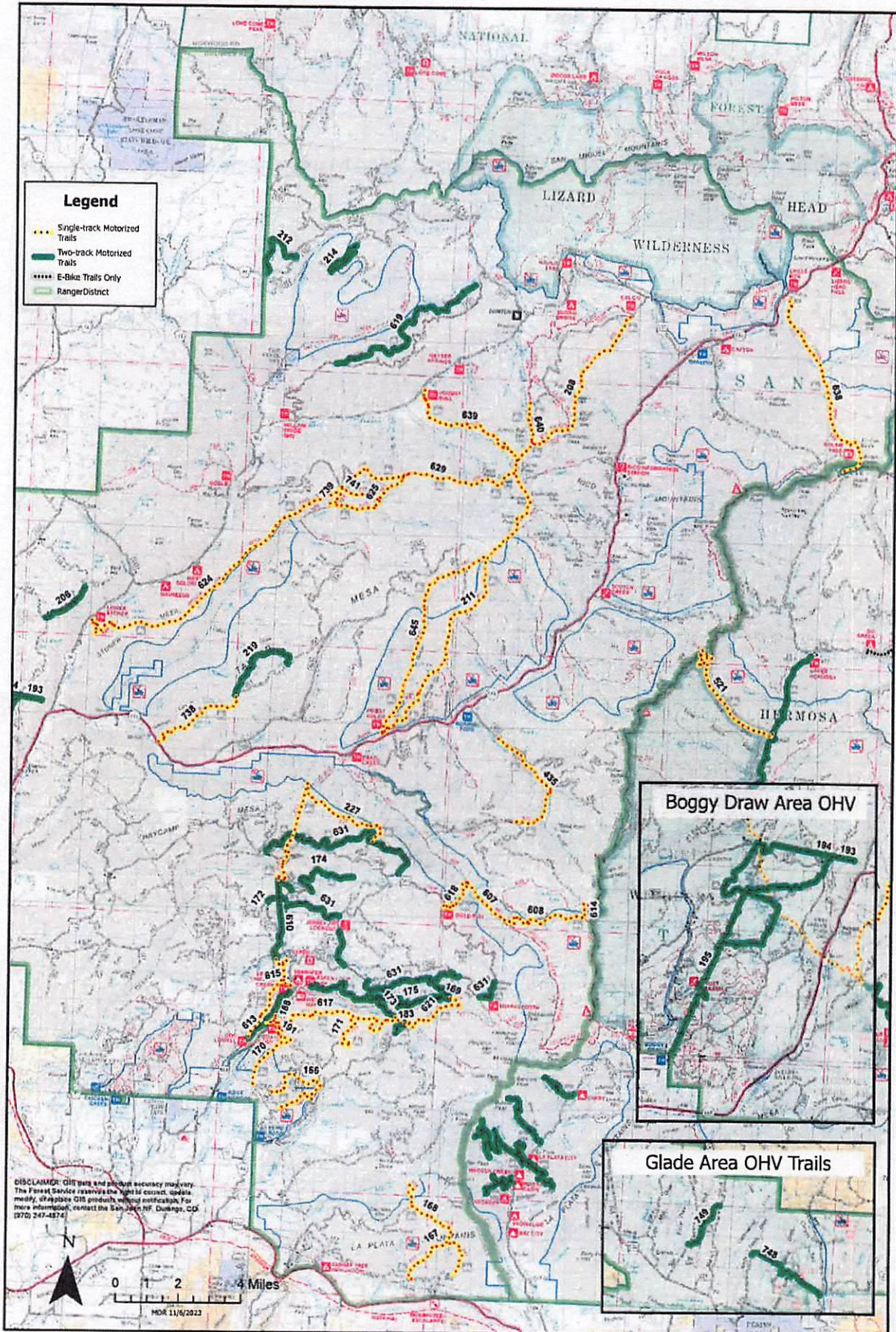
Successful funding by Colorado Parks and Wildlife OHV program for the East Fork trail project will promote motorized recreational opportunities while protecting the natural and cultural resources in the project area.

E-1 Vicinity Map

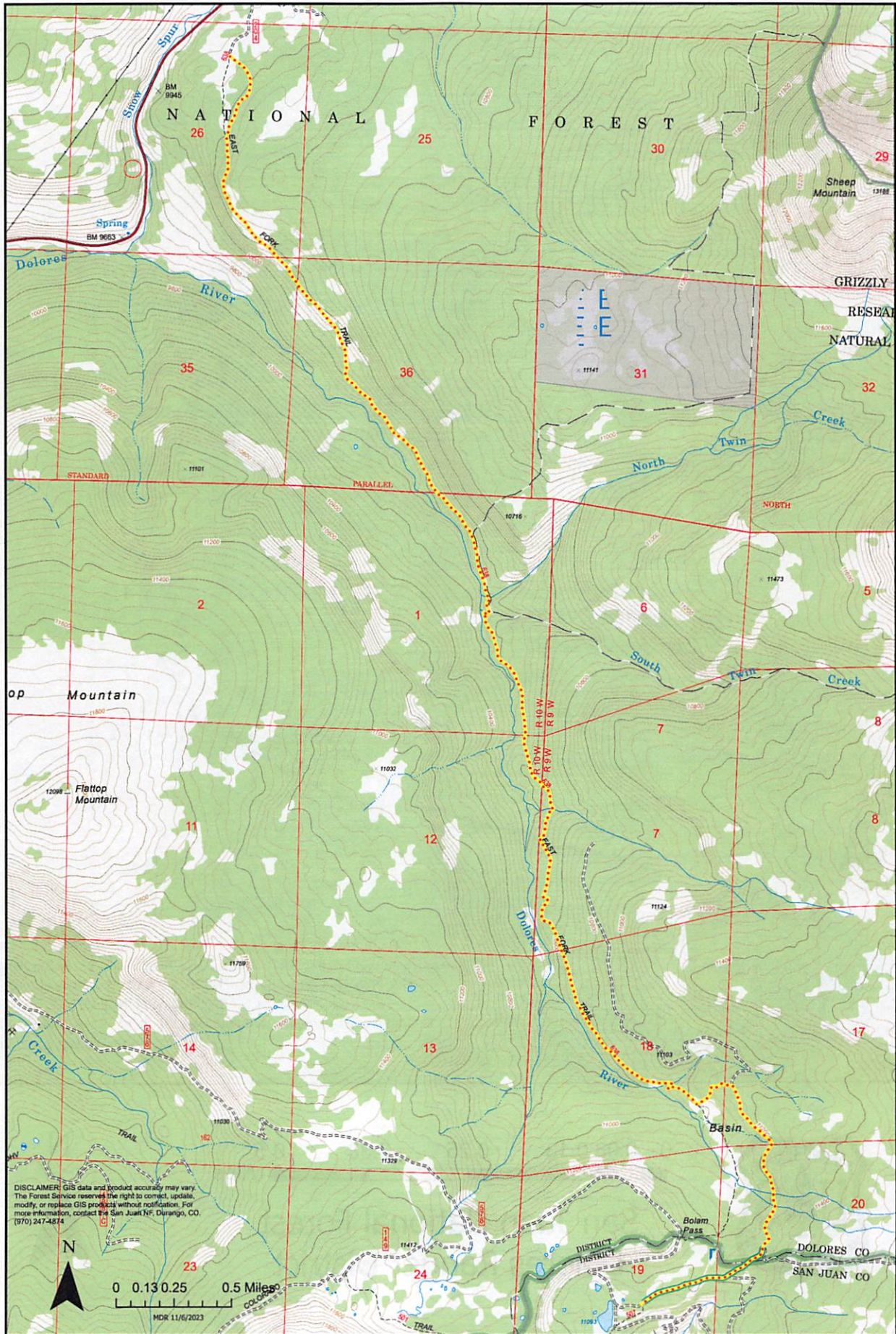
San Juan National Forest Dolores Ranger District Good Management Grant location map
East Fork Trail Project



Dolores Ranger District Motorized Trail System San Juan National Forest

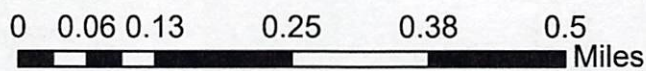
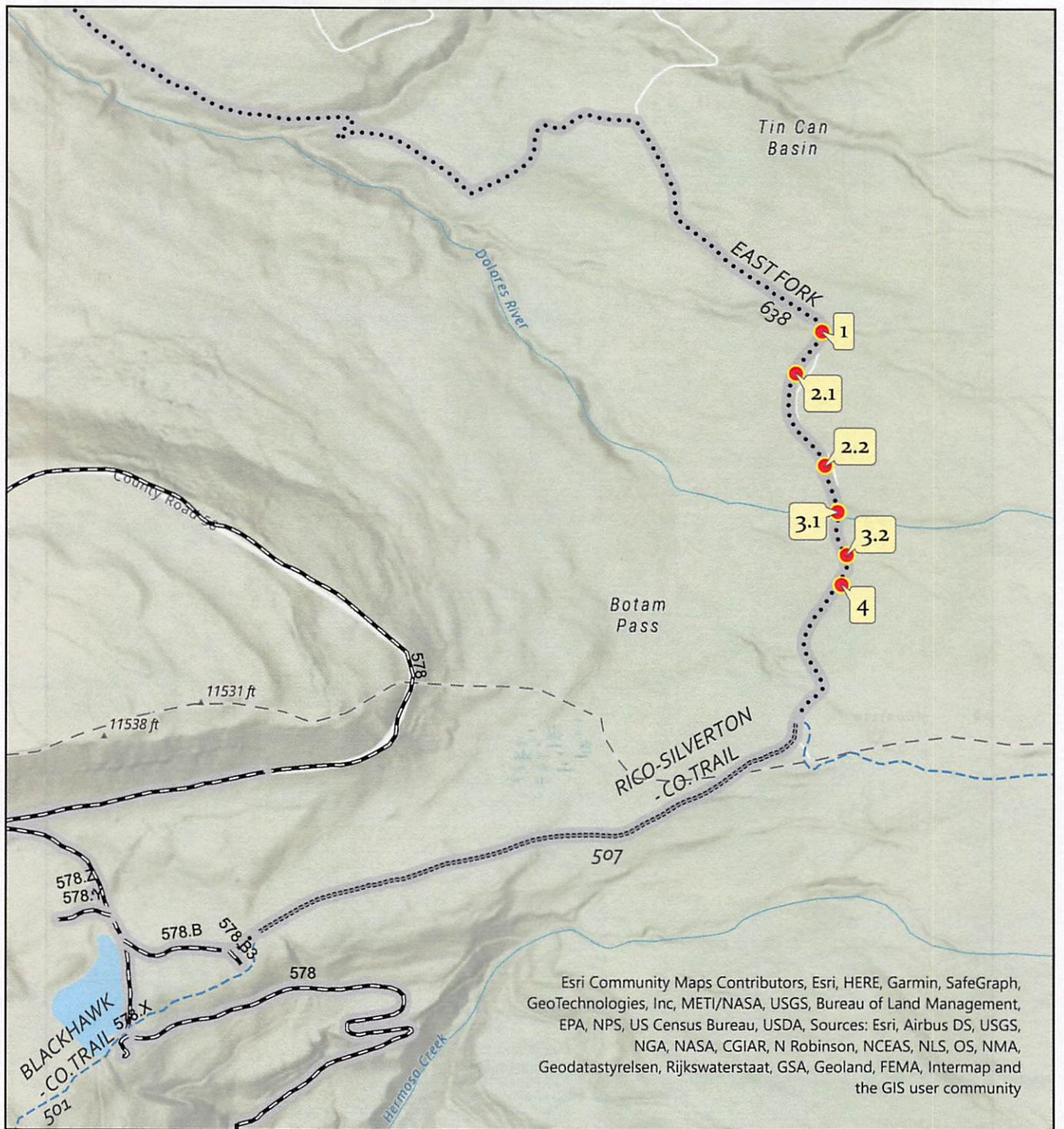


Dolores Ranger District East Fork Trail #638 San Juan National Forest



East Fork Trail No. 638 Trail Drainage and Wet Area Reconstruction

E-2b Project Site Map



San Juan National Forest
Dolores Ranger District



East Fork Trail #638

Tin Can Basin wet area reconstruction project

Location 1



Issue:

80 ft of the trail remains saturated from a seeping hillside early season and during a wet monsoon cycle. During wet years the trail surface remains saturated nearly year-round and in dryer years it will become more stable in the fall. When the trail is saturated, it is very prone to rutting and damage and trail users will attempt to find alternate bypass routes around the area further adding to the resource impacts.

Proposed Repair:

Install an upslope ditch directly adjacent to the trail tread 60'-80' from the culvert location to capture water from the seeping hillside. Ditch will extend to location 2.1 where a trail relocation will begin. Regrade and crown the trail surface adjacent to the ditch.

Time and Equipment:

- Mini Ex for ditching- Forest Service will operate.
- SCC Crew for Handwork – 1 hitch

(F) Project Illustration - East Fork Trail 638

Location 2



Location 2.1- Northern end of reroute.

Location 2.2- Southern end of reroute.

Issue:

640 ft between location 2.1 to 2.2 (see map) of the trail remains saturated from a seeping hillside early season and during a wet monsoon cycle. During wet years the trail surface remains saturated nearly year-round and in dryer years it will become more stable in the fall. When the trail is saturated, it is very prone to rutting and damage and trail users will attempt to find alternate bypass routes around the area further adding to the resource impacts.

Proposed Repair:

Reroute trail just upslope (approx. 20ft) to a bypass route that is forming to avoid the damaged area. Reroute construction will require construction of 30ft of sidehill trail, and the installation of a 20ft turnpike with one culvert.

Time and Equipment:

- SCC Crew for Handwork –2 hitches
- Canycom for moving fill for turnpike (Forest Service will provide)

(F) Project Illustration - East Fork Trail 638

Location 3



Issue:

Numerous seasonal seeps and springs between location 3.1 and 4.

Proposed Repair:

Install upslope ditch for ditch 475ft. Recrown trail surface with the mini ex and hand finish with the SCC crew. 2-3 culverts needed to shuttle water off of trail tread.

Time and Equipment:

- SCC Crew for Handwork –2 hitches
- Canycom for moving fill for turnpike (Forest Service will provide)

(F) Project Illustration - East Fork Trail 638

Location 4



Issue:

Active Spring saturating 60 ft of trail.

Proposed Repair:

Install a 60ft turnpike with one culvert.

Time and Equipment:

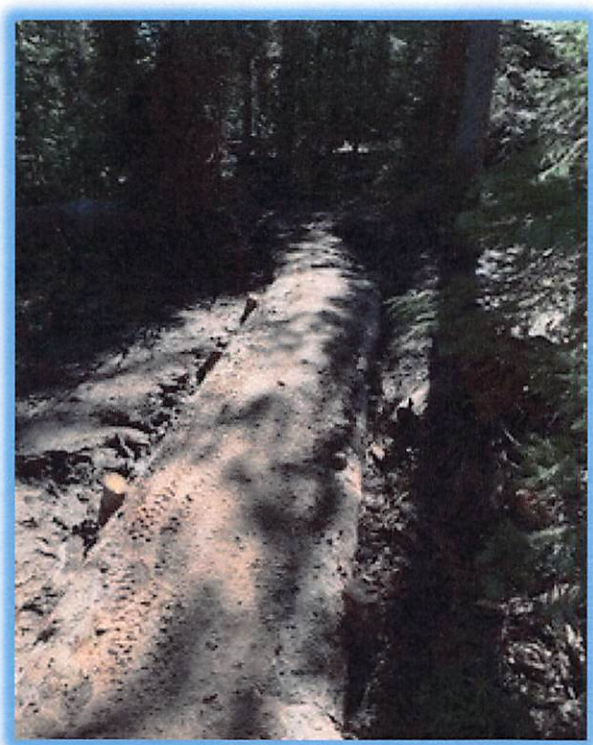
- SCC Crew for Handwork –1 hitch
- Canycom for moving fill for turnpike (Forest Service will provide)

(F) Project Illustration - East Fork Trail 638

Other Tasks in the Project Area:

- Use down timber to narrow up trail tread.
- Brush trail as needed.
- Repair any non-functioning drainage features.
- 2 (two)- 2-week SCC hitches required for these tasks.

Standard Turnpike construction example.



(G)Support letters



Tom Metsa
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
OHV Program Manager
13787 So. Hwy 85N
Littleton, CO 80125

October 17, 2023

Rico Trails Alliance (RTA) was founded in 2017 to steward the local and regional trail systems in and around Rico, Colorado, focusing on user education and the access, development, and use of non-motorized trails.

RTA fully supports the US Forest Service Dolores Ranger District's efforts to continue work on the East Fork Trails Project, continue the Dozer 25 project, and to continue supporting the Good Management Trail Crew 21.

The East Fork Trail near Rico, Colorado is a very popular alpine motorized route that ties into a number of other motorized trails including the Calico Trail, Eagle Peak, Stoner Mesa, and Priest Gulch trails as well as a number of Forest Service roads and non-motorized singletrack trails. In addition to providing unique and challenging motorized singletrack, the East Fork Trail is also used by non-motorized users including hunters, mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians. Keeping this trail maintained and functional for all uses contributes to the local economy and quality of life in Rico. Motorized and non-motorized users alike travel great distances specifically to experience the trails in this area, and in doing so purchase gas, food, and lodging in Rico. The Dolores Ranger District's ongoing work on this trail via the Southwest Conservation Corps has resulted in great improvement for all users and for the sustainability of the trail. The high quality of work completed is long-lasting and is a great investment by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The Dozer 25 project provides heavy equipment support that is integral to efficiently maintaining access to the regional trail system and has provided critical reroutes and realignments on other trails in this area such as the North Calico Trail.

Since 2003, the Good Management Trail Crew 21 has kept and maintained the District's 220+ miles of multi-use motorized trails.

Having seen, utilized, and enjoyed the quality work that the Dolores Ranger District has completed using CPW funds, RTA fully supports the District's requests for additional State funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Ostrem".

Jim Ostrem, Vice President

Rico Trails Alliance



**SOUTHWEST
CONSERVATION CORPS**
A program of Conservation Legacy

November 1, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
13787 So. Hwy 85N
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Tom Mesta:

Please accept this letter of support for the San Juan National Forest's (SJNF) request of funding for the East Fork Trail Project, Dozer 25 Project and Good Management Trail Crew 21.

The Good Management Trail Crew and Dozer 25 projects support the Dolores Ranger District's trail crew. They are pivotal to ensuring the district's 220+ miles of motorized routes are safe and open to members of the public. In addition to maintaining trails, the Dolores Trail Crew has directly supported many Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) Crews over the years through technical support, resume workshops and mentorship. The Dolores RD is a great, local place for our top performing alumni to get a job and continue their career in natural resources.

The East Fork Trail Project would provide 8 weeks of work for a SCC Crew to complete. The trail is a popular motorized route that ties into a number of other motorized trails such as the Calico Trail, Eagle Peak, Stoner Mesa and Priest Gulch trails as well as a number of Forest Service roads and other single track routes. A section of the trail was formerly a two track road but the road was recently decommissioned to accommodate a single track, motorized trail. The proposed work includes stabilization of drainage crossings, signage, tread and drainage repair to formalize the single track trail into one continuous route. The Dolores Trail Crew will provide project management and technical support to our crew on a regular basis to ensure trail maintenance standards are held to the USFS specifications.

SCC employs a diverse group of young adults to complete meaningful conservation projects on public lands. Founded as a non-profit organization in 1998 to continue the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, SCC runs conservation and educational projects that are primarily supported by land management agencies and municipalities throughout the Southwest region of the US. SCC and the Dolores Ranger District have had a valuable partnership for over a decade, and we look forward to continuing to grow this partnership and provide ample opportunities for young adults to learn, grow and be stewards of the land.

SCC strongly supports this application for funding the East Fork Trail Project, Dozer 25 Project and Good Management Trail Crew 21. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Lisa Slupianek
Adult Programs Director
Southwest Conservation Corps
970.946.0242 / slupianek@conservationlegacy.org



Board of County Commissioners

P O Box 608
Dove Creek, CO 81324

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

dcdolocnty@fone.net

05 October 2023

Tom Rice, Recreation Staff Officer
San Juan National Forest, Dolores Ranger District
29211 Hwy 184
Dolores, CO 81323

RE: Letter of Support for Grant Proposals to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Motorized Trails Program

Dear Tom:

Dolores County Board of County Commissioners (DCBOCC) is happy to write this letter of support for the upcoming grant proposals to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Motorized Trails Program. We've seen the good working relationship between the San Juan Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife through these grants and the improvements it has brought to the trail systems that exist within Dolores County and our neighboring counties.

We support the 3 projects that are being planned on the Dolores Ranger District.

The East Fork Trail Project- The District proposes to hire a Southwest Conservation Corp crew for up to 8 weeks of work on the East Fork Trail located north of Rico, Colorado. The trail is a popular motorized route that ties into a number of other motorized trails such as the Calico Trail, Eagle Peak, Stoner Mesa and Priest Gulch trails as well as a number of Forest Service roads and other single-track routes. A section of the trail was formerly a two-track road, but the road was recently decommissioned to accommodate a single track, motorized trail. Proposed work includes stabilization of drainage crossings, signage, tread and drainage repair to formalize the single-track trail into one contiguous route.

Dozer 25 Project- This year our Dozer crew completed heavy maintenance on a variety of trails near the communities of Mancos, Dolores and Rico. The District is requesting funds that will pay the salaries of a returning dozer operator and a swamper. This crew will focus on heavy maintenance of our motorized trail system using the District's trail dozer.


Good Management Trail Crew 21- Beginning in 2003, the District staffed a trail crew who works on our motorized trails using funds from the motorized trail program. They are the core of our trail program who focus on the district's 220+ miles of motorized routes. Although we do not necessarily need a letter of support for that program I typically add this to our support letter requests so that the OHV committee understands the breadth of our trail program on the Dolores District.

The DCBOCC has supported the requests of grant proposals from the San Juan National Forest, Dolores Ranger District utilizing the funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife Motorized Trail Programs for many years. With the increase of OHV usage and the number of people visiting and enjoying our public lands we see the need for continued maintenance and protection of these natural resources. It is good to see our local federal agencies working together to accomplish this.

Sincerely,

Dolores County Board of County Commissioners


Steve Garchar, Chair


Linda Yellowman, Vice Chair


Floyd Cook



TOWN OF RICO
INCORPORATED OCTOBER 11, 1879
2 North Commercial Street
Post Office Box 9
Rico, Colorado 81332
Office # 970.967.2861
Fax # 970.967.2862
www.ricocolorado.gov

October 19, 2023

Tom Metsa, OHV Program Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
13787 South Hwy 85
Littleton, Colorado 80125

RE: CPW Motorized Trail Grant – Dolores Ranger District

Dear Mr. Metsa:

The Town of Rico's Board of Trustees is pleased to support the Dolores Ranger Districts' motorized grant request to Colorado Parks and Wildlife. This year the San Juan National Forest Dolores Ranger District Motorized Trails Program will focus on three significant projects within the District:

- The East Fork Trail Project- The District proposes to hire a Southwest Conservation Corp crew for up to 8 weeks of work on the East Fork Trail located north of Rico, Colorado. The trail is a popular motorized route (also utilized by motorized recreation enthusiasts), in the vicinity of a number of other motorized trails such as the Calico Trail, Eagle Peak, Stoner Mesa and Priest Gulch trails as well as a number of Forest Service roads and other single-track routes. A section of the trail was formerly a two-track road, but the road was recently decommissioned to accommodate a single track, motorized trail. Proposed work includes stabilization of drainage crossings, signage, tread, and drainage repair to formalize the single-track trail into one contiguous route.
- Dozer 25 Project- This year our Dozer crew completed heavy maintenance on a variety of trails near the communities of Mancos, Dolores, and Rico. The District is requesting funds that will pay the salaries of a returning dozer operator and a swamper. This crew will focus on heavy maintenance of our motorized trail system using the District's trail dozer.
- Good Management Trail Crew 21- Beginning in 2003, the District staffed a trail crew who works on our motorized trails using funds from the motorized trail program. They are the core of our trail program who focus on the District's 220+ miles of motorized routes.

The Rico region of the District has many motorized trails on public lands adjacent to our Town. Community members recreate on in these areas daily and continue to advocate for reasonable and responsible motorized recreational opportunities. Recreational OHV opportunities are significant to our local economy and lifestyle. For example, dirt bike riders from around the country often frequent the Calico Trail network, passing through Town as they complete their ride. During the summer and fall you often see dirt bikes parked in front of local establishments with the riders inside supporting local businesses.

It is critically important to us to protect motorized use as a valued recreational resource. The USFS Dolores Ranger District has effectively tapped into grant opportunities to help sustain the Motorized Trail program.

The USFS Dolores Ranger District has a proven track record converting funding opportunities into successful trail maintenance projects. These projects have had numerous positive impacts within our community and the surrounding area. CPW's partnership in keeping an outstanding recreational network is critical. In the face of declining federal recreational budgets and increased recreational use, CPW's financial commitment to the community is vital and greatly appreciated.

The Town of Rico strongly supports the Dolores Ranger District's Motorized Trail program and the grant request to CPW. The Dolores Ranger District has consistently demonstrated sound project management and delivered outstanding results.

Sincerely,

Town of Rico Board of Trustees

By: _____
Nicole Y. Pieterse, Mayor



October 27, 2023

Tom Metsa
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
OHV Program Manager
13787 S. Hwy 85N
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Colorado State Parks and Wildlife Motorized Trails Program- Good Management Trail Crew 21, Trail Dozer 25 Project, and the East Fork Trail Project

Dear Mr. Metsa:

Southwest Colorado Cycling Association (SWCCA) would like to express our ongoing support of the USFS Dolores Ranger District. We believe their application for the **Good Management Trail Crew 21, Trail Dozer 25 Project, and the East Fork Trail Project** represent an excellent opportunity for the State of Colorado's Motorized Trails Program funding.

SWCCA is not a motorized user group. However, our members enjoy mountain biking on local motorized trails and appreciate the significant trail maintenance efforts put forth by the motorized clubs. SWCCA maintains our support of multi-use trails and other user groups. Many of our members crossover to these other user groups, and the e-bike user group continues to expand. In addition to advocating for the Dolores Ranger District's proposal, we are willing to show our support by partnering with them on some multi-use trails, including the use of our mini excavator.

Southwest Colorado's proximity to New Mexico and Arizona makes it a hotbed for alpine recreation in the summertime. We continue to see a high number of outdoor recreationists in the "summer" season, highlighting the need for active trail maintenance and recognizing the positive impacts of past maintenance. Well-maintained trails decrease user-made routes, improve user experience, and supply better outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Recreation visitors play an important role in our local economy.

The **Good Management Trail Crews** have played a critical role in ongoing maintenance and improvements on the 220+ miles of motorized trails in the Dolores Ranger District. The trail crews create local jobs and have done so for 21 seasons. This includes providing much needed employment opportunities for our youth and young adults.

Funding the **Dozer 25 Project** gives the Dolores Ranger District the means to hire returning staff. Having a skilled and seasoned dozer operator and swamper plays a pivotal role in the quality and efficiency of the maintenance completed. The past work done on the East Fork Trail was a great improvement and users happily applauded. The dozer crew's ability to complete the heavy maintenance, using the new equipment secured by the Dolores Ranger District, will continue to be a labor and time-saving advantage. Maximizing the benefit of all funds received.



The **East Fork Trail Project** would improve the overall trail system due to its ties to the other trails in the area. This project would improve the trail experience and sustainability for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We hope you support the Dolores Ranger District's grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dani Gregory", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dani Gregory
SWCCA, President



SAN JUAN TRAIL RIDERS

P.O BOX 1118

Durango, CO 81302

636-541-7669 | sanjuantrailriders.com

31 October 2023

Recipient
OHV Program Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

Mr. Metsa:

Please accept this letter as recognition of support for the East fork Trail Project.

The East Fork Trail Project is vital to both motorized and non-motorized trail users to connect access to other trails within the district. Furthermore, the proposed maintenance and signage will increase awareness and prevent off trail incursions. This area is popular among destination tourists seeking motorized use trails. Therefore, proper signage, education, and maintenance is vital in order to protect this special place.

V/R

Your Name

