



Routt County Riders Awarded CPW Non-Motorized Trail Grant for Buffalo Pass Trails

It's official! In June 2017, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) awarded Routt County Riders (RCR) a \$246,000 Non-Motorized Trail Grant for the Buffalo Pass Trails. Funding was provided by the Federal Highway's Recreational Trail Program (RTP) and administered through the Parks and Wildlife Trails Program.

Last fall, RCR determined it was worth the investment of \$2,800 to hire Sparrow Trails, a professional trail planning and grant writing consultant. Their hope was that their investment would provide an end result of \$321,000 for the trail project – which it did! One of the key elements to success with this grant is cash match support and partnerships with the land management agency and community.

This project is a partnership between the City of Steamboat Springs, the Hahn Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and Routt County Riders and was funded, in part, by voter approved lodging tax dollars from the City of Steamboat Springs. This partnership provided the necessary cash match of \$75,000.

According to Chad Stewart, District Ranger for the U.S. Forest Service Hahns Peaks/ Bears Ears District,

“This project would not have been possible without the partnership and support from everyone involved, especially Routt County Riders and the City of Steamboat Springs. These partnerships are critical, and without them, we wouldn't be doing this project. This grant and the partnerships provide new opportunities.”

Routt County Riders is very excited to partner with the USFS on the Buffalo Pass Trails. A key element to development and implementation of a trail system is efficient use of funds. According to Jack Troutman, RCR President,

“Community support of RCR has been very important to us and our ability to succeed as a non-profit trail organization. The community helped RCR obtain specialized trail building equipment in 2014. We have the privilege of working with the USFS and City of Steamboat Springs in order to stretch our dollars to go further through partnership agreements. All of the partners involved contribute financially and through professional in-kind donations to a project in order to make it all happen. Sometimes the USFS contributes the larger share, while other times, another partner provides more funding. Routt County Riders was fortunate to receive the CPW grant this year to contribute the majority of the funds necessary for implementation of the Buffalo Pass Trails. We look forward to many more years of partnering with the USFS, City of Steamboat Springs, and the community on development of new trails in the area.”

