



STOR Committee Meeting Agenda

January 30th, 2024: 2 – 4PM

Hybrid Meeting

For STOR Committee Members & Guests: *This meeting will be held in-person at the Blackstock Building – 200 W Virginia Ave, Gunnison, CO 81230.*

For the General Public: *The meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom at the following link: <https://gunnisoncounty-org.zoom.us/j/87637105265?pwd=Rkt2d2NoM3NubTJWMIz5bnJzNjVvUT09>*

2:00 pm **Call to Order & Agenda Preview** – *Jake Jones (Committee Chair)*

Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes – *Jake Jones*

2:05 pm **Gunnison County Stewardship Fund: 2025 Funding Recommendations** –
All

GCSF Project List:

Crested Butte Avalanche Center: Avalanche Outreach Program

Western Colorado University: Leave No Trace on Public Lands

Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association: 2025 Crested Butte Conservation Corps

Crested Butte/Mt CB Chamber of Commerce: Trailhead Porta Potty Program

Gunnison Ranger District USFS: Janitorial Service Contract for Public Restrooms

WCU Center for Public Lands: CPL Stewardship Development Program

Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association: Enhancing Management through Gate Infrastructure

Gunnison Trails: 2025 Professional Trail Crew

Hinsdale County: Restroom at Gunnison County Rd 26 and Hwy 149

Western Colorado University Foundation: Verzuh Ranch Ecological Education Outreach Program

Supporting Documents: Gunnison County Stewardship Fund 2025 Project LOIs

Action: Recommend projects for full application and funding amounts

4:00pm **Adjurn**

Gunnison County Stewardship Fund

LOI Requests

1. Crested Butte Avalanche Center:

Project: Avalanche Outreach Program - **\$8,000**

2. Western Colorado University

Project: Leave No Trace on Public Lands - **\$728.00**

3. Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association:

Project: 2025 Crested Butte Conservation Corps - **\$40,000**

4. Crested Butte/Mt CB Chamber of Commerce:

Project: Trailhead Porta Potty Program - **\$18,000**

5. Gunnison Ranger District USFS:

Project: Janitorial Service Contract for Public Restrooms - **\$40,000**

6. WCU Center for Public Lands

Project: CPL Stewardship Development Program - **\$8,512.00**

7. Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association

Project: Enhancing Management through Gate Infrastructure - **\$13,240**

8. Gunnison Trails:

Project: 2025 Professional Trail Crew - **\$25,000**

9. Hinsdale County:

Project: Restroom at Gunnison County Rd 26 and Hwy 149 - **\$15,000**

10. Western Colorado University Foundation

Project: Verzuh Ranch Ecological Education Outreach Program - **\$30,000**



Crested Butte Avalanche Center

Avalanche Outreach Program

Request: \$8,000.00

Anticipated Start:

Anticipated Completion:

Region

Submitted: 01/15/2025

Project Contact:

Nathaniel Acuff

Executive Director

PO Box 2351

Crested Butte, CO 81224-2351

than@crestedbuttenews.com

(970) 275-5761

Organization Primary Contact:

Crested Butte Avalanche Center

Executive Director: Nathaniel Acuff

PO Box 2351

Crested Butte, CO 81224-2351

(970) 275-5761

cbavalanchecenter.org

Organization Type: 501(c)(3) nonprofit

EIN: 02-0703033

UEI: NNTDSJLH6WU6

Overview

Project Name*

Avalanche Outreach Program

STOR Committee Nomination Contact Person*

Nick Catmur

Organization Type*

Please indicate your organization type.

501(c)(3) nonprofit

Narrative Questions

Need*

Describe why the project is a priority.

Outdoor recreation is critical for mental and physical health and the Upper Gunnison Valley is known to be an area with immeasurable opportunities for recreation. The Crested Butte Avalanche Center (CBAC) is the first step to preventing death and accidents due to avalanches in this area. We have had two avalanche fatalities in our area since December 18th, 2020. There have been more than 30 fatalities across the state of Colorado since December 18th, 2020. The local decrease in avalanche fatalities in our service area, despite the increase in winter backcountry recreation, shows we are making an impact and shows the critical service we provide at no cost to our users. The CBAC serves all individuals, local and visitors alike, who recreate in the backcountry in the winter whether on skis, snowmobile, snowshoes, fat bike or dog walking. Our outreach program exists to reach as many of these recreationalists as possible to inform them of the inherent danger of avalanches in our area.

Location*

Describe where the project is located. Specify all land ownership types.

The project is located in Gunnison County and includes efforts at the entrances to Gunnison National Forest lands, partnerships with local private property easement holders, as well as lands within the municipality of the towns of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte.

Goals and Objectives*



We aim to support projects that help achieve the goals laid out in STOR's Strategic Plan. Please list the specific goals and objectives your project will accomplish and identify how they support those outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan shown below.

- A. Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.*
- B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.*
- C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.*
- D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.*

The goal of CBAC's Avalanche Outreach Program is to extend our avalanche messaging and to offer basic avalanche education beyond the typical backcountry recreationalists such as skiers, snowboarders and snowmobilers. We have found that the recent uptick in winter recreation includes new users and our objective is to reach as many people as possible to ensure they have a safe and enjoyable time in the mountains in Gunnison County. While reduction or absence of avalanche-related deaths per season is indicative of our organizational success, CBAC also evaluates website traffic as an indicator of our progress. This data guides future content production, reporting on the popularity of different sections of our website.

Last winter (October 15, 2023-April 15, 2024), CBAC's digital review demonstrated increasing reliance on our services by thousands of individuals.

Key Google Analytics findings include:

- Page views was 329,414 which is up from 233,129 from last season.
- The average person visited the CBAC website 8.47 times (up from 3.09 last season).
- Some people visited only once, and a smaller subset visited daily.
- The average person spent 5.34 minutes on our website when checking in (up from 3.09)
- The CBAC has 20,783 social media followers.

The CBAC's goals align with STOR's strategic plan of promoting a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy. We do this by providing our services at no cost to anyone who wants to educate themselves about avalanche danger in our area and how to manage that danger for any type of user group including, but not limited to, skiers, snowmobilers, fat bikers, dog walkers, students, seniors, and Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) linemen.



Methods

In a succinct narrative or bulleted-paragraph format, describe the specific steps your organization, consultants, or contractors will take to achieve each individual goal or objective.

The way the CBAC achieves our goals is by conducting as many outreach events as possible throughout the winter.

Our public events for 2024/2025 include:

- a day of beacon skills brush up
- four beacon rescue skills days
- five trailhead days
- four fireside chats
- eight additional educational days with various groups throughout the Gunnison Valley including the Crested Butte Community School (CBCS), Crested Butte Search and Rescue (CBSAR), Crested Butte Land Trust, Crested Butte Nordic, the Gunnison Senior Center, and Gunnison High School (GHS).

Timeline

Provide an explicit timeline of the proposed work, listing key activity dates.

Public Events:

December 8th, Beacon Brush Up

Trailhead Days:

November 30th, Kebler Pass TH

December 29th, Snodgrass TH

January 19th, Washington Guch TH

February 15th, Slate River TH

March 22nd, Kebler Pass TH

Rescue Clinics at the Beacon Park:

December 19th

January 17th

February 20th

March 20th

Fireside Chats:

December 22nd - Mapping and Tour Planning

January 16th - Mental Health in the Outdoors

TBD February

TBD March

Other Events/Programs

November 15th - Advise Trailhead Children's Museum for winter display



November 21st - Avalanche Awareness Class for GCEA
January 8th and 10th - Avalanche/Snow Science classes for CBCS
January 15th - Avalanche Awareness presentation for CBSAR
January 17th - Ski tour and presentation for CB Land Trust and CB Nordic
January 21st - Snowshoe and avalanche awareness class with the Gunnison Senior Center
February 28th - Ski tour and awareness class with the Pathways Program at GHS
March 6th - Snowshoe and snow science with the Gunnison Middle School

Work begins October 15th, 2024 and runs through April 15th 2025.

Quantifiable Outcomes*

List 3-7 quantifiable outcomes of your proposed project.

Examples:

- *Brush clearing and treadwork along 3 miles of trail*
- *Removal of 80% of invasive species over 3 acres*
- *Involvement of 15 new volunteers and 10 returning volunteers*
- *A total of 200 youth corps hours worked*

1. The CBAC would like to increase our website page views by 5% during the winter of 2024/2025.

At the end of the season, the CBAC will look at our Google Analytics report to determine if we have increased our website page views by 5%. Last season our website views was 329,414. We have found a direct correlation between website page views and a reduction in avalanche accidents.

2. The CBAC would like to increase our social media followers by 2500 people. Much of our content is attached to our social media posts and we know we can increase our website views when we increase our social media followers.

3. The CBAC will conduct 5 Trailhead Days, 4 Fireside Chats, 4 beacon rescue events and 8 education events with various groups. The CBAC aims to conduct outreach that will introduce and remind the public that we are a local avalanche resource, and will also allow us to address different areas in our zone, conditions, weather impacts and other information to continue to help educate our user groups.

Environmental Compliance*

Briefly indicate whether all required environmental compliance and permitting for your project is complete. The NFF cannot fund any work that does not have all environmental compliance work complete at time of application. This includes NEPA as well as any other mandated compliance processes. Of note:



- *If all environmental compliance work is not complete, please stop working on this application and immediately inform your NFF contact to discuss the appropriate next steps.*

N/A

Budget

Amount Requested from NFF*

This budget number is for the component of your project expenses that you are requesting to be covered by the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund.

\$8,000.00

Total Project Budget*

This budget number should reflect both the funds requested from the NFF Gunnison County Stewardship Fund and other matching project contributions.

\$16,000.00

Budget Narrative*

Describe the project's projected expenses and specify which expenses will be covered by your Gunnison County Stewardship Fund request. Describe any matching contributions (cash funds or in-kind services) that you will raise for the project.

Our projected expenses for the Avalanche Outreach Program are \$16,000 (\$15,000 for our Outreach Director and \$1000 for equipment) with \$8000 coming from the Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District. The requested \$8,000 from the NFF will go directly to help cover the salary of our Outreach Director and equipment. \$7,500 goes toward our Outreach Director Salary and \$500 for equipment.

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded





Western Colorado University

Leave No Trace on Public Lands

Request: \$728.00

Anticipated Start:

Anticipated Completion:

Region

Submitted: 01/16/2025

Project Contact:

Camren Hovey

Graduate Student

1 Western Way CPO #5379

Gunnison, CO 81231-7002

camren.hovey@western.edu

(303) 587-9488

Organization Primary Contact:

Western Colorado University

Graduate Student: Mr. Camren Hovey

1 Western Way

Gunnison, CO 81231-7002

(970) 943-2119

Organization Type: University

EIN: NA

UEI:

Overview

Project Name*

Leave No Trace on Public Lands

STOR Committee Nomination Contact Person*

Nick Catmur

Organization Type*

Please indicate your organization type.

University

Narrative Questions

Need*

Describe why the project is a priority.

The Leave No Trace on Public Lands project adds an environmental education component to Gunnison Middle School's annual Taylor Challenge for eighth-graders. In 2025, the project will teach Leave No Trace principles to about 100 eighth-graders, 43% of whom are low-income and 27% Hispanic/Latino (Colorado Department of Education 2023-2024). The goal is for the 2025 pilot, funded by STOR, to become a permanent part of the Taylor Challenge, eventually reaching hundreds of Gunnison Valley youth. Currently, no programming emphasizes the stewardship role these youth have as residents and recreationists in a county that is 82% public land. This initiative aims to increase understanding of outdoor ethics and foster a valley-wide culture of respect and care for public lands.

Location*

Describe where the project is located. Specify all land ownership types.

Taylor Challenge is a 3-day summer experience on Forest Service Lands

Goals and Objectives*

We aim to support projects that help achieve the goals laid out in STOR's Strategic Plan. Please list the specific goals and objectives your project will accomplish and identify how they support those outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan shown below.

- A. *Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.*



- B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.*
- C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.*
- D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.*

A. Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.

-Achieved by reaching all (or nearly all) eighth-grade students attending public school in Gunnison County to foster understanding and support for our thriving natural ecosystems and wildlife.

B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.

-Achieved by teaching Leave No Trace on Public Lands principles.

C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve the management of recreation and natural resources.

-Achieved by coordinating with Gunnison Middle School, Western Colorado University, the USFS Gunnison Ranger District, and the STOR Committee to leverage the Taylor Challenge into a public land stewardship education opportunity.

D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connections and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.

-Achieved by teaching valley youth, and by extension their families, of the importance of treating the public lands with respect and the basic principles on how to enjoy the outdoors without negatively impacting them.

Methods

In a succinct narrative or bulleted-paragraph format, describe the specific steps your organization, consultants, or contractors will take to achieve each individual goal or objective.

1. Start working on Leave No Trace Materials

-Collaborate with Gunnison Middle School staff to integrate Leave No Trace programming into Taylor Challenge activities.

-Adapt the Leave No Trace curriculum and activities to be age-appropriate and culturally inclusive.

-Develop bilingual (English/Spanish) materials to ensure accessibility for all participants, including Spanish-speaking families.



- Facilitate workshops and hands-on activities during the Taylor Challenge to teach principles of environmental stewardship.

2. Foster Environmental Stewardship

- Educate participants about the importance of respecting public lands and minimizing their impact on natural ecosystems.
- Use engaging activities, such as role-playing scenarios and interactive discussions, to illustrate the impact of responsible recreation.
- Provide students with take-home materials to share Leave No Trace principles with their families.

3. Collaborate with Stakeholders

- Coordinate efforts with Western Colorado University, the USFS Gunnison Ranger District, and other partners to ensure program alignment with regional stewardship goals.
- Conduct regular check-ins with stakeholders to gather feedback and improve program delivery.

4. Evaluate Program Impact

- Collect feedback from students, teachers, and partners to assess the program's effectiveness.
- Use pre- and post-program surveys to measure increases in knowledge and changes in attitudes toward public land stewardship.

5. Establish Long-term Integration

- Work with Gunnison Middle School to embed Leave No Trace programming into the annual Taylor Challenge.
- Seek additional funding and partnerships to sustain and expand the program in future years.

Timeline

Provide an explicit timeline of the proposed work, listing key activity dates.

February 2025

Finalize curriculum adaptation for the eighth-grade audience, incorporating bilingual materials (English/Spanish).

Meet with Gunnison Middle School staff to coordinate program logistics and integrate activities into Taylor Challenge schedules.

Confirm partnerships and roles with stakeholders, including Western Colorado University, USFS Gunnison Ranger District, and CSU Extension.

March 2025

Procure necessary materials (PEAK Pack, Educator's Toolkit, and other supplies) for program delivery.

Schedule pre-program training for project staff and volunteers, ensuring consistency in the delivery of Leave No Trace principles.

Develop pre- and post-program surveys to assess the program's effectiveness.



April 2025

Complete all pre-program training sessions and finalize participant materials.

Conduct a trial run of Leave No Trace activities to gather feedback and make final adjustments.

May-June 2025

Facilitate Leave No Trace workshops during the Taylor Challenge in Taylor Canyon. Activities include hands-on exercises, discussions, and interactive games to teach public land stewardship.

July 2025

Gather feedback from students, teachers, and program staff regarding the Taylor Challenge workshops.

Analyze pre- and post-program survey data to evaluate knowledge gains and attitudinal shifts among participants.

August 2025

Prepare a comprehensive program report summarizing activities, outcomes, and feedback.

Share the report with Gunnison Middle School staff, stakeholders, and the STOR Committee to demonstrate the program's impact.

Meet with Gunnison Middle School staff and stakeholders to discuss integrating Leave No Trace programming into future Taylor Challenge events.

Quantifiable Outcomes*

List 3-7 quantifiable outcomes of your proposed project.

Examples:

- *Brush clearing and treadwork along 3 miles of trail*
- *Removal of 80% of invasive species over 3 acres*
- *Involvement of 15 new volunteers and 10 returning volunteers*
- *A total of 200 youth corps hours worked*

1. Engagement of 110 eighth-grade students in Leave No Trace workshops during the Taylor Challenge.
2. Completion of 7 Leave No Trace workshops (one for each principle), including hands-on activities and discussions.
3. Improvement in Leave No Trace knowledge, with 80% of students demonstrating increased understanding through pre- and post-program surveys.
4. Collection of 80+ student and staff feedback responses to assess the program's impact.

Environmental Compliance*

Briefly indicate whether all required environmental compliance and permitting for your project is complete. The NFF cannot fund any work that does not have all environmental compliance work complete at time of application. This includes NEPA as well as any other mandated compliance processes. Of note:



- *If all environmental compliance work is not complete, please stop working on this application and immediately inform your NFF contact to discuss the appropriate next steps.*

All required environmental compliance and permitting for this project are complete. The Taylor Challenge program has obtained the necessary permits from the USFS to operate on public lands, ensuring compliance with all relevant environmental regulations. We

Budget

Amount Requested from NFF*

This budget number is for the component of your project expenses that you are requesting to be covered by the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund.

\$728.00

Total Project Budget*

This budget number should reflect both the funds requested from the NFF Gunnison County Stewardship Fund and other matching project contributions.

\$728.00

Budget Narrative*

Describe the project's projected expenses and specify which expenses will be covered by your Gunnison County Stewardship Fund request. Describe any matching contributions (cash funds or in-kind services) that you will raise for the project.

Personnel

Project Director Camren Hovey, a certified Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor, will be compensated at the 2025 GS-4, Step 7 federal rate of \$23.11/hour for 25 hours, totaling \$577.75. Duties include coordinating with Gunnison Middle School staff, organizing logistics, adapting the Leave No Trace curriculum, facilitating activities/workshops at Taylor Canyon, preparing materials/reports, and traveling to/from Taylor Canyon.

Cost: \$577.75

Materials

PEAK Pack: \$72.95

Educator's Toolkit: \$34.95

Estimated shipping: \$8.94

Estimated taxes: \$9.61

Total Materials Cost: \$126.45

Travel

Mileage reimbursement for 34 miles (round trip) at \$0.70/mile totals \$23.80.

Total Budget: \$728.00



Applicant File Uploads
No files were uploaded





Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association

2025 Crested Butte Conservation Corps (CBCC)

Request: \$40,000.00

Anticipated Start:

Anticipated Completion:

Region

Submitted: 01/07/2025

Project Contact:

Mary Chandler

Development Director

development@cbmba.org

Crested Butte, CO 81224-0782

development@cbmba.org

(970) 355-9582

Organization Primary Contact:

Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association

Executive Director: David Ochs

PO Box 782

Crested Butte, CO 81224-0782

(970) 349-7324

<https://crestedbuttemountainbike.com>

Organization Type: 501(c)(3) nonprofit

EIN: 68-0512218

UEI:

Overview

Project Name*

2025 Crested Butte Conservation Corps (CBCC)

STOR Committee Nomination Contact Person*

David Ochs

Organization Type*

Please indicate your organization type.

501(c)(3) nonprofit

Narrative Questions

Need*

Describe why the project is a priority.

As visitation and use of public lands and trails in the Crested Butte area continue to increase, and Federal Public Lands agencies' staffing levels continue to drop, the need for our organization to fulfill trail maintenance and public lands stewardship projects remains a high priority for the community and for land managers. The population of Colorado continues to grow, and as the trails and public lands surrounding Crested Butte remain a destination for outdoor enthusiasts from all over the country and the world, our trail maintenance and stewardship work ensures that these amenities remain high quality and accessible for all users. The CBCC assists the Gunnison Ranger District in fulfilling its backlog of trail maintenance needs and implementing and monitoring the designated camping initiative throughout the drainages in the Gunnison Valley. The CBCC also works alongside additional municipal, federal, and private land managers to help support maintenance and stewardship efforts.

Location*

Describe where the project is located. Specify all land ownership types.

The trail and stewardship projects proposed in this application will occur in Rocky Mountain Region 2 of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forest (GMUG), with the focus area being the Gunnison Ranger District. These lands total approximately 433 square miles on and adjacent to the GMUG. The campsites that will be monitored and maintained are located in the six drainages surrounding Crested Butte: Brush Creek, Kebler Pass, Cement Creek, Gothic, Washington Gulch, and Slate River.

Goals and Objectives*



We aim to support projects that help achieve the goals laid out in STOR's Strategic Plan. Please list the specific goals and objectives your project will accomplish and identify how they support those outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan shown below.

- A. Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.*
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CBMBA's professional trail and stewardship crew, the Crested Butte Conservations Corps (CBCC) will assist the Gunnison Ranger District in monitoring and maintaining all designated camping infrastructure in the six drainages surrounding Crested Butte by completing the following tasks:

- Decommissioning user-created, illegal fire rings to contain campfires to specific, approved locations
- Identifying areas that require additional barrier work; installing boundary fencing and placing boulders to limit impacts to designated/identified locations
- Ensuring campsite sign posts and road signage remain intact and undamaged; report needs for additional signage to USFS for consideration
- Improve upon existing, legal campsite parking areas and decommission rogue parking areas

CBCC crews will assist the Gunnison Ranger District in fulfilling its backlog of trail maintenance tasks while identifying and completing additional trail projects that arise. The following tasks will be completed in the Slate River, Washington Gulch, Gothic, Taylor, Cement Creek, Brush Creek, and Kebler drainages:

- Remove fallen trees impeding trails and roads
- Remove camp litter, household trash, micro-trash, and human waste from trails, trailheads and camping areas
- Perform trail maintenance, including building and repairing drainage systems, reinforcing and armoring eroded sections of trail, and improving and repairing existing structures such as bridges and rock pathways
- install 'buck and rail' fencing throughout the areas listed above to help limit impacts to approved locations

2025 will also see the return of our CBCC Backcountry Outreach Crews (BOC), who are present at busy public land hotspots with outreach, education, and stewardship efforts for the eight busiest weekends of the season (end of June into August). BOC Crews of 4 will provide a presence at trailheads and busy parking areas to provide information and assist with parking,



directions, waste solutions, and to report impacts or maintenance needs to the CBCC trail and stewardship crews. By providing this presence, CBCC and BOC crews help foster a stewardship culture amongst local residents and the multitude of visitors.

CBCC Crews work alongside the Gunnison Ranger District/USFS, Bureau of Land Management/Gunnison Field Office, the Crested Butte Land Trust, the towns of Crested Butte and Mount Crested Butte, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and alongside private landowner and land managers, to collaborate on projects and improvements on public lands and open spaces. CBCC Crews work alongside and partner with multiple groups each season to help further the mission. Examples are trail work days with Crested Butte Development Team, The Nature Connection, Crested Butte Wildflower Festival, Vail Resorts/Crested Butte Mountain Resort, and more. CBCC crews also partner with Adaptive Sports to make more progressive and accessible trails for hand cycles and other Adaptive Sports uses. We are community partners, willing to work alongside any entity to help create and instill stewardship methods and ethos.

CBCC crews also work alongside partners like Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the agricultural community to help mitigate impacts on wildlife and grazing, and to plan for recreation and stewardship efforts. A recent example is the North Valley Trails Project, where a 5 year process resulted in new trails and infrastructure improvements that connected existing areas, are close to roads and residential areas, provide for safer travel, and did not create further habitat fragmentation or heavy impacts.

The 2025 CBCC crews will also work alongside the Gunnison Ranger District to help build boundary fencing in the Taylor River drainage, to better protect resources and identify proper access.

Methods

In a succinct narrative or bulleted-paragraph format, describe the specific steps your organization, consultants, or contractors will take to achieve each individual goal or objective.

CBCC crews will monitor and maintain the designated campsites throughout six drainages surrounding Crested Butte. These methods include:

- Damaged or removed campsite signage will be replaced using a hole-boring auger. Holes will be dug 2 feet deep into the ground, and 4-foot posts will be installed. Informational road signage will be installed in the same way.

- Damaged or removed fire rings will be re-installed in the same method they were originally installed. Permanent FS-30/9 aluminum fire rings will be secured with the attached spade anchors.

- In camping and parking areas requiring additional barrier work, buck and rail fencing will be constructed to make identified boundaries, and 3-4' diameter boulders will be lifted, transported, and placed using a mini-excavator.

CBCC crews will work with the USFS to identify needs and carry out the following trail maintenance tasks throughout the 2025 season:



- Fallen trees that are blocking roads and trails will be cut out using chainsaws and handsaws, while adhering to industry standards and proper safety protocols. Wind and winter dictate the amount of trees down in the beginning of each trail use season, so CBCC crews are deployed early in the season to cut downed timbers across paths to avoid trail braiding and walk/ride arounds.
- Refuse, human waste, and micro-trash will be removed from campsites, trails, and trailheads using trash-pickers, buckets, and gloved hands. This will be weighed for data collection and disposed of at a local waste station.
- Progressive and sustainable trail maintenance methods will be implemented to mitigate and repair erosion, weather, and resource damage. This will occur on non-motorized, motorized, and Wilderness trails throughout the GMUG. Utilizing hand tools such as mcleods, arbor hoes, rogue hoes, rakes, rock bars, rock slings, come-a-longs, pulaskis, wheelbarrows, and other tools as required, CBCC crews will address trail damage and perform required trail work to remedy the situation with longterm solutions.
- CBCC will continue to collaborate with partners, land managers, private entities, and other stakeholders to execute objectives that arise from collective initiatives and observations.

CBCC Backcountry Outreach crews will identify which areas of impact to focus on each weekend, and set up informational stations with maps, backcountry bathroom kits, and other pertinent information

- Crews of 4 will set up at consistently busy trailheads and parking areas, such as 401, 403, Copper Creek/Judd Falls, Snodgrass, Slate River, Washington Gulch, and Brush Creek.
- Crews of 2 will set up at each end of the trails with an easy up and a table and provide maps, directions and information on trails, sustainable backcountry ethics, parking and any other questions visitors might have.
- Crews will collect and record data, such as numbers of users, types of users and where users are visiting from.
- Crews will collect and dispose of any trash they find at the sites.

CBMBA will reach out to partners to identify projects that would benefit the community and land managers from collaboration between organizations.

- CBMBA will plan and execute community trail work days to further the mission of our own organization and to benefit partner organizations and assist in fulfilling their missions.
- CBMBA will organize informational presentations with local partner organizations to further instill ownership and ethical and sustainable uses of our public lands.
- CBMBA will assist partner organizations with projects they require help with and which align with our mission.

Timeline

Provide an explicit timeline of the proposed work, listing key activity dates.

Early Season: The CBCC season begins on May 12, 2025. Early season work consists of clearing downed trees and drainage work as lower elevation trails slowly melt out and users



start venturing out onto them. Trails with severe and obvious damage from the winter and freeze/thaw cycles will receive immediate attention. Campsite monitoring and stewardship efforts are minimal during this time, as visitation is low from overnight campers, and many of the sites are inaccessible due to snow.

Mid to Late Season: Beginning in mid-June, trail maintenance will shift to higher elevations as the snowpack continues to melt. Continued drainage work, general trail maintenance, public lands and open space cleanup, downed tree clearing, and decommissioning tasks will be completed in all drainages surrounding Crested Butte. Larger projects such as armoring, turnpiking and rock work will occur during this time. Locations depend on the need and seasonality. As visitation increases toward the middle of the summer, we will increase monitoring of campsites and trailheads.

Late Season: Late season efforts continue to see trail work and maintenance/upkeep in the 480 mile trail network, but also a focus on designated camping improvements and maintenance. Buck and Rail/Worm fencing projects throughout the District will be a focus, alongside general parking and site hardening at identified locations.

Quantifiable Outcomes*

List 3-7 quantifiable outcomes of your proposed project.

Examples:

- *Brush clearing and treadwork along 3 miles of trail*
- *Removal of 80% of invasive species over 3 acres*
- *Involvement of 15 new volunteers and 10 returning volunteers*
- *A total of 200 youth corps hours worked*

- Maintenance, drainage work, erosion mitigation, rock armoring, and improvements completed on 40 to 60 miles of trail. The exact mileage is determined by needs each season, with a seven year average being 53 miles.

- Clearing between 200 and 400 downed trees, with a seven year average of 319. Totals vary based on heavy snowfall years and wind events, and vary year to year due to natural factors.

- Removal of an average of 1,475 lbs. of trash from trails, trailheads, and camping areas.

- Monitoring and maintenance of camping and parking infrastructure and signage at 208 campsites across six drainages, an average of 1,085 times per season.

Environmental Compliance*

Briefly indicate whether all required environmental compliance and permitting for your project is complete. The NFF cannot fund any work that does not have all environmental compliance work complete at time of application. This includes NEPA as well as any other mandated compliance processes. Of note:



- *If all environmental compliance work is not complete, please stop working on this application and immediately inform your NFF contact to discuss the appropriate next steps.*

CBMBA/CBCC works closely with the Gunnison Ranger District/GMUG Forest Supervisor and the CBCC has permission to perform the duties listed in this application. In 2025, CBMBA will sign a 5 year contract with the Gunnison Ranger District to continue to provide trail work and stewardship efforts. The designated camping project was approved through the NEPA process in 2019. CBMBA and the CBCC also work alongside Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Crested Butte Land Trust, the Towns of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte, Bureau of Land Management, and other stakeholders to identify maintenance and stewardship projects.

Budget

Amount Requested from NFF*

This budget number is for the component of your project expenses that you are requesting to be covered by the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund.

\$40,000.00

Total Project Budget*

This budget number should reflect both the funds requested from the NFF Gunnison County Stewardship Fund and other matching project contributions.

\$266,667.00

Budget Narrative*

Describe the project's projected expenses and specify which expenses will be covered by your Gunnison County Stewardship Fund request. Describe any matching contributions (cash funds or in-kind services) that you will raise for the project.

Our request of \$40,000 for the 2025 Crested Butte Conservation Corps is 15% of the total CBCC budget, and is specifically to support personnel/labor costs associated with the trail/stewardship crew for the upcoming season. We will hire 6-8 seasonal full-time CBCC crew members, many of whom are returning employees, including the CBCC Operations Manager. We will also hire 4 CBCC BOC crew members for the season. For 2025, CBMBA/CBCC already has grant or contract funding secured through the following:

- Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District (\$100,000)
- Mt. Crested Butte (\$25,000)
- Town of Crested Butte (proposed contract - \$10,000)
- 1% for Open Space (\$5,000)
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (proposed application - \$75,000)

Via private fundraising efforts and other community support, CBMBA fulfills remaining budget requirements. GCSF funding goes specifically to payroll for CBCC crews.

Applicant File Uploads



No files were uploaded





CB / Mt CB Chamber of Commerce

CB / Mt CB Trailhead Porta Potty Program

Request: \$18,000.00

Anticipated Start:

Anticipated Completion:

Region

Submitted: 01/16/2025

Project Contact:

Heather Leonard

Executive Director

PO Box 1288

Crested Butte, CO 81224-0000

director@cbchamber.com

(970) 349-6438

Organization Primary Contact:

CB / Mt CB Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director: Heather Leonard

PO Box 1288

Crested Butte, CO 81224-1288

(970) 349-6438

cbchamber.com

Organization Type: Other (specify in you project narrative)

EIN: 84-0905627

UEI:

Overview

Project Name*

CB / Mt CB Trailhead Porta Potty Program

STOR Committee Nomination Contact Person*

Nick Catmur

Organization Type*

Please indicate your organization type.

Other (specify in you project narrative)

Narrative Questions

Need*

Describe why the project is a priority.

Through the Trailhead Porta Potty Program, the CB / Mt CB Chamber works to stage porta potties at key trailheads throughout the Gunnison Valley. The Chamber seeks sponsors to cover the costs of staging and servicing porta potties at high-use trailheads, with the intent of eliminating human waste in the back country. During the summer months, visitation to the Gunnison Valley continue to climb, and porta potties are important to continuing to preserve and sustain our trails and back country for future generations.

Location*

Describe where the project is located. Specify all land ownership types.

The project places porta potties at 10 high-use trailheads around the Gunnison Valley. They include: Irwin Y, Irwin Townsite, Deadman's Gulch, Gunsight Trailhead, Lily Lake, Long Lake, RMBL's Gothic Visitors Center, Bruch Creek, Walrod and Walrod West of Lake Irwin. Trailheads are on public lands and/or Crested Butte Land Trust properties.

Goals and Objectives*

We aim to support projects that help achieve the goals laid out in STOR's Strategic Plan. Please list the specific goals and objectives your project will accomplish and identify how they support those outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan shown below.

- A. *Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.*



- B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.*
- C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.*
- D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.*

The Trailhead porta potty program helps to support all of the goals outlined above. By strategically placing porta potties at high-use trailheads, we are seeking to limit and/or eliminate human waste in the back country, thereby preserving natural ecosystems while accommodating a diverse recreation economy and emphasizing stewardship and respect for the back country. The Chamber works with the NFF, the CB Land Trust, the Crested Butte Conservation Corps local government and local businesses to implement the program. We rely on our partners in the field to help us strategically place porta potties in locations where they will have the greatest impact on preserving our community. Last, but certainly not least, by placing porta potties at these key locations, we're working to minimize the impact of human waste on our back country and on the local and visitor experience.

Methods

In a succinct narrative or bulleted-paragraph format, describe the specific steps your organization, consultants, or contractors will take to achieve each individual goal or objective.

We'll work with the Forest Service, the Land Trust and CBCC to evaluate last year's locations prior to staging this year's program. This will allow us to ensure we are having the greatest impact on sustaining and preserving our back country.

We'll work with Western Water Professionals once again to ensure that porta potties are staged in key locations as soon as trails dry out and recreation begins to increase in those areas.

We'll identify better signage for porta potties so that we can educate the public and cut back on the costs of replacing signage as they are removed or destroyed by the public.

We'll use the Visitors Centers summer mobile visitors centers to help educate the public on the location of porta potties.

Timeline

Provide an explicit timeline of the proposed work, listing key activity dates.

We'll work to lock in business sponsors prior to the end of ski season this year, allowing us to have a better picture of total funding for the project prior to the start of summer season. Last year's late snowfall and bridge closure caused some trepidation on the part of businesses for summer revenue and many were reluctant to confirm sponsorship until summer revenue started flowing. This caused challenges with finalizing signage and confirming total weeks for each



location. With funding locked in by end of ski season, we'll have a better picture on whether we can expand the program or not.

Unless muddy trails and roads delay us, we'll stage all porta potties at trailheads by June 15th, with lower-use locations remaining until September 15th and higher use until October 15th.

Quantifiable Outcomes*

List 3-7 quantifiable outcomes of your proposed project.

Examples:

- *Brush clearing and treadwork along 3 miles of trail*
- *Removal of 80% of invasive species over 3 acres*
- *Involvement of 15 new volunteers and 10 returning volunteers*
- *A total of 200 youth corps hours worked*

Staging and servicing porta potties at 10 locations around the Gunnison Valley (further outlined on the attached budget worksheet) from mid-June to mid-October.

Environmental Compliance*

Briefly indicate whether all required environmental compliance and permitting for your project is complete. The NFF cannot fund any work that does not have all environmental compliance work complete at time of application. This includes NEPA as well as any other mandated compliance processes. Of note:

- *If all environmental compliance work is not complete, please stop working on this application and immediately inform your NFF contact to discuss the appropriate next steps.*

We were granted a 2-year permit by the Forest Service for this program. I believe that this permit is still valid, but I have reached out to the USDA for confirmation. We've also received approval from the CB Land Trust for access to trailheads that cross Land Trust property. We've reached out for confirmation of approval again.

Budget

Amount Requested from NFF*

This budget number is for the component of your project expenses that you are requesting to be covered by the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund.

\$18,000.00

Total Project Budget*

This budget number should reflect both the funds requested from the NFF Gunnison County Stewardship Fund and other matching project contributions.

\$32,000.00



Budget Narrative*

Describe the project's projected expenses and specify which expenses will be covered by your Gunnison County Stewardship Fund request. Describe any matching contributions (cash funds or in-kind services) that you will raise for the project.

Chamber program management - \$4,000

Weekly inspection / sign maint - \$2,000

Rentals & Service - \$24,689.50

Signage - \$1,200

We think we can secure \$10,000 in sponsorship from local businesses. The Chamber will donate \$4,000 in program management expenses. We are seeking \$18,000 in grant funding to cover the expenses outlined above. Grant Funding will go to support rentals, servicing and some signage.

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded





Gunnison County Stewardship Fund

Gunnison Ranger District Toilet Cleaning Service

Request: \$40,000.00

Anticipated Start:

Anticipated Completion:

Region

Submitted: 01/07/2025

Project Contact:

Nick Catmur

Gunnison County Stewardship Coordinator
Building 27, Suite 3, Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804-0000
ncatmur@nationalforests.org
(790) 657-6622

Organization Primary Contact:

Gunnison County Stewardship Fund

200 E. Virginia
Gunnison, CO 81230-0000
(720) 670-6254

<https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/858/Sustainable-Tourism-Outdoor-Recreation-C>

Organization Type: Government (State or Local)

EIN:

UEI:

Overview

Project Name*

Gunnison Ranger District Toilet Cleaning Service

STOR Committee Nomination Contact Person*

Dayle Funka

Organization Type*

Please indicate your organization type.

Government (State or Local)

Narrative Questions

Need*

Describe why the project is a priority.

The purpose of this project is to meet national quality standards for health and cleanliness for public recreation facilities (restrooms). It meets the goal for ongoing maintenance needs for land management agencies.

Use and demand of toilets facilities have increased in recent years, and new toilets have been added at new dispersed locations. This has correlated with an increase in both service frequency requirements and the travel time required to visit each location. During times of peak use in the summer months, some toilets need to be serviced up to three times per week. The need for this service is even more apparent heading into 2025 with the hiring freeze on seasonal staff for the forest service.

Location*

Describe where the project is located. Specify all land ownership types.

The facilities for this need are those at fee-free areas located in the Crested Butte vicinity, on GMUG National Forest lands.

Goals and Objectives*

We aim to support projects that help achieve the goals laid out in STOR's Strategic Plan. Please list the specific goals and objectives your project will accomplish and identify how they support those outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan shown below.

- A. *Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.*



- B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.*
- C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.*
- D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.*

Provide routine janitorial services (toilet facilities cleaning) to include management, supervision, personnel, transportation, labor, equipment, and supplies to clean public toilet facilities managed by the USDA Forest Service, Gunnison Ranger District. Work consists of routine cleaning of nine double-vault restrooms located in the Crested Butte vicinity, up to three times per week.

This project helps achieve strategic plan items B, C and D.

Goal B- Clean restrooms on our forests demonstrates to our visitors and locals that we care about all of our facilities and that we want them to be used. Clean restrooms will limit the exposure to human waste left on the ground, less exposure to human waste will help foster a culture that our locals and visitors respect the outdoors and don't leave their waste behind.

Goal C - collaboration between STOR and the USFS is vital if we want to continue to provide regular maintenance needs to the on the ground facilities that have been a part of previous STOR initiatives. If STOR wants to continue to see more restrooms built on public lands it is important that they show the necessary support to the land managers responsible for cleaning them.

Goal D - Clean restrooms also help to limit the degradation of our natural resources, unmaintained public restrooms can quickly become unsanitary leading to people relieving themselves outside the restrooms and leaving human waste behind at campsite and trailheads.

Methods

In a succinct narrative or bulleted-paragraph format, describe the specific steps your organization, consultants, or contractors will take to achieve each individual goal or objective.

The existing service contract with Sharon Duran the CB Specialty Services will be extended into the summer of 2025 to continue the same schedule of services from 2024.

Timeline

Provide an explicit timeline of the proposed work, listing key activity dates.



We will extend the existing contract before the term is up at the end of April, and ask that cleanings begin in line with snow melting and toilets becoming accessible by vehicle. Cleanings will end by mid to late October.

Quantifiable Outcomes*

List 3-7 quantifiable outcomes of your proposed project.

Examples:

- *Brush clearing and treadwork along 3 miles of trail*
- *Removal of 80% of invasive species over 3 acres*
- *Involvement of 15 new volunteers and 10 returning volunteers*
- *A total of 200 youth corps hours worked*

The outcomes of this project will be measured in terms of HEALTH AND CLEANLINESS, a key measure of National Quality Standards for Forest Service recreation sites. Primary outcomes and standards met through this project include:

1. Visitors are not exposed to human waste
2. Individual units and common areas are free of litter including domestic animal waste
3. Facilities are free of graffiti
4. Restrooms and garbage locations are free of objectionable odor
5. Constructed features are clean

Environmental Compliance*

Briefly indicate whether all required environmental compliance and permitting for your project is complete. The NFF cannot fund any work that does not have all environmental compliance work complete at time of application. This includes NEPA as well as any other mandated compliance processes. Of note:

- *If all environmental compliance work is not complete, please stop working on this application and immediately inform your NFF contact to discuss the appropriate next steps.*

Routine maintenance of recreation facilities is categorically excluded from further analysis under NEPA.

Budget

Amount Requested from NFF*

This budget number is for the component of your project expenses that you are requesting to be covered by the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund.

\$40,000.00

Total Project Budget*

This budget number should reflect both the funds requested from the NFF Gunnison County Stewardship Fund and other matching project contributions.



\$40,000.00

Budget Narrative*

Describe the project's projected expenses and specify which expenses will be covered by your Gunnison County Stewardship Fund request. Describe any matching contributions (cash funds or in-kind services) that you will raise for the project.

Project expenses include transportation, labor, equipment, and supplies. \$40,000 is based on a “price per cleaning” estimate of \$70-\$80 depending on the location and travel distance to each toilet

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded





Western Colorado University

Leave No Trace on Public Lands

Request: \$728.00

Anticipated Start:

Anticipated Completion:

Region

Submitted: 01/16/2025

Project Contact:

Camren Hovey

Graduate Student

1 Western Way CPO #5379

Gunnison, CO 81231-7002

camren.hovey@western.edu

(303) 587-9488

Organization Primary Contact:

Western Colorado University

Graduate Student: Mr. Camren Hovey

1 Western Way

Gunnison, CO 81231-7002

(970) 943-2119

Organization Type: University

EIN: NA

UEI:

Overview

Project Name*

Leave No Trace on Public Lands

STOR Committee Nomination Contact Person*

Nick Catmur

Organization Type*

Please indicate your organization type.

University

Narrative Questions

Need*

Describe why the project is a priority.

The Leave No Trace on Public Lands project adds an environmental education component to Gunnison Middle School's annual Taylor Challenge for eighth-graders. In 2025, the project will teach Leave No Trace principles to about 100 eighth-graders, 43% of whom are low-income and 27% Hispanic/Latino (Colorado Department of Education 2023-2024). The goal is for the 2025 pilot, funded by STOR, to become a permanent part of the Taylor Challenge, eventually reaching hundreds of Gunnison Valley youth. Currently, no programming emphasizes the stewardship role these youth have as residents and recreationists in a county that is 82% public land. This initiative aims to increase understanding of outdoor ethics and foster a valley-wide culture of respect and care for public lands.

Location*

Describe where the project is located. Specify all land ownership types.

Taylor Challenge is a 3-day summer experience on Forest Service Lands

Goals and Objectives*

We aim to support projects that help achieve the goals laid out in STOR's Strategic Plan. Please list the specific goals and objectives your project will accomplish and identify how they support those outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan shown below.

- A. *Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.*



- B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.*
- C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.*
- D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.*

A. Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.

-Achieved by reaching all (or nearly all) eighth-grade students attending public school in Gunnison County to foster understanding and support for our thriving natural ecosystems and wildlife.

B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.

-Achieved by teaching Leave No Trace on Public Lands principles.

C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve the management of recreation and natural resources.

-Achieved by coordinating with Gunnison Middle School, Western Colorado University, the USFS Gunnison Ranger District, and the STOR Committee to leverage the Taylor Challenge into a public land stewardship education opportunity.

D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connections and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.

-Achieved by teaching valley youth, and by extension their families, of the importance of treating the public lands with respect and the basic principles on how to enjoy the outdoors without negatively impacting them.

Methods

In a succinct narrative or bulleted-paragraph format, describe the specific steps your organization, consultants, or contractors will take to achieve each individual goal or objective.

1. Start working on Leave No Trace Materials

-Collaborate with Gunnison Middle School staff to integrate Leave No Trace programming into Taylor Challenge activities.

-Adapt the Leave No Trace curriculum and activities to be age-appropriate and culturally inclusive.

-Develop bilingual (English/Spanish) materials to ensure accessibility for all participants, including Spanish-speaking families.



- Facilitate workshops and hands-on activities during the Taylor Challenge to teach principles of environmental stewardship.

2. Foster Environmental Stewardship

- Educate participants about the importance of respecting public lands and minimizing their impact on natural ecosystems.
- Use engaging activities, such as role-playing scenarios and interactive discussions, to illustrate the impact of responsible recreation.
- Provide students with take-home materials to share Leave No Trace principles with their families.

3. Collaborate with Stakeholders

- Coordinate efforts with Western Colorado University, the USFS Gunnison Ranger District, and other partners to ensure program alignment with regional stewardship goals.
- Conduct regular check-ins with stakeholders to gather feedback and improve program delivery.

4. Evaluate Program Impact

- Collect feedback from students, teachers, and partners to assess the program's effectiveness.
- Use pre- and post-program surveys to measure increases in knowledge and changes in attitudes toward public land stewardship.

5. Establish Long-term Integration

- Work with Gunnison Middle School to embed Leave No Trace programming into the annual Taylor Challenge.
- Seek additional funding and partnerships to sustain and expand the program in future years.

Timeline

Provide an explicit timeline of the proposed work, listing key activity dates.

February 2025

Finalize curriculum adaptation for the eighth-grade audience, incorporating bilingual materials (English/Spanish).

Meet with Gunnison Middle School staff to coordinate program logistics and integrate activities into Taylor Challenge schedules.

Confirm partnerships and roles with stakeholders, including Western Colorado University, USFS Gunnison Ranger District, and CSU Extension.

March 2025

Procure necessary materials (PEAK Pack, Educator's Toolkit, and other supplies) for program delivery.

Schedule pre-program training for project staff and volunteers, ensuring consistency in the delivery of Leave No Trace principles.

Develop pre- and post-program surveys to assess the program's effectiveness.



April 2025

Complete all pre-program training sessions and finalize participant materials.

Conduct a trial run of Leave No Trace activities to gather feedback and make final adjustments.

May-June 2025

Facilitate Leave No Trace workshops during the Taylor Challenge in Taylor Canyon. Activities include hands-on exercises, discussions, and interactive games to teach public land stewardship.

July 2025

Gather feedback from students, teachers, and program staff regarding the Taylor Challenge workshops.

Analyze pre- and post-program survey data to evaluate knowledge gains and attitudinal shifts among participants.

August 2025

Prepare a comprehensive program report summarizing activities, outcomes, and feedback.

Share the report with Gunnison Middle School staff, stakeholders, and the STOR Committee to demonstrate the program's impact.

Meet with Gunnison Middle School staff and stakeholders to discuss integrating Leave No Trace programming into future Taylor Challenge events.

Quantifiable Outcomes*

List 3-7 quantifiable outcomes of your proposed project.

Examples:

- *Brush clearing and treadwork along 3 miles of trail*
- *Removal of 80% of invasive species over 3 acres*
- *Involvement of 15 new volunteers and 10 returning volunteers*
- *A total of 200 youth corps hours worked*

1. Engagement of 110 eighth-grade students in Leave No Trace workshops during the Taylor Challenge.
2. Completion of 7 Leave No Trace workshops (one for each principle), including hands-on activities and discussions.
3. Improvement in Leave No Trace knowledge, with 80% of students demonstrating increased understanding through pre- and post-program surveys.
4. Collection of 80+ student and staff feedback responses to assess the program's impact.

Environmental Compliance*

Briefly indicate whether all required environmental compliance and permitting for your project is complete. The NFF cannot fund any work that does not have all environmental compliance work complete at time of application. This includes NEPA as well as any other mandated compliance processes. Of note:



- *If all environmental compliance work is not complete, please stop working on this application and immediately inform your NFF contact to discuss the appropriate next steps.*

All required environmental compliance and permitting for this project are complete. The Taylor Challenge program has obtained the necessary permits from the USFS to operate on public lands, ensuring compliance with all relevant environmental regulations. We

Budget

Amount Requested from NFF*

This budget number is for the component of your project expenses that you are requesting to be covered by the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund.

\$728.00

Total Project Budget*

This budget number should reflect both the funds requested from the NFF Gunnison County Stewardship Fund and other matching project contributions.

\$728.00

Budget Narrative*

Describe the project's projected expenses and specify which expenses will be covered by your Gunnison County Stewardship Fund request. Describe any matching contributions (cash funds or in-kind services) that you will raise for the project.

Personnel

Project Director Camren Hovey, a certified Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor, will be compensated at the 2025 GS-4, Step 7 federal rate of \$23.11/hour for 25 hours, totaling \$577.75. Duties include coordinating with Gunnison Middle School staff, organizing logistics, adapting the Leave No Trace curriculum, facilitating activities/workshops at Taylor Canyon, preparing materials/reports, and traveling to/from Taylor Canyon.

Cost: \$577.75

Materials

PEAK Pack: \$72.95

Educator's Toolkit: \$34.95

Estimated shipping: \$8.94

Estimated taxes: \$9.61

Total Materials Cost: \$126.45

Travel

Mileage reimbursement for 34 miles (round trip) at \$0.70/mile totals \$23.80.

Total Budget: \$728.00



Applicant File Uploads
No files were uploaded





Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association

Enhancing Rangeland Management through Sustainable Gate Infrastructure on Gunnison National Forest

Request: \$13,240.00

Anticipated Start:
Anticipated Completion:

Region
Submitted: 01/16/2025

Project Contact:

Steven Guerrieri
PO Box 7089
Gunnison, CO 81230-7089
sguerrieri2010@gmail.com
(970) 596-2567

Organization Primary Contact:

Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association
President: Andy Spann
PO Box 1711
Gunnison, CO 81230-1711
(970) 366-1894

Organization Type: Other (specify in you project narrative)

EIN: 84-0711882
UEI:

Overview

Project Name*

Enhancing Rangeland Management through Sustainable Gate Infrastructure on Gunnison National Forest

STOR Committee Nomination Contact Person*

Steven Guerrieri

Organization Type*

Please indicate your organization type.

Other (specify in you project narrative)

Narrative Questions

Need*

Describe why the project is a priority.

The Gunnison National Forest is a vital component of our counties natural heritage, providing critical habitat for diverse wildlife, supporting sustainable livestock grazing, and offering recreational opportunities for thousands of visitors each year. However, the existing wire gates on these lands pose significant challenges to effective livestock management and ecosystem conservation. Our proposal seeks funding to replace these antiquated gates with modern, user-friendly metal gates, ensuring the long-term health and integrity of the forest ecosystem. The current wire gates on Gunnison National Forest can be difficult for the general public to use, and frequently left open, allowing livestock to escape and roam freely. This compromises the viability of local ranching operations. Livestock grazing helps maintain a balanced ecosystem, improves water quality, and increases native plant diversity, it also provides habitat for wildlife.

Location*

Describe where the project is located. Specify all land ownership types.

This project will take place on USFS lands within the Gunnison Basin.

Goals and Objectives*

We aim to support projects that help achieve the goals laid out in STOR's Strategic Plan. Please list the specific goals and objectives your project will accomplish and identify how they support those outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan shown below.

- A. *Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.*



- B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.*
- C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.*
- D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.*

Replace 20 wire gates with modern, user-friendly metal gates. Which will enhance the public land users experience on the Gunnison National Forest. Which will support a vibrant rural and ranching culture and a diverse recreation economy. These new gates will improve livestock containment, reducing escapes, minimizing ecological impacts and improving economic viability of ranching. Therefore enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of livestock management on Gunnison National Forest Lands. This will foster collaborations between local ranchers, recreation groups and forest managers to promote sustainable land use practices.

Methods

In a succinct narrative or bulleted-paragraph format, describe the specific steps your organization, consultants, or contractors will take to achieve each individual goal or objective.

Identify priority gate replacement locations, engaging local ranchers, recreation organizations and USFS managers in the process. Once locations have been approved by STOR, Gunnison County Stockgrowers will purchase required materials. Installation of gate will take place during summer of 2025

Timeline

Provide an explicit timeline of the proposed work, listing key activity dates.

- Apply for grant January 16, 2025
- Identify Potential gates to be replaced by January 30, 2025
- As soon as snow is melted and contractor is available start replacement of gates, June 1, 2025 thru September 30, 2025.

Quantifiable Outcomes*

List 3-7 quantifiable outcomes of your proposed project.

Examples:

- *Brush clearing and treadwork along 3 miles of trail*
- *Removal of 80% of invasive species over 3 acres*
- *Involvement of 15 new volunteers and 10 returning volunteers*



- *A total of 200 youth corps hours worked*
- Replace 20 wire gates with user friendly metal gates.
 - Reduced time and resources spent on wire gate maintenance.
 - Enhanced user experience with easy to operate gates.
 - Better management of grazing resources.

Environmental Compliance*

Briefly indicate whether all required environmental compliance and permitting for your project is complete. The NFF cannot fund any work that does not have all environmental compliance work complete at time of application. This includes NEPA as well as any other mandated compliance processes. Of note:

- *If all environmental compliance work is not complete, please stop working on this application and immediately inform your NFF contact to discuss the appropriate next steps.*

There are no permitting requirements for this project. Conversations with the District Ranger of the Gunnison National Forest has already taken place.

Budget

Amount Requested from NFF*

This budget number is for the component of your project expenses that you are requesting to be covered by the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund.

\$13,240.00

Total Project Budget*

This budget number should reflect both the funds requested from the NFF Gunnison County Stewardship Fund and other matching project contributions.

\$19,840.00

Budget Narrative*

Describe the project's projected expenses and specify which expenses will be covered by your Gunnison County Stewardship Fund request. Describe any matching contributions (cash funds or in-kind services) that you will raise for the project.

Gunnison County Stewardship Fund \$13,240.00

- purchase 6.5' x 6" post \$27.00 each, 120 posts total \$3,240.00
- Labor, install 6 posts and 1 gate, \$500.00, 20 total installations, \$10,000.00
- USFS to provide gates \$3,000.00.

Gunnison County Stockgrowers to provide in-kind services, oversight and management of implementation of project \$3,600.00

Applicant File Uploads
No files were uploaded







Gunnison Trails

Gunnison Trails' 2025 Professional Trail Crew

Request: \$25,000.00

Anticipated Start:

Anticipated Completion:

Region

Submitted: 01/16/2025

Project Contact:

Tim Kugler

Executive Director

PO Box 105

Gunnison, CO 81230-0000

tim@gunnisontrails.org

(703) 599-1873

Organization Primary Contact:

Gunnison Trails

PO Box 105

Gunnison, CO 81230-0000

info@gunnisontrails.org

<https://gunnisontrails.org/>

Organization Type: 501(c)(3) nonprofit

EIN: 11-3785204

UEI:

Overview

Project Name*

Gunnison Trails' 2025 Professional Trail Crew

STOR Committee Nomination Contact Person*

Tim Kugler

Organization Type*

Please indicate your organization type.

501(c)(3) nonprofit

Narrative Questions

Need*

Describe why the project is a priority.

2025 marks the 10th season for our Professional Trail Crew. We began our crew in 2016 to better support our organizations' trail maintenance and construction efforts, increase our trail-based education and volunteer outreach and expand our geographic reach. Ten years on, our trail crew is now a vital partner to our federal land management agencies, contributing over 4,000 hours of stewardship work each season. As we continue to see federal budget cuts for recreation management, including a freeze on 2025 seasonal hires with the USFS, partner organizations like Gunnison Trails and our Trail Crew are more critical than ever. Recreational tourism and trail use continue to increase here in Gunnison County, and the sustainable management of our tremendous outdoor resources is more critical than ever.

Location*

Describe where the project is located. Specify all land ownership types.

Gunnison Trails and our trail crew are based in Gunnison, CO, and we work across a variety of municipal, state and federal lands. The majority of our work takes place on US National Forest and Bureau of Land Management public lands. We also maintain trails on State land (Western Colorado University) and City of Gunnison and Gunnison County municipal lands.

Goals and Objectives*

We aim to support projects that help achieve the goals laid out in STOR's Strategic Plan. Please list the specific goals and objectives your project will accomplish and identify how they support those outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan shown below.



- A. *Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.*
- B. *Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.*
- C. *Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.*
- D. *Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.*

From maintaining campsites and trails at Hartman Rocks, providing trailhead education days in the busy spring, to clearing Wilderness trails deep in the backcountry, the work outlined below for our 2025 season closely aligns with the goals outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan.

Goal 1 - Maintain our area trails and designated campsites and provide additional capacity to our federal land managers. Goal 1 supports Goal C in STOR's Strategic Plan, working with our federal land managers to improve the management of our valley's recreation and natural resources.

Objective 1 - Maintain 45 miles of trail at Hartman Rocks and 20 miles of trail in Signal Peak

Objective 2 - Maintain 30 miles of trail on Gunnison National Forest, including Mill-Castle, Little Mill, Lowline, South Lottis, Henry Lake, Mill Lake and Canyon Creek trails

Objective 3 - Assist the BLM in cleaning and maintaining the 50+ designated campsites at Hartman Rocks

Objective 4 - provide additional capacity where needed to help maintain trails across National Forest and BLM lands in a year when federal recreation funding is severely limited

Goal 2 - Provide trailhead education at Hartman Rocks and Signal Peak during the busy spring months. Goal 2 supports Goal B in STOR's Strategic Plan, fostering a culture for both residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship through education and outreach.

Objective 1 - Setup and staff our Gunnison Trails tent on the busiest weekends during the spring at Hartman Rocks and Signal Peak as trails open, educating users on seasonal trail closures, camping rules and regulations and providing up-to-date conditions on the ground.

Goal 3 - Complete Northwoods 2 in Signal Peak. Goal 3 supports Goal D in STOR's Strategic Plan by focusing new recreational development close to population centers.

Objective 1 - Complete finish work and rollover installation on the final section of Northwoods trail (1 mile).

Goal 4 - Updating and installing education signage. Goal 4 supports Goal B in STOR's Strategic Plan by providing signage that protects the resource and fosters a culture that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship.



Objective 1 - translate and install multilingual signage (English and Spanish) related to seasonal wildlife trail closures and conditions. This includes mud season signage at Hartman Rocks, Sage Grouse seasonal timing closures at Hartman Rocks and Signal Peak and wintering wildlife trail closures in Signal Peak.

Objective 2 - create and install etiquette signage at Hartman Rocks as it relates to multi-use trails (Stay the Trail, Keep Singletrack Single, Lean Your Bike).

Goal 5 - Develop a trail plan (Hartmans 2.0) for new trail development at Hartman Rocks. Goal 5 supports Goal D in STOR's Strategic Plan by focusing recreational development at Hartman Rocks, a BLM Special Recreation Management Area close to downtown Gunnison.

Objective 1 - develop a comprehensive trail plan for Hartman Rocks, adding additional trail mileage to provide better connectivity and increase trail opportunities for all users

Methods

In a succinct narrative or bulleted-paragraph format, describe the specific steps your organization, consultants, or contractors will take to achieve each individual goal or objective.

For the 2024 field season, Gunnison Trails will run a four person trail crew (depending on funding, we may increase the crew to five members), from early April through October. Our trail crew typically begins work in early April, preparing and installing signage and removing drifted snow and beginning trail maintenance at Hartman Rocks as soon as the area opens for the season. Spring time at Hartman Rocks is extremely busy, as the majority of trails in the Signal Peak area are closed until May to protect the Gunnison Sage Grouse and wintering wildlife and much of the high country is still under snow. While this is the busiest time of year on our trails, it is also a critical time of year for our local wildlife. Our crew will setup at trailheads at Hartman Rocks and Signal Peak to educate users on current closures and conditions on weekends throughout April and May. In May, our trail crew begins trail maintenance in Signal Peak, splitting time between work at Hartman Rocks and Signal Peak. Finish work on Northwoods 2 will be completed in May and June. By the end of June, the crew typically transitions to the high country (snow and weather permitting), working on a variety of trail maintenance projects on USFS lands throughout the summer. For 2025, we have applied for a contract to perform 6-7 weeks of heavy maintenance on the Lowline trail in response to trail damage from the Lowline Fire (this project is outside the scope of this grant, but will take up a considerable amount of our season should we be awarded). Come late August and September, the trail crew splits time between trail work on the Forest and BLM. Alignment work and mapping for the Hartman Rocks 2.0 plan will take place throughout the season, mostly during the spring and fall months.

Timeline

Provide an explicit timeline of the proposed work, listing key activity dates.

April - our trail crew begins work in early April, installing signage, maintaining trails at Hartman Rocks, hosting trailhead education days and Trail Work Tuesday volunteer events. Work will begin on proposed trail alignment and expansion for the Hartmans 2.0 plan.



May/June - trail maintenance begins in Signal Peak. Finish work begins on Northwoods 2 trail. Trail maintenance work continues at Hartman Rocks.

July/August - trail maintenance on USFS trails throughout Gunnison County. We also organize two days of stewardship work for incoming Western Colorado University freshmen/women in late August as part of the Headwaters Orientation class.

September/October - trail maintenance on USFS trails and at Signal Peak and Hartman Rocks. Continue trail alignment work for the Hartmans 2.0 plan.

Quantifiable Outcomes*

List 3-7 quantifiable outcomes of your proposed project.

Examples:

- *Brush clearing and treadwork along 3 miles of trail*
- *Removal of 80% of invasive species over 3 acres*
- *Involvement of 15 new volunteers and 10 returning volunteers*
- *A total of 200 youth corps hours worked*

- clear and maintain 45 miles of trail at Hartman Rocks, 20 miles of trail in Signal Peak and over 30 miles of trail on USFS lands
- assist the BLM with campsite cleaning and maintenance at 50+ designated campsites at Hartman Rocks
- host 6-8 trailhead education events at Hartman Rocks and Signal Peak in the spring
- complete 1 mile of finish work on the Northwoods trail in Signal Peak and finish installation of 2 rollovers along the trail
- create and install multilingual seasonal trail closure and conditions signage and multi-use trail etiquette signage for Hartman Rocks and Signal Peak
- develop the Hartmans 2.0 trail plan
- coordinate and lead 1,000 hours of volunteer work through our Trail Work Tuesday and Fall Dig Day events
- partner with Western Colorado University and Gunnison Middle and High School students on various trail maintenance and stewardship projects (averaging over 150 youth hours/year)

Environmental Compliance*

Briefly indicate whether all required environmental compliance and permitting for your project is complete. The NFF cannot fund any work that does not have all environmental compliance work complete at time of application. This includes NEPA as well as any other mandated compliance processes. Of note:

- *If all environmental compliance work is not complete, please stop working on this application and immediately inform your NFF contact to discuss the appropriate next steps.*

All trail maintenance and stewardship work on public lands is done in partnership and coordination with our federal land management agencies. For new trail construction projects in Signal Peak, NEPA for the Signal Peak Recreation Area Management Plan was completed 6/20/18.



Budget

Amount Requested from NFF*

This budget number is for the component of your project expenses that you are requesting to be covered by the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund.

\$25,000.00

Total Project Budget*

This budget number should reflect both the funds requested from the NFF Gunnison County Stewardship Fund and other matching project contributions.

\$139,400.00

Budget Narrative*

Describe the project's projected expenses and specify which expenses will be covered by your Gunnison County Stewardship Fund request. Describe any matching contributions (cash funds or in-kind services) that you will raise for the project.

Personnel - the majority of the costs associated with our trail crew program are crew member salaries. To date, we have secured funding from the City of Gunnison. We have applied for grant support through Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Non-motorized Trail Stewardship Grant, 1% For Open Space and Eleven. We have also bid on the Lowline Trail Project on the Gunnison National Forest. NFF funds will be used to cover crew salaries on the work outlined above, as well as the PACT Pack Out Kits (\$500):

Trail Crew Salaries and Wages:

Crew Leader 900 hours at \$31/hour - \$27,900

Crew Member 900 hour at \$30/hour - \$27,000

Crew Member 900 hours at \$30/hour - \$27,000

Crew Member 900 hours at \$30/hour - \$27,000

Taxes - \$8,000

Total Personnel Costs (including taxes) - \$116,900

PACT Wag bags - \$500

Supplies - \$12,000 (saws, tools, medical kits, personal protective equipment and uniforms). NFF funds will not be used to purchase supplies.

Travel - \$1,200 NFF funds will not be used to purchase fuel.

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded





Hinsdale County

Restroom at Gunnison County Road 26 / Colorado Highway 149

Request: \$15,000.00

Anticipated Start:

Anticipated Completion:

Region

Submitted: 01/09/2025

Project Contact:

Kristine Borchers

Commissioner

PO Box 277

Lake City, CO 81235-0277

district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us

(970) 593-9071

Organization Primary Contact:

Hinsdale County

Commissioner: Ms Kristine Borchers

PO Box 277

LAKE CITY, CO 81235-0277

(970) 944-2225

www.hinsdalecountycolorado.gov

Organization Type: Government (State or Local)

EIN: 84-6000771

UEI: YT7QKYN2C21

Overview

Project Name*

Restroom at Gunnison County Road 26 / Colorado Highway 149

STOR Committee Nomination Contact Person*

Nick Catmur

Organization Type*

Please indicate your organization type.

Government (State or Local)

Narrative Questions

Need*

Describe why the project is a priority.

Hinsdale County is working diligently with our public land partners to proactively manage impacts from increased tourism. One focus area is providing appropriate restroom facilities in high-use areas. The location of this proposed restroom - where Gunnison County Road 26 meeting Colorado Highway 149 - is an area that sees a significant amount of traffic and is located more than 10 miles from a public restroom. Outdoor recreation has steadily increased in our remote and rural counties since the COVID 19 pandemic. In addition to the need for more restroom facilities, impacts to roads and trails have been noted, as well as the need for increased stewardship messaging so that residents and visitors care for public lands and recreation facilities appropriately. This project is part of a Mineral / Hinsdale / San Juan county push to improve restroom facilities on the America's Byway Silver Thread and BLM Backcountry Alpine Loop. Sites chosen based on distances from other restrooms.

Location*

Describe where the project is located. Specify all land ownership types.

This proposed toilet is located where Gunnison County Road 26 meets Colorado Highway 149. The land is owned by the Bureau of Land Management and overseen by the Gunnison Field Office. This site is located in Gunnison County, and saw heavy traffic in 2024 with the Highway 50 bridge closure.

Goals and Objectives*



We aim to support projects that help achieve the goals laid out in STOR's Strategic Plan. Please list the specific goals and objectives your project will accomplish and identify how they support those outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan shown below.

- A. Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.*
- B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.*
- C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.*
- D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.*

A. Tourist destinations must appropriately manage impacts of tourism. Hinsdale County has been the lead agency in a multi-county effort to improve restroom facilities along the Silver Thread and Alpine Loop byways. We received a federal Scenic Byway grant to install 11 toilets and an observatory. Toilets will be located in Mineral County (new river access on Rio Grande, Spring Creek Reservoir), Hinsdale County (Red Mountain Gulch, Capital City, Ute Ulay, trailhead for Larson Creek), Town of Lake City land within Hinsdale County (the Roundtop Mountain Park / Ski Hill), BLM land within Hinsdale County/San Juan County (ATV staging area, Gladstone), and San Juan County land (Eureka). The 11th toilet was planned for Ouray County but that project is unable to move forward. Following that decision, we looked at our toilet location map to determine the next priority location (where restroom facilities are unavailable and we see impacts from inappropriate human waste disposal). Next on the list was the BLM site where GC26 meets Highway 149. Restroom facilities are necessary to dispose of human waste appropriately, especially in areas of concentrated human use. This site is used extensively in the fall with hunters camping in this area. Travelers along the Silver Thread also use this as a natural stopping area. With no restroom facilities, we see human waste disposal impacts currently. This project supports our recreation economy.

B. The impetus of the overall restroom facility project seeks to reduce unsightly and unhealthy human waste impacts throughout our region. This project was developed through community-driven requests. A dramatic increase has been noted with human waste / toilet paper littering roads, pullouts, and trails. This project seeks to increase respect for community and our natural resources.

C. Partners on this project include the Federal Highway National Scenic Byway program, Silver Thread Scenic Byway group, Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway group, Hinsdale County, San Juan County, Mineral County, Rio Grande National Forest, Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison (GMUG) national forest, Gunnison Field Office of the Bureau of Land management, Town of Lake City as landowners / funders with additional support from the Hinsdale County Chamber of Commerce and Main Street program, Lake Fork Valley Conservancy, Reynolds



Ash Associates, and other residents and businesses. This is a high priority to improve management of recreation and protect natural resources. These toilets are anticipated to serve the needs for 20 years. In some locations, we are installing replacement toilets (1979 models). This specific site would be a new toilet / new location. Hinsdale County works with regional partners to plan / support / improve outdoor recreation needs in our region. This has included participating in the High Alpine 9.5 group (focused on the Alpine Loop area), the Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition (our southend), SLV GO! which includes our Upper Rio Grande area, and works collaboratively with Gunnison County on multiple focus areas. We hosted a Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP) workshop in 2024 to address impacts from increased tourism. This specific site - halfway between Lake City and Blue Mesa Reservoir - falls slightly outside any of the primary planning areas. We do want to solve this issue of waste management at this site.

D. Hinsdale County commissioners, neighboring county commissioners, and our public land partners mapped toilets as part of a technical assistance grant with a Colorado State University graduate program. This project was designed to identify opportunities for increasing access to toilet infrastructure and direct grant seeking efforts. This data was used to submit the Federal Highway Scenic Byway grant. This is a unique opportunity for Gunnison County since Ouray County is unable to participate. Appropriately disposing of human waste and offering infrastructure for such disposal will protect natural resources, water resources, and public health and safety. This location is along a heavily used transportation route.

Methods

In a succinct narrative or bulleted-paragraph format, describe the specific steps your organization, consultants, or contractors will take to achieve each individual goal or objective.

Hinsdale County is working with Reynolds Ash Associates to complete environmental and archaeological clearances together with BLM. Following that, and together with CDOT, Hinsdale County will purchase and install 11 toilets (1 of which is proposed for Gunnison County Road 26 / Highway 149).

Timeline

Provide an explicit timeline of the proposed work, listing key activity dates.

Two packages of clearances are being developed with this project of 11 sites. Weekly meetings are occurring now to move forward on environmental and archaeological clearances.

Approximately 6 toilets are expected to be installed in 2025 and the remaining 5 in 2026. Work is still being done to identify which sites will be cleared first and the schedule of installation. The Federal Highway grant must be completed by May of 2026.

Quantifiable Outcomes*



List 3-7 quantifiable outcomes of your proposed project.

Examples:

- Brush clearing and treadwork along 3 miles of trail
- Removal of 80% of invasive species over 3 acres
- Involvement of 15 new volunteers and 10 returning volunteers
- A total of 200 youth corps hours worked

Toilet installation at Gunnison County Road 26 / Highway 149

Environmental Compliance*

Briefly indicate whether all required environmental compliance and permitting for your project is complete. The NFF cannot fund any work that does not have all environmental compliance work complete at time of application. This includes NEPA as well as any other mandated compliance processes. Of note:

- If all environmental compliance work is not complete, please stop working on this application and immediately inform your NFF contact to discuss the appropriate next steps.

Reynolds Ash Associates has been hired by Hinsdale County to work with the CDOT environmental group to complete all clearances. Chronicle Heritage is a subcontractor of Reynolds Ash hired to complete archaeological clearances. Hinsdale County is working under strict guidelines with Federal Highways / CDOT to complete project and meet all timelines.

Budget

Amount Requested from NFF*

This budget number is for the component of your project expenses that you are requesting to be covered by the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund.

\$15,000.00

Total Project Budget*

This budget number should reflect both the funds requested from the NFF Gunnison County Stewardship Fund and other matching project contributions.

\$185,000.00

Budget Narrative*

Describe the project's projected expenses and specify which expenses will be covered by your Gunnison County Stewardship Fund request. Describe any matching contributions (cash funds or in-kind services) that you will raise for the project.

The overall grant project for 11 toilets and the design of the observatory is \$640,750 federal highways grant matched with \$200,000 local cash and in-kind match. The Town of Lake City has provided \$5,000 cash; Mineral County has provided \$5,000 cash; the Lake Fork Valley



Conservancy is providing \$30,000 cash towards design of the observatory; San Juan County is providing \$12,000 match. Multiple counties are providing assistance with the installation of the toilets. Hinsdale County is providing a cash match of \$60,000.

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded





Western Colorado University Foundation

Verzuh Ranch Ecological Education Outreach Project

Request: \$30,000.00

Anticipated Start:

Anticipated Completion:

Region

Submitted: 01/16/2025

Project Contact:

Pamela Johnston

Director of Finance, Foundation

P.O. Box 1264

Gunnison, CO 81230-1264

osp-grants@western.edu

(970) 943-2237

Organization Primary Contact:

Western Colorado University Foundation

Executive Director: Mr. Mike LaPlante

P.O. Box 1264

Gunnison, CO 81230-1264

(970) 943-2237

<https://western.edu/alumni/foundation/>

Organization Type: 501(c)(3) nonprofit

EIN: 84-0709935

UEI: HUAFHJ8LJLK7

Overview

Project Name*

Verzuh Ranch Ecological Education Outreach Project

STOR Committee Nomination Contact Person*

Jennifer DeBoer

Organization Type*

Please indicate your organization type.

501(c)(3) nonprofit

Narrative Questions

Need*

Describe why the project is a priority.

Ecological education is a component of STOR's strategic plan to nurture environmental ethics. Western intends to collaborate with STOR to promote environmental education for residents of and visitors to the Gunnison Basin. This direction aligns with Western's vision emphasizing immersive education and stewardship in the Rocky Mountains.

Western is deeply invested in the well-being of our community. Our commitment to stewardship is reflected in the university's outreach programming. As part of this effort, Western recently acquired the 40-acre Verzuh Ranch in Crested Butte. The ranch holds significant historical, ecological, and educational values.

An education program at the Verzuh Ranch will include trail signage, community events, and storytelling. These efforts will engage residents, visitors, students, and other stakeholders, creating an inclusive, community-centered initiative to nurture a deeper understanding of the ecological importance of the Gunnison Basin and beyond.

Location*

Describe where the project is located. Specify all land ownership types.

The 40-acre Verzuh Ranch in Crested Butte was donated in 12/23 to the Western Colorado University Foundation by Wynn & Ryan Martens. They donated it because they believe Western's mission and expertise align with their land stewardship goals. The property is on the east edge of Crested Butte. The ranch has a conservation covenant prohibiting development. It



also has recreation easements held by the Town of Crested Butte, including trail access, Nordic trails, and boundary boardwalk.

Goals and Objectives*

We aim to support projects that help achieve the goals laid out in STOR's Strategic Plan. Please list the specific goals and objectives your project will accomplish and identify how they support those outlined in STOR's Strategic Plan shown below.

- A. Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy.*
- B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.*
- C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources.*
- D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.*

Our education and outreach program closely align with STOR's strategic plan, particularly Goal B, as we'll discuss below.

STOR Strategic Plan Goal B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community.

We intend to develop the following education and outreach program elements within the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund timeframe for funding:

1. Signage along trails to promote a conservation ethic for all trail users and visitors to the Ranch. Trail messaging will include elements of natural features of the ranch, wetland and river ecology, biodiversity conservation, regenerative agriculture and restoration ecology, along with landscape conservation planning and site history. Our interpretive signage will also incorporate messages promoting Leave No Trace principles and sustainable trail use, educating visitors on how their actions impact local ecosystems. Where feasible, multilingual content will ensure accessibility and inclusivity, reflecting a broader audience and supporting diversity/inclusivity
2. Develop and deliver four distinct half-day community events focused on environmental education and land and water stewardship. These include a birding and avian conservation workshop, a plant inventory bio-blitz in collaboration with the Gunnison Basin Native Plants Society, a wetland ecology and restoration workshop, and a regenerative livestock grazing workshop. Our programs will highlight wetland ecology, river ecology, avian ecology and birding, biodiversity conservation, restoration ecology, and conservation and regenerative stewardship. We'll seek to actively collaborate with the Gunnison Basin Native Plants Society,



CB Land Trust, CB Wildflower Festival, and other local conservation groups to design and execute events, fostering strong partnerships that reflect community stewardship values. We intend that these initial workshops will continue in future years and that we will expand offerings.

3. Develop content for and deliver story-telling about the Verzuh Ranch on the Western webpage and thru diverse media including efforts to reach Gunnison Basin residents and visitors.

As Western Colorado University embarks on this partnership with STOR, we are launching a sustained and evolving phase of stewardship and community engagement in the Upper Gunnison Valley. Our work with the Slate River Working Group demonstrates our dedication to long-term, science-driven land management strategies. The Verzuh Ranch Ecological Education Outreach Project is a foundational step in what we envision as a series of ongoing initiatives that promote environmental stewardship, sustainability, and community education.

This project will serve as the groundwork for a comprehensive stewardship and management plan for Verzuh Ranch, guiding activities and partnerships for years to come. We anticipate that future initiatives, events, and infrastructure improvements will continue to align with STOR's evolving goals, creating opportunities for additional funding applications and collaborative projects. This proposal represents not a standalone effort but the beginning of Western's deepened, long-term commitment to fostering ecological resilience and sustainable community engagement in Crested Butte and the greater Gunnison Basin.

By explicitly mapping each component of the Verzuh Ranch project to the STOR Strategic Plan, we will clearly demonstrate how this proposal advances STOR's mission and increases our competitiveness for funding.

STOR Strategic Plan Goal A. Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports thriving natural ecosystems and native wildlife resources; a vibrant rural and ranching culture, and a diverse recreation economy. – The Verzuh Ranch serves as a model for integrating ecosystem health, agricultural heritage, and recreation. Through our science-based approach to biodiversity conservation and regenerative livestock grazing, we demonstrate how working lands can support both ecological resilience and sustainable recreation. Our research and monitoring programs provide valuable data on ecosystem health while maintaining the property's historic ranching legacy, directly supporting STOR's vision for a resilient community that balances natural resources, rural culture, and recreation. By blending ecological preservation with community recreation, Verzuh Ranch serves as a model for balancing conservation with responsible land use.

STOR Strategic Plan Goal B. Foster a culture for residents and visitors that demonstrates an ethic of environmental stewardship and respect for our community. – Through the Western Colorado University website, social media, local newspapers, and a dedicated Verzuh Ranch newsletter, we will share stories highlighting the ranch's ecological importance, indigenous



history, and student-led conservation projects. These narratives will inspire stewardship and deepen community connections to the land.

STOR Strategic Plan Goal C. Support collaboration between federal land management agencies, state and local government, nonprofits, and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources. – Western faculty leading the Verzuh Ranch initiatives have established strong partnerships across multiple sectors. Drs. Micah Russell and Patrick Magee have been key collaborators in the Slate River Working Group, working with the Crested Butte Land Trust, Town of Crested Butte, private landowners, and other stakeholders. Their effort to create the Middle Slate River Work Group would foster landscape-scale conservation planning that transcends property boundaries and exemplifies the collaborative approach STOR seeks to promote. This existing network of partnerships positions the Verzuh Ranch as an ideal platform for expanding interagency cooperation on recreation and natural resource management.

STOR Strategic Plan Goal D. Minimize degradation of natural resources and enhance accessibility of recreational amenities by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasizing conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas. – Western collaborates with the Town of Crested Butte, the CB Nordic Center, McCormick Ranch neighbors and the CB Mountain Bike Association on recreation access to the Verzuh Ranch. With our property at the edge of town, this aligns well with STOR's strategic approach to concentrate recreation close to population centers. The property's proximity to public transit and the town core promotes car-free access, demonstrating how thoughtful planning can balance recreation accessibility with habitat conservation. Our ongoing monitoring programs will help inform future decisions about balancing human access with ecosystem protection.

Methods

In a succinct narrative or bulleted-paragraph format, describe the specific steps your organization, consultants, or contractors will take to achieve each individual goal or objective.

The proposed education and outreach project consists of outreach messaging through signage and story-telling, and public events aimed at the local community to foster understanding about ecological processes, biodiversity conservation and the value of nature to humanity. The interpretive signage and storytelling will evolve over time with updated content and interactive elements, ensuring long-term engagement.

Outreach Messaging

Project 1 - Interpretive Signage: Our project includes planning, developing and installing a series of educational signs along the Verzuh trail system to promote sense of place, ecological awareness and a conservation ethic. We envision two 8-foot kiosks placed at visitor hub locations on the ranch. These kiosks will include a panel with ecological/natural history and land/water stewardship information (e.g., geological history and landforms on the ranch and in the region; wetland and river ecology and processes; biodiversity in montane river valleys and



the species composition and richness of the avian community on the ranch; conservation and restoration activities on the ranch and in the Slate River Valley; and the indigenous history of this place and spiritual and medicinal values of the land). The other panel in each kiosk will serve as an interactive and/or current events space for announcements, trivia to engage visitors, QR codes to access additional information on the Western webpage, and citizen science invitations. Information on these panels will allow the signage to stay active, in contrast to the constant messaging from the adjacent panels. Specific content for those signs will be developed by Western faculty and students and led by Master of Environmental Management and M.S. in Ecology graduate student and Verzuh Ranch Manager, Brady Miller. Signs will be designed in April and May, produced by Wood Product Signs in summer and installed in September. The image shows a potential kiosk design.

Project 2 - Story-telling: In addition to signage along trails, we will continue to develop story-telling about the ranch history that includes the historic presence of the Ute people on this land and the future opportunity to collaborate in co-stewardship relationship with the Utes. Story-telling will also highlight student research and focus on our stewardship ethic of healing the land. These stories will be told via multiple media outlets including local newspapers, the Western webpage, social media, and videos. A Verzuh Ranch newsletter would create a systematic platform for our ecological and conservation stories to share with the community. We intend to expand partnerships with local organizations for storytelling, potentially involving local artists or historians to deepen the narrative connection to the land.

Community Events

We envision four community events to invite the public to the ranch and create opportunities for personal growth and community engagement. These events will represent the inaugural 2025 outreach efforts, and will be repeated or expanded in future years.

Event 1 -- Birding and Avian Conservation: The first event will feature birds! Western has partnered with Wynn and Ryan Martens to complete multiple years of bird surveys and phenological data on the Verzuh Ranch. The results reveal that the Verzuh Ranch has an impressive array of birds with over 95 species documented. These represent a diversity of taxa and ecological roles. The restoration work initiated by the Martens has improved ecosystem functionality and diversified habitat types. Further, bird occupancy on the ranch is managed in cooperation with livestock grazing such that the intention is that grazing enhances ecological values and promotes habitat health. We will offer a half-day birding and avian conservation workshop in early July, 2025. We will invite members of the public to join Western Professor Patrick Magee and graduate student Caleb Park on a hike around the ranch visiting unique habitats, identifying bird species, discussing bird ecology, and highlighting ranch conservation projects and their impacts on birds. Birds serve as one taxonomic group that is well-represented at Verzuh, and that is emblematic of the challenges the planet is facing with biodiversity declines and extinction. The relevance of biodiversity to human well-being will be emphasized during this event to celebrate birds as indicators of a healthy planet.



In addition to the birding workshop, we will design and install a Verzuh Ranch Bird Trail that consists of 8 posts along the existing trail system that serve as bird information stations and will highlight some of Verzuh's signature bird species. An example of posts produced by Wood Product Signs is shown in figure. Instead of direction arrows, the signage will include bird species identification for prominent birds at the ranch and will include additional bird information. The trail will be designed in May, produced by Wood Product Signs in summer and installed in September.

Event 2 -- Wetland Ecology and Restoration: Western Professor and Dean of the Clark School of Environment and Sustainability and a wetland restoration ecologist, Micah Russell, along with Western graduate student Brady Miller, will offer a second community event in September 2025 that focuses on the unique and diverse wetlands on the ranch – riparian wetlands, created marsh, and wet meadows. The half-day workshop will focus on foundations of wetland functions and values and will visit wetland creation and restoration projects already completed on the ranch. Western has recently created an ecosystem restoration certificate program and this event will allow participants, if interested, to complete additional courses to earn the certificate.

Event 3 -- Regenerative Land Management and Cattle Grazing: Also in September 2025, Western graduate student Brady Miller will host a workshop that focuses on how cattle grazing can be beneficial to the ecological health of lands. In 2024, Brady dove into regenerative cattle grazing and managed the Verzuh Ranch grazing system under the mentoring of Wynn Martens and Bill Parker, both experienced practitioners. This practice called regenerative stewardship is based on managing cattle in a way similar to how native ungulates historically grazed the land, in the presence of predators. With help from some of Gunnison's longer-term regenerative grazing practitioners, Brady will demonstrate, in real time, with the cattle on the ranch, how a regenerative grazing system can work and discuss the philosophy and science underlying the practice. The workshop will also explore another foundation of regenerative stewardship, that considers personal regenerative practices so both the land and the land manager are gaining health and well-being.

Event 4 -- Ranch Vegetation Inventory and BioBlitz: The newly formed Gunnison Basin Chapter of the Native Plants Society will visit the ranch in July 2025 in collaboration with Western students, led by Brady Miller, and community members to conduct a one-day inventory of the plant community at the Verzuh Ranch. This Citizen Science initiative not only allows plant identification experts to share their knowledge with community members, but will also serve as a baseline survey of the Verzuh Ranch plant community. Volunteers will be trained to identify plants and will be mentored by experienced botanists. They will also be trained to use the I-Naturalist app to document plants. Plants will be identified to species and the product will be a georeferenced list of the plant species composition and plant species richness currently inhabiting the land. We will also gain a more refined understanding of the presence and distribution of non-native and invasive plants and use this information as we develop integrated weed management programs. Brady Miller will work with leaders of the Native Plants Society to



organize the event and conduct data management and develop a final report to inform future management.

In all four events we invite the local community to participate and we intend these programs to serve as platforms for relationship building. We hope community members will return to Verzuh for future programs and continue their engagement with us on behalf of the region's biodiversity and ecosystem health. In summary, we hope to nurture a conservation ethic in the local community. Incentives will include adding participants to our newsletter list, providing opportunities to sign up for future citizen science efforts, and other programs. We also look forward to engaging with the Crested Butte school and develop numerous programs for science, education and communications/arts.

Timeline

Provide an explicit timeline of the proposed work, listing key activity dates.

Timeline

April- July: Signage design and content development

May – July: Verzuh Ranch Birding Trail development

June – October: Write and disseminate Verzuh Ranch conservation ethic tales

July: Birding and Avian Conservation Workshop

July: Gunnison Basin Native Plants Society and Verzuh Ranch Vegetation BlioBlitz

September: Wetland Ecology and Restoration Workshop

September: Regenerative Land Management and Cattle Grazing Workshop

July – August: Signs produced by Wood Product Signs

September-October: Install signs and birding trail

Quantifiable Outcomes*

List 3-7 quantifiable outcomes of your proposed project.

Examples:

- *Brush clearing and treadwork along 3 miles of trail*
- *Removal of 80% of invasive species over 3 acres*
- *Involvement of 15 new volunteers and 10 returning volunteers*
- *A total of 200 youth corps hours worked*

Quantifiable Outcomes

- Design, create and install two interpretive displays to be housed in kiosks along the Verzuh Trail network
- Plan, advertise and hold four community events on the Verzuh Ranch in summer/fall 2025, including a birding and avian conservation nature hike, a wetland and restoration ecology workshop, a regenerative livestock grazing workshop, and a regenerative land management



and cattle grazing workshop. We aim to attract at least 100 participants from the general public for each. These will be free workshops as a public service.

- Design, produce and install Verzuh Ranch Birding Trail that consists of 8 stations along the existing Verzuh Ranch trail system.
- Collaborate with the Gunnison Basin Native Plants Society and host a vegetation bioblitz on Verzuh Ranch in July 2025 include training on using I-Naturalist and promote citizen science for 25 volunteers. Document at least 100 plant species via I-Naturalist in first year.
- Secure participation from 10 local artists as part of our story-telling initiative.

Environmental Compliance*

Briefly indicate whether all required environmental compliance and permitting for your project is complete. The NFF cannot fund any work that does not have all environmental compliance work complete at time of application. This includes NEPA as well as any other mandated compliance processes. Of note:

- *If all environmental compliance work is not complete, please stop working on this application and immediately inform your NFF contact to discuss the appropriate next steps.*

Environmental Compliance

NEPA and other compliance either not applicable or not required for our education project.

Budget

Amount Requested from NFF*

This budget number is for the component of your project expenses that you are requesting to be covered by the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund.

\$30,000.00

Total Project Budget*

This budget number should reflect both the funds requested from the NFF Gunnison County Stewardship Fund and other matching project contributions.

\$40,000.00

Budget Narrative*

Describe the project's projected expenses and specify which expenses will be covered by your Gunnison County Stewardship Fund request. Describe any matching contributions (cash funds or in-kind services) that you will raise for the project.

Budget Narrative

Stipend for Brady Miller MSE/MEM graduate student = \$15,000



Brady Miller will be involved with all aspects of this project including interpretive signage design and development, collaboration with the Native Plants Society, assisting with three workshops and leading the development and instruction of the regenerative ag workshop, installation of signage, and storytelling.

Signage (Educational and trail signage) = \$13,066

Workshop/public events materials (advertising and supplies)= \$1,934

Total Request from NFF/STOR/GVSF = \$30,000

Additional expenses (\$10,000) will be contributed by Western Colorado University, including Verzuh Ranch Stewardship Fund, Clark Family School, and in-kind faculty salaries.

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded





STOR Committee Meeting Minutes December 19, 2024 Hybrid Meeting

For STOR Committee Members & Guests: *This meeting will be held in-person at the Blackstock Building – 200 W Virginia Ave, Gunnison, CO 81230.*

For the General Public: *The meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom at the following link:*
<https://gunnisoncounty-org.zoom.us/j/87637105265?pwd=Rkt2d2NoM3NubTJWMIz5bnJzNjVvUT09>

Committee Members Present:

Jeremy Johndrow, Tim Kugler, Andrew Sandstrom, Chris Parmeter, Nick Catmur, Jake Jones, Dave Ochs, Dayle Funka, Thomas, Gabbi Prochaska, Brandon Diamond, Jim Lovelace, Hedda Peterson, Beverly Richards, LB Mullin

Jake Jones (Committee Chair) called to order Approval of November 2024 Meeting Minutes

Sandstrom made a motion to approve the minutes and Prochaska seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation from Pact Outdoors Jake Thomas, Pact outdoors.

Catmur and Thomas presented the Pact Outdoors Backcountry Pack-Out Kits, designed for handling human waste in areas without proper facilities. They explained that 75% of the 25,000 surveyed people are unprepared to manage waste during outdoor activities. Their products, sold at retailers like REI, aim to empower visitors by providing convenient solutions, encouraging them to revisit trails. The "Doo Colorado Right" grant initiative distributes these kits to hikers and campers, and user surveys highlight how human waste negatively impacts visitor experiences. Thomas shared insights from a pilot program at Mount Elbert, where a disposal site was introduced to reduce waste. Of the approximately 1,650 hikers surveyed, 30% used the trailhead toilet, while 70% defecated elsewhere on the mountain. Additionally, 30% of hikers used provided WAG bags, and only 8% stated they would not consider using them. Thomas emphasized that a kiosk for distributing WAG bags could significantly reduce the amount of human waste left on the mountain by providing hikers with an accessible and convenient solution.

The committee discussed the practicality and challenges of implementing the pack-out kits and kiosks. They noted that trail usage, location, and disposal infrastructure would influence kiosk maintenance and bag disposal. While the bags can go in regular trash, local

mandates and high usage in some areas could complicate this. Thomas emphasized the importance of having trash receptacles for both waste bags and general trash at trailheads. The committee weighed the pros and cons of burying waste versus bagging it, acknowledging terrain challenges in some areas. Concerns were raised about potential misuse of the bags and funding, but they agreed that properly implemented kiosks could significantly reduce waste issues. Catmur would take charge of applying for funding and reaching out to other agencies to determine their interest in contributing financially to a pilot program, with Ohio Creek suggested as a potential test location.

2024 Gunnison County Stewardship Fund Awardee Reports

Gunnison Trails

Kugler presented the 2024 Gunnison County Stewardship Fund, highlighting its impact on maintaining areas like Signal Peak and Hartman Rocks and detailing how funding is allocated. He shared 2024 season statistics, including crew hours, miles of trail maintained, trees cleared, rollovers installed, new trails built, trailhead education days, and groomed winter trail miles. Plans for 2025 include increased work at Signal Peak and continued public education efforts at Hartman Rocks. Kugler explained that the crew begins work in mid-May to clear snow and prepare trails and that their annual efforts include expanding maintenance areas and organizing cheatgrass pulls to educate the community and volunteers. He emphasized that stewardship funds are crucial to keeping the trail crew employed. The committee expressed their appreciation to Kugler and his team for their work in maintaining trails and camping areas, noting that their efforts benefit other agencies as well.

Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association

Ochs provided updates on the 2024 Backcountry Outreach Crew, which focused on educating the community about trail use, distributing PACT kits and WAG bags, and assisting with parking management. He highlighted their accomplishments, including trash removal, tree clearing, trail maintenance and construction, drainage installations, trail hardening, decommissioning illegal trails and campsites, removing illegal fire rings, extinguishing unattended fires, managing human and dog waste, and cleaning designated campsites. The crew reached approximately 2,351 people directly and made thousands more impressions. They also maintained the West Maroon Trailhead bathroom twice a week during the summer and completed significant trail work on the Upper Upper Loop, Death Pass, Trail 401, and Dyke Trail. Ochs expressed gratitude to the CBCC supporters and explained that all funding goes directly to labor costs. Looking ahead to 2025, he hopes to expand the crew to eight members to enhance their impact.

Crested Butte Land Trust

Mugglestone provided updates for the 2024 Crested Butte Land Trust, highlighting the successful reinforcement of a frequently used bridge in collaboration with Glacier Earth Works.

He expressed gratitude to the STOR Committee and the Stewardship Fund for contributing \$10,000 toward the \$22,000 project cost, which was instrumental in its completion.

USFS Toilet Service Contract

Catmur presented updates on toilet services for the Kebler Pass area, including locations such as the winter trailhead, Lake Irwin, Swampy Pass Trailhead, Lost Lake, and Horse Ranch Park, as well as the Crested Butte area, covering Judd Falls, Rendezvous Meadow, Musicians Camp, and Tent City. Their staff manages maintenance, with 2025 costs projected at \$35,500—a \$10 increase from last year. Services began later in 2024 due to lingering snow, with the cleaning window running from May 15 to October 15. The committee discussed the need for grants from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and potential participation from the Chamber to help fund toilet cleaning. Catmur also announced that the Stewardship Fund contract is open for applications, with \$150,000 to \$200,000 available. The committee explored ways to increase grant awareness among agencies to ensure better fund distribution. Catmur noted that applications are due by January 15 and outlined the submission process for the committee.

Jones adjourned the meeting.