



# Grand County Colorado

## APPLICATION FOR OPEN LANDS, RIVERS AND TRAILS (OLRT FUND) FALL 2021

*Funding may only be requested for projects that fit within the scope of the OLRT funding resolution, ballot language, and OLRT funding criteria.*

Please email completed application in PDF format by 5pm on September 10, 2021 to [olrtac@co.grand.co.us](mailto:olrtac@co.grand.co.us). Further information may be requested. If funds are awarded, you will be required to sign a MOU with Grand County and complete a final grant report.

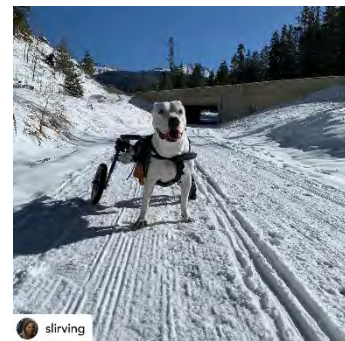
### A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **Name/Title of Proposed Project: Winter Trail Grooming**  
**Please check type of project:**  Open Land  River  Trail
2. **Applicant (who will receive the grant funds):** Headwaters Trails Alliance
3. **In the case of a multi-jurisdictional/agency application, please provide the names of all the participating agencies and/or individuals:** Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District, Town of Fraser, Town of Winter Park, Grand County, Town of Granby, Grand Nordic, Rendezvous Colorado, USFS, Denver Water, National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD), Fraser Valley Elementary School/EGSD
4. **Name of principle (lead jurisdiction/agency: Headwaters Trails Alliance**  
**Name:** Meara McQuain **Title:** Executive Director  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 946 Granby, CO 80446  
**Email address:** meara@headwaterstrails.org  
**Telephone number:** (970) 509-9127
5. **Who will hold the property interest?** Multiple entities depending upon grooming location.
6. **Designated contact person for the application: Headwaters Trails Alliance**  
**Name:** Meara McQuain **Title:** Executive Director  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 946 Granby, CO 80446  
**Email address:** meara@headwaterstrails.org  
**Telephone number:** (970) 509-9127
7. **Total project cost (do not include in-kind amounts): \$98,775**
  - a. **Amount of OLRT funds requested: \$9,500**
  - b. **Percentage of OLRT funds request to total cost: 10%**
  - c. **Date request for funds be available to applicant: January 2022 or before**



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8. **Brief description of proposed project (please limit to 100 words):** HTA and its partners maintain over 40 miles of existing winter, non-motorized, multi-use trails. HTA expanded its grooming program in both 2019 and 2020 by almost 10 miles due to interest and in response to COVID-19 and the need to social distance during recreation activities. Due to an increase in volume of winter trail users and late season snow, HTA also extended its grooming season well into April. This year, HTA will start its grooming operations in November and end April (weather permitting) and seeks to provide similar expanded grooming for users to spread out on trails. In 2021-22, HTA plans to again room the additional 6.5 miles of trails added to its grooming program (increase of 18.6%) from 2020. HTA requests funding support from OLRT to help provide these opportunities.
9. **Why is the project needed? What are the specific goals of the project? How will project success be measured? (please limit to 100 words):** HTA’s winter trail grooming program creates free winter recreation opportunities that are close to municipalities, promote active lifestyles, and enhance outdoor recreation destination visitation. The groomed trails are used by all ages and abilities by cross-country skiers, snowshoers, runners, walkers, fat bikers, etc. The Fraser River Trail, Fraser Sports Complex, and Fraser-to-Granby Trail are also used for local afterschool Nordic programs. Winter Trail Grooming Goals:
1. Create quality winter outdoor recreation opportunities to residents/visitors;
  2. Provide access to groomed trails via multiple trailheads;
  3. Encourage recreation tourism visitation to our community;
  4. Continue expanded grooming operations from 2020-21 season to help disperse use and provide additional opportunities.
  5. Publish updated winter use map with groomed trails (non-nordic center).



10. **What is the expected duration of the project? Please attach a project timeline that includes the start and completion dates for the project.** Every year, the project begins with meetings and trail preparations in mid-fall and grooming starts in late November – early December. Due to recent snowfall, HTA began compacting snow on trails in preparation for grooming in early November. Grooming continues



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as long as conditions allow and is typically ends late March or early April. In spring 2021, HTA snowmobile groomed in place of the snowcat operation on the Fraser River Trail to expand the grooming season by a few weeks.

**11. If funded, how will you acknowledge receiving funds from Grand County’s OLRT Fund (i.e. signage, newspaper article(s), social media, etc.).** HTA will acknowledge receiving funds through newspaper articles, social media, blog posts on its website, signage onsite, and on the winter trail map.

**B. BUDGET AND OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION – Grant match is not required but is encouraged and considered in grant ranking.**

**1. Summary of Project Budget and Funding Sources (cash amounts only, no in-kind).**

Project Activity	Requested Funds – OLRT	Requested Funds – other sources	Committed Funds – other sources, please include your organization’ committed funds	OLRT funds requested / committed*	Total funds needed for project activity
Labor: Fraser River Trail, Lunch Loop, Rendezvous Loop, Leland Loop (snowcat)			\$45,000 – Towns of Fraser & Winter Park, Rendezvous		\$45,000
Labor: Fraser-to-Granby Trail & Sports Complex (2x/week min.)	\$3,750		\$1,500 - FVMRD	\$3,750 (2020)	\$9,000
Labor: Creekside/Zoom (once/week)	\$1,500			\$2,200 (2020)	\$3,700
Labor: Givelo-NW Passage-Rodeo (2-3x/week)	\$2,500		\$2,500 – private		\$5,000
Labor: Lion’s Club Ponds – Fraser (2x/week)			\$2,000 – Town of Fraser	\$1,300 (2020)	\$3,300
Labor: FVE & GEs Loop for Gym & Recess (2x/week)		\$1,750-FVE/EG & Grand Nordic		\$750 (2020)	\$2,500
Labor: Granby Trails (1-2x/week)			\$2,500 - Town of Granby		\$2,500
Trail Materials: bamboo, snowfence			\$250 - HTA		\$250
Trail Signage			\$100 - HTA		\$100
Staff Grooming Outerwear			\$200 - HTA		\$200



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Snowmobile Fuel, Parts & Mainten.	\$750			\$900 (2020)	\$1,650
Super Wide Track Snowmobile				\$15,000 (2021)	\$15,000
Snowmobile Trailer				\$7,500 (2019)	\$7,500
Snowmobile & Trailer Registrations			\$150 - HTA		\$150
Winter Trail Map Revisions & Printing			\$175 - HTA		\$175
Labor: Pre-Season Trail Preparation			\$750 - HTA		\$750
Administration: MOUs, contracts, signage orders, meetings, invoicing	\$1,000			\$1,000 (2020-21)	\$2,000
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$9,500</b>	<b>\$1,750</b>	<b>\$55,125</b>	<b>\$32,400</b>	<b>\$98,775</b>

**\*Please include OLRT funds that have been requested or committed in prior grant applications for this same project.**

2. **How were the financial needs estimated?** Financial needs were based upon 2020 and 2021 materials, equipment, and labor rates for Mountain States Snowcats.
3. **Describe the project's in-kind support including estimated value.** Total value: **\$10,100** • Town of Granby: HTA provides grooming equipment and expertise/consultation for Polhamus Park/Granby Elementary and Granby Trails grooming program: estimated at \$500 annually • Granby Ranch – Grooming of the Fraser-to-Granby Trail from Snow Mountain Ranch to ski area: estimated at \$9,600
4. **What future work will need to be completed for this project and what will the associated cost be? What ongoing operational obligations will be required for this project? How does the applicant plan to address these additional costs?** HTA does not intend to expand its grooming operations any further in the next several years due to cost and capacity concerns. HTA will continue to partner with other entities to subsidize the labor costs associated with grooming expansion to different locations.
5. **Please describe in detail exactly what OLRT funds will be used for.** OLRT funds for this request will be used for the following: Snowmobile grooming labor, snowmobile fuel, parts, and maintenance, and project management of the grooming program.
6. **What percentage of the funds requested are for direct project management and what is being funded in regards to direct project management?** 10% of the amount requested will be for project management for contracts, communication, assessments, site visits, etc.



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- 7. Please attach to this grant application your organization's profit and loss statement and balance sheet. Please limit this to two pages total.** Attached.

## C. OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. Describe local support for the project not included with in-kind information above.** The Towns of Fraser and Winter Park support the grooming program through their subsidization of snowcat grooming twice/week and Winter Park's expansion of its groomed trails in the Leland Creek area. Residents and visitors to the area regularly provide positive feedback about the groomed trails. Additional support and collaboration for the grooming program include: Grand County Road & Bridge to assist with snow relocation, especially at road crossings, Grand Adventures' permit usage for shared grooming plan, USFS for permission to groom through the Idlewild Campground, Winter Park Fatbiking for fat bike grooming feedback, Grand Mountain Bike Alliance for fat bike grooming support, Grand Nordic for co-marketing efforts and volunteers, Snow Mountain Ranch for assisting with grooming, Granby Ranch for grooming a portion of FTG Trail, Granby Trails for collaboration regarding techniques and equipment, East Grand School District, and Fraser Valley Metro. Recreation District for collaboration of grooming and support at the Fraser Sports Complex and use of groomed trails for afterschool program. HTA also facilitates countywide trail grooming meetings 2-3 times/year as well as hosts quarterly Recreation Resource Working Group meetings for all entities and groups involved in outdoor recreation throughout the region, although some of these activities were impacted and/or modified due to COVID precautions.
- 2. How does this project meet the ORLT fund criteria?** The winter trail grooming program meets the "maintenance of hiking and biking trails" criteria as winter trail grooming is the winter application of a summer trail maintenance program as it provides year-round opportunities for free outdoor recreation in Grand County. With winter conditions in Grand County 6 months of the year, providing trail opportunities during these months is practical, economical, and good for the health of residents, particularly during decreased/modified capacities of ski areas and recreation centers due to COVID. The grooming program also leverages funds from other sources, including municipalities, HTA's funds, and in-kind contributions. Lastly, HTA is committed to ensuring that we can provide the best quality of experience/resource possible based upon our limited funds and volunteerism and the increase in all Nordic activities countywide.
- 3. Provide a map showing the project area and surrounding location.** Please see attached maps.



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- 4. Describe the monitoring plan.** Trails are monitored by staff at least 2-3 times per week to ensure that trails are safe with appropriate snow coverage and signage in place. HTA has purchased and placed over 125 signs on its groomed trails over the last 3 years and would like to eventually purchase more permanent signage. Trail groomers also regularly report trail conditions to HTA to ensure any problems are quickly resolved. HTA posts daily grooming and trail status reports on its website and social media sites.
- 5. Are there any current issues with noxious weeds on the property and what is the revegetation and noxious weed management plan for the project, if needed?** Not applicable during the winter months.

## FOR RIVER/WATER REQUESTS, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. What portion(s) of the project will acquire water rights and/or water storage rights, increase Grand County storage/river flows, conserve and protect water for agriculture, ranching, and outdoor recreation, or provide public access? N/A

## FOR LAND/CONSERVATION EASEMENT REQUESTS, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. Please describe what type of property transfer (easement, fee simple, etc.). Have the terms of the proposed conservation easement/property transfer been finalized? If so, please provide a summary of the terms and conditions. N/A
2. What are the total acres of the parcel and what is the total amount being protected through this transaction? N/A
3. Describe the qualifications of the proposed easement holder/landowner. How will the terms of the conservation easement be enforced? N/A
4. What will the status of water rights and mineral rights be for the property? N/A

## FOR TRAIL REQUESTS, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. If the project is located on federal land, what are the Travel Management Objectives for the trail or trail system?** Trails groomed for winter use as part of this program are all non-motorized and open to cross-country skiing (skate and classic), fat bikes, snowshoers, and hikers.



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2. **Is there a fee associated with usage of this trail? If so, how much and how are these funds collected?** No fees are associated with the use of any of the groomed trails in this application.
3. **Please estimate the trail/trail system usage by user groups (i.e. motorized vs. non-motorized, hikers, bikers, xc skiers, etc.). Include how you estimated your numbers.**
  - Fraser River Trail estimate from 2018: 50,000 users (all non-motorized with hiking, biking, walking, xc skiing, fat biking, and running being the predominate uses)
  - Fraser-to-Granby Trail: 12,000 users from 2017 count (all non-motorized with running, dog walking, biking, and cross-country skiing being predominate uses)
  - Creekside/Zoom: non-motorized uses with hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing being most popular
  - Givelo/NW Passage: non-motorized uses with hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing being most popular
4. **Has any planning and public outreach occurred for this project?** Rendezvous Colorado, the Towns of Fraser, Winter Park, and Granby, Mountain States Snowcats, Grand Nordic, FVMRD, EGSD, Granby Elementary School, Fraser Valley Elementary School, Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby Ranch, Winter Park Resort, and HTA have been involved in the planning of the winter trail grooming program.
5. **Is the maintenance of the trail subsidized by OHV/motorized registrations?** No, as these are all non-motorized trails.
6. **Is this trail part of an adopt-a-trail program?** Not applicable in the winter months, however, most of the trails are adopted and maintained in the summer.

**To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information hereby submitted is true and accurate.**

**Principle Signature:** Meara McQuain

**Application Organization Affiliation/Title:** Headwaters Trails Alliance, Executive Director

**Date:** September 10, 2021

*This signature should be the owner of the land (in the case of conservation easements), the owner of the water (in the case of water projects), or the agency that manages the land (in the case of trail projects).*

**Applicant Signature:** Meara McQuain

**Application Organization Affiliation/Title:** Headwaters Trails Alliance, Executive Director

**Date:** September 10, 2021