



December 28, 2024

Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
State Trails Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants Program  
13787 South Hwy 85  
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear OHV Grants Committee,

The Northern San Juan chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness (Broads) enthusiastically endorses the Ouray County Sheriff's Office grant submission entitled Ouray County OHV Alpine Ranger Program (Alpine Ranger.) As members of the CPW-funded regional partnership known as Ouray Regional Recreation and Conservation Alliance (ORRCA,) Broads, along with county governments, federal and state agencies, and diverse stakeholders, is committed to achieving a balance between conservation/healthy landscapes and sustainable recreation. Our members are engaged in many stewardship projects (including USFS solitude monitoring, Colorado Natural Heritage Program rare species surveys and Mountain Studies Institute bighorn sheep monitoring) that require our travel on county and forest service roads and by foot across alpine terrain to access project sites. Our volunteers are regularly present in the geographic regions encompassed by the Alpine Ranger grant application.

Our members repeatedly witness OHV user activity that damages ecological values, impacts human safety and health, and contributes to the deterioration of 4WD dirt roads. We have observed OHV drivers speeding and spinning wheels resulting in risks to human safety, road damage (deep ruts, erosion, etc.) and dust and fumes that contribute to poor air quality and human health risks. We have also witnessed OHVs passing where the road is narrow thereby traversing and damaging fragile alpine habitat and often coming close to rolling their vehicles. Thankfully, we have not personally witnessed any fatalities, but deaths are reported annually. The increase in number of OHVs in the high country coupled with the behaviors described above has also negatively impacted wildlife such that we see hardly any wildlife along 4WD roads as compared to a decade ago.

The Sheriff's Office Alpine Ranger Program's focus on educating OHV users regarding Leave No Trace practices and safety measures coupled with enforcement of regulations will greatly benefit the natural environment and visitor experiences on and adjacent to OHV roads. The presence of these rangers will improve human safety and contribute to our ORRCA goals. Broads unconditionally supports full funding of the Alpine Ranger Program and urges the OHV Grants Committee to select this application for funding in 2025. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [northern-san-juan-broadband@gmail.com](mailto:northern-san-juan-broadband@gmail.com) with questions or need for additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robyn Cascade".

Robyn Cascade