



GARFIELD COUNTY TRAILS COMMITTEE PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM February 2010

2011 Volunteer OHV Trail Maintenance and Education Program

Type of Project:

Trail Construction – New Trailhead Construction Trail Signage
 Trail Maps Trail Rehabilitation or Relocation Education Program
 Acquisition – easements, etc.

User(s) Served by Project:

ATV / OHV Hiker Biker Equestrian Other

Project plans include: Coordinate and utilize volunteer groups to:(1)sign open OHV system routes, (2)mitigate illegal OHV use on non motorized trails through trailhead/gate construction, (3) log out trees from trail corridors.

Project Title: **2011 Volunteer OHV Trail Maintenance and Education Program.**

Project Sponsor: **USDA Forest Service, Dixie National Forest, Cedar City Ranger District**

Location to nearest Town: **Panguitch Lake, Hatch, Mammoth Spring**

Project Manager: **Steve Robinson**

Address: **1789 North Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City Ranger District, Cedar City, UT 84720**

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Please provide a brief description of the project along with its components :

The Cedar City Ranger District covers approximately 348,000 acres of land (404,259 acres includes private lands within boundaries), which includes the 400+ miles of the Markagunt OHV Trail System. For the past six years, the District's OHV patrol and education program has been supported by State of Utah Parks and Recreation Motorized Trail, and Garfield County Trails Committee grants to fund seasonal Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) who work on trail improvement projects and OHV education contacts throughout the season. These seasonal employees (up to 4 each year) have been vital to our past successes in this program, working alongside a strong contingent of dedicated volunteers on numerous trail projects in Garfield County, performing patrol duties and encouraging compliance with resource protection regulations, and fostering an OHV riding ethic for the thousands of visitors who enjoy the Markagunt OHV Trail System. With the support from Garfield County Trails funding, the district is able to maintain a high level of trail maintenance and education through this existing cadre of devoted and committed trail volunteers by supporting funding toward one seasonal Forest Protection Officer/Volunteer Coordinator to direct the volunteer efforts on the Cedar City Ranger

District, Garfield County. Garfield Country Trails Committee has now traditionally supported the Cedar City Ranger District's efforts to increase the presence of OHV advocates that represent the Forest Service on volunteer patrols to provide rider information, education and trail clean ups. The district has been successful in developing the Dixie Riders Volunteer OHV Trail Program. The goals of this program are to enhance visitor services, provide Forest and OHV education, disseminate OHV regulations, and provide basic trail maintenance.

During the summer of 2009, the Sky Ridge Riders volunteered 1,168 hours between 12 dedicated volunteers. Most of these service hours were from AJ and Larue Billings, a couple who resides in the summer at the Panguitch Lake Guard Station. They have set up a provisional visitor center to provide trail information, maps and local information to visitors stopping by. They patrol the lake 2-3 times a week, clean up the trails and replace damaged trail signs. They have recruited other club members for weekend clean ups and have patrolled every OHV trail in the Panguitch/Mammoth/Garfield County area. This volunteer group increases the visibility of the Forest Service presence and enhances our ability to advocate for responsible OHV use in the Garfield County area of the Markagunt OHV system.

Additionally, the Mammoth Springs area volunteers help to clean up dispersed campsites around Mammoth Springs and distribute educational brochures on trails and fire prevention. This group volunteered about 206 hours during the summer of 2009.

In the past two years, the Forest Service has seen an increase in vandalism, sanitation issues and disregard for illegal route closure, along with theft of signs and barricades in the Mammoth Spring and Panguitch Lake areas. The increased presence over these past few seasons by FPOs and volunteers, along with their quick response in replacing the barricades and signs that were stolen or damaged, have helped to alleviate some of these problems. With the continued support to our established volunteer program we can continue to deter these problems.

The funding requested for this project will supplement a Forest Protection Officer/Volunteer Coordinator. The employee will strengthen, enhance and effectively utilize the volunteer trail patrol program on the Cedar City Ranger District within Garfield County.

The Forest Protection Officer/ Volunteer Coordinator position will work with the Dixie Riders OHV Volunteer Patrol program to install, replace, and repair: (1) signs, (2) fencing, and (3) barriers. Additionally, (4) organize volunteer trail clean up days and (5) remove/saw out down trees in trails. The FPO/Volunteer Coordinator will focus patrol efforts in heavy use areas. The volunteers and FPO/Volunteer Coordinator communicate proper OHV ethics, regulations, and safety measures to forest visitors while on trails or at the Panguitch Guard Station. When in contact with the public, both the Dixie Riders and the Forest FPO/Volunteer Coordinator will distribute information brochures and maps. Brochures and maps will include: (1) Dixie National Forest Travel Maps; (2) Garfield County ATV & OHV route maps; (3) Utah's Off-Highway Vehicle Program brochure; (4) The Tread Lightly! Guide to Responsible ATV Riding with Minimum Impact Camping Tips brochure; and (5) Leave No Trace material. The FPO/Volunteer Coordinator will assist with training the OHV Volunteer Patrol Rangers. Training emphasis includes: ATV certification, public communication, state OHV regulation and educational messages. Volunteers will be trained to increase compliance while avoiding confrontation. Our volunteers are all OHV enthusiasts who have proven themselves as strong advocates for OHV use, and will discuss OHV ethics and responsibilities in a peer-to-peer setting that strives to preserve riding privileges while promoting resource protection.

The FPO/Volunteer Coordinator responsibilities include:

- Enforcement patrols of Cedar City Ranger District's Garfield County Trails (both motorized/non-motorized). Patrol high use areas, holidays and weekends.
- Develop and implement resource protection project work for Dixie Riders Program.
- Coordinate training needs for volunteers (i.e. ATV certification).

- Recruit other volunteers (i.e.: boy scouts, dedicated hunters, SUU students etc.) to assist with OHV management projects on the Cedar City RD/Garfield County trail system.
- Responsible for OHV trail sign program maintenance and installation.
- Assist the OHV Program Coordinator with OHV management procedures.

Amount of fiscal assistance requested: \$ 2,500

1. Forest Service seasonal employee:
Forest Protection Officer/Volunteer Coordinator
(10 days GS 4 seasonal employee's time and labor to coordinate projects with volunteers)
\$1000
2. Trail signs, carsonite signs, access trail gates supplies (post/rails)
ATV fuel, Dixie Riders Volunteer Patrol Vests:
\$1500

Source of project funds

Sponsor Cash

Sponsor Labor and Equipment \$ 5,668

- Forest Service
Administration and Supervision of the OHV Trail Program
\$3468 (Garfield County portion of trails)
Forest Service tools and equipment (hand tools, vehicles)
\$ 2000
Forest Service materials: (trash bags, signs, brochures, gloves)
\$ 200

Non-Sponsor donations* \$29,807

1. Southern Utah University internship cooperative
\$ 2,500 (Anticipated)
2. Sky Ridge Riders Volunteers
\$23,288
3. Mammoth Springs Volunteers
\$ 4,019

TOTAL PROJECT COST (total of above) \$37,975

***Please list donors along with their contributions of cash, labor, materials, etc.:**

- (1) Southern Utah University internship:
Inter Governmental Cooperative Agreement
(Anticipated) **\$2,500 (cash)**
 - 2) Sky Ridge Riders ATV club **\$22,788 (labor*)**
\$ 500 (supplies /maintenance*)
 - 3) Mammoth Springs volunteers **\$ 4,019**
- Total Non sponsor funds: \$29,807**

2) Sky Ridge Riders ATV Club: ***Note**

The Sky Ridge Riders is a group of retired OHV enthusiasts who places an emphasis on community service projects. During the 2009 season, the Sky Ridge Riders provided 1,168 hours of recorded time contributing to OHV trail patrols, maintenance and clean up on Forest Service trails. The Forest Service uses a rate of \$19.51 per hour to calculate the value of volunteer time for use in national reports. The total estimated value contributed to clean up of OHV trails and education was **\$22,787.68**. Additionally, the Sky Ridge Riders provided some of their own tools and equipment such as: trash grabbers, ATVs, ATV maintenance.

3) Mammoth Springs Volunteers: Homeowners in the Mammoth Springs Subdivision volunteer to clean up the dispersed campsites, trails and riparian area to Mammoth Spring. Clean up the OHV trails around Mammoth Creek.



Sky Ridge Riders Trail Clean Up Day



Pass Creek Cleanup 2008



Dixie Riders Trail Patrol T-shirt

Estimated annual maintenance cost:

***\$ 5780**

*Total budget for Cedar City Ranger District OHV program maintenance is \$17,000, divided by 34% (percentage of routes in Garfield Co Markagunt System). The budget includes administrative management; signing, building barricades, trail rehabilitation as well as compliance and education patrols.

Who will provide the maintenance?

Dixie National Forest Service employees, Sky Ridge Riders ATV club and Southern Utah University outdoor recreation interns and other recruited volunteers will provide the maintenance and trail patrols.

Anticipated project start date: 05/12/2011 Estimated completion date: 09/30/2011

Is public access guaranteed? Yes No

Project land owned or controlled by (check all that apply):

City County State **Federal** Private

Will the project replace or enhance any existing recreation site or facility?

Yes, this project enhances the Markagunt OHV trail system.

The fiscal assistance received from this grant will help employ a full time seasonal Forest Protection Officer/Volunteer Coordinator. The person would be responsible for patrolling the trail system within Garfield County/Cedar City Ranger District. Furthermore, the employee would enhance a sparse Forest Service workforce utilizing volunteers to maintain the existing trail systems through logging out, signing, and building trailheads (both non motorized and motorized).

What recreational need will this project meet:

The Forest Service has a national goal to sustain and enhance recreational opportunities for the public. One of the greatest threats to Forest lands is unmanaged recreational activities. With continued decline of Forest Service budgets and increased competition for State and private funds, the Dixie National Forest is seeking assistance from the Garfield County Trail Committee and other advocacy groups to support hiring a seasonal Forest Protection Officer/Volunteer Coordinator.

Through already established volunteer trail patrols, the Forest Service helps to improve the management of off highway use through trail contacts with OHV users. These contacts provide a positive educational message to the trail users. During busy weekends and holidays the Forest Service will increase presence at key trailheads and high use areas in the Garfield County area. The FPO/Volunteer Coordinator will work with the volunteers and OHV Program Manager to implement and engineer barricades, signs and rehabilitate non system routes and intrusions onto non motorized system trails. Furthermore, the volunteers will assist with trail clean up and general maintenance of the trails. The volunteers will report any trail violations and user created routes to the volunteer coordinator.



Sky Ridge Riders work to rehabilitate a user created route in Pass Creek, Garfield County, Utah



Pass Creek cleanup 2008

Is this project part of a long range plan and if so, please describe :

Yes, this project will provide much needed funding to employ a Forest Service representative to assist volunteer groups with the maintenance and user education of the Markagunt OHV Trail System. The Markagunt OHV system was developed in partnership and collaboration with the Forest Service, Garfield County, Kane County, Iron County, Garfield County Trails Committee, City of Brian Head, Duck Creek Village and numerous other affiliations. The Markagunt OHV system is a premier destination OHV trail system. The designated trail system is identified on Forest Service maps and tiers to the travel management plan.

What support is there from the community, other user groups, institutions, etc.?

Throughout the development of the Markagunt OHV trail system the Dixie National Forest has worked in conjunction with local communities to develop a designated trail system. Garfield, Iron, and Kane counties have written letters of support for the development and sustainability of the Markagunt trails. The counties rely upon the trails for recreational activity for local residents. Furthermore, the trail system provides a world class tourist attraction and economic growth potential for the surrounding communities. The State of Utah Parks and Recreation has, contributed funding for maintenance and education efforts to support our OHV management and trail objectives. Additionally, the following communities in Garfield County have shown support through providing volunteers to assist the Forest Service in maintenance efforts of the trail and trailhead facilities: Mammoth Spring, Hatch, Panguitch and Panguitch Lake. Numerous local ATV clubs directly and indirectly support these maintenance and education efforts. One such example is the Sky Ridge Riders, who directly support the Garfield County trails section of the Markagunt system.

The Garfield County Trails Committee has supported past trail projects with sign grants, the Dixie Riders OHV volunteer program grant, as well as providing letters of support for the Markagunt OHV system.

Certification:

I certify that I am authorized to sign this application and that the information herein provided is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate. I further certify that the applicant has the necessary financial resources to fulfill all obligations relative to this project including the cost of operation and maintenance. I further certify that this application is submitted by an official action of the governing board of the applicant agency.

Signature of Agent Title Date

