



**Montana State Trails Advisory Committee – Summer 2022 Meeting**

**Location:** DNRC first floor Conference Room – 1539 11th Ave, Helena, MT

**Tuesday, August 30, 2022**

12:00pm – 5:00pm

**Wednesday, August 31, 2022**

8:30am – 12:00pm

**The first day** will deliver a programmatic overview of the trail grant programs, provide a detailed breakdown of the eligibility requirements for the Recreation Trail Program (RTP) and Trail Stewardship Program (TSP), and help clarify the roles and responsibilities of the STAC across both programs. **The Second day** will focus on the updated TSP application, scoring criteria and rubric, as well as the STAC’s annual role of application review and scoring.

**August 30th**

12:30pm – 5:00pm

<b>12:30 – 1:00pm</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Name, Location, Years on STAC</i></li> <li>• <i>Why is trail access important to your community?</i></li> </ul>
<b>1:00 – 1:40pm</b>	<b>Programmatic Overview</b>
<b>1:40 – 2:30pm</b>	<b>Eligibility Across RTP and TSP</b>
<b>2:30 – 2:45pm</b>	<b>**Break**</b>
<b>2:45 – 4:00pm</b>	<b>Grant Cycle Processes</b>
<b>4:00 – 4:40pm</b>	<b>RTP Application &amp; Scoring</b>
<b>4:45 – 5:00pm</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>

**August 31st**  
**9:00am – 12:00pm**

<b>8:30 – 9:00am</b>	<b>Day One Recap &amp; Follow Up</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:45am</b>	<b>New TSP Application</b>
<b>9:50 – 10:30am</b>	<b>New TSP Scoring Criteria/Rubric</b>
<b>10:30 – 10:40am</b>	<b>**Break**</b>
<b>10:40 – 11:40am</b>	<b>Establishing Funding Recommendations for TSP</b>
<b>11:40 – 12:00pm</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>



## Trail Funding Opportunities at FWP

**The Purpose** of this memo is to outline the different eligibility requirements and awards offered by the five trail grant programs within the Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division.

### Program Overview:

POR offers five unique opportunities to support the development and maintenance of recreational trails across the state. The goal of these programs is to directly support community driven efforts to improve public access, promote motorized and non-motorized recreation, and stimulate local economies.

The five trail grant programs are:

- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Trail Stewardship Program (TSP)
- Off-Highway Vehicle Program (OHV)
- Snowmobile Program
- Summer Motorized Trail Pass Program (SMTP)

### Program Specifics:

#### Recreational Trails Program (RTP):

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is funded through the Federal Highway Trust Fund and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from nonhighway recreational fuel use: fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks. RTP awards approximately \$1.5 million each year for recreational trail maintenance, restoration, development, and recreational education and safety programs.

#### Trail Stewardship Program (TSP):

The Trail Stewardship Program was established following the 2019 Legislative Session when Senate Bill 24 was passed into law. Funding for TSP comes from a portion of Montana's \$9.00 light vehicle registration fee, as well as a portion of recreational marijuana tax revenue. In its first two cycles, TSP has awarded approximately \$2.82 million to 74 projects across the state focused on trail development, maintenance, and restoration.

#### Off-Highway Vehicle Program (OHV):

The Traditional OHV grant program was established in 1992. The funding sources for the program include registrations and state fuel taxes. Funds are used to support the work of OHV Clubs/Organizations along with Federal Agency projects on OHV designated trails and riding areas statewide.

#### Snowmobile Program:

The snowmobile grooming program began in 1973. The funding sources for the program include registrations, state fuel taxes, and the winter trail pass. The grant awards are used to fund grooming for 25 snowmobile clubs on approximately 4,000 miles of designated snowmobile trails in Montana.

**Summer Motorized Trail Pass Program (SMTP):**

The Summer Motorized Trail Pass grant program began in 2019. The program is supported by the revenues from the Summer Motorized Trail Pass. These awards help improve access to designated trails and riding areas across the state by supporting the work of many OHV Clubs and Organizations.

**Motorized and Non-Motorized Program Elements:**

All five of the grant programs are eligible to motorized applicants, while non-motorized applicants are only eligible for the Recreation Trails Program and Trail Stewardship Program. TSP operates on a 30/30 allocation principle, meaning at least 30% of all annual funding will go to uses related to motorized recreation and at least 30% will go to uses related to non-motorized recreation.

**Eligibility Requirements of TSP and RTP:**

Both programs accept applications from any club, NGO, or city, county, state, federal, or tribal government entity.

	Eligible Funding Areas	Financial Requirements	Additional Requirements
Trail Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New trail and shared-use path construction</li> <li>• Rehabilitation and maintenance of trails and shared-use paths, including winter grooming</li> <li>• Construction and maintenance of trailside and trailhead facilities</li> </ul>	<p>Max. Award: \$75,000</p> <p>Match Requirement: 10% of total project costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grantees to use up to 7% of grant funds on administrative costs.</li> <li>• Funds may not be used on safety/education activities <i>or</i> equipment purchases</li> </ul>
RTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development or maintenance of motorized and non-motorized trails or trail-related facilities</li> <li>• Winter trail grooming</li> <li>• <i>Purchase of trail equipment</i></li> <li>• <i>Purchase of land for trail development</i></li> <li>• <i>Development of trail education or ethics programs</i></li> </ul>	<p>Max. Award: \$100,000</p> <p>Match Requirement: 20% of total project costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grantees must submit a reimbursement request every <u>8 months</u> during award.</li> <li>• Grantees must maintain an active <u>SAM registration</u>.</li> <li>• <u>Buy America requirements</u> must be met.</li> <li>• <u>State procurement procedures</u> must be followed</li> </ul>



## **Trail Grant Eligibility Limitations and SB 24**

**Background:** In 2019, the Montana Legislature created the Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program (TSP). TSP established a state funded version of the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Over the last three years, the Department has implemented the Program by awarding grant funding to various municipalities, counties, and non-profits. Questions have arisen regarding the eligibility of funding trail related activities, such as educational programs, and equipment purchases (i.e. groomers, trailers). This memo outlines the differences between RTP's and TSP's governing statutory language, and the implications of the divergences on funding eligibility.

**SB 24 & TSP:** Senate Bill 24, now codified under § 23-2-109, MCA, contains TSP's eligibility framework. Section 23-2-109(2), MCA, provides that "Cities, counties, tribal governments, school districts, recreational clubs and organizations, and state and federal agencies are eligible to receive grant funds..." The types of projects eligible to be funded are:

- (1) new trail and shared-use path construction
- (2) rehabilitation and maintenance of existing trails and shared-use paths
- (3) trailside and trailhead facilities.

The trailside facilities available for funding includes bridges, fencing, parking, bathrooms, latrines, picnic shelters, interpretation, trail signs, and trailside weed management.

**Recreational Trails Program:** RTP's eligibility parameters are listed under 23 U.S.C. 206. Permissible uses of RTP funding includes:

- (1) maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails
- (2) development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails
- (3) purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment
- (4) construction of new recreational trails
- (5) acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors
- (6) assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance
- (7) development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection.

**Comparison:** RTP allows broader use of funds compared to TSP. While 23 U.S.C. 206 explicitly lists education and equipment related uses as eligible for funding, § 23-2-109, MCA, does not. The Montana Legislature had the opportunity to devise TSP in a manner that simply matched RTP, however, new language was generated which limits TSP's allowable uses by creating a statutory structure that plainly differs from RTP. This is best evidenced by looking at the types of trailside facilities eligible for funding. Section 23-2-109(3), MCA, lists bridges, fencing, parking, bathrooms, latrines, picnic shelters, interpretation, and trail signs as eligible infrastructure. These "facilities" all have a common theme – they are incapable of being divested or sold. Because the two governing statutes are plainly different, it becomes clear that the two statutes were meant to create two separate eligibility frameworks.

# DRAFT RTP Application - 2023

## Applicant Information

- Name
- Title
- Email
- Address
- Phone

## Organization Information

- Name
- Organizational Type
- Organizational Website
- Address
- Phone
- Email Address
- Vendor ID
- SAM: Is your organization currently registered in the System for Awards Management (SAM)? All applicants are required to be registered at the time of application.
  - Upload verification of SAM registration

## 1. Grant History

- A. Has the applicant organization received an RTP grant award within the past 5 years?
- B. Does the applicant organization currently have a RTP grant that is not completed and closed out?
- C. Is the proposed project being used as match, or has match, from any other Outdoor Recreation program at FWP (e.g. OHV Grants, Snowmobile Grants, MTSG, Summer Motorized Trail Grants)?

## 2. Project Overview

- A. Provide a short project title (6 words max)
- B. Provide a brief description of the project (1-2 sentences)
- C. Project Location
  - i. County
  - ii. City/Town (if Applicable)
  - iii. Landownership
  - iv. Approximate Mileage included in proposed work
- B-D. Majority User Type (e.g., Motorized, Nonmotorized, or Diversified (Motorized and Nonmotorized))

## 3. Project Planning & Involvement

- A. Describe the estimated project timeline and associated milestones.

- B. Describe the physical traits (length, width, surface type, location, seasonal use) of the trail project that will be built and/or maintained and how these traits reflect the intended recreational use.
- C. Describe the degree to which project meets a goal and/or implements a strategy of a local, regional, or land management agency plan.
- D. Describe how these goals and/or strategies tie into the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).
- E. Describe who will work on the project and their qualifications.
  - i. Will a qualified state conservation corps or local youth trail crew be used to accomplish this project? If yes, a letter of commitment or support must be uploaded

#### **4. Recreational Benefit**

- A. Describe the intended recreational benefits to all identified user groups.
- B. Describe the ways in which the project facilitates the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older citizens, economically disadvantaged, and other non-traditional populations or groups.

#### **5. Economic Development**

- A. Describe the ways in which the project creates opportunities for new partnerships between trail users, private interests, and public agencies within the project area.
- B. Describe the economic and revitalization benefits of this project. Address the business, public health, tourism, and area resident quality of life impacts of your project.

#### **6. Connectivity**

- A. Describe the degree to which project provides connections or linkages to other trails, greenways, blue ways, or waterways, natural or scenic corridors, cultural resources, parks, or recreation areas

#### **7. Maintenance & Sustainability**

- A. Describe the degree of commitment to continue operation and maintenance of the project. Include an operation and maintenance plan detailing the amount of money needed to operate and maintain the trail/facility after project completion and identify who will be responsible for these activities.
- B. Describe how the project provides for the design, construction, location or redesign, reconstruction, or relocation of the trail and/or trailhead in order to mitigate and minimize the impact to the natural environment and the need for ongoing maintenance, thus making for a sustainable project
- C. Identify goals for your project and describe what will be used to measure the success of this project.

## **8. Education & Outreach**

- A. Describe how you will make the public aware of trail opportunities, etiquette and rules, outdoor education, or sharing the trail by publicizing and promoting this trail project

## **9. FUNDING NARRATIVE**

- A. RTP Budget Spreadsheet
- B. Provide a narrative describing each line item you entered under "RTP Request"
- C. Provide a narrative describing each line item you entered under "Cash Match". All match must be directly related to this RTP project. Cash Match represents the cash your organization is spending on this project (e.g., donations, salaries, another grant funding)
- D. Provide a narrative describing each line item you entered under "In-Kind Labor / Contributions". All In-Kind Labor/Contributions must be directly related to this RTP project. *If you are using volunteer labor as match, you must utilize the RTP's volunteer labor rate of \$25/hour to calculate the labor's value. You must detail how many hours are expected and from what source/events. Your numbers should be based off your organization's previous experience with projects similar to this one.*

## **Application Preparation Checklist**

- A. I have reviewed the RTP Application Guidelines
- ~~A.~~B. I have completed and submitted a Risk Assessment Form\*\*

\*\* Starting with the 2023 Cycle, Risk Assessment forms will be required to be filled out along with the application. Risk Assessment will be evaluated during the applicant eligibility review.



## DRAFT RTP Application Ranking Rubric - 2023

	5pts	4pts	3pts	2pts	1pt	0pts
<b>Grant History</b>						
1.A	No	Yes, no compliance issues	Yes, minor compliance issue such as one late report	Yes, compliance issues	Yes, major compliance issues with notice given	Yes, major compliance issue and funds reverted due to issue
1.B	No	Yes - a 2021 RTP Grant	Yes - a 2020 RTP Grant	Yes - a 2019 RTP Grant	Yes - An "Extended" grant	
1.C	No; no involvement	Yes, other programs involved in overall project, but not this portion of project	Yes, one other program involved, breakdown clear	Yes, one other program involved, breakdown unclear	Yes - More than one other program involved, but breakdown clear	Yes - More than one other program involved, and breakdown unclear

### Project Planning & Involvement

3.A	The timeline is well developed, feasible, operates within the grant period, and delineates all major project and grant management needs	The timeline is well developed, feasible, operates within the grant period, and mostly delineates major project and grant management needs	The timeline is developed, feasible, and operates within the grant period but does not delineate project and grant management needs	The project timeline is adequate and operates within the grant period, but lacks enough detail to ensure feasibility	The project timeline lacks enough detail to ensure it operates within the grant period and is feasible	the project timeline does not operate within the grant period and is not feasible
3.B	The proposed trail location is well described, and its traits match the recreational use of the trail and are supported	The proposed trail location is well described, and its traits match the recreational use of the trail but are unsupported	The proposed trail location is well described but its traits unclearly relate to its recreational use	The proposed trail location is poorly described but its traits relate to its recreational use and are supported	The proposed trail location is poorly described, and its traits appear to relate to its recreational use	The proposed location is poorly described, and its traits do not appear or are not related to its recreational use
3.C	At least one plan is cited and attached, and the project clearly meets two or more goals defined within the plan	At least one plan is cited and attached, and the project clearly meets one goal defined within the plan	At least one plan is cited, and the project meets at least one goal defined within the plan	At least one plan is cited, but the project is only tangentially tied to any goals	At least one plan is cited, but the project is not tied to any goals	No plan is cited, so the project is not tied to any goals
3.D	All goals noted in the previous section are clearly tied into the SCORP's specific goals	All goals noted in the previous section are tied into the SCORP, but not specifically	Most goals noted in the previous section are tied into the SCORP, and most are tied specifically to SCORP goals	Goals noted in the previous section are only vaguely tied into the SCORP	The SCORP is discussed, but not tied to any goals from the previous section	No goals from the previous section are discussed and the SCORP is not noted
3.E	All aspects of project work are associated with workers/groups and workers' qualifications match proposed work	Most aspects of project work are associated with workers/groups and all workers' qualifications match proposed work	Most aspects of project work are associated with workers/groups and most workers' qualifications match proposed work	Most aspects of project work are associated with workers/group, but most workers' qualifications are unclear	Aspects of project work are not clearly delineated but workers' qualifications are clear	Aspects of project work are not clearly delineated, and worker qualifications are not clear
3.Ei	Yes (letter must be uploaded)	-	-	-	-	No

### Recreational Benefit

4.A	All user groups have been identified and well described, and the recreational benefits are appropriate to the project	All user groups have been identified but not well described; the recreational benefits are appropriate to the project	Most user groups have been identified and well described, and the recreational benefits are appropriate to the project	User groups have not been identified or described, but the recreational benefits are appropriate to the project	The recreational benefits have been described but are not appropriate to the project	the recreational benefits have not been described
4.B	The primary intent is to improve trail and access opportunities for one of the noted groups	the project improves trail use and access opportunities for noted groups to some degree,	the project improves trail use and access for special groups but is not clearly explained or supported	the project does not improve trail use and access for special groups but explains and supports why it does not	the project does not improve trail use and access for special groups and does	the project does nothing to improve trail use by special groups

	incidental, but clearly explained and supported			not explain or support why not	
--	---	--	--	--------------------------------	--

## Economic Development

5.A	Project creates or maintains at least 3 partnerships, and these partnerships have been confirmed and have formally committed resources to the project's success	Project creates or maintains at least 2 partnerships, and these partnerships have been confirmed and have formally committed resources to the project's success	Project creates or maintains at least 1 partnership, and this partnership has confirmed and formally committed resources to the project's success	Project creates or maintains partnerships, and partnerships have been confirmed, but no resources committed to project's success	Project creates or maintains partnerships, but these have not been confirmed	Project does not create or maintain partnerships
5.B	Project demonstrates and supports three or more of the defined benefits	Project demonstrates and supports two or more of the defined benefits	Project demonstrates and supports one or more of the defined benefits	Project address three or more of the defined benefits but does not support	Project addresses two or more of the defined benefits but does not support	Project does not clearly address or support the defined benefits

## Connectivity

6.A	Project provides, maintains, or improves 5+ well-described linkages	project provides, maintains, or improves 4+ well-described linkages	project provides, maintains, or improves 5+ linkages, but are not well-described	project provides, maintains, or improves 4+ linkages, but are not well-described	project provides, maintains, or improves 1-3 linkages	project does not provide, maintain, or improve any linkages
-----	---	---	--	--	---	---

## Maintenance & Sustainability

7.A	Formal commitments for ongoing O&M have been included for all aspects of the project; 100% of financial operation for project is not dependent upon any future grant awards from the Outdoor Rec programs for a period of at least 2 years	Formal commitments for ongoing O&M have been included for all aspects of the project; more than 75% of financial operation is not dependent upon any future grant awards from the Outdoor Rec programs for a period of at least 2 years	Formal commitments for ongoing O&M have been included for all aspects of the project; more than 50% of project's financial operation is not dependent upon any future grant awards from the Outdoor Rec programs for a period of at least 2 years	Formal commitments for ongoing O&M have been included for most aspects of the project, but project is dependent upon future grant awards from the Outdoor Rec programs	Formal commitments for O&M and operation have not been included for most aspects of the project, but project is not dependent upon future grant awards from the Outdoor Rec programs	All formal commitments are missing
7.B	The project aims to improve or ensure trail/recreational use sustainability in the long-term, and this goal has been well-researched and implemented	The project aims to improve or ensure trail/recreational use sustainability in the long-term, but not all aspects have been considered	The project aims to improve or ensure trail/recreational use sustainability in the short-term, and long-term sustainability has been addressed	The project aims to improve or ensure sustainability in the short-term, but long-term sustainability has not been addressed	The project does not address sustainability adequately	Sustainability has not been considered
7.C	At least four goals have been identified, and these goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART)	at least three goals have been identified, and they are SMART goals	at least two goals have been identified, and they are SMART goals	one SMART goal has been identified	goals have been identified, but they are not SMART	no goals have been identified

## Education & Outreach

8.A	Project will involve well-described public education or distribution of knowledge, and the form of this will be virtual and in-person/physical	project will involve well-described public education or distribution of knowledge, and the form of this will be only virtual or only in-person/physical	project will involve public education or distribution of knowledge, both virtually and in-person/physical, but components are not well-described	project will involve public education or distribution of knowledge, either virtually or in-person/physical, but components are not well-described	public education and distribution of knowledge is tangential to project	no public education or distribution of knowledge is planned
-----	--	---	--	---	---	---

## Funding Narrative

9.

Budget is realistic and appropriate for the scope of work. Narratives clearly support the budget and describe appropriate sources of match funds. Match is secured	-	Budget is realistic and appropriate for the scope of work. Some uncertainty with narrative or match sources and security.	-	Major questions or concerns on the budget, budget narrative, or match sources and security.	-
--	---	---	---	---	---



# DRAFT

## TSP Grant Application 2023

### Applicant Information

- Name
- Title
- Email/Alternate Email
- Phone/Alternate Phone
- Address

### Organization Information

- Name
- Organizational Type
- Organizational Website
- Phone/Alternate Phone
- Fax
- Email Address/Alternate Email
- Address
- Vendor ID

### 1. Grant History

- A. Has the applicant organization received either a TSP or RTP grant award within the past 5 years?
- B. Does the applicant organization currently have a TSP or RTP grant that active?
- C. Is the proposed project being used as match, or has match, from any other Outdoor Rec program at FWP?

### 2. Project Title and Overview

- A. Provide the project title and a brief overview of the project (1-2 sentences)

### 3. Project Plan

- A. Describe the location and physical traits (length, width, surface type, seasonal use) of the trail project that is requesting funding.

- B. Describe who will work on the project and their qualifications.
  - Will a qualified state conservation corps or local youth trail crew be used to accomplish this project? If yes, a letter of commitment or support must be uploaded
- C. Describe how this project improves public access to the outdoors.
- D. Describe how this project meets a goal and/or aligns with an existing strategy of a local, regional, or federal land management initiative.

#### **4. Project Implementation**

- A. Describe the estimated timeline of the proposed project.
- B. Describe the general tasks that are required within that timeline to complete this proposed project.
- C. Provide a summary budget which outlines the funding request for the proposed project.

#### **5. Recreational Benefit**

- A. Describe the intended recreational benefits to all identified user groups.
- B. Describe the ways in which the project facilitates access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older citizens, economically disadvantaged, and other non-traditional populations or groups.

#### **6. Community Development**

- A. Describe the ways in which the project creates new partnerships between trail users, private interests, and public agencies within the project scope.
- B. Describe the business, public health, workforce development, and quality of life impacts of your project.

#### **7. Connectivity, Mitigation, Maintenance**

- A. Describe how the project helps improve connections or linkages to other trails, natural or scenic corridors, cultural/historic resources, or other outdoor recreation infrastructure.
- B. Describe how the project helps mitigate and minimize negative impacts to the natural environment.
- C. Describe the ongoing maintenance necessary to sustain the improvements of this project following its completion.



## **DRAFT**

### **TSP Scoring Criteria**

**Project Plan** – The proposed project is described in detail to include specifics about the project location, physical traits of the work to be completed, qualifications of the workforce, and the reported recreational use of the trail. Additional points are awarded to answers outlining how the project improves public access to the outdoors and/or aligns with an existing land use management strategic plan or initiative.

**Project Implementation** – The proposed project has articulated a realistic timeline for implementing multiple project phases and has provided a list of practical tasks that will monitor the progress of implementation. A detailed budget outlines the applicant’s funding request and aligns with the technical needs of the project.

**Recreational Benefit** – The proposed project has identified all relevant user groups and explains how the project benefits recreational opportunities and access to the public.

**Community Development** – The proposed project describes the ways in which partnerships within the community will be developed and/or maintained and details the potential economic benefits of the project.

**Connectivity; Mitigation; Maintenance** – The proposed project improves the public’s connection to existing trails and/or cultural, historical, and recreational resources in the area. Elements of the project which serve to reduce negative impacts to the environment are clearly described and well researched. The ongoing maintenance needs of the projects are well documented and provide a plan for sustaining the gains of the project’s work.



**DRAFT TSP Scoring Rubric**

	5pts	4pts	3pts	2pts	1pt	0pts
<b>Grant History</b>						
1.A	No	Yes, no compliance issues	Yes, minor compliance issue such as one late report	Yes, compliance issues	Yes, major compliance issues with notice given	no/answer
1.B	No	Yes - a 2022 RTP/TSP Grant	Yes - a 2021 RTP/TSP Grant	Yes - a 2020 RTP Grant	Yes - a 2019 RTP Grant	n/a
1.C	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Project Plan</b>						
3.A	The proposed trail location is well described, and its traits precisely match the reported recreational use of the trail	The proposed trail location is well described, and its traits closely match the recreational use of the trail	The proposed trail location is sufficiently described, and its traits loosely match the recreational use of the trail	The proposed trail location is sufficiently described, but its traits do not fully match the recreational use of the trail	The proposed trail location is poorly described, and its traits do not appear related to the trails recreational use	n/a
3.B	All aspects of the work are associated with specific workers/groups and qualifications match proposed work	Most aspects of the work are associated with specific workers/groups and qualifications match proposed work	Most aspects of the work are associated with specific workers/groups and most qualifications match proposed work	Most aspects of the work are associated with specific workers/groups but qualifications are unclear	Aspects of project work are not clearly delineated, and worker qualifications are not clear	n/a
3.C	Aspects of how the project improves public access are clearly detailed and provide a novel example	Aspects of how the project improves public access are clearly detailed	Aspects of how the project improves public access are well described but lack important details	Aspects of how the project improves public access are poorly described but provide sufficient details	Aspects of how the project improves public access poorly described and lack important details	n/a
3.D	One or more plans are cited and the project clearly meets two or more defined goals	At least one plan is cited and the project clearly meets two or more defined goals	At least one plan is cited and the project clearly meets one defined goal	At least one plan is cited, but the project is not tied to any goals	No plan is cited, and the project is not tied to any goals	n/a

**Project Implementation**

4.A	The timeline is well developed, feasible, and operates within the grant period	The timeline is well developed and operates within the grant period,	The project timeline is adequately developed and operates within the grant period	The project timeline lacks enough detail to ensure it is feasible and operates within the grant period	The project timeline is not feasible and does not operate within the grant period	n/a
4.B	Project tasks are clearly defined and provide an excellent breakdown of how the project needs to operate	Project tasks are clearly defined and provide an adequate breakdown of how the project needs to operate	Project tasks are sufficiently defined and provide an adequate breakdown of how the project needs to operate	Project tasks are poorly defined but provide an adequate breakdown of how the project needs to operate	Project tasks are poorly defined and do not provide an adequate breakdown of the project	n/a
4.C	The summary budget is detailed, well researched, and realistic	The summary budget is detailed and realistic	The summary budget lacks detail but is realistic	The summary budget lacks detailed and has some unrealistic elements	The summary budget lacks detailed and is completely unrealistic	n/a

### Recreational Benefit

5.A	All user groups have been identified and well described, and the recreational benefits are appropriate to the project	All user groups have been identified but not well described; the recreational benefits are appropriate to the project	Most user groups have been identified and well described, and the recreational benefits are appropriate to the project	User groups have not been identified or described, but the recreational benefits are appropriate to the project	The recreational benefits have not been described	n/a
5.B	The project improves trail use and access opportunities for one of the noted groups and clearly explains the resulting benefits	The project improves trail use and access opportunities for one of the noted groups but lacked detail in the resulting benefits	The project improves trail use and access for special groups but is not clearly explained or supported	The project does not directly improve trail use and access for special groups but explains and supports how it might	The project does nothing to improve trail use by special groups	n/a

### Community Development

6.A	Project creates or maintains at least 3 partnerships, and these partners have formally committed resources to the project	Project creates or maintains at least 2 partnerships, and these partners have formally committed resources to the project	Project creates or maintains at least 1 partnership, and this partner has formally committed resources to the project	Project creates or maintains partnerships, and partnerships have been confirmed, but no resources committed to project's success	Project does not create or maintain partnerships	n/a
5.B	Project demonstrates and supports three or more positive economic impacts	Project demonstrates and supports two positive economic impacts	Project demonstrates and supports one positive economic impact	Project demonstrates the possibility of positive economic impacts but lacks detailed support	Project does not clearly address or support any known positive economic impacts	n/a

### Connectivity; Mitigation; Maintenance

7.A	Project provides, maintains, or improves five or more well-described linkages	Project provides, maintains, or improves four well-described linkages	Project provides, maintains, or improves three or more linkages, but are not well-described	Project provides, maintains, or improves one/two linkages	Project does not provide, maintain, or improve any linkages	n/a
7.B	The description of how the project will mitigate negative environmental impacts is clear and well-researched	The description of how the project will mitigate negative environmental impacts is clear but lack supporting evidence	The description of how the project will mitigate negative environmental impacts is adequate	The description of how the project will mitigate negative environmental impacts is poor	There is no mention of mitigating negative environmental impacts	n/a



7.C

The ongoing maintenance needs are well documented and a plan to sustain the gains of this project is mentioned	The ongoing maintenance needs are adequately documented and a plan to sustain the gains of this project is mentioned	The ongoing maintenance needs are well documented but a plan to sustain the gains of this project is not mentioned	The ongoing maintenance needs are adequately documented but a plan to sustain the gains of this project is not mentioned	The ongoing maintenance needs are not adequately documented or described	n/a
--	--	--	--	--	-----



# Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program

*Advancing Community Access to the Outdoors*

The Trail Stewardship Grant Program (TSP) provides the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks a unique opportunity to invest in projects across Montana focused on trail development, maintenance, and recreational infrastructure improvements. In 2019, the Montana Legislature passed Senate Bill 24 which generates about \$950,000 per year to fund projects that benefit small communities, urban centers, and backcountry landscapes. Combined with tax revenue from recreational marijuana sales, TSP has awarded approximately \$2.8 million in its first two grant cycles to 73 different trail access and improvement projects across the state.

FWP's Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division administers TSP grants. In addition to directly supporting on-the-ground trail projects, there are many social and economic benefits that result from the program. Fostering local partnerships and enhancing recreational offerings help support a booming outdoor recreation economy which accounts for \$7.1 billion in annual consumer spending in Montana. Job creation and workforce development are also positive contributions which result from TSP grants, as well as the protection of wildlife habitat and natural resources.

Eligible applicants for TSP grants include:

- Cities
- Counties
- Tribal governments
- School districts
- Recreational clubs and organizations
- State and federal agencies

Both motorized and non-motorized recreational use projects are eligible for funding under three project categories:

- (1) New trail and shared-use path construction
- (2) Rehabilitation and maintenance projects
- (3) Trailside and trailhead facilities construction

Applicants are asked to provide a detailed description of the project implementation plan as well as the expected community and recreational benefits. Trail connectivity, long-term maintenance improvements, partnership development, and mitigating negative impacts to natural resources are part of the review criteria.

Grant applications are accepted from November 15, 2022 until January 31, 2023. Technical assistance trainings are offered throughout the fall and can be found on the TSP webpage.





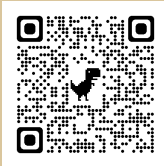
### **TSP Project Examples:**

**The City of Lewistown** is currently being funded to complete their *Hard Surfacing A Street to H Street Project*. Upon completion the project will tie into an existing 3-mile asphalted section that accesses the main city trailhead. This development is part of the long-term strategy developed in the 2020 Lewistown Trails Master Plan of ultimately creating a continuous 5.2-mile loop within the city.



**The Custer Gallatin National Forest Beartooth Ranger District** based in Red Lodge is utilizing TSP funds for the *Critical Repair of Trail Stairway and Viewing Platform at Big Ice Cave*. The successful completion of this project will provide a safe pathway for the public to access Big Ice Cave and in the process reduce negative impacts to the landscape through the continued use of an elevated stair system and viewing platform.

**Website:**



**Contact:**

**Tom Lang**  
Trail Stewardship Program Manager  
tom.lang@mt.gov  
406-444-3343