

Title.

Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Application Spring 2021

Intro.

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative. CPW and the Colorado Outdoor Partnership invite you to join this important initiative, to work toward a bold vision, outlined in the Governor's Executive Order, to ensure that Colorado's land, water, and wildlife thrive while also providing for equitable access to quality outdoor recreation experiences.

To advance this initiative, CPW, in partnership with Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), is soliciting applications to join the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative. Funding will provide for established and just forming coalitions that meet program criteria and the development of local/regional planning elements to inform a Statewide Conservation and Recreation Plan (Statewide Plan). For more information, please see the [program webpage](#). The application deadline is May 20, 2021.

Q1. 1. Lead Entity

Organization	<input type="text" value="Ouray County"/>
Name	<input type="text" value="Ben Tisdell"/>
Title	<input type="text" value="Chair, Ouray County Board of County Commissioners"/>
Mailing Address	<input type="text" value="P.O. BOX C"/>
City	<input type="text" value="Ouray"/>
Zip Code	<input type="text" value="801427"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="btisdell@ouraycountyco.gov"/>
Phone	<input type="text" value="970.318.1037"/>

Q2. 2. Is there a Fiscal Agent that is different from the Lead Entity? This organization assumes the accounting and financial reporting responsibility for funding.

- Yes
- No

Q2a. 2a. Fiscal Agent

This organization assumes the accounting and financial reporting responsibility for funding. This organization may be different than the Lead Entity.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q3. 3. Coalition Name (proposed name if convening a new coalition)

Please provide a short, descriptive name that will distinguish your coalition.

Ouray Recreation and Conservation Alliance (ORCA)

Q4. 4. Coalition Webpage URL (if applicable)

ORCA does not have a website. Web content will be developed as a Regional Partnerships Grant deliverable.

Q5. 5. Coalition Description

Please write a short summary of your coalition, including the purpose. You may link to websites to support this information. You will have an opportunity later to upload pertinent documents (i.e. coalition charter, guidance documents, etc.) (1500 characters or less)

A coalition of federal and state land management agencies, local leaders, and elected officials are excited to harness community energy and the unprecedented opportunity provided by the CO Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative to launch the proposed Ouray Recreation and Conservation Alliance (ORCA). Ouray County is 46% federal public land managed by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) and by the Bureau of Land Management. Roughly 4% of Ouray County is managed as Ridgway State Park or State Wildlife Areas by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Most recreation takes place on public lands. Recreation visitor numbers exploded in 2020 and are overwhelming the local population of 5,000 people and local capacity to support public health, safety, sanitation, search and rescue, and law enforcement. ORCA will provide adaptive leadership to balance competing local and national demand for quality outdoor recreation opportunities and related infrastructure with conserving and enhancing our environmental integrity to support healthy ecosystems, wildlife, water resources, and Ouray County's incredible scenic beauty. ORCA will build bridges across our jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries to plan for wildlife and natural resource conservation along with the growing demand for recreation access. We will collaboratively address emerging issues and safeguard areas identified as significant for conservation, working lands, and recreation access.

Q6. 6. Location

Please briefly describe the geographic location and spatial extent of your coalition. Does it reside within a region of the state (e.g. the San Luis Valley) or encompass certain counties? (1500 characters or less)

The proposed ORCA is envisioned to be a balanced coalition in the broader Ouray area. We will serve the geographic area of Ouray County, as well as some areas within Hinsdale and Gunnison counties, to connect to National Forests and other public lands. Specifically, as shown in the map, the spatial extent of the proposed ORCA includes 300,000 acres of National Forest, including two wilderness areas, in addition to thousands of acres of Bureau of Land Management-managed lands, Ridgway State Park, county and private lands, ranging from large agricultural tracts to small mining claims. The area includes the Big Cimarron portions of Gunnison County, and through our working relationship with Gunnison County, we anticipate partnering and aligning with the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee on relevant issues. The Hinsdale County portions of the proposed ORCA include the Cimarron Forks and Uncompahgre Wilderness sections of Hinsdale County. This area encompasses communities, including the City of Ouray and Town of Ridgeway, which were once driven by agriculture and mining and are now transitioning to a more integrated economy with the increase in tourism and outdoor recreation. For example, the City of Ouray began as a bustling mining camp in the late 1800s and has transformed into an outdoor enthusiast's playground, with an abundance of winter activities, such as ice climbing, backcountry skiing, and snowmobiling.

Q7. 7. Representation

To ensure that Regional Partnerships advance the State-level Vision, partner coalitions should represent, at minimum, local, state, and federal land managers, a balance of outdoor recreation and conservation interests and underrepresented communities. Please describe which of these groups are already represented in your coalition and/or how you intend to engage broad interests in the future. (1500 characters or less)

The ORCA concept is developing at the "grassroots" – by visionary, collaborative discussions between key partners including Ouray County, Gunnison County, Hinsdale County, City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, Ridgway State Park, the Ouray Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, and the National Forest Foundation (NFF). Our next step will be to dramatically expand our coalition to include organizations working at the "grassroots" level throughout the Ouray area, as well as additional government partners from all levels. The NFF has experience designing collaborative processes and has committed to help us through the initial phase by thoughtfully designing our membership so that balanced interests are represented. A key part of our process would be to identify and recruit representatives from underrepresented communities. To that end, we have worked together to develop an initial list, which we would work to refine and formalize if we receive critical capacity support through the Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative. Our list, which is described in more detail in the responses below, includes a range of balanced and diverse interests.

Q8. 8. Proposal Description

Please write a brief summary of your interest in joining the Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative. Please describe how this Initiative will strengthen your coalition and/or other efforts to advance conservation and outdoor recreation planning? (1500 characters or less)

Like many places in Colorado, the Ouray area has seen a boom in visitation and an urgent need to address the resulting natural resource impacts. We developed this proposal to join the Regional Partnerships Initiative so that we may proactively plan for future use and coordinate community priorities with a statewide vision. We have been working together in a grassroots way to build relationships, and we anticipate quickly growing our partnership. We are excited to advance our shared goals of outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation priority setting, collaboration, and planning. From Blue Lakes to Yankee Boy Basin, Ironton, and the East, Middle, and West Forks of the Cimarron River, visitors are flocking to the area because of its spectacular public lands. OCRA's priorities and objectives are aligned with Colorado's Statewide Comprehensive Action Plan (SCORP). Our most urgent needs are to: • Develop strategies to provide sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities, including trail networks; • Proactively manage visitors and maintain infrastructure to provide positive outdoor recreation experiences while limiting resource impacts; • Strengthen public-private relationships and collaborative efforts to connect more people to on-the-ground activities, enhance habitat restoration and conservation, and build capacity for organizations engaged in this work; and, • Leverage limited local, state, and federal resources with creative public-private partnerships.

Q3.7. 9. Proposal Primary Purpose

For what purpose are you applying to the Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative?

- We would like to join the Initiative but do not currently need funding.
- To join the Initiative and apply for funding to support CAPACITY BUILDING and/or ADMINISTRATION of a coalition.
- To join the initiative and apply for funding to support a PLAN DEVELOPMENT and/or RESEARCH or DATA ANALYSIS project. (This can also include funding for capacity building.)

Q10.

10. Partnerships Criteria

This application will be scored in part based on the criteria provided. Failure to provide a response to any question will reduce your coalition's score. Please read and understand all criteria, and discuss your proposal with CPW staff prior to submitting your application.

Q10a. A. Wildlife & Natural Resources

Please describe how this coalition will establish high-priority land, water and wildlife conservation needs and then collaborate to identify priority projects? (1500 characters or less)

ORCA would establish high-priority land, water, and wildlife conservation needs by taking the following steps under the guidance of a skilled, neutral facilitator: (1) Develop a charter, code of conduct, and governance documents to formally establish ORCA and its protocols. (2) Set the stage and gather information to ensure all coalition participants have the full picture of management complexities across the landscape. Host scientific panels as needed to ensure all relevant information is discussed. (3) Using the Mutual Gains Approach or another method supported by ORCA, create options for collective prioritization by the entire group. For example, identify five wildlife conservation needs to address over three years that will align with the statewide planning effort and result in "gains" for the majority of participants. (4) On a quarterly basis, identify and review priorities that all participants share, which are supported by local communities and in alignment with statewide planning efforts. Our process would be guided by Objective 1 in the SCORP: Objective I: Advance Landscape-scale Conservation - Work across jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries to plan for wildlife and natural resource conservation along with the growing demand for recreation access. Collaborate to tackle pressing and emerging issues and to identify and safeguard important areas for conservation, working lands, and recreation access across the state.

Q10b. B. Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

Please describe how this coalition will establish high-priority outdoor recreation needs for maintaining and improving equitable access and quality outdoor recreation experiences and then collaborate to identify priority projects? (1500 characters or less)

ORCA would establish high-priority outdoor recreation needs by taking the following steps under the guidance of a skilled, neutral facilitator: (1) Develop a charter, code of conduct, and governance documents to formally establish ORCA and its protocols. (2) Set the stage and gather information to ensure all coalition participants have the full picture of management complexities across the landscape. Host scientific panels as needed to ensure all relevant information is discussed. (3) Using the Mutual Gains Approach or another method supported by ORCA, create options for collective prioritization by the entire group. For example, identify five trail-related needs to address over three years that will align with the statewide planning effort and result in "gains" for the majority of participants. Or, the ORCA could better plan recreation sites with wildfire risk in mind. (4) On a quarterly basis, identify and review priorities that all participants share, which are supported by local communities and in alignment with statewide planning efforts. Our process would be guided by Objective 1 from the SCORP: Objective II: Address Recreation Impacts - Proactively manage visitors and maintain infrastructure to provide positive outdoor recreation experiences while limiting resource impacts. Utilize best practices when developing new trails or other outdoor infrastructure. We would also follow strategies 1 and 2 as provided for in the SCORP.

Q10c. C. Collaboration

Please describe how this project will convene new or existing coalitions with broad representation of outdoor related interests that include the following sectors: outdoor recreation users, agriculture/private lands, economic development, wildlife conservation, under-represented populations, hunting/fishing, local government, CPW and other land management agencies? (1500 characters or less)

Through ORCA, Ouray County will convene partners to address shared issues. We will look to models, such as the STOR Committee, for guidance, and will align with similar coalitions. In addition to the entities who have worked together to develop this proposal (Ouray County, Gunnison County, Hinsdale County, City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, Ridgway State Park, the Ouray Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, the Uncompahgre Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, NFF), ORCA would unite other entities as a next step: ● Trails and Recreation - Ouray Trail Group, Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Association, Six Basins Project, Western Slope 4 Wheelers, Western Colorado Riders and Enthusiasts, Uncompahgre Valley Trail Riders, Thunder Mountain Wheelers, American Mountain Guides Association, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, San Juan Mountains Association ● Wildlife Conservation - Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Colorado Parks & Wildlife ● Hunting and Fishing - Trout Unlimited ● Agriculture and Industry - Ouray County Cattlemen's Association, Idarado/Newmont, Ouray Silver Mines ● Economic Development - Ouray Via Ferrata, Ouray Ice Park, Ouray Chamber Resort Association, Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce ● Water - Ouray County Water Users Association, Tri-County Water Conservancy District, Ouray Hydro Powerplant, American Whitewater ● Historical - Trust for Land Restoration, Ouray Cty Historical Society

Q10d. D. Community Need

How will your planning or coalition formation efforts address community needs for outdoor recreation and conservation of public and private lands, water, and wildlife? (1500 characters or less)

If successful, ORCA would thoughtfully and deliberately gather local stakeholders to plan, set priorities, and address the mounting natural resources conservation and recreation needs in our region. Our initial goal will be to work across jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries at a multi-county scale to plan for wildlife and natural resource conservation along with growing demand for recreation access. There are many existing needs and opportunities related to outdoor recreation and conservation in the Ouray area: ● GMUG National Forests Plan Revision - ORCA could provide useful feedback to the USDA Forest Service as the plan moves forward. ● Great American Outdoors Act Implementation - GMUG National Forest received funding for more projects than any other National Forest in the country except for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, and is set to receive additional funding at least for the next four years. This coalition could help GMUG prioritize projects, identify and develop sources of matching funding. ● Set priorities for management and resource investments, and jointly determine how to respond to proposals for new trails and other infrastructure in the following federal and state-managed areas: ○ West Fork, Middle Fork, and East Forks of the Cimarron River ○ Big Cimmaron ○ Ironton Park Area ○ Camp Bird Corridor ○ Blue Lakes/Sneffels Wilderness ○ Ridgway State Park ○ Dennis Weaver Trail System ○ Ridgway Area Mountain Bike Trails System

Q10e. E. Public Comment and Involvement

Please describe how this project will involve the public and capture community input to inform the development of conservation and sustainable recreation priorities? (1500 characters or less)

Through ORCA, Ouray County and the other involved entities are planning to take the following steps to involve the public and capture community input as we develop conservation and sustainable recreation priorities: ● Identify and contract with a facilitator to provide immediate coordination and facilitation support. ● With the facilitator's assistance, complete the following organizing tasks: ○ Refine and finalize our initial, broad list of balanced stakeholders. ○ Reach out to discuss the effort with each identified stakeholder. Use a "snowball" approach to learn about any new or emerging interest groups that we should include in our coalition. ○ Kick-off our coalition with an initial meeting, where we will adopt a vision and create a code of conduct for participants. ● As the coalition begins to meet (likely monthly) and strengthens our relationships, we will also plan a series of public workshops designed to garner public input and potential solutions in response to specific recreation and conservation challenges. These workshops will directly inform our strategies and planning effort. ● As our coalition gels and continues working together, we anticipate holding "open houses" in conjunction with our monthly coalition meetings - likely at least once per quarter - to ensure that we hear from our community.

Q11. 11. Statewide Plan Key Elements

CPW, DNR and the CO-OP have proposed Plan Key Elements for the Statewide Conservation and Recreation Plan (Statewide Plan). The intent is to use these elements as a high-level template to capture local and regional values, needs and priorities under a shared strategy to advance the State-level Vision. Elements prepared at local and regional levels will be compiled into the Statewide Plan in order to highlight high priority needs around the state. If selected as a Regional Partnership, does your coalition agree to produce a Regional Conservation and Recreation Plan following the Key Elements outline below?

I. Vision: identify the vision for an established area or region. How does this vision support the State-level Vision? Does it complement [Colorado's Outdoor Principles](#)? Does the vision reflect a desired future condition for a defined area?

II. Goals & Measurable Objectives: What are the desired outcomes or goals of this collaborative effort and how will they help achieve the regional and state-level visions? How will you measure success or progress in reaching these goals and what is the timeline?

III. Conservation Goals & Needs: What are the conservation specific goals? What is the current situation or existing condition with private and public lands? What are the trends, threats and opportunities to achieving desired future conditions? How do these needs address equity, diversity, and inclusion? Have you captured community voices in identifying these goals?

IV. Outdoor Recreation Goals & Needs: What are the outdoor recreation specific goals? What is the current situation or existing condition of outdoor recreation opportunities and infrastructure? What are the trends, threats and opportunities to achieving desired future conditions? How do these needs address equity, diversity, and inclusion? Have you captured community voices in identifying these goals?

V. Priority Actions & Projects: What are the strategies for advancing and balancing conservation and outdoor recreation goals? Can you identify geographic locations for conservation and recreation projects? When considering the challenges and opportunities, what are the top priority actions and projects?

VI. Implementation & Monitoring: What are the strategies for advancing priority actions and projects? What are the funding needs to support this work? How will you measure and monitor progress over time? What methods will you use to gain community support for the local/regional planning elements?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q12. 12. Regional Partnerships Funding Request

Regional Partnerships Capacity Funding requests should be between \$25,000 and \$100,000. **Please provide the total dollar amount - do not use dollar signs or commas.**

Applying for Capacity Funding this year does not preclude you from applying for Plan Development Funding in ensuing rounds of this funding program.

60000

Q12a. 12. Regional Partnerships Funding Request

Regional Partnerships Plan Development and Research Funding requests should be between \$25,000 and \$150,000 for one to two years. **Please provide the total dollar amount - do not use commas.**

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q13. 13. What is the duration of your project. Maximum duration is two years (24 months). Provide your answer in months.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q14. 14. Budget or funding considerations

Do you have any questions or additional comments about funding or your budget?

Q15a. Budget (required) Submit as an Excel file using this [form](#).

[Coalition Budget_CO-OP Regional Partnership ORCA.xlsx](#)

63.9KB

application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.spreadsheetml.sheet

Q15b. Timeline (required) Submit as an Excel file using this [form](#).

[Coalition Timeline Form_CO-OP Regional Partnerships ORCA.xlsx](#)

10.2KB

application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.spreadsheetml.sheet

Q15d. Letter(s) of support (required) Submit as a PDF. Please combine multiple letters into a single PDF.

[ORCA LOS PACKAGE.pdf](#)

617KB

application/pdf

Q15c. Maps (optional) Submit as a PDF. Please combine multiple maps as a single PDF.

[OurayRecreationandConservationAllianceGeographicScope_05202021_2pgcopy_FINAL.pdf](#)

2.7MB

application/pdf

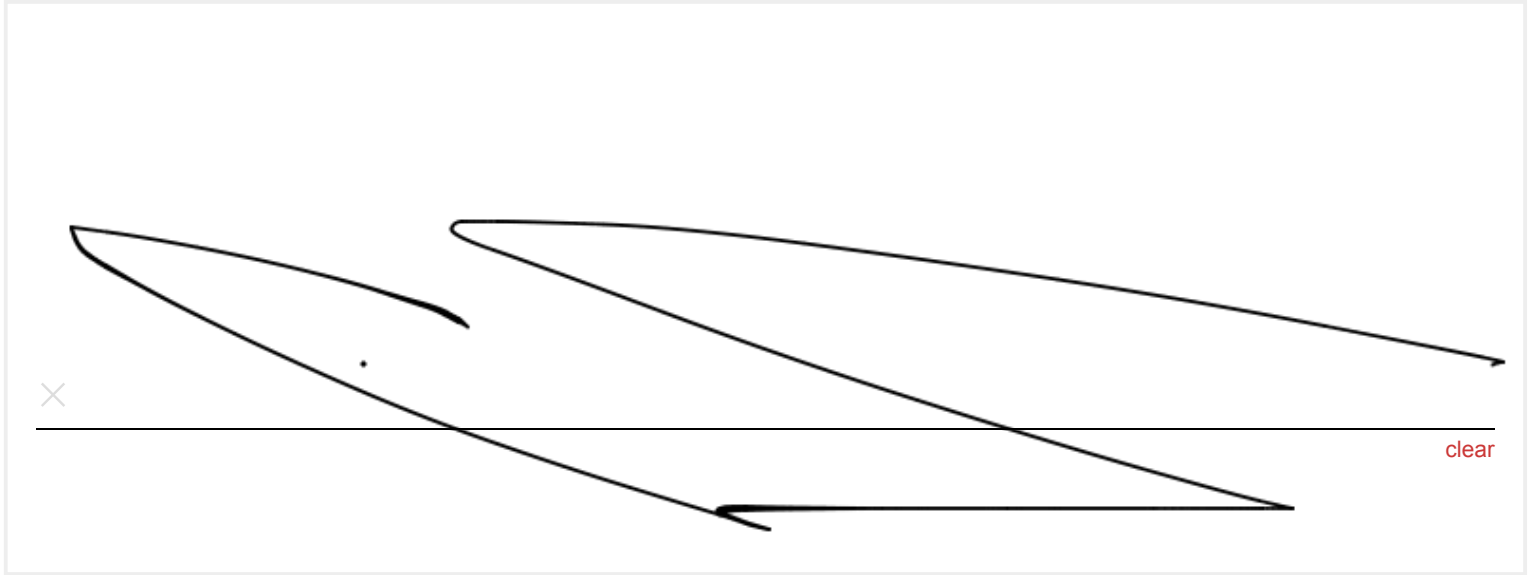
Q15e. Other (optional) This can include organizational guidance documents, existing plans, etc. Submit as a PDF. Please combine multiple documents into a single PDF.

Q113. By checking the boxes below, I certify that the information contained in this grant application is accurate and that my organization agrees to the following:

- If awarded a grant, I understand that I must submit all required progress reports to CPW.
- I acknowledge that failure to meet the requirements specified in the grant application will result in the forfeiture of the grant funds.

Q16. Sign

By signing this application, you agree to have your coalition considered to join the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnership Initiative, to advancing a state-level vision and supporting the development of a statewide plan that captures the key planning elements.



Q32.

To edit any responses prior to submitting, click the 'back' button. By clicking the 'next' button you will submit your application.

Q13. 13. What is the duration of your project. Maximum duration is two years (24 months). Provide your answer in months.

24

Q15. 15. Documentation

Please use the forms linked below to complete the budget and timeline section. For additional supporting documents, please provide PDFs.

Location Data

Location: ([39.443603515625, -104.85359954834](#))

Source: GeolP Estimation

