



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Agenda Item No: 3.b.

Date: November 29, 2007

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Tim Wolken - Director, Parks Department

Subject: Resolution to approve submittal of a State Trails grant application.

SUMMARY (including information on budgeted matters):

The State Trails grant will support the development of an Off-Highway Vehicle Park.

BACKGROUND (including information on budgeted matters):

The El Paso County Parks Master Plan includes the development of a Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park that will provide year-round, OHV riding opportunities.

The development of the OHV Park was included in the Park Department's Master Plan to address the following:

- *El Paso County has the second highest number of registered motorcycle permits of any County in the State of Colorado.
- *OHV registrations in the State of Colorado are increasing an average of 14% each year.
- *The variety of off-highway riding opportunities in El Paso County is limited with no County or City parks allowing OHV use.
- *The number of regional off-highway riding opportunities is shrinking with reductions in OHV trails in Pueblo and the Pike National Forest.

The specific objectives of the OHV Park include:

- *The park will provide motocross, trials, enduro, and trail riding opportunities.
- *The park will be a minimum of 500 acres with at least twenty-five miles of OHV trails.
- *The park will be financially self-sustaining from user fees.
- *Initially, the park will support motorcycles with the potential of adding other OHV use at a later date.
- *The park will be designed to minimize environmental impacts.
- *The park will provide multiple trail opportunities for beginning through advanced riders.
- *We will provide extensive training programs for beginning riders that will include proper riding techniques, maintenance care, and respect for the environment.

It is proposed that El Paso County and Aztec Family Raceway enter into a public – private partnership to develop the OHV park. El Paso County will secure property adjacent to Aztec for the development of the OHV trails. Aztec will provide parking, restroom, and concession facilities.

El Paso County and Aztec will enter into a management agreement to operate the OHV Park. Aztec will provide management and maintenance services for the OHV Park and will pay a per participant user fee to the County. As Aztec already has existing staff and equipment, this will save the County significant ongoing maintenance costs.

As the Pikes Peak region continues to experience the reduction of trail riding opportunities, the OHV Park will become a critical facility for OHV opportunities in our region. The facility will be designed to accommodate motorcycle riders of all abilities. Coupled with the existing special events at Aztec, the expanded facility will attract tourism to our area to enjoy both motocross and trail riding opportunities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (completed only if not currently budgeted, and is an emergency, mandated or grant/unanticipated revenue funding request before the Board for consideration):

Revenue/Funding Sources:	<u>NA</u>
Revenue/Funding Amount:	<u>NA</u>
Subject to TABOR?	NA
Increase to Original Adopted Budget:	NA
Net Cost to El Paso County:	NA
Total Project Cost:	NA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF EL PASO, STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SUBMITTAL OF A STATE TRAILS GRANT
APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the El Paso County Parks and Leisure Services Department's Master Plan includes the development of an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park; and

WHEREAS, El Paso County has the second highest number of registered motorcycle permits of any County in the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, OHV registrations in the State of Colorado are increasing an average of 14% each year, and

WHEREAS, the variety of off-highway riding opportunities in El Paso County is limited with no County or City parks allowing OHV use; and

WHEREAS, the number of regional OHV riding opportunities is declining with reductions in OHV trails in Pueblo and the Pike National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Department proposes a public – private partnership with Aztec Family Raceway to develop the El Paso County OHV Park; and

WHEREAS, Colorado State Trails provides a grant program for the development of OHV Parks in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the OHV grant will be coupled with County Regional Park fees and Conservation Trust Funds for property acquisition purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Department recommends submitting a grant application to Colorado State Trails to support the development of the El Paso County OHV Park; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires the signature by an authorized El Paso County agent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of El Paso County, Colorado:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners has reviewed the grant application and approves the submittal of the grant application.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners authorizes the Director of Parks and Leisure Services to execute the grant application on behalf of El Paso County, Colorado.

DONE THIS 29th day of November, 2007 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

ATTEST:

By: _____
Deputy County Clerk

By : _____
Chair

CONTACT INFORMATION, IF DIFFERENT THAN SPONSOR

Name & Address of Contact Responsible for Project:

Phone: () Fax: () E-mail: _____

PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

Nearest Town or City: Colorado Springs, Colorado
County El Paso County
Township/Range/Section: _____
State Senate District #: 10
State Representative District #: 19

LAND OWNERSHIP

Name of Landowner Please see attached

I hereby certify that the project is under control and tenure of the project sponsor.

Trail Corridor – land is controlled by:

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Simple	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Easement
<input type="checkbox"/> License	<input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-way	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)		Ownership to be Obtained

USER INFORMATION

Trails Users (Please check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|-------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> In-Line Skating | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Running | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Paddling | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> X-Country Skiing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four-Wheeling (pending) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle (pending) | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motor boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible Access | | |
-

TRAIL INFORMATION

(Please include the following)

- | | |
|--|-------|
| Miles of new trail construction | 20 |
| Miles of trail maintenance | 20 |
| Miles of trail reconstruction | _____ |
| Miles of trail to be signed | 20 |
| Miles of trail grooming | _____ |
| Miles of trails being planned | 20 |
| Size of new trailhead construction/reconstruction | _____ |
| Miles of inter-connecting travel benefiting from project | _____ |
-

TYPE OF TRAIL SURFACE

(Please check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Crusher Fines | |

GRANT REQUEST

Amount Requested (round off figure to nearest \$100):

Total project cost \$1,590,000

Grant request \$320,000

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT REQUEST (please use a minimum font size of 10 pitch and use ONLY the fifteen lines provided below):

El Paso County proposes to construct an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park to address the significant need for additional areas for off-highway riding opportunities in our region. With the second highest number of motorcycle registrations of Colorado counties and third highest number of motorcycle registrations per capita of Colorado counties, we have a significant number of motorcycle riders in our area. Unfortunately, with this growing need for OHV trails, we are experiencing a decline of trail opportunities in our region.

The project will be a public – private partnership with the Aztec Family Raceway (Aztec) with the County providing the land and trails for the OHV Park and Aztec providing the parking, restrooms, and other amenities. We will also enter into a management agreement with Aztec to manage the OHV Park.

The first phase of the OHV park will include over 900 acres and include constructing a minimum of 20 miles of trails. Participants will have the opportunity to use the Aztec’s motocross tracks and / or the OHV trails for a complete riding experience.

We respectfully request \$320,000 from the OHV Recreation Fund to assist with the purchase of the needed property and the construction of the first twenty miles of OHV trails.

Submitted By Signature: _____

Printed Name: Tim Wolken

Printed Title: Director of Parks and Leisure Services

Accepted by State Parks: _____**1. Benefits and Education:**

The El Paso County Parks Master Plan includes the development of an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park within El Paso County that will provide year-round, OHV riding opportunities. The Park Master Plan was endorsed by the El Paso County Park Advisory Board and Board of County Commissioners and approved by the El Paso County Planning Commission after a thorough public input process.

The development of the OHV Park was included in the Park Department's Master Plan to address the following needs:

- El Paso County has the second highest number of registered motorcycle permits in the State of Colorado.
- OHV registrations in the State of Colorado are increasing an average of 14% each year.
- The variety of off-highway riding opportunities in El Paso County is limited with no County or City parks allowing OHV use.
- The number of regional off-highway riding opportunities is declining with reductions in OHV trails in Pueblo and the Pike National Forest.
- El Paso County is the most populated County in Colorado with over 575,000 residents and we anticipate a significant increase in population with the reassignment of 5,000 to 10,000 troops to Fort Carson over the next three years.

The specific objectives of our project include:

- The park will provide motocross, trials, enduro, and trail riding opportunities.
- The park will be a minimum of 800 acres with at least twenty miles of OHV trails.
- The park will be financially self-sustaining and supported by user fees.
- Initially, the park will support motorcycles with the potential of adding other OHV use at a later date.
- The park will be designed to minimize environmental impacts.
- The park will provide multiple trail opportunities for beginning through advanced riders.
- We will provide extensive training programs for beginning riders that will include proper riding techniques, maintenance care, and respect for the environment.

As the Pikes Peak region continues to experience the reduction of trail riding opportunities, the OHV Park will become a critical facility for OHV opportunities in our region. The facility will be designed to accommodate motorcycle riders of all abilities. We will have relatively flat trails for beginning riders to more challenging terrain that will test the more experienced rider.

The El Paso County OHV Park will be a public –private partnership with Aztec and will provide both motocross and OHV riding opportunities. Aztec will provide parking, restrooms, concessions, and camping services while El Paso County will provide the land for the OHV Park. Aztec and the County will collaboratively construct the trail system. El Paso County and Aztec will enter into a management agreement to operate the OHV Park with Aztec providing management staff and maintenance services for the OHV Park and will pay the County a per user fee for the use of the OHV Park. As Aztec already has the existing staff and facilities on-site, this will save the County significant development and ongoing maintenance costs.

The OHV Park will not only be a destination for local riders, the park will also host a variety of regional and national competitions that will attract tourism from throughout the region. This enhanced tourism will make the OHV Park an economic driver for eastern El Paso County and the Highway 94 corridor.

The OHV Vehicle Registration Fund will be verbally acknowledged at the grand opening of the new facility, on all facility signage, on the County's and Aztec websites, and within all promotion material for the facility.

2. Partnerships:

Provide evidence of support for this project from trail users, agencies, local governments, community groups, or individuals (letters, petitions, news articles, event descriptions, etc. must be attached to your application packet). *(25 points)*

Please find attached the following items indicating support for the El Paso County OHV Park:

1. A petition signed by over 1,300 residents expressing support for the OHV Park project.
2. Letters of support from the following individuals / organizations:
 - Support letter from Dennis Hisey, Chair of the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners
 - Support letter from Jerry Bahner, Chair of the El Paso County Park Advisory Board
 - Support letter from Terry Sullivan, President / CEO, Experience Colorado Springs
 - Support letter from Marv Donaldson dedicating 48 hours of volunteer support
 - Support letter from Jon Mills
 - Support letter from Harry Wedler pledging \$50 of support
 - Support letter from the Colorado 500 pledging \$1,000 and volunteer / marketing support
 - Support letter from the Colorado Mountain Enduro Circuit pledging \$500 of support and volunteer assistance
 - Support letter from Jon Snider pledging 10 hours of volunteer support
 - Support letter from Paul Stevenson pledging \$200 and 10 hours of volunteer support
 - Support letter from Carl Doanie pledging \$40 and volunteer support
 - Support letter from Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition pledging \$1,000 and volunteer support
 - Support letter from Rocky Mountain Cycle Plaza pledging grant and volunteer support
 - Support letter from the Rampart Range Motorcycle Management Committee
 - Support letter from Colorado Great Outdoors

- Support letter from Gary Gould pledging \$100
- Support letter from Ken and Jen Murphy pledging \$100 and 96 hours of volunteer support
- Support letter from Greg Iafeliece pledging volunteer time
- Support letter from Fred Copeland
- Support letter from Jana Copeland
- Support letter from John Harris
- Support letter from the Frame Twisters Motorcycle Club pledging \$500 and 100 volunteer hours
- Support letter from Ken Helgeson
- Support letter from Jonathan Whitacre

3. Leverage:

Property Purchase

El Paso County

El Paso County will provide \$275,000 from regional park fees for the project. The fees are paid by developers to provide additional park opportunities for the growing El Paso County population. In addition, El Paso County will utilize \$275,000 from our Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) balance to support the OHV Park development. CTF funding is provided by lottery proceeds for the development and maintenance of park facilities.

Aztec Family Raceway

Aztec Family Raceway (Aztec) will provide parking, restroom, concession and camping facilities to support the OHV Park. This in-kind support will save approximately \$400,000 in development costs. In addition, Aztec is in the process of completing the purchase of the thirty-five acre site located directly to the north of their current site for \$240,000. This site will provide a critical link to the OHV Park.

Waste Management

Waste Management will lease approximately 135 acres to the County for \$1 per year. At an estimated lease of \$250 per acre annually, this has a value of over \$33,750 per year. In addition, Waste Management has agreed to provide the County trail easements on an additional 230 acres. The estimated in-kind donation by Waste Management is \$50,000.

Individual Donations

El Paso County has received approximately \$3,000 in cash pledges from various organizations, businesses, and individuals. We also anticipate pursuing additional grants and donations over the first three months of 2008 with the goal of raising an additional \$17,000. We also have approximately 200 hours of pledged volunteer hours for a value of approximately \$3,400.

Trail Planning

El Paso County and Aztec recognize that trail planning is critical to the long-term management of the OHV Park. Quality planning will reduce the need for expensive ongoing maintenance and trail re-building. We also will ensure that trails are planned appropriately to minimize safety issues for park users. Finally, the OHV trail system will be designed to minimize environmental impacts. With this in mind, we have budgeted \$40,000 to employ a professional design firm with a significant background in designing successful OHV parks to complete

master planning and trail planning services. Please find attached a proposal from RecConnect to complete these services.

Trail Development

Staff from El Paso County and Aztec, in conjunction with volunteers from various organizations, will construct the OHV trail system. We will also utilize the Colorado Youth Legends Youth Corps (CYCLC) for two weeks during the summer, 2008. Please find below the estimated cost for constructing one mile of OHV trail under the following assumptions:

- El Paso County / Aztec will provide the needed equipment and operators.
- CYLYC will assist with the construction of one mile of trail per day at a cost of \$1,000 per day and will help build approximately 10 miles of trails (\$500 per day was used below as volunteers will help build approximately 50% of the trails).
- Volunteers will provide manpower to build the remaining 10 miles of trail.
- The trails will be natural except in areas that require trail hardening materials.
- It is anticipated to design the trails to minimize the need for bridges as the site is relatively dry and we will have sufficient land for trail routing.

Signage (2 signs x \$50) =	\$ 100
Trail hardening materials (\$7 per linear foot x 300 feet) =	\$2,100
Culverts (2 culverts x \$500) =	\$1,000
Re-vegetation	\$ 300
Miscellaneous trail materials	\$1,000
CYLYC*	<u>\$ 500</u>
 Total	 \$5,000

During Phase I of development, it is our goal to construct 20 miles of trails for a total cost of approximately \$100,000.

4. Environment and Planning:

The El Paso County Parks and Leisure Services Department is interested in developing an outdoor recreation area that will provide Off-Highway Vehicle opportunities while preserving critical environmental, natural, and wildlife habitat.

The proposed site for the OHV Park includes the Corral Bluffs area. This distinctive landform features bluffs that drop nearly 400 feet. The area also features interesting set of rock strata and limestone outcrops for which the area is named, as well as some of the prairie at the base and along the top of the cliffs. Securing this site for outdoor recreation will maintain the visual quality of this important landmark. The bluffs also have important cultural resource values, including their use by early Native Americans as a buffalo jump. Cattlemen gave the bluffs their name back in the days of open range -- the steep cliffs served as a barrier where cattle could be corralled with relatively little fence construction.

The OHV trail system will be designed to preserve sensitive environmental areas within the outdoor recreation area. We will utilize input from El Paso County's Environmental Services Department, the Trails and Open Space Coalition (local non-profit designed to promote open space and trail development), and other interested environmental organizations to determine the

location of OHV opportunities. In addition, we will install interpretive and historical signage to depict the significant features of the area.

The City of Colorado Springs (City) also owns approximately 1,000 acres located to the west of the proposed OHV site. The City plans to use the site to construct a reservoir and the Jimmy Camp Creek Park. The City intends to obtain additional property that will link the Corral Bluffs area to the proposed park. Even though OHV use will not be allowed on the City property, significant outdoor recreation and open space benefits will be realized by connecting the two areas.

Once the OHV land is purchased, we will utilize a team of professionals from the Parks, Environmental Services, and Interpretive Division to layout the trail system. We will determine sensitive, environmental areas and either prevent access or design the trail system to minimize environmental impacts. Please see below the guidelines that will be used to develop the OHV trail system.

- Site grading for the proposed trails will be designed to minimize the likelihood of unstable cut and fill slopes.
- Adequate drainage will be installed to minimize trail washouts and we will utilize drain dips and water bars when necessary.
- Trail layouts will be designed to minimize impacts on existing vegetation or wetlands.
- Erosion control barriers will be installed to prevent water runoff where trails are constructed.
- We will prevent OHV use in designated natural / environmental areas.
- We will provide permanent surfacing at all water crossings or bridges to prevent disturbances of bed and bank habitats or locate trails in desirable locations that have the ability to naturally sustain the crossing.
- Trails will be located parallel to riparian areas except where necessary to cross a body of water.
- Sensitive environmental areas unable to support OHV use will not be included in the OHV trails plan.

The Parks and Leisure Services Department and the Aztec Family Raceway will collectively monitor the OHV Park for environmental concerns. If issues arise, we will collaborative determine the most effective method to correct the problem with protecting the respective environmental area as our highest priority.

BUDGET FORM

Sources of Funds	Date Secured	Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Totals
State Trails / OHV Fund	5/2008	\$200,000		\$	\$200,000
El Paso County	1/2008		\$400,000	\$25,000	\$425,000
Private Donations	1/2008		\$20,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
Waste Management	1/2008			\$300,000	\$300,000
Aztec Family Raceway	1/2008			\$240,000	\$240,000
Total		\$200,000	\$420,000	\$575,000	\$1,195,000
Uses of Funds	Date To Be Spent	Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Totals
Land Purchase / Donation	4/30/08	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$575,000	\$1,075,000
Phase 1 – Trail Development					
Design / Engineering	4/08-6/08		\$30,000		\$30,000
Trail surfacing	7/08-9/08		\$85,000		\$85,000
Grading	7/08-9/08			\$25,000	\$25,000
Re-vegetation	9/08			\$10,000	\$10,000
Signs	9/08		\$5,000		\$5,000
Totals		\$200,000	\$420,000	\$610,000	\$

TOTAL PROJECT COST:

\$ 955,000

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Waste Management Inc. has agreed to donate approximately 135 acres of a 148 acre site (tax schedule number 44080-00-001) to El Paso County with the understanding that the company will retain approximately 10 – 15 acres on the eastern portion of the property as a buffer for their operations. Waste Management will also provide mutually agreeable, temporary easements for OHV trails on the northern section of their 230 acre parcel (tax schedule number 44050-00-002) with the understanding these trails will need to be relocated once their operations have expanded into this area. We estimate their donation to have an approximate value of \$300,000.

BUDGET FORM

Sources of Funds	Date Secured	Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Totals
OHV Fund	Spring / 2008	\$320,000			\$320,000
El Paso County	1/2008		\$550,000		\$550,000
Waste Management	1/2008			\$50,000	\$50,000
Aztec Raceway	1/2008			\$640,000	\$640,000
Private Donations	2008		\$20,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
Totals		\$320,000	\$570,000	\$700,000	\$1,590,000
Uses of Funds	Date To Be Spent	Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Totals
Land Purchase	4/2008	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$690,000	\$1,440,000
Trail Planning	6/2008	\$20,000	\$20,000		\$40,000
Trail Development	10/2008	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$110,000
Trail surfacing					
Grading					
Re-vegetation					
Signs					
Totals		\$320,000	\$570,000	\$700,000	\$1,590,000

