



# Request for Community Project and Trail Crew Project Proposals

2024 Project Season

Deadline: September 30, 2023

## ABOUT RFOV

RFOV promotes stewardship of our public lands by engaging the community in education, restoration, and conservation projects. We work on roughly 60 different project sites annually in four counties: Pitkin, Eagle, Garfield, and Gunnison with a diversity of volunteers, youth, and paid professional staff. Since 1995, we have completed over 700 stewardship projects in four different counties: Pitkin, Eagle, Gunnison and Garfield. Detailed below are our primary programs:

**Community Projects:** Each year, we offer 15-25 public volunteer events open to all community members. Projects are one to seven days in duration and typically involve 25 to 85 volunteers each.

**Group Projects / Adopt-A-Trail:** RFOV offers customized stewardship projects for over 50 groups a season. This program is designed around team building, service, and business or organization recognition. Groups can take this opportunity further and make an annual commitment to adopt a trail.

**Young Stewards Programs (YSP):** Our goal is to motivate and inspire local youth with first-hand knowledge of the significant role they have to play in taking care of our great landscape. We offer fun, educational and satisfying outdoor service experiences grounded in the greater context of conservation education and stewardship principles. We partner with local schools, youth-focused non-profits, and faith organizations to reach over 1,000 students aged 5-18 annually.

**Trail Crew:** RFOV's professional Trail Crew, composed of 3-5 members, works independently of volunteer programming to complete projects that are long-term, technical, or otherwise not an ideal fit for volunteer projects.

**This form is specifically requesting proposals for Community Projects and Trail Crew projects. If you have suggestions for the other program areas, you can list them on the last page. We will also reach out again in the spring to request projects for our Group & Youth Projects.**

Please return this proposal to:  
Melissa Daniels | Program Director  
mdaniels@rfov.org

# Community Project Proposal

## CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We are looking for a diverse portfolio of projects suitable and appealing to our extensive volunteer community. We select projects using the following criteria:

- A balanced spread of projects that fit under our Sustainable Recreation, Fire, and Restoration categories.
  - Sustainable Recreation. Examples: tread repair, drainage structure installation and maintenance, corridor trimming, rock & other natural material structures (steps, walls, turnpikes, etc), structure maintenance and installation (bridges, benches, kiosks, etc.)
  - Healthy Landscapes. Examples: planting, seeding, barbed wire removal, erosion control, seed collection
    - RFOV prioritizes invasive species removal projects that meet **at least one** of the four following criteria. In addition to these criteria, control/removal plans must follow current scientific knowledge and best practices. 1) Target species is a Colorado A-list noxious weed, 2) Invasion is threatening a sensitive species/habitat, 3) Population has a realistic chance of eradication, *or* 4) Land manager has a follow up plan to seed or plant after removal to create a higher quality ecosystem that will be resistant to re-invasion
  - Fire Adaptation. Examples: vegetation thinning/clearing, post-fire erosion control, post-fire revegetation
- A balanced spread geographically and seasonally within our service area of Independence Pass to Parachute, Glenwood Canyon to Marble.
- A mix of easy, moderate, and strenuous projects
- Benefit and impact to our community
- Project funding already secured, although this is not a requirement. Hosting a community project typically costs RFOV between \$3,500 and \$6,000. Land managers are not required to contribute that entire amount.

## BENEFITS OF BEING SELECTED

If your project is selected, RFOV commits to recruiting and mobilizing professional staff and volunteers to accomplish the identified objectives and scope of work. RFOV coordinates all volunteer recruitment and registration, logistics and food/beverages, supplies a fleet of tools, and highlights the project in our publications. RFOV can also help in the project planning itself, including needs assessment, mapping and quantifying proposed work, creating site plans, staging, acquiring materials, etc. and serving as technical advisor for the project. RFOV can add additional value through user education and other interpretive materials for the public.

## REQUIREMENTS FROM PROJECT PARTNER

We ask partners to clearly articulate their goals and objectives for the project and schedule at least one site visit with our staff. In almost all cases, partners are asked to attend the event to serve as a technical advisor, provide oversight in decision-making, and educate volunteers and participants. Partners are also required to help market the event and acknowledge RFOV in communications. Though we do not require that project partners provide funding, any direct funding or grant opportunities are an important factor in our decision-making.

**Organization Contact Information**

Organization Name	
Contact Person	
Contact Phone	
Contact Email	
Organization Website	
Organization Mailing Address	

*Please fill out one table for each proposed project*

**Project Proposal Information**

Project Name	
Project Location	
Project Type <i>(Healthy Landscapes, Sustainable Recreation, Fire Adaptation - see above for descriptions)</i>	
Land Managers - who owns/manages this project site? Are there special permitting requirements or permission that needs to be given?	
Project Length (# hours, days)	
Project Timing (month)	
Project Difficulty (easy, moderate, strenuous, very strenuous)	
Is there funding for this project? If so, how much?	
Other partner contributions (design, logistics, volunteers, etc.)	
Approximate number of volunteers needed	
Project Description	
Types of users of the trail, open space, or project area	

Educational Opportunities	
Level of priority for your agency (how it fits into your master plan, helps you accomplish your mission, etc)	

# Trail Crew Project Proposal

## CRITERIA FOR TRAIL CREW PROJECTS

We select projects for the Trail Crew using the following criteria:

- Although the Trail Crew is most specialized in trail projects within our Sustainable Recreation domain, they are also available to work on Healthy Landscapes and Fire Adaptation projects.
  - Sustainable Recreation. Examples: tread repair, drainage structure installation and maintenance, corridor trimming, rock & other natural material structures (steps, walls, turnpikes, etc), structure maintenance and installation (bridges, benches, kiosks, etc.)
  - Healthy Landscapes. Examples: planting, seeding, barbed wire removal, erosion control, seed collection
    - RFOV prioritizes invasive species removal projects that meet **at least one** of the four following criteria. In addition to these criteria, control/removal plans must follow current scientific knowledge and best practices. 1) Target species is a Colorado A-list noxious weed, 2) Invasion is threatening a sensitive species/habitat, 3) Population has a realistic chance of eradication, *or* 4) Land manager has a follow up plan to seed or plant after removal to create a higher quality ecosystem that will be resistant to re-invasion
  - Fire Adaptation. Examples: vegetation thinning/clearing, post-fire erosion control, post-fire revegetation
- The Trail Crew is generally working on backcountry wilderness projects from late-June to mid-September and are available for additional projects, as proposed through this process, from early-May to late-June and again from mid-September to mid-October.
- The cost of the 4-5 person trail crew for a 40-hour week (four 10-hour days) is around \$6,500. Unlike most RFOV programming, we don't currently have the ability to cover these costs through grants and other funding. If you are interested in having the trail crew work on your projects but do not have funding to cover these costs, we are open to working with you to explore alternative avenues to additional funding.
- We prioritize projects that have a strong benefit and impact to our community.

## REQUIREMENTS FROM PROJECT PARTNER

We ask partners to clearly articulate their goals and objectives for the project and schedule at least one site visit with our staff.

### Organization Contact Information

Organization Name	
Contact Person	
Contact Phone	
Contact Email	
Organization Website	
Organization Mailing Address	

**Trail Crew Project Proposal Summary**

Total desired length of time (number of 10-hour days)	
Do you have complete funding for the desired length of time? <i>See notes and description above.</i>	

*Please fill out one table for each proposed project*

**Project Proposal Information**

Project Name	
Project Location	
Project Type <i>(Healthy Landscapes, Sustainable Recreation, Fire Adaptation - see above for descriptions)</i>	
Land Managers - who owns/manages this project site? Are there special permitting requirements or permission that needs to be given?	
Project Length (number of 10-hour days)	
Project Timing (month)	
Project Description	
Level of priority for your agency and if applicable, in comparison to your other proposed Trail Crew projects	

## **Other Priority Sites / Projects**

If you have project ideas that may not align with our public Community Projects or the Trail Crew but are better suited for our Group Project, Adopt-a-Trail, or Youth Programs, please provide the details below. This will allow us to align our programming and calendar as closely as possible with your priorities.