

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



TRAILS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE



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Rider Cally Arndt, Photo Chad Hixon



Rider Angela Hixon, photo Chad Hixon  
Slickrock Trail Moab, UT

## TPA IN BRIEF

The Trails Preservation Alliance is a Colorado based off-highway motorcycle advocacy organization. We work with various land agencies to ensure equitable access for the sport of motorcycle riding.

# A NOTE FROM CHAD

*Chad Hixon, Executive Director*



Greetings!

My name is Chad Hixon and I am the new and first ever Executive Director for the Trails Preservation Alliance (TPA). I believe it goes without saying that most of us are glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror. It will certainly not be remembered as the greatest year of most of our lives but hey - it was not all bad. Despite the downfalls of 2020, the TPA had a productive year, especially when taking into consideration that our largest fundraiser, the Colorado 600, was canceled due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19. Personally, 2020 was a year of extremes; from the loss of my father in March to having the honor of being hired by the TPA. Both losing and gaining things that have been so fundamentally important in my life just reiterates that life is short, carpe diem!

Before I began to write this intro I reviewed all the End of Year reports since 2008. It's been a long road and there is no end in sight, however, I'm pleased to say that what the TPA has done and continues to do is essential and effective at protecting OHV access to public lands. These efforts are not possible without the support of the many organizations, donors, volunteers, and members of the Board of Directors that have contributed whatever resources they could, be it financial, volunteered time, or both, to achieve this outcome.

Perhaps what struck me the most was the what if? What if Don never decided to "do something to save our sport?" What if no one else stepped up to help Don? What if you didn't decide to support Don and this enormous challenge he took on? I believe the answer is that access would not be what it is today and that is why every day the TPA is monitoring and staying on top of issues as they arise. And they arise on a daily basis.

So as we settle into 2021 we will continue to fight the good fight and we will continue to move the needle to benefit OHV recreationalist. We have to! I'm looking forward to 2021 for many reasons but perhaps the biggest reason is knowing that there is support for this cause and having the opportunity to be an integral part of that cause. I also look forward to meeting more of you who have helped bring the TPA into its current form as an organization that can make positive changes for OHV recreation. Without further ado please enjoy the re-cap of 2020.

Sincerely,



Chad Hixon

Above: Chad Hixon  
Right: Chad on his KTM 300  
Green Timber Gulch, Chaffee County, CO  
Adopted Trail of TPA affiliated club Central  
Colorado Mountain Riders (CCMR)  
Photo Ned Suesse







# ABOUT US

## MISSION

The Trails Preservation Alliance (TPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with its principal goal focused on preserving the sport of motorized singletrack trail riding. The TPA regularly supports all forms of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation. The TPA acts as an advocate for OHV recreation and takes the necessary actions to ensure that both the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management allocate a fair and equitable percentage of access to trail riding on public lands, educating user groups on trail etiquette, and supporting the establishment and operation of local, off-road motorcycle clubs.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CONSULTANTS

The Trails Preservation Alliance Board of Directors is made up of five Colorado residents that have over 125 years of trail riding experience in Colorado and decades of experience effectively fighting for multiple-use access on public lands throughout the West. They're active in competitive events, promotion of Colorado enduros, and education of trail riding groups. We are an alliance of dual-sport, adventure, and single-track trail riders who work together to protect your access to public land. [Read more about each of them.](#)



**DON RIGGLE**

Director of Operations  
& Founder



**CHAD HIXON**

Executive Director



**SCOTT BRIGHT**

Secretary



**JASON ELLIOTT**

Chairman of the Board



**DENNIS LARRATT**

BOD member



**NED SUESSE**

BOD member



**SCOTT JONES**

Consultant



**BILL ALSPACH**

Consultant

# FINANCIAL REPORT

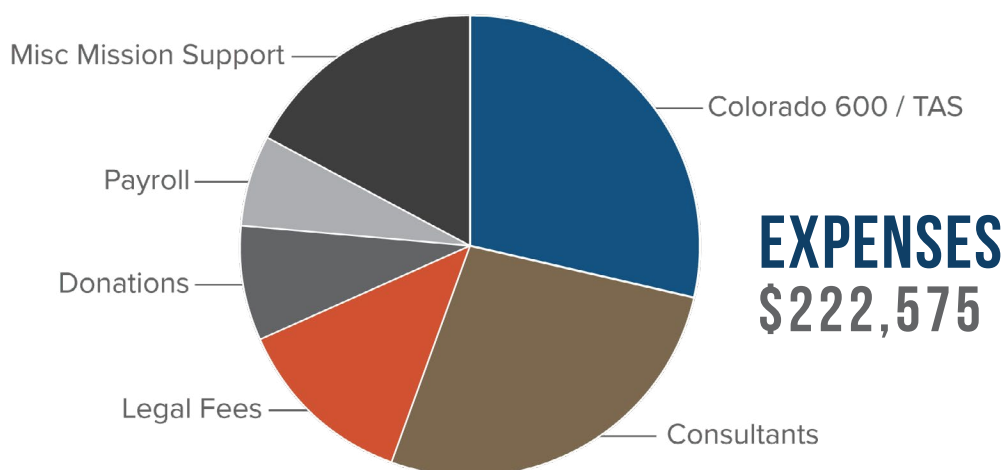
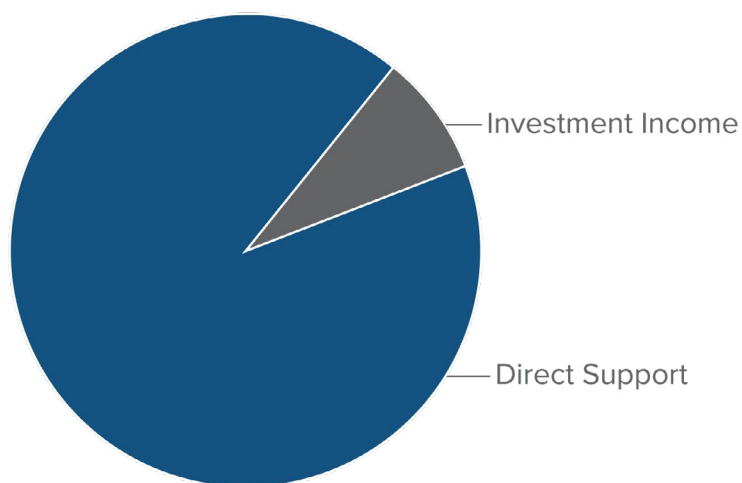
## OVERVIEW

The TPA is financially sound and we will continue to work diligently to sustain the financial momentum needed in 2021.

The Colorado 600, our biggest fundraising event, had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19 limitations. While many expenses were not refundable, some were able to be applied to hosting the 2021 event. The TPA would like to say THANK YOU to the riders who were registered to attend the 2020 C600 that donated a portion of their entry fee to the TPA, those donations helped tremendously with the non-refundable expenses.

To offset the loss of income on our cancelled C600 event, the TPA created a sweepstakes for a Special Edition TPA KTM 690. This effort started in the last quarter of 2020 will end April 2021. A large portion of our operating funds come from donations made by individual supporters as well as sponsors. We are grateful for the many donations over the past year that enabled the TPA to continue progress toward our mission.

**INCOME**  
**\$247,042**



**EXPENSES**  
**\$222,575**



# AT THE TABLE

*The TPA partners with state and local organizations, affiliate riding clubs and other citizen groups to create a better recreational experience for all by participating in advisory boards, councils, think tanks, etc*

## PIKES PEAK MULTI-USE PLAN

In October 2020 the TPA attended a regional webinar seeking input for an update of the Pikes Peak Massif Master Plan. The TPA was the only organization advocating for motorized use on Pikes Peak. The Pikes Peak Heritage Series is a program sponsored by the [El Pomar Foundation](#) in partnership with the [Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance](#) and the [Trails and Open Space Coalition](#). This virtual conversation was held to discuss the influence of the 1999 Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan and the potential next steps in management and protection of the Pikes Peak region. The webinar featured an overview of the plan followed by a discussion among local recreation and conservation experts. We plan to continue our involvement as this process moves forward to help ensure all forms of motorized recreation, especially motorcycle use, are given fair and equitable consideration for recreational opportunities on Pikes Peak.

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

In 2018 the TPA helped organize a meeting between OHV user groups and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Royal Gorge Field Office in Colorado with the goal of better communication and common goals. These meetings over the last 2 years have been very successful, especially with our Salida based affiliated club, the Central Colorado Mountain Riders. The most notable outcome of these meetings has been the completion of 6 miles of new single track in the Four Mile Recreation Area.



Photo Chad De Alva





# RE-IMAGINE WALDO CANYON

In partnership with Colorado Motorcycle Trail Riders Association (CMTRA) from Colorado Springs we participated in the [Re-Imagine Waldo Canyon](#) Community Vision in the Pikes Peak Ranger District. After an 18-month community-based process the citizen's plan was formulated including recommendations for the consideration of motorized trails. The TPA is thrilled because the USFS initially wanted to restrict/eliminate many forms of recreation that had previously been enjoyed in the area, including equestrian use. We convinced the USFS to listen to the community and fairly consider all ideas and suggestions for suitable forms of recreation in the area. [Read the final report](#)

# PLANNING TRAILS WITH WILDLIFE IN MIND

The TPA was selected to participate in the Planning Trails Advisory Group to represent motorized interests and recreational uses in the development of Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) revised guide for Planning Trails with Wildlife Mind. Goals of this document include helping people, organizations, and groups to be proactive in considering wildlife when thinking about trails, trail planning, and management. The document will also include guidance for what wildlife issues should be considered for trails grant applications. [Read the article](#)

# OTHER PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS

The TPA and its affiliated clubs have adapted to the evolving recreational planning landscape in Colorado by participating in discussions such as [Colorado Outdoor Partnership](#), [NoCo PLACES 2050](#), the [Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office \(OREC\)](#), [Envision Chaffee County](#), [Gunnison Public Land Initiative](#), and the [Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative \(RMRI\)](#). We can see that these collaborations are important and that they will guide the development of the future public land planning and that it's important to be involved.



Photo Chad De Alva

# LEGAL STUFF

*The Trails Preservation Alliance continues to fight for OHV rights along with other motorized groups via legislation.*

## E-BIKES

The TPA and Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO) prepared and submitted comments to both the BLM and USFS regarding proposed changes in the use of E-bikes on public lands. The TPA asked for consistency of rules across agencies (i.e. USFS, BLM, NPS, etc.), contending that E-bikes are bicycles (not motorcycles) and should appropriately coexist on bicycle infrastructure, that a single definition for E-bikes is necessary and needed and finally that there must not be any loss of motorized trails for exclusive use by E-bikes only. [Read E-bike comments to the USFS](#)

## PIKE & SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS

In 2010 various environmental groups including The Quiet Use Coalition, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, The Wilderness Society, WildEarth Guardians, and Rocky Mountain Wild sued the Pike and San Isabel National Forests (PSINF) claiming the USFS had not done the necessary Environment Analysis on hundreds of miles of roads and trails within the six ranger districts encompassing the PSINF. In November 2020 the PSINF released their Draft Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement - the last step before the final decision is made. Overall the proposed Draft Record of Decision could have been much worse for motorcycles, but we are happy to report that through the TPA's diligent efforts, most of the motorcycle riding opportunities that exist today are likely to continue to be available for the foreseeable future in the PSINF. [See the issues the TPA is working on](#)

## CORE WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

The TPA successfully opposed the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (CORE) Wilderness Proposal in 2020. This piece of legislation would have closed many trails, put multiple-use trails at risk, and caused loss of significant expansion areas for future trail development. New efforts by Colorado's congressional representatives are likely to bring CORE back up in 2021.





# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis required to create or maintain motorized access is one of the biggest challenges for the TPA. We continue to work with the USFS to make the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations and NEPA process more effective, efficient, and equitable for the motorized community. [Read TPA comments](#)

## RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

The TPA Rio Grande National Forest objection was successful in ensuring that there was not a non-motorized corridor placed around the Continental Divide Trail - which is the entire western boundary of the Rio Grande National Forest. This is a critical win for motorized trail users as these routes are protected and preserved for motorized use by Federal law on a segment-by-segment basis in the Continental Divide Trail.

## RICO WEST DOLORES

Rico West Dolores litigation continues to work its way through the labyrinth of the Federal Court system. Every effort by the TPA Legal Team to accelerate a decision has been unsuccessful. The backlog of cases in the Federal Court system and the restrictions and limitations caused by the COVID pandemic have caused delays in processing almost every legal decision facing the Federal Courts. At publication of this TPA Year-End Report, there is no estimated date for resolution of the RWD lawsuit.

## RGNF & GMUGNF

The independent revisions to the Forest Plans for both the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) and Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUGNF) are now complete. However, the travel planning processes for both forests have yet to be started; progress has been hampered by the extraordinary fire season challenging the USFS staff this year. Once the travel planning process begins, the TPA will be diligently engaged in the process.

## GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

The TPA worked with Senator Gardner for passage of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). The GAOA provides funding for maintenance issues on federal public lands. The TPA has submitted recommendations for motorized projects under GAOA funding to the USFS and BLM, and we are optimistic that several of these projects will be funded and move forward in 2021.

[Visit the TPA website for additional information](#)

## WILDFIRES

Colorado has experienced unprecedented impact from wildfires in 2020. The TPA worked with Colorado's Recreational Trails Committee to re-direct more than \$300k in unspent/returned OHV funds to wildfire response in order to preserve the many trails affected by the wildfires. We believe this effort will help avoid the long-term closures to trails and areas.

## COLORADO AND BEYOND

The TPA submitted comments on issues concerning the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) in the Carson, Gila and Santa Fe National Forests in New Mexico, Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming, and Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison NF, Colorado. In Utah, with the cooperation of our partner, Ride with Respect (RwR), we submitted extensive comments on the Ashley and Manti La-Sal National Forest plan proposals seeking to protect important motorized recreational opportunities. As Mr. Riggle says *"we are all in the foxhole together!"*

# WOOHOO - LET'S RIDE!

*Lots of great new riding opportunities opened up this year due to the active engagement of the TPA and affiliated clubs – these are just a few highlights!*

## NEW MEXICO

The TPA was able to assist our friends in New Mexico with funding to help open the Elephant Rock Motorcycle Trail Network in the Questa Ranger District, Carson National Forest in Northern New Mexico. The Trail network was developed in cooperation with the USFS to designate miles of old molybdenum mining roads into a system of motorcycle-only trails. In total, the entire trail system consists of some 35 miles of intermediate and challenging trails. [More information can be found at ADV Pulse](#)

## SALIDA/BUENA VISTA

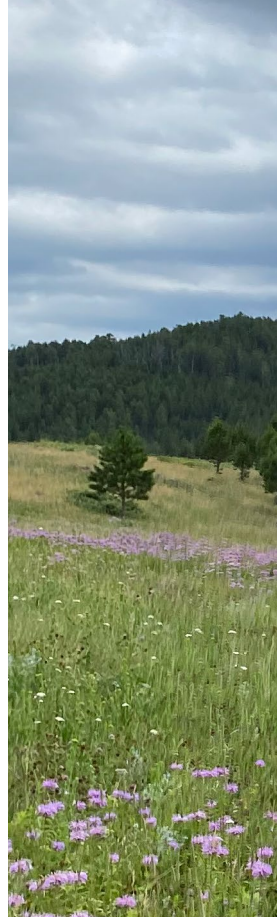
TPA affiliated club Central Colorado Mountain Riders (CCMR) completed 6 miles of new single track in Chinaman's Gulch, part of the greater Four Mile Travel Management Area. The new trail, DudBobs, nearly doubles the motorized single track in the area and allows users to connect, via single track, from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land to United States Forest Service (USFS) lands existing Triad Ridge trails. This trail was made possible with the volunteer efforts of CCMR, their partnership with the BLM, and funding from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grant program. Additionally, CCMR and the BLM have been working diligently on a reroute of the Rainbow Trail to restore the connectivity that was lost as a result of flooding after the 2016 Hayden Pass Fire, and additional new single-track to BLM's Texas Creek area.



Rider Angela Hixon, Photo Chad Hixon



Riders Fred and Ryan Jonke, Photo Chad Hixon





# GRAND JUNCTION

Two TPA affiliated clubs, Mountain Trail Riders Alliance (MTRA) and the Bookcliff Rattlers Motorcycle Club (BCRMC) members volunteered on multiple workdays with the BLM finishing the new 8-mile Windmill Trail in the Bangs Canyon area. This connects the Bangs Canyon trailhead to Windmill Road and the Gunnison River. In addition, MTRA and BCRMC split the \$4400 cost of a Cultural Survey for the BLM-proposed new 3.1 mile Cedar Point trail, also in the Bangs Canyon area. Completion of the survey this winter will enable the construction of the trail in Spring/Summer 2021. Once completed, Cedar Point will allow riders to make a complete loop from the Third Flats trailhead over Rollover Ridge to the Billings Canyon access road.

# RICO/DOLORES

A special thanks to TPA affiliated club San Juan Trail Riders (SJTR) for their involvement in the The Chicken Creek Trail Project. This project involves two trails, Deer Lick and the Owens Basin connection. Both trails are of very high value for motorcyclists and improve the opportunities for motorized multi-use single track in the area by creating better looping opportunities and safer river crossing. [Read more on the TPA website](#)

# SILVERTON

The TPA, in partnership with the San Juan Trail Riders and leaders of the Colorado 500, led a 3-year effort to reopen the historic Minnie Trail. After years of work, meetings, and coordination with the BLM, the project has been approved to move forward. Trail work is planned to begin in 2021, as soon as the snow melts. [Read more on the TPA website](#)



Riders front to back- Ned Suesse, Kevin Thomas, Andrew Short, Photo Chad Hixon



# THE TRAIL AHEAD

*The TPA has a lot of exciting things planned for 2021!*

## KTM 690 ENDURO R SWEEPSTAKES

Due to COVID related restrictions for events in 2020, the TPA had to get creative and find alternative funding to help cover the loss of funds normally raised by the Colorado 600. After looking at several options, the TPA decided to offer a 2020 KTM 690 R as a sweepstakes for those who want to support the TPA mission. With substantial assistance and donations from Rocky Mountain ATV/MC, as well as many of our other corporate supporters and aftermarket manufacturers, the 690 sweepstakes was launched. Each month until the drawing date, April 8th 2021, there will be additions to the prize package bringing the total value to over \$20K. This is a great way to support the TPA and win a new KTM motorcycle. [Enter to win!](#)



Photo Miguel Santana MAS Photographia

## PARTNER CLUB MEETING

The TPA annual Partner Club Meeting (formerly Winter Meeting) has been scheduled for 2021. This year's meeting is in Grand Junction at the DoubleTree Hotel, Saturday, March 27th, 8AM-5PM. The TPA encourages participants to stick around and ride the local area trails the next day. If we are unable to meet in person due to COVID restrictions the meeting will be held virtually.

## MARKETING

The TPA is growing fast and we want to share our mission with our supporters more effectively and also to a broader audience in order to gain more support to further our efforts. You might have noticed that the TPA has become more active on Facebook and that our emails have a new, more polished look to them. In 2021, as part of a broader TPA marketing plan, we will create a more strategic approach to social media, emails, and a redesigned website with new and exciting content.



# TRAIL CENTS

2020 marked the beginning of Trail Cents, a point of sale program where donations are collected from customers at checkout by a business on behalf of the TPA. We are hoping that this program will provide the TPA with a more consistent source of funding. The TPA would like to thank Sun Sports Unlimited in Gunnison, CO., KTM of Aspen in Carbondale, CO., Apex Sports in Colorado Springs, CO. KTM of Grand Junction, CO and Elite Motorsports in Loveland, CO for being the first to implement the new program at their locations, and jumping in to help us get this new program rolling! For more information about Trail Cents please contact Chad Hixon at [chad@coloradotpa.org](mailto:chad@coloradotpa.org) or call 719.221.8329. [Read about Trail Cents](#)

## COLORADO 600

**September 12th – 17th, 2021, Crested Butte, CO**

After the cancelation of the 2020 Colorado 600 we hope you are eager to attend the 2021 event. We are limited to 75 participants and registration opened on January 15th. Be sure to [secure your spot to come ride](#) in Crested Butte, CO and learn about the latest issues facing our sport. For those who have not ridden the Crested Butte area you will not be disappointed with the scenery, accommodations and riding opportunities. And for those familiar, you know what you are in for. See you in September! [www.colorado600.org](http://www.colorado600.org)





# THANK YOU!

*Thank you to our all of our supporters – Clubs, Volunteers, Donors and Corporate Supporters!*

The TPA affiliated clubs and partners, their members and other volunteers are boots on the ground and the eyes and the ears at a local level that help keep trails rideable and open. In 2020, a year that saw record trails use coupled with limited resources from the land agencies, these groups cleared a record number of deadfalls - in some areas as many as 3 times! The experience for ALL trail users (riders, hikers, bikers, horse riders) was better because of your efforts and damage that could have been created by users going around the deadfalls was avoided. Keep up the good work!

Donors, Volunteers and Corporate Supporters - Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the preservation of off highway motorcycle access. Your ongoing generosity of time and money make the mission of the TPA a reality. This support will help ensure that current and future generations have riding opportunities. Your support keeps us moving forward and in turn is an investment in your business and customers future riding opportunities.

So to everyone - It's a team effort to accomplish the mission at hand and once again "we are all in this fox hole together." We look forward to working with you all in 2021!



On the Ribbon L to R, Chad Hixon, Luke Svare, Bob Daniel, Dudley Fecht, Linda Skinner





Riders L to R Ryan Jonke, Aaron Jonke, Angela Hixon, Chad Hixon, Photo Fred Jonke



, Sam Logan, Photo Angela Hixon



Rider Scott Jordan, Photo Paul Smith





For contact details and further information please visit our  
website at [www.coloradotpa.org](http://www.coloradotpa.org)