

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



TRAILS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

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On the cover
Riders at Colorado 600, Creede, CO
Photo: Chad de Alva



Gunnison Off Highway Alliance of Trail Riders (GOATS) Spring meeting, Gunnison, CO Photo: Chad Hixon

TPA IN BRIEF

The Trails Preservation Alliance is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to safeguarding and enriching the sport of motorized single-track trail riding. Our efforts encompass advocating for diverse OHV recreation, ensuring access to trails on public lands, providing education on trail etiquette, promoting responsible recreation and environmental stewardship, collaborating with like-minded organizations and state and national organizations, and offering support to local off-highway motorcycle clubs.

A NOTE FROM CHAD

Chad Hixon, Executive Director

Greetings Friends!

We hope the beginning of 2024 is treating you all well and if you're like us you are looking forward to the 2024 riding season - it will be here before we know it! As we reflect on 2023, we are proud of the work that has been accomplished and are excited to share our Annual Report, which highlights our collaborative efforts including our challenges and accomplishments.

Through the many dedicated OHV clubs' volunteer efforts, we have successfully maintained and in some cases, expanded trails - ensuring a sustainable and enjoyable experience for ALL trail users while preserving the natural beauty of our landscapes.

Our commitment to safe and responsible riding has led to impactful community outreach programs such as our "Go Over, Under or Through - Stay on the Trail" message. We've also attended and conducted workshops and training sessions fostering a culture of responsible off-highway motorcycling.

The 2023 Colorado 600 Trails Awareness Symposium and our 4th Annual Partner Club meeting were huge successes! We also attended other organizations' riding events and fundraisers, observing firsthand what our community is doing to promote off-highway motorcycling and also connecting with friends old and new!

We've actively engaged with policymakers and other user groups to advocate for the importance of off-highway recreation in Colorado. With our involvement in Federal Land planning processes, the TPA was also increasingly involved outside of Colorado, especially in our neighboring state to the west, Utah. In addition, we continue to be engaged on numerous national issues that are important to Colorado and directly affect our access and riding privileges on all federally managed lands.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the support of our partner clubs, volunteers, sponsors, donors and supporters. Your passion and dedication have fueled our progress, and for that, we extend our deepest gratitude. Thank you for being an integral part of the Trails Preservation Alliance and our mission to protect off-highway motorcycle recreation.

We're very excited about 2024 - see you on the trail!

Sincerely,



Chad Hixon
Executive Director
Trails Preservation Alliance



On the right
Chad Hixon, Moab UT Photo: Angela Hixon



ABOUT US

Our Team

The Board of Directors is made up of five Colorado residents who collectively have decades of trail riding experience and advocating for multiple-use access on public lands throughout the West. They're active in competitive events, local motorcycle clubs and education of trail riding groups.

Our team also boasts a modest yet powerful group of consultants excelling in the fields of photography, non-profit marketing, writing, graphic design, technical support, legal support, grant writing, and scientific advising. They are also experienced riders and outdoor enthusiasts.

Together we work persistently to safeguard and preserve your access to public land.

What We Do



Advocate for Trail Preservation

Engage with government agencies to advocate for responsible Off-Highway access policies that balance the needs of riders and the preservation of our natural environments.



Trail Creation, Maintenance and Restoration

Support and provide funding to local clubs on critical projects to ensure our trails remain not just open but also sustainable and enjoyable for generations to come.



Education and Outreach

Develop educational programs and outreach initiatives to promote responsible riding practices, fostering a community of environmentally conscious and respectful Off-Highway enthusiasts.



Legal Defense

Provide legal support to protect our rights as Off-Highway enthusiasts, ensuring that decisions affecting our access to trails are fair.



DON RIGGLE
Founder & Board Member



CHAD HIXON
Executive Director



SCOTT BRIGHT
President (current)



NED SUESSE
President (to May 2023)



CLIVE HELLER
Board Member



JASON ELLIOTT
Secretary



DAVE GARDNER
Treasurer



ROB WATT
Photographer



CHRISTINA HALL
Creative Director



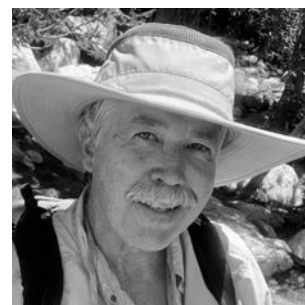
SCOTT JONES
Technical Writing &
Agency Plan Reviews



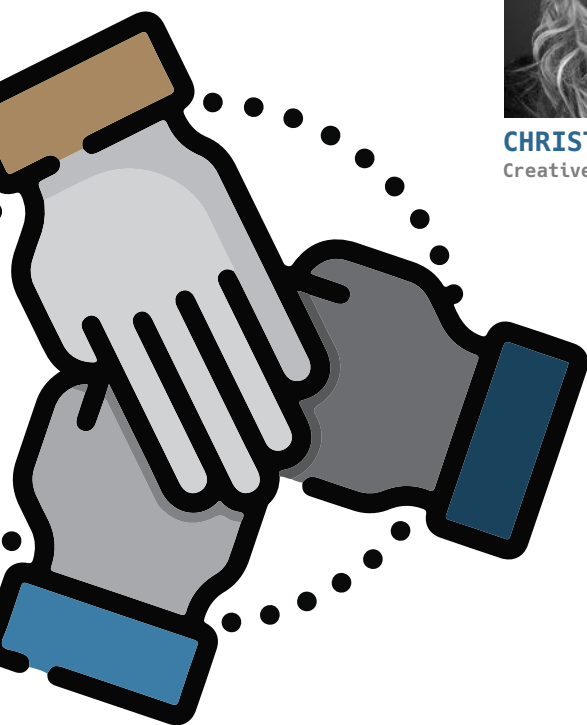
BILL ALSPACH
Technical Writing &
Grant Reviews



KENT HOLSINGER
Legal Council



ROB ROY RAMEY
Science Advisor



INCOME & EXPENSE

The TPA is grateful for all volunteers, donors and industry supporters who repeatedly step up to support the mission and vision that we all share. We realize that money and time are tight for everyone, and we truly appreciate that you chose to contribute to the TPA.

How the TPA utilizes your donations:

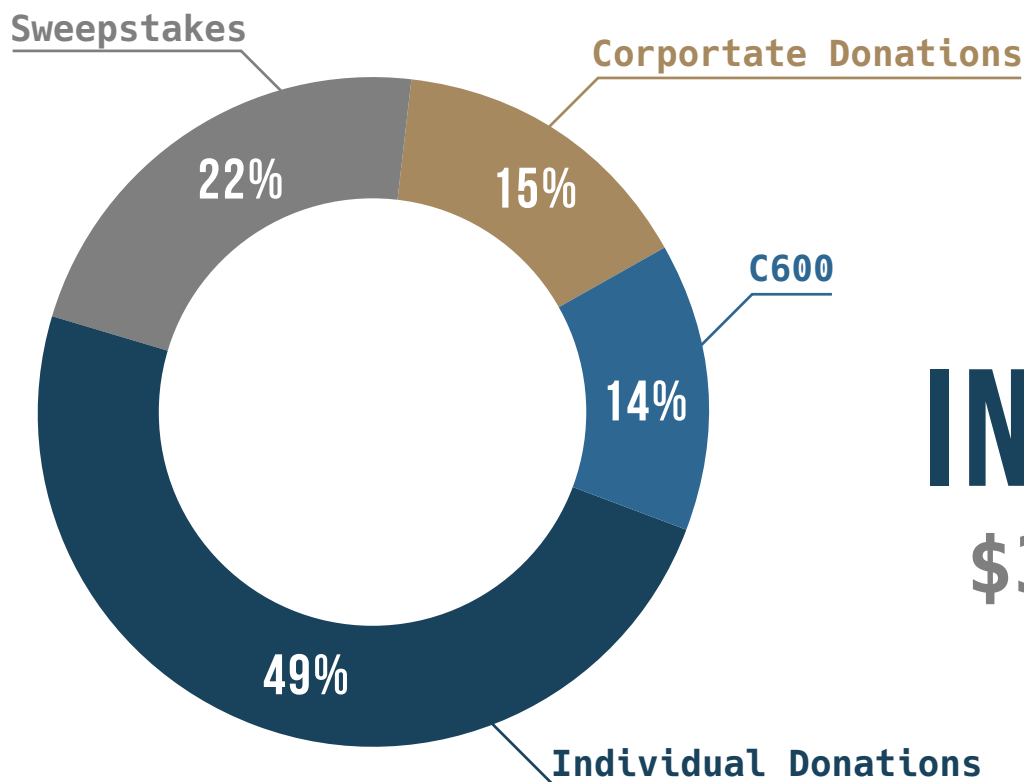
- Prevent closure and reduction of access to public lands.
- Plan new trails, work on trail maintenance projects, and work with numerous groups and agency representatives.
- Engage subject matter experts, including wildlife biologists, lawyers, writers, GIS specialists, and marketers.
- Support motorized organizations that share our mission across the state and region.
- Expand communication and visibility to unite riders across the state and region.
- Establish a sustainable organization for generations to come.

The TPA strives to be an efficient organization, working with volunteers and hiring consultants when needed rather than hiring staff, which enables us to keep our expenditures low and produce more value for our mission and supporters. We are fortunate that each of our consultants provides their services at discounted rates and/or volunteers some of their time. As our work becomes more complex it will require more funds to maintain our success. Many organizations which we oppose have more resources and are better funded. The TPA succeeds by being lean, strategic, and intentional.

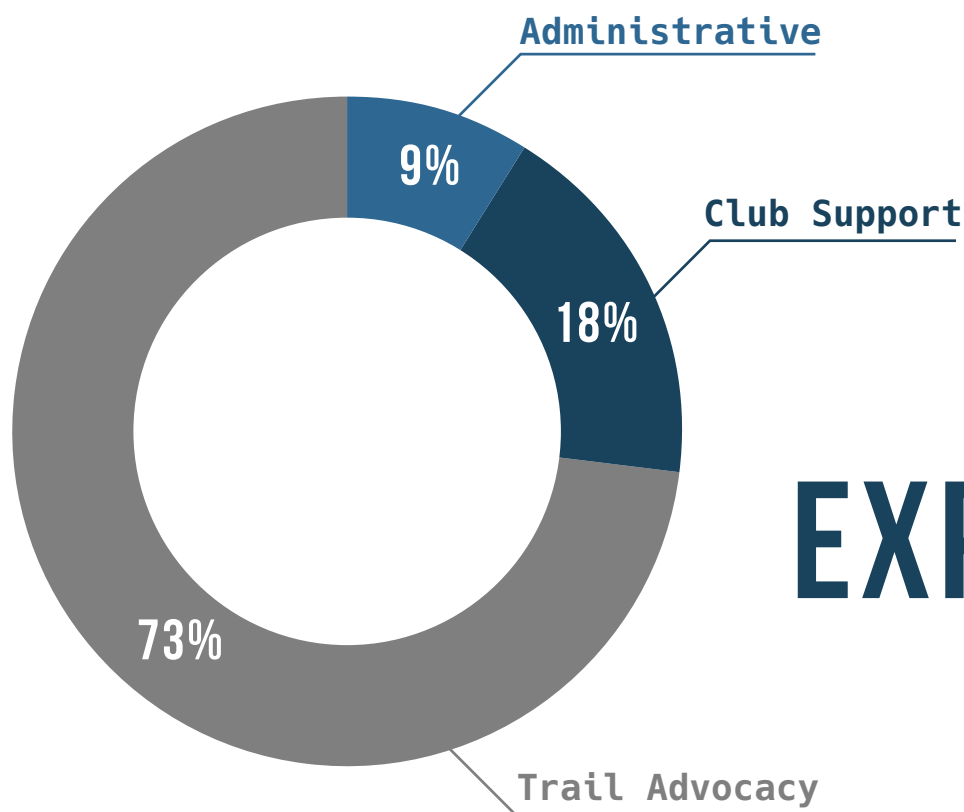
Each year, we receive contributions from a multitude of individuals, ranging from modest monthly sums to more substantial donations. Every contribution, regardless of size, holds significance as it demonstrates solidarity with our mission and empowers us to advance it further.



Ty Murray, Taylor Park, CO
Photo: Chad Hixon



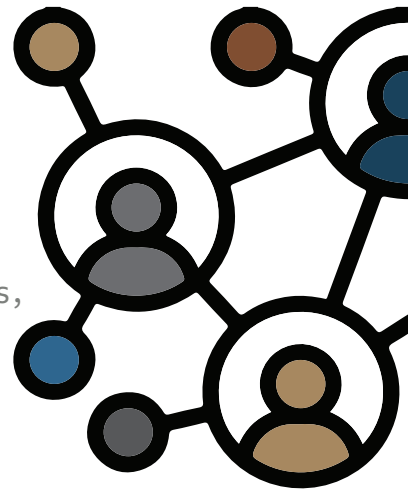
INCOME
\$382,789



EXPENSES
\$415,757

COMMON TREAD

We proudly uphold “common ground” as our guiding principle for community interactions. The TPA actively collaborates with state and local organizations, and citizen groups like advisory boards, councils, and think tanks. Our representatives attend meetings and workshops, championing positive change and advocating for off-highway motorcycle recreation. We cultivate networks, collaborations, and insights to realize our shared vision for a thriving community.



Events, Meetings & Workshops

- Statewide BLM Resource Advisory Council meeting
- Colorado Outdoor Industry Leadership Summit (COILS)
- National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC)
 - Annual Conference Midway, UT.
 - Great Trails Workshop Pike Peak Ranger District
- Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition Workshop
- Colorado Tourism Office Destination Blueprint Workshop
- Backcountry Discovery Routes Fundraiser Ride - Elephant Butte NM
- Pikes Peak Outdoor Industry Leadership Summit (PPOILS) X 2
- Pikes Peak Ranger District Annual OHV workshop
- BLM Royal Gorge Field Office annual OHV partner meeting
- Salida Ranger District Trail Partners Workshop
- 2023 Gold Rush Ride (Fundraiser & Banquet)

Committee Memberships

- Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office (OREC) Advisory Council
- CPW CO-OP Executive Committee
- CPW OHV Subcommittee
- Forest Health Advisory Committee
- NOCO Places 2050
- NOCO Places motorized focus group
- Envision Chaffee County Recreation Task Force
- Clear Creek County Recreation Planning Team
- Care for Colorado Coalition

Making the Rounds

Club & Organization visits

- GOATS (Spring Goat Together Fundraiser), Gunnison
- Boot Hill Motorcycle Club (Board meeting), San Luis Valley Area
- Motorcycle Trail Riders Association (MTRA), Grand Junction
- San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO)
- Rocky Mountain Trials Association (RMTA)

Land Agency visits

- Divide Ranger District, Del Norte
- Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison (GMUG) Supervisors Office, Montrose
- Grand Mesa Ranger District Recreation Staff, Grand Junction
- Pikes Peak Ranger District Trail Crew, Woodland Park
- Salida Ranger District, Salida
- State BLM Recreation Managers, Virtual

Photo: Chad de Alva
Kenny Schipper at 2023 C600 South Fork, CO



DEFENDING THE SPORT

In 2023, the TPA actively defended our sport by providing expert commentary on various land planning processes. Through the contributions of subject matter experts in fields such as GIS, Wildlife, and Engineering, we submitted a total of 20 responses. Here are some notable highlights from our efforts. (Learn more about these processes and more at www.Coloradotpa.org/news.)



Positive Impact

Rio Grande Settlement

The TPA was thrilled to partner with Mountain States Legal Foundation (MSLF), Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO), Colorado Snowmobile Association (CSA), and Backcountry Discovery Routes (BDR) in successfully defending the Rio Grande NF Forest Management Plan. Under the settlement reached, winter travel planning was allowed to continue as planned and we are hopeful that summer motorized travel will continue under current management.

Wolf Reintroduction

The motorized community welcomes the recognition that recreational activity in wolf habitat will not negatively impact wolves in both the Colorado State Plan and associated US Fish and Wildlife decisions. While these discussions are far from over, this will be a significant resource in any subsequent planning.



Recreational Trails Program

The Organizations spearheaded requests to provide Recreational Trails Program (RTP) waivers of Buy American Build American provisions of the infrastructure bill for the implementation of the Recreational Trails Program. This program provides more than \$84 million annual across the country to benefit all trails. Without these waivers, RTP funding would have largely ceased to exist.

Penrose Commons

This small riding area has become a popular winter riding destination for numerous riders in Colorado due to its mild and dry winter weather and proximity to the front range. While the area has numerous 50" trails and difficult rock crawling jeep trails, it has no legal single track. The TPA along with its partner clubs in the area Central Colorado Mountain Riders (CCMR), Colorado Motorcycle Trail Riders Association (CMTRA), Royal Gorge ATV (RGATV) and Rampart Range Motorized Management Committee (RRMMC) have made progress working with the BLM in the development of a Recreation Area Management Plan that addresses adding single track to the area! Local partner club CMTRA out of Colorado Springs has stepped up and applied for a planning grant to move this project forward.

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests FEIS Objections

Good results! The motorized community has been involved with the development of the new GMUG Forest Plan and are pleased that the final plan has minimal impact on motorized access. The Forest also included almost 200,000 acres of areas they had listed as closed originally back into areas as open currently and kept them open throughout the plan. We are currently in the midst of objecting the final plan but remain optimistic on the end result.

Kenny Schipper at 2023 Colorado 600, South Fork, CO Photo: Chad de Alva



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Ongoing Actions

Bureau of Land Management Conservation Leases

These are large-scale leases of public lands to third parties for conservation efforts. The motorized community has been very vocal in our concerns around the Bureau of Land Management conservation strategy provisions that would allow the large-scale leasing of public lands to third parties to undertake conservation efforts. This could lead to large-scale closures of federal lands to all forms of recreation.



Ashley NF Objections

Led by Ride with Respect, The TPA and Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO) filed an objection to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Draft Record of Decision (DROD.) Unfortunately, the agency dismissed our objection - stay tuned for more information on this issue in 2024.

Manti-La Sal Forest Plan

Manti-La Sal National Forest (MLNF) Resource Management Plan (RMP) Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) - The current MLNF plan has been in place since 1986 and the original Scoping for this RMP was in 2004 - nearly two decades ago! Recently we partnered with Ride with Respect to submit extensive comments in support of Alternative A, the no-action alternative.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) Draft Resource Management Plan began late in 2023. The GSENM encompasses nearly two million acres with over a thousand miles of high-quality motorized routes in southwest Utah. Led by Ride with Respect, Colorado Off Road Enterprise, COHVCO and the TPA submitted comments expressing our dissent of every action alternative due to the extent of areas each one proposes to close to motorized recreation. Look for more on this issue 2024.

Moab Camping Management Plan

In 2022 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) drafted Camping Management Plans (CMP) in three areas to require that dispersed camping be done in designated sites. We partnered with RwR, COHVCO, and CORE to ensure thorough planning so that valuable campsites are not short-changed. In 2023 the BLM released an updated draft CMP for the Labyrinth Rims / Gemini Bridges area that showed its inventory of sites just as we requested, so RwR and its partners submitted additional comments urging the agency to take additional steps on improving the process as the plan moves forward.



Angela Hixon in Moab, UT
Photo: Chad Hixon



Camp site near Temple Mountain, UT
Photo: Chad Hixon

Moab Labyrinth Rims / Gemini Bridges Appeal

Arguably the biggest OHV-related news of 2023 was the BLM Moab Field Office's recent Travel Management Plan (TMP) decision which closes 317 miles of roads and trails in the area directly Northwest of Moab referred to Labyrinth Rims Gemini Bridges. This TMP is part of a much larger process that COHVCO, Ride with Respect, and the TPA have been involved in since 2017. In response to the BLM's decision, the TPA, COHVCO, CORE and RwR have partnered and filed a Notice of Appeal and Petition for Stay in opposition to the BLM decision. Our Petition for stay was denied and we are currently reviewing the Administrative Record before we submit our Statement of Reasons for our Appeal. Many other national, state and local motorized off-highway organizations and the State of Utah did the same and were also denied their Petition for Stay. This is the beginning of a long process and we will do everything we can to challenge this decision.

RIDE ON!

TPA engagement has resulted in enriched riding opportunities and enhanced experiences for riders in Colorado. Here are some examples.

Colorado Off-Highway Trail Opportunity Plan

The brainchild of TPA Technical Consultant, Bill Aslpach, Phase 1 of Colorado Off-Highway Trail Opportunity Plan (COTOP) was completed in 2023. COTOP is an inventory of existing riding opportunities in Colorado. It identifies areas based on land management policies suitable for trail development and suggests where trail systems and/or connectors can be expanded or created. The plan was unveiled at the 2023 TPA Partner Club Meeting, where clubs across the state provided input for each regional area they represent. Look for more on COTOP in 2024!

2023 Club Stats

The TPA associated motorcycle clubs across Colorado made significant contributions to trails in their areas within the state. Remember there is no motorized only trail designation; trails are multi-use, so this volunteer work is for the benefit of ALL trail users!

Highlights from 22 TPA Associated Clubs:

- **80** events attended and supported by OHM clubs
- **529** miles of trail adopted
- **3,685** trees cleared
- **25,651** volunteer hours
- **\$1,416,905.00** of CPW OHV Grants put to work
- **\$33,157.00** of other grants put to work

26K
VOLUNTEER HOURS



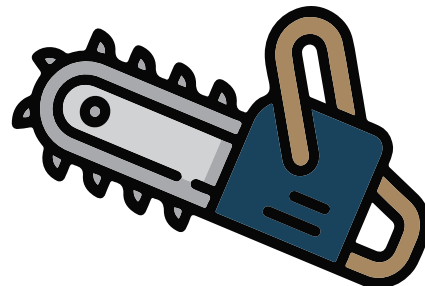
Mountain Trail Access (MTA) members, Photo: Kim Weber



Central Colorado Mountain Riders and Tomicht Trail Riders shoveling snow on the Monarch Crest Trail, Photo: Chad Hixon

Chainsaw Training

At least four clubs received certification training this past riding season. The TPA partnered with Motominded to fund training for the Grand Junction based Motorcycle Trail Riders Association and West Slope ATV club. In addition WESTCORE, the New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance and Colorado Motorcycle Trail Riders Association all completed training in 2023!



Trail Planning

The TPA invested **\$15K** in new trail development in 2023!

Reunion Trail

The TPA teamed up with the Rocky Mountain Sport Riders (RMSR) providing supplemental funding for two surveys required as an initial step to create the first ~6 miles of the proposed fifteen miles of new single track in the Hardscrabble Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) near Eagle, CO. RMSR exhausted a considerable amount of their financial resources on the Botanical survey, but before the project could proceed an Archaeological survey was needed and the TPA was able to contribute the money to keep this project on track. RMSR applied for OHV grant funding to keep the Reunion Trail moving forward - way to go RMSR!

Bangs Canyon

A phenomenal riding area Southwest of Grand Junction, CO., the development of Bangs Canyon has been ongoing for the past decade and as the area comes closer to reaching its final build out some of the studies; plant, archaeological, wildlife etc. are getting close to expiring. Unfortunately, the BLM has not had the resources to complete the development before the studies expire, so the TPA has partnered with the Motorcycle Trail Riders Association (MTRA) and seasonal BLM employee Ruxton Noble to expedite this project. By hiring Ruxton in the off-season the goal is to get the trail layout work done before new costly studies are required. MTRA and Ruxton will be busy over the winter getting this work done.



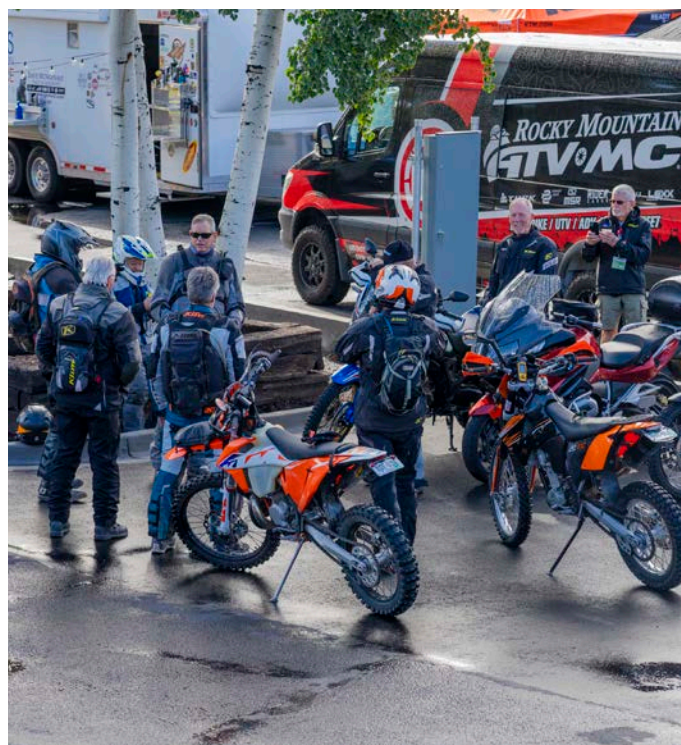
Ty Murray and Aaron Jonke, Taylor Park, CO Photo: Chad Hixson

EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

Each year, the Trails Preservation Alliance hosts several community-driven projects to raise funds, connect with enthusiasts, and champion off-highway motorcycle recreation. 2023 was an amazing year!

2023 Colorado 600

The 2023 12th Annual Colorado 600 was widely reviewed as our best C600's ever! Despite wet and cool weather, C600 riders got plenty of riding in and everyone enjoyed the newly renovated accommodations at The LOGE Wolf Creek. We held a surprise party for TPA Founder, Don Riggle, to celebrate 16 years of dedication to off-highway motorcycle advocacy with the Trails Preservation Alliance. We also recognized members of the Sidewinders Motorcycle Club who have worked hand in hand with the TPA to hold the Colorado 600.



2023 C600 photos clockwise from top left: (1) Annual Group portrait, photo: Chad de Alva (2) Chad Hixon and Don Riggle, photo: Chad De Alva, (3) Riders getting ready, Photo: Chad de Alva (4) Riders taking a photo break, photo: Chad de Alva



2023 Bike Sweepstakes

The 3rd annual TPA Bike Sweepstakes was a terrific success! Thanks to the volunteers, everyone who helped us spread the word, businesses who supplied prizes, shops that displayed posters, and all the donors who purchased tickets, we raised \$90K!

We drew the lucky winners on May 20th, 2023, at Sun Sports Unlimited in Gunnison, CO.

Congratulations to our winners!

Rene Waters, Greeley, CO

Grand Prize - Two trail bikes!

Joshua Ferrand, Portland, OR

Two tickets to the 2024 Colorado 600!

Kelly Olson, Herriman, UT

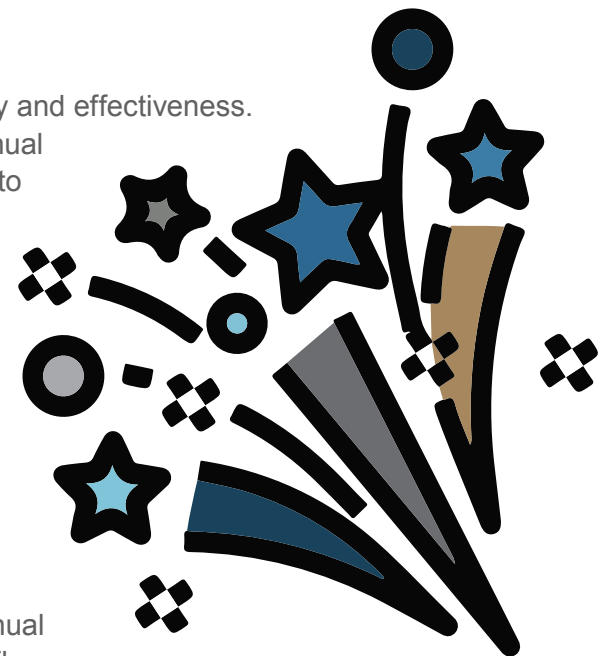
Two \$500 KLIM Gift Cards!

1st Annual TPA BOD Retreat

At the TPA, we are dedicated to operating with maximum efficiency and effectiveness. One approach we took in 2023 to achieve this was initiating an annual board retreat. This retreat allowed us, the TPA Board of Directors, to dedicate an entire day to collaborative strategic planning for the future of our organization. Our continuous organizational planning serves to reaffirm our pledge to advocate for responsible off-highway motorcycling, safeguard our trails, and fostering community.

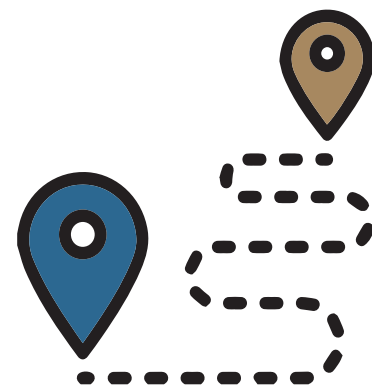
4th Annual TPA Partner Club meeting

The TPA Partner Club meeting has become one of our biggest annual events and investments in the off-highway motorized community. The 2023 meeting brought together over 20 organizations from Colorado and Utah to collaborate and network with one another on important issues facing off-highway motorized enthusiasts and advocates. This event was funded by the TPA with substantial support from Rocky Mountain ATV/MC.



THE TRAIL AHEAD

2024 is brimming with excitement as the TPA gears up for an array of thrilling events and initiatives!



2024 Moto Adventure Sweepstakes

Riding is an adventure, and this year, we are giving away a Moto Adventure Package! The Grand Prize is a Special Edition TPA KTM 300 XC-W and a fully equipped Moto Adventure Trailer! The Sweepstakes will be open through Saturday, September 21st, with the drawing taking place on Saturday, September 28th. Thank you to this year's Sweepstakes supporters for helping us assemble the most impressive grand prize EVER! Enter now at www.ColoradoTPA.org/sweepstakes!



Moto Adventure Package Photo: Rob Watt

TPA Board of Directors Retreat

As the TPA grows, so does the involvement and engagement of the Board of Directors. Monthly virtual Board meetings and Committee meetings are the norm. In addition, the Board has committed to meeting in person quarterly and for one of those meetings to be a full day Board retreat! The second annual TPA BOD retreat will be held April 5th.

2024 Colorado 600

DATES: September 11th - September 15th

LOCATION: LOGE Wolf Creek, South Fork, CO

We're thrilled to announce the highly anticipated 2024 Colorado 600 Trails Awareness Symposium, a four-day ride and trail awareness symposium set amidst the awe-inspiring mountains of Southwestern Colorado. If you're interested in joining us sign up for our mailing list on our website!



Bikes parked outside the LOGE at the C600, South Fork, CO Photo: Chad de Alva

2024 TPA Partner Club Meeting

DATE: Saturday, April 6th

LOCATION: DoubleTree Hotel, Grand Junction, CO

In 2024, we proudly celebrate the fifth annual TPA Partner Club meeting! This gathering serves as a pivotal event where motorcycle clubs statewide converge to network, share experiences, and delve into the intricacies of club management. If you know of a club that should be part of this network, please share our info with them or send us your recommendation!



Group of riders from 2023 Club Meeting, Grand Junction, CO Photo: Chad Hixon

THANK YOU!

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

Dear Supporters,

As Chairman of the Board, it brings me great joy to witness the remarkable growth and positive impact of the TPA over the past decade. In preserving motorized access in Colorado, no other organization has achieved the level of success that the TPA has. This success is a direct result of the unwavering support of individuals like you. Without your dedication, none of our accomplishments would have been possible.

Every day, we are tirelessly advocating on your behalf, driven by the voices and contributions of those who share our passion for this cause. It is through our collective efforts that we are able to make a difference and ensure continued access for all.

The work carried out by the TPA in maintaining motorized trails benefits not only our immediate community but all forest users. It stands in stark contrast to those who seek to limit access to public lands for their own exclusive use.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who understands and supports our mission to protect this invaluable resource. Your support is not only impactful today but will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

With sincere appreciation,

Scott Bright

Scott Bright
President
Trails Preservation Alliance





Photos from top left clockwise: (1) Bikes taking a break on the Taylor River, Photo: Chad Hixon, (2) Tom Dillon at C600, Photo: Angela Hixon, (3) Club members clearing trails, Photo: Chad Hixon, (4) Group of riders at Taylor Park, CO Photo: Chad Hixon



WWW.COLORADOTPA.ORG



WANT TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE?

The TPA depends on donations from supporters like you to help fund our efforts to preserve the sport of off-highway motorcycle recreation and to engage in issues that threaten our access to public lands. Donations provide over 70% of our annual income. For more information check our website at: www.coloradotpa.org/how-to-help/