### COMPLETE THE RING THE PEAK TRAIL PLANNING GRANT

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- Great Outdoors Colorado invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers and open space.
- Eligible entities may submit grant applications on behalf of ineligible organizations.
- Planning grants help develop strategic master plans for outdoor parks and recreation projects, trails, or sitespecific plans.



### **PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION**

- Government sponsor: City of Colorado Springs
- Grant request: \$100,000 planning grant
  ✓\$10,000 cash match from TOSC and FOTP
  ✓\$15,000 in-kind match from partner organizations
- Application due: September 13, 2016
- Grant awarded: December 8, 2016



## RING THE PEAK TRAIL BACKGROUND

- Part of 1999 Pikes Peak Multiuse Plan
- 80% of the trail complete
- Two remaining gaps
  - 1. Ute Pass Regional Trail Gap: El Paso County has a completed master plan
  - 2. Southwest 8-12 mile Gap: trail master plan needed



### **RING THE PEAK TRAIL GAPS**



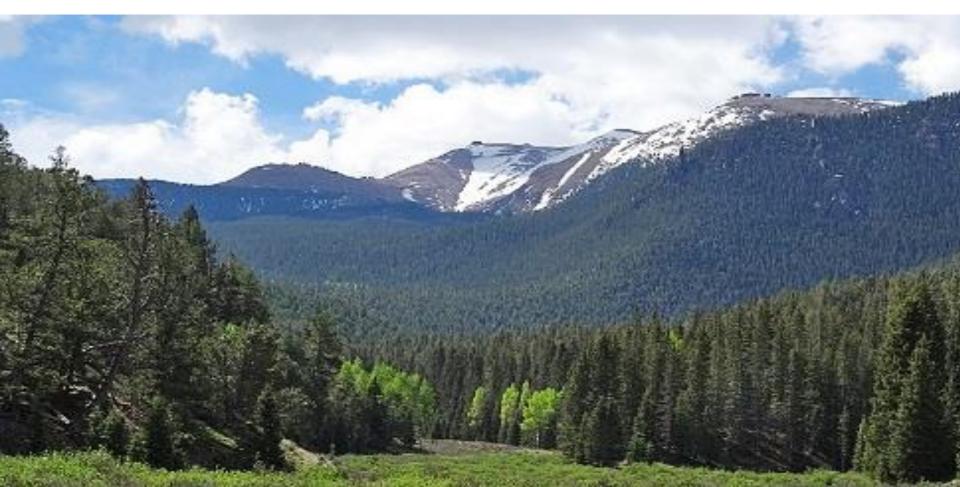
Coalition

### **Ute Pass Regional Trail** Gap

### Southwest Trail Gap



## **EXISITING TRAIL**





# **ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

#### **OUTDOOR RECREATION STATEWIDE: \$34.5B**

- Direct impact: purchase of goods, travel, lodging, services
- Indirect impact: re-spending resulting from the direct economic impact
- Induced impact: industry workers spending wages

#### **SOUTHWEST REGION: \$4.7B**

Includes EL Paso, Teller, Park, Fremont and southern counties

*Ref: 2014 Colorado Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan, pg. 60* 



### **RING THE PEAK SUPPORTERS**

- Government: Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Victor, Cripple Creek, Teller County, El Paso County, Manitou Springs
- User Groups: Colorado Mountain Club, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates and others
- Tourism and Business: Regional Business Alliance, Norwood, Convention and Visitors Bureau



### **PLANNING GRANT OBJECTIVES**

- Develop a "Close the Ring the Peak Trail" Master Plan
- Conduct public outreach process
- Consult with private and governmental partners
- Identify physical and organizational constraints regarding potential trail alignments
- Approach private property owners for trail easements /permissions



## PLANNING GRANT OBJECTIVES

- Identify alternatives and the recommended trail alignment
- Develop a plan for ongoing trail management, maintenance, sustainability and funding
- Identify implementation costs
- Develop an action plan and implementation schedule



### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Formed non-profit partnerships: TOSC, FTP, PLT
- "16 in 2016" priority trail designation
- Secured \$18,000 to support TOSC staff
- Developed working relations with government agencies and user groups
- Developed area maps
- Received letters of support from agencies, recreation user groups, tourism, economic development and business interests



### **NEXT STEPS**

- Continue stakeholder and partner dialogue
- Further define trail location constraints
- Secure additional support
- Identify possible consultants for leading the planning process
- Research organizational models to ensure trail management and sustainability



# **END OF THE TRAIL**

