

**DUST2 Jackson Mountain Request for Funding: Proposal and NEPA Analysis**  
**Archuleta Board of County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

**A Brief Single Track Trial History of Pagosa**

- For years, Pagosa Springs trail building has languished mostly due to limited demand.
- In the past 5 years, the sport of mountain biking has exploded in Pagosa Springs.
- Because of an increase in the number of mountain bikers in Pagosa Springs, the reality of our limited trail systems is becoming obvious.
- Our existing trail systems are beginning to suffer the effects of over use, and there is concern about user conflict if we are not able to expand our trail systems and connect existing trail systems.
- DUST2 is partnering with the Pagosa Range District to evaluate the Jackson Mountain trail and road system for development into a 30+ mile single track trail system with access from down town Pagosa Springs and the potential to connect to other area trail systems.

**Jackson Mountain**

- The Jackson Mountain trail proposal area is approximately 20 square miles of Forest Service land north of Pagosa Springs.
- Access points include USFS Road 37 and Snow Ball road. There is potential for access from the SanJuan River village.
- The current user-created trails at Jackson are a loose network of single track trails that connect existing logging roads.
- These trails are popular among mountain bikers, but the FS observes user created trails as a negative impact to FS lands.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

- User created trails potentially impact federally protected interests, and so cannot be authorized trail systems until they are evaluated during a NEPA analysis.
- A NEPA analysis is The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process which begins when a federal agency develops a proposal to take a major federal action. <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/national-environmental-policy-act-review-process#ea>
- DUST2 has partnered with the San Juan Riders club in Durango and the San Juan Forest District to take the necessary steps for a NEPA analysis starting with development of a trail system corridor proposal.

**The Economics of Mountain Bike Tourism**

- From the seminal 2016 Pinkbike Study done by Lee Lau <https://www.pinkbike.com/news/economic-impacts-of-mountain-bike-tourism-2016-update.html>
- Mountain bike tourists are generally 25-45 years old, (approx 65-70%), and 19-29 year olds are generally the second largest category at approx 27%.
- A majority (55%) had household income levels greater than \$80,000. (59% had incomes of greater than \$100,000)
- Average stay at each location 3 to 5 days
- Average spend per day \$60 - \$100

**Colorado Bike Industry**

- Excluding health benefits, bicycling has an estimated \$1.1 billion impact on the Colorado economy. <https://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2016/11/07/biking-hiking-contribute-1-6-billion-to-colorado.html>
- The [Colorado] State Transportation Commission plans to continue its commitment to active transportation.

- Together, the businesses comprising Colorado's outdoor recreation industry are major economic drivers in the state

### **The Economic boost of Trails In SW Colorado**

- Mesa County
- Salida
- Leadville
- Crested Butte
- Silverton
- Ridgeway
- Palisade
- Tellureide
- Durango Area
- ***NICA Races: DUST2 is a member of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association Colorado League. Every high school student on your youth cycling team has the opportunity to race mountain bike through the Colorado League. This will be our third year entering our student athletes in these NICA races. NICA races generally bring in over 3000 people for an entire weekend. DUST2 is currently working on making Pagosa a NICA race circuit venue along with Durango, Salida, Eagle and Leadville.***

### **What is DUST2 bringing to the table?**

#### **Fund raising**

#### **Maintenance**

#### **Construction**

#### **Partnership**

- In its 4 years, DUST2 has spent over 4000 hours, valued at \$90,000, building, maintaining local single track trail on public lands.
- DUST2 has applied for six small grants for this project and so far has been awarded \$4100.
- We will be applying for the 2021 PATB Infrastructure grant, and have applied for the 2021 TOPS Service Org Grant.
- DUST2 partnered with the Town of Pagosa Springs on our first large-scale trail initiatives totaling \$80,000.
- DUST2 volunteers partnered with the Forest Service (FS) over an 8 day period to construct over 2 miles of high alpine single track trail with an in-kind value of over \$22,137.60
- We are again partnering with the FS to map all proposed corridors for the Jackson Mountain Trail system. Professional trail plans range from \$25-\$100,000, and we fully anticipate that up to 4 more years of volunteer hours will go into the Jackson project.
- In addition to all this, DUST2 is contributing \$10,000 of its own monies to the Jackson Mountain NEPA analysis fund.

### **Funding Request**

- The estimated cost of this NEPA analysis could be as much as \$75,000.
- DUST2 has \$14,000 of its own funds dedicated to the analysis fund.
- DUST2 has requested \$10,000 from the 2021 TOPS Service Organization grant.
- DUST2 will be requesting \$10,000 from the 2021 PATB Infrastructure grant.
- DUST2 is requesting \$35,000 of conservation trust fund monies to be dedicated to the DUST2 NEPA analysis fund.

**Other considerations**

- DUST2 cannot be certain of receiving full funding from the TOPS or the PATB, we would like to request that the BOCC consider funding any shortfalls we may experience.
- DUST2 is a non-profit, and so will not be able to receive CTF funds directly. We have spoken to both the county and the FS and feel confident that the county and the FS will be able to work out all financial transactions to fund the NEPA analysis.
- DUST2 realizes that there may be a "no action" alternative which would mean that our project may be delayed. Should we receive a "no action", we would request that funds be available to be used for the Jackson Mountain Trail project as we are able to continue.

**Opportunity**

**DUST2 is a well organized group of highly motivated individuals who have experience in trail building and mountain biking. By partnering with us to support our trail building efforts, Pagosa Springs could become a premier mountain bike destination in South West Colorado while also providing for the recreational enjoyment of all trail users!**

Thank you!