LOBATOS BRIDGE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM & **RECREATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

Presentation to the Rocky Mountain District Resource Advisory Committee







- Introduce RAC to The Great Outdoors Fund (TGOF) and its Partnership with BLM CO

WHY ARE WE HERE?

• Raise RAC's awareness about Lobatos Bridge Outdoor Classroom & Recreation Enhancement Project

Photo courtesy of Geraint Smith



THE GREAT OUTDOORS FUND AT-A-GLANCE:

NONPROFIT

501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to expanding equitable access to the outdoors and improving recreation opportunities for the benefit and enjoyment of people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds

NICHE

Unique from any other charity in America with focus on enhancing recreation infrastructure and access through public-private partnerships – and first-of-a-kind crowdfunding platform – *think GoFundMe for Outdoor Recreation* > 100% of all donations go directly to project as designated by donor

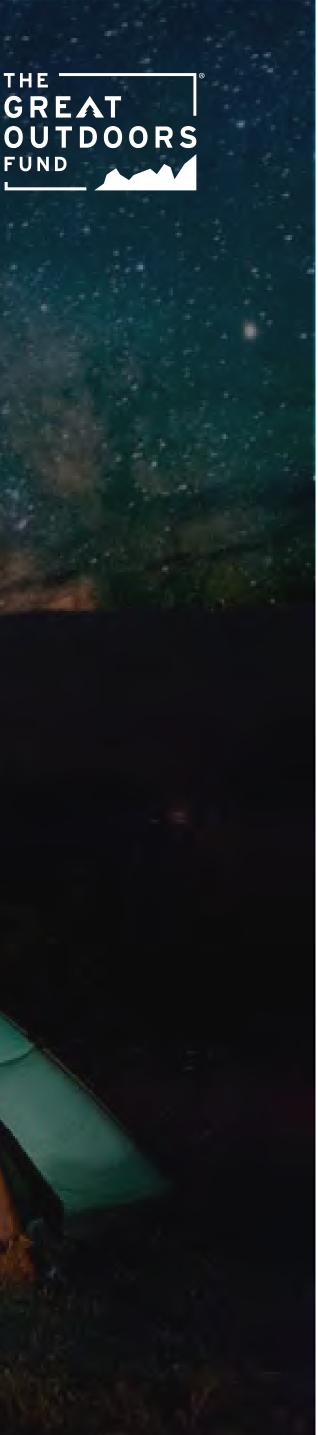
NEUTRAL FUNDING MECHANISM

Will help any agency responsible for managing outdoor recreation as well as their existing nonprofit partners and local stakeholders to enhance recreation access and opportunities in their community through collaborative fundraising

PROVEN TRACK RECORD WITH PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Skilled and nimble team with proven track record of raising \$20+ Million to help keep the great outdoors great
More than 100 projects in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, Maryland, and Florida and all across Canada

Projects include: picnic areas and campgrounds, pavilions, trail and other recreation restoration work; construction of boat ramps and fishing piers; park and playground rehabilitation; post-fire restoration work and others









BACKGROUND ON PARTNERSHIP WITH BLM

- 2017 TGOF is established
- 2018 BLM WO awards assistance agreement to TGOF
- Significant Deliverables:
 - > Develop **The Fund dB**, database for recreation-related projects
 - Merit-merit based process of prioritization
 - Connect The Fund dB to TGOF.org to accept project-specific donations
 - Think Go-Fund-Me for outdoor recreation projects
- 2022 BLM CO establishes cooperative agreement with TGOF
- Synopsis of partnership with BLM CO:
 - > Help complete wanted & viable projects as public-private partnerships
 - > Start by helping SLV Field Office with project 40 years in the making







Rio Grande Natural Area

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT San Luis Valley Field Office

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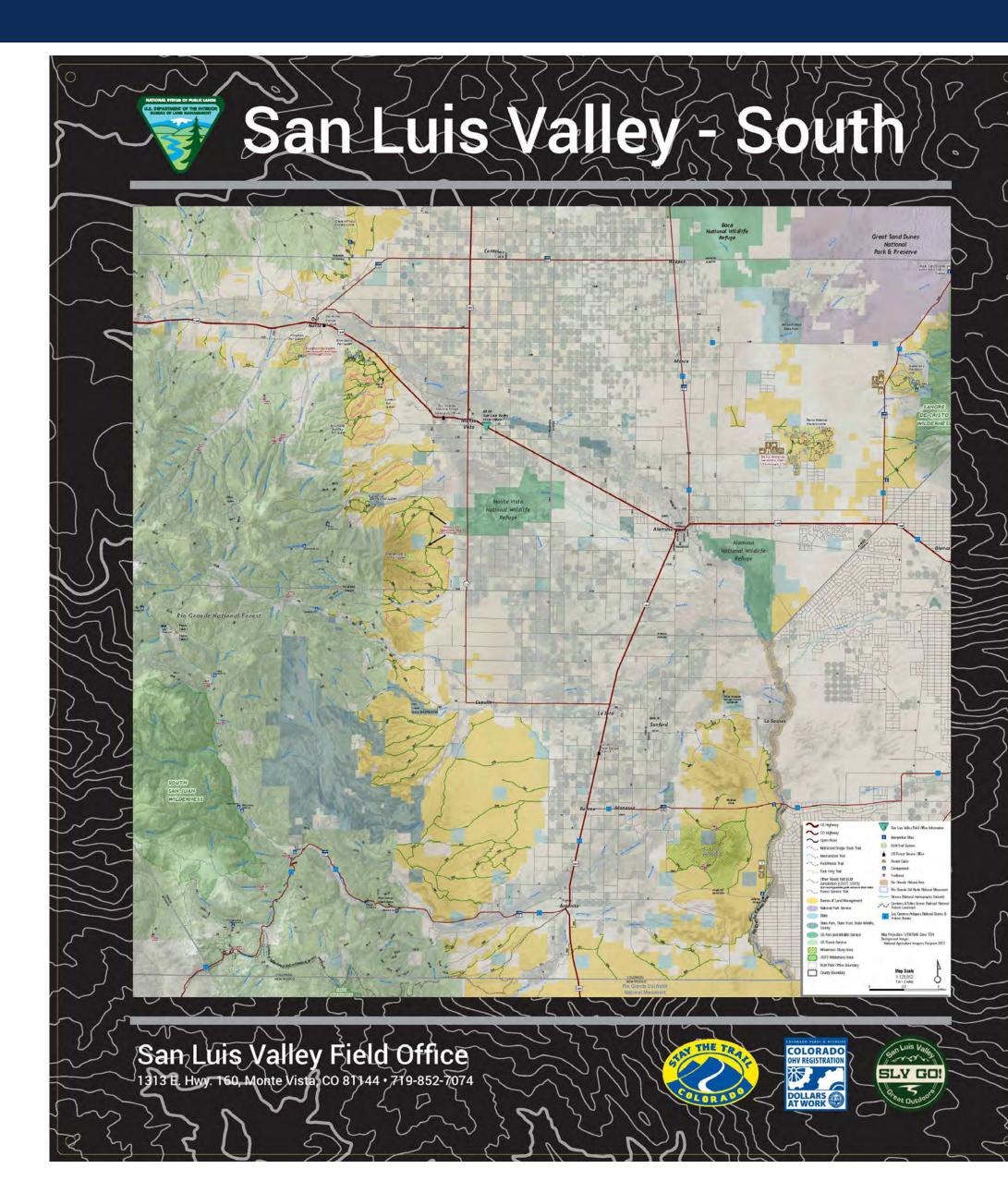
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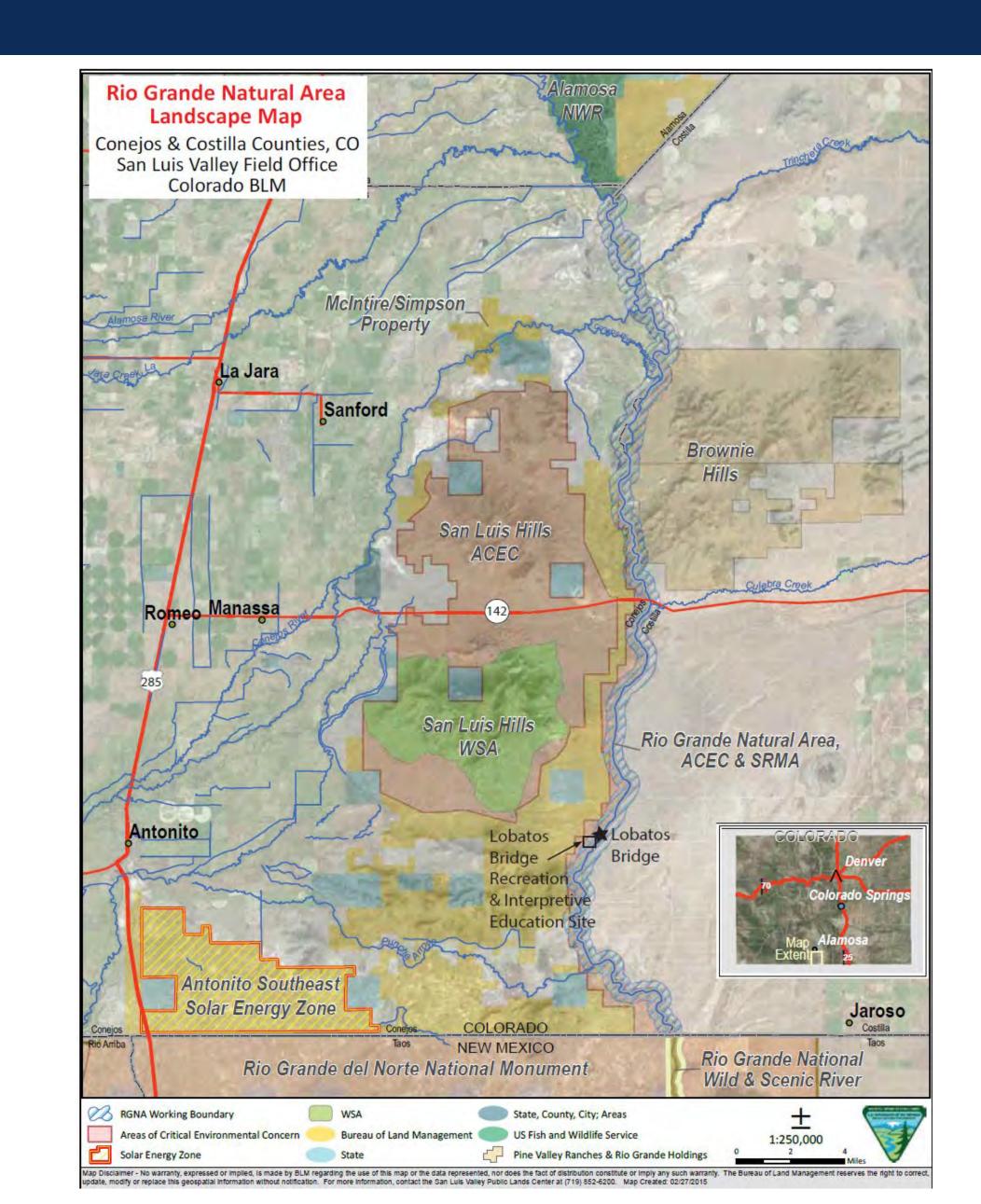






LOBATOS BRIDGE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM & RECREATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT









- **Develop Site for Resource Benefit**
 - > Interpretive Site
 - Boat Ramp

Develop Site for Rec Benefits

Social, Economic, and Environmental

Fulfill Plans

- RGNA Mgmt. Plan \triangleright
- **RGNA** Act \succ
- **RG Corridor Plan** \succ
- RMP \triangleright

Heritage Tourism Destination

- CTO-Mystic Valley
- > SLVTA & County Tourism

• HOL-Hands On the Land

- Nature-Based Classroom \triangleright
- Local Community Pride \triangleright
- Embajadores (GO! Equity in the Outdoors) \triangleright
- CCW and SdC-NHA \succ
- Generation Wild (GenWild) \succ
- > ASU (Classes and Adventure Program)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION







Outdoor Classroom - Interpretive Panels

- Story in Every Direction
- Petroglyph
- Boat Ramp/River Info

• Boat Ramp

- Improved Access to River
- Vehicles and Trailers

• Picnic Sites

- > 3 x Tables
- > Fire Rings

Parking Area

- Road Base
- Boulders

• Fencing

- Metal & Functional
- Cattleguard Replaces Gate
- Vault Toilet
- <u>Cameras</u>



PROJECT SITE PLAN



Simulation of Boat Ramp Accessat Lobatos Bridge

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PROJECT RENDERING



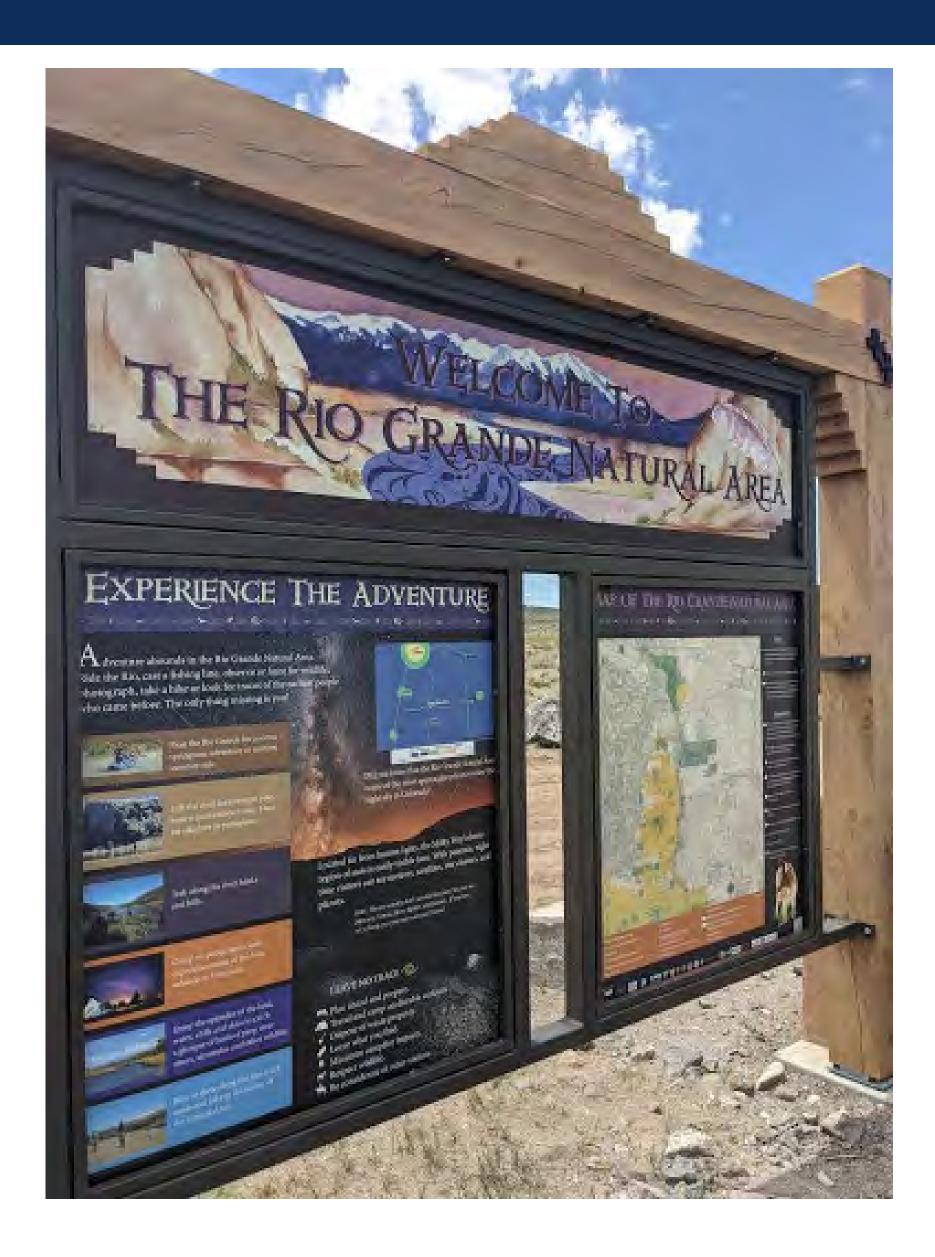




Simulation of Picnic Areas at Lobatos Bridge

PROJECT RENDERING









The Great Outdoors Fund (TGOF)

- Primary Fundraiser
- > Reporting
- **Occidental**
 - > Donor
- **Gates Family Foundation**
 - > Donor
- Sangre de Cristo NHA
 - > Donor
 - Interpretive Education Oversight Committee
- **Trichera Blanca Foundation**
 - > Donor
- **RG Bank**
 - > Donor
- **Counties**
 - Conejos GOCO 'Lead Applicant'
 - Costilla GOCO 'Co-Applicant'
- **SLV Great Outdoors (SLV GO!)**
 - GOAT's Field Crew/Implementation
 - > Interpretive Education Oversight Committee
- **ASU Salazar RGdN Center**
 - 142 Bridge Project in 2020 \succ
 - Interpretive Education Oversight Committee









CURRENT PARTNERS



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- **Community Support at all Levels**
 - > BLM from Field Office to State Director
 - Conejos County & Costilla County
 - Elected Officials and many other stakeholders

Site Design & Budget

- January 2023
- NEPA
 - > March 2023

Current Ongoings

- > April 2023 TGOF secures initial funding
- May 2023 Interpretive Education Oversight **Committee formed**
 - Design & development of interpretive panels begins
- June 2024 Completed Student | Mentoring Sculpting project
- August GOCO application process begins
- Nov Final approval of RGBRT grant
- Early Dec GOCO Community Impact Grant awards announced
- **Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony**
 - Late Summer/Early Fall ('25)



MILESTONES/TIMELINE



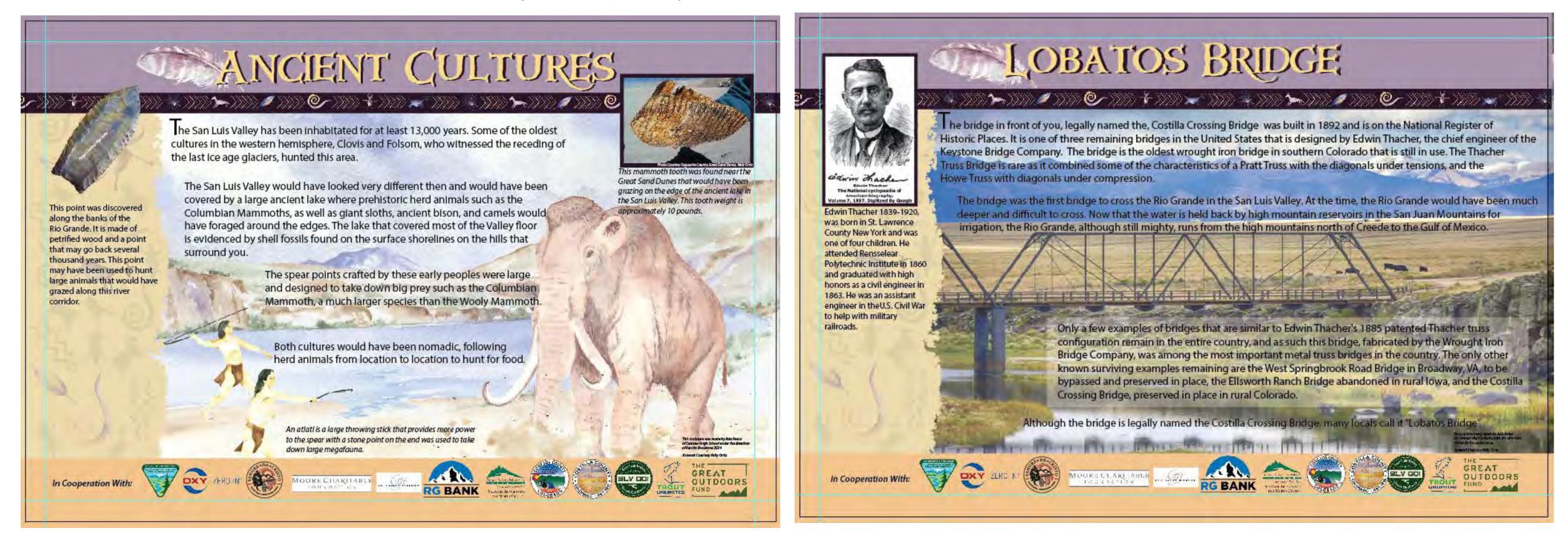




SAMPLING OF INTERPRETIVE PANELS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

All signs for Project Site:

- Trail: Three (3) Interpretive Wayside Markers 24" x 36"
- **Boat Ramp:** One (1) Interpretive Kiosk 36" x 48"



DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT OF INTERPRETIVE PANELS

• Outdoor Classroom: Ten (10) Interpretive Wayside Markers-24" x 36"





SAMPLING OF INTERPRETIVE PANELS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

A MASSIVE RIVER



considered the first record of

Spanish crossing of the mighty

river, where he found the safes

route. In future years this would

become the dominant crossing

until the ferry was developed to help settlers transport and

livestock, goods and material

the west side of the Valley

he Rio Grande would have been a force to be reckoned with in the 1800s and nearly impossible to cross during early spring and summer snow melt. Journals of early trappers and guides said the Rio Grande was nearly impossible to cross. Many accounts indicate that in 1869, most of the terrain surrounding the Rio Grande corridor was impassable due to marshes and the many connected lakes and lakebeds that made the Valley look like a sheet of water covered the Valley floor.

The first ferry crossing just north of here was run by Celedonio Valdez and known as Valdez's Ferry or Celedonio's Ferry. This was located just north of here and the Territorial Legislature expected the ferryman to transport travlers promptly "at all hours of the day and night".

0-)



Or 1918 & 1910 - 1918

This spur was found on the Valdez property. Recent experts have determined that this may be DeVargas spur based on the time period and descriptio

oversidentivity and actions of the second se

GREAT

OUTDOORS

The river you see today has significantly less water because reservoirs were establish in the San Juan Mountains just west of here to hold back water for agricultural irrigation.

in Cooperation With:





DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT OF INTERPRETIVE PANELS

RIO GRANDE DIVERSITY

This location is home to one of the few places in Colorado Peregrine Faicon that see a migration of trantulas. Their home is just west of here between these hillsides. Every year they migrate out of their holes in the ground looking for a mate. The females are brilliantly colored and the males are mostly brown. Tarantulas have established dens in this area and can live for more than 20 years.

Tarantula

Have you noticed the difference between the dry slopes that surround you and the lush riverbed that sits below you? The Rio Grande is a primary corridor for wildlife for thousands of miles from 13,000 ft. peaks of the San Juan Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico. The habitat along the Rio Grande provide critical habitat to support many Red-tailed Hawk species of animal life, some are threatened and endangered. Some species almost disappeared from this area, but with habitat restoration efforts, many of the species are now returning. This includes the native Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout and Rio Grande Chub, the American River Otter, and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Peregrine falcons hunt from

above and are the fastest birds on Earth. They are capable of reaching speeds over 200 miles

ZERO IN

otice an abundance of raptors such as hawks, ow and eagles. They dart from canyon wall to wall in search of prey to eat such as lizards and snakes

> nals such as elk, de nghorn antelope, mountai is and black bears roam this corridor looking for gras ries, and sma

nivores with a ek body, webbed l dense fur. You

iver otters are

MOORE CHARJTABLE RG BANK

SLY DOI

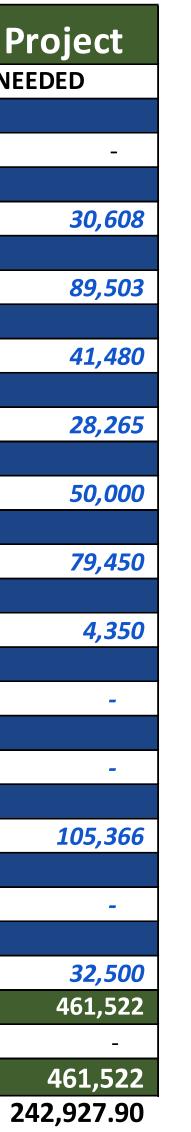
GREAT





| Lobatos Bridge Outdoor Classroom & | Rec | reation En | har | ncement Pr |
|---|------|---------------|-----|--------------|
| ITEM | ESTI | MATED TOTAL | | BALANCE NEEL |
| Project Designs | | | | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | <i>5,850</i> | \$ | |
| Perimeter Fencing | | | | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | 70,608 | \$ | |
| Parking Area | | | | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | <i>89,503</i> | \$ | |
| Recreation Amenities | | | | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | 44,774 | \$ | |
| Trail Work | | | | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | 28,265 | \$ | |
| Boating Access | | | | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | 50,000 | \$ | |
| Interpretative Education Site (Rotunda) | | | | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | 126,250 | \$ | |
| Historic Mondragon Store | | | | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | 4,350 | \$ | |
| Additional Signage & Sculptures | | | | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | 20,500 | \$ | |
| Fisher Petroglyph | | | | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | - | \$ | |
| Toilets | | | 4 | |
| Sub-tota | 1\$ | 105,366 | \$ | |
| Project Administration | | | 4 | |
| Sub-tota | I \$ | 96,000 | \$ | |
| Miscellaneous | | | 4 | |
| Sub-tota | | 35,785 | \$ | |
| TOTA | - | 677,251 | \$ | |
| Contingency | \$ | 27,199 | \$ | |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$ | 704,450 | \$ | |
| Total Raised to Date | | | \$ | 242 |

PROJECT COSTS & FUNDING



| Contributions | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| \$ | 115,079.00 | |
| \$ | 60,000.00 | |
| \$ | 40,000.00 | |
| \$ | 20,000.00 | |
| \$ | 4,000.00 | |
| \$ | 3,500.00 | |
| \$ | 348.90 | |
| \$ | 242,927.90 | |
| | \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ | |





QUESTIONS?



LOBATOS BRIDGE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM & **RECREATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

THANK YOU

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