



**We got our \$5 million returned to the OHV program and
obtained an additional \$2 million annually for OHV
grants moving forward!!!**

HUGE WIN FOR MOTORIZED RECREATION!!!!

Earlier last year we were in the unfortunate position of having to report the last second sweep of \$5 million in funds from the OHV program cash reserve in response to COVID outbreak. **We are pleased to announce that with the passage of SB 21-225 today, the \$5 million in registration fund money has been returned to the CPW OHV program to be used for OHV purposes.** In addition to the return of the money, Legislative spending authorizations for the OHV program increased to \$6 million annually in ensure that large cash reserves did not build in the future.

“I’m philosophically opposed to using cash funds to balance the state’s budget. However, responding to the COVID pandemic required budget cuts no one wanted to make,” said Senator **Bob** Rankin (R District 8) member of the Joint Budget Committee and sponsor of Senate Bill 225. “When the time came to look at undoing some of the cuts we had to make last year, repaying the OHV fund became a priority of mine. I felt it was one of the more egregious cash fund sweeps we had to make. And given the fact that we have a lot of backcountry to repair due to overuse and historic wildfires, I wanted to pay back this fund in particular.”

“It’s not often that cash funds get repaid,” said Landon Gates, lobbyist for the Powersports Dealers Association of Colorado. “We were fortunate enough to have Senator Rankin do much of the heavy lifting behind the scenes and working together, we were able to use PDAC’s membership to help educate the other members of the Joint Budget Committee on the serious need for backcountry trail repair. Once there was agreement to repay OHV fund, we really just stepped out of the way and let the bill proceed through the legislative process without drawing any questions as to why this cash fund was getting repaid when others weren’t.”

The return of this funding has been a large amount of work behind the scenes and we would like to thank all the members of the Joint Budget Committee for passage of this legislation. **Particularly Representative Kim Ransom (R District 44) the House sponsor.** The passage of SB 21-225 was also supported by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and many others and their support are appreciated. We would also like to thank everyone who wrote letters to the legislature to support this effort over the last 2 years.

In addition to the above, Don Riggle of the Trails Preservation Alliance (TPA) added welcome assistance and Jerry Abboud and the lobbyists that work with him handled the bill and lobbied the General Assembly.

The increase in spending authority from \$4.3 million to \$6 million annually moving forward for the OHV program is also a HUGE success as this money is badly needed on the ground and will ensure that OHV opportunities are provided throughout the State.

These are OHV registration monies that were paid for OHV purposes and now can be used for that purpose! This is a big win for everyone that buys a registration!