

COLORADO DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

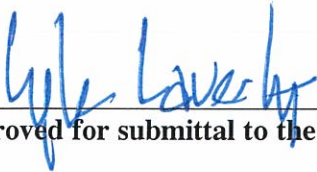
State Trails Committee Selection
TOPIC


Lori Malcolm
PREPARED BY

September 15, 2004
DATE

ACTION ITEM INFORMATION ITEM DRAFT COPY FINAL COPY

- 1) **PURPOSE:** To select the State Trails Committee Member to represent District 1.
- 2) **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Due to the Committee Member Representation, one of the eight members will be chosen to represent off highway vehicle (OHV) interests due to the dedicated funded source related to this activity. This position for District 1 will be this representative and Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO) has reviewed and is recommending this applicant, Debra Thorson.
- 3) **DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:** Statue 33-11-105 (1) CRS addresses the tenure of State Trails Committee Members. A Committee Member resigned due to a change in his district location. Debra Thorson is being recommended to represent District 1 to complete this term. The Current State Trail Committee Members, Department of Natural Resources and State Parks Staff reviewed the application. A copy of the full application is attached.
- 4) **DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Board select a State Trails Committee Member to represent District 1.
- 5) **SUGGESTED MOTION:** "I move the Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to approve Debra Thorson for the District 1 vacancy on the State Trails Committee."



Approved for submittal to the Parks Board


September 22, 2004
Date

APPLICATION FOR STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

We would like to know about your interests and your experience. Please fill in the information requested below and answer the questions as clearly and concisely as possible.

NAME DEBRA THORSON PHONE 303-989-3822
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS 3664 S. JAY ST.

CITY DENVER ZIP 80235 Email dithor@comcast.net

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT One

References: Provide the name, affiliation, and telephone number of three persons willing to provide more information about your qualifications to serve on the Committee.

1. Dennis Larrat, Chairman, COHVCO & Treasurer, RMEC, 303-470-5770
2. Carey Southwell, Executive Director, Denver Firefighters Museum, 303-892-1436
3. Elisabeth Fedde, American Brittany Rescue Colorado & Utah State Coordinator and Denver Magistrate, 303-321-3718

Please briefly answer the following and attach a copy of your resume to this form:

- Describe the experience and qualifications that would make you an effective Trails Committee member.
 - Hired by the DFD in 1995 as the Denver's 20th female firefighter. Over 5,000 applicants that year for 40 positions. Certifications I hold relating to firefighting are:
 - Emergency Medical Technician
 - Hazardous Materials Technician
 - Firefighter I, II & III
 - Lieutenant with the Denver Fire Department (DFD) since March 2002. (*This gives me management and conflict resolution experience within a male-dominated environment.*)
 - 1st Vice President of the Denver Firefighters Museum (DFFM) Board of Directors.
 - Chair of the DFFM 2004 Annual Wine Tasting & Auction to be held September 18th ..
 - Operations Chair of the 2003 Women in the Fire Service International Conference. (This conference hosted over 5,000 attendees from over 30 nations.)
 - Active member of the American Brittany Rescue organization. (We take abused and abandoned Brittany dogs, place them in private foster homes and eventually into permanent homes.)
 - Long-time member of COHVCO.

2. Describe your involvement in recreation and outdoor-related groups and activities.

- Dirt bike rider for 20 years.
- Raced motorcycle Enduros for several years. I won the R.M.E.C. Women's Overall twice and one national race.
- Camping enthusiast—first with a tent and now with an R.V.
- Avid hiker. There's nothing better than just *being* in the mountains.
- Runner.
- Horseback rider. (I grew up on farms & ranches. In the past I have shown horses and competed in rodeos.)
- Racquetball player. Played tournaments for many years at the "A" level. I qualified and went to the National Finals 3 times and attended the Olympic Racquetball Training camp in 1992.
- Golfer.
- I enjoy lake kayaking once in a while.
- Other sports I have been involved with over the years:
 - i. Competitive fast-pitch softball.
 - ii. Recreational slow pitch softball.
 - iii. Volleyball. I played on my college team and recreationally for years.

3. What topics concern you that relate to the State Trails Committee?

Balancing the needs of all users of our trails, both non-motorized and motorized, while protecting and preserving the land for future generations.

4. Why do you want to be a member of the State Trails Committee?

I enjoy and deeply respect our beautiful state. I was born in New Mexico and lived in Wyoming in my younger years, but I chose Denver and Colorado as my home in 1983.

I am an advocate of responsible recreation and feel the best way to ensure access to our public lands is through cooperation and education. I feel I can bring to the Committee the point of view of the average Colorado family.

My 69 year-old mom, who has asthma and probably couldn't walk a mile in the mountains, now has taken up riding an ATV. She has seen many of our beautiful passes on jeep roads and joins my family camping. All trash is carried out, and irresponsible riders are asked to leave and not come back. She tells me that if something happened to her and she died tomorrow, that'd be OK because she's "been there". This is the kind of recreation I hope to promote.

ORGANIZING MEMBERS

Colorado Snowmobile Association

Rocky Mountain Enduro Circuit

Colorado Association of
4-Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc.

Rampart Range Motorcycle
Management Committee



PROTECTING OUR OHV PRIVILEGE

PO Box 620523 • Littleton, CO 80162

www.cohvco.org

EX OFFICIO ADVISORS

U.S. Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region

Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office

Colorado Division of Parks
and Outdoor Recreation

September 23, 2004

Colorado State Parks Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 618
Denver, CO 80203

re: Nomination of Debra Thorson to the Colorado State Trails Committee

Dear State Parks Board Members,

The Board of Directors of COHVCO recently voted unanimously to support and promote the nomination of Debra Thorson to the State Trails Committee position that was vacated by Jerry Abboud.

Debra has a broad background of multiple use recreation interests and experience that would contribute to the entire State Trails Committee, not just the motorized recreation side. She grew up riding horses in her native New Mexico, and later moved to Colorado where she got more involved in motorized recreation. She has ridden and raced motorcycles throughout the rocky mountain region with her husband and daughter, and plays on ATV's with her 69 year mother. And she still finds time to enjoy back country and suburban non-motorized trails. She and her husband have been COHVCO members since very near our inception 17 years ago.

Debra has also shown her leadership skills as one of the few women officers with the Denver Fire Department. She has also performed a number of volunteer assignments with non-profits.

We believe that the motorized representative to the State Trails Committee needs to champion trail projects for the greater good of all Coloradoans, while focusing a significant amount of energy on the OHV Subcommittee. I have personally known Debra for about 15 years, and can attest to her objective approach to problem solving, her critical thinking abilities, and her ability to work well with a wide cross section of people. I think these capabilities will serve Colorado well in this position.

Since the disbanding of the OHV Subcommittee by State Parks, I have received messages from a number of the previous members, some of whom would like to continue to serve, and some who view this as a good time to step down. COHVCO is committed to assisting Debra find qualified, open minded people to fill these critical positions very quickly.

Please let me know if you have any questions on this nomination, and if I can be of any further assistance to either of you.

Sincerely,



Dennis Larratt
Chairman, COHVCO
10990 N. Sunshine Drive
Littleton, CO 80125-9432

phone 303-470-5770 cell 720-530-9974 fax 303-683-1790 email larratt@xrrc.com

cc: Lyle Laverty Dave Hause Debra Thorson