AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

AgendaTitle:

Action Requested: Motion

Parties to the Agreement: Gunnison County and City of Gunnison

Term Begins: GOCO Grant Award 2016 **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:
The BOCC asked the Trails Commission to review the request for a letter of support & a pledge for the City of Gunnison's Path to Parks GOCO Grant application. The TC reviewed the request at their meeting last night and they strongly support this project. If the Board wants to support this project Martin will write a letter which the Board could sign at their 2/24/15 work session for submittal to the City by the 2/25 request date. Councilman Hagan presented this request to the Trails Com.

Fiscal Impact: $2,000 - $3,000

Submitted by: Marlene D. Crosby **Submitter's Email Address:** mcrosby@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:

$2,000 - $3,000 could be accomodated in the 2016 budget process, but not obligated prior to adoption.

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\lNienhueser Discharge Date: 2/11/2015

County Attorney Review: ( ) Required (●) Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ( ) No ( )

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 2/13/2015

( ) Consent Agenda (●) Regular Agenda ( ) Worksession Time Allotted:

Agenda Date: 2/24/2015 Follow Up Agenda Date:

Revised April 2013

2/19/2015

Great Outdoors Colorado
303 East 17th Avenue
Suite 1060
Denver, CO 80203

Great Outdoor Colorado Grant Letter of Support

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners for Gunnison County. The commissioners of Gunnison County have committed themselves to outdoor recreation and the environmentally responsible development of trail systems. The Board of Commissioners established a trails commission in 1996 to aid the County's Planning Department and Board of County Commissioners with trail related issues. The Gunnison County Trails Commission advises the City of Gunnison, as well as the BLM, USFS and CPAW regarding trails in the Gunnison Valley.

The City of Gunnison is applying for a "Paths to Parks" grant that aims to increase trail access to existing parks, open spaces, natural areas, and environmental education opportunities in and around the city. This expansion of trails in the city is supported by the Board of Commissioners and is seen as an important part of improving the trail experience in the county.

These trail extensions are an important part of the expanding trail system that will make up the city perimeter trail. The perimeter trail system will eventually include a network of city and county owned trail segments that will provide a comprehensive trail experience for users. The Signal Peak/Tenderfoot Mountain Trail is important to the county as it uses a trail easement held by the Trails Commission and its development has been a long term goal for the group.

The Gunnison-Tomichi Valley Ditch Trail is being developed as part of the Contour Trail, a trail that has gotten financial support from the county in the past. Its development creates a connection opportunity for the county community of Tomichi Heights, a housing development currently underserved by trails. This importance of this trail connection in the development of the Signal Peak Recreation plan is enormous. Completing a loop to serve the trail users of Western State Colorado University and the community is integral to having a developed trail experience.

The Gunnison River Access Trail complements the Safe Routes to School Grant that has been awarded to Gunnison by increasing the amount of safe trails that are adjacent to the school complex. With the addition of this trail segment Gunnison will firmly establish itself as a place dedicated to fun and safe trails for the whole family.

Strong partners are essential for a program to be successful. We, the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners, pledge our full support for this continuation of the goals of City of Gunnison and its non-motorized transportation plan. We will support this project through financial support of $0,000 and using our influence to continue the mission of promoting the responsible expansion of the Gunnison trails network.

Sincerely,

Martin Schmidt
Vice-Chair
Gunnison County Trails Commission
195 Basin Park Drive
Gunnison, Colorado 81230

February 24, 2015

Great Outdoors Colorado
303 East 17th Avenue, Suite #1060
Denver, CO 80203

RE: City of Gunnison's Paths to Parks Grant Application

To whom it may concern,

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners supports the City of Gunnison's Paths to Parks grant application. Gunnison County is committed to outdoor recreation and the environmentally responsible development of trail systems. The Gunnison County Trails Commission was established in 1996 to aid the County with trail related issues, and it advises the City of Gunnison, as well as the BLM, USFS and CPAW regarding trails in the Gunnison Valley.

The City of Gunnison aims to increase trail access to existing parks, open spaces, natural areas and environmental education opportunities in and around the city. We support this expansion of trails in the city because it is an important part of improving the trail experience in the County.

These trail extensions are an important part of the expanding trail system that will make up the City's perimeter trail. The perimeter trail system will eventually include a network of City- and County-owned trail segments that will provide a comprehensive trail experience for users. The Signal Peak/Tenderfoot Mountain Trail is important to the County as it uses a trail easement held by the Trails Commission and its development has been a long-term goal for the group.

The Gunnison-Tomichi Valley Ditch Trail is being developed as part of the Contour Trail, a trail that has received financial support from the County. Its development creates a connection opportunity for the community of Tomichi Heights, a housing development currently underserved by trails. This importance of this trail connection in the development of the Signal Peak Recreation Plan is enormous. Completing a loop to serve the trail users of Western State Colorado University and the community is integral to having a developed trail experience.

The Gunnison River Access Trail complements the Safe Routes to School Grant that has been awarded to Gunnison by increasing the amount of safe trails that are adjacent to the school complex. With the addition of this trail segment, Gunnison will firmly establish itself as a place dedicated to fun and safe trails for the whole family.

Strong partners are essential for a program to be successful. We pledge our full support for this continuation of the City of Gunnison's goals and its non-motorized transportation plan. We will support this project through financial support of $0,000 and by using our influence to continue the mission of promoting the responsible expansion of the Gunnison trails network.

Sincerely,

Paula Swenson, Chairperson	Phil Chamberland, Commissioner	Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

DRAFT

City of Gunnison

Received
County Adminstration
1/29/2015
cc: BOCC
M. Birnie
M. Crosby
R. Forrest
M. Pelletier
J. Cochran

January 28, 2015

Board of County Commissioners
200 East Virginia Avenue
Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear Commissioners:

In October, 2014 the Great Outdoor Colorado (GOCO) Board set aside $4 million to fund a special grant program called "Paths to Parks." The purpose is to increase trail access for youth and families to existing parks, open spaces, natural areas and environmental education opportunities. GOCO invited interested applicants to submit a concept paper for grant opportunity. The City of Gunnison submitted a concept paper and was selected as one of nine finalists invited to submit a formal application. City staff is setting the groundwork for the GOCO grant application and GOCO places a great credence upon community support for local grant applications. The City is soliciting monetary pledges to demonstrate support for this GOCO grant application, and any amount helps to demonstrate local support.

The project will cost approximately $700,000; the request for GOCO funds is approximately $520,000 and the City will provide a minimum 25% match. If funded, these trail segments will link city neighborhoods, schools, and Western to river habitats and open space around the community. This project is comprised of three trail segments: the **Gunnison River Access Trail**, the **Signal Peak/Tenderfoot Mountain Trail**, and the **Gunnison-Tomichi Ditch Trail**. These trail segments are important connections for the trails recommended in the City's *Non-Motorized Transportation Plan*. A map indicating the proposed trails is attached below, and a summary of the project proposal is provided herein.

Gunnison River Access Trail. A developed trail system on the City-owned VanTuyl Ranch provides access to a spectacular open space located adjacent to residential neighborhoods and the Gunnison Community School. This 1,200 foot trail segment will extended from the VanTuyl Ranch trail system to a 1.5 mile reach of the Gunnison River corridor that is owned by the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Under a separate grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCP), the CPW and City are preparing to implement a river habitat restoration project along this reach of the Gunnison River. The new trail will provide public access to this river reach with forthcoming habitat improvements.

Signal Peak/Tenderfoot Mountain Trail. This trail segment is located on the east edge of the city. It will incorporate improvements of an existing livestock underpass (7'x7') crossing on U.S. Highway 50 in order to provide safe pedestrian access. This segment is part of the City's defined Outer Loop trail system and will link the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Signal Peak Recreation Area, on the northeast flank of the city, to the Tomichi Creek Wildlife Area on the southeast city fringe, which is owned and managed by the CPW. This will be a ten foot-wide gravel surface trail, with concrete approaches to the Highway 50 underpass. Civil engineering design of the underpass component has been completed by a registered engineer and a special use permit application has been submitted to the Colorado Department of Transportation. The trail will also require fencing due to adjacent cattle grazing operations. The total length of this trail segment is approximately 3,600 feet.

P.O. Box 239 201 W. Virginia Avenue Gunnison, CO 81230-0239 PHONE: (970) 641-8000 FAX: (970) 641-8051

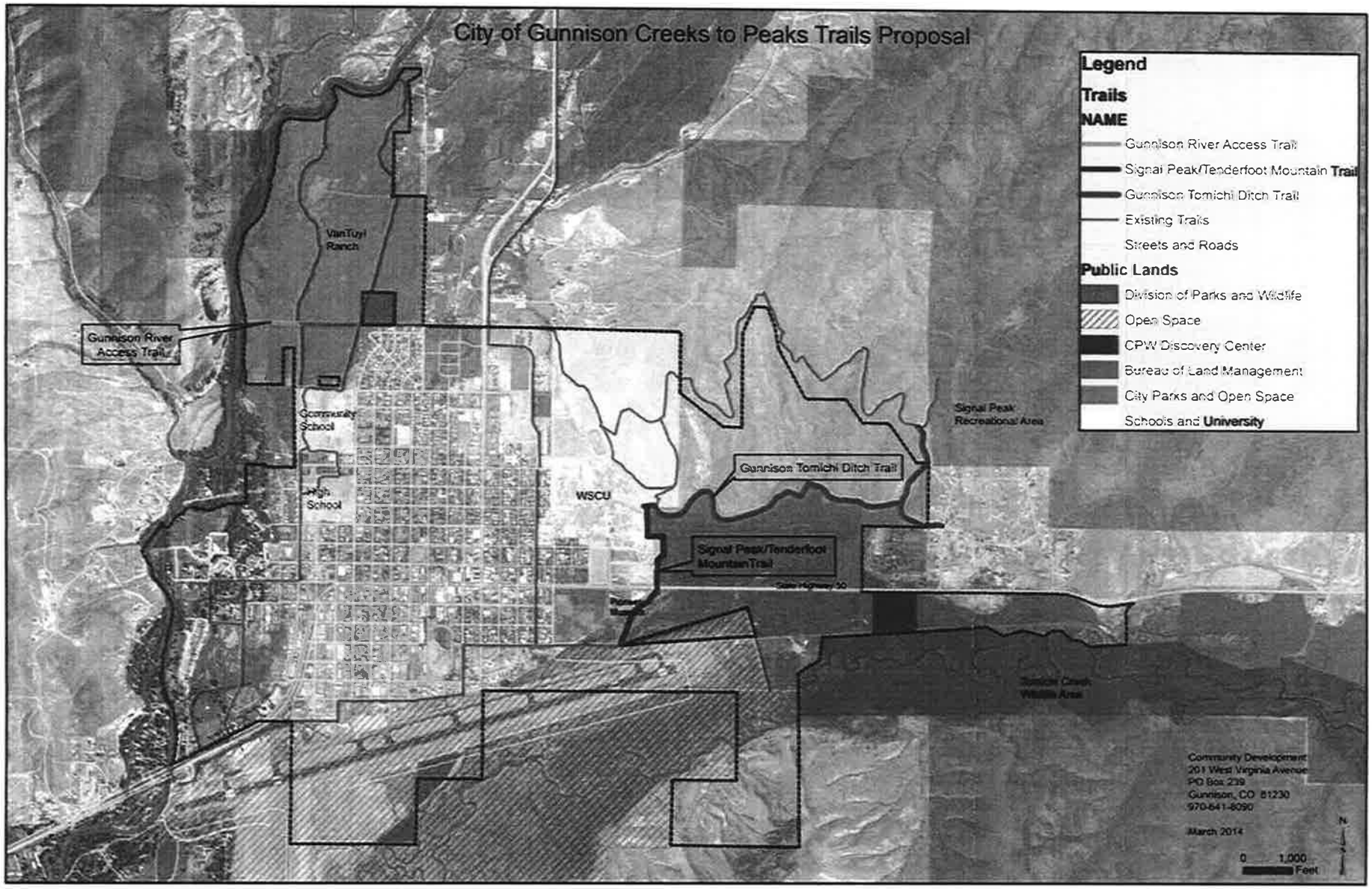
Gunnison-Tomichi Valley Ditch Trail. This proposed trail segment begins at the eastern edge of the Western campus and follows an irrigation ditch east to link to the existing Contour Trail. This trail will create an approximate 3-mile loop system on the eastern edge of the city. The trail will be a 10 foot-wide gravel surface. Portions of the trail segment will follow existing agriculture access roads while other portions of the alignment will be completely developed. Fence construction to control cattle grazing access will be necessary. This 1.79 mile trail segment is a critical link defined in the BLM's *Signal Peak Recreation Area Plan*. This trail will provide opportunities especially to Western students for athletics as well as access to research opportunities.

If you are interested in supporting this grant application please, provide a letter with the defined pledge amount to my attention at P.O. Box 239, Gunnison, CO 81230. Pledges are requested no later than February 25, 2015. Please do not send a donation as we are only asking for a written pledge at this time. Funding contributions will be requested only if the grant application is approved by GOCO. Thank you for considering a pledge of support to this project.

Sincerely,

Steve Westbay

Steve Westbay
Director of Community Development


City of Gunnison Creeks to Peaks Trails Proposal
Legend
Trails
NAME
Gunnison River Access Trail
Signal Peak/Tenderfoot Mountain Trail
Gunnison Tomichi Ditch Trail
Existing Trails
Streets and Roads
Public Lands
Division of Parks and Wildlife
Open Space
CPW Discovery Center
Bureau of Land Management
City Parks and Open Space
Schools and University
VanTuyl Ranch
Gunnison River Access Trail
Community School
High School
WSCU
Gunnison Tomichi Ditch Trail
Signal Peak/Tenderfoot MountainTrail
State Highway 50
Signal Peak Recreational Area
Community Development
201 West Virginia Avenue
PO Box 239
Gunnison, CO 81230
970-641-8090
March 2014
0 1,000 Feet
N