AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Legislative Exchange Proposal for Thompson Divide

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

The attached draft correspondence was prepared by Commissioner Swenson.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Katherine Haase **Submitter's Email Address:** khaase@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ○

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\khaase Discharge Date: 7/24/2015

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 5 minutes

Agenda Date: 7/28/2015

Revised April 2015

July 28, 2015

The Honorable Michael Bennet
The Honorable Cory Gardner
458 Russell Senate Office Building
Senate Dirksen Office Building, SD-B 40B
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Scott Tipton
218 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Legislative Exchange Proposal for Thompson Divide Leases

Dear Senator Bennet, Senator Gardner and Mr. Tipton,

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners continue to support the larger conversation regarding balanced and permanent solutions to the mineral development and extraction in the North Fork of our county and the Thompson Divide area in its entirety. We applaud all of the efforts that have been made to date and believe that all of the stakeholders, including counties, towns, citizen groups and industry, are working toward a collaborative plan with the consensus of all. Specifically, we want to commend our neighbors in Delta County for the consensus they have reached on natural resource development and management in an extremely sensitive portion of their county. The collaboration efforts lead by the County Commissioners of Delta County should be commended and used as an example for continued discussions in the area.

We believe that our letter of May 8, 2015 may have been misunderstood and would like to make a couple clarifying points. Gunnison County is pleased that SG Interests is participating in the dialogue for solutions in the Thompson Divide area. However, we are not in support of an isolated exchange bill for SG Interests lease exchanges. We want the SG Interests portion to be a part of the larger solution. We feel that exchange, withdraws, opportunity areas and no surface occupancy are all tools to be used to meet the goals of a comprehensive and regional solution to the needs in this area. As a region, we have great momentum with our efforts and piece-mealing segmented out portions will become anti productive toward a holistic solution for the region.

Like Delta County, Gunnison County is working with our partners and stakeholders to develop and finalize a collaborative map representing oil and gas management. A permanent solution for the Huntsman Ridge area as identified by our sportsmen as a premier hunting area needs to be part of the discussion. Additionally, Kebler Pass and the current coal mine district need to be included in the management plan. We want to make sure that we recognize and look for opportunities to capture methane in these coal areas. We will be addressing these issues and finalizing our conversations in the near future and will forward our county's collaborative map.

Again, we commend the Colorado delegation for your continued cooperation and collaborative spirit.

Sincerely,

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

DRAFT