Gunnison County Commissioners
Letter of Interest for Boards and Commissions
January 15, 2016

Commissioners:

My Name is Mike Babler and I am interested in volunteering and serving Gunnison County on one of the following boards;

Sage Grouse Strategic Committee
Sage Grouse Mitigation
Land Preservation

I am a recent resident of Gunnison County, however I have lived in Colorado since 1960. I have enjoyed Gunnison County for many years including owning property in Pitkin since 1998, hunting and visiting our son who has lived here since 1995. When my wife and I retired we took the opportunity to move here, August 2014.

During my career I worked in the area of natural resource management since 1978 as a forester, a wildlife biologist and wildland fire ecologist. I have worked mostly for federal and state government including wildland fire fighting in the majority of my positions. My last position was with a non governmental organization, The Nature Conservancy. I led development of models representing historic conditions of vegetation in southern Wyoming, western Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. I also worked on forest management, prescribed fire and restoration projects across Colorado and the U.S.

In the past year, I have volunteered with the Gunnison Climate Working Group, looking at management strategies for Spruce Fir. I have also volunteered to help install rock structures to enhance wildlife habitat on federal and private property. Sage Grouse is one of the species that will benefit from this project.

I have experience participating on committees, boards and working closely with agency and government leaders. I have facilitated work groups and round tables to develop policies, strategies, and implement projects. I believe my experiences can help me be a positive participant on one of the boards or committees listed above. I look forward to helping Gunnison County continue to preserve the rural quality of life and the natural environment.

Please see attached summary of education and professional experiences. Let me know if I can provide addition information.

Thank you,

Mike Babler

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Education:

Nederland, Colorado High School
Colorado State University

Experiences:

US Air Force, Survival Instructor
Colorado School of Outdoor Living, Instructor
Colorado State Parks, Seasonal Ranger
Idaho Department of Parks, Assistant Park Manager
U.S. Air Force Academy, Chief of Natural Resources
Colorado State Forest Service, District Forester
The Nature Conservancy, Fire Program Manager/Fire Ecologist