AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Correspondence; Senator Michael Bennet; Proposed "

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement: Commissioners

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

Summary:

Letter re Curecanti National Recreation Area Boundary to Senator Michael Bennet

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Laura Seymour for David Baumgarten **Submitter's Email Address:** lseymour@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:
ok be 3/28/16 The proposed letter is a consequence of a long and productive series of discussions with the Park Service, Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County and Senator Bennet's office. The legislation that is addressed is in a form acceptable to those parties, and also has been vetted and informally approved by the Gunnison County Stockgrowers'.

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: 3/29/2016 Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 4/1/2016

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

Agenda Date: 4/5/2016

Revised April 2015

April 5, 2016

Honorable Senator Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Proposed "Curecanti National Recreation Area Boundary Establishment Act of 2016"

Honorable Senator Bennet:

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado is proud to express its unanimous, longstanding and firm support of proposed federal legislation to formally establish, by law, as a unit of the National Park System the Curecanti National Recreation Area (consisting of approximately 50,667 acres of land) and the Curecanti Conservation Opportunity Area (consisting of approximately 24,300 acres of land) located outside of, but adjacent to, the boundary of the National Recreation Area.

As you know, in 1999, the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act was signed into law, which required formal study of how best to protect the neighboring Curecanti National Recreation Area. The Curecanti National Recreation Area Resource Protection Study and Environmental Impact Study was released in 2008 and recommended that the United States Congress pass legislation formally defining the boundaries of the Recreation Area and the authority of the National Park Service regarding that Area.

The Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County has worked with our neighbor, the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County, our citizens and various state and federal land and natural resource managers to establish mechanisms to best conserve the natural, cultural, recreational and scenic resources within and surrounding the Curecanti National Recreation Area. The National Park System administration, managers and personnel have been an invaluable ally in these efforts.

The proposed legislation will formalize authority to continue these efforts.

Formal legislation would also enable the National Park Service to work with willing landowners neighboring the Recreation Area on new measures to help protect and conserve their private lands through measures addressing wildlife habitat, water quality, natural scenery and other resource values.

The Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, on behalf of our citizens and visitors, thanks you for your continuing efforts regarding this legislation and urge you to introduce this legislation as soon as possible.

_____	_____	_____
Paula Swenson, Chairperson	Phil Chamberland, Vice Chair	Jonathan Houck, Commissioner