AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Letter of Support; Fat Bike Grooming and Winter Re

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

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

Summary:

At the work session on 10/25 the BOCC supported the request for Fat Bike grooming and asked staff to prepare a letter of support which would also authorize permitting the grooming

Fiscal Impact: None

Submitted by: Marlene D. Crosby **Submitter's Email Address:** mcrosby@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\mbirnie Discharge Date: 10/28/2016

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: DCM Report

Agenda Date: 11/1/2016

Revised April 2015

Proposal for Special Use Authorization on Gunnison National Forest

1. Name and address of proponent (*include zip code):*
Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association - David Ochs
PO Box 782
CB, CO 81224
Phone Numbers:
970.349.7324
Email address:
dave@cbmba.org

2. As proponent are you? *(check one)*

a. ☐ Individual*

b. ☐ Corporation+

c. ☒ Partnership/Association*

d. ☐ State Government/State Agency

e. ☐ Local Government

f. ☐ Federal Agency

*If an individual, or partnership, are you a citizen(s) of the United States?

☒ Yes ☐ No

+If a corporation are you registered to do business in Colorado and in good standing with the state?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Project description (describe in detail): (a) Type of system or facility, *(e.g., canal, pipeline, road);* (b) related structures and facilities; (c) physical specifications *(Length, width, grading, etc.*); (d) term of years needed: (e) time of year of use or operation; (f) Volume or amount of product to be transported; (g) duration and timing of construction; and (h) temporary work areas needed for construction *(Attach additional sheets, if additional space is needed.)*

a. A winter recreation system
b. — n/a
c. @ 46 miles - 30-36" groomed winter trail
d. snowfall - winter seasons - no term
e. " " "
f. vehicle & trailer
g. — n/a
h. — n/a

macintosh hd:users:davidochs:library:containers:com.apple.mail:data:library:mail downloads:df9057eb-4f0d-4913-a43a-f540a71cd282:proposalform_2012.docx

4. Attach a map covering area and show location of project proposal. (Maps should be in 1:24,00 scale, show roads, trails and any streams or lakes.)

Attached

5. Is State or Local government approval (example: building permits) required?:

☐ Attached ☒ Applied for ☐ Not Required

6. Give statement of your technical and financial capability to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate system for which authorization is being requested. (Proponents need to be aware that if a proposal moves forward to the application stage, cost recovery fees will apply. Uses of National Forest System Lands are also subject to annual land use fees.)

Currently we have 1 snowmobile & 30" grooming device. CBUBA is being charged of providing this amenity and has a tried and true history of providing results in a responsible & collaborative manner. We aim to raise funds, are applying for grants from local municipalities, and looking to partner with other organizations - Snotrackers, RMBL, GCB Fat Bikers, CB Avalanche Center, CBWR, CB & Mt. CB.

7. Describe other reasonable alternative routes and modes considered.

- see maps attached

b. Why were these alternatives not selected?

c. Give explanation as to why it is necessary to use or cross Federal Lands.

Federal lands provide the recreation corridors we are seeking to use.

8. Provide:

a) statement of need for project:

- see attached

b) the cost of proposal (construction, operation and annual maintenance):

we estimate the proposed to cost between $25,000 & $35,000.

c) expected public benefits:

MAJOR public benefits for ALL Users - a better recreation experience.

9. Describe probable effects on the population in the area, including the social and economic aspects, and rural lifestyles.

Many people choose to live here for the recreation amenities, we aim to enhance them.

10. Describe likely environmental effects that the proposed project will have on: (a) air quality; (b) visual impact; (c) surface and ground water quality and quantity; (d) the control or structural change on any stream or other body of water; (e) existing noise levels; and (f) the surface of the land, including vegetation, permafrost, soil, and soil stability. (a.) minimal - normally motorized use in the summer time sees less use in the winter. (b.) a pleasing, neat finished surface on snow remains (c.) — (d.) — (e.) snowmobile (f.) we aim to groom only when enough snow on the ground, and stop grooming with warmer temperatures & snow melt.

11. Describe the probable effects that the proposed project will have on (a) populations of fish, plant life, wildlife, and marine life, including threatened and endangered species; and (b) marine mammals, including hunting, capturing, collecting, or killing these animals.

12. State whether any hazardous material, as defined in this paragraph, will be used, produced, transported or stored on or within the area of the proposal, or used in the construction, operation, maintenance or termination of proposal or any of its facilities. ("Hazardous material" means any substance, pollutant or contaminant that is listed as hazardous under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and its regulations. The definition of hazardous substances under CERCLA includes any "hazardous waste" as defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq., and its regulations. The term hazardous materials also includes any nuclear or byproduct material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq. The term does not include petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof that is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance under CERCLA Section 101(14), 42 U.S.C. 9601(14), nor does the term include natural gas.)

Signature of Proponent :

Date: 9/1/16

This information is needed by the Forest Service to evaluate the requests to use National Forest System lands and manage those lands to protect natural resources, administer the use, and ensure public health and safety. This information is required to obtain or retain a benefit. The authority for that requirement is provided by the Organic Act of 1897 and the Federal Land Policy

and Management Act of 1976, which authorize the secretary of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations for authorizing and managing National Forest System lands. These statutes, along with the Term Permit Act, National Forest Ski Area Permit Act, Granger-Thye Act, Mineral Leasing Act, Alaska Term Permit Act , Act of September 3, 1954, Wilderness Act, National Forest Roads and Trails Act, Act of November 16, 1973, Archeological Resources Protection Act, and Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to issue authorizations or the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands. The Secretary of Agriculture's regulations at 36 CFR Part 251, Subpart B, establish procedures for issuing those authorizations.

The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) govern the confidentiality to be provided for information received by the Forest Service.

Fat Bike Grooming and Winter Recreation

Winter 2016/2017

CBMBA

SINCE 1983

RIDE · BUILD · MAINTAIN

FBW FAT BIKE WORLDS

CRESTED BUTTE GUNNISON VALLEY

crested butte MOUNTAIN RESORT

EVOLUTION BIKE PARK

Mission and Purpose:

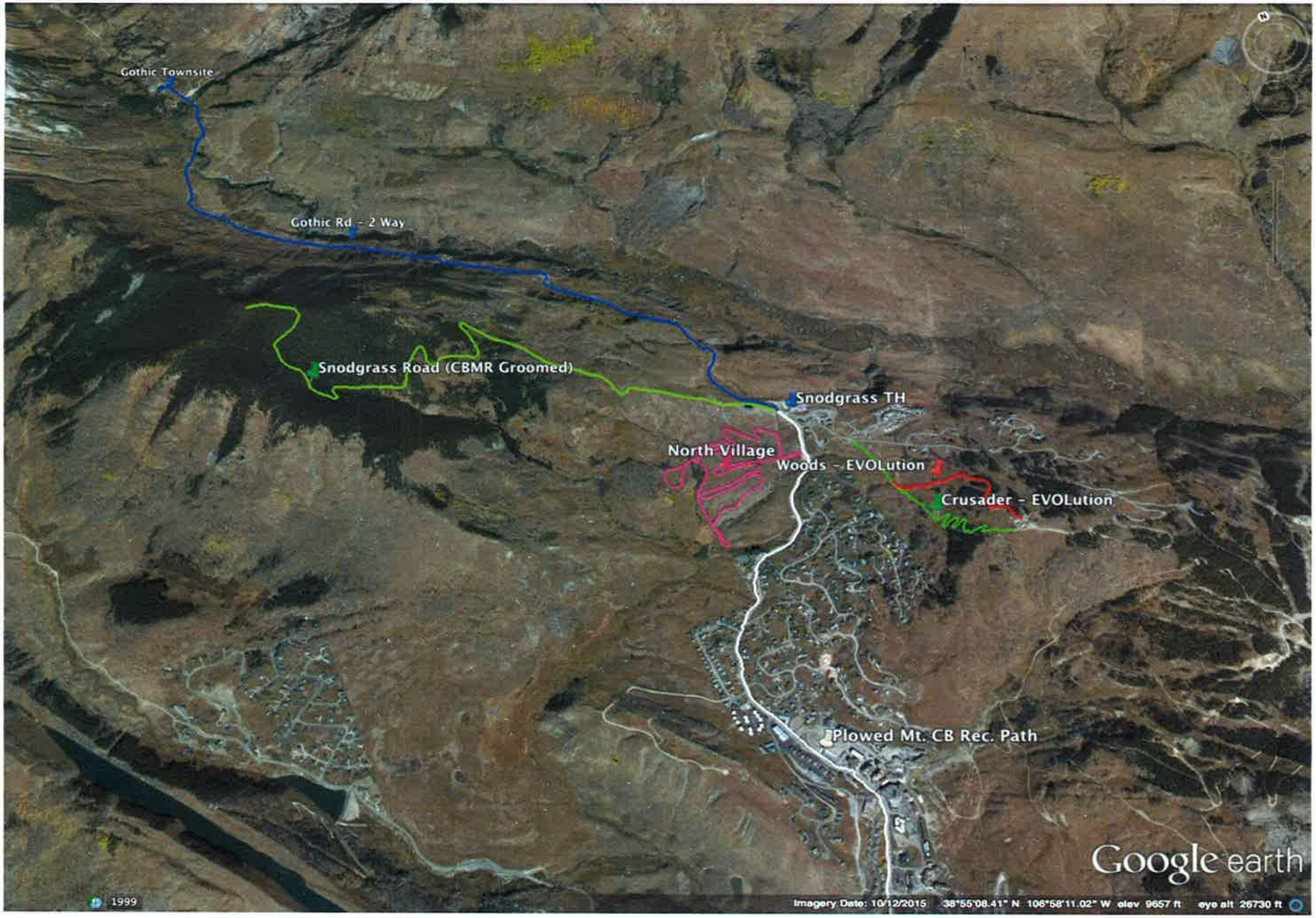
To promote and create a Fat Biking experience and winter recreation amenity that stands out as unique and unparalleled as the cycling and trail culture is during the summer season in the greater Crested Butte area.

In 2015/16, we received great support from the Gunnison-Crested Butte Tourism Association and were able to fund a snowmobile and a 30" Groomer. We groomed singletrack at Lily Lake, North Village, and Crested Butte Mountain Resort. It worked! Not only did we provide an amazing winter cycling amenity, but users of all types took advantage of the grooming and realized a winter adventure experience like never before. Our goals for 2016 and 2017 are to groom those venues and more, including working with the US Forest Service to groom drainages, classic summer cycling routes, and areas that serve the entire Upper Gunnison Valley Area to continue what we've started; providing a unique, world class winter experience, and a venue suitable for the 2nd Annual Fat Bike World Championships!

Proposed Grooming – Winter 2016/2017 – Big Picture Map

Proposed Grooming – Town of Crested Butte

Proposed Grooming – Town of Mt. Crested Butte



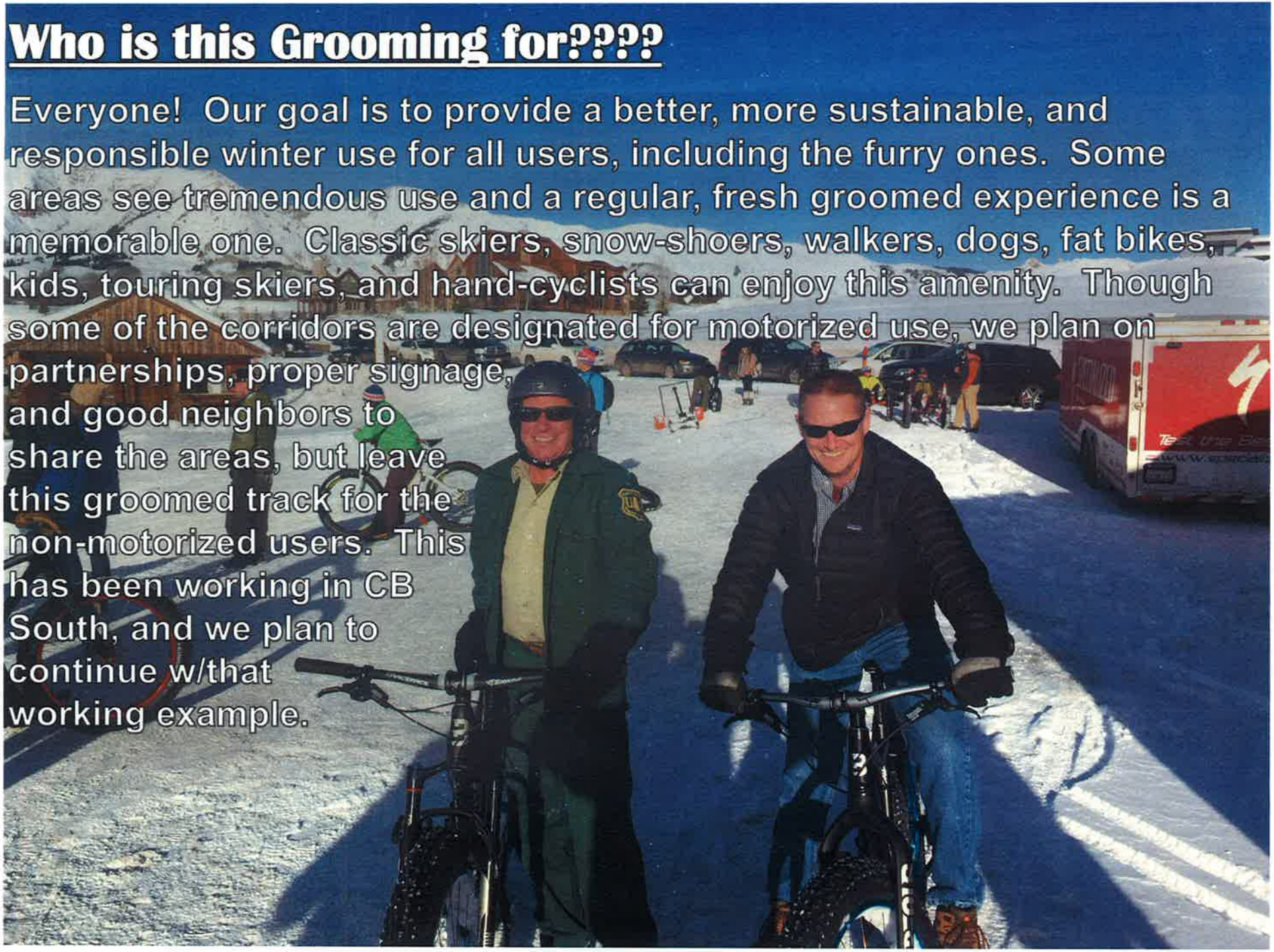
Proposed Grooming – Cement Creek/CB South

Don't let this happen to you!

A good experience requires a LOT of grooming! Grooming requires a snowmobile and a groomer. Snowmobiling requires transport, gas, new belts, oil, and regular servicing. Grooming also requires manual/physical labor, time, safety gear, and signage. We plan on a broad sign initiative addressing etiquette, shared use, and promotion of our supporters.

Who is this Grooming for????

Everyone! Our goal is to provide a better, more sustainable, and responsible winter use for all users, including the furry ones. Some areas see tremendous use and a regular, fresh groomed experience is a memorable one. Classic skiers, snow-shoers, walkers, dogs, fat bikes, kids, touring skiers, and hand-cyclists can enjoy this amenity. Though some of the corridors are designated for motorized use, we plan on partnerships, proper signage, and good neighbors to share the areas, but leave this groomed track for the non-motorized users. This has been working in CB South, and we plan to continue w/that working example.



Demographic
Geographic Market
Return on Investment
pb
DEVON BALET

Demographic, Geographic Market, and ROI:

Fat Biking has exploded onto the winter scene over the last 5 years. We captured a very large and engaged audience in 2015/16 with the first ever Fat Bike World Championships. We watched families come to Crested Butte for a ski vacation and wind up renting Fat Bikes for a winter adventure vacation. We've seen Fat Bikes used as commuter bikes for locals, and racers honing their skills to stay in shape. We've seen legends like Dave Wiens and Travis Brown along with Pro Road Cyclists on our trails and in our races. We've seen Moms, Dads, Kids, Grandmas and Grandpas on Fat Bikes. We've seen skiers use Fat Bikes to access trailheads. We've seen the Midwest, who have championed Fat Bikes over the last 10 years, come to the Rockies to experience Fat Bikes and winter riding in the 'birthplace of mountain biking'. We've seen Fat Bikers come to Crested Butte and spend extra days here skiing – and vice versa.

Fat Bike Worlds alone brought over 300 Fat Bikers from around the Country and as far as England, Iceland, and Costa Rica, injecting at least $350,000 into the local economy. Front Range, Western Slope, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin lead the pack for our drive/fly market.

We saw coverage in the Boston Globe, the New York Times, the Dallas Morning News, and the Houston Chronicle to name just the big ones.

Combined with the cycling, outdoor, and ski industry publications, we saw a media value of over $230,034. Fat Bike Worlds itself garnered more free media than alpine skiing over the course of the entire winter season.

The average Fat Biker ranges from 25 – 54 years of age, with the bulk in the 35 – 44 year old range. The average household (pre-tax) income is $128,000 with 80% having bachelor degrees or higher. 16% of Fat Bike owners have more than one Fat Bike. Of the mountain bikers NOT considering purchasing a Fat Bike, 71% are interested in a demo ride, borrowing, or renting a Fat Bike.

We have so much more to offer! With your help we can become the #1 Rocky Mountain Destination for Fat Biking, and continue the momentum and energy we have already started.

Conclusion:

With the momentum we have started, Fat Biking is ours to lose!

In Winter, cars coming to our Towns have skis in the rocket box, and Fat Bikes on the back. Bike shops in our Towns have seen more winter business, have stayed open longer, and with more staff. Ski shops are renting Fat Bikes as an option for our guests and visitors. Hotels are carrying their own demo fleets.

Snow conditions are variable here in the Rockies – we never know what we're going to get for snowfall. With an option to lay groomed track in our drainages and along our regular bike routes, we create more opportunities to fill voids with variable conditions. We can provide a recreation amenity that ALL users can enjoy, and we are making experiences and adventures – not just incredible vacations.

THE CHAMBER
Crested Butte/Mt. Crested Butte
PO Box 1288, 601 Elk Ave
Crested Butte, CO, 81224
(970) 349-6438

John Murphy, District Ranger
Gunnison District Ranger Office
216 N. Colorado
Gunnison, CO 81230

The Crested Butte/Mt Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is writing this letter in support of the Crested Butte Mountain Biking Association's Fat Biking/Winter Grooming Plan. With fat biking becoming the fastest growing segment of the biking industry and our community seeing an amazing increase in the number of locals and visitors enjoying fat biking, it is very important that we provide recreational opportunities that provide a positive and enjoyable experience.

Currently, the Crested Butte Nordic Council allows fat bikes on only 13 kilometers of groomed trail, all on land owned by the towns of Crested Butte and Mt Crested Butte and mostly flat in-town trail. While these trails are good for a first time fat bike experience, we need to have a trail system of sufficient length and differing skill level to provide the best experience for users. The Crested Butte Mountain Biking Association's grooming plan would expand six fold the amount of groomed terrain from 13 kilometers (8.1 miles) to 87.6 kilometers (54.7 miles). All of the proposed trails are in area's allowing multiple uses and grooming minimal width fat biking trails would enhance the experience of other activities such as snowshoeing as well as allowing fat biking.

Specifically, the Chamber sees the Gothic Corridor as a potential addition to this grooming amenity. Gothic Road, from Mt Crested Butte to Gothic, currently sees heavy use resulting in diminished user experiences and even user conflicts. Grooming Gothic Road in a "maintenance" capacity would serve the thousands of users and RMBL staff with better conditions and create an amazing recreational amenity. It would also create a nexus for winter recreation in conjunction with existing Snodgrass trails and enhance grooming of the North Village area of Mt Crested Butte.

The Crested Butte/Mt Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to getting visitors to our amazing valley and to provide those visitors with the best possible experience during their stay. In addition, we work to fill in the less busy periods with events and activities that will bring visitors and provide economic benefit for our businesses and workers. Expanding fat bike terrain will go a long way toward the goals of the Chamber to enhance visitor experiences.

Therefore, we the Board of Directors of the Crested Butte/Mt Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce support the CBMBA plan for winter trail grooming and request that the U. S. Forest Service consider the plan and approve it for the 2015/17 winter season.

Respectfully Submitted,

Crested Butte/Mt Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Nick Danni, President
Frank Stichter, Vice President
Heather Leonard, Secretary
David Clayton, Treasurer
Travis Underwood
Josh Futterman
Shelley Popke
Erica Rasmussen
Mike Nolan

9.26.16

Dear Scott, John, and Aaron,

The Gunnison Crested Butte Tourism Association is in full support of CBMBA's proposed winter grooming plan, including grooming to Gothic.

It is our understanding that RMBL also supports the grooming plan. While the Lab doesn't control Gothic Rd., it is the greatest stakeholder there.

We at the TA are charged with building commercial lodging occupancies in our valley. Our alpine ski product is not strong enough at this time to provide for healthy winter occupancies on its own.

- We share research with 18 other ski valleys in Colorado, Wyoming, and California. Our winter occupancies rank #17 out of 18 ski valleys.
- For this reason, we look to other winter activities to "fill in."
    - Nordic skiing is one of those, and we work collaboratively with the Nordic Center to boost out of valley participation
    - Fat Biking is a new and exciting winter sport. The media value of the "free" press surrounding the Fat Bike World Championships exceeded the media value of all the free press surrounding alpine skiing for the entire '15/'16 ski season

We have hung our summer hat on mountain biking in the valley, and believe between Hartman Rocks and the upper valley we have a product that is the best in the United States. To help carry our mtb brand year-round, there is no better opportunity than creating a similarly wonderful winter fat bike product.

Thank you.

John Norton

September 29, 2016

Mr. John Murphy, District Ranger
Gunnison District Ranger Office
United States Forest Service
216 N. Colorado
Gunnison, CO 81230

Re: Letter in Support of Fat Bike Trail Grooming

Dear Mr. Murphy:

By way of this letter Crested Butte Mountain Resort hereby expresses its support for the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association's proposal for winter trail grooming for Fat Biking in the drainages surrounding Crested Butte including the Gothic, Brush Creek, Slate River, and Cement Creek areas.

Winter recreation is a major driver of our state and local economies and Fat Biking while relatively young shows great promise of further diversifying our winter recreational opportunities and enhancing our local economy. Crested Butte and the greater Gunnison valley is well known for its summer biking and Fat Biking has the potential to expand this type of great summertime recreation into winter but this will only be possible by allowing for groomed trails in additional areas of the valley. Many of the drainages identified above already allow snowmobiles and are considered "already compacted areas" by the Forest Service.

Last winter Crested Butte Mountain Resort showed its support for Fat Biking firsthand by allowing Fat Bikes on its private lands and on certain areas of the ski resort before and after ski lift operating hours and will do so again this winter season. While many people do not have the physical ability to ride up our groomed trails on a Fat Bike they do have the ability to ride in our surrounding valleys.

Allowing grooming for Fat Bikes will have minimal impact on the identified drainages and will allow for more people to enjoy our natural landscape and further supports our recreational based economy.

Sincerely,

CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT

Michael Kraatz
Vice President & General Manager

CRESTED BUTTE SOUTH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

61 TEOCALLI ROAD, CRESTED BUTTE, CO 81224
PHONE (970) 349-1162, WEBSITE: www.cbsouth.net, FAX (970) 349-1163

September 22, 2016

John Murphy, District Ranger
Gunnison District Ranger Office
216 N. Colorado
Gunnison, CO 81230

Scott Armentrout, Forest Supervisor
GMUG Supervisors Office
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416

RE: Grooming and Fat Bike Use on County Road 740, Cement Creek

Dear John Murphy and Scott Armentrout,

The Crested Butte South Board of Directors is writing this letter in support of the Crested Butte Mountain Biking Association's Fat Biking/Winter Grooming Plan and the expansion of winter recreation opportunities on Cement Creek Road and all of the proposed drainages.

Crested Butte South is uniquely situated at the base of Cement Creek road. Our community spends many days accessing the incredible terrain, intricate tail system and unbelievable views. Winter access is critical in getting into the backcountry and the grooming proposal would enhance this access.

The Crested Butte Mountain Biking Association's grooming plan would expand the amount of groomed terrain. All of the proposed trails are in areas allowing multiple uses and grooming minimal width fat biking trails would enhance the experience of other activities such as skiing, snowshoeing as well as allowing fat biking.

Grooming Fat Bike Trails is growing and a key recreational activity for the many mountain bikers located here in the Upper East River Valley. Not only will the bikers enjoy the expanded grooming but also all trail lovers including: hikers/walkers, alpine skiers, Nordic skiers, snowshoers, and dog lovers. Grooming a 30" – 36" track behind a snowmobile creates a better user experience that all enjoy. Almost all of these proposed areas already see snowmobile use.

Crested Butte South Board of Directors is dedicated to getting community members access to the amazing valley and to provide visitors with the best possible experience. Expanding fat bike terrain will go a long way toward the goals and priorities of our Strategic Plan to expand the trail systems around our community.

Therefore, we the Board of Directors of the Crested Butte South Property Owners Association support the CBMBA plan for winter trail grooming and request that the U. S. Forest Service consider the plan and approve it for the 2016/2017 winter season.

Sincerely,

Crested Butte South Property Owners Association Board of Directors
Kevin Van Horn
Mark Trautman
Pat Wallace
Shay Wyckoff
Matt Feier

Submitted by:

Dom Eymere
Association Manager
CB South POA
61 Teocalli Road
Crested Butte, CO 81224
970-349-1162
dom@cbsouth.net

Dear Mayor Glenn Michel and Crested Butte Town Council Members,

As an organization representing winter recreationalists of all types, Share the Slate urges the Crested Butte Town Council to support the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association's (CBMBA) proposal for winter grooming.

First, Share the Slate believes that CBMBA's winter grooming proposal is beneficial to our community. Their proposal will 1) generate expanded recreation opportunities for our community as well as visitors, 2) improve opportunities for winter tourism that can benefit local businesses, and 3) provide a higher quality recreational experience that is less dependent on snow conditions for multiple user groups.

Furthermore, with the fast-growth of fat biking, the Crested Butte Community has struggled with conflicts between the Nordic Center and fat bike users. Creating more areas on our public lands where fat-bike users can recreate should help alleviate this conflict thus benefiting our community.

Second, Share the Slate believes that CBMBA's winter grooming proposal will improve the overall user experience for winter enthusiasts not only by improving conditions but by increasing awareness and etiquette of various user groups as well as reducing user conflicts.

CBMBA's proposal suggests a multi-use track for compacted areas such as Cement Creek Road and Slate River Road. For these areas, they plan on grooming a lane specific to classic cross-country skiing alongside a lane for other user groups like snowmobiles and fat bikers. This lane management, when used properly, can help to reduce user conflicts as well as improve the experiences of all winter enthusiasts. Furthermore, proposed signage at trailheads will help educate users of trail use and etiquette, improving awareness and also helping to reduce conflicts.

Third, Share the Slate believes that CBMBA's winter grooming proposal fosters a sense of collaboration among community organizations. For example, Share the Slate intends to work with

CBMBA to develop trail etiquette and strategies to educate both the community and visitors about winter shared use areas. Furthermore, Share the Slate and CBMBA both wish to improve signage at trailheads to educate user groups. Both organizations will collaborate to accomplish this goal.

For the reasons mentioned above, Share the Slate recommends that the Crested Butte Town Council join us in supporting the Crested Butte Mountain Biking Association in their proposal for winter grooming.

Brittany Walker Konsella, President
Kendall Tankersly, Vice President
Kristi Kagy, Secretary
Adam Kagy, Treasurer
Josh Egedy, Board Member
Will Dujardin, Board Member
Frank Konsella, Board Member

Share the Slate
www.sharetheslate.com
info@sharetheslate.com

Share the Slate
Share the Valley

P.O. Box 519
Crested Butte, CO 81224
Phone: 970.349.7231
Fax: 970.349.7213
www.rmbl.org

Sept. 21, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory supports CMBMA's request to groom trail to Gothic in the winter for fat biking. The Gothic Road is already a heavily used recreation area, so active management will create a better experience for all users, not just fat bikers, but Nordic skiers, RMBL staff, walkers, and people on snowshoes (among others).

We have seen dramatic growth in the use of the Gothic drainage, both in winter and summer. Indeed, these backcountry opportunities are a big part of why people come to Crested Butte. In large part, "getting out there" defines who we are as a community. Education is an important part of RMBL's mission, so we are glad to see people recreating in the backcountry. Managing that use, however, is important to providing a high quality and safe experience with limited impacts on the environment and the people who live and work in the valley. Consequently we appreciate CMBMA's willingness to take on management of the corridor in winter.

It is our understanding that in the late 1990's the USFS designated the upper East River valley around Gothic for non-motorized recreation and that Gunnison County followed suit in the early 2000's by designating the road between Mt. Crested Butte and Gothic as non-motorized. We do ask that motorized grooming be designated to well-defined and specific time periods and that the track only be groomed once/day. If that happens, then we believe that allowing motorized grooming is consistent with managing the valley for non-motorized recreation.

RMBL staff access Gothic primarily by Nordic skiing. Use by fat bikes, which we understand is currently allowed, tends to mess up the track for Nordic skiing. If CBMBA receives approval to groom, we ask that they manage the track, including using signage, to separate fat biking, Nordic skiing, and walking. This will enhance the recreational experience for all users.

It is important to remember that the road travels under complex avalanche terrain. RMBL maintains a travel management policy for accessing the Gothic Townsite and we would recommend that the individuals grooming the trail develop and follow a similar policy. This will help ensure their safety as well as set an example for the general public that may not be aware of the avalanche hazard.

Mt. Crested Butte
COLORADO AT ITS BEST!
PO BOX 5800 MT. CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO 81225-5800
PHONE: 970.349.6632 FAX: 970.349.6326

COPY

September 23, 2016

Scott Armentrout, Forest Supervisor
GMUG Supervisors Office
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416

John Murphy, District Ranger
Aaron Drendel, Recreation Staff Officer
Gunnison District Ranger Office
216 N. Colorado
Gunnison, CO 81230

Re: Letter in support of Fat Bike Grooming and Winter Recreation

Dear Sirs:

Please accept this letter in support of the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association (CBMBA) proposal for Winter Recreation opportunities in several drainages surrounding the Mt. Crested Butte Area.

The Town of Mt. Crested Butte supports CBMBA's mission to promote and create a Fat Biking experience and winter recreation amenity. The Town would like this amenity to stand out as unique and unparalleled as the cycling and trail culture is during the summer season.

In 2016, Mt. Crested Butte was a large proponent and supporter of the inaugural Fat Bike World Championships. That event alone gathered more media coverage and exposure than the entire winter season in the Valley.

From that event, the Town learned that grooming Fat Bike Trails is not just an amenity that is enjoyed by bike enthusiasts, a staple summer visitor, but by all trail lovers: hikers/walkers, alpine skiers, Nordic skiers, snowshoers, dogs, and even the physically challenged. Grooming a 30" – 36" track behind a snowmobile creates a better user experience that all can enjoy. Almost all of these proposed areas already see snowmobile use. This is a means of maintaining and responsibly stewarding those areas and effectively managing against over-use.

With a desire to grow the Town's winter base, the Town Council views this winter trail and recreation amenity as a means to provide more user days and unique visitor experiences. Council believes it is a responsible and effective means of maintaining highly used areas and creating better 'shared use' opportunities.

CBMBA's proposal has identified 'already compacted areas' and the only difference to the existing use is a better 'finished' surface for all users to enjoy.

The Town of Mt. Crested Butte also supports the idea of grooming Gothic Road, in conjunction with RMBL. Although this area has been identified as a non-motorized corridor, Council, along with RMBL agree that a periodic 'maintenance' run with a grooming device will create a much better environment for this highly used, often over-used recreation area. Dogs, walkers, skiers, snowshoers and fat bikers alike would have a better experience if Gothic Road saw regular care and a fresh surface after long bouts of dry weather and heavy use.

Our seasons and the weather are inconsistent. Providing this Winter grooming and trail amenity serves the Town's economic interests by providing more user options, bolsters businesses with more to lean on than just skiing, and keeps the area at the forefront of the Fat Bike and Winter trail movement which we witnessed success with last year.

The Snodgrass trailhead is a very popular, and highly used recreation destination in Mt. Crested Butte. With CBMBA proposing to groom North Village (CBMR property) again this year, the regular Snodgrass grooming from CBMR, and the possibility of a maintained and groomed Gothic Road, a winter recreation destination that provides amazing experiences for both visitors and locals alike would be created. It would also help spread users out and create less impact.

The Town supports CBMBA's proposal to create and maintain this amenity, stay in front of this growing trend, and champion the Winter Trail scene similar to the summer season. The Council respectfully hopes you will endorse CBMBA's proposal as an example of responsible and sustainable winter activity and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Todd Barnes

Todd Barnes, Mayor
Town of Mt. Crested Butte

PO Box 1269
Crested Butte, CO 81224
(970) 349-1707
info@cbnordic.org

Scott Armentrout, Forest Supervisor
GMUG Supervisor's Office
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416

October 5, 2016

John Murphy, District Ranger
Aaron Drendel, Recreation Staff Officer
Gunnison District Ranger Station
216 N. Colorado St.
Gunnison, CO 81230

Subject: Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association (CBMBA) Proposal to provide winter grooming for Fat Bikes in select drainages in the Upper Gunnison Valley.

Dear Forest Managers,

Crested Butte Nordic (CBN) supports the subject CBMBA proposal.

CB Nordic represents over 900 season pass holders and thousands of visiting Nordic trail users annually —in the 2015/2016 season we recorded over 32,000 skier days. CB Nordic also provides guided backcountry Nordic skiing and snowshoe tours, events, and grooming under permits with Forest Service. CB Nordic has been a key part of the winter economy in Crested Butte for over 30 years.

CB Nordic fully understands and supports the value of human-powered winter recreation. CB Nordic was one of the earliest supporters of Fat Biking in the Gunnison Valley. We facilitated early fat bike races held in conjunction with the annual Alley Loop ski race; Fat Biking is currently allowed on 20% of our Nordic Trails; and, we played a key role in the 1st Annual Fat Bike World Championships held in Crested Butte in 2016. We look forward to working closely with CBMBA to support winter Fat Bike recreation.

While current winter travel rules in the Gunnison Forest do not specifically address Fat Biking, CB Nordic feels that Fat Bikes (specifically, non-electric Fat Bikes) more closely align with other human-powered activities like Nordic skiing, and snow shoeing and should, therefore, be treated accordingly.

Increased uses like Fat Biking demonstrate the need for updated Winter Travel Management planning in the Gunnison Valley. CB Nordic would like to encourage the Forest Service to start this process sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,

Rick Murray, President
Crested Butte Nordic, Board of Directors

Crested Butte Nordic, founded in 1987, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to provide individuals of all ages and abilities the opportunity to learn, enjoy, and improve in the sports of nordic skiing and snowshoeing. Our Federal Identification Number is 84-106626.

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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November 01, 2016

John Murphy, District Ranger
Gunnison National Forest
216 North Colorado
Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear Mr. Murphy:

At our work session on October 25, 2016 the Board of County Commissioners heard a presentation from David Ochs on the Crested Butte Mountain Biking Association's request to do winter grooming for fat bike use on the Gothic Road, the Brush Creek Road and the Cement Creek Road. We appreciate the comments from you and your staff that were also able to attend the meeting. We have also reviewed the letters of support that have been submitted by various groups and local entities.

The proposal increases recreational opportunities in various locations for both our residents and guests to our Valley, but does not impact other users. In fact, it appears the grooming may enhance the experience of other groups. We have been proactive in supporting summer recreation opportunities, and this is an opportunity to promote and expand winter recreation.

The Brush Creek Road (CR #738) to the Forest boundary at Tent City and the Gothic Road (CR #317) to the Townsite of Gothic have long been perceived to be County roads, and currently are maintained and managed by Gunnison County under a FRTA easement from the Forest Service. The County portion of the Cement Creek Road (CR#740) ends just past Crested Butte South and even though it is plowed to the campground, it is Forest jurisdiction.

The Board of County Commissioners supports the request by CBMBA for expanded grooming in all three locations, and will be asking our staff to issue the necessary permits for grooming portions of Brush Creek Road and the Gothic Road that are within our jurisdiction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and support this important issue.

Sincerely,

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