AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Ratification of Correspondence; USFS District Rang

Action Requested:

Parties to the Agreement:

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

Summary:

Please see attached document for ratification.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Josh Ost **Submitter's Email Address:** jost@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: 11/18/2016

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 11/22/2016

Revised April 2015

Gunnison County
COLORADO

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Phone: (970) 641-0248, Fax: (970) 641-3061
Email: bocc@gunnisoncounty.org
Website: www.GunnisonCounty.org

November 18, 2016

John Murphy
Gunnison District Ranger
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison N.F.
216 N. Colorado St.
Gunnison, CO 81230

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners appreciates the opportunity to comment on your proposed regulations concerning dispersed camping in the Irwin area and the corridor between the Taylor Park Trading Post and Mirror Lake near Tincup.

Gunnison County has been pleased to be part of these discussions and participants in the meetings and public gatherings that have taken place in Tincup over the last two years. We are aware of the issues on the public lands you manage and you have been listening to the issues and impacts brought forth by private land owners in these areas as well. We clearly note that these areas have seen an increase in use driven by many different factors from more folks seeking outdoor oriented adventurers to local housing shortages. Additionally, the types and intensities of use in these areas has noticeably changed over the last decade. Despite the different feelings toward the aforementioned changes, an area of common agreement is that we need to have policies and procedures that address both the concerns of locals and the expectations and opportunities for guest to these areas.

While we have supported actions taken in the Gothic corridor and support the intent and need for curtailing resource damage in the Irwin and Tincup areas by this action, we still maintain our concern these closures will cause similar issues elsewhere. It is clear that this type of action is necessary at this time and will allow the resource to be reclaimed. We urge the Forest Service to be aware that these crowding issues are compounded by not only an increase of users but the numerous campgrounds that have been closed on the Gunnison National Forest over the years. While we are very aware of the budget, staffing and enforcement limitations you are challenged with we will continue to urge you to find resources that address the need for formalized camping and the associated facilities necessary to protect the forest and its vitality.

Again, we value our relationship with the Forest Service and look forward to continued cooperation and collaboration in efforts to provide the best possible outcomes for management of our public lands and the use and enjoyment of them by our citizens.

Best Regards,

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