AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Presentation; Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail Pl

Action Requested: Motion

Parties to the Agreement:

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

Summary:

Lindsay Utter from Pitkin Open Space will make a presentation about how the grant funding they received for the CB to Carbondale Trail will be used. This is part of the public outreach required for the grant.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown

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: 2/3/2017

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 30

Agenda Date: 2/7/2017

Revised April 2015

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: February 7th, 2017

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail Plan Update

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Marlene Crosby, Gunnison County Public Works Director
Albert Borkowski, GMUG Special Uses Program Manager
Gary Tennenbaum, Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Director
Lindsey Utter, Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Planning and Outreach Manager.

ISSUE STATEMENT: Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail planning has begun. We anticipate this to be a 2+ year effort and look forward to working with our partners and the public to reach an approved, preferred trail alignment.

BACKGROUND: The Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail will be approximately 83 miles of trail linking two of Colorado's most unique communities, through some of Colorado's most beautiful landscapes, a Scenic Byway Corridor, a historic district and two national forests. The goal for the trail is to, "Design and construct a recreation and transportation trail from Carbondale to Crested Butte following the West Elk Scenic and Historic Byway." The purposes of the trail include: enhancement of safety for both the trail users and Highway 133 and Kebler Pass motorists; to promote multi-modal transportation; to enhance recreational opportunities and recreation-based businesses; and to expand opportunities for education and interpretation of the unique natural and cultural resources in the corridor. This trail connection has been a vision in the community since the early 1990s, with the 2004 "Crested Butte to Carbondale Trail Feasibility Study" (Scenic Byway Trail Study) helping pave the way forward by demonstrating the connection could be completed within public lands and rights-of-way. In 2016, Governor Hickenlooper named the Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail as one of the 16 priority trails to complete around the State. In December of 2016, Great Outdoors Colorado awarded a planning grant to help fund the final planning and NEPA work.

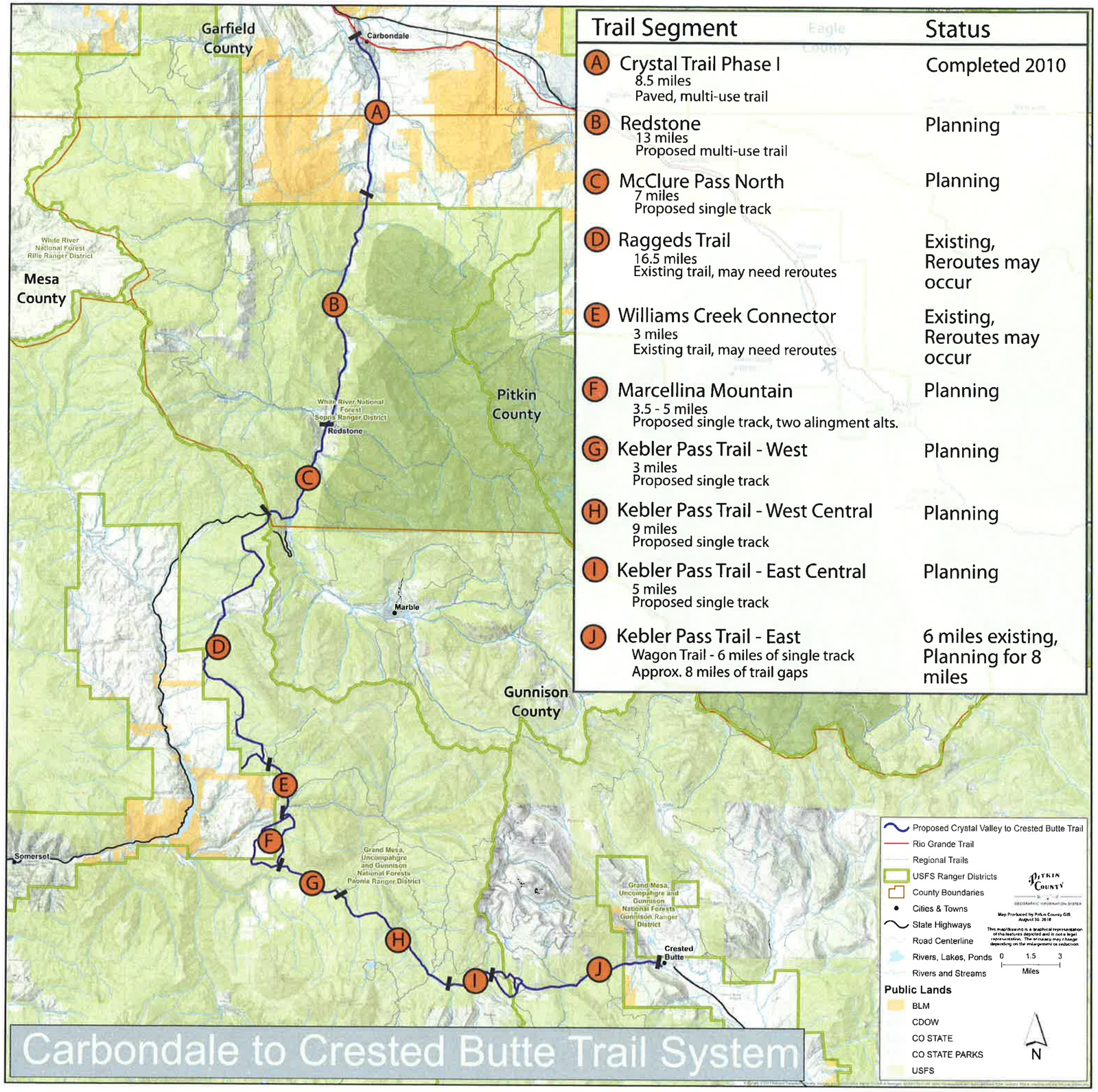
The attached map shows the trail segments and current status for each segment. Approximately 14.5 miles of new trail have been completed and approximately 19.5 miles of trail previously existed on Forest Service land. To complete the missing trail gaps, the planning effort would focus on the approximately 49 miles of missing links. The trail between the Town of Carbondale and the Historic District of Redstone is currently proposed as a multi-use route and to serve as a connection between neighborhoods in the corridor and the town or Historic District. The trail from Redstone, up and over McClure Pass to Crested Butte, will be a single-track trail, except when utilizing short distances of existing two-track routes.

The Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail Final Plan and NEPA will focus on working with our partners and the public to determine a preferred trail alignment and then working with the National Forests through a NEPA process. Pitkin County Open Space and Trails staff will lead

the planning effort in the Crystal Valley, while our partners on the GMUG are taking the lead in Gunnison County. Staff from both Gunnison County and Crested Butte has also been an instrumental part of the planning team. The local government staff members had a very positive meeting this summer with the White River and GMUG National Forest staff members. The GMUG has already included sections of the potential trail connection in their Travel Management Plan. GMUG staff and volunteers are currently working with the GMUG staff to determine a preferred route through the GMUG Forest in order to proceed with NEPA. The Pitkin County side is working to define the Colorado Department of Transportation right-of-way and conduct some of the baseline environmental studies in order to inform the public process in determining the preferred trail alignment. Given the goal of a multi-use trail from Carbondale to Redstone and the diversity of land ownership and rights-of-way, the Pitkin County segments will require more information before making a determination of route location. The goal is to define a preferred route location in both Pitkin and Gunnison counties by the end of 2017, in order to start the NEPA process in early 2018. The goal would be to have a deliverable, EA decision by the end of 2018 in order to start phased implementation in 2019.

KEY DISCUSSION ITEMS: Staff will be at the meeting to give an overview of the process and answer any questions.

ATTACHMENTS: Map, please visit www.PitkinOSTprojects.com to review the outreach regarding the Crystal Valley sections.



Trail Segment	Status
(A) Crystal Trail Phase I 8.5 miles Paved, multi-use trail	Completed 2010
(B) Redstone 13 miles Proposed multi-use trail	Planning
(C) McClure Pass North 7 miles Proposed single track	Planning
(D) Raggeds Trail 16.5 miles Existing trail, may need reroutes	Existing, Reroutes may occur
(E) Williams Creek Connector 3 miles Existing trail, may need reroutes	Existing, Reroutes may occur
(F) Marcellina Mountain 3.5 - 5 miles Proposed single track, two alingment alts.	Planning
(G) Kebler Pass Trail - West 3 miles Proposed single track	Planning
(H) Kebler Pass Trail - West Central 9 miles Proposed single track	Planning
(I) Kebler Pass Trail - East Central 5 miles Proposed single track	Planning
(J) Kebler Pass Trail - East Wagon Trail - 6 miles of single track Approx. 8 miles of trail gaps	6 miles existing, Planning for 8 miles