September 24, 2013

Colorado State Parks
State Trails Program
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Signal Peak Master Trail Planning Grant

To Whom It May Concern

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners supports Gunnison Trails' grant application for its Signal Peak Master Trail Plan project.

Trail planning in the Signal Peak area would benefit our citizens, businesses and tourists, as well as the area since recreation in and around Signal Peak is longstanding. With better management, trail opportunities could be expanded to fit different age groups and ability levels. In addition to the benefits to our human population, trail planning in this area can also increase awareness of the Gunnison Sage-grouse and other animal species in the area.

As noted in the recent report published by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in Seattle, WA, access to great recreational opportunities is a common factor in areas where people routinely live into their 80s. This same report ranked Gunnison County as the #3 US County in which people are living the longest (males ranked #2 with a life expectancy of 81.65 years, and females ranked #7 with a life expectancy of 84.33 years). Dr. Ali Mokdad, a professor of global health at IHME, is quoted as saying, "There's no question that high rates of physical activity (are) a common theme throughout Colorado counties that also have high life expectancy." We couldn't agree more.

Please give your full consideration to Gunnison Trails' grant application.

Sincerely,

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

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