AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

AgendaTitle:
Kebler Pass; Winter Trailhead Management Plan

Action Requested: Motion

Parties to the Agreement:

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

Summary:
I have attached a memo which gives background information.

Fiscal Impact:

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:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ○

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 10/30/2014

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

Agenda Date: 11/4/2014 Follow Up Agenda Date:

Revised April 2013

Gunnison County Public Works Department

195 Basin Park Drive
Gunnison, CO 81230

Phone: 970-641-0044

TO: **Board of County Commissioners**
Matthew Birnie, County Manager

FROM: **Marlene Crosby** Marlene

DATE: **October 28, 2014**

SUBJECT: **Kebler Winter Trailhead**

For at least 20 years we have worked to make the winter trailhead on Kebler work for the different user groups. It is highly unlikely the trailhead will ever be big enough for all of the users on a busy winter weekend unless the Irwin residents are able to secure their own parking area.

Last year I had a number of e-mails expressing concern about the management of the trailhead, the signing, etc. We held a public meeting in Crested Butte the evening of September 23, 2014 and invited the residents of Irwin and the various user groups to meet with us to discuss possible solutions. Representatives of the Forest Service also attended.

There are two trailheads on the east side of Kebler. One is located just at the entrance to the mine and is public and has grown over the years. The other trailhead is just past the avalanche area and uses the same access off Kebler as Wildcat Trail. The upper lot was constructed by Gunnison County with funding provided by the Forest Service for the use of Forest Service permittees. The bathroom was built and is maintained by the Forest Service. The Forest Service has allowed others to use the trailhead as long as there is adequate space for the use of the permittees. Last year we did sign the area around the bathrooms to keep access open to the facility.

Several years ago we began requiring that all snowmobiles be parked outside of the plowed areas of the trailheads and that has increased the available parking and improved conditions for the plow operators.

An Irwin resident estimated that there are 15 homes in Irwin with approximately 20 people there during the winter. However, there are multiple cars per home. Plow crews estimate that Irwin residents occupy 80% of the parking. There is also congestion caused by construction workers parking their cars during the day while they work on various projects in Irwin, at the Lodge, and in Floresta. There is private property on the west side of Kebler that may access their cabins during the winter from the trailhead. The new toy haulers take much more room than the old snowmobile trailers which is also causing part of the problems.

Rather than a lengthy discussion of the problems I am proposing some changes which I think will help address the issues.

First in the upper lot:

There will be six spaces signed and reserved for Burt Rentals.
There will be six spaces signed and reserved for Action Adventures.
There will be one space signed and reserved for Irwin Guides which will allow for overnight parking.
There will be some type of company identifier on the vehicles and anyone else parking in these spaces will be towed!

Private Property Owners including Irwin Residents:

Property owners will be issued no more than two permits per occupied dwelling at a cost of $100.00 each. Initially the proposal was for one permit per property owner, but that might not be reasonable. The permit will allow for overnight parking. Overnight parking will be allowed in the upper lot and on the south side of the Kebler Pass Road in the lower lot. No trailers will be allowed in either lot.
Vehicles not moved on a regular basis will be towed.

Public Use:

The public will be allowed to use any available spots on the upper lot.
The south side of the lower lot will be space available for all vehicles, but overnight only with a permit.
The north side of the lower lot will be restricted to units with trailers and there will be **NO** overnight parking.

Trailers:

Wide spots along the Kebler Pass Road will be plowed for overflow and overnight trailer parking. Overnight parking will require a property owner permit. Snowmobile use is not allowed on the County road due to the width, sharp curves, and excessive speed of snowmobiles, so the people wanting to park a trailer would have to off load their snow machine, drive down and disconnect their trailer and then drive back to the parking lot or leave both the vehicle and the trailer in the wide spot. If the wide spots become too congested they will not be plowed until some of the trailers are moved.
Trailers that are left for an extended period of time will be towed.

In all events, Irwin residents need to be encouraged to find a parking area that they can use. It is not the County's responsibility to provide plowed parking.

In the past it has not been effective to wait on the Town of Mt. Crested Butte to issue parking warnings and/or have vehicles towed. We are requesting permission to have Public Works staff tag a vehicle for towing and then if it has not been moved within 24 hours have it towed. (Consideration will be given when avalanche danger prevents trailhead users from moving their vehicles.