AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

AgendaTitle:
Participation Discussion; Over-the-Snow Vehicles (OSV) Community Planning Process; Winter Travel Management Plan for the Gunnison National Forest; Fiscal year 2016

Action Requested: Discussion

Parties to the Agreement:

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

Summary:
Please see the attached correspondence.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Katherine Haase **Submitter's Email Address:** khaase@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:

ok db 3/19/15

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\dBaumgarten Discharge Date: 3/19/2015 Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:
The intent of this agenda item is for the BOCC to disuss the concept of participating in this process, not to engage in or host the actual dialogue related to OSV/travel management at this time.

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 3/23/2015

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 15

Agenda Date: 4/7/2015 Follow Up Agenda Date:

Revised April 2013

March 19, 2015

Mr. John Murphy, District Ranger
U.S. Forest Service
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416

Dear John,

On behalf of the Towns of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte, we write today to encourage the United States Forest Service to prioritize and fully support a community planning process for over-the-snow vehicles ("OSV") and a winter travel management plan in the Gunnison National Forest during fiscal year 2016. As community leaders, we believe that a facilitated dialogue of different user groups related to OSV use can result in productive discussion about the future of our public lands in winter, and a reasonable winter travel proposal that a majority of the community can support. This type of planning is critical to the ongoing success of our communities, regardless of season.

In [YEAR], the "gang of nine" presented a community-developed proposal for OSV use in the Crested Butte area to the United States Forest Service (the "USFS"). The rules and regulations contained in the gang of nine's recommendations have been in place since [YEAR] and are depicted on user maps distributed by the USFS. Some user groups have questioned whether those rules and regulations are currently being enforced. In addition, new technology and increasing activity in our local backcountry areas may lead to a reconsideration of the gang of nine recommendations. We anticipate that these issues, along with many others, would be addressed as a result of a community planning process.

Our communities are not lacking in passionate citizens who would voluntarily participate in this type of dialogue. We strongly believe any community dialogue should include representation from a diverse set of user groups and should focus on finding common ground, as opposed to areas of division. We anticipate that at least one of the three Gunnison County Commissioners will participate in this dialogue process, as well.

If the USFS is willing to prioritize a community planning process regarding winter travel management and OSV use during fiscal year 2016, please let us know how best we should proceed. The Towns are willing to convene the different user groups and to support an initial dialogue. Although the Towns do not have the financial resources or expertise to facilitate this type of process through its entire lifecycle, we are willing to help seek out and secure funding sources for the project. We do understand that securing funding for this project, outside or in

conjunction with USFS funding, will help ensure the project's priority during fiscal year 2016. We would appreciate any guidance or assistance the USFS can provide related to the process and regarding potential funding sources.

Our Towns recognize that the recreational uses on our local public lands continue to increase every year regardless of the season; we do not anticipate a slow-down in recreational activity in the near future. As recreational activity increases, OSV use and winter travel management are one of many pressing issues facing both the USFS, our own communities and Gunnison County. The planning process suggested in this letter will help our community plan for its own future, and will help guide the decisions of future elected officials in our Towns.

Both of our Towns would welcome a discussion with the USFS related to OSV use and winter travel management, as well as the challenges that arise from increased recreational uses on our public lands. We look forward to your response regarding the proposed planning process described in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the information set forth herein, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Best Regards,

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Aaron "Huck" Huckstep	David Clayton
Mayor, Town of Crested Butte	Mayor, Town of Mt. Crested Butte

cc: Mr. Scott Armentrout, Forest Supervisor