AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Correspondence; Letter of Support; Upper Gunnison

Action Requested:

Parties to the Agreement:

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

Summary:

Please see attached letter drafted by Jim Cochran

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:
ok db 8/31/17

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\dBaumgarten Discharge Date: 8/31/2017 Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 8/31/2017

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 5

Agenda Date: 9/5/2017

Revised April 2015

Re: Landscape scale riparian/wet meadow restoration, coordination, and technology transfer in the sagebrush landscapes of western Colorado (2018-2019)

Dear NFWF Selection Committee:

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy's (UGRWCD) proposal to NFWF's Sagebrush Landscapes Program. The proposal (Landscape scale riparian/wet meadow restoration, coordination, and technology transfer in the sagebrush landscapes of western Colorado) addresses the critical issues of landscape scale restoration and collaboration between different population centers of Gunnison Sage-grouse (GusG). For over five years Gunnison County has worked with the Gunnison Basin Climate Change Working Group in developing habitat restoration in the Gunnison Basin that enhances brood-rearing habitat for GuSG, increases wet meadows' resilience to climate change, and increases vegetation production and diversity. We have used Zeedyk-style rock structures, earthen structures to disperse flow from incised channels, and drift fences to change ungulate grazing patterns. These methods have been implemented successfully on both public and private lands in the Gunnison Basin.

Currently, the Crawford, San Miguel, and Pinon Mesa sage-grouse Local Working Groups are beginning to implement similar restoration methods in the satellite populations of Gunnison Sage-Grouse. This proposal to NFWF builds on the experiences and capacity developed over the past five years in the Gunnison Basin to collaborate with the satellite populations on restoration work. The landscape scale coordination and information sharing will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the wet meadow restoration work. The proposed work includes workshops, field tours, and stakeholder meetings. These are critical for sharing the lessons learned in each basin and working to improve habitat for GuSG at a landscape scale. The proposal also includes funding for on-the-ground restoration work and engagement with restoration experts in the field and classroom. These types of cross-boundary projects are essential for addressing natural resources issues at a relevant scale and exemplify NFWF's goal of an "all-lands' approach to land management.

The UGRWCD proposal addresses the issues of technology transfer and coordination across land owners and management agencies. If funded, the proposal will help to coordinate wet meadow restoration work in areas that are critical for the Gunnison Sage-grouse and move managers towards a more holistic and range-wide management approach.

Sincerely,

Gunnison County BoCC

DRAFT