AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Correspondence; Taylor Park Vegetation Treatment E

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

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

Summary:

Attached please find a letter to the USFS providing interim and supplemental comments regarding the Taylor Park Vegetation Management EA #53662.

Fiscal Impact: 0

Submitted by: Office of the County Attorney **Submitter's Email Address:** rmagruder@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: 7/13/2018

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 7/17/2018

Revised April 2015

July 17, 2018

John Slown
U.S. Forest Service
Gunnison Ranger District
216 N. Colorado
Gunnison, CO, 81230
jslown@fs.fed.us

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

RE: Taylor Park Vegetation Management EA #53662

Dear Mr. Slown,

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado ("BOCC"), we submit the following interim and supplemental comments as an addition to the comments submitted by the BOCC on May 21, regarding the Taylor Park Vegetation Management Environmental Assessment ("Taylor Park EA"). The following should not be construed as all of the comments, or the objections, the BOCC may submit during the EA process; the BOCC continues to reserve the right to fully participate in this process and, if necessary, object to the EA to the fullest extent permitted by Federal law.

The limited purpose of these interim and supplemental comments is to address the United States Forest Service's ("USFS's") consideration of an adaptive management approach to the proposed action which is the subject of the Taylor Park EA. The BOCC writes to express its support for this approach with regard to any action alternative selected by the USFS at the end of the EA process. In other words, no matter which action alternative is selected, it should include an adaptive management approach.

At the June 21, 2018 scoping public meeting in Tin Cup, Colorado, USFS presented information regarding adaptive implementation, employing the Spruce Beetle Epidemic and Sudden Aspen Decline Response ("SBEADMR") project as an example of how such an implementation might be applied to the action alternatives in the current EA. To the extent the USFS proceeds with its proposed action, or a modified version of its proposed action, the BOCC urges the USFS to fully adopt the adaptive implementation process as part of the selected action alternative. In particular, the USFS should take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure ongoing public evolvement in the process, including but not limited to creation of an inclusive adaptive management group ("AMG") that includes, at a minimum, representatives of Gunnison County, the unincorporated municipalities adjacent to or affected by the proposed treatment area (e.g., Tincup), environmental and ranching interests, and other affected stakeholders.

At the same time, such methods should be focused on and tailored to the specific EA and proposed action; it should not, as we understand is the case with SBEADMR, be part of a larger project that, in the view of the BOCC, tends to dilute the effectiveness of local input and USFS accountability to local stakeholders. The BOCC believes that this will help ensure ongoing and full engagement of and accountability to the public, as well as assist USFS in adapting their techniques to ensure best forest management practices as the proposed treatment project progresses.

The BOCC appreciates the opportunity to provide the interim and supplemental comments, and intends to provide additional input as the EA progresses.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

By: _____
Phil Chamberland, Chairperson

By: _____
Jonathan Houck, Vice Chairperson

By: _____
John Messner, Commissioner