AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Memorandum of Understanding; STOR & NFF

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement: Commissioners, STOR Committee, National Forest Foundation

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

Summary:

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation and to facilitate operation of the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund by establishing the Project Selection Committee as a body within the STOR Committee.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Laura Stanley **Submitter's Email Address:** lstanley@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
No fiscal impact, no concerns. ln

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\lNienhueser Discharge Date: 10/31/2018

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: 11/1/2018

( ) Consent Agenda (●) Regular Agenda ( ) Worksession Time Allotted: 5 minutes

Agenda Date: 11/6/2018

Revised April 2015

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
GUNNISON COUNTY SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE
and the
NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION

This **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)** is hereby entered into by and between the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado, hereafter referred to as the Gunnison County Commissioners, and the National Forest Foundation, hereafter referred to as the NFF.

A. PURPOSE: The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation and to facilitate operation of the Gunnison County Stewardship Fund by establishing the Project Selection Committee as a body within the STOR Committee, which is described below. Further purposes of this MOU are to foster trust, clarify roles, and promote effective cooperation. This cooperation serves the mutual interest of the parties and the public.

B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFITS AND INTERESTS:

<u>STOR COMMITTEE</u>
The STOR Committee is a community coalition, created by the Gunnison County Commissioners to improve and maintain tourism and outdoor recreation in a manner that is sustainable (environmentally, socially and financially) and aligns with our community values. A collaborative and action-oriented approach is required to manage tourism and outdoor recreation. The STOR Committee is intended and structured to be a wide-ranging group that acts thoughtfully, efficiently and proactively to address negative impacts and develops unique approaches to create a sustainable tourism economy and outdoor recreation experience while preserving the natural resources of Gunnison County. The STOR Committee has developed goals and objectives, several of which align with the intent of the stewardship fund:

- To complete projects, and implement programs and strategies which will result in a sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation economy that also sustains the natural resources and aligns with the community's values.
- To utilize renewable natural resources sustainably. To not threaten a species or landscape by over-use, and optimize benefits to both the environment and human needs.
- To develop and/or maintain recreation infrastructure in Gunnison County to reduce and mitigate the impacts of recreation.
- To plan, implement and finance proposed improvements/projects through shared resources, identification and development of new funding sources and collaborative grant applications.
- To prioritize areas and/or projects for collaborative effort and action, including, but not limited to:
    - Trail development and maintenance
    - Sanitary facilities
    - Camping management/improvements
    - Trailhead improvements
    - Parking
    - Signage
    - River access
    - Lake amenities
    - Wildlife resources

<u>NFF</u>
The NFF, chartered by Congress, engages Americans in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the 193-million-acre National Forest System, and administers private gifts of funds and land for the benefit of the National Forests. The NFF believes

that communities should play a leading role in determining the future of our National Forests and Grasslands, and thus focuses efforts on connecting these communities, and the people who comprise them, to the tools, knowledge, and funding to become active and devoted stewards of this incredible public estate. In Gunnison County, the NFF is working to implement this belief by managing a stewardship fund in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and community leaders. The fund will support on-the-ground recreation and forest health improvements to National Forests and adjacent lands by pooling contributions for greater impact, and providing funding to local contractors and nonprofits to implement projects on an annual basis.

Mutual Benefit

The Gunnison County Commissioners and the NFF mutually recognize the opportunity to leverage the growing tourism and outdoor recreation economy in Gunnison County to protect natural resources and complement our community values (e.g. outdoor recreation experience and our connection with nature). Moreover, the Gunnison County Commissioners, through the STOR Committee, is an ideal entity to house the Project Selection Committee for the stewardship fund. The NFF recognizes the STOR Committee's unique value, and respects the STOR Committee's diverse makeup, proactive vision, and commitment to natural resources and community values.

C. STOR COMMITTEE SHALL:
   1. Create a project selection committee to review and select high priority recreation or forest health projects on the Gunnison National Forest and adjacent public lands in Gunnison County on an annual basis.
   2. Establish the Project Selection Committee to include STOR members, adequate representation from Fund contributors, including the Metropolitan Recreation District Board, outfitters/guides, NFF and others, and a diversity of community voices.
   3. Develop project criteria that are within the sideboards of the NFF's "outdoor experiences" and "forest health" strategic emphasis areas.
   4. Coordinate with the NFF to ensure the project selection process is transparent, fair, and efficient. *The Gunnison County Commissioners, through the STOR project selection committee, will have delegated authority from the NFF to make initial project selections. To maintain its fiduciary responsibilities to donors, the NFF Board of Directors will be required to provide final approval of STOR project selections.*

D. NFF SHALL:
   1. Enter into agreements with local government, businesses, foundations, and individuals to collect and responsibly manage funds.
   2. Coordinate directly with the U.S. Forest Service to identify an initial list of high priority recreation or forest health projects on National Forests and adjacent lands in Gunnison County.
   3. Provide representative to serve on the STOR Project Selection Committee.
   4. Provide the STOR Project Selection Committee with projects to review and select from in a timely manner to allow for adequate discussion among the Committee.
   5. Serve as a liaison and resource to the STOR Project Selection Committee for all matters involving the stewardship fund.
   6. Coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service on project design and implementation.
   7. Distribute funds to local non-profit organizations, contractors, and possibly Forest Service to implement projects.
   8. Collect and track project results and accomplishments.
   9. Report on project and fund success to contributors and other entities as requested, including at least annually to the STOR Project Selection Committee.

E. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES THAT:

1. This MOU in no way restricts the Gunnison County Commissioners, the STOR Committee or NFF from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
2. This MOU takes effect upon the signatures of the Gunnison County Commissioners and NFF, and shall remain in effect for 3 years from the date of execution. The MOU may be amended upon written request to either the Gunnison County Commissioners or the NFF by the other party, and subsequent bilateral execution. Either the Gunnison County Commissioners or the NFF may terminate this MOU with a 30-day written notice to the other party.
3. STOR Project Selection Committee meetings and deliberations shall follow the protocol established in STOR's charter.
4. The principal contacts for this MOU are:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and STOR COMMITTEE CONTACTS	NFF CONTACTS
Cathie Pagano, Director, Community and Economic Development	Emily Olsen, Colorado Program Manager
Gunnison County 200 E. Virginia Gunnison, CO 81230	National Forest Foundation 390 Union Blvd, Ste 400 Denver, CO 80108
Phone: 970-641-7985 Email: cpagano@gunnisoncounty.org	Phone: 720-219-0682 Email: eolsen@nationalforests.org

5. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate either the STOR Committee or the NFF to obligate or transfer any funds.

_____

Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado — Date

Attest: _____

_____

[NFF Signatory] — Date
[Title]
National Forest Foundation