AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: GOCO Stewardship Impact Grant

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

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

Summary:

STOR Committee applying for GOCO Stewardship Impact Grant for Gunnison County Stewardship Program

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Cathie Pagano **Submitter's Email Address:** cpagano@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
No conerns, County contribution can be covered in 2019 adopted budget. ln

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\lNienhueser Discharge Date: 1/4/2019

County Attorney Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
ok db 1/2/19

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: 1/3/2019 Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ( ) No (●)

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\emense Discharge Date: 1/4/2019

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

Agenda Date: 1/8/2019

Revised April 2015

Gunnison County, CO
Community Development Department
221 N. Wisconsin St. Ste. D, Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: (970) 641-0360 FAX: (970) 641-8585
Website: www.gunnisoncounty.org
Email: planning@gunnisoncounty.org

To: BOCC

From: Cathie Pagano, Director of Community and Economic Development

Date: January 4, 2019

Re: GOCO Stewardship Impact Grant

The STOR Committee proposes to apply for a *Stewardship Impact Grant* from GOCO that was recently released and is due Jan. 18th. With the Stewardship Impact Grant, "GOCO aims to improve the condition of our state's lands by providing grants for outdoor stewardship projects that demonstrate meaningful improvements to the state's ecological and recreational amenities."

We have previously submitted a proposal for this grant but GOCO decided to hold off on funding any projects at that time. They did however let us know that our application was very competitive and encouraged us to apply to this first round. We are requesting $350,000 over a three year period from GOCO for the Gunnison County Stewardship Program. This program would include two components:

- Development of a stewardship program aimed at:
    - Communication, education, outreach
    - Restoration and maintenance
    - Recreation infrastructure
- Establishment and hiring of a Stewardship Coordinator

The program is intended to support and complement the existing work of the many groups (CBCC, Gunnison Trails, USFS, etc.) in the County. We would like to grow the stewardship capacity and programming in the County. The STOR Committee would be tasked with working with the Coordinator and directing funding toward priority projects. We are also teaming up with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado on this program. They will likely be offering cash ($15k) and in-kind support for this program and provide us with their resources, expertise in background in development of the stewardship program and coordinator role.

The STOR Committee respectfully requests a letter of support (draft attached) from City Council for this project and financial support. We are asking for $5,000 from each of the municipalities over a three year period. It is proposed that the County contribute $12,000 to support the effort, along with significant in-kind work. The County contribution can be accommodated in the Community Development budget.

It is expected that other matching funds will come from the TA, CB Conservation Corps, Gunnison Trails, CB Land Trust, CB Nordic, and USFS.

I have also attached a draft resolution for your consideration. The GOCO application requires a BOCC resolution of support for submittal.

Overview of the proposed Gunnison County Stewardship Program

The STOR Committee members have developed an outline for volunteer stewardship in Gunnison County. We believe the following three areas are critical for creating a sustainable recreation experience in our community. Volunteer stewardship efforts may include the following:

- Outreach, communication and education efforts in critical drainages, recreation areas and trailheads that receive high use. The need for heightened outreach and education efforts have been realized by our community. Irresponsible backcountry use by uninformed visitors has been observed in drainages across

our region. Additional wayfinding, signage and stewardship information is needed throughout Gunnison County. In the Gothic corridor, just northwest of downtown Crested Butte, visitation numbers have grown by 23% in five years and the impacts have resulted in irreversible damage to long-term, scientific research sites at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. This past fall, the USFS worked to line 400 locations along roads with boulders to prevent public land users from parking and/or camping in unpermitted areas. The capacity of land managers and local stewardship organizations is stretched to or beyond capacity in most cases. Agencies and organizations are working hard to mitigate these impacts but additional resources are needed.

- Restoration and maintenance of critical areas including wilderness areas, riparian areas, campgrounds, non-motorized trails that receive little maintenance currently, non-sustainable routes, research sites affiliated with Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory and other priority sites. Volunteer efforts would be a critical component of this effort—restoration and maintenance often drop to the bottom of the priority list until a site is in crisis. We have a number of areas that require maintenance and restoration and would be a great opportunity to gather on-going volunteers to support these efforts. Increasing our collective volunteer stewardship efforts would enable proactive resource management rather than continuing to address resource conditions and needs after an issue has surfaced. Projected funding needs to be determined.

- Recreation infrastructure projects that align with STOR Committee and community priorities. Volunteer efforts have historically been a significant component of any new trail and infrastructure development. This fall, Gunnison Trails gathered 75 volunteers, ages 5-70, to construct two miles of new trail in the Signal Peak area, adjacent to the City of Gunnison. USFS, BLM and others have identified the need to designate camping in specific drainages including installation of signage, fire rings, and kiosks. This designation would reduce the negative impacts from the widespread dispersed camping that occurs in many of our most fragile ecosystems currently. Toilet facilities are also desperately needed at high use sites across the County from the Marble area to Hartman Rocks, south of Gunnison.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GUNNISON COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - ___

A Resolution Approving the Grant Application for a Stewardship Impact Grant from the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and the implementation of the Gunnison County Stewardship Program.

WHEREAS, the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners supports the Great Outdoors Colorado grant application for the Gunnison County Stewardship Program on behalf of the Gunnison County Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee. If the grant is awarded, Gunnison County supports the completion of the project.

WHEREAS, Gunnison County has requested $350,000 from Great Outdoors Colorado to implement the Gunnison County Stewardship Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

1. The Gunnison County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the application and has appropriated matching funds for a grant with Great Outdoors Colorado.
2. If the grant is awarded, the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the completion of the project.
3. The Gunnison County Board of Commissioners authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of any Grant awarded.
4. The Gunnison County Board of Commissioners recognizes that as the recipient of a Great Outdoors Colorado Local Government grant the project site(s) must provide reasonable public access.
5. If the grant is awarded, the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the designated Official to sign the grant agreement with Great Outdoors Colorado.

THIS RESOLUTION AND THE APPROVAL GRANTED HEREBY shall not be effective unless and until a copy is recorded in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder of Gunnison County.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner_____, and adopted on this ____ day of _____, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO

_____
Jonathan Houck, Chairperson

_____
Roland Mason, Commissioner

_____
John Messner, Commissioner

ATTEST:

_____

Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder