COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

Gunnison Office
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March 25, 2020

Gunnison Board of County Commissioners

Re: CPW acceptance of donation of 80 acres adjacent to Blinberry Gulch State Wildlife Area

Dear Commissioners Houck, Mason and Messner,

I am writing to request your support for a project in your county that Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) plans to present to the Capital Development Committee in the near future. The property proposed for donation encompasses 80 acres of land located just west of the city of Gunnison and currently held by Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation (CWHF). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners in Wildlife program provided funding for CWHF to acquire these two 40 acre parcels of land, which are immediately adjacent to Blinberry Gulch State Wildlife Area and include portions of a Gunnison sage grouse lek complex. As you are aware, Gunnison sage grouse is listed as a "threatened" species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Based on the original agreement for funding, CWHF would now like to transfer the two parcels to CPW to complete the conservation actions to protect this lek complex and valuable winter range habitat for big game.

CPW previously acquired 200 acres in Blinberry Gulch surrounded on three sides by BLM and on the east and northeast by private land. The Blinberry State Wildlife Area property was also acquired to protect the Gunnison sage grouse lek complex and help protect it from anticipated future development.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife respectfully requests your support of CPW's acceptance of this 80 acre donation. If you either support, or do not object to, this transaction, please sign at the bottom of this letter and return it to me at my address above or email it to me (j.wenum@state.co.us) as soon as it is convenient. CPW would like to have this letter signed and available for the Capital Development Committee of the Colorado legislature by April 15, 2020. If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this further, please call me at 970-641-7069. Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

We support / do not oppose this proposal.

_____ _____ _____

Sincerely, & Thank you!

Date _____

J Wenum

Area Wildlife Manager-Gunnison