STOR

Received
County Administration
7/29/2020
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July 29, 2020

Gunnison County Administrative Office
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Dear Gunnison County Board of Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for a position on the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee. For over 40 years High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA) has been protecting the health and natural beauty of the land, rivers, and wildlife in and around Gunnison County. As Public Lands Program Director for HCCA, a position I have held since 2010, I work to protect and conserve wildlands, prevent harms to important ecosystems, and promote sustainable enjoyment of the diverse public lands in and around Gunnison County. I would be honored to serve on this committee to contribute to the long-term health and sustainability of our local public lands and economy.

I have a history of participation and leadership in projects and actions at the intersection of tourism, recreation, and public lands. These include development of the Gunnison Travel Management Plan, the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative, GMUG Forest Plan revision, and numerous stewardship projects in partnership with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. I strive for the sustainable use of public lands, robust and funded infrastructure, the application of science in decision-making, and a legacy of public lands stewardship. I understand complex county, state, and federal land management processes and policies, which is important when developing and implementing action-oriented approaches to public lands use. In addition, I work closely and effectively with community stakeholders, including those on the STOR Committee.

The fact that diverse stakeholder groups with distinct missions are engaged in a collaborative approach to managing tourism and outdoor recreation exemplifies the unique community values held in Gunnison County. But it also reflects the realization that our community is changing. A collision of values and uses could cast our public lands into disrepair and decline, or could provide an opportunity for crafting and implementing a shared community vision. I am enthusiastic about participating on the STOR Committee to achieve the latter.

I am a passionate but principled advocate for public lands and the sustainable use of those lands, and would be honored to serve on the STOR Committee.

Sincerely,

Matt Reed

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