

- 1 - Agenda, BOCC Work Session Sept 26 2023
- 2 - TAPP, Annual LMD Review and Presentation
- 3 - Status Update, Pitch Mine Reclamation Project

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Page 1 of 1

PLACE: Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Gunnison County Courthouse
200 E. Virginia Avenue; Gunnison, CO 81230
(REMOTE OPTION BELOW)

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION:

- 8:30 am
 - Call to Order

 - Tourism and Prosperity Partnership; Annual Local Marketing District Review and Presentation

 - **BREAK**

- 9:45 am
 - Status Update; Pitch Mine Reclamation Project

 - Adjourn

Please Note: Packet materials for the above discussions will be available on the Gunnison County website at <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/meetings> prior to the meeting.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82753657556?pwd=MjNDbTZHTFNRVdDemZjdC91aVBIZz09>

Meeting ID: 827 5365 7556

Passcode: 471302

One tap mobile

+17193594580,,82753657556#,,,,*471302# US

+16694449171,,82753657556#,,,,*471302# US

*NOTE: This agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items up to 24 hours in advance or the deletion of items at any time. All times are approximate. The County Manager and Deputy County Manager's reports may include administrative items not listed. Regular Meetings, Public Hearings, and Special Meetings are recorded and **ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM.** Work Sessions are not recorded and formal action cannot be taken. For further information, contact the County Administration office at 641-0248. If special accommodations are necessary per ADA, contact 641-0248 or TTY 641-3061 prior to the meeting.*

AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Tourism and Prosperity Partnership; Annual Local M

Action Requested: Discussion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins:

Term Ends:

Grant Contract #:

Summary:

For your review, a detailed document and presentation for Tuesday.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Melanie Bollig

Submitter's Email Address: mbollig@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes No

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirmie

Discharge Date: 9/21/2023

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Worksession

Time Allotted: 60

Agenda Date: 9/26/2023



September 26, 2023
Board of County Commissioners
LMD Budget Recommendations

The purpose of this report is to supplement our presentation to the Board of County Commissioners with the details of our activities. The data contained within is how we developed our budget request.

Table of Contents

Tourism

Summary 2
Lodging Tax Results 2
Marketing Results 2-5
Airline Results 5-6
Dean Runyan Study 6
Capital Improvements 7

Stewardship

Summary 8
Doo Colorado Right 8

Western

Summary 9
Western Mountain Sports 9
Rady School OIE and Blister Labs 10-16

Economic Development

Summary 17
Goals and Metrics 17
New Opportunities 17-18
Outdoor Industry Hub 18

Budget Documents

Summary 19
Spreadsheet 20-21

Tourism

Summary

Our goals in tourism have been to grow lodging revenues and support the airline service into the valley. While July came in strong for collections this year, most other months in 2023 have been down. We expect a 10% decline in total LMD revenues for 2023. This summer, we had extremely high load factors for the airplanes coming in. A drop in total capacity coming in meant that we did have fewer passengers arrive through the airport than we did in 2022.

Lodging Tax Results

2023 LMD collections continue to pace behind 2022, particularly in the winter where we saw large declines particularly in March.

Month	2022	2023	YOY
January	327,433.99	318,774.21	-3%
February	342,067.65	327,664.69	-4%
March	577,958.31	433,112.61	-25%
April	87,289.40	96,673.57	11%
May	121,894.10	124,484.83	2%
June	328,323.03	292,264.33	-11%
July	479,362.31	498,464.59	4%
Total	2,264,328.79	2,091,438.83	-8%

Marketing Results

Winter paid marketing

Overall, winter marketing performed well, but we saw declines from last year. Our spend compared to last year was relatively flat when all buys were considered. We ran a couple of buys through Matchstick Productions and Inkwell that were not managed directly by our media agency, Colvita. Colvita had a slightly smaller budget than previous years and we asked them to focus on serving impressions across our markets. With that we had a 37% increase in impressions YOY. [Here](#) is the full marketing report from Colvita.

Despite the large snowfall, we saw a drop off of web traffic of about 7.5%. While Texas was still the most likely to convert and click on the airline button, web traffic was down 35% from Texas. Colorado grew 50% in web visits. Denver and the drive market are more engaged on a large snow year where some of the fly markets are a bit more hesitant.

Conversion actions, or clicking on lodging and airline buttons, tracked very similarly to lodging tax collections and were down 13% YOY.

Summer Paid Marketing

While we do not have our full summer media report yet, we do have data from most of our providers through 8/31/2023. Our overall spend was flat to last year. A couple of larger buys were not managed by our media agency, Colvita, and were longer game content buys that we have yet to see the full return on. Those include a development of Gunnison as a route network hub on bikepacking.com as well as a video series that will become a documentary following the training and lead up to the Gunnison Grinder gravel race. We have only just begun to see the value from these larger buys and we will continue to push the content out over the next couple years.

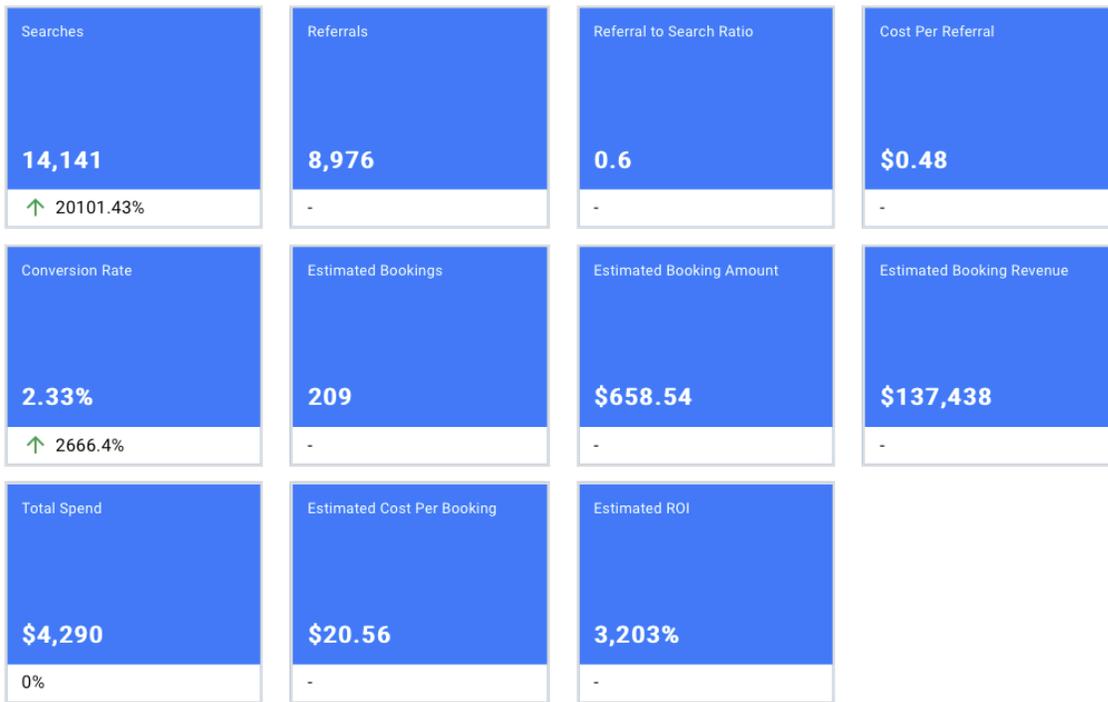
Spend managed by our creative agency, Colvita, was focused on conversion and we saw great results.. Last year we were looking higher in the decision making funnel and focusing on impressions and awareness as opposed to conversion. While total impressions decreased, our total web traffic, click through rate and clicks all increased dramatically. [Here](#) is the marketing report with data through 8/31 from Colvita.

Book Direct

We implemented BookDirect last winter. This tool allows our website visitors to search dates and get rates and availability for all the lodging properties in the Gunnison Valley. From there they book directly with lodging partners so there are no commissions or extra costs to the property. So far in 2023, we have had 14,141 searches with 8,976 referrals to partner websites. This accounts for an estimated \$138,000 worth of hotel bookings driven directly to our partners booking platforms.

Book > Direct - Performance Summary

^ ☰ Date Range: 1/1/2023 - 9/18/2023 ▾



Website Traffic

All web traffic YTD is up 15.8% over the same period last year.

For first-time site visitors, organic search traffic is up 17.9% YOY. This means we are improving in our efforts to reach new site visitors with organic content. Organic web content is one of the cheapest ways for us to reach people.

Our SEO consultants attribute these increases in traffic to the new content we have added to the website as well as maintenance and SEO optimization of older web content.

Email Newsletter

Jan.-Sept. 2022 emails sent out: 15

Jan.-Sept. 2023 emails sent out: 22

Subscribers as of Aug. 31, 2022: 43,770

Subscribers as of Aug. 31, 2023: 46,465

Open rate for tourism emails continues to hover around 30% despite the huge increase in email subscribers this year. This means we are doing a good job of gaining highly interested, engaged subscribers through our email collection channels.

Emails average a 1.58% click-through rate, meaning each email drives an average of 734 website visits.

Email remains another affordable way to reach potential and returning Gunnison Valley visitors with helpful tourism tips, stewardship discussions, and timely news.

Marketing Terms and Industry Averages

Impressions: The number of times an ad has been served to someone.

Reach: The number of people that have been served an ad (usually lower than impressions since people can be served an ad more than once)

Click Through Rate (CTR): The percentage of people that clicked on an ad they were served.

Conversion Rate: The percentage of people that clicked on a predetermined button or link on our website (airline button, lodging button, etc).

Industry average CTR for Banner ads: 0.12%

Industry average CTR for Paid Search: 4.68%

Industry average CTR for Paid Social is 0.90%

Airline Results

Winter

Our winter flight program performed very well until March where we had a dramatic drop in passengers. Overall this winter we flew 3.5% fewer passengers YOY. Despite this decrease in passengers, we actually improved our load factor by 1% because of a decrease in capacity.

We had strong performance in all months until we hit March, where a 14% decline in passengers wiped out the gains from prior months.

Despite higher fares, the costs to operate the flights increased to a point where the RTA had to pay out the full MRG to American Airlines for the Dallas service.

Summer

Our summer flight program exceeded expectations this year. While September hasn't quite wrapped up, as of the last report, we were running a 76.7% load factor through the summer. This compared to 66.8% at the same time last year. While it is great news that the planes are full, we did have a significant reduction in capacity this summer. This means that we actually flew in about 2,000 fewer people this summer compared to last.

Airport Surveys

Surveys were conducted by the RTA at the airport in both the winter and the summer. Jeff Moffett did an analysis of those surveys to identify any key findings that would be useful to TAPP. His presentation can be found [here](#).

Our net promoter score was higher with those that had been here in the past. We had a relatively low net promoter score when we looked at first time visitors. Lack of restaurant choices was noted as a main detractor for those that came here. The Colorado Tourism Office's [Longwoods study](#) showed that 82% of overnight visitors to Colorado were repeat visitors. Our airport surveys showed that 47% in winter and 45% in summer were repeat visitors. We are getting new

people to try coming here, but we need product improvements to get them to become repeat guests.

Dean Runyan Study

The Colorado Tourism Office commissioned Dean Runyan to conduct a study of the economic impact of travel to the 64 counties in the state. We used this data to calculate ROI based on TAPP's marketing spend. Of the 64 counties in the state, Gunnison grew the 8th fastest when comparing 2019 to 2022 for visitor spending.

The study looked at visitor spending, employment in tourism sectors, earnings or wages associated with tourism sectors as well as tax collections attributed to visitors.

A dashboard of economic impact can be [found here](#).

For the full study, please [visit this site](#).

Year	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	Sum	Incremental Growth	ROI	Incremental ROI
Marketing Spend (millions)	1.9	1.7	1.86	1.75	2.12	9.33			
Visitor Spending (millions)	345.1	327.3	271.5	256.6	248.6	1449.1	206.1	15532%	2209%
Employment	2450	2410	2120	2480	2530	11990	-660		
Earnings (millions)	90.7	81.7	69	73.1	70.7	385.2	31.7	4129%	340%
Local Tax Receipts (millions)	14.9	14.4	11.5	10.5	10.1	61.4	10.9	658%	11683%
State Tax Receipts (millions)	8.2	7.8	6.4	6.1	5.9	34.4	4.9	369%	53%
Total Tax Receipts (millions)	23.1	22.2	17.9	16.6	16	95.8	15.8	1027%	169%

Capital Improvements

While we have managed to outpace much of the state in tourism growth, the competition is coming for us. We have seen very little product improvement over the last several decades. Our competitors have outpaced us in both lodging improvements as well as terrain expansions. We believe that this is one of the reasons we are losing repeat visitors.

We have been keeping tabs on news of ski area improvements and expansions in [this document](#). The total investment is nearing \$6 billion. Similarly, destinations are investing in the development of trails. Durango just [announced the development](#) of the largest municipal bike park in the US. Telluride and Snowmass are doubling down on their downhill bike parks.

Stewardship

Summary

We work directly with STOR to understand what info needs to be shared with our visitors. We use our channels as the megaphone for this message. Andrew and John are currently spearheading the STOR Communications subcommittee work that came out of STOR's strategic plan. We continue to develop and share stewardship content across all of our marketing channels. In addition, we are working to better prepare our community for the future trends in visitation.

Doo Colorado Right

The Doo Colorado Right program was a smashing success. 3500 kits were distributed around the state and had an impact on 70,000 poops. Locally, we partnered with CBMBA, Gunnison Trails, RMBL, Gunnison Country Chamber and the CB/Mt. CB Chamber of Commerce. They distributed 600 kits impacting 12,000 poops in our backcountry.

This program has impacts across TAPP's stewardship, tourism and economic development missions. We are teaching and equipping users in our valley and around the state to care for the public lands that we promote. We are helping to improve our own backcountry so that visitors want to come back again. We are also shedding light on Gunnison County as a public lands paradise and an outdoor industry hub while also supporting a local exporting company. In 2023, we received [37 total media placements](#) with a reach of over 1 billion unique monthly visitors/readers.

The feedback we have received from our partners after the first year of the Doo Colorado Right was all extremely positive. We just reapplied for the program in 2024, and already have other entities contributing matching funds towards the purchase of more kits. The letters of support for the program came in from all corners of the state. Those letters can be found in [this document](#).

Western

Summary

2023 is the biggest year of TAPP support for Western. The Western programs we support have synergy across other aspects of our mission. Our tourism efforts focus on our trails and public lands access for outdoor recreation. Our economic development efforts are leveraging that same advantage as we try to grow export companies in Gunnison County.

Western Mountain Sports

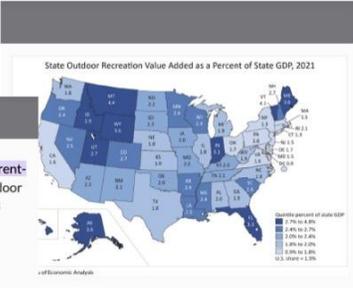
TAPP is now in the second year of supporting Western's Mountain Sports programs. There is incredible alignment with this program and our target market for tourism. We are promoting the great skiing and mountain biking we have in the valley. It is an easy crossover for us to include mountain sports athletes in our advertising content driving both our Tourism and Western missions.

Unfortunately, we did not see Mountain Sports growing the way that we might expect. [As of 9/12](#), the mountain bike team was 37% smaller than last year. We saw similar declines in the athlete registrations as a whole. On a brighter note, we did see some small growth in the incoming freshman class when it came to both Freeride and Mountain Bike.

Because we have not seen the growth that we would like in mountain sports, we are recommending to not fund the program in 2024. We will continue to lean into opportunities to promote Western Mountain Sports with inclusion in our advertising which has perfect cross over with our main tourism messaging.

Rady School OIE and Blister Labs

What has Blister Labs done for Western, the Gunnison Valley, and the State of Colorado?



State Outdoor Recreation Value Added as a Percent of State GDP, 2021

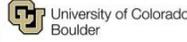
Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and States, 2021

The outdoor recreation economy accounted for 1.9 percent (\$454.0 billion) of current-dollar gross domestic product (GDP) for the nation in 2021. At the state level, outdoor recreation value added as a share of GDP ranged from 4.8 percent in Hawaii to 1.3 percent in New York and Connecticut. The share was 0.9 percent in the District of Columbia.

Current Release

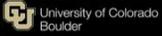
Current Release: November 9, 2022 Next Release: November 2023

BEA report for outdoor recreation in the US



**PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

First OIE Program in the Country!



**PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

Blister Labs + OIE Updates

2023 Blister Labs Summer Research Program

- **New Projects Created:** 4 graduate-level projects (3 ME and 1 CS)
- **Increasing Momentum:** 2 future projects
- **New Students to Gunnison:** 15 students total (8 partnership; 6 CU Boulder; 1 CMU partnership student)
- **National Interest:** Students & faculty from Harvey Mudd, Stanford, & MIT are inquiring about entering the program
- **Transferring to Gunnison:** From the summer 2022 program, 2 out of 3 CU Boulder partnership students transferred into the partnership program from CU Boulder
- **1st OIE Graduate Student:** First MS Rady partnership program and underrepresented minority
- **1st Summer Middle School Engineering Academy:** Outdoor Survival Engineering - 100 middle school students with 10% out-of-state with families staying in Gunnison

New Faculty Involvement with Blister Labs and OIE Research

- **10 Faculty & Staff Total**
- **New Faculty:** Melanie Peddle, Biomechanics; Sierra Bishop, Materials; Charlie Schayer, Fabrication

Diversifying the Outdoors

- **Adaptive Sports Gravel Bike**
- Interest from High Five, Craig Hospital, Kelly Brush Foundation for continued support for adaptive riders

New Industry & Project Collaborations

- **SRAM, Specialized, Santa Cruz, Revel Bikes, ENVE, Folsom, WNDR ALPINE, Wagner Custom Skis, LANGE, CAST TOURING, Patagonia, Norrøna**
- **1st OIE focused Rady Career Fair**



**PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

Economic Development

- 15 students and 6 faculty involved in Blister Labs Summer Research Program
- Assisted 12 local companies with projects, advising, and internships

Industry Recognition and Marketing

- 2 Blister Summits (2022 and 2023)
- 10 Blister Podcasts
- 41 publications, podcasts, and interviews 22-23
- DEN airport signs in terminals B and C
- Adaptive Sports Center of CB, Kelly Brush Foundation, High Five, Craig Hospital
- Beacon Guidebooks

Acknowledgement at the State Level

- COILS Panel
- OEDIT-OREC-EDA grant for \$100k
- 2 meetings with Connor Hall (OREC) and Tim Wolfe (CTO)
- 1 meeting with Eve Lieberman Executive Director of OEDIT
- 3 meetings with Hickenlooper representatives

First engineering program in the country to work on outdoor gear standards



ICELab + Entrepreneurship Opportunities

- 7 projects (Pact, Hustle, 2nd Wave, Aspect Avy, Rob Harper, Adaptive Sports Center of CB)
- New Venture Creation course – 2 companies
- 20% of partnership students have declared an Engineering Management or Entrepreneurship minor

OIMBA + Blister Speaker Series

- 4 Engineering students have enrolled into the 4+1 ME + OIMBA partnership program

1st OIE Focused Career Fair at Western

12+ companies including

- SRAM - OIE
- PACT Outdoors - OIE
- Folsom Custom Skis - OIE
- Wagner Custom Skis - OIE
- Revel Bikes – OIE
- IDS - Manufacturing
- SAS Aerospace - Aerospace
- Ball Aerospace - Aerospace

Outdoor Undergrad Curriculum Expanded

- Bike Design and Manufacturing course
- Product Development and Definition
 - 2 Patents
- Adaptive bike project: Component Design & Manufacturing Processes



Outdoor Industry Engineering Hub

Future Work

- **Scientific Publications** from the summer research program
- **Media Publications:** Continue to create podcasts with Blister and other marketing opportunities
- **Additional projects:** E-bike batteries and ski boot flex testing
- **Student recruitment and retention:** Industry Night, Career Fair, student projects
- **Conferences local and nationally:** Outdoor Media Summit (Boise, ID), Snowbound Expo (Boston, MA), COILS (Steamboat, CO)
- Continue to explore **grant opportunities**



Rady Engineering Career Fair – October 19-20th 2023

12+ companies

1. SRAM – Outdoor Industry Engineering (OIE) Panel
2. PACT Outdoors – Outdoor Industry Engineering (OIE) Panel
3. Folsom Custom Skis – Outdoor Industry Engineering (OIE) Panel
4. Wagner Custom Skis – Outdoor Industry Engineering (OIE) Panel
5. Revel Bikes

6. Ball Aerospace
7. CMG Engineering
8. Willand Performance Engineering
9. ID Sculpture
10. Electromechanical Products (EMP)
11. Special Airforce Services (SAS)
12. Additional companies confirming

Outdoor Industry Engineering Panel – October 19th

- o SRAM, PACT Outdoors, Folsom Custom Skis, Wagner Custom Skis, Revel Bikes

Industry Night and OIE Focused Projects – April 28th, 2023

- 18 projects showcased
 - o Over 50% of the projects had an OIE focus
- 185+ attendees from the community
- 2 patents with local start-up companies
 - o 1 patent pending
 - o 1 patent being evaluated

Other OIE Focused Projects 2021-2023

- Adaptive Bike Project: The project spans Mechanical Engineering student's junior year with the goal of redesigning and fabricating a recumbent adaptive hand peddled bike and donating it to the adaptative community. Courses involved with this project are core ME classes; 1) Component Design and 2) Manufacturing Processes.
- 2nd Wave Surf: This project was part of the Product Development and Definitions course, which is a one-semester course in collaboration with companies out of the ICELab who are looking for engineers to work on new or improved product developments. Products are designed, engineered, and prototyped over the course of a semester. For this project, students developed a new and innovative technique for a quick release valve during river surfing.
- The Shade: Another project out of the Product Development and Definitions course, which focused on designing a strong and adjustable attachment for a river shade.
- Hustle Bike Pedals: This project focused on the design and development of an indoor biking peddle, utilizing the magnetic technology from Hustle.
- Blister Labs: Continue to design and development of state-of-the-art gear testing equipment both in the field and in the lab. Blister Labs is part of Senior Capstone for both ME and CS, independent studies, Product Development and Definition, as well as the summer research program.

Blister Labs Summer Research Program 2022 and 2023

We have funded several paid internships and research opportunities over the summer supporting our collaboration between the partnership program and Blister Labs. The program runs for 9-weeks over the summer.

- <https://blisterreview.com/blister-labs/blister-labs>
- <https://blisterreview.com/blister-labs/next-level-mtn-bike-wheel-testing-blister-labs>

For this internship experience, students will be designing and developing physical systems that collect data for further analysis and interpretation so we can make more informed decisions when it comes to gear. For testing of outdoor gear, we are taking a circular approach, creating static and dynamic testing systems in the lab, in parallel to outdoor field testing. We are then relating this data to qualitative expert product reviews from Blister to gain better understanding of gear performance by identifying where alignment falls between the data and performance and where there may be differences, and why.

By taking this circular approach to data analytics, we are linking individualized experiences to quantitative and qualitative datasets so we can make a more informed decisions about the gear we are purchasing and using. The testing systems being developed in the lab and in the field along with data analytics and expert reviews will help us to better understand the reasoning behind product performance.

- Summer 2022
 - 9 students total (6 partnership students and 3 CU Boulder students)
 - 3 students from CU Boulder with 2/3 transferring and 1/3 starting the partnership MS project
 - 3 projects
- Summer 2023
 - 15 students total (8 Partnership, 6 CU Boulder, 1 CMU Partnership)
 - 4 projects (Ski, Bike, Fabric, Community Reviews)
- Future 2023-2024
 - 2 new projects
 - More students and universities

First OIE MS Student for the WCU/CU Partnership program

- Joshua Priest, a URM identifying student
- Was part of the 2022 Rady summer research cohort
- Advancing technologies in the infield ski and bike testing platforms
- Authoring scientific journal articles

OIE Community Engagement

- MCEN 4228: Product Development and Definition Course
 - Collaborations with local companies through ICELab
 - 2nd Wave and The Shade both received patents for the work students did on during product development course.
- MCEN 3026: Component Design + MCEN 4026: Manufacturing Processes
 - Adaptive Bike Project
- EMEN 4830: New Venture Creation
 - The Shade and new CNC Technologies
- ME Senior Capstone
 - 2 OIE capstone projects AY 22-23
 - 2 OIE capstone projects AY 23-24

Blister Labs Home

<https://blisterreview.com/blister-labs-home>

Scientific Publications

1. “*In-Field Measurements and Characterization of Alpine Ski Dynamic Behavior*”, Leo Beuken, Joshua Priest and Sean Humbert, in preparation.

Blister Labs and OIE Podcasts and News Articles – Partnership Program Specific 2023

2. Crested Butte News:
 - <https://crestedbuttenews.com/2023/01/rady-school-at-western-colorado-university-celebrates-two-years/>
3. Top of the World - Mountaineers without Borders
 - <https://topoftheworld.org/mountaineers-without-borders-looks-to-enact-real-world-solutions-to-global-engineering-problems/>
4. Snow Brains :
 - <https://snowbrains.com/why-western-colorado-university-is-the-best-school-for-skiing-and-riding/>
5. Sponsorship: The Push <https://vimeo.com/305599976>
6. Crested Butte Blister Summit:
 - <https://crestedbuttenews.com/2023/02/blister-summit-2023-expands-for-a-third-annual-event/>
7. Gunnison Times:
 - <https://www.gunnisontimes.com/articles/rady-school-launches-new-entrepreneurship-classes/>
8. Gunnison Country Times Magazine:
 - <https://www.gunnisontimes.com/articles/gunnison-country-magazine-2023/> (page 80-81)
9. Crested Butte News:
 - <https://crestedbuttenews.com/2023/07/westerns-rady-school-expands-its-programming/>

Podcasts 2022-2023

10. Blister Podcast (Jeni):
 - <https://blisterreview.com/podcasts/introducing-blister-labs-ep-180>

11. Blister Podcast (Greg):
<https://blisterreview.com/podcasts/blister-labs-motorcycles-laser-art-mtn-bikes-with-greg-vanderbeek-ep-204>
12. Blister Podcast (Greg):
<https://blisterreview.com/podcasts/blister-labs-mtb-wheelset-testing-establishing-proof-of-concept-ep-211>
13. Blister Podcast (Sean):
<https://blisterreview.com/podcasts/blister-labs-product-manufacturers-vs-researchers-reviewers-ep-213>
14. Blister Podcast (Sean):
<https://blisterreview.com/podcasts/blister-labs-ski-testing-dynamic-modeling-with-sean-humbert-ep-198>
15. Blister Podcast (Lauren):
<https://blisterreview.com/podcasts/blister-labs-technical-apparel-ratings-standards-origins-relevance-ep-215>
16. Blister Podcast (Travis Hainsworth):
<https://blisterreview.com/podcasts/gear-30-podcast/blister-labs-travis-hainsworth-on-soft-robotics-mocap-wheelsets-ep-227>
17. Blister Wheel testing video:
<https://blisterreview.com/blister-labs/next-level-mtn-bike-wheel-testing-blister-labs>
18. Blister Labs Podcast with Greg VanderBeek and Travis Hainsworth (253):
<https://blisterreview.com/podcasts/gear-30-podcast/blister-labs-wheelset-testing-updates-initial-results-ep-253>
19. Blister Labs Podcast about Community Reviews (257)
<https://blisterreview.com/podcasts/gear-30-podcast/blister-labs-blister-community-reviews-update-ep-257>

News Articles 2021-2022

20. Crested Butte News: <https://crestedbuttenews.com/2021/03/profile-jeni-blacklock/>
21. Gunnison Times:
<https://www.gunnisontimes.com/articles/western-moving-the-needle-forward-in-education/>
22. PR Newswire:
https://www.wfmz.com/news/pr_newswire/pr_newswire_sports/blister-partners-with-cu-and-western-colorado-university-for-blister-labs/article_712baeec-f305-56f5-8a2e-6c6197f8aa95.html
23. Outdoor Industry Association:
<https://outdoorindustry.org/press-release/blister-partners-with-cu-and-western-colorado-university-for-blister-labs/>
24. Boulder Weekly:
<https://www.boulderweekly.com/adventure/engineering-gear-reviews/>
25. Colorado Public Radio:
<https://www.cpr.org/show-segment/outdoor-lab-a-testing-ground-for-the-best-gear/>
26. Colorado Sun: <https://mailchi.mp/coloradosun/outsider-466904?e=1b4d0cef07>

27. Colorado Sun:
https://coloradosun.com/2022/03/21/gunnison-western-university-blister-labs/?pico=clean&utm_source=The+Colorado+Sun+Newsletters&utm_campaign=5333456995-SUNRISER_2022-03-21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_61e0bd63dc-5333456995-66978682&mc_cid=5333456995&mc_eid=04ee2cdc6c
28. 5280:
<https://www.5280.com/2022/03/blister-labs-has-big-plans-to-change-the-gear-review-industry/>
29. Denver Post:
<https://www.denverpost.com/2022/04/02/cu-csu-programs-rural-colorado/>
30. Chris Kopf Real Estate:
<https://chriskopf.com/the-rady-program-partnership-western-cu-boulder/>
31. Blister Review:
<https://blisterreview.com/blister-summit-videos/blister-labs-projects-personnel-blister-summit-22-panel-session>
32. Crested Butte News:
<https://crestedbuttenews.com/2022/03/new-blister-labs-program-tests-gear-in-and-outside-the-classroom/>
33. Colorado Biz: <https://www.cobizmag.com/work-hard-play-hard/>
34. Morgan Tilton Newsbreak:
<https://original.newsbreak.com/@morgan-tilton-1593564/2681413999888-blister-labs-launches-product-testing-program-to-improve-outdoor-gear>
35. Western Colorado University Newsroom:
<https://western.edu/rady-partners-with-local-organizations/>
36. Western Colorado University Newsroom:
<https://western.edu/rady-school-grand-opening-homecoming/>
37. Gunnison Times:
<https://www.gunnisontimes.com/audio-articles/player/audio-article-56549>
38. The Journal:
<https://www.the-journal.com/articles/the-new-standards-for-testing-outdoor-gear-are-being-created-by-colorado-university-students/>

National Interviews 2022-2023

39. The College Tour: Dr. Jeni Blacklock was on The College Tour as ‘a leader in our country who is moving the needle forward in education’
<https://www.thecolleetour.com/education-america/>
40. TIC (Thrive, Inspire, Create) Talk: Dr. Jeni Blacklock gave a TIC talk through the Gunnison Community Foundation <https://cfgv.org/tictalks/>
41. Fox31:
<https://kdvr.com/great-day-colorado/sponsored-gdc/great-day-on-campus-western-colorado-university-rady-partnership-program/>

Economic Development

Summary

The ICELab continues to create more high paying jobs in Gunnison County. Local exporters working with the ICELab continue to grow their networks and build a stronger economy for everyone in the valley. The coworking space continues to increase revenue and attendance. Gunnison county’s reputation as an outdoor industry hub also continues to grow through the many pieces that have been here historically as well as those the ICELab team has created or grown. Entrepreneurship continues to be a focus of building another leg on the Gunnison Valley economic stool.

Goals and Metrics

Economic Development Metrics											
Year		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
Gunnison County	Cumulative Metrics	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Forecast
	Companies Recruited	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	4	5	4
	Jobs Created	5	5	12	22	20	33	30	43	45	53
	Jobs >\$50k/60k Created	1	3	3	6	5	10	8	15	13	19
	Revenue \$ Increase	\$200,000	\$847,000	\$700,000	\$1,144,971	\$1,500,000	\$1,633,426	\$2,500,000	\$2,811,027	\$4,000,000	\$4,100,000
	WCU Interns/Grads placed	2	5	4	13	7	19	11	23	16	28

New Opportunities

New Venture Creation Course

John and David taught the New Venture Creation course at Rady in Spring 2023 and will do so again in 2024.. The first class had eight students (6 Mechanical Engineering and 2 Computer Science) on two teams. One of the teams worked with a local entrepreneur in the outdoor industry on a rafting product. The other is working on building a company in industrial equipment. Presentation skills and thinking like the customer are major focuses of the course.

Economic Development Airport Displays

In late 2023, we’ll have 3 displays at the airport for local products and services. These displays will raise awareness of local businesses with tourists and locals alike as they go through the airport. The ICELab will build an application process for companies to use the displays and each cycle will last 4 months.

Economic Development Real Estate

Several of the companies the ICELab works with in the valley have been voicing concerns about what warehousing and officing locations they will be able to grow into. The ICELab is beginning a process to understand what type of infrastructure would promote the growth of our local exporters.



Outdoor Industry Hub

The Moosejaw Outdoor Accelerator continues to gain recognition as a great way to grow a business in a place dedicated to outdoor industry businesses, the Gunnison Valley. This recent article in the [Colorado Sun](#) shows how we have made strides in this area. Moosejaw has agreed to be the 2024 title sponsor for our 5th national outdoor industry accelerator program.

The Outdoor Industry Funding Summit is a new initiative in 2023. The first iteration in February had early stage outdoor industry investors from Colorado and the two coasts and early stage company founders from multiple states as well. The biggest hurdle for companies we have worked with at the ICELab is their ability to find investment. This program allows us to not only connect with potential future investors, but also with startup companies. These early stage companies are the most likely candidates to move operations to the valley similar to Pact Outdoors and Gnara. This program solidifies Gunnison Valley's position as the ideal place to start an outdoor industry company. Four local companies (Gnara, Campfire Ranch, Aspect Avy, and First Ascent) have pitched for capital to this national group of investors.

Budget Documents

Summary

2024 is the first year that we saw the much needed investment in housing come out of the LMD. Revenues for TAPP are decreasing not just because over \$1 million is allocated towards other uses, but also because we are expecting our first decline in collections in many years. With that, we have looked at the programs that are underperforming and chose to cut those. Our board is recommending that we dip into reserves in order to keep the momentum going, particularly in the Blister Labs/Rady program.

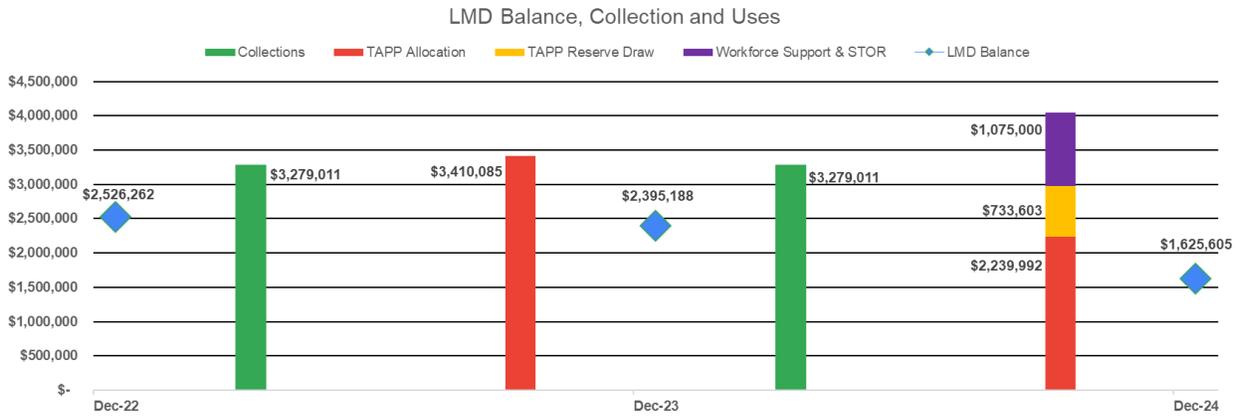
The TAPP board recommends that in the future, we do not exceed a 30% dip into reserves in any one given year. Also, we should keep a floor of \$1 million in reserves in case of an emergency. For instance, if we had a low/no snow year followed by a summer of wildfires.

The below budget assumes a 10% decline in LMD revenues for 2023 as well as a dip into reserves of \$733,603 for 2024.

The TAPP Board of Directors is recommending the LMD Board allocate \$2,239,992 from new funds (2023 collections) to TAPP spread evenly across the months of 2024. In addition, the TAPP Board of Directors recommends that the LMD Board allocate \$733,603 from old fund reserves (2022 and prior collections) to TAPP spread evenly across the months of 2024.

G-CBTA							
Recommended Budget							
2024							
	General	ICELab	STOR	TA Non-Snow	TA Snow	Western	TOTAL
Income							
Income	2,239,992	152,960	40,000	0	0	0	2,432,952
Total Income	2,239,992	152,960	40,000	0	0	0	2,432,952
Gross Profit	2,239,992	152,960	40,000	0	0	0	2,432,952
Expenses							
Admin/Other	11,644	41,235	0	2,740	2,765	36	58,420
Air Specific Media	0	0	0	0	143,190	0	143,190
Content Creation	450	6,449	0	122,260	68,360	0	197,519
Digital Media	0	2,641	0	318,211	237,115	0	557,967
Grants Awarded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personnel	50,312	385,150	0	174,858	194,858	0	805,178
Press Trips	0	10,000	6,000	27,000	27,000	0	70,000
Print Media	0	300	0	7,297	8,555	0	16,152
Public Lands Experience	0	0	65,645	0	0	0	65,645
Research	22,927	156	31,068	149	0	0	54,300
Social Media	0	2,200	0	145,380	201,950	0	349,530
Special Projects	0	56,910	840	10,000	0	600,000	667,750
Subcontractors	17,835	4,000	0	13,057	13,057	0	47,949
Travel/Meals/Enter tainment	13,804	17,007	0	5,645	4,895	12	41,364
Visitor Centers	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	50,000
Websites and Apps	29,003	75	0	11,000	1,514	0	41,591
2024 Proposed Expenses	195,975	526,122	103,553	837,597	903,258	600,049	3,166,555
2022 Expenses	169,025	435,535	160,109	1,004,159	900,802	667,942	3,337,572
2023 Budget	221,047	530,476	105,250	830,268	952,726	955,196	3,594,963
2023 Actual/Fcst	231,168	567,272	174,758	851,964	998,964	950,048	3,774,174

Monthly Cash Flow													
	12/31/2023	1/31/2024	2/29/2024	3/31/2024	4/30/2024	5/31/2024	6/30/2024	7/31/2024	8/31/2024	9/30/2024	10/31/2024	11/30/2024	12/31/2024
Income		277,863	216,995	190,304	192,248	191,802	196,445	198,966	191,666	204,666	190,666	190,666	190,666
Expenses		241,827	256,782	154,240	250,076	232,405	364,460	259,333	185,033	288,050	247,854	379,904	306,587
Available Balance	0	36,035	-3,752	32,312	-25,517	-66,120	-234,136	-294,503	-287,871	-371,255	-428,443	-617,682	-733,603





TOURISM & PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP

2024 Plan & Budget Recommendation

September 2023

TAPP Principles

- Trails, Summer and Winter
- Synergies
- Efficiencies, Technology, Learning
- Nimbleness and Speed

Challenges

- TAPP Revenue declines, 6A
- LMD Revenue declines, tourism
 - Winter, mostly
 - Record capital spending in ski resorts
 - No spending at CB
 - Summer competition
 - Durango, Snowmass, Telluride, Bentonville, Sun Valley
- Private capital funding for startups
- Office and warehouse space for startups
- Headwinds for higher education

LMD Collections YTD

- Through July, LMD collections are down 7.6% (pg 2)
- Our budget assumes a 10% decline for 2023 as a whole

OEDIT Report: Tourism Growth and ROI

2018-2022 Cumulative Totals (pg 6)

- Marketing Spend \$9.33 million
- Visitor Spending \$1.449 billion
- Earnings (tourism wages) \$385.2 million
- Tax Receipts \$95.8 million

Incremental Growth with 2018 baseline

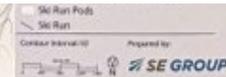
- Visitor Spending +\$206.1 million
- Earnings +\$31.7 million
- Tax Receipts +\$15.8 million

Incremental ROI with 2018 baseline

- Visitor Spending +2,200%
- Earnings +340%
- Tax Receipts +170%

Al Park Foundation ready to build — Colorado's biggest bike park — Bigger than Van Vliet Utah resort for skiers only

Plan for \$3.2 billion Deer Valley expansion includes 3,700 new acres of ski terrain plus a village built by the developer of posh New York City residential towers



Tourism Budget

- Flat in 2024 (pg 20)
 - Grant cycle transitions
- Continued focus on trails, public lands and extreme skiing
- Focus on continuing to drive airline bookings
- Continue to drive lodging revenues

Stewardship

- STOR Communications subcommittee
- Doo Colorado Right (pg 8)
- Data Research

- NFF contribution will come directly from LMD Board as opposed to through TAPP

Western Mountain Sports

- Athlete numbers down (pg 9)
- Mtb down 37%
- Program cut for 2024 Budget
- Opportunity in tourism crossover



Blister Labs + Outdoor Industry Engineering Programming

**BOCC Meeting
Sept 2023**

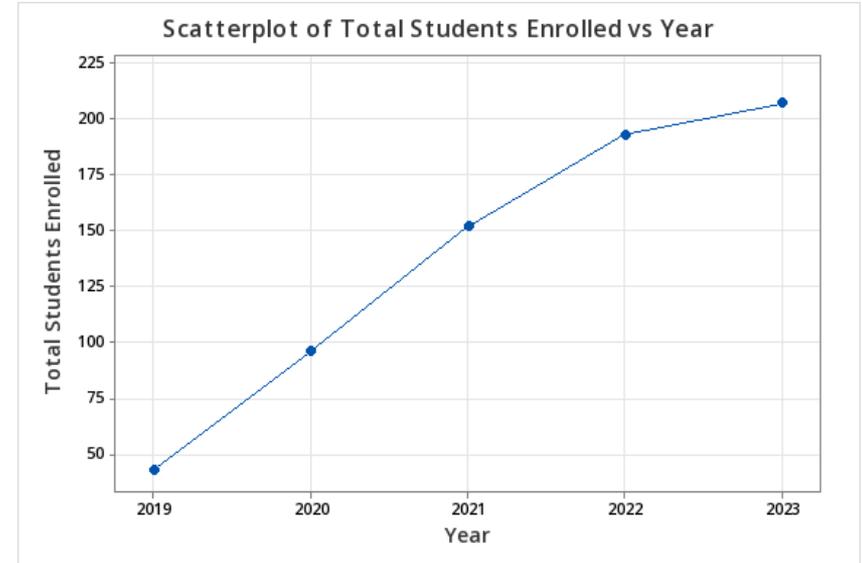


**PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**



Rady Updates: Recruitment & Retention

- **85%** of Rady Partnership students are interested in Outdoor Industry-related projects
- Multiple Rady Partnership students were **transfers** from School of Mines, Vermont, & Utah, and all are interested in Outdoor Industry related projects and classes
- **30% increase in applications** for partnership program students for Fall 2022
- **2 students** who transferred to BYU last year are transferring back due to the Outdoor Industry emphasis and opportunities available
- **90%** of Rady Partnership students want to stay in Gunnison or come back at some point after



Total Rady Partnership students in the program from Fall 2019 – Fall 2023

Rady Career Fair: Oct 19th-20th, 2023

- **First Annual Rady Career Fair** – October 19-20th
 - 12+ Companies
 - **OIE**, Manufacturing, Product Design, Aerospace
- **Two Industry Panels**
 - **OIE** and Manufacturing
- **150+ Rady Partnership students** have signed-up
- Sponsored dinner and breakfast
- Career fair, mock interviews, and activities with companies

**PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

CAREER FAIR

**SHARE YOUR
INDUSTRY &
ENJOY THE
GUNNISON
VALLEY!**

SAVE THE DATE

**OCTOBER
19 & 20**



University Center +
Paul M. Rady School
of Computer Science
& Engineering

Panel Discussions

- >> Engineering in the Outdoors
- >> Manufacturing & Aerospace

*BRING YOUR BIKE, GOLF CLUBS
OR FLY ROD. SCHEDULE A
GUIDED EXCURSION!*

OCT. 19

10am-2pm Booths at UC

2-4pm Break, Open Tours

4-5pm Panel 1

5-6pm Catered Dinner,
Drinks & Mingle

6:30-7:30pm Panel 2

OCT. 20

8-9am Breakfast & Coffee

9-10:30am Speed Dating

10:30-12:30am Breakout Interviews

**Tentative Schedule*



Conclusion

The program is a success, and we are continuing to grow!

However,

there is the potential of other competition if we don't continue this momentum...

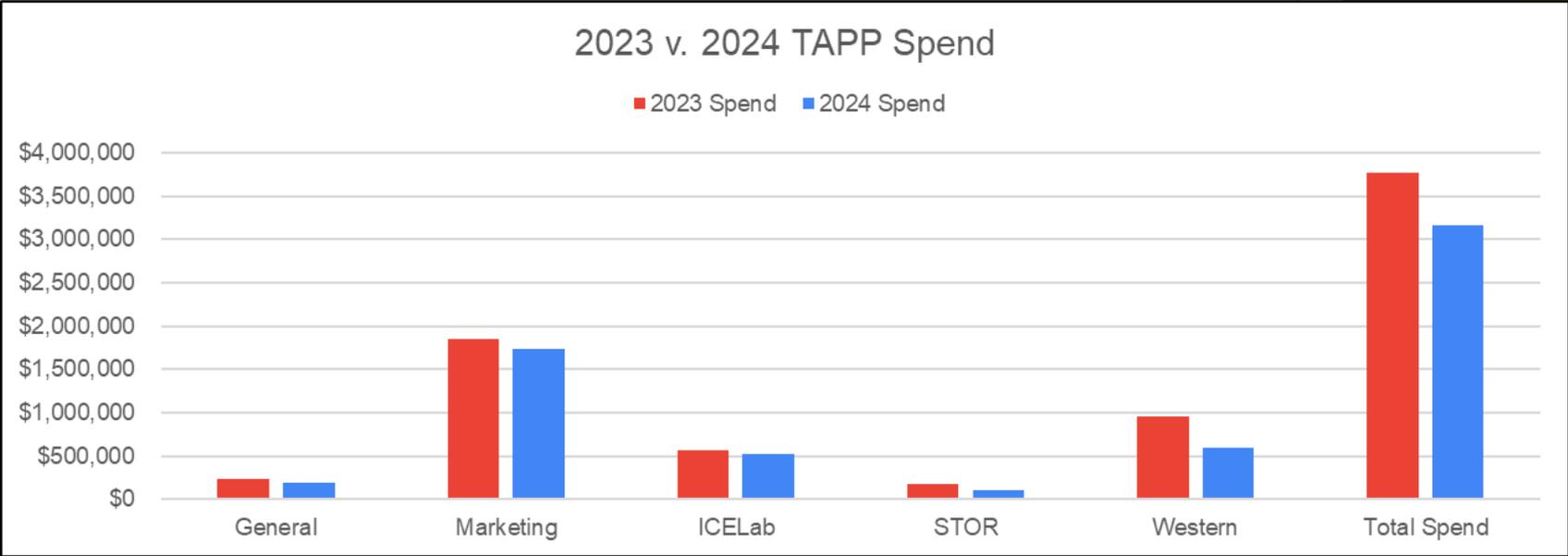
Economic Development Looking Forward

- Continue what works
 - Moosejaw Outdoor Accelerator
 - Outdoor Industry Funding Summit
 - Incubator in partnership with Startup Colorado
 - Teaching Entrepreneurship @ Rady
 - Local networking events
- Something new (pg 17)
 - Airport Displays of Local Products
 - Office and Warehouse Space

Budget Cuts

- Western Mountain Sports - \$300k
- Blister Speaker Series - \$50k
- Rady Capstone Projects - \$40k
- Grant Cycle - \$118k

LMD Recommendation: \$2.24M of 2023 Collections + \$734K of Reserves



In Summary

- Tourism slowdown is upon us
- Other uses of LMD funds have begun
- Now is the time to draw on reserves

AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Status Update; Pitch Mine Reclamation Project

Action Requested: Discussion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins:

Term Ends:

Grant Contract #:

Summary:

Update on Pitch Mine Reclamation Project from Ashley Bembenek, Water Quality Specialist via Alpine Environmental LLC for Northwest Colorado Council of Government Water Quality/Quantity Committee.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Donita Bishop

Submitter's Email Address: DBishop@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\sobaid

Discharge Date: 9/20/2023

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes No

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirmie

Discharge Date: 9/20/2023

Consent Agenda Regular Agenda Worksession

Time Allotted: 20

Agenda Date: 9/26/2023



DATE: September 19, 2023
 TO: Gunnison Board of County Commissioners
 FROM: Ashley Bembenek, Water Quality Specialist via Alpine Environmental LLC
 For Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality/ Quantity Committee (QQ)



P.O. Box 2308
 Silverthorne, CO 80498

RE: Status Update on the Pitch Mine Reclamation Project.

Dear Commissioners Smith, Houck, and Puckett Daniels,

Please accept this update on behalf of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) by and through its Water Quality/ Quantity Committee (QQ). QQ is comprised of about 40 members in the headwaters of the Gunnison, Colorado, and Yampa basins whose purpose is to protect or improve regional water quality conditions and interests. QQ membership is provided as Attachment 1.

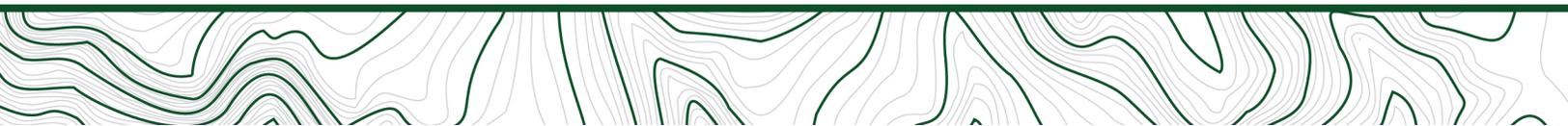
Background

The Pitch Mine is an inactive uranium mine located near the summit of Marshall Pass in Saguache County. Effluent from the Pitch Mine drains to Indian Creek, which flows to Marshall Creek. Marshall Creek joins Tomichi Creek near Sargents. Tomichi Creek enters the eastern edge of Gunnison County and flows generally west through agricultural lands and commercial and residential developments to its confluence with the Gunnison River south of Gunnison. There are dozens domestic water wells adjacent to Tomichi Creek.

The Pitch Mine is owned by Homestake Mining Company (Homestake) and permitted by the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE discharge permit). Due to elevated uranium concentrations, the Pitch Mine cannot meet the uranium limitations in its CDPHE discharge permit. Uranium limitations are applied in this permit to protect water supply uses; including the protection of human-health.

In 2022, Gunnison County joined QQ, the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD), and High Country Conservation Advocates in the Regulation 35 Rulemaking Hearing before the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) regarding potential changes to the water supply use applied to Marshall Creek. Changes to the water supply use or standard applied to Marshall Creek has the potential to affect Tomichi Creek.

During the 2022 Rulemaking Hearing, Homestake was granted three additional years to study water quality at the Pitch Mine, identify the lowest practical limit, and develop a discharger specific variance. CDPHE, the Environmental Protection Agency, and QQ staff are reviewing the company's work.





Current Status

In August, Homestake staff invited QQ, Gunnison County, and UGRWCD staff on a site tour. The tour is scheduled for September 21, 2023. During the BOCC meeting, I will report on the tour.

Based on Homestake's June 2023 update to the WQCC, we anticipate that Homestake will propose the lowest practical limit and a discharger specific variance during a rulemaking hearing scheduled for June 2025. These values will inform the magnitude of mine reclamation completed at the Pitch Mine. Because of the potential impacts to domestic wells near Tomichi Creek, I recommend that Gunnison County continue to monitor rulemaking actions at the Pitch Mine.

We are happy to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,



Ashley Bembenek

Water Quality Specialist to NWCCOG/QQ via Alpine Environmental Consultants LLC

abembenek@nwccog.org

970-251-0029

Attachment 1

QQ Membership

County

Eagle County	Pitkin County
Grand County	Summit County
Gunnison County	

Municipal

Aspen	Grand Lake
Avon	Gypsum
Basalt	Hot Sulphur Springs
Breckenridge	Kremmling
Carbondale	Minturn
Crested Butte	Silverthorne
Dillon	Steamboat Springs
Eagle	Vail
Fraser	Winter Park
Frisco	Yampa
Granby	

Water and Sanitation

Basalt Sanitation District	Grand County Water and Sanitation District
Bellyache Ridge Metro District	Hamilton Creek Metro District
Copper Mountain Metro Consolidated District	Mid-Valley Metro District
Dillon Valley Metro District	Silver Creek Water District
Eagle River Water and Sanitation District	Silverthorne Dillon Joint Sewer Authority
East Dillon Water District	Snowmass Water and Sanitation
Fraser Sanitation District	White Horse Springs Water & Sanitation
Granby Sanitation District	Winter Park West Water & Sanitation

Associate Member

Colorado River Water Conservation District
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

**ORDINANCE
OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF SAGUACHE, STATE OF COLORADO**

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-7

**AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE DRILLING OF WELLS INTO THE
MARSHALL CREEK ALLUVIUM AQUIFER ADJACENT TO MARSHALL CREEK
FROM THE CONFLUENCE OF INDIAN CREEK AND MARSHALL CREEK TO THE
CONFLUENCE OF TOMICHI CREEK AND MARSHALL CREEK NEAR THE
TOWN OF SARGENTS, SAGUACHE COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 24-65-101, *et. seq.*, C.R.S.; Section 30-28-101, *et. seq.*, C.R.S.; Section 30-28-201, *et. seq.*, C.R.S.; and Section 29-20-101, *et. seq.*, C.R.S.; the Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County (hereinafter the “County”), Colorado (hereinafter the “Board”), has the power to adopt ordinances for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of Saguache County; and

WHEREAS the Board has previously adopted the County Master Plan and “Guidelines and Regulations for Areas and Activities of State Interest of the County of Saguache, State of Colorado”; and

WHEREAS the Pitch Mine Reclamation Project (hereinafter “Pitch Site”) is located in Saguache County, Colorado, in Township 48 North, Range 6 East, approximately 12 miles east of Highway 50 and the Town of Sargents at an elevation of 11,000 feet in heavily timbered, moderately mountainous terrain; and

WHEREAS the Pitch Site is a former uranium mine currently owned and being reclaimed by Homestake Mining Company (hereinafter “Homestake”) under the oversight of the Colorado Division of Reclamation and Mining Safety (hereinafter “DRMS”) pursuant to permit #M77-004HR, and also is regulated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (hereinafter “CDPHE”); and

WHEREAS Homestake, as part of its reclamation efforts, and in compliance with CDPHE Water Quality Control Division permit number CO0022756, has evaluated and continues to evaluate best management practices to establish the lowest practical level of uranium in Segment 20 of the Gunnison River Basin, also known as Indian Creek; and

WHEREAS Homestake has evaluated and continues to evaluate surface-water and groundwater dynamics along Indian Creek and Marshall Creek upstream and within the Town of Sargents, and has determined that uranium levels in Marshall Creek near Sargents exceed CDPHE drinking-water standards on a regular basis, but do not exceed CDPHE aquatic standards; and

WHEREAS Homestake’s water-quality evaluations have continued to demonstrate that Marshall Creek is not affecting uranium concentrations in residential-water wells in Sargents; and

WHEREAS the County has not undergone an independent analysis of water quality, and wholly relies on Homestake’s representations regarding water quality, contaminants, and their

cause, and makes no representations whatsoever, by way of this Ordinance or otherwise, regarding water quality, contaminants, or their cause; and

WHEREAS Homestake’s water-quality evaluations have shown infiltration of contaminants from septic fields adjacent to Marshall Creek that may pose a risk to residential wells that are currently drilled in the Marshall Creek Alluvium. However, the County has not undertaken an independent analysis, and wholly relies on Homestake’s representations regarding the contaminants and their cause, and the County makes no representations, by this Ordinance, or otherwise, regarding contaminants, or their cause; and

WHEREAS Homestake has evaluated the potential to re-drill new, deeper wells to replace certain residential wells currently drilled into the Marshall Creek Alluvium that extends to no deeper than 75 feet from the surface, according to Homestake’s research, data, and analysis; and

WHEREAS, relying on Homestake’s research, evaluations, and representations, the Board has determined that to protect the health and wellbeing of the inhabitants of Saguache County, it is necessary to prevent drilling future water-supply wells, or the replacement or supplementation of current water-supply wells, for the appropriation of water within 200 feet of the Marshall Creek Alluvium (defined as water supply wells with a perforated casing less than 75 feet below the ground surface), through the adoption of this Ordinance preventing the same; and

WHEREAS Homestake has determined that re-drilling wells to make them deeper will reduce any current connection or future potential connection between Marshall Creek and residential-water wells in Sargents, and has concluded that the aquifer that underlies the Marshall Creek Alluvium would support such wells; and

WHEREAS Homestake, at its own cost, has agreed to re-drill residential-water-supply wells that currently are drawing water from less than 75 feet deep so that they access the deeper aquifer, in order to provide a turnkey-viable water supply as defined by CDPHE’s Water Quality Control Division’s Water Supply Identification Methodology; and

WHEREAS Homestake will enter into bilateral contractual agreements with any owners or operators of such wells (“Well Owners”) to re-drill such existing wells (but will not agree to drill any new wells) (*see* Map of Qualifying Wells, **Exhibit 1**, attached), and the County shall be not be a party in such contractual agreements; and

WHEREAS the County shall not be involved or associated with the re-drilling of any wells that are subject to this Ordinance, and therefore shall be held harmless by Homestake and Well Owners for any breach of contract, negligence, or other action for damages or in equity that may arise from the re-drilling of wells as set forth herein; and

WHEREAS Homestake shall be considered a private contractor of each Well Owner with which Homestake enters into an agreement to re-drill a well and shall not be a contractor for the County. All disputes, conditions, repairs, work, and actions taken shall be as agreed to between the Well Owner(s), on the one hand, and Homestake on the other hand, and any causes of action arising from those agreements shall give rise only to private causes of action between Homestake and Well Owner(s), subject to the County’s right to injunctive relief as stated herein;

and

WHEREAS Homestake agrees to reimburse the County for any damages, attorneys fees, costs, and expenses of litigation related to any allegation, claim, or cause of action asserted or filed against the County arising from the re-drilling of wells subject to this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS the Board has further determined that this restriction should remain in place in perpetuity or until such time as a community water-treatment system is constructed to serve the residents of the area impacted by this restriction; and

WHEREAS notice of a public hearing to consider this Ordinance was published in the Saguache Crescent on September 12, 2022 and September 19, 2022 and September 26, 2022; and

WHEREAS, at the public hearing on October 4, 2022 various witnesses and exhibits were heard and presented for the Board’s consideration, and testimony was taken from the general public and all persons desiring to appear and give such testimony and present evidence; and

WHEREAS the Board pursuant to the authority granted to the County under Colorado law desires to adopt this Ordinance restricting the drilling of water-supply wells in the Marshall Creek Alluvium between Marshall Creek’s confluence with Indian Creek and its confluence with Tomichi Creek.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County as follows:

This Ordinance applies to all properties overlying the Marshall Creek Alluvium, between Marshall Creek’s confluence with Indian Creek and its confluence with Tomichi Creek. This Ordinance restricts the drilling of future water-supply wells or the replacement or the supplementation of current water-supply wells within 200 horizontal feet of the Marshall Creek Alluvium, and whose perforated casings are 75 feet or less from the ground surface.

The re-drilling of all wells subject to this Ordinance, along with any services associated therewith, shall be the sole venture and responsibility of Homestake and anyone who owns or operates a well and who agrees with Homestake to provide well-re-drilling services. Homestake shall contract with each party receiving well-re-drilling services, and any services associated therewith. The County will not enter into any contracts related to the well-re-drilling services under this Ordinance.

The County shall be held harmless from any and all allegations, claims, causes of action, or damages arising from the re-drilling of wells subject to this Ordinance by Homestake and any party for which Homestake provides well-re-drilling services. Homestake accepts all liability for any causes of action or damages arising from this Ordinance.

This Ordinance is intended to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County, and the County makes no representations as to the quality of work associated with the re-drilling of wells by Homestake and makes no guarantees regarding the same.

County does not verify or attest to the accuracy of the studies, data, or other information indicated herein by Homestake regarding levels of uranium, or other causes of contamination.

Homestake, upon each Well Owner’s request and agreement with Homestake, shall be responsible for re-drilling all wells subject to this Ordinance, and shall do so pursuant to and in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws.

County by this Ordinance does not choose, determine, limit, or define what wells are to be re-drilled, and all wells to be re-drilled by Homestake shall be determined and agreed upon between Homestake and Well Owners.

Applicability. Nothing in this Ordinance is intended nor shall be construed to prohibit the re-drilling of wells through the Marshall Creek Alluvium to access the aquifer below the Marshall Creek Alluvium, between Marshall Creek’s confluence with Indian Creek and its confluence with Tomichi Creek, so long as the top of the perforated well casing is at least 75 feet below the ground surface and complies with all applicable Colorado statutes and regulations.

Additionally, nothing in this Ordinance is intended nor shall be construed to prohibit drilling wells for purposes of testing or monitoring water in the Marshall Creek Alluvium.

Additionally, nothing in this Ordinance is intended nor shall be construed to prohibit drilling of wells by federal, state, or local authorities for purposes other than water-supply use.

Purpose. The Board hereby finds, determines, and declares that this Ordinance is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of Saguache County, Colorado, and that the purpose of this Ordinance is to promote the health and safety of the current and future inhabitants of Saguache County.

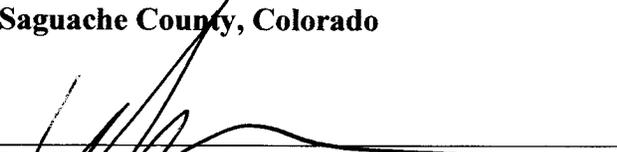
Unlawful Acts. It shall be a violation of this Ordinance to drill a well into the Marshall Creek Alluvium to extract water from that alluvium, or otherwise to take water from the Marshall Creek Alluvium, for the purposes of residential consumption.

Injunctive Relief. The County, through the County Attorney, may seek an injunction or other equitable relief in court to stop any violation of this Ordinance of any acts outlined and may recover costs of any such action.

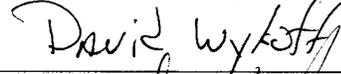
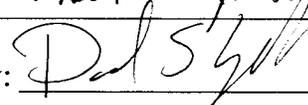
Publication and Effective Date. The foregoing text is the authentic text of Saguache County Ordinance No. 2022-8. The first reading of said Ordinance took place on October 4, 2022 regular Board of County Commissioners Meeting. It was published in full in the Saguache Crescent on September 12, 2022. The Ordinance was adopted on second reading at a regular Board of County Commissioners Meeting on October 18, 2022 and shall take effect October 18, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement on October 18, 2022.

Saguache County, Colorado


By: Tom McCracken, Chairman
Date: October 18, 2022

Homestake Mining Company


By: 
Date: 10-18-2022

Path: T:\ENV\A000102_Env-GIS_MXD\2021\2021-11\Figure F-1_SargentsMonitoringLocations.mxd



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Legend		
	Groundwater Well	
	Surface Water Monitoring Point	
	Irrigation Ditch Sample	
	Surveyed Irrigation Ditch Location 2018	

- Notes:
1. All Data from Colorado Department of Natural Resources (CDNR) Aquamap GIS database unless otherwise noted.
 2. USPS well was replaced by the HMC Office Well in October 2014.
 3. D & RGW = Denver and Rio Grande Western Railway.



PITCH RECLAMATION PROJECT HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY SARGENTS, COLORADO	
MARSHALL CREEK AND SARGENTS WATER SAMPLE LOCATIONS	
	FIGURE 1

397825*
 10/19/2022 12:56 PM
 Trish Gilbert
 Saguache County Clerk
 6 of 6
 397825
 R\$0.00 D\$0.00