Dec. 13, 2018

Kim Antonucci, District Manager
Gunnison Conservation District
216 N. Colorado St., Gunnison CO

Dear Kim,
I write on behalf of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee in support of the Gunnison Conservation District's proposal to the Colorado Department of Agriculture for a grant to fund a communications campaign and community event series to address cheatgrass and other noxious weeds in Gunnison County. We strongly support this project as cheatgrass threatens the well-being of the Gunnison Basin's sagebrush landscape as well as the survival of the Gunnison sage-grouse.

The Strategic Committee is a working group formed in 2005 by the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners to implement plans for the protection of the Gunnison sage-grouse. The Strategic Committee includes representatives from all major county stakeholders, including public land managers, non-profit conservation advocates, agricultural producers and recreational groups. The Strategic Committee as well as members of its Information and Education subcommittee recognize the need for greater public awareness around cheatgrass and other noxious weeds and how those plants threaten sage-grouse habitat. That is precisely what this proposal by the conservation district will address.

Through this letter, the Information and Education subcommittee of the Strategic Committee acknowledges its responsibilities as a partner in this project. In the event the proposal is funded, we would expect our role in this project to include:

- Contributing $500 toward the execution of the communications campaign with formal approval for this contribution set to take place at the Dec. 19, 2018 Strategic Committee meeting. No opposition to this contribution is anticipated, and the Strategic Committee will notify CDA of its approval following the meeting.
- Consulting with the organizers of this project to ensure that the communications campaign and community events bring together all Gunnison Basin stakeholders and the general public in sage-grouse conservation.

We look forward to working with the Gunnison Conservation District to protect critical habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse.

Sincerely,

Sue Navy
Chair, Information and Education Subcommittee
Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee