AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: BOCC Letter of Support; Fossil Ridge II

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

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

Summary:

Letter of support requested by CB Land Trust re: the Fossil Ridge II Land Exchange Mineral Potential Report

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Liz Mense **Submitter's Email Address:** EMense@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:
ok db 8/15/19

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\dBaumgarten Discharge Date: 8/15/2019 Certificate of Insurance Required Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 8/15/2019

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 8/20/2019

Revised April 2015

Gunnison County
COLORADO

Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
Phone: (970) 641–0248 • Fax: (970) 641–3061
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August 20th, 2019

Lisa Dawson
Branch Chief of Solid Minerals
Colorado State Office
Bureau of Land Management
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215

Dear Ms. Dawson,

The Board of County Commissioners is writing to respectfully request that the Bureau of Land Management expedite their review and concurrence of the Fossil Ridge II Federal Land Exchange (Land Exchange) Mineral Potential Report. This land exchange important for Gunnison County and has the Board of County Commissioner's full support.

The Board of County Commissioners was notified by the Land Exchange non-federal party, Crested Butte Land Trust (Land Trust), that the Mineral Potential Report was recently submitted to the Colorado State Office of the Bureau of Land Management for review and for a project of this significance to Gunnison County, time is of the essence.

Through a trade with the U.S. Forest Services, Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest district (Forest Service), the Land Trust will acquire 120 acres which includes the southern half of the lake from the U.S. Forest Service. To make this exchange possible, the Land Trust would contribute 15 acres of property it owns on Copley Lake to the Forest Service. In addition, the Land Trust will purchase 613 acres of in-holding land in the Fossil Ridge area and give that land to the Forest Service. Not only does this land exchange accomplish the protection of a highly valued community amenity, and ensure access to Long Lake is secured forever, it will provide the American people with an additional 628 acres of public land, and generate in excess of $2.5 million to be used for affordable housing in the Gunnison Valley. This funding for affordable housing is made possible by long time locals Judy and Butch Clark who donated the Fossil Ridge parcel to The Trust for Public Land in 2010 with the stipulation that, when sold, the proceeds generated by public acquisition would go to the Gunnison Valley Housing Foundation.

The permanent protection of the Long Lake parcel complements state, regional and local policy including the Colorado Conservation Partnership's *Keep it Colorado Initiative* and Gunnison County Land Use Regulations. The public land acquisition of 630 acres by the Gunnison National Forest will enhance opportunities for all Americans to enjoy the public lands for which Gunnison County is renowned. The contribution of $2.5 million to the Valley Housing Fund will help develop regional housing solutions that provide affordable choices for valley residents and

ensure we are investing in communities where all can live, work, and play. The benefits of this project are tangible and diverse, accomplishing local and federal land protection priorities while addressing the critical housing needs of our county.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Houck Chairperson	John Messner Vice-Chairperson	Roland Mason Commissioner