



NEWS RELEASE

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**GUNNISON COUNTY ADOPTS REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN
Strategies Outlined Regarding Infrastructure, Environment, Community and Service**

Gunnison County, Colorado – On Tuesday, June 4, 2013, the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners adopted a revised Gunnison County Strategic Plan to provide focused direction to staff regarding desired results. The plan, originally adopted in May 2008 with later revisions in 2009 and 2011, outlines strategies to: 1) Ensure Sound Infrastructure; 2) Protect the Environment; 3) Promote Prosperous, Collaborative and Healthy Communities; and 4) Deliver High Quality Services. The plan is available for download from the County’s website at http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners_pdf/BOCC_Strategic_Plan.PDF. County Manager Matthew Birnie stated, “This cornerstone of our Managing for Results efforts has proven to be extremely effective at focusing our energy and resources through clear prioritization. It is the organization’s North Star and allows us to consistently deliver the identified Strategic Results. What the Commissioners put in their Strategic Plan gets done.”

Gunnison County leaders held a retreat in February to begin the process of updating the strategic plan, which included the removal of the many Strategic Results that had been achieved since the last update. Upon consideration of current and upcoming challenges or opportunities anticipated within our communities, the County added strategic results that address the Gunnison Sage-grouse, economic development, air and ground transportation, natural gas and geothermal development, adolescent alcohol and substance abuse, senior citizens, and employee performance. “Juvenile Services is excited to gain exposure for our prevention arm, GCSAPP, in the County’s Strategic Plan. Having substance use prevention for youth identified as a Board of County Commissioner’s priority and elevated to this level acknowledges the work that our community coalition has done over the past eight years and the commitment to health our community is taking. This is just one great example of how incredibly supportive and invested our community is in the health and wellbeing of our youth,” said Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project Director Matthew Kuehlhorn.

This strategic approach to management has proven successful to the County. The Administration Department received the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) Distinguished Budget award for its 2011 and 2012 budgets. As well, the Colorado Association of County Administrators presented County Manager Birnie with the Administrator of the Year Award in 2011.

For more details, please contact County Manager Birnie at mbirnie@gunnisoncounty.org or Assistant to the County Manager Katherine Haase at (970) 641-7601 khaase@gunnisoncounty.org.

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