# SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AGENDA

March 24, 2021

DUE TO THE COVID 19 EMERGENCY SAN JUAN COUNTY WILL CONDUCT ALL OF ITS PUBLIC MEETING VIRTUALLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO CONNECT TO THIS PUBLIC MEETING IS LISTED BELOW

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

BOCC Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2021

#### **APPOINTMENT**

6:35 P.M <sub>*</sub>	Brady Owens, BLM Field Manager for the Gunnison Field Office
7:00 P.M.	Beth Kremer, San Juan Development Economic Development and Diversification Coordinator
7:20 P.M.	Michelle Furi, MSI – GOCO Grant

7:40 P.M. Louis Girodo, County Road Supervisor Update

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Eagle County** 

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

GOCO Resilient Communities Grant Award

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

CDOT Meet and Greet Commissioner and Staff Reports

## Next Regular Meeting - April 14, 2021 8:30 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/92136473203

Meeting ID: 921 3647 3203

One tap mobile

- +16699006833,,92136473203# US (San Jose)
- +12532158782,,92136473203# US (Tacoma)

#### Dial by your location

- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 921 3647 3203

# SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021 AT 8:30 A.M.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Fetchenhier. Present were Commissioners Ernie Kuhlman and Austin Lashley, and Administrator William Tookey.

Payment of Bills: Commissioner Kuhlman moved to authorize payment of the warrants as presented. Commissioner Lashley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

Minutes: Commissioner Lashley moved to approve the minutes of February 24, 2021 with the additional sentence to the fourth paragraph stating that The Commissioners agreed to challenge the determination that San Juan County has no standing and to continue their objection to the BLM Travel Management Plan. Commissioner Kuhlman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

Public Health Director Becky Joyce, Emergency Manager Jim Donovan and Public Information Officer DeAnne Gallegos were present to provide the Commissioners with a COVID-19 update.

Social Services Director Martha Johnson was present to provide the Commissioners with a monthly update and to provide additional information concerning Social Services programs and funding.

Sandra Wanger was present to ask for authorization from the County to install historic information signs at Grassy Hill and Bear Town. It was the consensus of the Commissioners to allow the installation of the signs provided that she worked with Road Supervisor Louis Girodo on the location of the signs.

Received a request from Ty Churchwell of Trout Unlimited for letters of support for Good Samaritan Legislation for mining related environmental cleanup. It was the consensus of the Commissioners to provide letters of support for Good Samaritan Legislation.

A public hearing was held to receive comment concerning the application from Blake Campbell to construct an accessory dwelling unit at 66 Mill Creek Drive. Upon the conclusion of the Public Hearing Commissioner Kuhlman moved to approve the application with the conditions as recommended by the Planning Director and Planning Commission. Commissioner Lashley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

Administrator Tookey provided the Commissioners with an update on sales tax.

Julie and Todd Sams were present to request the Commissioners amend the Cole Ranch Subdivision Plat to allow the construction of a single-family residential unit to be moved from the currently approved building envelope on the east side of CR 2 to the west side of CR 2. The Sams are concerned that the environmental remediation on the adjacent Forest Queen property by the BLM could present future environmental concerns on their property. Commissioner Kuhlman moved to table the matter until the Sams provide the Commissioners with a study completed by a qualified environmental consultant to determine the adverse environmental impact on the currently approved and proposed locations. Commissioner Lashley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

Planning Director Lisa Adair provided the Commissioners with her staff report.

Fire Chief Gilbert Archuleta was present to provide the Commissioners with an update on the construction of the mezzanine in the fire station. Due to the increase in building materials he is requesting an additional \$25,000 from the County to complete the project. The Fire Authority will donate 300 hours of labor to the project. Commissioner Lashley moved to approve \$25,000 of the undesignated Emergency Service Sales Tax Fund be used for the completion of the mezzanine. Commissioner Kuhlman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

Administrator Tookey informed the Commissioners that Julie Singer had resigned from the Tourism Board. It was the consensus of the Commissioners to advertise to fill the vacancy.

I	Having no	further	business,	the meet	ing was	adiourned	at	12:15	P.N	1.

The Commissioners met at 1:30 P.M. to receive	board training from DOLA representative Patrick
Rondinelli.	
	* 1
Scott Fetchenhier, Chairman	Ladonna L. Jaramillo, County Clerk

From: Chris Yuan-Farrell < cyuanfarrell@goco.org >

**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 2:59 PM

To: Willy Tookey <admin@sanjuancolorado.us>

Cc: Matt Brady <a href="mbrady@goco.org">mbrady@goco.org</a>; Brent Schoradt <a href="bschoradt@sima.org">bschoradt@sima.org</a>

**Subject**: Resilient Communities Grant Award

Hi Willy,

Congratulations! This morning GOCO awarded funding to 21 more projects through the Resilient Communities Program. San Juan County's proposal for the Public Lands Stewardship and Visitor Education project was among those awarded funding.

Matt Brady, cc'ed on this email, will serve as your GOCO point of contact moving forward. He'll guide you through the development of the grant agreement, reporting, payments, and all the other grant administration functions. He'll reach out shortly to set up a time for a post-award meeting.

We're excited to partner with you on this important work and look forward to getting started.

Best, Chris

Chris Yuan-Farrell
Manager of Programs
Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
1900 Grant Street, Suite 725
Denver, CO 80203
303.226.4511

#### GOCO.org

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# SAN JUAN COUNTY COLORADO

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## **Resilient Communities Project Summary Information**

Applicant Organization: San Juan County

Applicant Name: William Tookey

Partner Organizations: San Juan Mountains Association, Mountain Studies Institute

Project Title: San Juan County Public Lands Stewardship and Visitor Education Project

Amount Requested: \$260,200 Total Project Cost: \$352,700

#### Checklist:

- Proposal Narrative
- Budget
- Timeline
- Letters of Support:
  - o San Juan National Forest, Columbine Ranger District
  - o Bureau of Land Management, Gunnison Field Office
  - o Silverton, Colorado Chamber of Commerce

# Proposed Project Overview

Among the many impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, public lands throughout the San Juan Mountains experienced an overwhelming increase in visitation and backcountry use in 2020. Growing numbers of visitors to San Juan County are impacting fragile watersheds, irreplaceable high-alpine tundra, and forests already suffering from drought. San Juan County's 2020 tourist season culminated with a human-caused wildfire at Ice Lakes Basin, one of the region's most beloved places, momentarily threatening the Town of Silverton and requiring an emergency evacuation of 23 hikers. San Juan County has borne the brunt of this recent surge in public lands visitors, posing unprecedented challenges to land managers and the local community.

The San Juan County Public Lands Stewardship and Visitor Education Project (San Juan Stewardship Project) endeavors to protect and conserve local public lands and watersheds that are facing unprecedented pressure during the pandemic, by launching a multi-tiered, data-driven approach to engaging visitors to this unique and beautiful landscape. This San Juan Stewardship Project is a unique collaboration between conservationists, scientists, law enforcement, and land managers. Our team consists of San Juan County (applicant), the San Juan County Sheriff, San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA), and Mountain Studies Institute (MSI); each entity brings complementary expertise to the effort, providing a comprehensive approach to stewarding the San Juan Mountains. We respectfully request \$260,200 from Great Outdoors Colorado to advance outdoor recreation, stewardship, and land protection through a boots-on-the-ground approach to meet the San Juan Mountain community's urgent needs and priorities.

Ice Lakes Basin, the most iconic and popular high-alpine basin in the San Juan Mountains, experienced unprecedented crowds in 2020. In past years, up to 200 hikers per day would make the strenuous hike to the turquoise-blue waters and 13,000- ft peaks of Ice Lakes Basin. In 2020, the Ice Lakes Trail averaged an unprecedented 500-650 hikers per weekend day. Over Labor Day Weekend, trailhead monitors observed 1,947 hikers and 215 overnight backpackers. Unfortunately, these growing crowds have damaged the trail and contaminated the watershed with human waste, trash, and toilet paper. This trend has been noted across numerous popular destinations in the San Juan Mountains. The San Juan Stewardship Project seeks to provide a community-based stewardship and education presence at Ice Lakes and other iconic public lands in San Juan County.



The goal of the San Juan Stewardship Project is to help San Juan County accommodate recent and anticipated (for 2021) pandemic-driven growth in outdoor recreation while reducing impacts to local resources and preventing human-caused wildfires. We will engage the public at local recreation hotspots to educate them on the importance of outdoor stewardship, 'Leave No Trace' ethics, and wildfire safety. We will use water quality data to document watershed impacts from human waste and encourage visitors to properly dispose of their waste. Our on-the-ground stewardship team will help repair the damage caused by unmanaged recreation and enhance the visitor experience, thereby promoting community vitality and ensuring the sustainability of the local outdoor recreation economy. We will also engage youth through our citizen science program and internship opportunities to help foster a new generation of conservationists in San Juan County.

The San Juan Stewardship Project will deploy the following strategies to address increased visitation to San Juan County public lands and mitigate the associated impacts:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 23 Hikers Trapped on San Juans Trail After Wildfire Breaks Out, Evacuated by Helicopter, Denver Post, October 20, 2020: https://theknow.denverpost.com/2020/10/20/ice-fire-silverton-san-juans-hikers-evacuated/247317/



# 1=Alpine Ranger Program

This collaboration between the San Juan County Sheriff and federal land managers provides a much-needed education and public safety presence on busy public lands throughout San Juan County. The "Alpine Rangers" are code enforcement officers focused on educating the public on applicable safety and natural resource laws. The San Juan Stewardship Project seeks to fund three Alpine Rangers to patrol the Alpine Loop and South Mineral

In 2020, the Alpine Loop Scenic Byway experienced a 23% increase in visitors as more than 385,000 motorists explored the high-alpine motorized trail. This increase in visitors coincided with reduced capacity by land managers and rangers. The result, as documented by the Durango Herald, is that "more people are illegally driving off-road, damaging fragile alpine tundra." <sup>2</sup>

Creek Road near Ice Lakes Basin, encouraging public lands visitors to respect the fragile alpine tundra environment, recreate safely, and minimize resource impacts. <sup>2</sup>

Task	Outcomes	Outputs
Alpine Ranger Program	<ul> <li>Reduce resource damage from motorists and other public lands visitors</li> <li>Identify future stewardship needs</li> <li>Decrease response time to emergency situations, such as wildfire</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Provide a public safety and education presence at outdoor recreation hotspots throughout San Juan County</li> <li>Engage more than 50,000 public lands visitors from May-Oct</li> </ul>

#### 2. Public Lands Stewardship and Visitor Education

We will use multiple avenues of reaching the public to encourage visitors to serve as stewards of the San Juan Mountain region while recreating here. A paid crew of "Forest Ambassadors" will provide a boots-on-the-ground presence at recreation hotspots to encourage "Leave No Trace" practices and lead small-scale stewardship projects with local youth interns and community volunteers. Our goal is to provide a broad-based education and stewardship presence at trailheads, along busy trails, campgrounds and at busy gathering points, such as scenic overlooks. We have strategically chosen recreation hotspots to maximize interactions with the public and provide a stewardship and public education presence where it is needed most

To reinforce the messages carried by Alpine Rangers and Forest Ambassadors in the field, we will create outreach materials and social media educational videos targeted at visitors to encourage "Leave No Trace" ethics and reduce impacts to the high-alpine tundra and local watersheds. We will engage the Silverton Film Office to create an educational video highlighting the unique natural resources of the region.

The Ice Fire of October 2020 demonstrated the risk of human-caused wildfire posed by increased public lands visitation. We expect fire restrictions to be enforced during the summer of 2021. By creating a proactive wildfire safety education plan and establishing an exhibit at the Molas Pass rest stop area, we will increase awareness of fire restrictions and reduce the risk of human-caused ignitions in the area.

SJMA will establish a new Public Lands Discovery Center in the busy rest stop parking lot at Molas Pass. This rest stop is known for its iconic views of the San Juan Mountains, proximity to the Weminuche Wilderness via



The human-caused Ice Fire in 2020 burned 596 acres at Ice Lakes Basin.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> San Juan Mountains Take Beating this Summer from Off-Roading, Durango Herald, August 19,2020: https://durangoherald.com/articles/335811



## Great Outdoors Colorado: Resilient Communities Program

the Colorado Trail, and its popularity for motorists visiting San Juan County from the south. The Public Lands Discovery Center will provide visitor information and education to public lands visitors that may not otherwise be reached. SJMA will partner with an outdoor recreation business to procure a "tiny house" to serve as a mobile visitor information station and help house the Wildfire Safety Exhibit. SJMA's previous efforts staffing a "tiny house" stationed at Ice Lakes Trailhead resulted in a measured decrease in toilet paper, human waste, and fire rings along this popular trail. By introducing a similar presence at the Molas Pass parking area, we can engage a broader cross-section of public lands visitors along Highway 550.

Task	Outcomes	Outputs
Public Lands Stewardship and Visitor Education	<ul> <li>Increase awareness of outdoor stewardship</li> <li>Reduce resource impacts by visitors</li> <li>Repair resource damage</li> </ul>	Engage more than 100,000 visitors from May-Oct
Subtasks		
Forest Ambassadors program	<ul> <li>Increase awareness of "Leave No Trace" (LNT) ethics</li> <li>Reduce visitor impacts to the highalpine tundra / watersheds</li> <li>Increase awareness of the unique natural resources of the region</li> <li>Engage youth and volunteers to complete stewardship projects</li> <li>Identify future stewardship projects</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Engage over 50,000 visitors</li> <li>At least 500 wag bags distributed</li> <li>Downed trees cleared from trails</li> <li>Trails (miles) maintained by Forest Ambassadors and volunteers</li> <li>Illegal campsites naturalized</li> <li>Trash removed from public lands</li> </ul>
Outreach materials and social media educational videos	<ul> <li>Increase awareness of "LNT" ethics</li> <li>Increase awareness of the unique natural resources of the region</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Over 1000 educational video views via social media and other outlets</li> <li>500 pamphlets distributed</li> </ul>
Develop a Wildfire Safety Education Plan / Wildfire Safety Exhibit at Molas Pass	Prevent human-caused wildfires	Engage at least 10,000 visitors (traveling by car)
Establish a Public Lands Discovery Center at Molas Pass	<ul> <li>Increase awareness of "LNT" ethics</li> <li>Reduce visitor impacts to the high- alpine tundra / watersheds</li> <li>Increase awareness of the unique natural resources of the region</li> </ul>	Engage at least 50,000 visitors (traveling by car)

# 3. Citizen-Science Water Quality Monitoring

Informed visitors will generally act more responsibly. By monitoring key watersheds, such as Mineral Creek and Needle Creek, for recreation impacts and then feeding that information back into the visitor education campaign, we will utilize the power of scientific data to demonstrate the impacts of improper human waste disposal in the backcountry. We will engage youth interns and local citizen-scientist volunteers to sample water at key chosen locations. These samples will be analyzed by San Juan Basin Public Health. Data will be put into easy-to-understand infographics that the Forest Ambassadors will demonstrate during interaction with public lands visitors.



Silverton School students learn about water quality.

#### Great Outdoors Colorado: Resilient Communities Program

Task	Outcomes	Outputs
Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring	<ul> <li>Increase visitor understanding of recreation impacts on watersheds</li> <li>Citizen scientists will become well-informed advocates in their communities, amplifying the impacts of the training</li> <li>Youth volunteers will learn about scientific data collection and career options in science</li> <li>Youth volunteers gain resume-building experience</li> <li>Data may lead to increased plans and regulations</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Recruit and train 10-20 citizen scientists</li> <li>Engage students from local schools and Fort Lewis College to serve at citizen scientists</li> <li>Analyzing 50 water samples</li> <li>Generating 2-4 periodic updates on water quality to use for public outreach</li> <li>Final report summarizing all data to be used in future outreach and to inform land managers of recreation impacts</li> </ul>

# Community Need

San Juan County is comprised of 400 square miles, more than 86% of which are federal public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. These spectacular public lands attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, who come to enjoy the iconic high-alpine vistas, climb 14,000-foot peaks, and admire the unmatched wildflower blooms. Popular destinations include the Alpine Loop, a Colorado Scenic Byway that attracts over 300,000 off-highway vehicle motorists each year; Ice Lakes Basin, the most popular hiking trail in the San Juan Mountains; and the Weminuche Wilderness, Colorado's largest wilderness and headwaters of the San Juan and Rio Grande river systems.

San Juan County has an acute need to accommodate outdoor recreation tourism in a sustainable way that protects the spectacular public lands of the area. Explosive growth in outdoor tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic has led to growing crowds at San Juan County's most popular outdoor destinations, causing widespread impacts to watersheds and public lands and negatively impacting the visitor experience. These impacts are predicted to continue and increase during 2021 as social distancing restrictions relax and prepandemic tourism attractions, such as the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, resume operations. The San Juan Stewardship Project is needed to reduce impacts from visitors and repair the damage caused by increased visitation as we recognize that intact ecosystems and well-maintained public lands are critical to our community vitality.

# Building Resilience - Outcomes and Impacts

#### Immediate Impacts

San Juan County's economy is highly dependent on outdoor recreation during the summer months. This proposal will increase community resiliency by empowering local efforts to accommodate increased public lands visitors while reducing impacts to natural resources. The Forest Ambassadors and Alpine Rangers funded by this proposal will enhance the visitor experience by educating the public on how to responsibly visit their public lands. By recruiting local volunteers to engage in stewardship projects and water quality monitoring, this proposal will help foster a local conservation ethic whereby the San Juan County community actively engages in public lands stewardship.

The combined efforts of this proposal will reduce the risk of human-caused wildfire, improve trail access, reduce human waste and trash in our watersheds. This is a concerted community response to the dire need to address growing numbers of visitors to our federal public lands. San Juan County is working with conservationists, scientists, and law enforcement to better steward our public lands and secure a more resilient outdoor recreation economy.

#### Great Outdoors Colorado: Resilient Communities Program

By providing an expanded presence on the landscape, this San Juan Stewardship Project will identify future stewardship projects that will further enhance community resiliency, such as trail restoration and rerouting. We will document water quality impacts, as our volunteers can sample water before, during, and after peak periods of visitation, such as holiday weekends. This real-time data will help increase the public's

understanding of how visitors affect the watershed, thereby encouraging improved backcountry visitor habits. Preserving the San Juan Mountain region's natural resources contributes to community vitality as tourism is a major economic factor in residents' livelihoods.

The water quality data generated from this San Juan Stewardship Project will be valuable to influence decision-making and helping the federal land managers to develop better regulations, such as a proposed permitting system for Ice Lakes Basin.



Hikers set out to explore Ice Lakes Basin.

# Financial Need and Project Urgency

COVID-19 has affected our region significantly, and it is just one of a series of disasters that the San Juan County community has endured in the last five years. Since 2015, Silverton has been faced with the Gold King Mine Spill, being designated an EPA National Priorities List superfund site, 2018 Winter Drought disaster area, 416 Fire which closed the San Juan National Forest and stopped tourism to our community through extended closures of our highway and Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, 2019 avalanche cycle, and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without the funding in this proposal, the Alpine Ranger program will be limited to one code enforcement officer to conduct outreach to over 300,000 motorized visitors to the Alpine Loop Scenic Byway. The Alpine Ranger Program has suffered in recent years from budget cuts and the funding in the proposal is needed to better accommodate pandemic-related increases in motorized use along the Alpine Loop.

SJMA has received funding from the U.S. Forest Service to provide a Forest Ambassador education and stewardship presence at lower elevation recreation destinations outside of San Juan County. This proposal will provide much-needed funding to expand the Forest Ambassador program to the most iconic destinations of the San Juan Mountains that are the driving force of the San Juan County outdoor recreation economy. Because of the unprecedented surge in visitors to San Juan County, it is urgent that the local San Juan County community step up with an increased "boots on the ground" presence at our most popular outdoor destinations.

Because of the ongoing drought conditions and the scare of the Ice Fire last fall, San Juan County urgently needs the expanded wildfire education program included in this proposal. We expect widespread fire restrictions for the Summer of 2021 and the Forest Ambassadors and Alpine Rangers are needed to educate visitors on fire safety to help reduce wildfire risk and prevent fire closures from once again stifling the local tourist economy.

Outdoor recreation is essential to our local economy and the San Juan Stewardship Project is our community's best chance at stemming the tide of recreation related resource damage that has spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic. The San Juan Stewardship Project will promote our community's vitality by enhancing our tourism industry and improving conditions on-the-ground at our most popular outdoor destinations. We respectfully ask GOCO to stand with us as we stand up for public lands and lead the way towards a more sustainable outdoor recreation economy.

#### PROJECT BUDGET

	Source of Funds	Date Secured	GOCO Funds	Applicant Funds	Partner Funds	Total Funding
CASH						
	SO(0 Grant		\$760,200 00			\$260 700 00
	Satistian County			575 000 00		525 000 00
	Fin luan Mountains Association				579,840.00	529 340 00
	Mountain: Wadys (NUMA)				\$1,500 mg	\$4.600.00
IN-KIND						
	San Juan Trucks			55 MITCH		\$5 300 00
	San tuen Mountains Association				315 880 00	\$16 880 03
	Storetain Studies Districte				\$10 880 00	\$10 880 03
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS			\$260,200,00	\$30,300.00	562 200 00	\$352,700.00

CASH	Use of Cash Funds	# of Units	Cost Per Unit	GOCO Funds	Applicant Funds	Cumulative Partner Funds	<b>Total Funding</b>
Public Lands Stewardship and Visitor							
Education				400.000.00			*10.000.00
SIMA	Program Contribution			\$30,000.00			\$30,000 00
SIMA	Forest Ambassador Crew	10 00	510 560 00	\$105 600 00		\$29 840 00	\$135,440,00
SIMA	Supplies for crew and outreach (uniforms			\$3,000,00			\$1,000.00
SIMA	Erecet Stylvenia			\$12,500 00			\$12 500 00
5IMA	Tents tables, chairs for trailhead patreach			\$5,000,00			\$5 000 00
SIMA	Develop and print outreach materials			52,000,00	\$5 000 00		\$7 000 O
SIMA	Molas Pass Public Lands Discovery Center		\$5 000 00	\$5 000 00			35 000 0
MSI	Project Management/Grant Administration	1 00	\$11,000,00	\$9 000 00		\$2,000.00	\$11,000 00
MSI	Forest ambassador intern	1 00	\$11 000 00	\$11,000 00			\$11,000.00
MSI	Forest ambassador intern mentorario	1 00	\$2 200 00	\$1 100 00		\$1,100 00	\$2 200 00
MSI	Molas Pass Wildfire Saftey Exhibit	1 00	\$2 500 00	\$2,000,00		\$500.00	\$2,500.00
MSI	Wildline Education Plan	2 00	\$1 000 00	\$1,000,00		\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
MSI	Mileage for all tasks	2 000 00	\$0.58	\$1 120 00			\$1 120 00
San Juan County	Vistar Shewardship Video	10 00	\$1 000 00	\$5 000 00	55 000 00		\$10,000 00
Citizen Sci Water Quality Monitoring							
MSI	Develop procetols and map sampling location	1.00	\$3,900,00	\$3,900,00			\$3 900 0
MSI	Conduct Citizen Scientist training and manage	2 00	\$4 000 00	\$4 000 00			\$4,000 0
MSI	Water Guality intern	1 00	\$3 000 00	\$3,000,00			\$1,000.00
MSI	Summarize data, create interpretive material final report	1 00	\$4 000 00	\$4 000 00			\$4,000.0
MSI (Kan Juan Basin Public Health)	Lab analysis costs	50 00	\$36 00	\$1,800 DC			51.800 0
MIST	Administer (ab analysis (10%)			\$180.00			\$180 0
Algine Banger Program							\$0.0
San Juan County (Sheriff Dept)	Patrol the Alpine Loop - visitor education	4 00	\$15 000 00	\$45,000,00	\$15,000,00		560 000 0
San Juan County (Sheriff Dept)	Vehicle Maintenance, Repairs and Fuel	1 00	\$5 000 00	\$5 000 OC	313000 (0		\$5 000 0
Category	Telegraphic Committee of the Committee o		23 000 00	330000			50 000 0
vendor/service provider							\$0.0
Category							
vendor/service provider							\$0.0
USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL				\$260,200.00	\$25,000.00	\$34,440.00	\$319,640.0

IN-KIND	Use of In-Kind Funds	# of Units	Cost Per Unit	GOCO Fueds	Applicant Funds	Cumulative Partner Funds	Total Funding
Public lands Stewardship and Visitor Education							
SIMA Vehicles	Transport	1 000 00	\$0 56			\$560.00	\$560 00
SIMA Volunteer Forest Ambassadors	volunteer education/stewardship	600 00	S27 20			\$16,320.00	\$18 320 00
San Juan County Tourism Fund (Labor)					\$2,500.00		\$2 500 00
Citizen Sci Monitoring of Water Quality							
MSz Cidazen Scientisk Voluntezek	Monitoring and reporting	400 00	\$27 20			\$10 980 00	\$10 880 00
Alpine Ranger Program							
San Juan County Sheriff Dept	Vehicle Use	5 000 00	\$0.56		\$2 800 00		\$2 800 00
Category							
vendor/service provides							\$0.00
USE OF FUNDS - IN-KIND SUBTOTAL					\$5,300.00	\$27,760.00	\$33,060.00

Contingency - up to 10% (not required, cannot be GOCO funds)	GDCO Funds	Applicant Funds	Curnulative Partner Funds	Total Funding
Contingency				\$0.00
USE OF FUNDS - CONTINGENCY SUBTOYAL		\$0.06	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$260,200.00	\$30,300.00	\$62,200.00	\$352,700.00
Remember: the Total Project Cost row must equal the Total Source of Funds row				

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS	Required	Actual	Status
Overall Match (% based on total cost)	10	26	Pass
Overall Match (5 based on total cost)	\$35 270 00	\$97,500 00	Pass

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	Conduct Citizen Scientist training																			

Patrol the Alpine Loop -visitor education Summarize WQ data, create interpretive material Final Report to GOCO Lab analysis of water sample



Forest Service

#### Columbine Ranger District

P.O. Box 439 367 South Pearl Street Bayfield, CO 81122 (970) 884-2512

File Code:

1500

Date:

February 1, 2021

#### Dear GOCO Grant Committee

The San Juan National Forest, Columbine District is pleased to provide a letter of support for the funding application being submitted by San Juan County. This proposal will fund the addition of Forest Ambassador staff who will help protect the busiest public lands in the San Juan Mountains by promoting Leave No Trace principles to visitors, cleaning up popular trailheads, and managing the massive influx of visitors to this wildly popular area.

This project would provide the means to hire ten staff who will patrol the Ice Lakes Trail, Highland Mary Lake Trail, Columbine Lake Trail, Molas Pass/Colorado Trail, and Pass Creek Trail. This project seeks to address recreational impacts by providing on-the-ground education to improve visitor safety, with the goal of reducing resource impacts to the delicate ecosystems and historic sites found in these areas.

All of the towns that surround these natural resources are dependent on public land recreation and tourism. A major objective of the San Juan National Forest is to encourage sustainable use and tourism collaboration with gateway communities. This collaborative grant proposal will assist with the economic tourism objectives in these mountain communities by providing education and boots-on-the-ground support to ensure that we protect these resources, and allow future generations to enjoy these incredible places.

Thank you for considering San Juan County for this grant opportunity.

JAMES SIMINO

District Ranger





# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Gunnison Field Office 210 W. Spencer Ave. Ste. A Gunnison, Colorado 81230



In Reply Refer To: 8323 (CO-S06)

FEB 0 1 2021

Dear Great Outdoors Colorado Grant Committee:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Gunnison Field Office is pleased to provide this letter of support for the funding application being submitted by San Juan County to fund the San Juan County Sheriff's participation in the Alpine Ranger Program on the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway and to fund an expanded public education program on BLM lands in San Juan County. The BLM has been meeting with the multi-county taskforce to collaborate on resolving human use impacts along high alpine 4x4 roadways and trailheads.

The Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway consists of 4x4 county roads that traverse passes up to 12,800 feet. The high-elevation natural resources along the byway are being impacted by the amount of visitation. The BLM manages public lands along the 67-mile Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway. In 2020, the BLM conducted a traffic count on the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway and found that ~385,000 people visited this area last year, a ~23 percent increase from previous years. This grant seeks to address recreational impacts by providing onthe-ground education to improve visitor safety and to reduce resource impacts to the alpine tundra and historic sites.

The communities that surround the Alpine Loop are mountain communities that depend on public land recreation and tourism. One of BLM's objectives is to encourage sustainable travel and tourism collaboration with gateway communities. This collaborative grant proposal will assist with the economic tourism objectives in these mountain communities by providing education on the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway.

Thank you for considering San Juan County for this grant opportunity.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kay

Acting Field Manager

INTERIOR REGION 7 • UPPER COLORADO BASIN COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH WYOMING



January 29th, 2021

#### Dear GOCO Grant Committee:

The Silverton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to provide a letter of support for the funding application being submitted by San Juan County to the GOCO Resilient Communities program. This proposal will help sustain our local outdoor recreation economy by supporting visitor education and public lands stewardship at San Juan County's most iconic outdoor destinations.

The Summer of 2020 during COVID-19 pandemic, San Juan County experienced an unprecedented surge in visitors to our local Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. These two federal agenices are the largest property owner in San Juan County an account for 87% of our land. The funds included in this proposal will help our local community manage the influx of visitors we have recently experienced by supporting additional Alpine Rangers and Forest Ambassadors to encourage Leave No Trace principles and help clean up popular trails and recreation destinations such as the Alpine Loop, Highland Marys, Colorado Trail and Ice Lakes Basin. This project seeks to address recreational impacts by providing on-the-ground education to improve visitor safety, with the goal of reducing resource impacts to the delicate ecosystems and historic sites found in these areas.

San Juan County's economy relies on public lands recreation and tourism yet our community desires conservation and protection of these same lands. This collaborative grant proposal will promote community vitality by assisting with our economic tourism objectives that we do not have the local financial resources to do on our own. This grant collaborative has become necessary in order to be proactive in preserving a pure San Juan Mountain experience for our community and the guests that come to visit our forest.

Thank you for considering San Juan County for this grant opportunity.

Sincerely,.

DeAnne Gallegos Executive Director Silverton Chamber of Commerce chamber(a silvertoncolorado.com

> Silverton Colorado.com Silverton Chamber of Commerce 414 Greene St Silverton CO 81433 970 387-5654

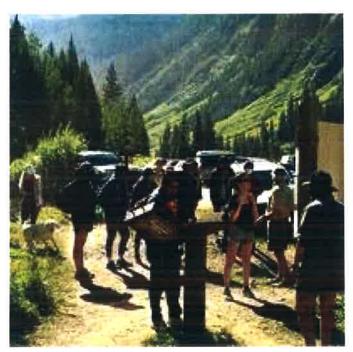
# THE Durango HERALD

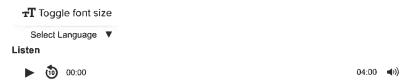
# Grant to help with deluge of visitors to San Juan **Mountains**

More than \$250,000 will be spent on education about best backcountry practices

By Herald Staff Report

(//durangoherald.com/lms/loading.html#rotftwetu=aHR0cHMIM0EvL2R1cmFuZ29oZXJhbGQuY29tL2FydGljbGVzLzM2OTE0Ny1zdGF0ZS10by1yZWxheC1kaWFsLWxldmVs Friday, March 19, 2021 8:55 PM





San Juan County has been awarded more than \$250,000 to help address the impacts of increasing outdoor recreation in its backcountry.

Great Outdoors Colorado, which receives money from the state's lottery, granted San Juan County \$260,000 to "advance outdoor recreation, stewardship and land protection" to meet "urgent needs and priorities" in the San Juan Mountains.

"The recreation pressure in this area combined with the demonstrated impacts of unmanaged recreation make this a compelling request," GOCO said in a statement. "This proposal provides an intriguing balance of employment, public education, science and stewardship."

The effort, called the San Juan Stewardship Project, is a partnership with Mountain Studies Institute, the Silverton Chamber of Commerce and the San Juan County Sheriff's Office.

Visitation to the San Juan Mountains was already increasing in recent years, but the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic pushed more people toward the outdoors, resulting in unprecedented numbers of visitors in 2020.

At the popular Ice Lakes Trail, for instance, about 200 hikers a day used to make the trek to the turquoise-tinted lakes. In 2020, however, an average of 500 to 650 people hit the trail on any given day.

Over the busy Labor Day weekend, nearly 2,000 hikers and more than 200 overnight backpackers were seen at Ice Lakes.

It all culminated this fall when a wildfire, believed to be human-caused, broke out off the trail to Ice Lake, threatening the town of Silverton and requiring the emergency evacuation of more than 20 hikers who were in the area.

"Unfortunately, these growing crowds have damaged the trail and contaminated the watershed with human waste, trash and toilet paper," MSI said in a statement. "This trend has been noted across numerous popular destinations in the San Juan Mountains."

The San Juan Stewardship Project seeks to help on several fronts.

Money will be directed to support the Alpine Ranger Program, which will provide a public safety and education presence at outdoor recreation hot spots throughout San Juan County.

Money will be also be used to support several seasonal alpine rangers, as well as provide funding for vehicle maintenance and fuel.

"Typically, alpine rangers patrol the Alpine Loop and other parts of the backcountry during the high-traffic summer season, but the program has been reduced over the past few years due to funding limitations," MSI said.

Also, a visitor outreach and education campaign will attempt to reach visitors and talk best practices in the backcountry.

San Juan Mountains Association will continue to host an "education base camp" at the Ice Lakes trailhead, which has been seen as effective in years past. The effort hopes to expand to other popular destinations, such as Highland Mary Lakes and Molas Pass,

"The Forest Ambassador program will target trailheads to talk with visitors about Leave No Trace principles," MSI said. "A series of videos and outreach materials will be produced for online and in-person outreach."

With the continuing high fire danger that's been seen in the past few summers, the Wildfire Safety Education Plan and Exhibit will try to educate outdoor visitors about fire regulations and best practices.

And, a citizen science water-quality monitoring program will launch to engage community members to learn more about the impacts of recreation on local watersheds.

"They will be trained to take water samples that will then be analyzed for E. coli," MSI said. "The data collected will be put into outreach materials, which will then be used by (members of the project)."

Public land agencies have said in the past few months they expect another busy summer season this year.



# **Board of County Commissioners**

970-328-8605 970-328-8629(f) eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us www.eaglecounty.us

March 16, 2021

San Juan County 1557 Green St PO Box 466 Silverton, CO 81443

Dear San Juan County,

Thank you to all the many people within your organization who assisted in the recovery efforts of our three lost community members after an avalanche took their lives. From your leadership team, Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office, Coroner, PIO and many more - we know your employees were out in the cold from dawn to dark in still very dangerous terrain for a number of days. We thank you for bringing this tragic saga to a conclusion and delivering a comforting measure of closure to the friends and families of the victims.

San Juan County has some amazing men & women who stepped up for days on end to do the right thing for others in trouble. Words cannot express our gratitude.

Sincerely,

Matt Scherr

Chair

Jeanne McQueeney

Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Kathy Chandler Hear

Commissioner

# THE Durango HERALD

# Stress threatens Colorado search and rescue teams

Weary rescuers hope lawmakers can find funding and support

By Jason Blevins

(//durangoherald.com/lms/loading.html#rotftwetu=aHR0cHMIM0EvL2R1cmFuZ29oZXJhbGQuY29tL2FydGljbGVzLzM2NzcwOC1zY2FtLXRhcmdldHMtb3Zlci0xLW1pbGxpbThe Colorado Sun

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 4:41 PM Updated 12 hours 38 minutes ago



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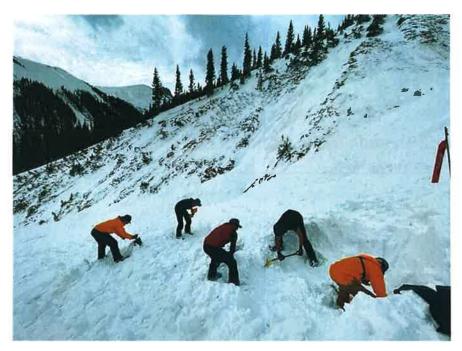
Select Language ▼

As 17 men and women bored into the cement-like snow, even using chainsaws to grind into the ice, an avalanche released behind them, burying their exit road.

"That really showed us how reactive the snowpack was – just riddled with uncertainty and you really just didn't know," said Leo Lloyd, a 36-year veteran of La Plata County Search and Rescue who joined his San Juan County colleagues on a grim mission last month to recover the bodies of three men buried in an avalanche near Ophir Pass.

It took two more days of digging to recover the men. Six weeks earlier, and a few hundred yards away, the team had recovered the bodies of two skiers killed in an avalanche.

"Even if you've been doing this a long time, it's still difficult," Lloyd said. "You get good at putting that image in the back of your head, but all that never goes away. We have some psychological support and we work to get help to our people. But sometimes, it's hard to admit when you need some help."



The San Juan County Search and Rescue team that recovered the skiers included a county commissioner, a town councilman, business owners, local avalanche experts and other residents of Silverton,

San Juan County SAR

Rescuers in San Juan County have had a challenging winter. That's following an extraordinarily busy summer and fall.

Most of the state's 2,800 search and rescue volunteers know that weariness. Teams across Colorado were exceptionally busy last summer as Colorado's hills crawled with campers, hikers, bikers and paddlers finding respite from the pandemic in the backcountry.

When winter backcountry gear sales exploded in the fall alongside resorts announcing capacity limits and restrictions at ski areas, high-country search and rescue teams braced themselves.

The COVID restrictions and capacity caps at ski areas were "a perfect storm of bad formula," said Kimmet Holland, a 40-year veteran of emergency services who directs Silverton's Emergency Medical Services crew, all of whom are certified in avalanche safety and high-alpine rescue skills.

That storm worsened with a spectacularly sketchy snowpack that began shedding large avalanches with every new snowfall. "The worst snow conditions in Colorado in the last 10 years," Holland said.

The largest worry heading into the 2020-21 season was about a flood of newcomers to avalanche terrain. A host of state agencies joined search and rescue teams to promote avalanche awareness and backcountry safety. But the 11 men killed in Colorado avalanches so far this season have been older, most of them with years of backcountry experience.



Laura McGladrey, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, interacts with colleagues during the Colorado Search and Rescue avalanche media event Thursday, March 11, 2021, on Vail Pass.

Hugh Carey/Special to The Colorado Sun

The 2020-21 season has been particularly deadly for backcountry travelers. Across the U.S, 33 have died in avalanches, with 26 skiers, snowmobilers and climbers killed in February alone, marking the darkest month for avalanche fatalities in more than a century.

"And we still have a lot of winter left," said Jim Donovan, the emergency manager for San Juan County and director of Silverton Avalanche School.

Donovan's San Juan County Search and Rescue team was ready for a busy winter. A few close calls in the area last season, including a complicated rescue of a snowboarder near Telluride in March 2020, left the San Juan team on edge. After the hectic summer and the recovery of five men - two beloved Durango locals and three influential men from Eagle - they still are.

"The impact to the team was definitely real," Donovan said.

#### An avalanche of anguish

Search and rescue team members can be the overlooked patients in a traumatic mission, said Laura McGladrey.

She's with CU Anschutz Medical School's Stress Trauma Adversity Research and Treatment Center, working with cops, emergency service providers, search-and-rescue teams as well as guide services and ski patrols.

Stress accumulation from exposure to traumatic missions can build up like a snowpack, McGladrey said. It starts gradually and following a big event, people can break in an avalanche of anguish.

Search and rescue teams have all sorts of protocols and plans for physical injuries. But McGladrey tells rescuers the most likely injury they will suffer is psychological from the stress of traumatic events.

"And no one really prepares them for that kind of injury," she said. "From my standpoint this exposure-type injury of stress accumulation and the impact of watching people die and seeing grieving families starts to build up over time.

"You already have the fatigue and exhaustion of a busy year," she said, "and then a big event comes up. It sets the stage for people to get overwhelmed."

Rescuers often internalize the trauma of their volunteer work and think it's just them when they lose their zeal or fall into funk, McGladrey said. After more than 20 years in emergency medicine, she said the "worst stuff I've ever seen" was as a volunteer for Chaffee County Search and Rescue in the 1990s. When she works with longtime rescuers and asks about events that stand out, almost all of them, she said, talk about a victim's family "that they just can't get out of their head."



Colorado Search and Rescue members from across Colorado practice during the avalanche media event Thursday, March 11, 2021, on Vail Pass.

Hugh Carey/Special to The Colorado Sun

In the early days of search and rescue in Colorado, "people just toughed it out," Donovan said, "but the mental health of first responders, from dispatch to law enforcement to volunteers, cannot be underestimated."

"There's just a cascade of people who are impacted by these calls," Donovan said.

Each reaction to traumatic exposure can be helped with specific strategies. McGladrey has an operational-stress guide she follows, part of a military program. She checks in with rescuers three days, three weeks and three months after a traumatic event, like recovering bodies from an avalanche. Are they losing sleep, are they having nightmares, are they depressed or feeling out of control?

"Laura is helping us get better about being aware and thinking like 'Hmm, are you OK with what we just saw, because that was pretty gruesome and it's OK to not be OK, you know?" said Dawn Wilson with the Alpine Rescue Team. "Laura does an amazing job at making us more aware and being less machine and being able to talk about things we have seen."

"She is vital to the future of how we keep rescuers safe," said Jeff Sparhawk, the president of the Colorado Search and Rescue Association.

San Juan Search and Rescue's critical-incident stress debrief" after the grueling recovery of Seth Bossung, Andy Jessen and Adam Palmer, the Eagle men killed near Silverton, included a therapist who worked with team members.





PO Box 250 Silverton, CO 81433

970-387-5766

970-387-5522

Date: March 21, 2021.

For: March 24 Board of County Commissioners Meeting.

From: Town/County Planning Director.

Regarding: Some of the Planning Department Work During the Past Two Weeks.

#### Recent County Projects

- The Planning Director as the County Floodplain Administrator attended the regional CWCB conference about our new, draft Town-County Floodplain-FEMA Maps. We will have some upcoming public meetings about our new Floodplain Maps in April.
- I am reviewing a draft application, prepared by a representative of Search and Rescue, for a proposed antenna/radio equipment, to be located on a mining claim near Chattanooga.
- I have received a draft County Improvement Permit Application for a proposed residence, located in an existing two-lot subdivision on the Shrine Road.
- I am working with the applicants proposing the second annual Bent Elbow Poker Run, who are preparing a County Special Events Permit Application.
- I have been reading some FEMA, State, and local regulations, regarding what is allowable in Floodplain zones, and special requirements for protecting structures/utilities from flooding.
- The County Commissioners recently approved a proposed ADU cabin on Lime Creek Road.
- The County Commissioners recently tabled a Proposed Plat Amendment at Cole Ranch.
- The Planning Commission recently recommended conditional approval of a proposed driveway, gate, signs, and RV space, on a mining claim in Cunningham Gulch.
- Lisa Branner, who processes the Town Special Events/Film Permit Applications, will meet on March 22 with Lisa Adair, who processes the County Special Events/Film Permit Applications, to start coordinating the two separate processes.
- The Planning Director and Building Inspector have been responding to a lot of inquiries regarding for-sale mining claims, and the applicable County regulations.
- I am working on some additional County items, such as legal notices, adjacent land owner letters, and updating of some County forms and County regulations.

## Recent Town Projects

- The Town Board approved a Rezoning Application, allowing for a proposed fourplex multi family structure at 5th & Reese.
- The Planning Commission, as the Town Historic Review Committee, approved a proposed balcony and façade improvements, at the Lashley Residence in the Historic Overlay District.
- The Town Master Plan Committee will meet on March 23 to discuss updating of the 2010 Town/County Master Plan.

- Reviewing draft application: Proposed Roberts Infrastructure, Slope Hazard Overlay District Use Subject to Review Application, 8th & Bluff.
- Completed review this week of draft application: Preliminary-Final Plan, Proposed Merrill Heinbaugh Resubdivision, Block 4 Blagues Addition, 19th & Cement.
- Reviewing draft application: Proposed Structures/B&Bs, Avalanche & Floodplain Hazard Overlay Districts, Two Adjacent Use Subject to Review Applications, 13th & Cement.
- Reviewing draft application: Proposed Planeta Infrastructure, Slope Hazard Overlay District Use Subject to Review Application, 12th & Bluff.
- Reviewing Application: Singer Application for Proposed Vacation Rental, 11th & Reese.
- Preparing two draft Town Ordinances, regarding Vacation Rentals regulations, and establishing an Architectural Review Overlay District.
- Reviewing draft Town Board of Adjustment Minutes.
- Preparing Town Personnel & Ordinance Committee Minutes.
- Reviewing the draft Town Due Diligence Guide.
- Reviewing draft Town sign codes, and draft Town development reimbursement regulations.
- The Planning Director and Building Inspector have been responding to a lot of inquiries, regarding for-sale Lots and existing buildings, and the applicable Town regulations.
- There is a growing list of Town zoning regulations/application forms to update.
- I am working with the Interim Town Administrator, to arrange for a Town planning department clerical trainee, as well as arranging for revisions to Town zoning regulations.
- I am currently working on some additional Town items such as adjacent land owner letters.

The County Commissioners/citizens can contact me with questions about the Town/County Planning Department at "ladair@silverton.co.us" or (970) 387-5522.

# CDOT/San Juan County Meet & Greet

## Inbox



Morschauser - CDOT, Linda

Fri, Mar 19, 12:04 PM (3 days ago)

to Sanjuancounty

Hi Willy,

We still need San Juan BOCC to sign up for a meeting date and time for our County Meetings. I believe you received a previous email from Colleen Ballo regarding this. Colleen is no longer heading this effort and I will be taking over from here. Please see the availability below and let me know what date and time works best for our CDOT/San Juan County meeting.

Thank you!

Friday, April 9 3:00 - 4:00 pm Friday, April 9 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Wednesday, May 5 12:45 - 1:45 pm Wednesday, May 5 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Monday, May 10 10:30 - 11:30 am Monday, May 10 2:45 - 3:45 pm Monday, May 10 3:45 - 4:45 pm

Wednesday, May 26 2:00 - 3:00 pm Wednesday, May 26 3:00 - 4:00 pm Wednesday, May 26 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Wednesday, June 2 12:45 - 1:45 pm Wednesday, June 2 3:00 - 4:00 pm Wednesday, June 2 4:00 - 5:00 pm