



**Board of County Commissioners**

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Great Outdoors Colorado

Re: Grant Funds for Upper Brush Creek School Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Eagle County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the effort by Colorado State Parks and Wildlife to stabilize the historic Upper Brush Creek School structure.

The school building, located just above the forks of East and West Brush Creek in Sylvan Lake State Park, stands as physical proof of a rich county history that dates back to the late 1800s. During this time, people were drawn to our mountain county by the lure of mining. Due to the nature of mining – boom-or-bust, many of those men and women turned their interest to agriculture. For nearly 80 years, ranching and farming were key economic forces in Eagle County; and some of the finest ranches were located in the Brush Creek Valley.

As ranches and farms became more established, a vote was passed in 1916 to close the school which had served the nearby mining camp of Fulford. A new school was built on West Brush Creek by volunteers whose children would attend the school until 1941. In the 1950s and 1960s, loggers used the school as a dormitory.

This historical structure is in danger of falling down. It has needed to be stabilized for at least 20 years. The Eagle County Board of County Commissioners considers the Upper Brush Creek School to represent the county's pioneer days, and believes it needs to be preserved. This project is even more worthy with its location in Sylvan Lake State Park; it is easily viewable by the public.

The public impact of this project is considerable. Locals and visitors alike stop at the Sylvan Lake Visitor Center to learn about wildlife, get permits, and revel in the area's history. There is strong public support for the stabilization project, and we believe it is worthy of funding. It is a valuable part of our unique local history.

Sincerely,

Kathy Chandler-Henry  
Chair

Jeanne McQueeney  
Commissioner

Jill H. Ryan  
Commissioner