



Board of County Commissioners

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October 14, 2020

Lisa Stoeffler, Acting Forest Supervisor
White River National Forest
900 Grand Avenue, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Delivered via mail and email to: lisa.stoeffler@usda.gov
cc: Carole Huey, Lands Program Manager, carole.l.huey@usda.gov

Dear Ms. Stoeffler:

We are writing to express our support for the White River National Forest's funding request to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire the Arrowhead Tract (Township 5 South, Range 82 West, Section 16) currently owned by the Colorado State Land Board. The conveyance of this parcel into federal ownership would complement two key elements of Eagle County's strategic plan: protecting the natural environment and making Eagle County a great place for all, by protecting forests and open space, and enhancing trail systems for community recreation.

This 654-acre tract of land provides significant recreational opportunities and protects wildlife habitat important to the citizens of Eagle County. This parcel provides recreational connectivity and access between the unincorporated town of Edwards and the White River National Forest (Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District). The property is in close proximity to the mountain resort communities of Edwards and Avon, as well as Beaver Creek Ski Resort (Arrowhead Mountain). This project will improve non-motorized connectivity for trail users on USFS lands south of Edwards, and will help to restore a popular loop trail between the Homestead residential community and Beaver Creek Resort informally known as the "A-10" trail. Eagle County also holds a key public trail easement across private land in the Homestead neighborhood that provides access to this trail and USFS lands.

In addition to recreational use, the parcel provides important habitat for big game species such as elk, moose, mule deer and black bear. Colorado Parks and Wildlife identifies the Arrowhead parcel as summer and winter range for elk and moose; winter concentration area for elk; summer range for mule deer; and summer and fall concentration area for black bear.

In the 2012-2013, the State Land Board and the US Forest Service were parties to a land transaction involving this parcel transferring to the USFS. Ultimately, this parcel was removed from the exchange. Eagle County is hopeful that this LWCF funding effort will help accomplish the long-standing goal of conveying this parcel into federal ownership.

Sincerely,

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Chair

Matt Scherr
Commissioner

Jeanne McQueeney
Commissioner