

OHV Conference Call  
August 20, 2019 3:00 p.m.

Present on the call: Shelley Grail, Manette Anderson, Marlene Crosby, Ron Leach, Corinne, Chris Cox

Ron updated the group about the two press articles that were recently published about the Lead King Loop and the working group. Corinne has visited Marble 4 times. She has also been up to Crystal. He expressed appreciation for Western Colorado University's and Gunnison County's support.

Chris said that some of the information in the most recent article was not accurate concerning the Crystal Mill. Any questions should be directed to him. Ron asked about the ATV usage up to Crystal. Chris reported that it was incredibly busy. He has a picture of bumper to bumper traffic along the entire length of Main Street on Saturday, August 10. Razor clubs in groups of 6,12,15,18 in souped up larger Razors. Marlene asked if Schofield is open and, yes, it is open. LKL still has the avalanche debris field that skilled jeep and razor drivers can get through. Marlene asked if the razor groups are more or less respectful than individual users. Chris said that they are much more disrespectful: loud music, speed, dangerous driving. Some respond to direct confrontation. Manette said that speed is becoming more of an issue – she would add dirt bikes to the list of what is on the increase. Shelley asked about parking in Marble. Ron reported that the designated truck/trailer parking have 14 spaces and that all 14 are used on weekends. She asked about where overflow parking is happening. Ron said they tend to go up to the base of Daniel's Hill at the Gold Pan Gallery area or wherever they can find a place. If they park in Hermit's Hideaway, they ride their OHVs on CR 3 and through town. Chris reported truck/trailers parked in the road at Beaver Lake as well as in the Beaver Lake parking area. Shelley said that their law enforcement person was there on Sunday, particularly to discourage driving around the avalanche debris field. Chris criticized the Sopris article that made the jeep drivers who claimed to be the first around the loop out to be heroes – they drove on Wilderness Area and Forest Service property.

Ron reported that he asked the Town Council become the lead agency on the project – the agency that would sign grant applications and, in effect, to employ Corrine. He also asked the town for seed money (\$5000) in the 2020 budget and the county will be asked for funds as well. He is also looking at a start-up DOLA grant for \$20,000. This one takes a match. He emphasized that anything done would require Forest Service approval and cooperation. Shelley suggested the group sitting down together. Marlene reported that the Gunnison County commissioners would be meeting with the Marble Town Council Oct 10. Shelley will try to attend that meeting. Ron suggested the group meet together prior to the meeting with the commissioners at 4 p.m. on or the day before.

Marlene said she had asked the County to include funds for this project in their 2020 budget and they agreed. Manette asked about a meeting previously discussed for fund raising ideas for a strategic planner. Ron said there would not be a meeting in August on this subject.

Corinne reported that she is trying to identify major concerns surrounding this project. She

wants to make sure that the groundwork the town lays is in line with the Forest Service goals. She said grant applications need to begin as soon as possible. She asked about drafting grant applications and all agreed that she do this.

Ron said the town would approve being the lead agency at the Sept. 5 meeting. All agreed that this made the most sense in terms of logistics and proximity of the town to the project.

Ron reported that the town was almost universally positive about the work being done by the group.

The next conference call meeting will be September 17, 2019 at 3 p.m.