

Town of Marble  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
November 3, 2022 7:00 P.M.  
Marble Community Church, 121 W. State St. Marble, Colorado  
Agenda

7:00 P.M.

- A. Call to order & roll call of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
- B. Mayor's comments
  - a. Discussion regarding purchase of Marble Water Company
- C. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approve October 6, 2022 minutes
  - b. Approve October 13, 2022 minutes
  - c. Approve Current Bills, November 3, 2022
  - d. Approve RFVWC Memorandum of Understanding
- D. Administrator Report
  - a. Discussion 2023 preliminary budget, Ron
  - b. Set public hearing 2023 budget, 12/8/23, 7:00 pm
- E. Committee Reports
  - a. Lead King Loop working group final report presentation, Amber
  - b. Parks committee report, Brent
- F. Land use issues
  - a.
- G. Old Business
  - a. CTO Grant up-date, Town Entrance Signs, Amber
  - b. Discussion regarding application for DOLA planning grant, Amber
- H. New Business
  - a. Light pollution and noise after 10:00 pm, Mike
- I. Adjourn

Minutes of the Town of Marble  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
October 6th, 2022

A. Call to order & roll call of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Mayor Ryan Vinciguerra called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Present: Ryan Vinciguerra, Tony Petrocco, Emma Bielski and Amber McMahill. Attending by phone: Larry Good. Also present: Ron Leach, Town Administrator and Terry Langley, minutes.

B. Mayor’s comments – Ryan congratulated everyone on a smooth summer!

a. Discussion regarding purchase of Marble Water Company (MWC)– Ryan explained that the MWC is a nonprofit entity that has provided safe drinking water for years. The board of the MWC is potentially going to sell. They are in very preliminary discussions with the town. There is much work to be done before anything is decided one way or the other. Larry would like to use the term “acquire” rather than “purchase”. He said that John Williams stated that the original intent of the MWC was to turn it over to the town once it was up and running. Tony asked if John had sent a copy of the original agreement between the MWC and the town. Ryan said that John has sent the articles or the by-laws, but not the agreement. Emma suggested dedicating some funds in the 2023 budget for potential legal expenses related to this. Amber spoke to Dana Hlavac from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and asked if this would qualify for a DOLA planning grant and Dana said it would. She would like to explore the option of getting a grant and hiring a third party to do the studies and research and to act as a facilitator. Tony said that water lines typically depreciate between 20-60 years so the existing water lines are coming to the end of their useful life. There are more regulations now and there is a need for augmentation. He feels that updating the master plan is the place to start. This would be a multi-year process. Emma agreed. Larry asked if hiring the personnel/experts to help with the master plan is also something that a grant from DOLA could cover and if there are steps to be taken before any acquisitions take place, including creating a special water district. Amber said there are multiple grants that can be applied for through DOLA. Chris Palmer asked what the advantages and disadvantages to owning the water company. Tony said one of the biggest advantages is being able to get grants. Chris spoke to the possibility of an outside group acquiring the water company if the town does not. Ryan said the pros include the resources the town has, getting water to east Marble, transparency and control. Cons are the added responsibility of taking care of the water system and liability. A third party is a possibility and the unknowns connected with that possibility are another disadvantage. Chris said the town could also lose control and that could impact the master plan. Tony said that the profit motive behind a third party is another disadvantage.

C. Consent Agenda – Amber McMahill made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the correction in the September 1 minutes listed below. Tony Petrocco seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- a. Approve August 25, 2022 special meeting minutes
- b. Approve September 1, 2022 regular meeting minutes – Larry asked that a correction be made in the name of Vince’s business from Beaver Lake Lodge to the Marble Lodge on Beaver Lake.
- c. Approve September 15, 2022 special meeting minutes
- d. Approve September 15, 2022 work session minutes

e. Approve Current Bills, October 6th, 2022

D. Administrator Report

a. Set public hearing to consider approval of Ordinance # 2022-4 supplemental budget regarding Wetlands Clean-up, Ron explained that this had been approved at the special meeting on Sept. 15, 2022 to be held tonight. It is required that a public hearing be published in the newspaper and he failed to do that. He proposes a special meeting by conference call next Thursday night, Oct. 13, 6:00 p.m. after publication on Tuesday. Ryan made a motion to hold a special meeting with public hearing on Oct. 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion 2023 preliminary budget, Ron – Ron explained that the budget needs to be approved by Dec. 15 and that this first look is to ask what people would like to see. Amber asked if the campground/office expense increase included improvements to the building. Ron explained that the increase was to cover things like utilities in using the building. Ryan asked if a capital expense line had been added. Ron explained that this proposed budget is for 2023 only and that capital projects generally take more than one year. Town Attorney, Kendall Bergemeister, said that the town should make that part of the master plan and a capital projects fund and plan. It is not as simple as adding a capital project line item to the town budget. Ryan explained that there are other separate funds with their own budgets, including parks and water.

Brainstorming, Ryan would to add I-pads and Starlink for the town. Ron also asked for a lap top for Terry. Emma asked if there should additionally be other computers added for the town. Ryan said that improvements to the town administrative building was number one on the capital improvement wish list. He spoke to the potential for added legal fees as the town grows.

Emma said there were goals that were not included in the capital improvement list, including dredging Carbonate Creek. Ron said he spoke to the Army Corps of Engineers and was told that they do not need a permit as long as they are not changing the course of the creek, building a pond or making other major changes. It needs to be communicated to the Army Corps. Ron asked if they can stack the materials on the banks and was told yes. He suggests doing it now while the flow is low using one of the local excavators. Tony asked about getting a rock crusher. Ron feels that it is too late to get the county crusher this year but perhaps they can dredge now, crush later. Larry Good made a motion to direct Ron to engage excavation professionals to dredge Carbonate creek for up to \$5,000 and to explore getting a rock crusher. Amber McMahill seconded. Ron will do the preliminary work of contacting the excavators and exploring getting a rock crusher, but the motion to do the work was tabled until the November meeting.

Angus Barber asked about the difference between the income and expenditures. Ryan explained that this is a preliminary look at the budget and it would not be finalized and approved until December.

Emma asked that funds be dedicated to master planning. It is already included.

Amber would like to see some funds for grant expenditures to cover the expenditures beyond grant writing. Any grants awarded often end up needing some legal work and have hidden expenses. She suggests \$10,000.

Ryan asked how much of the campground/office expenses goes for campground and how much for the office. Ron explained that this includes pumping septic tanks, buying hand towels, etc. Ryan asked why there was an increase this year. Ron said he needs to gather some information and that he

put this amount in to be safe. Amber would like to see a separate line for office building expenses. Ryan asked that campground and office expenses be separated.

Amber asked to add a line item for a historic preservation commission as this is something many grants request. She said there is a process to become certified as a historic preservation municipality and she suggests \$1000.

Ryan would like to see parks increase from \$3000 to \$5000. He reiterated that this is a wish list and cuts would happen next month.

Emma wants to add the jail house preservation funds of \$5000 that were previously pledged be added as a line item.

Richard Wells asked about adding a line item for enforcement for such things as traffic. Amber explained that there is a listing for Municipal Court. Ryan feels that this would be part of master planning. Richard feels there needs to be management plan that includes ATVs. Ryan feels that there has been movement toward the education piece and that more information about this would be coming from Amber later in the agenda. Amber spoke to having this as part of the master plan. Ron spoke to the many different kinds of enforcement and that any require a court system which would include paying a judge, having a place to hold court, paying a prosecutor and a court clerk. Emma said these costs have been the barrier to establishing a court system and that our town is too small to incur them. Amber feels that there needs to be lots of citizen input. She said that this would need to be self-sustaining year-round but that our need for enforcement is primarily for three months of the year. Richard feels that since ATVs are allowed, there needs to be management and enforcement. Tony said they had arranged with Carbondale in 2010 to do our courts at a cost of \$500 day so it is a possibility of working with Carbondale on a court system. It would also require a certified peace officer and that costs can mount up very quickly, even for just the summer. Amber spoke to the Lead King Loop steering committee suggestions which would be coming next meeting and that there are some possible tools in that.

Angus asked about the cost for master planning. Ryan explained that every municipality should have a master plan and that plan should be reviewed every 10 years. We are long overdue and updating requires a facilitator, listening sessions, and some professional help in developing the master plan. Emma explained that it is a strategic approach with a long-term vision of what we want Marble to look like in 10 years and how we achieve that.

Emma asked to have a budget work session before the November meeting. Ryan suggested combining the work session with the previously scheduled special meeting. Dates were discussed and Oct 19, 6 p.m. was selected. Ryan made a motion to change the special meeting/public hearing from Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Amber seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (Note: due to conflicts, this was later moved back to October 13, 6:00 p.m.)

#### E. Committee Reports

- a. Parks committee report, Brent - none

#### F. Land use issues - none

#### G. Old Business

- a. CTO Grant up-date, Amber – Amber explained that Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) awarded a \$20,000 grant to address OHVs and to rebrand Marble as a quieter place to enjoy. The first part is the

education component and they are working to identify front-line workers with tourists to come up with three things: the best practices to get people to comply, to spread information and what to do when they don't comply. They are working with Stay the Trail, a group with the same goals. They are also working on the locals guide to guiding tourists so that they can answer frequently asked questions. Center for Public Land is facilitating this. The 3<sup>rd</sup> component is to develop a plan on how to distribute information to the public. The second half of the grant is a signage grant. She is reaching out to those with experience: Richard, Brad, Ron, Samantha to help gather knowledge on how to work with people. Crystal is working with them as well.

b. Discussion regarding Planning Commission job description, Ron – Amber presented a suggested job description. She said that researching other planning and zoning commissions showed that they don't really fit Marble's needs so she dropped the zoning commission component. Her proposal is:

*Planning Commission Responsibilities*

*Summary: The planning commission will act as an advisory, research, data collection and planning capacity. All members will be by appointment of the Marble Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the Town Administrator. Projects worked upon will be assigned by the Marble Board of Trustees. The commission will be comprised of 5 members, three members from the Town of Marble and two from unincorporated Gunnison County. A facilitator will aid the commission the completion of their various projects and help provide structure to the commission*

*Commission Member's Duties may include:*

*Working to facilitate and form a comprehensive master plan.*

*Helping to research and plan capital projects*

*Seek and collect public input on projects*

*Collect data and information in the study of feasibility and popularity of specific projects*

*\*\*Work on drafting ordinances as requested*

*\*\*Review outside proposals to see if they align with comprehensive plan and make recommendations to the board*

*Facilitator Duties may include:*

*Create an agreed upon description, process, roles and guidelines for the commission.*

*Facilitate meetings an offer guidance and knowledge in implementing projects.*

*Help in the research and data gathering process.*

*Make suggestions and offer advice about the best methods and options for projects.*

*Help in organizing and presenting information.*

*Help advise in the necessary steps required to implement projects.*

Ryan had a similar proposal:

*Planning Commission*

*The planning commission is a local appointed group of private citizens who are charged with recommending and advising the Marble Trustees on matters related to planning and development.*

*Why? Planning helps – SAVE MONETY, SETS EXPECTATIONS, QUALITY OF LIFE and CREATES A FORUM*

*The planning commission responsibilities include*

*Development and updates to the Town Mater Plan and any Comprehensive Plan*

*Defining commercial and residential zones within the plans above*

*Hold Public Hearings as necessary to allow public input for different topics and future changes*  
*Current examples of projects for the Planning Commission*

*Bike Trails*

*Master Plan*

*Long term Parks Improvement Plan*

*Parking*

*Commercial Zones*

Emma spoke to the need for a professional facilitator. Richard Wells asked if they had someone in mind. Mark Chain was mentioned as someone who has worked with the board and who has the experience necessary. If there are others, they would be considered. The goal is to have this commission in place in 2023. Ryan asked about the process. Amber would like to see the facilitator first and have them develop a framework then Ron can put out a call for volunteers. Emma would like to see the budget for this increased due to the large scope of work proposed. Ryan said that, for the planning commission, the board would have control of how much the group does. He pictures the facilitator as getting the group framework in place and helping to form the group. Richard proposes doubling the current proposal of \$4000. Discussion will continue in future budget sessions.

c. Discussion regarding application for DOLA planning grant - Amber will do more research on types of applicable grants. Emma asked if there were limitations to how many DOLA grants they can apply for and Amber explained they can apply for as many as they want. She said there are many different grants that would apply to the water, although they do not give grants for inventorying the MWC assets. Ron explained that they have much of that information with the plans. He also spoke about getting in touch with the Colorado Division of Water Resources regarding grants to extend water to East Marble and to acquiring the MWC.

#### H. New Business

- a. Terry announced that there would be a Community Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 12.
- b. Ryan announced a fund raising dinner for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade school trip at Slow Groovin' on Oct. 27. This may be a taco bar and will include pumpkin carving.
- c. Paul Wahlbrink spoke to the increase in speeding vehicles, the need for enforcement and the danger to children.

I. Adjourn – Tony Petrocco made a motion to adjourn. Emma Bielski seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Agenda for November: dredging Carbonate Creek

Agenda for future meeting – fire mitigation

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Langley

Minutes of the Town of Marble  
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
October 13th, 2022

- A. Call to order & roll call of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Larry Good called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Present: Tony Petrocco, Amber McMahill and Larry Good. Absent: Mayor Ryan Vinciguerra and Emma Bielski. Also present: Ron Leach, Town Administrator; Allie Wettstein, Administrative Assistant and Terry Langley, minutes.
  
- B. Consider approval of 2022/2023 winter snow plow agreement w/ Gunnison County – Tony Petrocco made a motion to approve the 2022/2023 winter snow plow agreement with Gunnison County. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
  
- C. Larry Good made a motion to go out of the special meeting and into public hearing. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was paused at 6:23 p.m.
  
- C. Public Hearing regarding approval of Ordinance #4-2022 Supplemental Budget – The public hearing was opened at 6:24 p.m. Ron explained that this is to handle the revenues of \$98,000 from the State of Colorado for the wetlands clean up. Costs for that will be \$95,000. Larry asked about the legal costs involved with this and Ron explained that the extra \$3000 from the state was to cover these and other administrative costs. Tony Petrocco made a motion to approve Ordinance #4-2022. McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Tony Petrocco made a motion to close the public hearing and to reconvene the special meeting. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The public hearing closed at 6:24 p.m. The special meeting was reconvened at 6:25 p.m.
  
- D. Discussion of 2023 preliminary budget – Marja O’Conner reported on the budget work being done by the parks committee. They estimated 2022 expenses at \$53,000. They broke this down into three components: operational expenses, capital improvement and emergency expenses. They are asking the town to increase the operational to \$30,000, the capital improvement to \$20,000 and the emergency budget to \$15,000 for a total of \$65,000. They hope to pursue more grants and being able to show support from the town would help to secure these. Larry asked about expenses and if any work was done by volunteers. Marja said the volunteer work day scheduled with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers had to be cancelled due to mud slides. A group of Colorado Rocky Mountain School high school students did volunteer work at a different time. Paid work included such things as aeration, mowing, work in the Marble Children’s park, installing fence posts as well as cleaning restrooms, . Amber said that most of these things are already in the budget under various line items. The Parks fund is not actually a separate fund – it is part of the general fund and is broken out for tracking purposes. Ron suggested separating all parks income and expenses out from the other lines they currently fall under. He noted that it is not possible to carry unused funds over to another year and that emergency expenses can come from town reserves so there is no need for an emergency fund line/request in the budget. Marja asked for a separate line item for /budget parks for grant purposes and for strategic planning. Tony said having a line item lets the park committee know how much they have and would help them track their spending through the year. Marja said

this would allow the strategic plan to develop projects for town approval. Ron will need to review the invoices for 2022 to have an accurate number of money spent. He will do a spread sheet for 2023. He requested cost estimates for wish list items. Marja asked for a survey/asset inventory of parks in the town. Ron spoke to the added costs that will come with the Wetlands and with Children's Park and the need to identify and track those expenses. Ron asked about the plan for a 501 C3 designation. Marja said that they were looking at this for tax write offs for donations. Larry said that Karen has experience with these. Tony said there are organizations/grants that will help fund some of these and that donations to the town for directed expenditures can provide tax write offs. Amber suggested forming something like Friends of Marble Parks. Ron said that Emma has proposed something similar. These conversations will continue as the park committee meets for some strategic planning and the town board continues to work on the 2023 budget.

Further budget discussion was postponed until Ryan and Emma can attend.

- E. Adjourn – Tony Petrocco made a motion to adjourn. Amber McMahill seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Langley



FS Agreement No. 22-MU-11021500-TBD

Cooperator Agreement No. \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING****Between****PITKIN COUNTY****AND****EAGLE COUNTY****AND****GARFIELD COUNTY****AND****GUNNISON COUNTY****AND****THE CITY OF ASPEN****AND****THE TOWN OF SNOWMASS VILLAGE****AND****THE TOWN OF BASALT****AND****THE TOWN OF CARBONDALE****AND****THE CITY OF GLENWOOD SPRINGS****AND****TOWN OF MARBLE****AND****ASPEN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT****AND****ROARING FORK FIRE RESCUE AUTHORITY****AND****CARBONDALE AND RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT****AND****GLENWOOD SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT****AND****COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE****AND****COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE****AND****USDI, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD  
OFFICE, UPPER COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT****And The****USDA, FOREST SERVICE****ASPEN-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT, WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST**

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by and between Pitkin County, Eagle County, Garfield County, Gunnison County,

The City of Aspen, The Town of Snowmass Village, The Town of Basalt, The Town of Carbondale, The City of Glenwood Springs, Aspen Fire Protection District, Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority, Carbondale and Rural Fire Protection District, Glenwood Springs Fire Department, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and The Bureau of Land Management Colorado River Field Office, hereinafter referred to as “Parties, Members, or Cooperators,” and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, White River National Forest, Aspen-Sopris Ranger District, hereinafter referred to as the “U.S. Forest Service.”

Background: The Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative works to empower all people to take action to reduce risk in their communities to protect people, property, and places from wildfire loss. The Parties recognize, accept, and respect the differences in missions, goals, and objectives of each other. However, wildfire does not recognize or respect jurisdictional boundaries. The Parties therefore will work collaboratively and in a coordinated fashion to achieve the shared goals and objectives of the MOU.

Title: Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative

- I. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this MOU is to document the cooperation between the parties to establish the Collaborative as an informal, unincorporated collaborative organization, in which the members set mutual goals and priorities, utilize existing forest management tools and legal authorities, and align their decisions on where to make the investments needed to achieve the mission and objectives set forth for the Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative in accordance with the following provisions.

## **II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS:**

The Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative works to reduce wildfire risk by identifying, prioritizing, and implementing strategic cross-boundary plans and projects aimed at creating fire resilient landscapes and fire-adapted communities while focusing on community engagement, education, and inclusion.

In entering into this MOU, the Cooperators and the U.S. Forest Service recognize that the parties share certain common interests and goals, which include the following:

- Meaningful and ongoing engagement of stakeholders located in the forest and downstream in the development of strategies to achieve the outcomes and foster support for the implementation of those strategies.
- A regional network of resilient forests that are better able to absorb and recover from current and future stressors and disturbances.
- A collaboratively developed and supported fire management strategy (wildland and prescribed) so that wildfires are safely and effectively extinguished when and where needed, but also in the right circumstances, permits wildland fire to be more flexibly managed in order to reduce future risks to life, property, and wildlife habitat.
- Resilient landscapes that support water quality and quantity needs, habitat for robust and healthy flora and fauna, livestock grazing, as well as recreation opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy now and in the future.
- Active management to enhance forest health and reduce wildfire risk based on the best available data and contemporary science to inform the development and application of on-the-ground activities including landscape scale and cross boundary projects where needed. This includes the use of the best available climate science that will help stakeholders understand how a changing climate will impact our landscapes and ecosystems, while also looking for opportunities to improve understanding through local research.
- Promoting the personal responsibility of residents who live in wildfire risk areas to prepare as follows: homes are built or improved to best resist wildfire, defensible space around homes is created and maintained, insurance policies are regularly updated, emergency alerts are receivable and acted upon, evacuation plans are learned and understood, community mitigation initiatives are engaged in and are sought

To accomplish the above goals, each party commits to:

- Work within their own statutory and regulatory authorities, including planning and decision-making requirements where applicable.
- Collaborate and coordinate to implement this MOU to achieve the mission and objectives expressed herein.

In consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows:

### **III. THE COOPERATORS SHALL:**

- A. Provide a liaison to link the parties of this MOU together.
- B. Coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, federal, state, local, and Native American tribe governments, and individuals.
- C.

### **IV. THE COOPERATORS SHALL: (For Non-profits and non-governmental orgs)**

- A. Provide a liaison to link the parties of this MOU together.
- B. Coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, federal, state, local, and Native American tribe governments, and individuals.
- C. ASSURANCE REGARDING FELONY CONVICTION OR TAX DELINQUENT STATUS FOR CORPORATE ENTITIES. This agreement is subject to the provisions contained in the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012, P.L. No. 112- 74, Division E, Section 433 and 434 regarding corporate felony convictions and corporate federal tax delinquencies. Accordingly, by entering into this agreement Cooperators acknowledges that it: 1) does not have a tax delinquency, meaning that it is not subject to any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, and (2) has not been convicted (or had an officer or agent acting on its behalf convicted) of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within 24 months preceding the agreement, unless a suspending and debaring official of the USDA has considered suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government. If Cooperators fails to comply with these provisions, the U.S. Forest Service will annul this agreement and may recover any funds Cooperators has expended in violation of sections 433 and 434.
- D.

#### **V. THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE SHALL:**

- A. Provide a liaison to link the parties of this MOU together.
- B. Ensure that all planning and site-based data collection activities comply with forest plans, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, and all applicable laws and regulations.
- C. Coordinate with the Parties to this MOU, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, federal, state, local, and Native American tribe governments, and individuals.
- D. Execute necessary instrument(s) to allow Cooperator(s) to complete mutually agreed to activities and projects on National Forest System lands, which includes but is not limited to, providing Cooperator(s) and its agents access to federal lands to perform project implementation, maintenance, and monitoring activities at project sites.

- E. Following completion of project implementation and the achievement of all required performance standards for given sites, act as the long-term steward of project sites, conducting any required maintenance.
- F. Under an appropriate authority and by separate instrument(s), accept resources and/or contributions that benefit its programs.

**VI. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:**

- A. The Parties recognize, accept, and respect the differences in missions, goals, and objectives of each other. However, wildfire does not recognize or respect jurisdictional boundaries. The Parties therefore agree to work collaboratively and in a coordinated fashion to achieve the mission and objectives sought and described in this MOU.
- B. The Parties acknowledge that any Party to this MOU may participate in local activities or implement decisions related to forestry management as part of their site-specific obligations, responsibilities, and authorities. This MOU is not meant to supplant any Party's discretionary authority to make decisions about forest management or wildfire response associated with their individual jurisdictions.
- C. This MOU is non-binding and does not obligate any funds of the Parties. As funding and resources are available and authorized (as determined in each Party's sole discretion), the Parties will provide technical, human, and/or financial support to the Partnership under an appropriate authority, as applicable, and by separate instrument(s).
- D. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. Individuals listed below are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

**Principal Cooperator Contacts:**

<b>Pitkin County Program Contact</b>	<b>Pitkin County Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Valerie MacDonald Address: 530 Main Street City, State, Zip: Aspen, CO 81611 Telephone: 970-379-6748 Email: valerie.macdonald@pitkinsheriff.com	Name: Valerie MacDonald Address: 530 Main Street City, State, Zip: Aspen, CO 81611 Telephone: 970-379-6748 Email: valerie.macdonald@pitkinsheriff.com

<b>Eagle County Program Contact</b>	<b>Eagle County Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Garfield County Program Contact</b>	<b>Garfield County Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Gunnison County Program Contact</b>	<b>Gunnison County Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>City of Aspen Program Contact</b>	<b>City of Aspen Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Town of Snowmass Village Program Contact</b>	<b>Town of Snowmass Village Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Town of Basalt Program Contact</b>	<b>Town of Basalt Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Town of Carbondale Program Contact</b>	<b>Town of Carbondale Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>City of Glenwood Springs Program Contact</b>	<b>City of Glenwood Springs Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Town of Marble Program Contact</b>	<b>Town of Marble Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Aspen Fire Protection District Program Contact</b>	<b>Aspen Fire Protection District Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority Program Contact</b>	<b>Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Carbondale and Rural Fire Protection District Program Contact</b>	<b>Carbondale and Rural Fire Protection District Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:



<b>Glenwood Springs Fire Department Program Contact</b>	<b>Glenwood Springs Fire Department Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Colorado State Forest Service Program Contact</b>	<b>Colorado State Forest Service Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Colorado Parks and Wildlife Program Contact</b>	<b>Colorado Parks and Wildlife Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

<b>Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River Valley Field Office Program Contact</b>	<b>Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River Valley Field Office Administrative Contact</b>
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Email:

**Principal U.S. Forest Service Contacts:**

<b>U.S. Forest Service Program Manager Contact</b>	<b>U.S. Forest Service Administrative Contact</b>
Clark Woolley Partnership Coordinator 900 Grand Avenue Glenwood Springs, CO Telephone: 970-948-9803 Email: <a href="mailto:clark.woolley@usda.gov">clark.woolley@usda.gov</a>	Alex Specht Grants Management Team Rocky Mountain Region – Center of Excellence 900 Grand Ave Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 Telephone: (970) 945-3227 Email: <a href="mailto:alex.specht@usda.gov">alex.specht@usda.gov</a>

- E. NOTICES. Any communications affecting the operations covered by this agreement given by the U.S. Forest Service or Cooperators is sufficient only if in writing and delivered in person, mailed, or transmitted electronically by e-mail or fax, as follows:

To the U.S. Forest Service Program Manager, at the address specified in the MOU.

To Cooperators, at Cooperator's address shown in the MOU or such other address designated within the MOU.

Notices are effective when delivered in accordance with this provision, or on the effective date of the notice, whichever is later.

- F. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This MOU in no way restricts the U.S. Forest Service or Cooperators from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- G. ENDORSEMENT. Any of Cooperator's contributions made under this MOU do not by direct reference or implication convey U.S. Forest Service endorsement of Cooperators' products or activities.
- H. NONBINDING AGREEMENT. This MOU creates no right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity. The parties shall manage their respective resources and activities in a separate, coordinated and mutually beneficial manner to meet the purpose(s) of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU authorizes any of the parties to obligate or transfer anything of value.

Specific, prospective projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, property, and/or anything of value to a party requires the execution of separate agreements and are contingent upon numerous factors, including, as applicable, but not limited to: agency availability of appropriated funds and other resources; cooperator availability of funds and other resources; agency and cooperator administrative and legal requirements (including agency authorization by statute); etc. This MOU neither provides, nor meets these criteria. If the parties elect to enter into an obligation agreement that involves the transfer of funds, services, property, and/or anything of value to a party, then the applicable criteria must be met. Additionally, under a prospective agreement, each party operates under its own laws, regulations, and/or policies, and any Forest Service obligation is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and other resources. The negotiation, execution, and administration of these prospective agreements must comply with all applicable law.

Nothing in this MOU is intended to alter, limit, or expand the agencies' statutory and regulatory authority.

- I. USE OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE INSIGNIA. In order for Cooperators to use the U.S. Forest Service insignia on any published media, such as a Web page, printed publication, or audiovisual production, permission must be granted from the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communications. A written request must be submitted and approval granted in writing by the Office of Communications (Washington Office) prior to use of the insignia.
- J. MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS. Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 22, no U.S. member of, or U.S. delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or benefits that may arise therefrom, either directly or indirectly.
- K. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Public access to MOU or agreement records must not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been exempted from disclosure pursuant to Freedom of Information regulations (5 U.S.C. 552).
- L. TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING. In accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13513, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving," any and all text messaging by Federal employees is banned: a) while driving a Government owned vehicle (GOV) or driving a privately owned vehicle (POV) while on official Government business; or b) using any electronic equipment supplied by the Government when driving any vehicle at any time. All cooperators, their employees, volunteers, and contractors are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging when driving company owned, leased or rented vehicles, POVs or GOVs when driving while on official Government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the Government.
- M. TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ORDINANCE (TERO) The U.S. Forest Service recognizes and honors the applicability of the Tribal laws and ordinances developed under the authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act of 1975 (PL 93-638).
- N. PUBLIC NOTICES. It is the U.S. Forest Service's policy to inform the public as fully as possible of its programs and activities. The Cooperators is/are encouraged to give public notice of the receipt of this agreement and, from time to time, to announce progress and accomplishments. Press releases or other public notices should include a statement substantially as follows:

"White River National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture"

Cooperators may call on the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communication for advice regarding public notices. Cooperators is/are requested to provide copies of notices or announcements to the U.S. Forest Service Program Manager and to The U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communications as far in advance of release as possible.

- O. TERMINATION. Any of the parties, in writing, may terminate this MOU in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.
- P. DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION. Cooperators shall immediately inform the U.S. Forest Service if they or any of their principals are presently excluded, debarred, or suspended from entering into covered transactions with the federal government according to the terms of 2 CFR Part 180. Additionally, should Cooperators or any of their principals receive a transmittal letter or other official Federal notice of debarment or suspension, then they shall notify the U.S. Forest Service without undue delay. This applies whether the exclusion, debarment, or suspension is voluntary or involuntary.
- Q. MODIFICATIONS. Modifications within the scope of this MOU must be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all properly authorized, signatory officials, prior to any changes being performed. Requests for modification should be made, in writing, at least 30 days prior to implementation of the requested change.

- R. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This MOU is executed as of the date of the last signature and is effective through 10/15/2027 at which time it will expire.
- S. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this MOU.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the last date written below.

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PATTI CLAPPER, BOCC Chair Pitkin County, Colorado	Date
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NAME, Title Eagle County, Colorado	Date
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NAME, Title Garfield County, Colorado	Date
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NAME, Title Gunnison County, Colorado	Date
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NAME, Title The City of Aspen, Colorado	Date
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NAME, Title The Town of Snowmass Village, Colorado	Date
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NAME, Title The Town of Basalt, Colorado	Date
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<b>NAME, Title</b> The Town of Carbondale, Colorado	Date
<b>NAME, Title</b> The City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado	Date
<b>NAME, Title</b> The Town of Marble, Colorado	Date
<b>NAME, Title</b> Aspen Fire Protection District	Date
<b>NAME, Title</b> Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority	Date
<b>NAME, Title</b> Carbondale and Rural Fire Protection District	Date
<b>NAME, Title</b> Glenwood Springs Fire Department	Date
<b>NAME, Title</b> Colorado State Forest Service	Date
<b>NAME, Title</b> Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River Valley Field Office	Date
SCOTT G. FITZWILLIAMS, Forest Supervisor U.S. Forest Service, White River National Forest	Date

The authority and format of this agreement have been reviewed and approved for signature.

---

DAVE GRAHAM  
U.S. Forest Service Grants Management Specialist

Date

urden Statement

B

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0217. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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**MAP**  
**(Placeholder)**

**TOWN OF MARBLE  
GENERAL FUND  
2023 Budget  
10/31/2022**

	<b>2021 Audit</b>	<b>2022 Estimate</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>274,174</b>	<b>356,227</b>	<b>390,212</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>Taxes</b>			
General Property Tax	29,127	28,190	28,000
Specific Ownership Tax	0	1,500	1,500
Additional License Tax	0	500	500
Property Tax Interest	0	100	100
Taxes Other	0	0	0
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>29,127</b>	<b>30,290</b>	<b>30,100</b>
<b>Licenses &amp; Permits</b>			
Business Licenses	0	1,200	1,200
Building Permits	0	3,468	4,000
Driveway Access Permits	0	0	0
Septic Permits	0	3,000	3,000
Other Licenses & Permits	0	60	500
Short Term Rental Licenses	0	0	500
<b>Total Licenses &amp; Permits</b>	<b>8,685</b>	<b>7,728</b>	<b>9,200</b>
<b>Intergovernmental</b>			
General Sales Tax	160,794	140,000	140,000
Highway User Taxes (HUTF)	11,861	10,000	10,000
Colorado Trust Fund	0	1,000	0
Severance Tax	166	6,560	5,000
Mineral Lease Distribution	961	2,305	2,000
Cigarette Tax	319	200	200
Intergovernmental Other	0	0	0
Grant Revenue	0	16,840	0
Other Permit & License Fees	0	0	0
<b>Total Intergovernmental</b>	<b>174,101</b>	<b>176,905</b>	<b>157,200</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
Parking Program Revenue	0	0	100
Campground/Store Revenues	32,436	40,000	40,000
Interest Revenue	58	100	500
SGB Lease Agreement	0	2,732	2,800
CSQ Lease Agreement	31,551	30,000	30,000
CSQ Maintenance Payments	0	3,600	3,600
Holy Cross Electric Rebates	0	500	500
Donations	10,955	4,000	2,000
Lead King Loop Project	0	0	1,000
Marble Fest	0	25,353	24,000
Non-Specified	20,137	2,000	2,000
Transfer Water Fund, Admin Costs	0	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>95,137</b>	<b>109,285</b>	<b>107,500</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>307,050</b>	<b>324,208</b>	<b>304,000</b>

**TOWN OF MARBLE  
GENERAL FUND  
2023 Budget**

	<b>2021 Audit</b>	<b>2022 Estimate</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<b>Wages &amp; Benefits</b>			
Total Wages	0	86,460	101,000
FICA/Medicare	0	7,000	8,000
<b>Total Wages &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>77,172</b>	<b>93,460</b>	<b>109,000</b>
<b>General Government</b>			
Parking Program Expenses	0	2,800	5,000
Office Improvements & Expenses	0	0	10,000
Campground Improvements & Expenses	32,626	20,000	25,000
Treasurer Fees	0	500	500
Elections	0	1,200	0
Unclassified	8,543	2,763	3,000
Marble Fest Expenses	18,274	22,831	23,000
Church Rent	450	600	500
Tree Maintenance Program	0	0	0
Civic Engagement Fund	0	0	1,500
Office Expenses	11,454	10,000	14,000
Legal Publications	126	500	1,000
Dues & Subscriptions	537	0	500
Workshop/Travel	1,155	0	2,000
Weed Mitigation Program	0	0	0
Lead King Loop Project	0	10,000	3,500
Recycle Program	0	3,000	3,000
Master Planning	0	0	12,000
Transfer to Park Fund	0	22,114	69,500
Grant Expenditures	0	0	10,000
Planning & Zoning	0	4,000	4,000
Jail Foundation	0	0	0
Historic Preservation Commission	0	0	0
Carbonate Creek Dredging	0	5,000	0
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>73,165</b>	<b>105,308</b>	<b>188,000</b>
<b>Roads</b>			
Street Maintenance	0	20,000	25,000
Snow & Ice Removal	0	25,000	30,000
<b>Total Roads</b>	<b>34,649</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>55,000</b>
<b>Purchased Professional Services</b>			
Legal - General	16,711	20,000	20,000
Legal - Water Augmentation Plan	0	0	0
Audit	9,100	9,400	10,000
Municipal Court	0	0	1,500
Engineering Services - Water Augmentation Plan	0	0	500
Engineering Services & Inspections	3,785	3,000	4,000
<b>Total Purchased Professional Services</b>	<b>29,596</b>	<b>32,400</b>	<b>36,000</b>
<b>Other Purchased Services</b>			
Liability & Workers Comp. Insurance	5,008	6,500	7,000
Utilities	3,716	4,000	4,000
Park improvements	1,691	0	0
Grant Writing	0	0	1,000
Earth Day Expenses	0	3,555	4,000
<b>Total Other Purchased Services</b>	<b>10,415</b>	<b>14,055</b>	<b>16,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>224,997</b>	<b>290,223</b>	<b>404,000</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>356,227</b>	<b>390,212</b>	<b>290,212</b>

**TOWN OF MARBLE  
PARK FUND  
2023 Budget  
10/15/2022**

	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Estimate</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>18,027</b>	<b>5,622</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
CTF Funds	538	457	1,500
Interest	0	0	0
Donation	0	4,000	0
Transfer in from General Fund	0	22,114	69,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>26,571</b>	<b>71,000</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Parks Committee Maintenance	10,066	32,193	65,000
Improvements	2,877	0	0
Historical Park Preservation Commission	0	0	1,000
Grant Writer	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Jail Preservation Grant Matching Funds	0	0	5,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>12,943</b>	<b>32,193</b>	<b>71,000</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>5,622</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**TOWN OF MARBLE  
WATER FEE FUND  
2023 BUDGET  
10/31/2022**

	<b>2021 Audit</b>	<b>2022 Estimate</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Fee for Service	20,000	22,456	20,000
Interest	0	0	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>22,456</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Service Charge	0	0	0
Water Clerk	0	0	0
FICA Withholding	0	0	0
Administration Costs	1,000	1,000	1,000
Fire Protection/Water Tank	20,000	20,000	20,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>
<b>Other Financing Uses</b>			
Transfer out to General Fund	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>-1,000</b>

## Lead King Loop Stakeholder Group

Recommendations to the Town of Marble,  
Gunnison County, and the U.S. Forest Service



July 2022

Commented [MA2R1]: I am working to get a good citation for this.

## Table of Contents

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>LEAD KING LOOP STAKEHOLDER GROUP .....</b>	<b>6</b>
PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES .....	6
MEMBERSHIP .....	7
PROCESS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT .....	8
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
PARKING MANAGEMENT .....	10
RESERVATION SYSTEM .....	11
EDUCATION .....	12
CAPACITY TO ENFORCE EXISTING AND FUTURE REGULATIONS .....	13
NOISE ORDINANCE .....	14
ROAD CONDITIONS .....	14
TRAIL CONSTRUCTION .....	15
MANAGING OHV USE .....	15
<b>MAJOR RESERVATIONS .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>SIGNATURES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>APPENDIX A: RESULTS FROM THE Q-METHODOLOGY COMMUNITY SURVEY .....</b>	<b>19</b>

## Executive Summary

Gunnison County, the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District of the White River National Forest, and the Town of Marble convened a stakeholder group to provide recommendations to the management direction of the Lead King Loop and surrounding areas. The purpose of this report is to present the stakeholder group recommendations and document the process by which the group arrived at these recommendations.

The convening entities partnered with Western Colorado University’s Center for Public Lands to provide skilled neutral facilitation of the Lead King Loop stakeholder process. Between December 2021 and June 2022, the Center organized and facilitated four stakeholder workshops and three public listening sessions attended by 123 members of the public. The Center also conducted a community survey and established a [web home](#) for the project and public meetings.

After listening to public concerns and carefully balancing diverse interests, stakeholder group members issued the series of consensus-based recommendations described in this document. The group believes these actions, if implemented, have high potential to provide exceptional recreation opportunities while mitigating impacts to the community and the environment. Recommendations span a wide variety of strategies including parking management, reservation systems, education, enforcement, noise regulations, road conditions, trail construction, and OHV management.

Summary of Recommendations for Management of the Lead King Loop	
<b>Parking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gunnison County and Aspen-Sopris Ranger District</i> establish parking spots, landscaping, signage, turn around options, and facilities (e.g., bathrooms, trashcans, kiosks) on land adjacent to County Road 3 at the base of Daniels Hill to accommodate parking for approximately 20 passenger vehicles.</li> <li>• <i>Town of Marble</i> reduce truck and trailer parking spaces within the Town limits from an estimated 20-30 poorly regulated spaces to 12 well-managed and reservable spaces.</li> <li>• Pending outcomes of the OHV ban and an assessment of the effectiveness of delineating clear roadside parking spaces to constrain impacts, <i>Gunnison County, Aspen-Sopris Ranger District, and the Town of Marble</i> study parking lot and parking reservation options on <i>County, Forest Service, and Town lands</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Reservation Systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Town of Marble</i> develop a reservation system for 12 truck and trailer parking spaces across from the Millsite Park. The stakeholder group supports the collection of fees for truck and trailer parking in this area for the purpose of maintaining the reservation system and funding education and enforcement efforts. Reservations should be accompanied by educational information.</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the "More Mindful Marble Tourism Management Project" funded by the Colorado Tourism Office, <i>Western Colorado University's Center for Public Lands</i> develop an interpretive signage and communication plan for the Upper Crystal River Valley.</li> <li>• <i>Western Colorado University's Center for Public Lands</i> engage the Stay the Trail organization in development of educational materials to promote a culture of responsible OHV use in the Upper Crystal River Valley.</li> <li>• <i>Gunnison County, Aspen-Sopris Ranger District, and the Town of Marble</i> incorporate education whenever possible into all other management approaches listed in this document, such as parking management, reservation system administration, and enforcement.</li> <li>• <i>Town of Marble</i> place an electronic sign at the Junction of 133 and County Road 3 to inform visitors about parking availability.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Enforcement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gunnison County Sheriff Department</i> provide increased law enforcement presence in the Upper Crystal River Valley, especially on weekends and during peak season.</li> <li>• <i>Aspen-Sopris Ranger District</i> have a Forest Protection Officer patrol the Lead King Loop, especially on weekends and during peak season.</li> <li>• <i>Towns of Marble and Crystal</i> explore opportunities to raise funding for increased summer law enforcement presence through private donations offered as matching funds for U.S. Forest Service law enforcement. <i>Treasure Mountain Ranch</i> is considered a likely first entity to offer such a contribution.</li> <li>• <i>Town of Marble</i> develop a program to train Upper Crystal River Valley residents to act as ambassadors of the destination and educate both visitors and residents about conserving natural and cultural assets in and around Marble.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Noise Regulations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aspen-Sopris Ranger District, Gunnison County, and the Town of Marble</i> purchase devices to measure decibels at a vehicle's tailpipe to increase enforcement of the 96-decibel limit and educate visitors about noise levels of their vehicles.</li> <li>• <i>Town of Marble and Gunnison County</i> explore the feasibility and impact of implementing a noise ordinance that sets stricter decibel levels for OHVs than those already established at the state level.</li> <li>• Through work under the Colorado Tourism Office grant, <i>Town of Marble and Western Colorado University's Center for Public Lands</i> identify opportunities to incorporate noise regulations into existing and future enforcement and education efforts. Even with limited enforcement, a noise ordinance, associated media attention, and signage informing visitors of stringent decibel limits could have a desirable effect on visitor behavior.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Road Conditions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gunnison County</i> further explore the possibility (including legal ramifications) of installing a gatekeeper at the bottom of Daniels Hill. The gatekeeper should be designed to match the most difficult road conditions encountered on the six-mile stretch between the Towns of Marble and Crystal. The gatekeeper should be accompanied by a gated bypass option. Keys for the gate should be distributed to federal, state, and local agencies and private property owners, so that emergency vehicles, government personnel, and landowners can access the Lead King Loop area. The gatekeeper should also be coupled with educational efforts, including signage on both sides of the gatekeeper, informing drivers of the recommended vehicle clearance and roughness of the road ahead.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Trail Construction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aspen-Sopris Ranger District</i> explore the possibility of building a separate trail from the bottom to the top of Daniels Hill to enhance experiences of motorized and non-motorized users in the area.</li> <li>• Groups like the <i>Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association</i> who specialize in trail building actions should be involved in the feasibility analysis for such a trail.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OHV Management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gunnison County</i> should continue the current exemption on County Road 3 through the end of 2023. This extension would allow for</li> </ul>

	<p>implementation and evaluation of other recommendations identified in this document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Town of Marble</i>, in partnership with <i>Western Colorado University's Center for Public Lands</i>, should pursue funding to systematically analyze the outcomes of the proposed actions. This analysis could include surveys of residents and visitors, collection of visitor use data, assessment of environmental change, and evaluation of the costs and benefits of the recommendations, and should be reported to the Town of Marble/Gunnison County/U.S. Forest Service by November 2023 to inform the decision on the County Road 3 exemption.</li> <li>• <i>Aspen-Sopris Ranger District</i> continue to collect visitor use data on the Lead King Loop Road and share results with the stakeholder group by the end of 2022 and again in 2023.</li> <li>• If quality of life issues and environmental concerns do not abate, this group will reconvene and revisit the implications of and processes for restricting OHVs on County Road 3, the Lead King Loop Road, and/or within the Town of Marble.</li> </ul>
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**Introduction**

The Town of Marble has about 120 year-round residents and is in the northwest corner of Gunnison County. The White River National Forest surrounds the town with connectivity to National Forest lands by dirt mountain roads. The public lands surrounding the Towns of Marble and Crystal, including the Crystal Mill, attract more than 17,000 visitors, who visit through the gateway community of Marble, visit mostly during the months of May to October. Marble is seeing an increase in outdoor recreation-based tourism. This increase in use is putting new pressure on the environmental and social-economic systems of the Upper Crystal River Valley, including communities of Marble and Crystal, Gunnison County lands, and U.S. Forest Service lands.

A main attraction of the area is the historic Crystal Mill and Town Site. Images of the picturesque mill perched above the Crystal River spread prolifically on social and traditional media, drawing visitors in four-wheel drive and off highway vehicles (OHVs), as well as hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. Some continue to travel the rugged, scenic 13-mile Lead King Loop Road beyond the Crystal Mill and Town Site. The public has expressed concerns about noise, road safety, parking, decreased user enjoyment, and environmental degradation that are corresponding with the increase in use. These multifaceted

pressures prompted local municipalities and governing bodies to initiate a formal planning process.

Three years ago, a working group formed to consider the effects of increased use of the Lead King Loop. The group met monthly to identify issues and priorities, opening conversation between diverse entities including the U.S. Forest Service, Gunnison County, Town of Marble, Town of Crystal, and other groups. In 2020, Western Colorado University graduate student, Corinne Truesdell, collected visitor use data and conducted interviews and focus groups among residents. Her report can be found [here](#). In 2021, the working group's recommendations to increase enforcement were put into practice, with positive outcomes.

Upon recommendation from the working group, the County and Town are working to assure that town signs and regulations meet County criteria for enforcement. In 2021, an additional County deputy focused enforcement efforts on Somerset, Black Mesa, Kebler Pass, McClure Pass, and Marble, and an additional US Forest Service Forest Protection Officer, funded in part by the Town and County, patrolled the Lead King Loop two days a week from May through September.

The working group also supported a parking and education plan by the Town of Marble. Using a mixture of volunteers and paid staff, the Town placed an attendant at the Millsite Park parking area on weekends in the 2021 summer season. The attendant helped guide and inform visitors and remind them of recreation etiquette. The Town of Marble worked with Wilderness Workshop to produce brochures and informational material to help educate visitors on expectations while visiting Marble and the backcountry surrounding it. Working group members also participated in a workshop hosted by the Colorado Tourism Office to strategize promotion of Marble as a place for diverse recreation and enjoyment of nature and the arts, and history.

To build upon these initial efforts, the working group endorsed beginning a facilitated process to integrate public and stakeholder sentiment into a consensus-based strategy for future management actions. In January of 2021, Gunnison County, the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District of the White River National Forest, and the Town of Marble convened a stakeholder group to address issues and define potential strategies for management of recreation-based tourism on the Lead King Loop and in the Upper Crystal River Valley.



## **Lead King Loop Stakeholder Group**

### ***Purpose and Objectives***

The Lead King Loop Stakeholder Group formed to balance the interests related to the Upper Crystal River Valley in providing advice and recommendations to the management direction of the Lead King Loop and surrounding areas. The group accomplished this through mutual education; transparency in process; fostering communication between constituents and governmental agencies; and identifying, evaluating, and recommending options that meet the needs of the many stakeholders involved.

The objectives of the collaborative process were to a) Create a shared vision for the management of the Lead King Loop area; b) Explore stakeholder perspectives regarding recreation use and options to manage recreation use in the interim and long-term; and c) Provide consensus-based recommendations for managers and government partners that have high potential to provide exceptional recreation opportunities while mitigating impacts to the community and environment.

For additional details, the charter of the stakeholder group can be accessed [here](#).



### **Membership**

The Stakeholder Group provided membership and voting rights to organizations and individuals representing key interests and perspectives involving, geographic, economic, and social balance, and knowledge of the lands and resources within the Upper Crystal River Valley. The interest groups and individuals representing them were:

#### The Town of Crystal community member

Manette Anderson

#### Crystal Mill representative

Christopher Cox, Treasure Mountain Ranch, Inc.

Stuart Gillespie (*Alternate*), Treasure Mountain Ranch, Inc.

#### The Town of Marble community member

Jason Rusby, Business Owner (UTV Rentals)

Gunnison County community member

Peter Mertz

Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff

John Groves, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Carbondale District Wildlife Manager

Motorized recreation representative

Greg Noss, High Country Four Wheelers

Non-motorized recreation representative

*Vacant*

Mechanized recreation representative

Mike Pritchard, Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA)

Community economic development representative

Amber McMahill

Environmental/conservation representative

John Armstrong, Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association (CVEPA) President

Suzy Meredith-Orr (*Alternate*), CVEPA Vice-President

**Process and Public Engagement**

The convening entities (the Town of Marble, Gunnison County, and the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District of the White River National Forest) partnered with the Center for Public Lands at Western Colorado University to provide skilled neutral facilitation of the Lead King Loop stakeholder process. Between December 2021 and June 2022, the Center organized and facilitated four stakeholder workshops and three public listening sessions. The Center also established a [web home](#) for the project and public meetings.

An initial Public Listening Session was held on Wednesday, December 8th, 2021, at the Fire Station in Marble, Colorado. 34 people attended in person and 19 attended virtually through Zoom. People with a variety of backgrounds and interests shared their reasons for loving the Lead King Loop, and patterns of concern began to emerge.

At the meeting, a team of Western Colorado University graduate students proposed a [survey](#) based on Q-methodology – a strategy used in social sciences to assess strength of multiple values held by a group – to investigate the diverse concerns and priorities of community members for management of the Lead King Loop. With public feedback from the listening session, the students created a list of 24 priorities, which they used to build a survey that asked people to identify how their individual priorities fell across a continuum from low to high importance. Between January and March of 2022, the survey was widely shared with the public, and the group received a total of 198 responses. Survey results informed future stakeholder workshops and were shared with the community during subsequent listening sessions (see Appendix A for a summary of survey results).

Meanwhile, the Center for Public Lands, with assistance from the convening entities, reached out to organizations and individuals representing key interests to form the Lead King Loop Stakeholder Group. The group met virtually for the first time on January 27th, 2022. At this meeting, the group established ground rules for collaboration, identified focal issues, defined the purpose, objectives, and scope of the stakeholder process, and drafted a group charter. These conversations continued into the second stakeholder workshop held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at which point the group charter was finalized.

On March 25th, 2022, the stakeholder group engaged virtually with representatives from communities navigating challenges like those faced by residents of the Upper Crystal River Valley. The group heard from Ben Billingsley from the City of Moab on the development of Moab's Noise Ordinance and from Sandy Hines, Hinsdale County Administrator, on her experience of managing the OHV Pilot Program Special Use Permit for Hinsdale County.

The stakeholder group gathered again in-person for a workshop on April 7th and 8th, 2022, to identify and develop management actions to mitigate impacts to the Towns of Marble and Crystal, visitor experiences, and the ecosystem. The top three actions that rose to the surface during the meeting included parking management, implementation of a reservation/permit system, and education. Other topics that were important to the group included: the possibility of implementing a noise ordinance at the city or county level; capacity to enforce existing and future regulations; options for restricting OHV use within the Town of Marble, on the Lead King Loop, and/or on County Road 3; and improving or degrading conditions of the Lead King Loop dirt road to manage visitation. All management strategies were vetted using a rubric based on top priorities identified through analysis of community responses to the Q-methodology survey.

Subsequently, the Center for Public Lands facilitated an in-person public listening session on April 28th, 2022, at the Fire Station in Marble, Colorado. At the meeting, the Center shared the range of management actions that the stakeholder group had workshopped up to this point. Following a presentation, attendees had the opportunity to visit individual stations to learn about and provide feedback on specific actions (e.g., construction of a parking lot, design of educational signage, placing restrictions on OHVs). At each station, members of the stakeholder group and representatives from the convening entities were present to facilitate conversation and record public input. The session was attended by 43 members of the public.

A separate, virtual public listening session was held on May 3rd, 2022, via Zoom and attended by 32 individuals. Following a presentation, attendees had the opportunity to join and switch between virtual breakout rooms to discuss different management actions. Again, each breakout room had members of the stakeholder group and representatives from the convening entities to facilitate discussion and solicit feedback.

The stakeholder group met again virtually on May 9th and 10th, 2022, to debrief public comments received at the listening sessions and discuss next steps.

The next stakeholder workshop was held in-person on June 21st and 22nd, 2022, to formulate recommendations to the Town of Marble, Gunnison County, and the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District of the White River National Forest for management of outdoor recreation-based tourism in the Upper Crystal River Valley.



After listening to all concerns and carefully balancing diverse interests, stakeholder group members came to a series of recommendations described in the next pages. The stakeholder group strove for consensus-based decision-making using a degrees of support continuum (see below). Consensus was reached when all members voted at least 1, 2, or 3. Consensus with Major Reservations was reached when all members vote 1, 2, 3, or 4. Consensus was not reached when one or more members voted 5.

#### DEGREES OF SUPPORT CONTINUUM



## Recommendations

The Lead King Loop Stakeholder Group presents the following recommendations to the Town of Marble, Gunnison County, and the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District of the White River National Forest for management of outdoor recreation-based tourism in the Upper Crystal River Valley. The actions recommended seek to protect the quality of life of residents of the Upper Crystal River Valley (including the Towns of Marble and Crystal and residents living along County Road 3), enhance experiences for visitors from all user groups, and mitigate impacts to the ecosystem.

### **Parking Management**

At stakeholder meetings and public listening sessions, concerns over noise, dust, and parking frequently rose to the top of conversations. Members of the community expressed that the demand for parking in Marble exceeds the number of designated parking sites at many times during the summer. Trailers were identified as a particular burden for parking due to their larger size. While some would like to eliminate parking for trailers entirely, most recognized a need to provide parking for visitors to access public lands and the Lead King Loop.

Many Marble residents expressed a desire to limit trailer parking inside the Town limits and create alternative parking options outside of Town. Much of the truck trailer parking inside the Town of Marble has taken place along streets and in front of homes to the dismay of residents, who have shared that their quality of life has been impacted by excessive noise and dust. This summer, the Town of Marble has started to install physical barriers to prevent truck and trailer parking in these locations.

Truck and trailer parking also has occurred at the Millsite Park in the center of the Town of Marble. However, deed restrictions, which were placed on the Millsite property when it was transferred to the Town of Marble, limit parking at this site specifically to persons visiting and using the park. Truck and trailer parking at the Millsite with the purpose of unloading OHVs and recreating on the Lead King Loop violates these deed restrictions and will be prohibited in the future.

Limiting truck and trailer parking within the Town of Marble, however, generates the need to create alternative parking options outside of the Town. During the search for a suitable property to construct additional parking spaces, the stakeholder group identified land administered by the U.S. Forest Service at the base of Daniels Hill as a potential site for a future parking lot.

This parking site, however, was vehemently opposed by residents who live on County Road 3 between Beaver Lake and the top of Daniels Hill and who are among the most impacted by the traffic funneling into the Lead King Loop. The primary concern identified by residents is water pollution, as the parking lot would be centered in a field surrounded by freshwater ditches that provide water to the houses nearby and the subdivisions below.

Other concerns identified by residents include wildlife disturbance, noise pollution, disproportionate benefits from parking facilities going to OHV users, historical and archaeological site preservation, trespassing, overnight camping, lack of enforcement, and human waste and litter.

Due to these concerns expressed by residents, the stakeholder group backed away from the idea of a parking lot in favor of enhancing and clarifying roadside parking along County Road 3 at the bottom of Daniels Hill.

### Recommendations:

- *Gunnison County and Aspen-Sopris Ranger District* explore/develop/plan to establish parking spots, landscaping, signage, turn around options, and facilities (e.g., bathrooms, trashcans, kiosks) on land adjacent to County Road 3 at the base of Daniels Hill to accommodate parking for approximately 20 passenger vehicles and 2 horse trailers.
  - Implement signage clarifying where it is legal and illegal to park at the base of Daniels Hill
  - Gunnison County and the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District work closely with residents local to Daniels Hill during parking planning, especially in regard to environmental concerns.
- *Town of Marble* implement the following measures to reduce truck and trailer parking spaces within the Town limits from an estimated 20-30 poorly regulated spaces to 12 well-managed and reservable spaces by
  - Prohibiting truck and trailer parking at the Millsite Park, so that this parking area is exclusively available to persons visiting the Millsite Park.
  - Providing 12 parking spaces for trucks and trailers across from the Millsite Park and implementing a reservation system for these spaces.
  - Closing truck and trailer parking along street sides within the Town of Marble. This will be accomplished by installing barriers (e.g., large boulders) that will prevent large vehicles (i.e., trucks + trailers) from parking in spaces alongside Town roads, while still allowing passenger vehicles to park in those spaces.
- Pending outcomes of the OHV ban and an assessment of the effectiveness of delineating clear roadside parking spaces to constrain impacts, *Gunnison County, Aspen-Sopris Ranger District*, and the *Town of Marble* study parking lot and parking reservation options on County, Forest Service, and Town lands.

### **Reservation System**

At the onset of the process, several stakeholders and community members advocated for a permit system to regulate vehicle access to the Lead King Loop. However, after further discussion and consultation with the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District of the White River National Forest, it has become apparent that there are significant barriers to implementing a permitting system for motorized use of the road, primarily because current use levels do not warrant such a system. The road system and surface have capacity to handle more use than currently experienced.

The stakeholder group agreed that desired outcomes, such as reduced impact of noise and dust, can be accomplished via a reservation system to manage available parking spaces. Such a reservation system could be used to balance visitation across the week and season. Potential fees collected through a reservation system could also fund other

programs, such as visitor education or parking enforcement. The group is mindful that a reservation system, depending on its implementation design, can make access to recreation more difficult for some users and potential users, with implications for diversity and inclusivity.

#### Recommendations:

- *Town of Marble* develop a reservation system for 12 truck and trailer parking spaces across from the Millsite Park. The stakeholder group supports the collection of fees for truck and trailer parking in this area for the purpose of maintaining the reservation system and funding education and enforcement efforts. Reservations should be accompanied by educational information, teaching visitors about the importance of conserving natural and cultural assets in and around Marble.
- Pending outcomes of the OHV ban and an assessment of the effectiveness of delineating clear roadside parking spaces to constrain impacts, *Gunnison County, Aspen-Sopris Ranger District*, and the *Town of Marble* study parking lot and parking reservation options on County, Forest Service, and Town lands.

#### **Education**

There is broad support from stakeholders and the community for increasing visitor education efforts about topics such as road conditions, responsible recreation behavior, and the importance of conserving natural and cultural assets in and around Marble. At the same time, a sentiment frequently expressed is that education alone is insufficient and needs to be coupled with enforcement and other management strategies.

This summer, the Town of Marble installed a kiosk at the Millsite Park to provide information to visitors. The Marble Crystal River Chamber (MCRC) also received a grant from the Colorado Tourism Office to fund the “More Mindful Marble Tourism Management Project.” Under this grant, MCRC has partnered with Western Colorado University Center for Public Lands to produce several deliverables, including

1. Development of a cohesive plan for interpretive signage to be produced and installed throughout Marble, Crystal, the Highway 33 turnoff to Marble, and at integral points along the Lead King Loop. The signs around Marble and Crystal will be designed to tell cultural heritage-based stories to visitors and highlight the principles of enjoying the community as a responsible and mindful guest. Signs around the Lead King Loop will also include messages about noise ordinances and recreating responsibly, with off-highway vehicle operators as the primary audience.

2. Development of a strategic communication plan to educate visitors and promote responsible recreation behavior both prior to their arrival in Marble and during their on-site experience.
3. Two training sessions to educate both tourism actors and residents about the importance of conserving natural and cultural assets in and around Marble, all while creating a set of standards that allows stakeholders to act as ambassadors of the destination.
4. Facilitation of two meetings to engage the Lead King Loop Stakeholder Group and interested members of the public in the development and implementation of the sign and communication plans.

The Lead King Loop Stakeholder Group remains committed to supporting development of these grant deliverables, including providing feedback on educational messaging and signage and participating in future trainings and workshops.

#### Recommendations:

- *Western Colorado University's Center for Public Lands* engage the Stay the Trail organization in development of educational materials to enhance/create/support/promote a culture of responsible OHV use in the Upper Crystal River Valley.
- *Gunnison County, Aspen-Sopris Ranger District, and the Town of Marble* incorporate education whenever possible into all other management approaches listed in this document, such as parking management, reservation system administration, and enforcement.
- *Town of Marble* place an electronic sign at the Junction of 133 and County Road 3 to inform visitors about parking availability.

#### **Capacity to Enforce Existing and Future Regulations**

Enforcement remains a challenge for implementation of any management action considered by the group. Without enforcement, parking regulations, reservations systems, noise limits, etc. will likely fall short of achieving management objectives. Therefore, concerns over enforcement are prominent. There is a shared recognition that enforcement requires funding and staffing, both of which are in short supply. In the summer of 2021, community members noted positive results due to an increased presence of law enforcement personnel from the Gunnison County Sheriff's Department and Aspen-Sopris Ranger District in the Town of Marble and on the Lead King Loop.

#### Recommendations:

- *Gunnison County Sheriff Department* provide increased law enforcement presence in the Upper Crystal River Valley, especially on weekends and during peak season.
- *Aspen-Sopris Ranger District* have a Forest Protection Officer patrol the Lead King Loop, especially on weekends and during peak season.
- *Towns of Marble and Crystal* explore opportunities to raise funding for increased summer law enforcement presence through private donations offered as matching funds for U.S. Forest Service law enforcement. *Treasure Mountain Ranch* is considered a likely first entity to offer such a contribution.
- *Town of Marble* develop a program to train Upper Crystal River Valley residents to act as ambassadors of the destination and educate both visitors and residents about conserving natural and cultural assets in and around Marble. While these ambassadors would not have the capacity to enforce regulations, they could provide much-needed “law encouragement” and communicate closely with law enforcement agents.

### **Noise Ordinance**

Stakeholders and community members frequently listed noise and dust among their top concerns and impacts to quality of life. A state-wide 96-decibel limit already exists for OHVs in Colorado. Stakeholders discussed the option of implementing a local noise ordinance at the Town or County level following the model provided by the City of Moab, Utah (the noise limit for all vehicles in Moab City is 92 decibels during the day and 85 decibels during nighttime hours).

### Recommendations:

- *Aspen-Sopris Ranger District, Gunnison County, and the Town of Marble* purchase affordable devices to measure decibels at a vehicle’s tailpipe to increase enforcement of the 96-decibel limit and educate visitors about noise levels of their vehicles.
- *Town of Marble and Gunnison County* explore the feasibility and impact of implementing a noise ordinance that sets stricter decibel levels for OHVs than those already established at the state level.
- Through work under the Colorado Tourism Office grant, *Town of Marble and Western Colorado University’s Center for Public Lands* identify opportunities to incorporate noise regulations into existing and future enforcement and education efforts. Even with limited enforcement, a noise ordinance, associated media attention, and signage informing visitors of stringent decibel limits could have a desirable effect on visitor behavior.

### **Road Conditions**

Changes in the condition of the Lead King Loop Road itself could encourage or discourage outdoor-based recreation in the Upper Crystal River Valley. Traffic count data shows that most road traffic results from visitation to Crystal Mill and occurs on the six-mile stretch between the Towns of Marble and Crystal. This stretch of road could be improved to allow

passenger vehicle travel to the Crystal. Alternatively, the road could be downgraded to make it even more difficult to drive, thus reducing motorized use.

At community listening sessions, members of the public generally expressed a desire to keep the road in its current state, effectively requiring a high-clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle to access the road. One common concern, however, is that vehicles ill-equipped to drive the rugged Lead King Loop Road regularly access it, despite warning signs placed at the base of Daniels Hill. This results in vehicles becoming stuck and creating congestion and safety issues along the road. To prevent these situations, there has been broad public support for a “gatekeeper” (i.e., an obstacle placed at the start of the route that imitates the most difficult terrain a vehicle will face during travel) at the base of Daniels Hill that will discourage and effectively prevent low-clearance vehicles from accessing the loop.

#### Recommendations:

- *Gunnison County* further explore the possibility (including legal ramifications) of installing a gatekeeper at the bottom of Daniels Hill. The gatekeeper should be designed to match the most difficult road conditions encountered on the six-mile stretch between the Towns of Marble and Crystal. The gatekeeper should be accompanied by a gated bypass option. Keys for the gate should be distributed to federal, state, and local agencies and private property owners, so that emergency vehicles, government personnel, and landowners can access the Lead King Loop area. The gatekeeper should also be coupled with educational efforts, including signage on both sides of the gatekeeper, informing drivers of the recommended vehicle clearance and roughness of the road ahead.

#### **Trail Construction**

Currently, motorized and non-motorized users have to share the Lead King Loop Road. This situation causes safety concerns, degraded recreation experiences, and conflicts between user groups. To address these issues, one suggestion has been to develop a separate walking and biking trail alongside sections of the Lead King Loop. In particular, there has been support at public meetings for constructing a trail that leads from the Town of Marble to the top of Daniels Hill to improve outdoor recreation experiences of both motorized and non-motorized users.

Members of the public and the stakeholder group generally liked the idea of a separate trail that extends from the Town of Marble to the top of Daniels Hill or to the Crystal Mill. However, community members and stakeholders expressed concerns about the feasibility and practicality of such a trail. Due to topographic features, any trail along this route would

likely have high exposure in some areas and stay very close to the road in others. A matrix of mixed ownership along the route would also complicate trail design and construction.

Recommendations:

- *Aspen-Sopris Ranger District* explore the possibility of building a separate trail from the bottom to the top of Daniels Hill to enhance experiences of motorized and non-motorized users in the area.
- Groups like the *Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association* who specialize in trail building actions should be involved in the feasibility analysis for such a trail.

**Managing OHV Use**

Colorado state law prohibits OHVs on public roads or highways unless a specific section of road is exempted from that ban by the county or city of jurisdiction. In 2015 (and clarified in 2018), Gunnison County passed a resolution applying such an exemption to County Road 3 on a 1.5-mile stretch from the Town of Marble limits at Beaver Lake to the U.S. Forest Service boundary near the top of Daniels Hill. The Town of Marble also has an ordinance that allows OHVs within town limits. Together, the County exemption and the Town of Marble ordinance allow OHV users to ride their vehicles from the Town of Marble along County Road 3 to access Forest Service land and the popular 13-mile Lead King Loop Road. The County exemption will sunset in January of 2023, at which point the Board of County Commissioners will revisit the issue.

Though only covering a 1.5-mile stretch, the County exemption has been the topic of impassioned discussion about OHV use in the Upper Crystal River Valley. Indeed, the future of OHV tourism in the area and Marble's image as an OHV destination may very well hinge on this exemption. Currently, visitors park their trailers and unload their OHVs either in the Town of Marble or at the bottom of Daniels Hill (along County Road 3) to access the Lead King Loop Road. If prohibited from driving OHVs from these parking areas to the Forest Service boundary, access to the Lead King Loop Road for OHV users who come from outside the Town of Marble would be severely restricted (access from Schofield Pass north of Crested Butte would still be possible). While OHV use would still be allowed on Forest Service lands and on the Lead King Loop Road, there simply would be no safe places to park trailers and unload OHVs to Forest Service lands from the Marble side of the Lead King Loop.

Many residents in the Upper Crystal River Valley have identified OHV tourism as the principal use negatively impacting their quality of life and the environment. At the same



time, many locals own and use OHVs to access their private property, drive around the Town of Marble, and recreate on the Lead King Loop. While a local exemption for OHV use is favored by many, Gunnison County and the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District have questioned the feasibility of such an exemption on the grounds that it might be unconstitutional. At this time, no consensus, or even a majority opinion, has emerged on restricting OHVs for all users (residents and visitors) on County Road 3, the Lead King Loop Road, or within the Town of Marble.

#### Recommendations:

- *Gunnison County* should continue the current exemption on County Road 3 through the end of 2023. This extension would allow for implementation and evaluation of other recommendations identified in this document.
- *Town of Marble*, in partnership with *Western Colorado University's Center for Public Lands*, should pursue funding to systematically analyze the outcomes of the proposed actions. This analysis could include surveys of residents and visitors, collection of visitors use data, assessment of environmental change, and evaluation of the costs and benefits of the recommendations, and should be reported to the Town of Marble/Gunnison County/U.S. Forest Service by November 2023 to inform the decision on the County Road 3 exemption.
- *Aspen-Sopris Ranger District* continue to collect visitor use data on the Lead King Loop Road and share results with the stakeholder group by the end of 2022 and again in 2023.
- If quality of life issues and environmental concerns do not abate, this group will reconvene and revisit the implications of and processes for restricting OHVs on County Road 3, the Lead King Loop Road, and/or within the Town of Marble.

#### **Major Reservations**

*There is still time to revise and tweak the above recommendations. However, per the group's charter, if you, as a stakeholder representative, plan to vote a "four" (i.e., stand aside with major reservations - formal disagreement, but will not block the proposal/provision) on any of these recommendations, we would like to make this space available for you to articulate and document your formal disagreement with any of the group's recommendations.*

#### **Conclusion**

The group recognizes that people with a variety of backgrounds and interests love the Upper Crystal River Valley, have chosen to make their homes here, and/or continue to come back to this area year after year. The stakeholder group has worked diligently to listen to public concerns and carefully balance the diverse interests and competing values that pertain to management of the Lead King Loop and its surrounding areas. The

recommendations put forward in this document have been reviewed and ratified by the stakeholder group, who offer them as a consensus-based proposal to respond to community concerns. The group believes that these recommendations, if implemented, have high potential to provide exceptional recreation opportunities while mitigating impacts to the community and the environment. With collaborative, thoughtful, and forward-thinking management, the Upper Crystal River Valley will continue to provide a refuge for plants, animals, and humans – visitors and residents alike – for many more years to come.

## Signatures

\_\_\_\_\_  
Manette Anderson, Town of Crystal community member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stuart Gillespie, Crystal Mill representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Rusby, Town of Marble community member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Mertz, Gunnison County community member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Groves, Colorado [Parks and Wildlife](#) District Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Noss, Motorized recreation representative

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Non-motorized recreation representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Pritchard, mechanized recreation representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amber McMahill, Community economic development representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Armstrong, Environmental/conservation representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Appendix A: Results from the Q-Methodology Community Survey

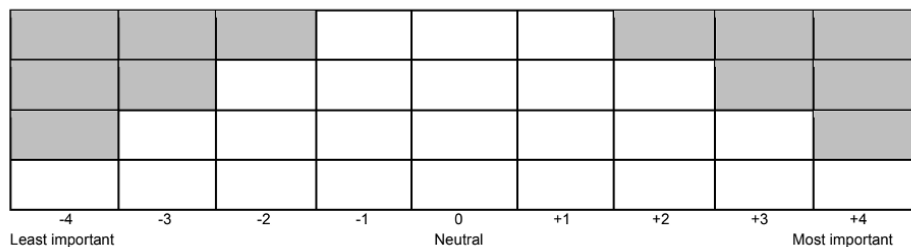
Western Colorado University's Center for Public Lands surveyed community members about their diverse concerns and priorities for management of the Lead King Loop. The [survey](#) utilized Q-methodology, which is a strategy used in social sciences to assess the strength of multiple values held by a group. The survey included 24 terms (see list below) that were informed by the first public listening session and stakeholder workshop. The terms represent 24 priorities related to OHV use on the Lead King Loop. Using the forms shown in Fig. 1, the terms were then ranked and sorted by participants in a digital survey that was active from January to March of 2022. Fig. 2 shows an example of what a completed survey response might look like.

The survey was distributed by stakeholders and through the Center for Public Lands and the Town of Marble websites. In total, 198 individuals participated in the survey. Western Colorado University's Dr. Garrett Smith completed the Q-sort factor analysis of all completed survey responses. Table 1 shows the top 10 priorities most frequently selected as "most important" by respondents. The five factors that represented the majority of responses were then evaluated and grouped by the Center for Public Lands team. The survey results identified five community priorities: community impact, environmental impact, management, planning and preparedness, and social coexistence. Survey results were shared at the April 28th public listening session, where participants were given rubrics to assess how different management strategies met community priorities.

### List of Q-Sort Priorities

- *Respect*: Behavior that shows regard for the environment, residents, and recreationists.
- *Tranquility*: The absence of elements that detract from the desired experience. The quality or state of being calm.
- *Parking*: Safe and legal locations for parking off the road, including adequate turn-around space.
- *Enforcement of rules*: Presence of Forest Protection Officers and Sheriff's Deputies to issue citations regarding speed, noise, parking, etc.
- *Soils*: Protection of soils from erosion, dust, and mudslides. Preventing unstable soils.
- *Wildlife habitat*: Protection of resources that wildlife relies upon for survival.
- *Space for all users*: Space to ensure equitable access for all user groups.
- *Education*: Sources of information for recreators (e.g., signage, social media, website information newsletter) Dissemination and outreach.
- *Cultural heritage*: Properties or qualities of an area that have cultural, historic, or spiritual value unique to any community's way of life.

- *Road and trail maintenance*: Maintaining the quality of the road (e.g., pullouts, the safety of road access, space on the road.)
- *Infrastructure*: Establishing an adequate infrastructure to accommodate users (waste receptacles, signage, toilets); ensuring disability access.
- *Water quality*: Protection of water resources.
- *Wildfire prevention*: Changes in climate may lead to more fire-prone forests. Some motor vehicles could present undue fire threats. Recreation increases wildfire risk.
- *Trailer parking*: Addressing trailer parking (currently below the fire station) in amount and location.
- *Volume of users*: Addressing the volume of users without limiting access to any group.
- *Emergency access*: Includes fire evacuation, emergency response vehicle access “life safety” for emergency vehicle access in town and in the backcountry.
- *Permits*: Consideration of permits or other reservation systems to limit volume.
- *Local’s priority*: Consideration of local access and use of surrounding lands.
- *Public access*: Continued access to national forests for many user groups.
- *Economic sustainability*: Consideration of scale and scope of local business’s activity and pace of growth.
- *Disproportionate impact*: Consideration of the associated noise and pollution of motorized vehicle users as it impacts the experience of other users.
- *Displacement*: Displacement of recreation, wildlife, Crystal residents (consideration of changing user patterns.)
- *Transparent governance*: Transparency is an important value to ensure success and respect for future management actions.
- *Value and quality of life*: Preserving residents’ quality of life and property values.



**Figure 1.** Q-methodology survey form. Respondents were asked to assign the 24 priorities listed above across a continuum from low to high importance.

			Emergency access	Cultural heritage	Permits			
		Infrastructure	Trailer parking	Soils	Parking	Water quality		
	Education	Enforcement of rules	Space for all users	Wildfire prevention	Displacement	Tranquility	Local's priority	
Economic sustainability	Transparent governance	Road and trail maintenance	Respect	Public access	Wildlife habitat	Volume of users	Disproportionate impact	Value & Quality of Life
-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Least important				Neutral				Most important

**Figure 2.** Example of what a completed Q-methodology survey could look like.

**Table 1.** Top 10 priorities selected as “most important” (category +4) in survey responses.

1	Respect	14.58%	14
2	Wildfire prevention	11.46%	11
3	Tranquility	9.38%	9
4	Value and Quality of Life	9.38%	9
5	Wildlife habitat	8.33%	8
6	Volume of users	7.29%	7
7	Local's Priority	5.21%	5
8	Disproportionate impact	5.21%	5
9	Parking	4.17%	4
10	Permits	4.17%	4

In Partnership with  
Western Colorado University, Center for Public Lands

