

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

*Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation Gunnison State Wildlife Area Fee
Title Acquisition*

1 mile west of Gunnison

Gunnison

Action Required

Recommend support for the fee title acquisition of the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation parcels adjacent to the Blinberry Gulch parcel of the Gunnison State Wildlife Area (80 acres).

Questions and Responses

None.

Capital Development Committee

May 2020—Property Transaction Proposal

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Wildlife

Action Required	Pursuant to C.R.S. 33-1-105(3)(a) and C.R.S. 33-10-107(2) recommend to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission support for the Division of Parks and Wildlife’s proposal to acquire fee title to two 40 acre tracts that abut the east side of Gunnison State Wildlife Area, Blinberry Parcel.
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General Information	
Name	Gunnison SWA – Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation Fee Title Acquisition
Number of acres	80
Location	One mile west of Gunnison
County	Gunnison

Costs / Source of Funding			
Purchase Price	\$0	Funding Source	N/A
	<i>Spending authority has already been approved for this project in the Long Bill.</i>		
	Fiscal Year		N/A
	Line Item		N/A
	Appropriation		N/A
	Remaining Unexpended Balance		N/A
Annual Monitoring and Operation Costs	\$1,076.80	Funding for the monitoring and operation costs of the property will come from the Wildlife Operations Line Item under the Division Operations Group in the Long Bill. This cost includes an annual estimated Impact Assistance Grant payment for this property.	
Development Costs	\$1,500 for signage and initial weed management	Funding for the development costs will come from Wildlife Operations Line Item under the Division Operations Group in the Long Bill.	
* The Division may alter the source of funds for individual acquisitions based on circumstances that arise in the time period prior to closing.			

Summary of Proposal:

The Division of Wildlife acquired the 200 acre Blinberry Gulch Parcel of Gunnison SWA in 2004 to protect an active Gunnison sage grouse lek complex. It is surrounded on three sides by Bureau of Land Management property. On the east side, the property is bordered by private lands and there is a subdivision further east with existing development (roads, traffic and homes). In 2016-17, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Section, worked with Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation (CWHF) to provide funds to CWHF to acquire two 40 acre east-side parcels with the intent of a future transfer to CPW to better protect the grouse

habitat. An active lek extends onto one of the parcels and both parcels would provide important buffering for the lek complex. This area, including the two 40 acre parcels, also is big game winter range habitat.

The two 40 acre parcels were acquired by Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation in two deeds from separate private owners in May and June 2017 for \$30,000 each. Both parcels are undeveloped sagebrush habitat and will remain in that condition to provide and protect Gunnison sage grouse leks and brooding areas on the two parcels and in the abutting state wildlife area.

According to a review of the first map referenced below, the Property lies outside the scope of regions of known or potential geothermal resources. Also, according to a review of the second map referenced below, the Property lies outside the Central Solar Power and the Wind Resource Generation Development areas.

Geothermal: November, 2003 US Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Geothermal Technologies Program.

Wind and Solar: A map entitled “SB07-91 Renewable Resource Generation Development Areas” from “Renewable Energy Development Structure,” a report of the Colorado Governor’s Energy Office dated December 2009.

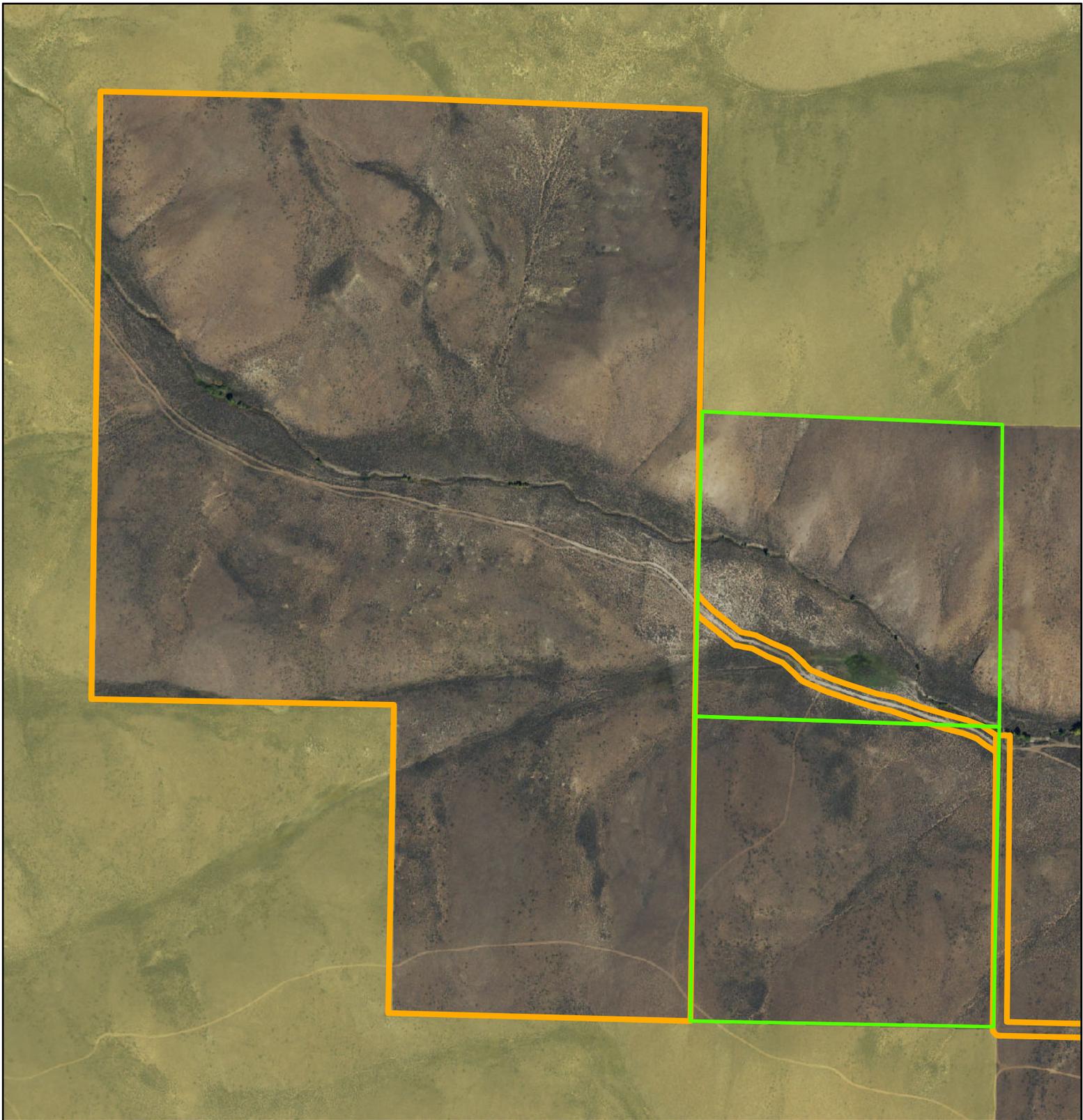
Mineral Interest Ownership:

The mineral interests have not been severed from the surface estate and will be conveyed to CPW.

Attachments:

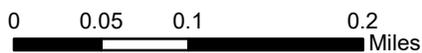
- Photo
- Map
- Concurrence letters





**Gunnison SWA - Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation
 Fee Title Acquisition 19-072-SW
 Gunnison County**

- Wildlife Heritage Foundation
- Gunnison SWA
- Bureau Land Management





COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Gunnison Office
300 W. New York
Gunnison, CO 81230
P 970.641.7060 | F 970.641.7883

March 25, 2020

Gunnison Board of County Commissioners

Re: CPW acceptance of donation of 80 acres adjacent to Blinberry Gulch State Wildlife Area

Dear Commissioners Houck, Mason and Messner,

I am writing to request your support for a project in your county that Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) plans to present to the Capital Development Committee in the near future. The property proposed for donation encompasses 80 acres of land located just west of the city of Gunnison and currently held by Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation (CWHF). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners in Wildlife program provided funding for CWHF to acquire these two 40 acre parcels of land, which are immediately adjacent to Blinberry Gulch State Wildlife Area and include portions of a Gunnison sage grouse lek complex. As you are aware, Gunnison sage grouse is listed as a "threatened" species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Based on the original agreement for funding, CWHF would now like to transfer the two parcels to CPW to complete the conservation actions to protect this lek complex and valuable winter range habitat for big game.

CPW previously acquired 200 acres in Blinberry Gulch surrounded on three sides by BLM and on the east and northeast by private land. The Blinberry State Wildlife Area property was also acquired to protect the Gunnison sage grouse lek complex and help protect it from anticipated future development.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife respectfully requests your support of CPW's acceptance of this 80 acre donation. If you either support, or do not object to, this transaction, please sign at the bottom of this letter and return it to me at my address above or email it to me (j.wenum@state.co.us) as soon as it is convenient. CPW would like to have this letter signed and available for the Capital Development Committee of the Colorado legislature by April 15, 2020. If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this further, please call me at 970-641-7069. Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

We support / do not oppose this proposal.

Sincerely, *& Thank you!*

Date

Blaine Mason
APRIL 7TH 2020

J Wenum

Area Wildlife Manager-Gunnison



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Gunnison Office 300
W. New York
Gunnison, CO 81230
P 970.641.7060 | F 970.641.7883

March 26, 2020

Senator Kerry Donovan, State Senate District 5

Re: CPW acceptance of donation of 80 acres adjacent to Blinberry Gulch State Wildlife Area

Dear Sen. Donovan,

I am writing to request your support for a project in Gunnison County that Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) plans to present to the Capital Development Committee in the near future. The property proposed for donation encompasses 80 acres of land located just west of the city of Gunnison and currently held by Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation (CWHF). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners in Wildlife program provided funding for CWHF to acquire these two 40 acre parcels of land, which are immediately adjacent to Blinberry Gulch State Wildlife Area and include portions of a Gunnison sage grouse lek complex. As you are aware, Gunnison sage grouse is listed as a "threatened" species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Based on the original agreement for funding, CWHF would now like to transfer the two parcels to CPW to complete the conservation actions to protect this lek complex and valuable winter range habitat for big game.

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I support

do not support this proposal

Date: May 19, 2020

Kerry Donovan

Sincerely, *& Thank you!*

J Wenum

Area Wildlife Manager-Gunnison



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Gunnison Office
300 W. New York
Gunnison, CO 81230
P 970.641. 7060 | F 970.641. 7883

March 26, 2020

Representative Barbara Mclachlan, State House District 59

Re: CPW acceptance of donation of 80 acres adjacent to Blinberry Gulch State Wildlife Area

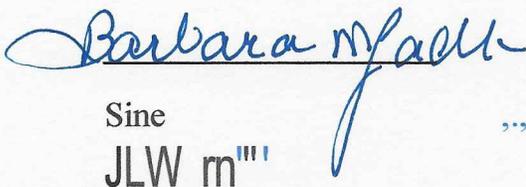
Dear Rep. McLachlan,

Thank you for our meeting in Gunnison on Sept. 26. I am writing to request your support for a project in Gunnison County that Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) plans to present to the Capital Development Committee in the near future. The property proposed for donation encompasses 80 acres of land located just west of the city of Gunnison and currently held by Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation (CWHF). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners in Wildlife program provided funding for CWHF to acquire these two 40 acre parcels of land, which are immediately adjacent to Blinberry Gulch State Wildlife Area and include portions of a Gunnison sage grouse lek complex. As you are aware, Gunnison sage grouse is listed as a "threatened" species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Based on the original agreement for funding, CWHF would now like to transfer the two parcels to CPW to complete the conservation actions to protect this lek complex and valuable winter range habitat for big game.

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I support / do not oppose this proposal.


Sine
JLW m'''

Date May 19, 2020

Area Wildlife Manager-Gunnison