



OPEN SPACE & TRAILS DEPARTMENT

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STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Katherine King, Senior Resource Specialist
DATE: March 4, 2020
FOR: March 10, 2020 Consent Agenda
SUBJECT: Intergovernmental Agreement with Town of Breckenridge; Re: USFS Special Use Permit for Golden Horseshoe and Upper Blue Trail System

BACKGROUND

Summit County and Town of Breckenridge staff have been discussing the concept of a potential Special Use Authorization (SUA) from the USFS to manage the Golden Horseshoe for a number of years. USFS staff indicated that the SUA could only be held by one jurisdiction. Based on BOCC direction in 2019, the County applied for and was granted the Special Use Permit (SUP).

The initial purpose of the IGA was to establish a framework for the Town of Breckenridge to assist in the performance of the County's contractual obligation with the Forest Service under the Golden Horseshoe SUP to provide management, maintenance, and construction of summer and winter non-motorized trails and recreational roads within the Special Use Permit Area. However, since the Town and County jointly own over 4,000 acres and have collaborated for years to manage trails, recreational roads and trailheads in the Upper Blue Basin without a written agreement, Town and County staff drafted this IGA to include all trails on jointly-owned properties, rather than just those within the SUP boundary.

The Town of Breckenridge's Open Space Department is well-positioned to provide significant funding and staff resources into the Golden Horseshoe due to its proximity, smaller area of focus, and larger trail crew and budget. Summit County has four seasonal staff to assist in the joint responsibilities, with a larger geographic area to serve. The Town has also identified additional desired activities, including grooming winter Nordic skiing and bicycling trails, and the commitment to accept responsibility for maintaining bicycle-oriented features on trails. County and Town staff will meet at least annually to set project priorities and goals, and will communicate regularly regarding their progress.

Seamless management and maintenance of the summer and winter recreational resources located within the Permit Area and Upper Blue Basin will be mutually beneficial to the Town and County, and will enhance this valuable public resource. In the performance of this IGA, the County and Town will continue to implement the established Golden Horseshoe Management Plan and the White River National Forest Travel Management Plan, as they may be amended throughout the term of this Agreement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION/REQUEST

Staff recommends that Board enter into the IGA with the Town of Breckenridge to construct, operate, and maintain recreational roads and trail resources in and around the Golden Horseshoe area, and requests BOCC signature on the document.

cc: Bentley Henderson
Scott Vargo
Jeff Huntley
Jim Curnutte