



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TOWN OF OPHIR COLORADO
36 PORPHYRY STREET and ZOOM**

TUESDAY 7:00 PM, OCTOBER 19th, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86701438435?pwd=czJhQXZhY1pPZXFpRWRUQkh6RjJDQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 0143 8435

Passcode: 373146

Dial: 301 715 8592

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. STAFF UPDATES

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Second Reading of An Ordinance 2021-10 Approving an Employment Agreement with Town Manager
- B. Second Reading of An Ordinance 2021-12 Purchase of Flow Meter
- C. First Reading of An Ordinance 2021-13 Amendment to 2021 Budget
- D. Consideration and Adoption of Resolution 2021-8 A Resolution Denying an application by Glenn Pauls for minimum lot area requirement variance for Lots 1 and 2, Block P, Ophir Colorado
- E. GMUG Comments
- F. EcoAction Partners & SMPA Annual Presentation
- G. Draft 2022 Budget
- H. Quarterly Budget
- I. Water Engineering Grant Update
- J. Monthly invoices
- K. Nominations for OEC Commission
- L. Nominations for P&Z Commission

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. ADJOURN

<https://townofophir.colorado.gov/>

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TOWN OF OPHIR, CO 81426
TUESDAY, September 21st 7:00 PM
REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM PLATFORM**

CALL TO ORDER

(TIME: 7:04 PM)

Voting Member: Emma Christensen, Chris Dickson, Allyn Hart & Jerry Oyama, Phil Hayden Lee Sullivan, Tim, Jacey Depriest, Corinne Platt, Mason Osgood, Keith Renke, Matt Williamson, Judah Kuper
Non-Voting Member: Joni Sandoval, Erik Sandusky, Katherine Jenkins

ADOPTION & SIGNATURE OF August 16th, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

No minutes to approve, Mason Osgood, town clerk, working on updating past summer 2021 minutes

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Judah Kuper motion to approve the agenda

All in Favor (Yay): Emma Christensen, Chris Dickson, Ellen & Jerry, Phil, Ernie Watenpaugh, Tim, Jacey Depriest, Corinne Platt, Mason Osgood, Keith Revik, Matt Williamson, Judah Kuper

Not in Favor (Nay):

Abstain:

STAFF UPDATES

Town Manager ():

Town Mayor (Corinne Platt): Hiring new town manager

Treasurer (Cindy Wyzsyski): No updates

Town Clerk(Mason Osgood): No updates

Ophir Environmental Chairperson(Jacey Depriest):We did not receive the grant for updated composter, any donations through GoFundMe will be refunded. Jacey will be available at GMUG regional meeting with USFS Megan Eno

Planning and Zoning Chairperson (Ernie Watenpaugh): No updates, ordinance will be covered tonight

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Joni Sandoval – EPA

- a. Katherine Jenkins, public information officer and Erik Sandusky, on scene coordinator present from EPA.
- b. https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=14438
 - i. Howard Fork Tailings project. Removal action will take place October 2021, will take two weeks with over 10,000 cubic yards of tailings. Removal on USFS and private land, with an impact on the Howard Fork. EPA will re-route drainage to go around tailings, if the project does not finish by 2021, the drainage will prevent future erosion.
 - ii. Public Comment

1. GA expressed intent to push back timing of trucks in the AM after the school bus and morning traffic has started
 2. Road-EPA takes responsibility for any road damage throughout the project
 3. Sue-question on revegetation plan concerned about bringing it back to its original state this was not done on Caribou Site remediation, Joni-no plan to incorporate trees into project, EPA cannot replace 50-100 yr old trees.
 4. Carbinero, and Black Hack Mine, Lawson Hill tailings all future EPA cleanup projects
- B. Introduction and First Reading of An Ordinance 2021-10 Approving an Employment Agreement with Town Manager.
- a. Public Comment
 - i. Judah-question about finding government/grant money. Corinne—a huge issue for Ophir, does not have a lot of experience in that area, talked about Mason helping out with grantwriting.
 - b. Sue motion to approve Ordinance 2021-10, second Jerry
 - c. All in Favor (Yay) Emma Christensen, Chris Dickson, Ellen & Jerry, Phil & Lee, Ernie Watenpaugh, Tim, Jacey Depriest, Corinne Platt, Mason Osgood, Keith Revik, Matt Williamson, Judah Kuper
 - d. Not in Favor (Nay):
 - e. Abstain: Dan, Kim Wheels
- C. Public Hearing to Consider Planning & Zoning Commission Recommendation on Application by Glenn Pauls for Minimum Lot Area Requirement Variance for Lots 1 and 2, Block P, Ophir Colorado
- a. Ernie Watenpaugh-survey revealed under 5000sq which is minimum of single family home under Ophir Code. Glen Paul, current owner, buyer is Spencer Coon. Spencer is not a resident of Ophir, or SM County, no indication that this would be primary residence, no indication of renting property. P&Z recommends that GA does not approve the variance, this would set a precedence for undersized lots to be built on. If GA does approve variance, P&Z recommends that a site specific avalanche hazard study be done for property.
 - b. Steven Johnson wanted direction from GA where this variance request should go, requested review, not an official vote.
 - c. Public Comment
 - i. Judah-size of lot is 150sq ft short of required size
 - ii. Phil-supports P&Z decision, adds that avalanche hazard is a major issue. Obvious that this property is in the Badger slide zone
 - iii. Judah-is there precedence for setting precedence for variances? Corinne-Yes, once you do it once then hard to not do it again. Judah-Opportunity for Glen Pauls land and changing some requirements for his lots. Corinne-We have a land use code for a reason, we have lot size designations for a reason, part of it is septic part of it is neighbors. I agree with P&Z, there are other lots in Ophir, they can buy another lot.
 - iv. Matt-When Helitrax controlled Badger, everyone RAN away where this proposed lot is
 - v. Val-My first kneejerk reaction was ‘everyone needs a place to live these days, we are in a crisis for housing, lets consider this someone is trying to build a

life' She thinks that as a town we consider a different avenue for affordable housing for people, we are part of SM County and part of the housing crisis.

- vi. Ernie—email from Steve, he is asking that the GA conducts a public hearing and give direction to Steve for denial or approval at next GA meeting
 - vii. Kim—Does the town of Ophir have a plan of where we expect houses to be built based on the lots that are buildable? Corinne—points to map in packet, Kim—why is there even a lot on the map when its not even a sizable lot to be built on? Ernie—an error in the original plot survey for the town, some other properties have discrepancies as well, survey not town error. Kim—is there a way to reconcile these errors to prevent any future problems? Ernie—this is a bigger question, it should have been the right size.
 - viii. Pat—Would not want to approve a variance for this lot. Overriding concern about the lack of understanding of our water assets for the future
 - ix. Sue—Ernie, can you re-read the letter from Steve, does he want more than a straw poll? Ernie—re-read letter, variance section of LUC does not give a method for how to confirm or deny a variance. Sue—so he wants us to do a public hearing (Corinne—this is the hearing)
 - x. Tim—We are lots 5/6 and have a direct line to this variance going through. Thanks P&Z for their work, resounding support for this not going through, precedence is a topic. Town of Ophir has an LUC, we have rules, this is a chance for the town to take a stance. Glen's application (who is a friend of mine), its only 3%, its only 150 ft' how many times have we heard this? This is a chance for Ophir to be strong and be bold and hold to its rules. This property would sit right on our direct Western view of Sunshine Mtn. You know how epic that is, I disagree with Glen stating that this would increase other properties in value. The inherent value of my property would go down because my sightlines would be obstructed, I am strongly against this variance.
- d. Phil motions to direct town attorney to draw up grounds for denial for variance application, Sue seconds
 - e. Straw Poll (information for Steve)
 - f. All in Favor (Yay) Emma Christensen, Chris Dickson, Ellen & Jerry, Phil & Lee, Ernie Watenpugh, Tim, Jacey Depriest, Corinne Platt, Mason Osgood, Keith Revik, Matt Williamson, Judah Kuper, Dan, Kim Wheels
 - g. Not in Favor (Nay):
 - h. Abstain:
- D. Introduction and First Reading of An Ordinance 2021-12 Purchase of Flow Meter
- a. Ernie—Lee Solden is borrowing the ToT's flow meter once a month, has to do it on the weekends, pay for Lee's travel time. With our water infrastructure projects on the horizon, we need data collection on Waterfall. Increased data collection will help us strategize how to collect and store. Understanding the amount of snowmelt and rainfall runoff is essential. Twice a month readings just doesn't cover it.
 - b. Corinne—question about 24/7 flow meters
 - c. Lee—a pressure transducer not a flow meter is permanently installed into stream, could give us readings 24/7. We need to do that, would be part of our water infrastructure to install. Once we have this, we still need to do at least 15 flow measurements a year to verify the pressure transducer readings. Purchase of a flow meter is necessary ASAP.

- d. Judah motion to approve on first reading of Ordinance 2021-12, Matt seconds
- e. All in Favor (Yay) Emma Christensen, Chris Dickson, Ellen & Jerry, Phil & Lee, Ernie Watenpaugh, Tim, Jacey Depriest, Corinne Platt, Mason Osgood, Keith Revik, Matt Williamson, Judah Kuper, Dan, Kim Wheels
- f. Not in Favor (Nay):
- g. Abstain:
- E. Water Planning & Engineering Status
 - a. Ken Page not present, Ernie—not much to report, waiting for appropriate grants.
- F. Monthly Paid Invoices and RETT Received update
 - a. Cindy—no questions from Staff on paid invoices, RETT received, no comments
- G. Discussion to Authorize Use of General Funds for Cemetery Improvement
 - a. Jacey—cemetery is behind Israel’s house and has taken it upon himself to keep it in good health. He has a goal to improve the cemetery and make it more open to the community in general. We want to allocate some funds to that, and to honor Hannah and the Israel’s.
 - b. Cindy—cemetery budget has nothing in it, we were talking about using \$2000 in amended budget
 - c. Corinne—direct Cindy to pull \$2000 out of general fund to go towards cemetery improvement
 - d. Judah—suggests we also use this money to come up with 5-year cemetery plan, Corinne agrees, allocate funds and direct Jacey to talk to Peter about this plan
- H. Fall Street Maintenance
 - a. Corrine—cleaning out culverts before winter
 - b. Tyler—first we need to find the culverts then we can begin to clean them out

6. NEW BUSINESS

Send out EPA response website

7. ADJOURN

Matt motions to adjourn, Judah seconds.

Unanimous consent to adjourn!

Town Clerk, Mason Osgood

Date

Minutes prepared by Mason Osgood, Town Clerk

Audio recordings of all General Assembly Meetings are available to the public. Please contact the Town Clerk if you would like a copy of this month’s audio of the meeting minutes.



TOWN OF OPHIR

ORDINANCE No. 2021- 10

**APPOINTING TOWN MANAGER AND APPROVING TOWN MANAGER
CONTRACT**

WHEREAS, the Town has an open position for the Town Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager hiring committee has advertised the position and conducted interviews with several applicants, and recommends to the General Assembly that it appoint John Wontrobski as Town Manager; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly desires to appoint John Wontrobski as the Ophir Town Manager, and to approve an Employment Agreement with her, upon the terms and conditions set forth below.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN OF OPHIR
ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1 APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT.

The Town of Ophir, by and through its General Assembly, hereby approves the appointment of John Wontrobski as the Ophir Town Manager, to commence effective as of October 20, 2021. The Town Manager's Duties are set forth on the attached job description.

SECTION 2. EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT.

The Employment Agreement with the Town Manager is hereby approved in the form attached hereto. The Town Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem are authorized to execute said agreement and to make additional non-substantive revisions to said agreement.

SECTION 3. PUBLICATION. After final adoption, public notice of passage shall be served in the manner proscribed by the Town Charter and consistent with the Town's regular notice practices.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY:

If any one or more sections or parts of this Ordinance is adjudged unenforceable or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, the intention being that the various provisions herein are severable.

SECTION 5: EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption.

Introduced, Read and Referred to Public Hearing by the General Assembly on the 21st day of September 2021.

Approved and Adopted on Second and Final Reading by the General Assembly of the Town of Ophir on the 19th day of October 2021

By: _____
Corinne Platt, Mayor

Attest: _____
Mason Osgood, Clerk

Approved as to Form: Stephen B. Johnson, Town Attorney

Attachments: Employment Agreement, Job Description

Town of Ophir Town Manager Job Description

September, 2021

Duties and Responsibilities:

Performs, directs and coordinates the administrative and professional work of the town government in accordance with policies determined by the General Assembly of the Town of Ophir. Ensures Town compliance with all state, federal, local laws and ordinances.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities include the following. Other duties may be assigned:

- Plans, assigns, and directs work to achieve all necessary functions of the Town.
- Provides leadership and direction in the development of short and long-range plans for the Town.
- Prepares reports for monthly Town meetings, makes presentations to boards, commissions, and the General Assembly.
- Communicates official plans, policies, and procedures to staff and General Assembly.
- Researches and writes grants.
- Creates annual budget with Town Treasurer.
- Assures that assigned areas of responsibility are performed within budget; performs cost control activities; monitors revenues and expenditures in assigned area to assure sound fiscal control; prepares annual budget; assures effective and efficient use of budgeted funds, personnel, materials, facilities, and time.
- Performs and/or oversees the operation and maintenance of the water plant and distribution system.
- Performs and/or oversees road maintenance.

- Works with Town staff, maintains harmony among workers and resolves grievances; assists other Town employees in performing duties.
- Receives, follows up and resolves complaints and/or concerns of residents/ General Assembly members in accordance with the stated laws/policies of the Town. Interprets policies when needed, etc.
- Prepares a variety of studies, reports and related information for decision-making purposes.
- Advises the General Assembly of financial conditions and current and future Town needs.
- Attends all regular and special meetings of the GA and Town Staff.
- Recommends for adoption by the General Assembly such measures as he or she may deem necessary or expedient.
- Work with contract building inspector to process building permits, perform inspections and site measurements.
- Point of contact for emergency management plans.
- Oversees and directs all contract labor.
- Confers and coordinates with contract attorneys, engineers and other contract professionals.

Work Environment

While performing the duties of this job, the Manager is frequently exposed to moving mechanical parts and outside weather conditions. The employee is occasionally exposed to fumes or airborne particles and toxic or caustic chemicals. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

The job description does not create any property rights for job positions. All employees are "at will" employees as set for in Article 4.5 of the Home Rule Charter. The job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee and is subject to change by the employer as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.

**TOWN MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT
TOWN OF OPHIR**

This Town Manager Employment Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into as of October 19th, 2021, between the Town of Ophir, Colorado, acting by its Town General Assembly, P.O. Box 683, Ophir, 81426, hereinafter referred to as “Town”, and John Wontrobski, hereinafter referred to as “Manager” both of whom are collectively referred to as the “parties.”

- 1. Purpose of Agreement:** The Town and Manager hereby agree to enter into this Agreement to appoint and retain Manager as an employee of the Town of Ophir for the position of **Town Manager**. Manager shall faithfully and diligently perform such duties as are set forth in the attached “Job Description” as adopted by the General Assembly.
- 2. Term and Compensation:** The term of this Agreement shall commence on October 20th, 2021 and shall continue until December 31st, 2022. In consideration of his performance as Town Manager, Manager shall be paid a total annual base salary in the amount of \$55,000.00 (Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars). Manager shall work not less than 40 hours per week. Manager shall not be entitled to overtime pay but may take compensatory time off when and if approved by the Mayor.
- 3. Benefits:** Manager will receive \$1000/month subsidy toward insurance/benefits, or a benefit package as determined by the General Assembly.
- 4. Benefits and Educational/Licensure Allowances:** The Town shall also provide education expenses in the amount of \$1000.00 (One Thousand Dollars) per year, pro-rated, which shall be spent on municipal conference or workshop fees, travel, lodging, per diem, or other education related expenses. The Town Manager may observe federal holidays and shall receive 20 days Paid Time Off (PTO) per year, pro-rated, exclusive of compensatory time off. No PTO days may be accrued into the subsequent year. PTO shall be approved by the Mayor.
- 4. Termination and Options:** Manager shall be considered an at-will employee. This Agreement may be terminated by Manager with (30) thirty days prior written notice. Such notice may be waived with the consent of the parties. This Agreement may be terminated at any time by the Town provided that in such case, Manager shall be entitled to accrued compensation, benefits and PTO, together with a severance payment equivalent to two months of accrued compensation, benefits and PTO, unless there has been non-feasance, illegal action or breach of Manager’s fiduciary responsibility as Manager, in which case no such severance shall be paid.
- 5. Assignment:** The rights and obligations of the parties under this Agreement are not assignable without the written consent of both parties.
- 6. Notices:** All notices required or permitted herein shall be in writing and shall be personally delivered or mailed by registered or certified U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to the parties at the addresses given below or at such other addresses that may be specified by written notice in accordance with this paragraph.

If to the Town:

Mayor
PO Box 683
Ophir, CO 81426

If to Manager:

John Wontrobski
459 San Miguel Ridge
Telluride, CO 81435
970-708-7412

7. **Entire Agreement:** This Agreement and the Manager's Job Description attached, hereto, shall constitute the entire agreement between the parties.
8. **Approval:** Execution of the Agreement must first be approved by the Town of Ophir General Assembly.
9. **Contract Changes:** This agreement may be amended or extended by motion and Vote of the General Assembly and Agreement of the Manager.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town of Ophir, Colorado, has caused, this Agreement to be signed by its Mayor, attested by its Clerk, and Manager has signed his name to this Agreement, as of the day and year first appearing above.

Town: _____

Manager: _____

By: Corinne Platt, Mayor

By: John Wontrobski, Town Manager

ATTEST: _____

By: Mason Osgood, Clerk

Attachment: Job Description



TOWN OF OPHIR

ORDINANCE No. 2021- 11

**AMENDING THE TOWN OF OPHIR 2021 BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE
\$9,500.00 FROM ENTERPRISE FUND TO A NEW HACH FH-950 WATER
FLOW METER AND WADING ROD KIT**

WHEREAS, the Ophir Water Committee has recommended that the Town of Ophir purchase their own water flow meter in order to increase data collection in Waterfall Canyon to prepare for Town of Ophir’s water system planning and improvements; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Budget does not currently contain a line-item appropriation for a ‘Water Flow Meter’ and the funds will be transferred from the Town of Ophir ‘Enterprise Fund’; and

WHEREAS, increased data collection and monitoring of the Waterfall Canyon watershed is necessary in order to best understand how to effectively collect snowmelt and rainwater runoff to optimize proposed future water storage collection and capacity to serve the Town of Ophir’s domestic water supply system; and

WHEREAS, the Ophir General Assembly desires to amend its 2021 budget accordingly and to authorize the purchase of a new Hach FH-950 Flow Meter for data collection purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN OF OPHIR
HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. 2021 Budget Amendment.

The 2021 Ophir Enterprise Fund is hereby amended to include a new line item appropriation and expenditure for “Hach FH-950 Water Flow Meter” in the amount of \$9,500.00.

SECTION 2. PUBLICATION.

After final adoption, public notice of passage shall be served in the manner proscribed by the Town Charter and consistent with the Town’s regular notice practices.

SECTION 43. SEVERABILITY.

If any one or more sections or parts of this Ordinance is adjudged unenforceable or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, the intention being that the various provisions herein are severable.

SECTION 5: EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption.

Introduced, Read and Referred to Public Hearing by the General Assembly on the 21st day of September 2021.

Approved and Adopted on Second and Final Reading by the General Assembly of the Town of Ophir on the 19th day of October 2021

By: _____
Corinne Platt, Mayor

Attest: _____
Mason Osgood, Clerk

Approved as to Form: Stephen B. Johnson, Town Attorney

Attachments: Product Quote



Be Right™



FH950 Portable Flow Meter (Velocity & Depth) System with 20' Cable

Product #: FH950.11020
USD Price: \$7,559.00
 Ships within 2 weeks

The perfect handheld solution for wastewater and environmental flow monitoring.

Hach's lightweight, battery-powered FH950 Velocity & Depth Flow Meter was designed to provide accurate velocity and depth measurements while simplifying the entire measurement process in rugged field environments. Multiple user-friendly features designed into the Hach FH950 allow you to quickly and easily determine stream velocities for required discharge measurements, or use the FH950 to quickly calibrate area velocity flow meters, or verify primary devices such as weirs and flumes.

- *Reduce manhours 50%
- *Automatically calculates total discharge based on USGS and ISO methods
- *Real-time velocity graphed on color display
- *One of the lowest maintenance solutions on the market

Reduce manhours 50%

The step-by-step user interface simplifies programming, delivers real-time data, and downloads directly to PC allowing a single person to take the readings and eliminating post site visit manual data transfer from logbook to PC

Automatically calculates total discharge based on USGS and ISO methods

Reduces time to manually calculate and likelihood of errors

Real-time velocity graphed on color display

Visualize velocity trends quickly

One of the lowest maintenance solutions on the market

Electromagnetic velocity/depth sensor with no moving parts never requires mechanical maintenance

Lightweight, rugged portable meter

Only 1.5 pounds

Specifications

Accuracy 2:	$\pm 2\%$ of reading ± 0.05 ft/s (± 0.015 m/s) through the range of 0 - 10 ft/s (0 - 3.04 ms/s); $\pm 4\%$ of reading from 10 - 16 ft/s (3.04 - 4.87 m/s)
	DEPTH The larger of $\pm 2\%$ of reading or ± 0.504 in (0.015 m). Steady state temperature and static non-flowing water.
Cable Length:	20 ft
Data Storage:	Data storage for up to 10 profiles

with 32 stations per profile.

Display: LCD: Color, LCD; 3.5" QVGA, transreflective
(readable in direct sunlight)

Environmental Rating: IP67

Keypad: Alpha-numerica

Kit?: Yes

Material: Polycarbonate with a thermoplastic
elastomer (TPE) overmold

Method Name: VELOCITY - Electromagnetic
DEPTH - Diaphragm type: absolute pressure with single point calibration

Operating Temperature Range: -20 - 55 °C

Probe Type: Velocity & Depth

Range: 0 - +20 ft/s

Storage Conditions: -20 °C to 60 °C

Warranty: 12 months



FH950 Portable Flow Meter (Velocity & Depth) System with 20' Cable



Product #: FH950.11020

Quantity

USD Price: \$7,559.00

Ships within 2 weeks

Optional Accessories



[Top Setting Wading Rod Kit, Metric](#)

Product #: 75013M
USD Price: \$1,343.00

» [Add to Cart](#)



[Absorbent Wipe](#)

Product #: 9073500
USD Price: \$2.90

» [Add to Cart](#)



[Top Setting Wading Rod Kit, English](#)

Product #: 75013
USD Price: \$1,343.00

» [Add to Cart](#)



[Adjustable Meter Mount](#)

Product #: 9071700
USD Price: \$92.09

» [Add to Cart](#)



[Universal Sensor Mount](#)

Product #: 75015
USD Price: \$102.00

» [Add to Cart](#)



[Fabric Carrying Case](#)

Product #: 9073400
USD Price: \$157.00

» [Add to Cart](#)



[USB Cable](#)

Product #: 9070800
USD Price: \$28.05

» [Add to Cart](#)



[Standard Wading Rod Kit, Metric](#)

Product #: 75002M
USD Price: \$1,343.00

» [Add to Cart](#)



[Thumb Screw Kit](#)

Product #: 9073200
USD Price: \$10.85

» [Add to Cart](#)



[Lanyard](#)

Product #: 9072700
USD Price: \$8.19

» [Add to Cart](#)



[Standard Wading Rod Kit, English](#)

Product #: 75002
USD Price: \$1,343.00

» [Add to Cart](#)

[CHAT NOW](#)



ORDINANCE 2020-13
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 TOWN OF OPHIR BUDGET – SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION

WHEREAS, , the General Assembly of the Town of Ophir adopted the 2021 budget by Resolution 2020-3; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Ophir 2021 General Fund Actual Revenues exceeded General Fund Budgeted Revenues in the amount of \$125,731; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with C.R.S. §29-1-109(2)(a) and §29-1-106 Ophir has conducted a public hearing on October 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, expenditures do not exceed available funds, as required by law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN OF OPHIR, COLORADO, The 2021 Ophir Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. The 2021 Estimated Expenditures for each fund are as follows:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 228,837
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$ 25,550
CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	\$ 25,500
BROADBAND FUND	\$ 25,675
ENTERPRISE FUND	\$ 107,208

Section 2. The 2021 Estimated Revenues for each fund are as follows:

GENERAL FUND	
Beginning Fund Balance (estimated)	\$ 200,000
General Property Tax Levy	\$ 147,555
Other Sources	\$ 273,441
Less amount to Enterprise Fund (Mill Levy)	(14,685)
Less amount to Open Space Fund	(8,400)
Less amount to General Fund Reserves	(15,000)
Less amount to Capital Projects	(49,794)
Less amount to Broadband (Mill Levy)	(10,500)
Total General Fund Revenues	\$ 522,617
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS:	
OPEN SPACE FUND	
Beginning Fund Balance (estimated)	\$ 90,000
Grants	0
Other Sources	\$ 9,000
Total Open Space Revenues	\$ 99,000
CONSERVATION TRUST FUND	
Beginning Fund Balance (estimated)	\$ 8,600
CTF payments	\$ 2,000

Total Conservation Trust Revenues	\$ 10,600
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	
Beginning Fund Balance (estimated)	\$ 4,846
Grants	0
Other Sources	\$ 73,724
Total Capital Projects Fund Revenues	\$ 78,570
ENTERPRISE FUND	
Beginning Fund Balance (estimated)	\$ 44,000
Water user fees	\$ 50,320
Water tap fees	\$ 21,000
Mill Levy	\$ 14,968
Trash user fees	\$ 13,680
RREO Grants & Rebates	\$ 8,000
Total Enterprise Fund Revenues	\$ 137,685
BROADBAND FUND	
Beginning Fund Balance (estimated)	\$ 30,000
Mill Levy	\$ 10,500
Other Sources	\$ 5,000
Total Broadband Fund Revenues	\$ 45,500
SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FUND	
Beginning Fund Balance (estimated)	\$ 20,444
Total Revenues	0
Total S.I.D. Revenues	\$ 20,444

Section 3.

That the budget as submitted, amended, and herein above summarized by each fund, hereby is approved and adopted as the Amended Budget of the Town of Ophir for the year 2021. A copy of each budget is attached hereto. Adoption of this Resolution shall constitute an appropriation of all amounts identified as expenditures in the Budget.

Section 4.

This Ordinance shall be effective upon final adoption. After final adoption, a public notice shall be published which notice shall contain the number and title of this Resolution, a brief description of the Resolution, its effective date and a notice that copies of the Resolution are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's office.

Introduced, Read and Approved on First Reading by the General Assembly of the Town of Ophir on the 19th day of October, 2021.

Approved and Adopted on Second and Final Reading by the General Assembly of the Town of Ophir on the _____ day of November, 2020.

By: _____

Attest: _____

Corinne Platt, Mayor

Mason Osgood, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form: Steve Johnson, Town Attorney

TOWN OF OPHIR



Box 683 • Ophir, CO 81426

**TOWN OF OPHIR, COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-8**

**RESOLUTION DENYING AN APPLICATION BY GLENN PAULS
FOR MINIMUM LOT AREA REQUIREMENT VARIANCE FOR
LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK P, OPHIR COLORADO.**

WHEREAS, on or about _____, 2021 the Town of Ophir received an application by Glenn Pauls and potential buyer Spencer Coon seeking approval of a variance for minimum Lot Area Requirements for Lots 1 and 2, Block P, Ophir, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, at a duly-noticed public hearing on -----, 2021 the Ophir Planning & Zoning Commission reviewed the application, noted the total square footage of said lots was 4,850 square feet, the minimum lot size for the combined lots located in the Residential Zone District is 5,000 square feet according to Land Use Code (LUC) section 404, considered the variance review standards contained within section 1104 of the LUC, and recommended to the Ophir General Assembly that it deny the variance; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing on September 21, 2021 that the applicants did not attend or present evidence at, the Ophir General Assembly reviewed the variance application, considered the recommendation from P&Z, and the variance standards contained within section 1104 of the LUC, took public comments, and directed the Town Attorney to draft a Resolution to deny the variance application; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has considered LUC section §1104, Standards for Review, which provides in pertinent part:

The following standards shall apply to review of Variance applications by the General Assembly. In exercising its power to grant a Variance in accordance with this LUC, the General Assembly shall make finding and show in its minutes that each of the following standards are met:

§1104.1 There are special circumstances existing on the property on which the application is made related to size, shape, area, topography, surrounding conditions, access, and location that do not apply generally to other property in the same area and Zone District.

§1104.2 The Variance will not unduly impact such things as: snow removal, drainage, streetscapes, separation of buildings for fire protection, and opportunity for off-street parking, which are provided by minimum setbacks; solar access, and protection of neighbors views to the surrounding mountains, which are provided by maximum building heights; continuity of design, minimization of visual impact, and provision of minimal yard area, which is provided by maximum floor areas (particular attention shall be given to the impacts of the Variance on neighbors); and,

§1104.3 the Variance, if granted, will not constitute a material detriment to the public welfare or injury to the use, of property in the vicinity; and,

§1104.4 the Variance is not sought to relieve a hardship to development of the property which has been created by the Applicant; and,

§1104.5 that the proposed use is a permitted use in the underlying Zone District.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN OF OPHIR, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings. The General Assembly hereby adopts the following findings: The subject property, while not zoned as part of the Avalanche Hazard Zone, is located in the Badger avalanche slide path, which would endanger occupants of and contractors for any residence that may be built on the subject property, and thus would constitute a material detriment to the public welfare. While the applicants did not create the hardship consisting of insufficient lot size, which size was established by the original townsite plat map, the owner could have avoided the hardship by performing a survey demonstrating actual lot size prior to owner's purchase. Approval of the variance application would unduly impact neighbors' views of the surrounding mountains, particularly for neighbors to the east of the subject property. Approval of the variance could create legal precedent to approve variances for other under-sized properties, particularly for three undersized properties across the street from the subject property.

Section 2. Conclusions of Law. The General Assembly is unable to find that each of the standards set forth above has been met, particularly as to LUC §1104.2, §1104.3 and §1104.4.

Section 3. Determination. The Ophir General Assembly hereby denies the above-referenced variance application.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town of Ophir General Assembly of the Town of Ophir, Colorado, this 19th day of October, 2021.

TOWN OF OPHIR, COLORADO

By: _____
Corinne Platt, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Mason Osgood, Town Clerk

Approved as to form:

Stephen B. Johnson, Town Attorney

July 16, 2021

Chad Stewart
Forest Supervisor
Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
2250 South Main St.
Delta, CO 81416
Chad.stewart@usda.gov

Dear Mr. Stewart and GMUG Planning Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback before a public release of the Draft Forest Plan. The San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison, and Hinsdale Counties Boards of County Commissioners (BOCC) appreciate the additional time and innovative opportunities made available to cooperating agencies to participate in the Forest Plan revision. We also appreciate your active collaboration with GMUG counties to date.

We appreciate the amount of time you and your team spent to develop this Plan and the thoughtful consideration of our input. The complexities involved in the planning process to accommodate public needs, natural resources and a rapidly changing climate, make the process incredibly challenging. We are concerned that this pre-Draft and Preferred Alternative B do not adequately recognize these complexities. We ask that the following recommendations be included in order to better prepare for managing our forest into the future.

Draft Forest Plans are supported by a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which analyzes the potential impacts from the preferred and range of alternatives. These documents together reflect an interdisciplinary team approach in consideration of the input received and the directives associated with the 2012 planning rule.

Unfortunately, at this time we cannot support the pre-Draft plan and Preferred Alternative B as presented. We are ready to continue our active collaboration with you and the planning team to reconsider the analysis that will ultimately support a Draft Preferred Alternative that all GMUG counties can support.

As you requested, we are sharing the following comments with our common 'red flag' issues as well as individual county comments from those who choose to do so. These comments were discussed and supported across four counties of the GMUG in opposition to the Preferred Alternative and this entire Draft Plan.

We have four main areas of concern; 1. Lack of sufficient climate change analysis specifically the carbon sequestration and water storage capacity of intact ecosystems, 2. Lack of socioeconomic analysis that considers the multiple uses of the forests including recreational opportunities and ecosystem services benefits, 3. A significant increase in suitable timber, which is a designation that interferes with consideration of responsible management of the forests that allow uses other than timber production and the lack of a timber management analysis that

prioritizes wildfire mitigation to protect critical infrastructure including watersheds, and 4. Lack of adequate consideration of the designations in the CORE Act and the proposed GPLI.

According to Subpart A - National Forest System Land Management Planning (USFS Planning Rule) intends to 219.1 (b) "sustain the multiple use of its renewable resources in perpetuity while maintaining the long-term health and productivity of the land. Resources are managed through a combination of approaches and concepts for the benefit of human communities and natural resources. Land management plans guide sustainable, integrated resource management of the resources within the plan area in the context of the broader landscape, giving due consideration to the relative values of the various resources in particular areas." 219.1 (c) "guide the collaborative and science-based development, amendment, and revision of land management plans that promote the ecological integrity of national forests and grasslands and other administrative units of the NFS. Plans will guide management of NFS lands so that they are ecologically sustainable and contribute to social and economic sustainability; consist of ecosystems and watersheds with ecological integrity and diverse plant and animal communities; and have the capacity to provide people and communities with ecosystem services and multiple uses that provide a range of social, economic, and ecological benefits for the present and into the future."

All of the purposes listed above depend on the appropriate adaptation to a rapidly changing climate. The last GMUG Forest Plan was approved almost 40 years ago. While the human demand for a broad range of traditional and novel uses is increasing dramatically on the GMUG and surrounding lands, the impacts from a rapidly changing climate are only beginning to be understood and must be thoroughly considered by any planning process.

1. Carbon Sequestration

According to this 2017 study, *Carbon Sequestration in Colorado's Lands: An Integrated Spatial & Policy Analysis*, "Colorado's lands currently hold 3,334 MMT CO₂eq, compared to the US total of 48,382 MMT CO₂eq. In addition, Colorado's lands can be managed to make a significant contribution toward state climate goal of reducing statewide greenhouse gas emissions by more than 26% by the year 2025, compared to 2005 levels (or a cumulative decrease of roughly 39 MMT CO₂eq greenhouse gas emissions from the current level of 130 MMT CO₂eq). Land management decisions have high potential to impact atmospheric concentrations of carbon. Different land use practices contribute to either greenhouse gas emissions or carbon sequestration. Knowledge of current carbon stocks in different land cover types and the impacts of land management practices on carbon sequestration is critically important to land use decision-making. Understanding land cover change trends and projecting those into the future can also help guide future land use decision-making."

We ask that a section be included to develop a baseline for the current carbon sequestration capacity of the GMUG and a determination of the carbon emissions of projects to monitor the balance of emissions vs. sequestration.

In the Draft EIS (DEIS), on Pg. 24 carbon sequestration was addressed as such, "Public feedback requested an alternative that would maximize carbon sequestration. While each alternative would

have differing levels of carbon storage, as qualitatively analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement, an alternative solely designed to maximize carbon storage would be inconsistent with the National Forest Management Act and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act. It is not carried forward for detailed analysis."

Section 219.5 of the Forest Planning Rule states that "the responsible official shall consider and evaluate existing and possible future conditions and trends of the plan area, and assess the sustainability of social, economic, and ecological systems within the plan area, in the context of the broader landscape (§ 219.6)." A 2018 USGS Scientific Investigation Report titled Federal Lands GHG Emissions and Sequestration in the U.S. 2005-2014 is available for your consideration. An extremely generalized summary of the findings is that carbon emissions and sequestration on our federal lands were in a delicate balance at the time of the report. This would indicate that any additional emissions resulting from the management of federal lands, including the GMUG should strongly consider, if not require, an equal or greater management objective to add sequestration capacity. The Forest Planning Rule also states in section 219.7 that "A plan may include goals as plan components." Counties are facing mounting costs to prepare for extreme weather events and mitigate impacts from a changing climate for our infrastructure and communities. With more opportunities on our surrounding federal lands for mitigation through healthy ecosystem service benefits including carbon sequestration capacity, we are becoming more dependent on the management of our federal lands. The 2012 Planning Rule requires a carbon assessment prior to plan development or revision 219.6 (b) (4). The *GMUG National Forest REVISED DRAFT Forest Assessments: Carbon March 2018 Report* states that "the GMUG contains the most sequestered carbon of any National Forest, which is expected because it is the largest unit in the Region. Total forest ecosystem carbon on the GMUG is approximately 130 teragrams (Tg), or 143,300,000 short tons, equivalent to 525,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide." It also shows an approximately 5 (Tg) loss between 2005 and 2013.

In addition to the baseline analysis, we request that a Monitoring section for Carbon Sequestration be added using the baseline information from the reports quoted, and a requirement for ongoing analysis at the project scale level with a goal of increasing the net carbon storage capacity for the GMUG as quickly as possible. We are ready to support your efforts to include this important analysis and monitoring in the plan and appreciate your leadership on this vital shared responsibility.

This request supports DEIS Pg. 6 "Maintain or restore ecological integrity; air, soil, and water; and riparian areas, taking into account stressors such as wildland fire, insects and disease, and changes in climate. Key issues and needs to address include: Provide direction for ecosystem-based management at a landscape scale, and emphasize maintenance and restoration of ecosystem function and natural processes to improve resiliency. Consider plan direction that takes into account a changing climate, including adaptive responses to impacts of climate change (such as more frequent and larger disturbance events). Focus on maintaining ecosystem resiliency to continue to provide multiple uses and ecosystem services."

As we face what we now know as a more permanent drought condition in the southwest, a desired condition of all management decisions must be to adequately analyze the current

capacity for natural water storage of a landscape and the proposed projects' ability to improve that natural capacity over time.

2. Socioeconomic Analysis and Management for increasing Recreation Demands

The Draft Plan and preferred alternative must offer a more comprehensive socioeconomic analysis. Our forests must be managed for multiple uses and many if not all of our communities are facing increasing demands for a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities. Human-powered outdoor recreation is a major economic engine on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG).

In 2018, the Outdoor Alliance commissioned a series of new economic studies, measuring the economic impact of outdoor recreation in the region. Researchers found that outdoor recreation in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests generates \$392 million in annual spending on paddling, climbing, hiking, snowsports, and mountain biking — while also supporting local jobs and attracting both businesses and residents to Colorado.¹

According to Mary Wagner, Associate Chief of U.S. Forest Service, "Outdoor recreation is by far the single greatest use of the National Forest System, dwarfing every other use. Not surprisingly, it is also the single greatest employer, and it provides the single greatest stimulus for local economies. Our public lands provide local and state economic benefits from the various activities on the National Forest System, including outdoor recreation, but also from investments in recreational infrastructure and in healthy, resilient forests and grasslands. In fiscal year 2011, all activities combined contributed over \$36 billion to America's gross domestic product, supporting nearly 450,000 jobs."²

The Draft Plan addresses Socioeconomics desired conditions on page 17 in a more balanced approach. The Draft Plan recognizes the importance of clean water and air and commodities; all things forest wide contributing to the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities. Our concern is the primary focus of this Draft is on timber production, a single industry at the expense of all other uses and economic benefits that the forest provides. The socioeconomic analysis should include recreation and ecosystem services in order to make more thoroughly informed management decisions.

3. Suitable Timber

We support a responsible timber production program that contributes to Forestwide desired conditions and multiple use goals, such as providing mosaics of habitats for wildlife species, managing fuels, and contributing to the economic sustainability of local communities. This must be balanced with other forest uses. Wildfire mitigation projects do not need a special designation such as suitable timber and can occur on any forest lands outside of Wilderness.

We strongly oppose the substantial increase of suitable timber proposed in this pre-Draft Plan. The implementation of SBEADMR has made it clear that even with a ten-year programmatic

¹ <https://www.outdooralliance.org/gmug-economic-reports>

² <https://www.fs.usda.gov/speeches/outdoor-recreation-national-forest-system>

NEPA decision, the industry is not able to support a large increase in timber production and the timber production is all centered around one business with several partner businesses. During negotiations for the CORE Act, Suitable Timber was a major obstacle to designating lands for uses other than timber production. Even with broad stakeholder support from surrounding communities and the recognition of the low probability for timber production from landscapes proposed for designations in the CORE Act, a single industry was able to impede the progress of the widely supported and economically beneficial protective designations proposed. Following the new ecological emphasis required by the 2012 Planning Rule, if suitable acreage increases and therefore the potential for more timber sales, the protections of ecological systems wildlife and the recreation opportunities that are a growing economic benefit for surrounding communities must be enhanced to prevent long-term damage to these important roles, functions and uses of the forest lands.

The objective of any timber harvest should be to promote resiliency for future forests and the ecosystem services they provide. We also ask that the GMUG prioritize wildfire mitigation that protects communities and critical infrastructure including watersheds. We agree that timber production technology has improved since the last forest plan was completed, however the addition of steeper slopes should only be considered if the natural resources can be protected to enhance the opportunity for resiliency of the forests.

4. CORE Act & GPLI (The CORE & GPLI comments are exclusively from Gunnison, San Miguel and Ouray Counties)

The GMUG specific Wilderness, Special Management and Mineral Withdraw designations included in the CORE Act is the result of more than 10 years of collaboration among local leaders, businesses, and ranchers in San Miguel, Gunnison and Ouray Counties. It is currently under consideration by the Senate after passing the House. The Preferred Alternative must include the Wilderness and the Special Management Area designations included in the Bill.

The Gunnison Public Lands Initiative (GPLI) is also a result of lengthy collaboration, negotiation and compromise and the designations and land use proposed in the GPLI must be included in the Preferred Alternative.

Summary

We must continue to work together across all GMUG counties and communities to find common ground as we look ahead to the challenges we will face managing our public lands. According to a USFS press release on May 27, 2021 “New data shows more people than ever visited national forests and grasslands last year, according to a Forest Service report released today. National forests and grasslands received 168 million visits in 2020 – an increase of 18 million when compared to 2019. The report, compiled by the Forest Service’s [National Visitor Use Monitoring program](#), shows the steepest increase in visits happened between May and October of 2020. Dispersed recreation sites and wilderness areas saw the most significant increases, with an

estimated 25% increase in visitation overall. Visits to those areas surged even higher in the summer months of 2020 when compared to 2019.”³

Neighboring White River National Forest Supervisor Scott Fitzwilliams stated to the Colorado Sun, “If things keep growing the way they are, it’s inevitable that some of these areas are going to have to have some management scenarios, either permits or reservations or some sort of those types of tools, it’s just the way it is. The old days aren’t here anymore. In the old days, there were more staff and resources.”, Since he started at White River National Forest 11 years ago, his budget has plunged 45%. The busiest National Forest serves as a microcosm for broader cuts to the U.S. Forest Service over recent years. “We’re hitting a point where we can’t keep going down while the use (of lands) and output keeps going up.”⁴

We cannot ignore the GMUG’s popularity when it comes to summer and winter recreation. It is imperative we have the tools to plan responsibly for the increasing demands of recreation and prepare for new and quickly changing technologies allowing for easier access to our National Forest, while allowing ourselves the flexibility to adapt to changing natural conditions.

We ask that you consider the high level points we shared to revise this plan with a more scientific, responsive and adaptive management approach to the GMUG National Forest. As presented we cannot support the Draft Plan, but welcome the opportunity to work with you and other GMUG counties to develop a Plan that we can support.

Sincerely,
Gunnison County Board of Commissioner
/ s / Jonathan Houck
/ s / Roland Mason
/ s / Liz Smith

Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners
/ s / Kristie Borchers
/ s / Robert Hurd
/ s / Gregory Levine

Ouray County Board of Commissioners
/ s / Jake Niece
/ s / Lynn Padgett
/ s / Ben Tisdell

San Miguel County Board of Commissioners
/ s / Hilary Cooper
/ s / Kris Holstrom
/ s / Lance Waring

³ <https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/new-data-shows-visits-soared-across-national-forests-2020>

⁴ <https://coloradosun.com/2021/01/10/colorado-public-lands-coronavirus-toll/>



Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forest Comment Writing Workshop

How to submit comments (in order of preference:)

- **webpage:** <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=51806>
- **email:** SM.FS.gmugplanning@usda.gov
- **postal mail:** (include your contact information)
GMUG National Forest
Attn: Jonathan Tucker/GMUG Forest comments
2250 South Main Street
Delta, CO 81416



Link to GMUG National Forest Plan Draft <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/DraftForestPlan>
Storymaps at : (QR code above)

Guidelines for effective comment writing (based upon science and/or personal experience)

1. Be specific, describe your use of the GMUG, and say why you want to see the national forest managed primarily for wildlife, watershed protection, sustainable recreation, etc.
2. Advocate for components of the plan you like, and present evidence of why elements should change
3. Share personal experience on the landscape integrating your knowledge with your advocacy focus. Example: "I hike regularly in the Lone Cone area to observe wildlife such as the thriving elk herd and value the opportunity for quiet and solitude. I urge the GMUG to designate this stunning landscape as a Wilderness area to protect wildlife habitat, scenery, and quiet recreation."

Specific Talking Points (Choose one or two about which you are most passionate and know that you can submit multiple comments over time until the November 12 deadline.)

Advocate for:

1. East Beaver Creek addition and Lone Cone as Recommended Wilderness
2. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum that respects the needs of local communities like Ophir
3. Bridal Veil Falls and Ingram Falls as Wild and Scenic Eligible River Sections
4. Robust Tribal Consultation
5. Support proposed Wildlife Management Areas but need stronger Protections for Wildlife(Canada Lynx, bighorn sheep, moose, bats, elk, etc.)
6. Reduction of Logging/Timber suitability and Associated Road-Building in the Backcountry
7. The Community Conservation Proposal (gmugrevision.com)
8. Regulation of drone use in the backcountry, and what areas you want to see be non-motorized
9. Better consideration of climate change (ie carbon sequestration of intact ecosystems), socioeconomics of human-powered recreation, equitable access, and the CORE Act

Remember the GMUG wants to hear what matters to you. You don't have to be an expert, but do be specific and support your opinion with experience and/or science. Reach out to Sheep Mountain Alliance at info@sheepmountainalliance.org if you have questions or need additional resources.

The Alternatives – Basic Background

- There are four alternatives, but a preferred alternative was not selected by the agency. Reading between the lines though, Alternative B is effectively the agency's preferred alternative. The alternatives include:
 - Alternative A (also referred to as the current plan in this document) is the no-action alternative, which reflects the 1983 forest plan, as amended to date, and accounts for current laws, regulations, and terms and conditions from biological opinions.
 - Alternative B, which can be broadly described as the “blended” alternative, was released for public feedback as the working draft revised forest plan, and it was subsequently updated in response to public feedback and internal Forest Service review. It proposes a very modest amount of additional wilderness, an active vegetation management program, and a balanced approach to competing uses and values on the national forests.
 - Alternative C can be broadly described as the “active management emphasis” alternative, with fewer special area allocations, more active vegetation and fuels management, less restrictive recreation use management, more motorized settings, and more areas allocated as suitable for timber production.
 - Alternative D can be broadly described as the “special area emphasis” alternative, with more special area allocations, a smaller vegetation and fuels management program, more active and restrictive recreation use management, more non-motorized settings, and fewer areas allocated as suitable for timber production.
- Based upon the effects of the alternatives, and public comments on the draft environmental impact statement, the responsible official will select from amongst the action alternatives to blend and modify a final alternative for the draft record of decision.

General Issues to Include in Comments (With Some Specific Plan Component Recommendations)*

- **Management Certainty with Stronger Plan Components Are Needed**
 - The draft forest plan suffers from a lack of plan components – especially standards and guidelines – raising the concern that the proposed plan components are too weak to properly protect resources. Many guidelines need to be standards, and some management approaches need to be guidelines.
 - We understand why the Forest Service would like to build some flexibility in the plan to allow for adaptive management when confronting changing conditions. However, the public needs some level of management certainty to understand how plan direction will affect natural resources. For example, the plan needs additional strong standards and guidelines to restrict threats to threatened and endangered species and species of conservation concern.
- **Recommend Additional Wilderness Areas**
 - Alternative B's 34,000 acres of recommended wilderness is a small reflection of lands that should be recommended. I support the wilderness area recommendations in Alternative D, and urge that those be included in the final plan.

* This document's specific plan component recommendations are meant only as a starting point for messaging needs. It is far from even a basic list of specific plan component recommendations that will be included in technical comments.

- *(Alternative D recommends 261,000 acres for wilderness. This includes all of areas recommended in Alternative B, plus the addition of all Gunnison County-recommended areas; and areas the GMUG evaluated as “high” (i.e. highly-qualified for wilderness) which are also recommended by a citizen proposal, i.e. Community Conservation Proposal and Outdoor Alliance Vision.)*
 - To put this into perspective, the Forest Service in its proposed 2007 GMUG Forest Plan recommended approximately 125,000 acres in 19 areas for additional wilderness. That plan was developed under the Bush II administration. Today's draft plan, released under the Biden administration, recommends 34,000 acres in the preferred, or "blended" alternative. So the Bush II plan had 125,000 acres, and the Biden plan has 34,000 acres....
- **Recommend the Special Management Areas (SMAs) in Alternative D**
 - Alternative B includes no SMA recommendations. I support the 246,000 acres of SMA recommendations in Alternative D.
 - *(Unique to alternative D, these areas were submitted by multiple citizen proposals and endorsed by the counties of Gunnison, San Miguel, and Ouray. Each SMA is also removed from the area suitable for timber production.)*
- **Support Wildlife Management Areas**
 - I strongly support the concept of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the revised forest plan and ask that those be retained and strengthened with additional plan components. This important management area designation could help protect habitat for a variety of wildlife species.
 - However, in places where Alternative D’s wilderness and SMA recommendations overlap with the WMA-base identified in Alternative B, I support the stronger management prescriptions that Alternative D’s wilderness and SMA areas provide.
 - An additional component for WMAs is needed to ensure retention of security habitat for big game. I recommend a standard or guideline that requires or encourages maintenance of habitat blocks at least 500 acres in size having no roads or other human intrusions in big game habitat in all areas assigned to this management area.
 - *(This standard or guideline is needed to allow achievement of MA-DC-WLDF-01: “Large blocks of diverse habitat are relatively undisturbed by routes, providing security for the life history, distribution, and movement of many species, including big-game species. ...”)*
- **Protect Big Game**
 - I support the protections for big game and wildlife habitat that are most pronounced in Alternative D. According to the DEIS, *“Alternative D would likely provide the most connectivity benefit due to providing the greatest extent of recommended wilderness, special management areas, and wildlife management area categories”*.
 - GDL-SPEC-15 and Table 4, establishing restrictions on activities that could disturb big game during their reproductive periods or while on winter range, should be a standard.
- **Protect At-Risk Species**

- I am concerned that the Forest Service may have misinterpreted direction in the planning rule and planning directives in selecting species of conservation concern (SCC). As such, several imperiled species that likely meet the criteria for being identified as SCC were not designated SCC for planning purposes, such as the American marten, bighorn sheep, northern goshawk, boreal owl, Lewis's woodpecker, flammulated owl, several species of potentially imperiled bats, ptarmigan, western bumblebee, bighorn sheep, House's sandwort, reindeer lichen, Colorado Divide whitlow-grass, and Tundra buttercup.
- Bighorn Sheep
 - I am particularly concerned that bighorn sheep has been left off the list, given its vulnerability to disease passed from livestock and habitat fragmentation. The plan does not provide adequate justification for not designating this and other species as SCC.
 - In addition, GDL-SPEC-13, separation of bighorn sheep and domestic sheep, must be a standard. Disease transmission from domestic sheep to bighorns is considered one of the biggest, if not the biggest, threat to continued viability of Colorado's bighorn sheep herds.
- **The Draft Plan's Analysis of Timber Suitability is Unacceptable**
 - Every alternative in the draft plan posits a significant increase in suitable timber, which is a designation that interferes with consideration of responsible management of the forests for uses other than timber production. The draft plan's analysis of timber suitability does not comply with the National Forest Management Act, the Planning Rule, or Forest Service policy. It seems designed to maximize the possibility of future timber harvest, even though the GMUG National Forest is much more valuable for conserving biological diversity and recreation than it ever could be for timber production.
 - Far too much land is found suitable for timber production in all action alternatives.
 - Numerous acres that should be unsuitable for timber production are instead found suitable.
 - Steep slopes should not be found suitable.
 - Lands uneconomical to harvest should not be found suitable.
 - Some critical habitat for Gunnison Sage Grouse is found suitable. This acreage must be removed from the timber-suitable lands.
 - Finding suitable those lands that cannot be harvested economically, or in some cases, that cannot be harvested at all during the life of the revised plan, leads to artificially inflated calculations for sustained yield limit, projected timber sale quantity (PTSQ), and projected wood sale quality (PWSQ). It misleads the timber industry and the public, as well as present and future agency staff, about how much timber can or should be cut on the GMUG. It could lead to lands with trees actually suitable for timber production being overcut to meet an inflated PTSQ or PWSQ that was based in large part on thousands of acres of lands that cannot be harvested during the life of the plan and likely long afterward.
 - Critically, the designation of certain areas as suitable timber could stand in the way of future protections-- a significant obstacle faced by the CORE Act.
 - In addition, the Forest Service approach is moving from a reserve model (can it be harvested economically) to resource potential model (does it have trees). but this is an interpretation, not a requirement of the 2012 planning rule. They are not required per

the hand book to analyze slopes over 40% or speculate as to future technological advances for steep slope harvest.

- **The Plan Must Balance Recreational Growth with Conservation Values**

- I appreciate the GMUG's commitment to addressing recreation impacts. The standards in the draft plan provide a good starting point for tackling growing recreational impacts and issues. However, there are some areas that need to be strengthened.
- Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)
 - The GMUG's explanation of ROS fails to mention that ROS should reflect desired future conditions. This is necessary to ensure that any current recreational uses that do not comply with the desired setting are phased out over a set period of time. An objective should be added that specifies a timeframe for accomplishing this.
 - The draft plan defines winter semi-primitive non-motorized by distance from designated routes open to motorized use, but there aren't any officially designated routes because there is no Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) plan. As such, this is unduly influencing future decisions.
- Recreation Plan Components
 - Draft forest plan OBJ-REC-06 states: *"Within 10 years of plan approval, to reinforce semi-primitive non-motorized settings, eliminate at least two unauthorized motorized travel routes."* If the GMUG is serious about enforcing semi-primitive non-motorized settings, it should close many more than two unauthorized routes in 10 years.
 - Draft forest plan GDL-REC-12 makes the prohibition of motorized use off of designated routes a guideline. *This must be a standard.*
 - Why does GMUG's analysis of potential impacts from motorized recreation only consider impacts from illegal use? Even legal use has potential, and in some cases considerable, impacts.
- Recreation Emphasis Corridors
 - While I support the concept of a management area for emphasizing recreation, the Corridors are very focused on dispersed camping. Please identify and include direction for other recreation needs that could be addressed through a management area.
- Drones
 - Drones need to be restricted or prohibited in some areas because they can harass wildlife and interrupt key functions such as reproduction and brood rearing. Also, people recreating do not want to hear the noise of drones or see them. STND-REC-09 would ban flights of "unmanned aircraft systems", or drones, in five management areas and some other areas. However, it would allow exceptions for special use permits "under certain circumstances". The latter are not specified or described. We recommend that there be no exceptions to this prohibition in MAs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 4.2 other than for emergency search operations and law enforcement. Drones should also be banned from the following MAs: 2.3, Fossil Ridge Special Management Area; 3.1, Colorado Roadless Areas; 3.2 Wildlife Management Areas; and 3.3, Special Management Areas in alternative D.

- Alternative D is the best alternative for balancing wildlife and recreation. Statements from the DEIS include:
 - *“Alternative D would likely provide the most connectivity benefit due to providing the greatest extent of recommended wilderness, special management areas, and wildlife management area categories”*
 - *“The recreational structure of alternative D would be the most protective of wildlife because it would include less motorized use and less developed use than any other alternative. This would likely equate to less harassment of wildlife, less accidental wildfire ignition, and less human-wildlife conflict associated with animals becoming accustomed to human food.”*
 - *“Alternative D may result in the greatest economic benefit related to wildlife-related recreation because it proposes the greatest amount of wildlife management areas, recommended wilderness, and special management areas, which would likely benefit wildlife, fishing, and hunting recreation opportunities and associated spending in the local economy. However, it would also result in more restrictions on future trail development, with fewer opportunities potentially resulting in less trail-based recreation spending.”*
 - *“Outdoor recreation, especially fishing and hunting, was identified as a key ecosystem service. Alternative D provides the greatest acreage of wildlife management areas, recommended wilderness, and special management areas combined to support the wildlife for these recreation activities. This could result in greater visitor spending for hunting and fishing, which would contribute to social and economic sustainability.”*
 - *“Alternative D is the most restrictive management option for recreation. Non-motorized, wildlife-dependent activities would be enhanced under alternative D.”*
 - *“Finally, in alternative D most of the GMUG would be managed as non-motorized, preserving a large amount of habitat.”*

- **The Plan Must Protect Watersheds**

- Protection of watersheds and water resources must be prioritized in this forest plan. The GMUG only identifies one priority watershed in the draft forest plan. Given the extent of water-related uses and the importance of the GMUG as a headwaters water supplier for the Colorado River, additional watersheds should be examined for inclusion as priority watersheds.
- Riparian management zones (RMZ), STND-RMGH-07, needs to be strengthened. The minimum width should include wetlands less than one-quarter acre. It is likely that a considerable portion of the wetlands on the GMUG are smaller than one quarter acre, even within the 100-foot minimum RMZ.
- The management approach for incorporating the Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook and National Core Best Management Practices should be rewritten as a standard to require application of the provisions of these documents, or the best available science, to all projects and activities. That would ensure that these practices, which are already agency direction, or more recent best science, will be applied at the project level to protect watersheds.
- The GMUG should include specific plan components to reduce road density, and should limit road density in Riparian Management Zones.

- **Retain – and Add – Wild & Scenic-Eligible Segments to the Plan**
 - I support eligibility findings for all the stream segments included in the draft revised forest plan. At the same time, there are several streams that were previously found eligible but have been left out of the revised draft forest plan, and those should be included. These are: Taylor River, Slate River, Daisy Creek (Poverty Gulch), Escalante Creek, Bear Creek, Bridal Veil Creek, and Ingram Falls.
 - A number of streams not previously studied for Wild & Scenic eligibility are free-flowing and possess at least one outstandingly remarkable value. I specifically recommend that the following additional streams and stream segments be evaluated for Wild & Scenic eligibility and determined eligible: Monitor Creek, Potter Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Beaver Creek, Horsefly Creek, Upper Brush Creek and West Brush Creek tributary, Cement Creek, Curecanti Creek, Coal Creek, Lamphier Lake, Big Blue Creek and Slide Lake, North Clear Creek, and Dry Fork of the Escalante.

- **The Plan Should Contain Plan Components that will Better Adapt to the Climate Crisis**
 - We appreciate the draft plan contains plan components intended to guide making forest infrastructure resilient effects of climate changes, such as extreme weather events.
 - We also appreciate the draft plan indicates the Forest Service will identify climate refugia. However, the draft plan’s objective is to identify these over a 10-year timeline; this is not soon enough given the speed at which the earth is warming and the climate is changing. The plan must also protect these areas and not just monitor them.

Additional Thoughts and How to Comment

- Conservation groups are not alone in having these concerns. Gunnison, Ouray, San Miguel, and Hinsdale Counties have already united to [submit a letter](#) to the GMUG stating that “at this time we cannot support the pre-Draft plan and Preferred Alternative B as presented.” That letter includes the following statements:
 - *“We strongly oppose the substantial increase of suitable timber proposed in this pre-Draft Plan.”*
 - *“The Preferred Alternative must include the Wilderness and the Special Management Area designations included in the [CORE Act].”*
 - *“The Gunnison Public Lands Initiative (GPLI) is also a result of lengthy collaboration, negotiation and compromise and the designations and land use proposed in the GPLI must be included in the Preferred Alternative.”*

- **How to Comment**
 - Please submit a comment by November 12 to the Forest Service sharing these – and any other – recommendations that you might have. Commenting is not voting – you can submit as many comments on as many issues as you’d like, as long as they are substantive. Submit your comments at [US Forest Service NEPA Projects Home \(ecosystem-management.org\)](https://www.usfs.gov/eng/NEPA/NEPA-Projects-Home).
 - Personalize your comments. Even if you are just an occasional user of the GMUG, describe your uses and say why you want to see the national forest managed primarily for wildlife, watershed protection, sustainable recreation, etc.

From 4- county letter:

1. Lack of sufficient climate change analysis specifically the carbon sequestration and water storage capacity of intact ecosystems, 2. Lack of socioeconomic analysis that considers the multiple uses of the forests including recreational opportunities and ecosystem services benefits, 3. A significant increase in suitable timber, which is a designation that interferes with consideration of responsible management of the forests that allow uses other than timber production and the lack of a timber management analysis that prioritizes wildfire mitigation to protect critical infrastructure including watersheds, and 4. Lack of adequate consideration of the designations in the CORE Act and the proposed GPLI.

Other Specifics:

In 2019 San Miguel County recommended a 5000 acre parcel surrounding Lone Cone for wilderness management designation. This did not make it into alternative D as recommended wilderness

Other major areas of concern include Timber, Wilderness, ROS, Climate change considerations, equitable access.



To: General Assembly
From: Ken Haynes, Ophir Town Manager
Date: October 19, 2021
Re: Water Planning & Engineering Grant

The Planning & Engineering Grant Application Draft (attached) has been submitted to DOLA. Earlier this year DOLA changed financial aspects of the grant to a maximum amount of \$25,000 and requests a 50% match. We can request less than 50% match, but this would reduce on a pound level the viability of receiving the grant for planning & engineering. The SGM estimated costs of the planning & engineering process at \$35,000. A 50% match would be \$17,500. The Town received grant revenue from the Federal government due to COVID stimulus funds in the amount of \$23,124 that is required to be utilized for infrastructure needs (Ophir is eligible to utilize these funds for water, sewer & BB).

The Town will also receive an additional \$23,124 next year for more infrastructure needs through the same COVID stimulus funding.

Department of Local Affairs Water System Planning & Engineering Grant Application

October 13, 2021

Town of Ophir
 PO Box 857
 Ophir, CO 91426
 970) 728-4943
 manager@ophir.us

Introduction

The Town of Ophir has considerable concerns regarding the water system due to limited storage, fire suppression capabilities, climate change, an aging water system and an expected population growth of 25% in the next few years. It is the intent of the project to indicate the challenges and improvements needed with the current water supply and infrastructure, identify the short- and long-term goals needed to create a sustainable water system for the Town. The Town of Ophir has hired SGM Engineering to as the Town's Engineer. SGM provided an estimate to assist the Town with understanding the short- and long-term needs. (Attachment A)

Scope of Project & Demonstration of Need

1. Funding Procurement -The Town of Ophir's Enterprise Fund currently maintains basic monthly operations with an annual projected deficit that may cause challenges in the coming years and is not currently able to produce revenue for improvements. The Town is committed to finding funding sources and to commit Town Revenue sources for any matching requirements. Preliminary estimates indicate that the Town will not be able to procure enough revenue to accomplish the expected needs of the Town.

Preliminary Analysis and Improvement Costs:

Long Term Planning	\$35,000
Waterfall Infiltration Gallery Stream Restoration	\$2,500
Redbox Silt Collection Replacement	\$22,500
Raise Waterline Above Howards Fork	\$5,500
Ophir Water Storage Tank (500,000 gallon)	\$600,000
Convert existing Ophir water tank to raw water storage	\$7,500
Water Processing Computer System Upgrade / Scada	\$9,500
Leak Detection	\$4,000
Ophir Distribution Line Replacement	\$350,000
Water Transmission Split Ophir / East Ophir	\$15,500
Meter and Back Flow Preventer Installation	\$250,000
Water Filter Capacity Increase & Replacement of Existing	\$35,000
Total Estimate of Capitol Improvements	\$1,337,000
Minimum 25% Match	\$334,250

Annual Budget Projects:



2. Water Rights Analysis – Residents of Ophir have recently gathered water rights information pertaining to Ophir and has discovered that Ophir has not been diligent with maintaining water rights requirements. We are starting to fulfill some of the requirements and need the assistance of SGM and our contracted attorney
3. Resource Analysis - The Town of Ophir currently has two water sources, with the primary source being surface water from Waterfall Canyon and a secondary source of ground water from Werner.

Werner Springs infiltration system was replaced this summer, successfully increasing the production of gallons per minute by 3x. We still need to analyze the long-term capacity of Werner Springs.

Waterfall Canyon is the better-quality water with less heavy metals and hardness. This supply is primarily sourced from snow melt, icefields under talus and potential springs. Flow tests have indicated that in extended periods of dry weather the flows are reduced considerably.

Waterfall Creek flow monitoring data 2021 Cubic Feet Per Second:

5/28/2021	19.34	7/30/2021	7.38
6/11/2021	29.98	8/6/2021	5.027
6/26/2021	14.13	8/12/2021	3.83
7/9/2021	7.3		

4. Water Collection Improvement Recommendations - The existing collection systems are located within the Source Water Protection Plan area.
 - Leak detection on all supply lines
 - Waterfall Canyon surface water infiltration gallery was installed in 2010. This requires minimal maintenance. The current challenge at the infiltration location is erosion causing water at low flows to only be able to utilize a small portion of the infiltration capacity. We would like SGM to include erosion management designs at the infiltration location as the effects of erosion does not allow for full infiltration of the system during low water flows.
 - Waterfall Canyon supply has an aged silt catchment box (Redbox) that will need to be re-engineered and replaced
 - Waterfall supply line crosses the Howards Fork Creek above surface and conditions require constant system bleed to keep from freezing during the winter. Additionally, during high runoff years the line crossing the Howard’s Fork is susceptible damage from flooding debris.
5. Water Plant Maintenance, Repairs, & Improvement – The water plant was installed in 2010 and is beginning to age. A maintenance plan was not included with the installation, we need to determine the requirements to keep a consistent processing method and with the expected population growth expansion of the system will be required. The filtering system comprises of prefilter bags, microfilters and a *Clor-tec* Sodium Hypochlorite Generator. Currently the electrical needs of the plant are offset by solar panels. The heat is propane, we would like to pursue the plant be 100% carbon neutral. The plant requires electricity to operate, we would like to pursue emergency backup options.
6. Water Storage - The Town of Ophir considers this one of its most critical challenges. Ophir is expecting rapid growth in the next few years and the storage capacity is currently inadequate. Ophir is divided into two areas of density, Ophir & East Ophir. We would like to have this addressed as a priority. Currently there are 75 active taps with estimated potential for maximum growth up to 141 in Ophir.

- East Ophir with a current estimated population of 85 has two 35,000-gallon tanks (installed 1992 & 2010).
 - Ophir with a current estimated population of 120, has a 20,000-gallon storage tank **This tank is also the supply to East Ophir when demand is required to fill the East Ophir tanks.** With water restriction on a full tank Ophir can be supplied for less than 3 days.
7. Emergency Water Supply - The Town's fire suppression emergency water supply is limited to the above tanks, which is not adequate to put out a single house fire. We are supported by the Telluride Fire District with a truck approximately 20 minutes away minimum. We do have basic firefighting equipment located in both Ophir and East Ophir. With the expected growth and the increase potential for forest fires we would like to have this addressed as a priority. Collaborating with the fire protection district and SGM we would like to determine requirements and best options for firefighting residential fires and protection from forest fires.
 8. Distribution – Ophir being a boom-and-bust mining community, had let its' distribution system deteriorate. Eventually the purchase of a privately installed water distribution system in 1977. Throughout the years several repairs, upgrades and additional lines have added to the distribution system in Ophir. With potentially having to replace approximately 2,550 linear feet of asbestos cement (AC) lines, determine repairs and improvements including loop isolation options to improve distribution and fire suppression.
 9. SCADA - The Town of Ophir does not currently have any SCADA system.
 10. Metering & Billing – The Town of Ophir does not currently have individual meters. Each active tap is billed quarterly \$170 per tap regardless of usage.
 - Explore various metering options
 - Installation of meters
 - Develop billing system that would include long term maintenance and improvements needs
 11. Water System Rules & Regulations - Town of Ophir does not currently have a complete Rules & Regulations. We would like to adopt a complete Rules and Regulations including but not limited:
 - A. General Provisions
 - B. Definitions
 - C. Application for Service
 - D. Service Rates, Fees & Billing
 - E. Responsibilities of Customers
 - F. Water Mains & Distribution
 - G. Construction & Installation Guidelines
 - H. Water Tap Guidelines & Fees
 - I. Metering
 - J. Backflow Control
 - K. Fire Protection
 - L. Change in Customer Service
 - M. Unauthorized Use
 - N. Restrictions
 - O. Hearing & Appeals Procedure
 - P. Contractor Insurance

12. Raw Water Options - Residential outdoor water utilizes processed water. This increases processing requirements by approximately 30% and reduces the life cycle of the water system.

Priority, Community Goal & Outcome

The Town of Ophir feels that the combined water needs of the Town are paramount to a sustainable community. We are a residential community that is very dedicated to the regional and global environmental concerns and feel that our commitment to a viable water system is the most prominent goal for the community and the environment. Ophir recognizes that to support the residents of Ophir, we need to plan and engineer our water system to support the Town in the immediate future and for the maximum potential growth. We expect that the planning and engineering will allow us to fully be prepared for many years to come. We have received NEU funds that we would be able to apply as a match for a portion of the required funding for this grant. The Town is looking at all revenue options for the expected costs to implement the results of the planning & engineering process.

Local Effort

The Town has received NEU funds that may be able to be utilized as matching grant and the Town staff, community volunteers & consultants will participate in a in-kind contribution.

Readiness

The Town is ready to implement the Engineering & Planning process immediately. We acquired SGM as the Town's engineer through a two-stage selection, Request for Qualification choosing 3 engineering firms to submit Requests for Proposal. SGM was the selected Firm.

Resiliency Criteria

The goal of this project is to develop the long-term resiliency of the water system for the town of Ophir.

Energy / Mineral Impact

Ophir was once an historic mining town in the Trout Lake Mining District. By the mid-1970s all mineral extraction companies left the area, thus Ophir became a town and valley of patented mining claims with no local economy and therefore limited financial resources for municipal services. The Town of Ophir has also directly participated and supported mine reclamation and adit closures in the Ophir valley. Finally, Ophir continues to conduct water quality monitoring from the effects of past, current and future mining impacts to our source water.

October 8, 2021

Ken Haynes
Town Manager
Town of Ophir
1199 Bayfield Parkway
Bayfield, CO 81122

RE: Proposal for Water System Feasibility Study

Mr. Haynes,

SGM is submitting this proposal to the Town of Ophir (“Town”) to complete a feasibility study to identify, prioritize, and provide costs estimates for needed projects to improve water supply, treatment, and distribution. This study will also help proposed projects score well for Tier 1 or 2 grants through DOLA EIAF or other funding programs. In preparation for this proposal, we have reviewed documents provided by the Town.

Project Understanding

SGM understands the Town would like to improve the Town’s water supply, treatment, and distribution. The current system supplies water to 75 residences and two (2) public facilities, with a maximum potential build-out to 150 residences. The Town is licensed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) as a municipal water supplier under applicable provisions of Colorado law. It is to be operated consistent with the various uses, activities, programs, and facilities contemplated by CDPHE. The overall goal of Town is to provide safe, affordable, and reliable water to the residents of Ophir.

Scope of Work

Following is a summary of proposed topics to be evaluated in the feasibility study:

- Funding Procurement & Management
- Water Rights Analysis
- Resource Analysis
- Water Collection Maintenance & Improvement
- Water Plant Maintenance, Repairs, & Improvement
- Water Storage
- Emergency Water Supply
- Distribution
- SCADA
- Metering & Billing
- Water System Rules & Regulations
- Raw Water Options

Scope of Services

SGM's scope of services will include two phases:

Phase 1: Project Management

- Coordinate and communicate with the Town and other review agencies.
- Perform monthly budget, schedule, and invoice reviews.
- Meet with Town once a month during the duration of the study. Based on the timing of this study, all meetings are to be planned to be in the digital space.

Total Phase 1 Estimated Costs = \$5,000

Phase 2: Feasibility Study

- Evaluate and provide discussions on all proposed topics listed in the Scope of Work.
- SGM will identify, prioritize, and provide costs estimates for needed projects to improve water supply, treatment, and distribution. SGM will utilize the Town's original Request for Proposal "Water System Planning and Engineering Repairs, Maintenance, and Improvements" as guidance in completing the Feasibility Study.
- SGM has completed detailed site evaluations as part of the engineering procurement process.

Total Phase 2 Estimated Costs = \$30,000

Deliverables:

- Feasibility Study to identify, prioritize, and provide costs estimates for needed projects to improve water supply, treatment, and distribution. This study will also help proposed projects score well for Tier 1 or 2 grants through DOLA EIAF or other funding programs. This document will be sealed and signed by a Colorado licensed Professional Engineer
- Exhibits, narratives, and responses to requests for information to support the Town's review process.
- For review iterations, all deliverables will be provided in digital format to review. SGM will provide two (2) final hard copies of the complete report and digital files to the Town.

Exclusions:

- Geotechnical Investigations
- Retaining Wall Design
- Bridge Design
- Hazmat Investigation
- Cultural Resource Survey
- Environmental Permitting
- Topography and/or Boundary Survey
- Title Work

Project Cost & Schedule

The professional fees and expenses for this scope of services will be billed for a lump sum amount of **\$35,000**. We anticipate starting work mid-December upon approval of the grant and completing the project by the end of February 1, 2022, if the proposal is funded by December 1, 2021. The schedule is subject to change if accepted after December 1, 2021.

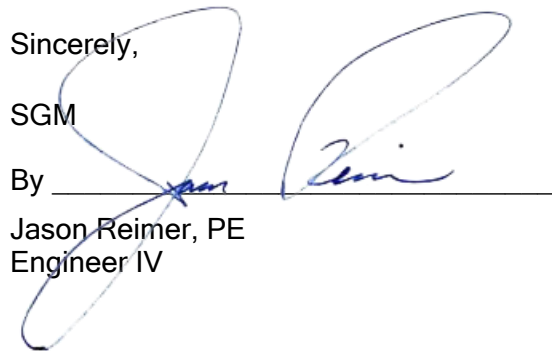
We appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal and look forward to working with you on this project. If you have any questions, comments, or require further information, please call me at 979-451-0409.

Sincerely,

SGM

By _____

Jason Reimer, PE
Engineer IV



TOWN OF OPHIR

Check Detail

September 1 - October 12, 2021

DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	CLR	AMOUNT
10-000-11010	2019 General Fund Checking					
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	393	Telluride Newspapers			-128.04
						-128.04
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	392	SMPA			-43.48
						-43.48
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	394	CenturyLink			-125.72
						-125.72
09/14/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	EFT	Office Depot			-282.75
						-282.75
09/14/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	EFT	Office Depot			-256.34
						-256.34
09/14/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	EFT	Office Depot			-81.78
						-81.78
09/14/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	EFT	Office Depot			-6.89
						-6.89
09/14/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	395	Summit Fire & Security			-322.95
						-322.95
09/27/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	396	Platt, Corrine			-80.00
						-80.00
09/27/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	397	Controlled Hydronics, Inc.			-400.00
						-400.00
09/30/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	398	Controlled Hydronics, Inc.			-675.00
						-675.00
09/30/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	399	CenturyLink			-125.72
						-125.72
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	401	Telluride Paper Chase			-9.23
						-9.23
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	400	Telluride Newspapers			-20.75
						-20.75
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	402	SMPA			-43.48

TOWN OF OPHIR

Check Detail

September 1 - October 12, 2021

DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	CLR	AMOUNT
						-43.48
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	403	Schoonover's Services, Inc.			-1,005.65
						-1,005.65
10/12/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	404	Telluride Bytes			-210.00
						-210.00
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20-000-11010	CTF Fund - Checking					
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	115	Turtle Lake Refuge			-2,000.00
						-2,000.00
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21-000-11010	Open Space Fund Money Market					
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	107	Southwest Seed Inc.			-550.00
						-550.00
09/30/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	108	Waste Management			-37.40
						-37.40
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	109	Turtle Lake Refuge			-9,365.00
						-9,365.00
<hr/>						
22-000-11010	Broadband Checking					
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	1141	Visionary Broadband			-3,000.00
						-3,000.00
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	1142	SMPA			-59.56
						-59.56
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	1143	UNCC (CO811)			-1.32
						-1.32
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	1144	SMPA			-57.11
						-57.11
<hr/>						
40-000-11010	Capital Projects Fund -Checking					
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	10113	Southwest Seed Inc.			-550.00
						-550.00

TOWN OF OPHIR

Check Detail

September 1 - October 12, 2021

DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	CLR	AMOUNT
09/27/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	10114	Schmueser Gordon Meyer, Inc.			-645.28
						-645.28
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	10115	Ground Pounders			-20,923.00
						-20,923.00
10/12/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	10116	San Miguel Environmental Services			-1,440.00
						-1,440.00
<hr/>						
60-000-11010	Enterprise Fund Alpine Checking					
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11131	UNCC (CO811)			-15.84
						-15.84
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11132	Timberline Ace Hardware	237668		-139.99
						-139.99
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11133	San Miguel Power Assoc. Inc			-43.48
						-43.48
09/08/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11134	Little Acres Locating			-300.00
						-300.00
09/13/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	EFT	US Post Office			-51.04
						-51.04
09/14/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11135	San Miguel Environmental Services			-895.00
						-895.00
09/27/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11136	Waste Management			-1,104.50
						-1,104.50
09/27/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11137	Controlled Hydronics, Inc.			-250.00
						-250.00
09/27/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11138	Grand Junction Winwater Works			-1,205.90
						-1,205.90
09/27/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11139	Ship It Copy It LLC			-89.38
						-89.38
09/27/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11140	Ground Pounders			-6,870.00
						-6,870.00

TOWN OF OPHIR

Check Detail

September 1 - October 12, 2021

DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	CLR	AMOUNT
09/27/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11141	Alpine Lumber			-40.63
						-40.63
09/30/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11142	RB Builders, LLC			-550.00
						-550.00
09/30/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11143	Mesa County Health Dept. Regional Lab			-20.00
						-20.00
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11144	Waste Management			-1,317.37
						-1,317.37
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11145	San Miguel Power Assoc. Inc			-43.48
						-43.48
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11146	RB Builders, LLC			-375.00
						-375.00
10/06/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11147	Green Analytical Laboratories			-255.00
						-255.00
10/12/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11148	San Miguel Environmental Services			-600.00
						-600.00
10/12/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	11149	Colorado Analytical Laboratories, Inc.			-220.00
						-220.00