

RESOLUTION # 007-2016

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A PUBLIC TRAILS PROJECT FOR THE TOWN OF CRESTONE, COLORADO

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Colorado has announced the first round of its Connect Initiative grant program, a five-year strategy aimed at increasing access to outdoor experiences through the construction of non-motorized trails of local, regional, and statewide significance with a focus on connecting existing trail gaps, constructing new trail systems and providing increased access for youth and families to existing parks, open spaces, natural areas and environmental education opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The health and wellness of our state's youth and families is a topic of concern as youth obesity rates continue to rise and through this initiative, Coloradoans will have free access to safe non-motorized trails connecting them to outdoor destinations and experiences i their own communities and beyond; and

WHEREAS, On February 25th, Great Outdoors Colorado issued a call to the Eastern SLV Trail Coalition to submit a concept paper for its proposed Eastern SLV Trail System, to be submitted by 5:00 pm on March 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Eastern SLV Trail Coalition consists of the Town of Crestone, Saguache County, the Baca National Wildlife Refuge, Bureau of Land Management, the Crestone Charter School, Colorado College, Shumei International Institute, the Way of Nature, National Park Service; and;

WHEREAS, Themed "Connecting without Cars", the proposed hard-surface trail will provide linkage access between the local community and the abundant surrounding Federal lands, such as: the Wildlife Refuge, the National Park, the Rio Grande National Forest/Sangre de Cristo Wilderness (National Forest) the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands; and

WHEREAS, The ability to connect these Federal lands (each with recreation, objectives of their own) will provide unique recreational, environmental, educational and interpretive opportunities for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, Incorporating a strong educational and interpretive component as a focus of its design, this trail will connect these federal lands with the Crestone Charter School, the Colorado College- Baca Campus, and with the Town of Crestone and its historic community building, thus, providing a variety of educational opportunities, as well as safe access to schools from residential areas; and

WHEREAS, In addition, segments of this trail will provide wildfire management support as they will act as a natural fire barrier which augments local fire mitigation efforts; and

WHEREAS, The trail proposes to provide recreational access by and for a wide range of non-motorized modes, including roller blades, skate boards, scooters, roller skis, roller skates, strollers, bicycles, wheel-chairs, and walking;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Town Board of Trustees that:

A. The Board of Trustees recognizes that the values, interests, and unmet recreational needs of the Crestone community will be served by the proposed Eastern SLV Trail System

B. The Board of Trustees supports and endorses the Town of Crestone as the fiduciary agent and point of contact for the Eastern SLV Trail Coalition.

DONE and SIGNED this 4th day of March, 2016.


Kairina Danforth, Mayor

Attest:


Allyson Ransom, Acting Town Clerk

