

To: Ouray Planning Commission & Board of County Commissions
From: Robyn Cascade, Ridgway
RE: Master Plan revisions
Date: January 2, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to comment yet again on the revised draft of the Ouray County Master Plan (MP.) Please accept my deep gratitude for all the time, energy and dedication devoted to the revision of this document and your consideration (and in some cases incorporation) of my recommendations.

Thank you for reviewing these final suggestions and questions prior to the BOCC hearing.

Minor typo on page 2, second paragraph, first sentence: remove the second "is"

On page 8 does it make sense to also include the Dark Sky designation at Top of the Pines since it is county-owned property?

Somewhere under Natural Environment Objective and Strategies, is it appropriate to mention the significance of snowpack as a natural resource even though the importance of snow appears in the narrative under Water in the Natural Environment section?

On page 9, strategy #2, can we add some text to emphasize our county's commitment to avoidance (over minimization or mitigation) of impacts of extractive industries? A phrase that comes to mind is: *Continue to regulate, by Special Use Permit **and with considerable restraint, open pit...*** Though we cannot ban extractive industries, I envision language in the MP that reflects our community's opposition to and concern regarding new extractive development. Please note my oral public comments at the BOCC's November 5, 2024 meeting.

I continue to advocate for references to collaboration (or at a minimum consultation) with sovereign Tribal governments in the MP. Opportunities on page 11 to incorporate such language, might include:

Strategy #8: *Develop working relationships with **sovereign Tribal governments**, CPW and other...*

Strategy #10: *Continue to collaborate with Federal and State agencies, **the three Ute Tribes**, and non-profit....*

I believe the last phrase of strategy #10 on page 11 is intended to read: *...and protect riparian **areas and fens***. To my knowledge riparian areas and fens are distinct and different habitats so *riparian area fens* doesn't make sense.

Re: page 12, Historical Roots: Have any of the Ute Tribes reviewed or been consulted regarding this section such that an Indigenous perspective might be reflected here? Thank you if that's already happened!

On page 13, under Agriculture, is there a way to incorporate the importance of working landscapes as providing wildlife corridors in addition to wildlife habitat which is referenced?

Page 19 Agriculture strategy #3, I suggest an addition in bold: *...that conserves productive agricultural lands **and the wildlife habitat and corridors they sustain (or provide or contained therein.)***

In this same agriculture section on pages 19 & 20, I see a lot of emphasis on water and I recommend some reference to soil health as well. Perhaps a new strategy that reads: ***Support and incentivize use of regenerative practices to improve soil health and the land's productivity thereby increasing producers' profits.***

Page 22 under Collaborative Relationships is an obvious place in the MP to incorporate language related to consultation with sovereign Tribal governments. Suggested revision under objective: *To work with other government entities **including sovereign Tribal governments** and non-governmental organizations...* I strongly recommend an additional strategy specific to collaboration and consultation with Tribal governments be included in this section.

Two areas of concern I see missing from the Recreation section on page 31 are 1.) a strategy related to the protection of alpine roads and habitat i the face of increasing (and I would say excessive) use/abuse and 2.) a strategy referencing the importance of protecting winter recreation on unplowed/unmaintained in winter county roads.

Thank you again for your consideration of my input. Best wishes for 2025 and completing this mammoth undertaking to revise the MP!!