

March 19, 2025

Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners
401 Main St.
Walsenburg, CO 81089

SUBJECT: Opposition to the Proposed Development at Cuchara Mountain Park by Buckhorn Ridge Outfitters

Dear Commissioners:

As a property owner for 65 years and full-time resident in Cuchara, I am writing to express my strong opposition to an apparent proposed development at Cuchara Mountain Park by Buckhorn Ridge Outfitters. In 2017, The Cuchara Foundation raised donated \$150,000 for Huerfano County to purchase 47 privately-held acres for use by all Huerfano residents as a county-owned park. The Park's Master Plan (vision) was planned and funded with the assistance of the Huerfano County Board of Commissioners via a DOLA Planning Grant, the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation, and the Cuchara Foundation; all under the clear understanding that the park would remain a non-commercial, recreational area for resident and visitors alike. The proposed Buckhorn action appears to IGNORE the County approved Park's Master Plan and the original agreement with the Cuchara Foundation that donated the land to the County. Allowing this commercial venture to proceed is a violation of that original agreement between Huerfano County and the Cuchara Foundation.

It appears that this project is being proposed without the Huerfano County oversight required by County Regulations. Without YOU following the formal application process, how can residents review/evaluate the proposed project's impact on our pristine area? Additionally, this "commercial development" is not in harmony with the entire surrounding neighborhood or land that has been zoned Urban Residential for the past 40+ years. This purely commercial endeavor is designed to make the requester/investors money, not because the majority of Community/Citizens asked for/need this project.

The Commissioners and Planners making this decision to approve/disapprove this application DO NOT live in the Cuchara community, so would have to live with it/ BUT the members/citizens or this pristine Community would have to live with this project for years to come. For the explicit reasons listed above, we strongly urge the Commissioners to disapprove this proposed activity so it does not destroy the peace, harmony, and well-being of a well-established, close-knit Cuchara community.

Thank you,



Claude and Patricia Savage

- * As Commissioners in Huerfano County, how many county projects have you obligated the County to that have not profited the county?
- *What needs have been raised by the communities you serve that have not been addressed?
- *What restoration and rehabilitation of facilities in your county have not been started and/or finished?
- *What public safety issues do you have to deal with and what is the cost to ensure your residents that they are safe?
- *Does the County currently have the finances to pay what you owe now?
- *How much more financial responsibility is the County willing to take?