

John Galusha, Chairman
Arica Andreatta, Commissioner
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner



Board of County Commissioners

September 14, 2023

Pam O'Malley
Grants Administrator
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

RE: Support for Cucharas River Trail Non-Motorized Trail Planning Grant Application

Dear Ms. O'Malley,

We are delighted to demonstrate our support for the Town of La Veta & La Veta Trails Cucharas River Trail project by requesting the full approval of their joint Non-Motorized Trail Planning Grant Application to plan Phase 1 of the Cucharas River Trail.

The *Huerfano County Trails Master Plan* has identified the Cucharas River Trail as a top priority in the ongoing development of a regional trail system. The Cucharas River is 75 miles long and connects both La Veta and the City of Walsenburg. Phase 1 of the project is a 1.5 mile segment of a 3-mile trail that will connect four open spaces. When complete, this multi-use trail will further diversify La Veta's community-based system of parks and trails, as well as provide direct access to the river, promote outdoor recreation, increase community health efforts, and benefit the local economy.

Critically, completing important regional projects reinforces the partnership between the Town of La Veta and Huerfano County. Safe, scenic, non-motorized trails support our residents' health in addition to attracting visitors and enhancing economic development. Huerfano County is a crucial partner in the Southern Mountain Loop, and the Spanish Peaks and especially the Cucharas River Trail play a pivotal role in establishing a signature regional trail system throughout Huerfano County.

Sincerely,

John Galusha, Chairman

Arica Andreatta, Commissioner

Karl Sporleder, Commissioner