



## COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** September 29, 2020

**SUBMITTED BY:** Natalie Randall, Director Economic Development and Visitor Services

**TITLE:** San Juan Strong – Recreate Responsibly Avalanche MOU

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval of MOU with the Utah Avalanche Center

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### SUMMARY

In an effort to improve backcountry user safety the Utah Avalanche Center (UAC) and San Juan County – Utah’s Canyon Country have placed two signs at key trailheads that provide access to backcountry winter recreationalist in San Juan County. Users include skiers, snowmobilers, snowshoers, and etc. Both signs provide reminders to users that if they plan to enter avalanche terrain to check the advisory forecast, provided by UAC, and to carry avalanche gear. Additionally, the signs Dalton Spring sign includes electronics allowing users to test if their avalanches beacons are fully functional. The UAC is committed to the region in providing forecasts for both the La Sal’s and the Abajo’s through the creation of separate advisory forecasts for each range. Additionally, UAC provides training for new and veteran users in how to travel safely through avalanche terrain. The MOU states that San Juan County will support the project with an annual contribution of \$500. The proposal is for these funds to come from the TRT percentage used for mitigating the impacts of visitation in an effort to support public safety.

### HISTORY/PAST ACTION

### FISCAL IMPACT

\$500/year