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August 13, 2019

RE: Support for Yampa Valley Land Trust's Conservation Easement

Great Outdoors Colorado
303 E. 17th Ave., Suite 160
Denver, CO 80203

Great Outdoors Colorado,

On behalf of Routt County, we are writing in support of the Yampa Valley Land Trust's amended and restated conservation easement project on the Alpen-Glow Haymeadow on the Yampa River. We place great value on conservation easements within Routt County. Conserved lands provide a haven for high-priority wildlife and protect the beauty of the county, which through tourism supports us economically. The amended and restated conservation easement on Alpen-Glow, with its connection to existing conservation easements, would solidify a significant protected open landscape a short distance south of Steamboat Springs. This would help to preserve the scenic corridor along the busy State Highway 131 corridor, along with water quality in the Yampa River that Routt County's residents and economy are dependent on.

Relinquishing the remaining unused development rights on the Alpen-glow property would permanently preserve its scenic character and agricultural values. In addition, this project would guarantee permeant public access to individuals with disabilities—a valuable and unique opportunity in Routt County. Conserving this property is consistent with the goals, objectives and implementation strategies of the Routt County Master Plan and Steamboat Springs Area Community Plan (adopted as a sub-area plan by Routt County).

We strongly encourage you to consider Alpen-Glow Haymeadow on the Yampa River for funding in light of its location, highly visible open space, ecological qualities, connection to conservation, and its agricultural attributes; all of which make this a property worthy of permanent protection.

Sincerely,
ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

M. Elizabeth Melton, Chair