

P.O. Box 773598
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

www.co.routt.co.us

Timothy V. Corrigan
District I

Douglas B. Monger
District II

M. Elizabeth Melton
District III

November 26, 2019

Bryce Hinchman
Conservation Manager
Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
1201 Lincoln Ave.
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

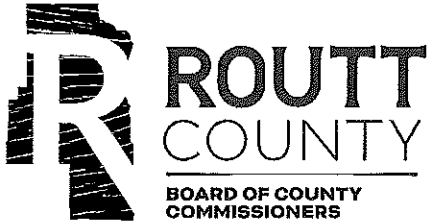
Re: RCPP Northwest Colorado Rivers, Wildlife and Working Lands Conservation Solutions

Dear Mr. Hinchman,

On behalf of Routt County, I am writing to express our support for the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust's ("CCALT") proposal to the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant titled "Northwest Colorado Rivers, Wildlife and Working Lands Conservation Solutions" ("RCPP Grant"). We are familiar with the proposal, understand its general expectations, and believe it is a great fit to achieve our goals in Routt County to help preserve and protect our natural resources.

The Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Program ("PDR Program") was established in 1996, following the approval of Routt County voters to use county tax funds for the preservation of natural lands, including lands that preserve water quality, wildlife habitat, working ranches, and scenic landscapes and vistas. Our partnership with Routt County landowners and conservation easement holders, including CCALT, have provided a long history of this preservation. Together with landowners and our funding partners, the PDR Program has helped conserve more than 52,000 acres involving over 65 projects. To date, about \$25,835,000 of our taxpayer funds have been used to leverage the purchase of conservation easements with a combined value exceeding \$119,382,000.

Based on historic project approvals, we anticipate the PDR Program's contribution for the purchase of conservation easements and associated transaction costs towards CCALT approved projects will be \$2 million over the next five years. PDR funding is contingent upon PDR Board review, recommendation, and Board of County Commissioner approval. The RCPP grant would be a great opportunity to potentially leverage PDR funds to help Routt County continue our partnership with CCALT to conserve and protect our natural resources for generations to come.



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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

B. Melton

M. Elizabeth Melton, Chair