

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY OPEN SPACE COMMISSION 2019 WORK PLAN/GOALS

Mission Statement: The San Miguel County Open Space Commission seeks to protect, conserve and enhance lands important for open space, recreation, natural habitat, agriculture and scenic beauty throughout San Miguel County for this and future generations.

<u>Goals/Programs</u>	<u>Action Plans</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>Accomplishments</u> <u>2018/2019</u>
<u>San Miguel Land Heritage Program</u> - The OSC will continue to facilitate the preservation of important lands in San Miguel County by contributing funds for transaction costs associated with viable conservation easements being closed by certified land trusts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Overview the properties in the SMC Land Heritage Program. *Participate and review in LHP on an as-needed basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$8K–Due diligence for LCE’s, appraisals, environmental assessments, etc. - \$750.–Routine advertising. - \$50K–Potential land purchase. - \$75K–Purchase of development rights. Closing costs-potential LCE acquisition. -\$150K-LCE Acquisition Match. 	-Ongoing
<u>Payment for Ecosystem Services</u> - Assist in development and implementation of PES programs that enhance land health, watershed health, soils health, forest health, and/or provide protection or enhancement of habitat for species of concern to SMC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Identify SMC OS PES project priorities annually. PES PROJECTS: *Continue to monitor/develop Pollinator Corridors/Projects. *Continue working on Soil Health PES projects study and development (Kris Holstrom). *Support Ag Lands Carbon Sequestration GH Gas Study (Mark Easter Consulting). *O.A. Greager property – use for property? *Consider Campbell property – future trail? *Consider overlap w/San Miguel Watershed Coalition for potential PES projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$59K Total - - \$25K–Soil Health Program–4th Year. - \$20K–Pollinator Projects–DVP Garden, Pollinator Strips, etc. - \$–Pollinator Garden/Soil Health Seasonal Hire (position funded by a grant). - \$2K–Develop a Pollinator Garden Plant Germination Program. - \$2K–Quivira Coalition Attendance. - \$5K–Forest Ecology Research (Hilary Cooper). - \$3K–Community Education. - \$2K–FEN Study (Art Goodtimes). 	-Ongoing
<u>Annual Work Plan Development & Implementation</u> -The OSC will develop an annual work plan and companion budget requests in time for presentation to the BOCC between May and June, so it can inform the development of the following year’s budget during the County’s budget process. The OSC will make semi-annual presentations to the BOCC to provide updates to progress being made on each year’s work plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Compile input from OSC/POS Dir./Staff/BOCC & refine draft of Work Plan. *Report work plan to the BOCC to inform the development of the following year’s budget. The POS Director will provide updates of progress being made on each year’s work plan to the BOCC. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ongoing *Develop an annual work plan with action items related to each program/goal. *Determine priorities, timelines and related budget needs for action items

<p>Education/Outreach - The OSC will help keep the public aware and informed and will facilitate public outreach and education on relevant topics, including, but not limited to, updates on activities and progress of the OSC on its annual OSC work plan, using a variety of media and strategies such as social media platforms, press releases, radio interviews, guest columns, forums, etc.</p>	<p>*Produce/publish Annual Report (Staff/POS Director). *Give quarterly updates of success - achieving action items on goals/programs: Press/radio releases, attend community meetings and present information. *Determine what is worth raising awareness of related to OSC goals/accomplishments. *Support/educate re: GuSG/Soil Health projects.</p>		<p>-Ongoing</p>
<p>Mining, Oil and Gas, and Development - The OSC will monitor oil and gas leasing, mining and development proposals (or that may affect SMC Open Space parcels) and activity within SMC.</p>	<p>*Review reports from POS Director/County liaison and staff on such development proposals relevant to the OSC. *Review status map showing current mining activity, active leases, pending leases. *Square with PES/GuSG efforts & other OSC goals.</p>		<p>-Ongoing</p>
<p>Gunnison Sage Grouse - The OSC will continue to work to protect, preserve and enhance GuSG habitat and to monitor efforts of agencies and other stakeholders working on this effort.</p>	<p>*Continue to fund/support GuSG Working Group. *Identify partners and/or stakeholders. *Identify potential LHP properties within mapped GuSG areas. *Identify/prioritize projects to support GuSG. PES overlap (i.e., O.A. Greager). *Consider Campbell property – need for Zeedyk structure(s)? *Investigate other sites where Zeedyke structures would assist the GuSG population.</p>	<p>- \$9500. - GuSG Coordinator Salary. - \$5K - Habitat restoration project, particularly a Bill Zeedyk erosion control/riparian restoration project. (No funding request for 2018 or 2019).</p>	<p>-Ongoing -O.A. Greager property – 11 Zeedyk structures constructed Sept. 2018 (DONE). -New Beginnings Ranch – 34 Zeedyk structures constructed Sept. 2018 (DONE).</p>
<p>Planning Dept. Referral Process – Work with County staff to review summary referrals of development and planning applications to the County Planning Department having a nexus to or component that would affect open space, parks, trails, public access, GuSG or County roads (such as a road vacation application). The OSC intends to provide timely recommendations or input on such applications as they pertain to the OSC goals or mission.</p>	<p>*POS Director/staff will communicate/inform OSC to apprise of issues affecting SMC Parks and Open Space. *POS Director/Staff will email or schedule timely OSC review for recommendations. *SMC High-Country Area (HCA) Zoning District. *Pursue potential open space for acquisition.</p>		<p>-Ongoing</p>
<p>Enhancing Recreational Opportunities and Trails - Partner with existing groups and entities working on the regional trail master plan, to determine County priorities for retaining and enhancing access to public lands. Assist in working on opportunities to accomplish securing rights-of-way for trail</p>	<p>*Continue to work with partners on regional trails (TOT, WETA, Regional Trails Group, Telluride Mountain Club). *Identify overall County/Open Space Trails. *ID needs for new trails.</p>	<p>-Funding set aside for maintenance of all trails within the County system.</p>	<p>-Ongoing -New POS branding concept for parks/trails signage to include SMC's new logo - installed on various County trails/parks. -Society Turn Climbing Wall/Trail – County acquired July 2018.</p>

<p>connectors, and retaining and enhancing access to public lands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Gather input for assessment of Down Valley connector trail holes and goals. Prioritize DV connector pieces needed. *Establish DV connector trails considering Scenic Byways, Fed funding and SMART objectives. *Determine lands needed to acquire as OS or LCE to create connector trails, (i.e.: Sawpit SM River trail connector). *Determine plan for Mill Creek Park parcel (1.09 acres). Potential partners - SMART. *Develop new County Trails. *Discuss future plans for the uses of O.A. Greager/Campbell OS parcel. Possible PES project. *Perform & complete survey alignment for potential perimeter trail connectors. Begin implementation of preferred alignment with Telluride Open Space as funding partner. *Explore potential trail alignment connector to Bridal Veil Falls to top switchback at Black Bear Road with Telluride Open Space as funding partner. *Support TMC efforts to obtain a public easement with Idarado to complete trail to base of Bridal Veil Falls from parking area. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Remine Creek Trail completed October 2018. Cooperative project with SMVC. -Bridal Veil Trail completed Nov. 2018. Cooperative project with Town of Telluride.
<p><u>Collaboration with Town of Telluride Open Space Commission</u> - The SMC OSC will have 1 member who has dual membership on both the Town and County OSC's in order to facilitate a working relationship between the two groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Crossover rep. to determine most important aspects of TOT and SMC OSC meetings to briefly summarize in a Crossover report to members. *Crossover rep. to communicate between both OSC and suggest/share cooperative/complimentary projects. 		<p>-Ongoing</p>
<p><u>Scenic Resource Protection</u> - The OSC will work with County Staff and other partners such as Land Trusts, landowners and public agencies to identify critical views for potential protection through easements. The OSC will also coordinate with CDOT on their projects for impact to the Scenic Byways traversing our County - San Juan Skyway and Unaweep/Tabeguache Byway.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Review need for LCE to protect scenic corridors along the two Skyways that traverse our County. *Identify critical viewpoints and move towards protection. *Identify nexus with habitat and recreation use and be more proactive in advocating for better management practices. *Consider appointing a liaison to focus on scenic byways. *Research \$ funds for Scenic Byway designation. 		<p>-Ongoing</p>