

November 20, 2019

To: Doug Vilsack
Assistant Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

CC: Dan Gibbs
Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Dan Prenzlow
Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

RE: Mountain Bike Registration Fee and Grant Program

Doug:

On November 15, approximately one dozen people from the mountain bike community across Colorado participated in a conference call to share their thoughts on the proposed fee and grant program. Additionally, last week, a survey was sent to 22 people from the mountain bike community to determine who supports advancing in 2020 the proposed mountain bike fee legislation.

I have been asked by this group to summarize our key thoughts on this topic. To be clear, I am not communicating one position on behalf of the mountain bike community in favor of or opposing the proposed legislation. The people who participated in the November 15 phone call were provided an advanced copy of this memo for feedback. Any feedback I received has been incorporated.

First, we are very appreciative of the time you and your teammates have invested in this initiative. We also are grateful that leaders of many mountain bike advocacy groups were provided the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas. We believe this collaborative approach is essential to addressing Colorado's public land use challenges, and we hope this becomes the norm across the state as we work together to address a variety of challenges.

Second, we understand that the increasing demand for outdoor trail-based recreation will place greater stress on our public lands and that not taking action is not an option, especially if our state's population continues to grow, as projected.

Third, we place a premium on conservation and protecting wildlife. At the same time, we want to increase the state's supply of bike-optimized trails, accelerate important trail maintenance

projects, and implement improvements at many trailheads. We strongly believe we can protect our public land and wildlife, and provide all Coloradans and visitors to our state with a high-quality outdoor recreation experience.

Fourth, we understand that additional funding is necessary to address the challenges associated with the increased demand for outdoor -- and specifically trail-based -- recreation.

Based on 15 survey responses, 60% of respondents do not support advancing the proposed bill in the upcoming legislative session. The reasons for not supporting the bill vary across organizations, and all of them have been raised in past conversations with you and your team. Two examples include: some people are not pleased all trail users would not be participating in the program from the beginning; others are uncomfortable with the 20% administrative fee.

What is encouraging is that the majority of respondents want to strengthen the relationship with DNR, CPW, other state and federal agencies, NGOs, and other user groups to increase funding to support outdoor recreation, conservation, and wildlife management across the state. To underscore an earlier point, we believe that not taking action is not an option and we plan to continue the work of identifying a funding solution. Our hope is that DNR and CPW will be allies in these efforts.

As we plan for the next twelve months, one of our goals is to build broad public support for a funding solution. In our opinion, people other than leaders of mountain bike advocacy groups and DNR or CPW staff must understand the challenges we face in managing our public lands. All Coloradan should understand what's at stake and be part of the solution. Our hope is that DNR and CPW will allocate time and money to work with us over the next year to engage the broader community on this topic.

Again, thank you for your work on this important issue. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of the advocacy leaders you have met with on this project.

Sincerely,

Pete Piccolo
Executive Director
Bicycle Colorado