

230 N. Bluff Street
PO Box 544 Lake City, CO 81235
970-944-2333
www.townoflakecity.us
hennenathan@yahoo.com

TOWN OF LAKE CITY

January 25, 2013

Greg Johnson
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Planning Section
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Town of Lake City strongly supports the application submitted to Colorado Water Conservation Board's Water Supply Reserve Account by Colorado Open Lands (COL) for a grant to fund the purchase of conservation and fishing access easements on the Plauche property at Lake San Cristobal to protect the conservation values of the property in perpetuity. The conservation easement combined with formal limited public access will ensure the enjoyment of the property by our residents and visitors alike and ensure protection of valuable wetland habitats on one of the most pristine accessible lakes in the State.

Lake San Cristobal and the larger Alpine Triangle region draw thousands of visitors annually to our town. We welcome efforts to protect the region's natural resources and scenic vistas, as this is what attracts our visitors and supports our local economy.

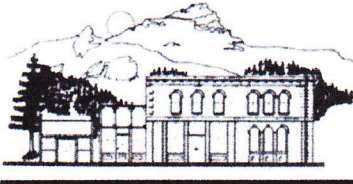
We hope you consider this application favorably. Please feel free to contact us if you require further information.

Sincerely,



Nathan Henne
Town Manager

LAKE CITY/HINSDALE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



800 Gunnison Avenue
Lake City, Colorado 81235

970-944-2527
800-569-1874

chamber@lakecity.com
www.lakecity.com

The Mission of the LC/HC
Chamber of Commerce is to
promote tourism and economic
development by assisting area
businesses as well as serving as
an information center.

January 29, 2013

Greg Johnson
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Planning Section
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Lake City/Hinsdale County Chamber of Commerce enthusiastically endorses the application submitted to the Colorado Water Conservation Board by Colorado Open Lands (COL) for a grant to fund the purchase of a conservation easement on the Plauche property at Lake San Cristobal. We understand that this conservation easement will help protect the entire southern end of the lake, thereby preserving the vistas from both the Alpine Loop and the Silver Thread Scenic Byway and protecting important wildlife habitat.

The natural landscapes of the Alpine Triangle are what support our County, by attracting thousands of visitors per year. The Lake City/Hinsdale County Chamber of Commerce sees this as an excellent opportunity to draw more nature-minded tourists to our region, those who enjoy natural landscapes and the valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat they support. Most visitors to our area value these attributes and conservation of the Plauche property merely enhances their visitor experience by ensuring that scenic landscapes and habitat are preserved in perpetuity.

The Chamber is an active member of the Silver Thread Byway Committee and has a strong vested interest to protect the Byway's inherent scenic values. The view from the Lake San Cristobal Overlook is one of the signature scenic sites along the Byway. The property in question is highly visible and we wish to see this landscape protected. We also understand that a limited public fishing easement is proposed to ensure access in perpetuity. Fisheries and wildlife habitat at the south end of the lake offer a high quality recreational experience for our visitors. This access allows fisherman and wildlife enthusiasts to access more of our lake shoreline.

It is our hope that you will strongly consider this proposal for full funding. The project supports our economy and protects a valuable landscape in our region.

With thanks,

Jud Hollingsworth, President
Lake City/Hinsdale County Chamber of Commerce



1876

HINSDALE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

P. O. Box 39 - 614 N. Silver Street
Lake City, Colorado 81235

Phone (970) 944-2314
Fax (970) 944-2662

January 29, 2013

Greg Johnson
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Planning Section
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Lake City Community School is excited to learn of the application submitted to the Colorado Water Conservation Board by Colorado Open Lands (COL) for a grant to fund the purchase of a conservation easement on the Plauche property at Lake San Cristobal. Lake San Cristobal is such a treasure for our community and offers our visitors and residents an exceptional recreational experience. Protection of this property helps keep our lake pristine, a rare opportunity given its accessibility.

The school currently partners with the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy (LFVC), a local conservation organization, to monitor water quality at the inlet and outlet of the lake. We are happy to learn that the family who owns the property is willing to let our students access the site and learn about wetland wildlife and habitat. We will work with Colorado Open Lands and the LFVC to develop appropriate curricula that builds our student's appreciation of this valuable asset for our community.

I strongly encourage CWCB to consider this proposal favorably. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

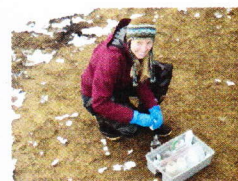
Sincerely,

Karen Thormalen, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Hinsdale County School District RE-1

Colorado River Watch



PO BOX 211729
Denver CO 80221



Real people doing real science, for a real purpose.

January 30, 2013

Greg Johnson
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Planning Section
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Johnson,


The Lake City branch of Colorado River Watch would like to voice its enthusiastic support of the Lake San Cristobal Inlet Preservation and Fishing Access Project, which we understand is nearing completion. Our chapter of Colorado River Watch, a state-wide non-profit organization that trains and empowers citizen scientists to collect water quality data, has a long-standing partnership with the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy. They have communicated to us that, through collaboration with Colorado Open Lands, they have made strides to protect the beautiful inlet of Lake San Cristobal.

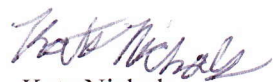
This area is important to us because our team has spent many hours at the Lake's inlet and spillway, taking water samples and collecting macroinvertebrates. It is a beautiful place. The lush delta at the inlet harbors many rare animals, including two Colorado Species of Special Concern. Moreover, it would be an ideal living laboratory where we could get our hands dirty investigating the vital, complex role of wetlands. The property owners support access for education (and fly fishing), so our excursions would be in line with their wishes. Finally, studying wetlands compliments our active study of riverine systems through sampling. This would lead to a richer picture of how water works in our watershed.

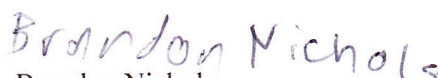
The River Watch team looks forward to growing its understanding of how wetlands function in our watershed, while serving as active stewards of this unique, fragile environment. We also look forward to spotting some moose in the process.

Sincerely,


Dan Scroggins
Lake City Community School Teacher


Forrest Swift
River Watch Student


Kate Nichols
River Watch Student


Brandon Nichols
River Watch Student



January 30, 2013

Greg Johnson
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Planning Section
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Lake Fork Valley Conservancy (LFVC) is committed to supporting the application submitted to the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Water Supply Reserve Account by Colorado Open Lands (COL) for a grant to fund the purchase of a conservation easement and a limited public access easement on the Plauche property located near Lake San Cristobal in Hinsdale County.

The mission of the LFVC is to sustain and enhance the environmental and rural character of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River valley through education, restoration, and stewardship. Conservation of the Plauche property has been one of our top priorities for years. LFVC has been engaged with the Plauche family since 1998 to conserve this critical piece of property. We are delighted to partner with Colorado Open Lands to see this come to fruition. Given the mission of our organization, we are also very supportive of the limited public access component of the proposed conservation easement as a means to reduce recreational use impacts on the conservation values of the property.

We commit to providing the following in-kind support to the project: 1) conduct the baseline documentation of the property (we estimate the value of this in-kind commitment to be \$3,800); 2) work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, landowners and COL to design access points and signage; and, 3) organize all local educational events on the property, with landowner permission.

We thank CWCB for the opportunity to submit this application and hope for a favorable decision. This property is the last large parcel on the Upper Lake Fork River and its protection meets our strategic goals to conserve open space, protect wetlands and riparian habitats, and improve water quality.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information.

Very truly yours,

Lyn Lampert
President, Board of Directors LFVC



January 30, 2013

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

I am writing in support of the Colorado Open Lands application for the Plauche Project located south of Lake City in Hinsdale County. This project is important to Trout Unlimited (TU) at the local and National levels. A grant from CWCB will leverage significant funding from other sources to ensure that the property is preserved in perpetuity, protecting its water resources for future generations and ensuring a quality fishing experience forever.

Locally, TU members and other anglers value the voluntary public access the Plauche family has provided to fish the Lake Fork of the Gunnison. The tract is near a public campground and the fishing is easily accessible for families and others from the county road. Insuring that public access to this tract is perpetual is a priority for TU. Additionally, protecting this headwaters area of the Lake Fork is important to the water quality throughout the watershed.

Nationally, the project lies adjacent to the proposed Alpine Triangle National Conservation Area, a campaign TU staff is actively spearheading. Additionally, the entire Gunnison Basin is a priority for TU with multiple projects underway to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain the world-class coldwater fisheries present in the watershed.

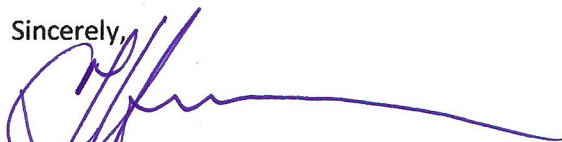
The valley floor and wetlands on the Plauche property provide important winter habitat for elk, summer habitat for migratory birds, year-round habitat for a stable moose population and habitat for many other wildlife species. Protecting the wetlands and riparian corridor will benefit the entire Lake Fork system and its associated coldwater fishery resources.

Trout Unlimited is actively raising funds for this project and engaging the angling community to support the project. The partnership between Colorado Open Lands, the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy and TU presents an opportunity to engage the public in the protection of land and water resources and heighten their

understanding of the interconnected relationship between these resources. This project presents an opportunity to build this partnership to ensure the success of the Plauche Project and establish the foundation for future projects to benefit the Lake Fork and the angling public.

Please feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions about this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Herrman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Herrman
Land Protection Coordinator
970-640-2359
cherrman@tu.org