

12/30/2014

Jim Pike
Pike Blue Mesa Parcels
28001 US HIGHWAY 50 Gunnison, CO 81230

Gunnison Basin Round Table
Colorado Water Conservation Board
P.O. Box 518 Lake City, CO 81235

Dear Project Review committee,

Over the last three years we have worked with Trout Unlimited exploring possible solutions to improve the consistency and reliability of the Elk Home Ditch system while also protecting flows for a unique population of Cutthroat Trout located in West Steuben Creek. The Elk Home Ditch improvement project is a product of the monitoring and planning that the Stan Stehwien, Trout Unlimited, and the Pike family have completed in the last few years.

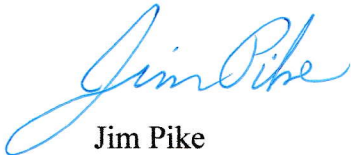
We own 75% of the Elk Home and Elk Home 2 ditches and depend on water delivered by those ditches to irrigate a mixture of grass/alfalfa meadows on our property. Due to their remote location these ditches are difficult to operate and maintain. Each year we spend a substantial amount of time and resources trenching snow from the Elk Home ditch, patching blowouts, and are constantly faced with the fear of ditch failure. The proposed pipe will greatly reduce these struggles and provide a reliable source of irrigation water throughout the season.

The pipe will improve access to water earlier in the season when historically conditions prohibited and eliminate transit losses so all the water diverted at the Elk Home headgate will be put to beneficial use. This improvement will permit us to lease the Elk Home 2 right to the CWCB and protect valuable trout habitat in West Steuben Creek.

I support this project and encourage the Gunnison Basin Roundtable to grant Trout Unlimited the amount requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim Pike
Pike Blue Mesa Parcels