



2023 Steering Committee Letter of Intent

In addition to the questions below, please write a letter of intent (in the space below or attached separately) regarding your desire to serve in a leadership role (Steering Committee Chair, Vice Chair or Public Lands Travel Team delegate). Please include why you want to serve, any public service experience, and/ or any special training or experience relevant.

Name: Jonathan Houck

County: Gunnison County

Phone: 970-275-9625

E-Mail Address: jhouck@gunnisoncounty.org

Expiration of Current Term: 2025

Are you term limited?: No

Committee(s): Public Lands

Position(s): Chair

I, Jonathan Houck, (insert name) commit to participating in the encouraged training as described in the bylaws.

I have served two terms on the Public Lands Steering Committee and have been an active participant at not only CCI meetings but also attending NACo and WIR and participating on monthly calls and actively interfacing with fellow commissioners/supervisors from other PL states.

Gunnison County, at over 3200 square miles, is 82% public lands. I have extensive experience in working with the BLM, US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Dept of Energy, US Fish & Wildlife Service and of course the Colorado Dept of Natural Resources and Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

In my 10 years as a commissioner I have led and collaborated on public lands issues including but not limited to:

- Forest Plan Revisions
- Travel Management Plans
- Bureau of Reclamation water storage
- Public Lands Oil & Gas Permitting
- BLM ACEC Designation
- Regional Collaboratives (SBEADMR)
- Water Storage Development
- Recreation Management Plans
- Colorado State Park Planning
- BLM Resource Management Plans & Amendments
- Endangered Species Act (Gunnison Sage Grouse)
- Coal Mine Expansion Permitting
- Public Lands Grazing Permitting
- Forest Service Timber Sales
- Vegetation Management Planning
- Guide/Outfitters Permitting
- Mine Cleanup and Reclamation on Federal Lands
- Colorado Wildlife Area Acquisition & Management

Additionally, I have spent years working on and representing issues with counties addressing difficult decisions and processes. Some highlights include:

I developed and coordinated the County Coalition for the Gunnison Sage Grouse that addressed all issues concerning the listing and related public land critical habitat designations. Counties involved in this work included: Montrose, Delta, Mesa, Saguache, Hinsdale, Ouray, San Miguel, Dolores, Gunnison and San Juan County UT.

I was appointed, along with Merrit Linke (Grand County) to represent counties on the Colorado Wolf Reintroduction Technical Working Group (TWG)

I represented Colorado Counties on the COTREX mapping initiative.

In my 10 years as a commissioner, I have taken a special focus on public lands issues. Gunnison County, as a headwaters county, has a deep connection with and needs to be on top of these issues. I have prided myself on being a bridge builder and my work focuses on the issues and not the politics. I was honored to receive the CCI 2021 Distinguished Service Award and much of the reason I was chosen by the executive board to be the recipient was attributed to my work on the Public Lands Steering Committee and travel team and my work with many public lands counties to make sure that county voices are not only heard but also shape sensible and durable policies on our state and federal public lands.

I would be honored to serve as chair and can be counted on to work hard on behalf of all the public lands counties across Colorado.

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Please submit to Katie First at kfirst@ccionline.org by January 13, 2023