

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: MATTHEW SPINNER**

**FROM: JOSHUA ELDRIDGE**

**DATE: JUNE 19, 2018**

**PROJECT: SUNSET EAST – SINGLETRACK PARKING LOT**

**SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

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### BACKGROUND

Sunset East singletrack is a popular, recreational mountain biking trail part of Town of Erie's Open Space areas. Due to the site's increasing use as well as public safety concerns regarding the lack of a formal parking area, there is a need for a Town-owned, public parking lot. Historically, visitors have used make-shift parking areas at their own risk along the sides of Co Rd 5/a private road and informal parking along Weld County Road 6. Before Town of Erie proceeds with plans to build the parking lot, Town of Erie has asked Great Ecology to assess the potential environmental impact given the site's location as well as our firm's in-depth understanding of the Town's landscape typology and ecology.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Upon reviewing the potential parking site and construction plans located near the corner of Weld County Road 6 and Co Rd 5, the 25-space lot planned will not create lasting adverse environmental impacts. Great Ecology came to this conclusion for the following reasons:

- The space is dominated by low quality pasture grasses, including cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), that would require multi-year management to control and remove otherwise;
- Habitat of the area does not support bird, wildlife, or other sensitive species of concern; and
- For ease of construction and reduced costs, the lot site as planned is more suitable than other areas west on the property.

Overall, Great Ecology is supportive of the Town of Erie moving forward with the parking lot location given the low-quality habitat already present at the site and the fact that the lack of an appropriate parking lot is an issue of public safety.