



**OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO
LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus, originating in China, which has since spread to numerous countries worldwide, including the United States;

WHEREAS, the virus may cause serious illness or death in certain populations, particularly the elderly and people with underlying health conditions;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern, and on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the virus a public health emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of Colorado declared a State of Emergency for the State of Colorado due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Gunnison County, Colorado declared a local disaster emergency due to the presence of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency under the 1988 Stafford Act due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Hinsdale County, Colorado declared a local disaster emergency based upon the presence of COVID-19 in Gunnison County;

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Mesa County discovered its first case of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Ouray County anticipates that cases of COVID-19 will occur in Ouray County and may result in serious illness or death for certain members of the community, and have the effect of interrupting the functioning of the community in terms of work attendance, school attendance, and the like;

WHEREAS, the expense and magnitude of responding to and recovering from the impact of a COVID-19 outbreak in Ouray County is in excess of the county's available resources;

WHEREAS, Colorado law provides for declaring a local disaster emergency to assist local governments in responding to and recovering from emergency events;

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), a local disaster may be declared only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision. It shall not be continued or renewed in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision;

WHEREAS, the effect of a declaration of local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of all applicable local disaster and emergency plans and to

authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans. C.R.S. ' 24-33.5-709(2);

WHEREAS, as to public health resources, the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is authorized to determine the specific needs and resources available within the community. C.R.S. ' 25-1-506(3)(a);

WHEREAS, in addition to other broad powers to isolate and quarantine, close schools and public places and control causes of communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health, Ouray County's public health agency advises the County on public health policy issues necessary to protect public health. C.R.S. ' 25-1-506(3)(b);

WHEREAS, Ouray Public Health Agency has advised that Ouray County declare a local disaster emergency to mobilize the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator determines that a local disaster be declared to mobilize necessary and appropriate resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED by the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners, Colorado that:

1. It is hereby determined and declared that the presence of the COVID-19 virus within the Western Slope constitutes a local disaster emergency that warrants the mobilizing of emergency response and the furnishing of aid and assistance.
2. This Ouray County Disaster Emergency Declaration shall be promptly filed with the Ouray County Clerk and Recorder and with the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.
3. This Declaration shall remain in effect until further notice.
4. This Declaration is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ouray County, State of Colorado.

DECLARED this 16th day of March 2020 in Ridgway, Colorado at 5:00, p.m.



Don Batchelder, Chair

Attest:


Deputy Clerk to the Board

