



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO**

P.O. Box 1507 / 398 Lewis Street/ Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147
Tel (970) 264-8300

July 29, 2020

Via email to Jeffrey_small@ios.doi.gov

Mr. Jeffrey Small

Task Force for Building and Rebuilding

Monuments to American Heroes

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, NW

Washington DC 20240

Dear Mr. Small,

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners received President Trump's Executive Order on Building and Rebuilding Monuments to American Heroes and would very much like to offer our county as a location for the National Garden.

Archuleta County is located in the heart of the San Juan Mountain range of southwest Colorado, which has 2.5 million acres of the San Juan National Forest, including the Weminuche Wilderness and the South San Juan Wilderness. In Archuleta County, only 34% of the lands are in private ownership, with the remaining 66% falling under the management of the U.S. Forest Service and Tribal areas of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. With so much public land, Archuleta County would be an ideal location for the National Garden.


The Town of Pagosa Springs is the county seat of Archuleta County. Pagosa Springs is a mountain community, home to the world's deepest geothermal hot spring aquifer. A visit to Pagosa Springs puts you on the doorstep of outdoor adventure no matter the season. You'll find the most snow in Colorado and world-class skiing in the winter, as high as class III rapids in the San Juan River flowing through the heart of downtown during spring runoff, a summer full of festivals and family-friendly events, gorgeous color-filled scenic drives in the fall, and so much more. The addition of the National Garden, honoring the greatest Americans to ever live would be a tremendous attraction to visitors from around the world.

In the event the National Garden couldn't be built on federal property in the county, other possible locations include Cloman Park, a 120-acre property leased by Archuleta County from the Bureau of Land Management which currently offers Nordic Ski Trails, walking trails and a Frisbee disc course, or the Veterans Memorial Park, a 6.9-acre parcel that is

currently under construction to honor past, present and future Veterans of the Armed Forces.

Archuleta County would be honored to be included in your consideration of a location for this wonderful concept and we would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Please contact me at rmaez@archuletacounty.org or (970) 264-8303 at your convenience.

Kind Regards,



Ronnie Maez
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners