

# **Gary Sprung**

*for Crested Butte Town Council*



***Gary Sprung, also known as "Gnurps", has worked for 16 years to protect and enhance the land and community of Crested Butte and the Upper Gunnison Basin.***

## **GARY'S QUALIFICATIONS**

- Co-founder, CB Nordic Council and CB Mountain Bike Association
- Principal organizer of campaigns leading to Fossil Ridge & Oh Be Joyful Wilderness designations
- Originator and organizer - "Crested Butte Alley Loop" cross-country ski race
- Member, Gunnison County Lodging Tax Panel
- National journalist and promoter of Crested Butte sports
- Co-leader, Gunnison & Colorado grazing reform groups
- President, High Country Citizens' Alliance

*"We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see the land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."*

*— Aldo Leopold, 1949*

# **GARY'S PLATFORM AND BELIEFS**

## **Protect and enhance our economic strengths**

Crested Butte has prospered in the past two decades on a foundation of alpine and nordic skiing, mountain bicycling, hiking, nature appreciation, arts and culture and more recently, golfing. Our vibrant downtown is populated by locally-owned businesses. These, and our small-town character, are our strongest economic assets which town government should protect and enhance.

The ski area's marketing campaigns have long used the charm of downtown Crested Butte as a primary marketing tool. Yet CBMR's Snodgrass/North Village expansion proposal would generate a flurry of new growth which could easily destroy our small town character and compete with existing businesses. The Town Council must ensure that Snodgrass does not harm our most precious assets and community values.

## **Save our open spaces**

The natural beauty of private and public land around Crested Butte is essential to our community character. Healthy ecosystems will help sustain economic prosperity. We must use a diversity of techniques to steer growth toward existing population centers, away from ranch lands, wetlands and critical view corridors. Effective relationships with Gunnison County, Mt. Crested Butte and the US Forest Service are a key tool. I advocate a renewal of group planning processes like the "Three-Mile Committee" of 1994.

## **Strengthen our caring community**

Crested Butte may be the last major ski town in Colorado to retain a diversity of high, middle and lower income families. Our close-knit, caring community is a disappearing feature in American life. We need good schools for children, affordable housing for all, thriving social organizations, all sorts of respectful, loving and caring relationships. When possible, government should assist private endeavors to strengthen our community.

The Town's affordable housing program got off to a good start with zoning changes and an owner-occupied housing program. Now it's time to also address the needs of lower income people and for rental housing.

## **Promote alternative transportation**

Crested Butte is beginning to suffer from the American love affair with automobiles. All enticing photos and drawings of downtown Crested Butte depict the town without automobiles. We must provide additional alternative transportation, primarily bicycles and busses. We must more carefully plan our transportation future and strive to ensure that all benefitting groups contribute fairly to its success.

*"No matter how much one may love the world as a whole, one can live fully in it only by living responsibly in some small part of it."*

— Wendell Berry, 1977