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Page 1
    DISTRICT COURT
    ROUTT COUNTY
    STATE OF COLORADO
    PO Box 773117
    Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
 4
 5
    Plaintiffs:
         HUMBLE VENTURES, LLC,
 6
         a Colorado Limited
         Liability Company
 7
    Defendants:
 8
         THE CITY OF STEAMBOAT
         SPRINGS, a Colorado Home
 9
         Rule Municipal
         Corporation; YAMPA VALLEY
         LAND TRUST, INC., and
10
         STATE OF COLORADO,
11
         DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
         RESOURCES, WILDLIFE
                                  *FOR COURT USE ONLY*
         COMMISSION, DIVISION OF
12
                                  |-----
                                     Case No. 07CV108
         WILDLIFE
13
     _____
                                     Division: 1
         For Plaintiff:
14
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    Faegre & Benson, LLP
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    1700 Lincoln Street
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         Steamboat Springs:
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21
    Req. No. 8381
22
23
                  DEPOSITION OF ED TROUSIL
                   November 19, 2008
24
25
    ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Chris Wilson
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Page 2
 1
                           APPEARANCES
                           (Continued)
 2
 3
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 4
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1	The deposition of ED TROUSIL calle examination by the defendants, was taken in		
2	offices of Faegre & Benson, LLP, 3200 Wells Center, 1700 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorad	Fargo	
3	commencing at 11:14 a.m. on the 19th day of November, 2008, before Kelly A. Mair, RPR, of		
4	Avery/Woods Reporting Service, Inc., 455 She	erman	
5	Street, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado 80203, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the		
6	Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure.		
7	INDEX OF EXAMINATION		
		PAGE	
8	EXAMINATION BY MR. LYONS	5	
	EXAMINATION BY MR. MARKS	153	
9	EXAMINATION BY MR. CAMERON	181	
10	EXAMINATION BY MR. LYONS INDEX OF EXHIBITS	189	
1 10	-	PAGE NO.	
11	EMILDII NO.	AGE NO.	
	Deposition Exhibit A	5	
12	(Notice of Deposition)		
13	Deposition Exhibit B	5	
	(Letter from Humble Ventures, LLC)		
14	De continto de la latinto d	F	
15	Deposition Exhibit C (Letter from TPL)	5	
	,	5	
16	Deposition Exhibit D (Grant of Trail Easement)	5	
17	(Grane or frair Easemene)		
- '	Deposition Exhibit E	5	
18	(Grant of Trail Easement)		
19	Deposition Exhibit F	5	
	(Map, Bates YVLT00003)		
20			
	Deposition Exhibit G	5	
21	(Letter from Humble Ventures, LLC)	_	
22	Deposition Exhibit H	5	
23	(Letter from City of Steamboat Springs)		
43	Deposition Exhibit I	5	
24	(Map)	J	
25			

			Page 4
1	INDEX OF EXHIBITS (Continued)		
2		AGE NO.	
3 4	Deposition Exhibit J (Colored Map, Humble Ranch Deeded Lands)	5	
5	Deposition Exhibit K (Colored Map, Humble Ranch 2008 Aerial)	5	
б	Deposition Exhibit L (Retained by Mr. Lyons)	5	
7 8	Deposition Exhibit M (Colored Map, Humble ranch, Surrounding Land Use and Trails)	5	
9	Deposition Exhibit N (Retained by Mr. Lyons)	5	
10	Deposition Exhibit O	160	
11	(Baseline Inventory Report)		
12	Deposition Exhibit P (Special Warranty Deed)	181	
13	(Special warrancy Deca)		
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
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Page 5 1 (Whereupon, Deposition Exhibits A through N were marked for identification by the reporter.) 2 (Whereupon, Mr. Marks was not present in 3 4 the deposition room at this time.) 5 ED TROUSIL, having been sworn to tell the truth, testified as 6 follows: 7 8 MR. LYONS: Counsel, I'm going to proceed 9 because Mr. Marks is not here and we were a little late ourselves in arriving, and we will just fill 10 Mr. Marks in when he arrives. I assume he will have 11 12 no objection to that. Do you have any objection to that course, Mr. Deihl? 13 14 MR. DEIHL: I don't . MR. LYONS: Okay. 15 16 EXAMINATION BY MR. LYONS: 17 18 Sir, would you state your name for me, Ο. 19 please. 20 Α. Ed Trousil. 21 Q. And how do you spell your last name? 22 Α. T-R-O-U-S-I-L. 23 Q. And sir, have you ever had your deposition taken previously? 24 25 Α. Yes.

ED TROUSIL - NOVEMBER 19, 2008 Page 6 1 In what context? 0. 2 Α. We were joined in a lawsuit perhaps 20 3 years ago. 4 Q. Who is we? 5 A company Trousil & Associates, Inc. Α. What kind of a company was that? 6 Q. 7 Α. It's an oil and gas company. 8 Ο. What was the nature of the litigation? 9 There was a contractual dispute between Α. two other oil companies. I don't remember the 10 details of that dispute. 11 Where was the lawsuit? 12 Ο. 13 Α. In Dallas. You can't tell me the name of any other 14 Ο. 15 party besides Trousil & Company? No, it was -- it was over 20 years ago. 16 Α. 17 Ο. Okay. And what was the context of your 18 deposition being taken to the extent that you remember? 19 20 We acquired some producing properties from

## 25 Α. I believe it was an out-of-court

I don't remember.

And what was the dispute?

Okay. What was the outcome?

one of those companies.

Ο.

Α.

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- 1 settlement. We received monies for our attorneys
- 2 fees and that was -- that's all I know.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 (Whereupon, Mr. Marks entered the
- 5 deposition room at this time.)
- 6 MR. LYONS: Hi Josh. That's Mr. Marks.
- 7 Josh, for your information we found out that
- 8 Mr. Trousil has been deposed once previously so far.
- 9 MR. MARKS: Oh, okay. I missed a lot
- 10 then.
- MR. LYONS: We didn't want to slow things
- 12 down by -- we didn't know when you would be here.
- 13 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. So other than being
- 14 deposed in that other litigation 20 years ago, sir,
- 15 have you had other depositions taken of yourself?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. It appears you understand the processes.
- 18 I will ask you questions and seek your responses; is
- 19 that correct?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. If you have some misunderstanding or
- 22 uncertainty about what I've asked you, please inform
- 23 me of that.
- 24 A. Okay.
- Q. Otherwise, I'm going to expect that what

- 1 you have answered is an answer given in response to
- 2 the question I've asked. Okay?
- A. Okay.
- 4 Q. Is there any reason that you know of that
- 5 you cannot be deposed today?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Are you taking any medications that may
- 8 impair your ability to respond to my questions?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Other than the litigation in Dallas that
- 11 you've described have you been involved in other
- 12 litigation?
- 13 A. No.
- Q. Either through a company of yours or
- 15 personally?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 O. Never had a divorce?
- 18 A. No divorce.
- 19 Q. Okay. Bankruptcy?
- 20 A. No bankruptcy.
- Q. Personal or business bankruptcy?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Okay. What is your education?
- 24 A. Starting with?
- Q. You can start where you'd like to start.

- 1 I'll follow up if I need to, sir.
- 2 A. I have a bachelors of science in
- 3 geological engineering from the Colorado School of
- 4 Mines, and I have a masters of science in petroleum
- 5 engineering from the University of Houston.
- 6 Q. It sounds as though you have been in the
- 7 oil and gas business. Can you tell me what has been
- 8 your professional history subsequent to you getting
- 9 your bachelor of science degree.
- 10 A. I have been employed by Petro-Lewis Corp.
- 11 beginning approximately 1990 -- or 1982, and I was
- 12 an employee of Isaacs & Associates in approximately
- 13 1985. And I have been an employee of Trousil &
- 14 Associates since 1987 to date.
- 15 Q. Were you the founder of Trousil &
- 16 Associates?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And are there others who are involved in
- 19 that business besides yourself?
- 20 A. What do you mean by that question?
- Q. Anything that it means to you.
- 22 A. Others involved in the oil business?
- 23 There's a lot of people involved in the oil
- 24 business.
- O. I meant the Trousil & Associate's

- 1 business. I'm sorry if I was unclear.
- 2 A. I have currently one office manager
- 3 employed under Trousil & Associates.
- 4 Q. Who is that?
- 5 A. Linda Sacks.
- 6 Q. Okay. And where is Trousil & Associates
- 7 located?
- 8 A. The physical address is 31500 Cattle
- 9 Drive, Steamboat Springs.
- 10 Q. What is the operational activity of
- 11 Trousil & Associates today?
- 12 A. We are a exploration and production oil
- 13 company.
- Q. Have you properties under production?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. That you've leased?
- 17 A. We own the lease.
- 18 O. Right, but there's --
- 19 A. The rights to those properties.
- 20 O. -- leasing rights. Excuse me. There's
- 21 another thing we need to make sure we do is -- I
- 22 know this can become conversational. We will try to
- 23 let you answer your question and I'll try to finish
- 24 my question, hopefully you can let me finish before
- 25 you start. Okay?

Page 11 1 Α. Okay. 2 What did you do for Petro-Lewis? Ο. I was a geologist. 3 Α. 4 Q. What did you do for Isaacs & Associates? 5 I was a geological engineer. Α. So that occurred after you got your 6 Q. 7 masters? 8 Α. Yes. 9 And subsequently you have not had other Ο. employment, you have simply had Trousil & Associates 10 as your business activity? 11 That is correct. 12 Α. 13 Okay. Have you any licenses besides a Ο. 14 drivers license? I have a fishing license. 15 Α. Okay. Anything else? 16 Ο. 17 Α. I -- I don't recall any others at this 18 point in time. 19 Okay. And you've never had a real estate Ο. 20 license of any kind, correct? That is correct. 21 Α. 22 Okay. I guess before we go any further, Ο. 23 sir, I'll hand you what has been marked for purposes

of identification as Deposition Exhibit A and ask if

you've seen that before?

24

25

- 1 MR. MARKS: Tom, since I wasn't here
- 2 yesterday are we starting over for each deposition?
- 3 MR. LYONS: Actually, we had serial ones
- 4 for the plaintiff's deposition.
- 5 MR. MARKS: Okay.
- 6 MR. LYONS: I started with A since this is
- 7 the first defense deposition.
- 8 MR. MARKS: Okay. Thanks.
- 9 MR. LYONS: Okay.
- 10 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Have you had a chance to
- 11 look at Exhibit A, sir?
- 12 A. I have looked at it, yes.
- 13 Q. Have you seen it before?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Okay. Do you understand what the purpose
- of today's deposition happens to be? Or do you have
- 17 an understanding of the purpose of today's
- 18 deposition?
- 19 A. I have an understanding, yes.
- Q. Would you please tell me what that
- 21 understanding is.
- 22 A. You are going to ask me questions and I
- 23 will respond to my best abilities.
- O. Okay. In relation to what? Do you
- 25 understand what it is that -- the subject matter of

- 1 our deposition today?
- 2 A. I would -- the subject matter is, let's
- 3 see, on this front page, Humble Ventures, LLC, a
- 4 Colorado Limited Liability Company, versus
- 5 defendant, City of Steamboat, a Colorado Home Rule
- 6 Municipal Corporation, Yampa Valley Land Trust,
- 7 State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources,
- 8 Wildlife Commission, Division of Wildlife.
- 9 Q. Okay. So what is your relationship to
- 10 Humble Ventures, LLC?
- 11 A. I am the manager.
- 12 O. Who is the owner?
- 13 A. The owner is my wife and myself.
- Q. Are there shares issued in this LLC?
- 15 A. I believe so.
- 16 Q. Okay. And how much do you own of the
- 17 shares in the LLC?
- 18 A. Fifty percent.
- Q. Okay. And who's the person who owns the
- 20 other 50 percent? What name does she have?
- 21 A. Cheryl B. Trousil.
- 22 Q. Okay. And this company is what kind of a
- 23 company, besides being an LLC?
- 24 A. It's a Colorado Limited Liability Company.
- Q. Right. But what kind of a business is it

- 1 in?
- 2 A. The Humble Ventures? Is that the --
- Q. Yes, sir.
- 4 A. Humble Ventures is in the business of
- 5 owning land and owning producing oil properties.
- 6 Q. Okay. How long has this entity existed?
- 7 A. I believe it would have existed in 1998 or
- 8 1999.
- 9 Q. And how did it come into being? What did
- 10 you do to bring it into being?
- 11 A. We had an attorney file the -- the
- 12 attorney filed the proper documents with the
- 13 secretary of state would be my recollection.
- Q. And was there a reason that this entity
- 15 came into being either in 1998 or 1999 apart from
- 16 simple interest in creating a new business?
- 17 A. This business was formed to enter into
- 18 real estate transactions and obviously later on into
- 19 oil transactions.
- Q. Okay. So to begin with it was formed to
- 21 enter in -- into real estate transactions?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 O. What real estate transactions?
- 24 A. We had a contract with Trust for Public
- 25 Lands to acquire property.

- 1 Q. What property?
- 2 A. What we refer to as the Humble Ranch.
- 3 Q. And where is that?
- 4 A. In Steamboat Springs.
- 5 Q. Well, actually, it's not in the city of
- 6 Steamboat Springs, is it?
- 7 A. You're correct, it's in Routt County.
- 8 Q. But nearby Steamboat Springs I take it?
- 9 A. It is nearby Steamboat Springs.
- 10 O. Okay. So why don't we start at the
- 11 beginning of your knowledge of the notion of having
- 12 a contract with the Trust for Public Lands. Just
- 13 tell me in shorthand form for now how this came to
- 14 pass. What started this and what happened? Would
- 15 you do that for me please, sir?
- 16 A. This was 10 years ago, so I do not
- 17 remember much about how it started. I do remember
- 18 that we formed -- we negotiated a contract with
- 19 Trust for Public Lands to acquire what we refer to
- 20 as the Humble Ranch. How the idea was sparked, I
- 21 don't remember.
- 22 Q. Okay. Tell me what happened in terms of
- 23 the contract you just identified. How did that come
- 24 into being?
- 25 A. We made an offer to Trust for Public Lands

Page 16 1 and negotiated a contract. 2 What kind of an offer? Ο. Α. T -- I don't know. 3 You don't know the terms of the offer? 4 Q. No, I don't have that offer in front of me 5 Α. 6 now. 7 Ο. Was it in writing? 8 Α. Yes. 9 And who wrote the offer? Ο. Α. Bruce Jarchow. 10 Who is that? 11 Ο. 12 Α. He's an attorney in Steamboat. 13 Q. And he did that on your behalf? He did it on the behalf of Humble 14 Α. 15 Ventures. So Humble Ventures was in existence at the 16 Ο. time that the offer was made? 17 I believe so. 18 Α. 19 Okay. And you don't have any recollection Ο. of the terms of any offer made? 20 21 Α. No. 22 What happened after the offer was made? Q. 23 Α. We negotiated a contract. 24 What contract was that? Do you know? 0.

It was a contract to buy and sell.

25

Α.

- 1 O. Real estate?
- 2 A. Real estate.
- 3 Q. Okay. And that was the real estate that
- 4 you've already identified as Humble Ranch --
- 5 A. That is correct.
- 6 Q. -- or other properties as well?
- 7 A. No, just Humble Ranch.
- 8 Q. Okay. So was there any recollection in
- 9 your mind of any negotiations that occurred before
- 10 the contract was created?
- 11 A. I don't remember.
- 12 Q. And was there any written exchange
- 13 regarding any contract terms respecting those
- 14 negotiations you've described?
- 15 A. I don't remember.
- 16 Q. What ultimately occurred with regard to
- 17 the contract to buy and sell?
- 18 A. It was executed by me and the Trust for
- 19 Public Lands.
- 20 O. What is the Trust for Public Lands?
- 21 A. I -- I don't understand your question.
- 22 Q. Well, you've identified something called
- 23 Trust for Public Lands. What do you think that is?
- A. They are a corporate entity of some type.
- 25 I don't know what type of corporate entity they are.

- 1 O. Okay. When was the closing on the
- 2 contract which generated the real estate purchase?
- 3 A. I don't know the exact date.
- 4 Q. Well, can you give me a general notion of
- 5 the date?
- 6 A. First half of 1999.
- 7 Q. Do you remember the closing?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. So you have no knowledge of who paid what?
- 10 A. I have knowledge that we paid monies.
- 11 O. How much?
- 12 A. I don't know.
- 13 Q. 3.15 million dollars sound correct?
- 14 A. I don't know.
- 15 Q. You remember that -- do you know what GOCO
- 16 is?
- 17 A. It's an acronym for Great Outdoors
- 18 Colorado.
- 19 O. Okay. What's that? Do you know?
- 20 A. They are an agency that has funds derived
- 21 from lottery monies is my understanding. I do not
- 22 know what type of agency they are.
- Q. Okay. Did GOCO pay any funds in
- 24 connection with the closing on the Humble Ranch that
- 25 you described?

Page 19 1 Α. Yes. 2 How much? Ο. I believe it was \$950,000, but I'm not 3 Α. 4 sure. 5 Do you know how that came to pass? Ο. They appraised the property for a certain 6 Α. value. 7 8 Okay. And then what? Ο. 9 I don't know. Α. So, in other words, you're telling me you 10 don't understand how it was that \$950,000 in lottery 11 12 proceeds were part of any transaction that led to 13 your ownership of the Humble Ranch in the form of 14 Humble Ventures, LLC? 15 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the 16 question. 17 Α. Can you restate the question. 18 (By Mr. Lyons) You're telling me that you Ο. 19 don't know how it was that GOCO contributed \$950,000 20 of lottery money to the transaction that generated 21 your ownership of the Humble Ranch? 22 MR. DEIHL: Same objection.

GOCO purchased a conservation easement

(By Mr. Lyons) And so that's what the

23

24

25

Α.

Ο.

from Humble Ventures.

- 1 \$950,000 was for?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. That's all it was for, correct?
- 4 A. That is true.
- 5 Q. All right. Sir, what about the 3.15
- 6 million dollars also paid at that closing? Where
- 7 did that come from?
- 8 A. I don't know if it was 3.15 million.
- 9 Q. Well, did you contribute any money to the
- 10 closing?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 O. How much?
- 13 A. I don't know.
- Q. Okay. Did anyone else contribute any
- 15 money to the closing?
- 16 A. I do not believe that anybody else, any
- 17 other company or entity contributed monies at the
- 18 closing.
- 19 Q. Okay. So, what about the Yampa Valley
- 20 Land Trust? What's that?
- 21 A. They are a nonprofit land trust located in
- 22 Steamboat Springs.
- Q. Did they purchase anything or sell
- 24 anything at the closing?
- 25 A. For money?

- 1 O. You tell me, sir. For anything?
- 2 A. Yampa Valley Land Trust did not bring any
- 3 money to our closing.
- 4 Q. Okay. Did you?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. How much?
- 7 A. I don't know.
- 8 Q. 3.15 million doesn't strike you as being
- 9 correct?
- 10 A. I don't remember the exact number.
- 11 Q. Did you borrow money to make the
- 12 transaction?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 0. From what?
- 15 A. Vectra blank.
- 16 O. How much?
- 17 A. I don't know.
- 18 Q. And the Yampa Valley Land Trust purchased
- 19 a conservation easement as a part -- or obtained a
- 20 conservation easement, I'm sorry, as part of this
- 21 transaction; is that right?
- 22 A. Say that again.
- Q. The Yampa Valley Land Trust acquired a
- 24 conservation easement as a part of this transaction;
- 25 is that correct?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. What's a conservation easement?
- MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 4 question.
- 5 A. A conservation -- it is my understanding
- 6 that a conservation easement is a contract that
- 7 limits certain rights, and restricts and reserves
- 8 rights on a piece of land.
- 9 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. So that would apply
- 10 to the Humble Ranch, the conservation easement that
- 11 Yampa Valley Land Trust acquired during the closing;
- 12 is that correct?
- 13 A. Yes. Not all of the ranch.
- Q. Well, let's make sure I understand. I
- 15 understand there's 1,131.51 acres subject to a
- 16 conservation easement; is that right?
- 17 A. That sounds correct.
- 18 O. And then there's a limited development
- 19 agreement of some kind on 635 acres; is that right?
- 20 A. That sounds correct.
- 21 O. And in addition to that there were donated
- 22 trail easements that were created in the context of
- 23 this transaction; is that right?
- A. What do you mean by donated trail
- 25 easements?

- 1 O. Well, do you know anything about trail
- 2 easements that related to this transaction?
- 3 A. Yes, there were trail easements.
- 4 Q. Okay. From whom to whom?
- 5 A. There was a trail easement to the
- 6 Department of Wildlife, there was a trail easement
- 7 to the State Parks and there was a trail easement to
- 8 the City of Steamboat.
- 9 Q. In fact, there were two trail easements to
- 10 the City of Steamboat, were there not?
- 11 A. I believe so.
- 12 Q. Okay. Do you think that this all took
- 13 place on April 28th, 1999?
- 14 A. I don't remember the date it took place.
- 15 Q. This is a transaction that actually
- involved multiple other properties and parties; is
- 17 that right?
- 18 A. That is correct.
- 19 O. There were other pieces of the same ranch
- 20 that were put in other ownership at the same time,
- 21 right?
- 22 A. That is correct.
- Q. And as far as you know this is a
- 24 transaction that was like almost \$11 million changed
- 25 hands; is that right?

- 1 A. I don't remember the total amount.
- Q. Okay. Can you tell me anything about the
- 3 closing that you haven't already told me?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Before the closing occurred, it's my
- 6 understanding that you presold some lots; is that
- 7 right?
- 8 A. I don't remember.
- 9 Q. Weren't there sixteen building lots sold
- 10 in connection with the limited development of
- 11 600-some-odd acres that you had taken reservations
- 12 on before the closing?
- 13 A. We may have taken reservations prior to
- 14 closing. I don't remember the timing of those
- 15 reservations.
- 16 Q. And that was a way for you to raise
- 17 revenues; isn't that right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. How much revenue did you raise by that
- 20 process?
- 21 A. I don't remember.
- 22 O. A million dollars?
- 23 A. I don't remember.
- Q. You have no knowledge of that?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Okay. As the result of this transaction,
- 2 Humble Ventures, LLC acquired what you called
- 3 earlier Humble Ranch, right?
- 4 A. Say that again.
- 5 Q. As a result of the transaction in April of
- 6 1999, Humble Ventures, LLC acquired Humble Ranch,
- 7 correct?
- 8 A. That is correct.
- 9 Q. And has owned that property since that
- 10 time, correct?
- 11 A. That is correct.
- 12 Q. Do you live on that property?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. In what?
- 15 A. In a home.
- 16 Q. How large?
- 17 A. Are you talking square footage?
- 18 O. Sure.
- 19 A. 4,000 square feet.
- 20 O. Was that built after the acquisition?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Does anyone else live on the property?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. Just you personally?
- 25 A. Oh, I live with my family on the property.

Page 26 1 Oh, okay. That's what I'm asking. 0. 2 Α. Okay. Who else lives on the property? 3 Ο. 4 Α. My wife and my two sons. 5 How old are they? Q. Sixteen and fourteen. 6 Α. 7 Ο. How many bikes do you have? 8 Α. Approximately six. 9 Do you ride bikes on the property? Ο. 10 Α. No. Where do you ride the bikes? 11 Ο. 12 Α. On the county roads. 13 Is the property zoned agricultural? Q. 14 Α. Yes. 15 Ο. Have you had any contest with the county 16 over the property tax assessment in the last 10 17 years? 18 I'm sorry have we had what? Α. 19 Any contest with the county over property Ο. 20 tax assessment in the last 10 years? 21 Α. I don't understand what you mean by 22 contest. 23 Q. Have you challenged any assessment that 24 the county has made for you to pay property taxes?

I do not believe so.

25

Α.

- 1 O. Have you always paid your property taxes?
- 2 A. I believe so.
- 3 Q. Has the county changed anything about the
- 4 property taxes in the last 10 years?
- 5 A. Well, their mill levies may have changed
- 6 over the last 10 years. I don't know.
- 7 O. Has their evaluation changed?
- 8 A. I do not believe so.
- 9 Q. What have you done to generate revenue on
- 10 the property in the past 10 years?
- 11 A. We have hayed the property and we have run
- 12 cattle.
- 13 Q. Anything else?
- 14 A. If you repeat your question again I might
- 15 be able --
- 16 Q. What have you done to generate revenue
- 17 from the property in the last 10 years?
- 18 A. We have haved it and run cattle, and we
- 19 have also run a hunting program.
- 20 O. Tell me about the hunting program. What
- 21 program is that?
- 22 A. We had a trespasser fee program where we
- 23 allowed hunters to access our property for hunting
- 24 purposes.
- Q. I don't understand what it means to say "a

- 1 trespasser fee program." What's that, sir?
- 2 A. We allowed hunters for a fee to hunt our
- 3 property.
- 4 Q. For what?
- 5 A. Elk.
- 6 Q. What was the fee?
- 7 A. \$1250.
- 8 Q. Starting when?
- 9 A. 1999 -- or might have been 2000.
- 10 Q. Okay. And since then you had it every
- 11 year during hunting season?
- 12 A. We stopped.
- 13 Q. When?
- 14 A. When the BLM took over the state land
- 15 board lease.
- 16 Q. And, sir, I'm sorry I have to ask you very
- 17 fundamental questions because I don't understand all
- 18 this, so I want to make sure I understand what you
- 19 know about it and if I'm being too fundamental
- 20 that's my explanation. Okay?
- 21 A. Okay.
- 22 O. So when would the BLM have taken over the
- 23 state land -- I don't know what other term you used
- 24 to describe it.
- 25 A. Colorado State Lands, approximately three

- 1 years ago. Two years ago. Two to three years ago.
- 2 Q. And how did that development alter your
- 3 approach to the trespassing fee program?
- 4 A. We leased the state land board property
- 5 for purposes of hunting and agricultural, exclusive
- 6 rights.
- 7 O. I see.
- 8 A. When the BLM took over they do not have
- 9 exclusive hunting rights.
- 10 O. Oh, I see. So in other words, you're
- 11 tresspassers' fee program included not only the
- 12 Humble Ranch but also some other property?
- 13 A. The majority of the property was the
- 14 leased lands, not our deeded lands.
- 15 Q. Okay. So for seven years you ran this
- 16 program on your property and -- or the Humble
- 17 property and on the state property, correct?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 O. And over that period of time what's the
- 20 average revenue generated by the property -- or the
- 21 program, to the best of your knowledge?
- 22 A. The average revenue total?
- Q. No, I'm asking just about the trespasser
- 24 program that you talked about.
- 25 A. I don't know.

- 1 O. Okay. Couldn't estimate it for me?
- 2 A. 50- to- \$70,000 a year.
- 3 Q. And what's the average revenues
- 4 generated --
- 5 A. It's an estimate.
- 6 Q. Okay. What's the average revenue
- 7 generated in the course of a year over the last 10
- 8 years by all the revenue generating activities that
- 9 you engaged in on the Humble Ranch?
- 10 MR. DEIHL: Counsel, I'm going to allow
- 11 you to inquire a little bit further on this, but I
- 12 don't understand the relevance of questions getting
- into revenue being generated on Mr. Trousil's ranch.
- MR. LYONS: Well, counsel, the objection
- is heard, but as far as I'm concerned, at least
- 16 unless you're going to instruct him not to answer,
- 17 in which case I think we'd be in a dispute,
- 18 relevance is not the test for the discovery -- a
- 19 discovery deposition.
- 20 O. (By Mr. Lyons) So what is the average
- 21 amount of revenue generated by all revenue
- 22 generating activities on the Humble Ranch since 1999
- 23 to the present?
- A. Per year?
- 25 Q. Yes, sir.

- 1 A. \$80,000 prior to the time we lost our
- 2 hunting rights.
- 3 Q. And since then?
- 4 A. I do not know.
- 5 Q. What's the property tax per year on the
- 6 Humble Ranch, sir?
- 7 A. I don't know. Excuse me. I don't know.
- 8 Q. You have no idea?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Okay. Sir, I'd like to hand you what's
- 11 been marked for purposes of identification as
- 12 Deposition Exhibit J.
- MR. CAMERON: What was the letter, Tom?
- 14 MR. LYONS: J as in Jackson.
- MR. CAMERON: Okay.
- MR. LYONS: Sorry, I'm --
- 17 MR. CAMERON: I was going to say I thought
- 18 I --
- 19 MR. LYONS: -- going to get a little out
- 20 of order. Sorry.
- 21 MR. CAMERON: I thought I was paying
- 22 attention.
- MR. LYONS: I know I'm boring. Sorry,
- 24 Brad.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Sir, I wonder if you could

- 1 take a look at Exhibit J for me and tell me if you
- 2 can what it is.
- 3 A. This is a map that shows Humble Ranch
- 4 deeded lands in yellow, Department of Wildlife lands
- 5 in what I would call pink, and then the adjacent
- 6 boundary or approximate boundary of the Bureau of
- 7 Land Management lands.
- 8 MR. LYONS: And I'm sorry, counsel, I
- 9 didn't give you all copies that are color,
- 10 unfortunately they're pretty darn expensive and the
- 11 City just can't afford to make too many concessions
- 12 to cost here, so --
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Mr. Trousil, is this an
- 14 accurate depiction, as far as you know, of the
- 15 Humble Ranch properties?
- 16 A. I would think that the boundaries are
- 17 approximate.
- 18 O. Okay. It looks to me like it's an overlay
- 19 on a topographical map. Does that look right to
- 20 you?
- 21 A. That is correct.
- Q. Do you know how this came into being?
- A. Who drafted this map?
- Q. Anything you know about it.
- 25 A. This is a map that -- that I drafted.

- 1 O. Okay. So you put the yellow and the pink
- 2 and the green, the coloring on it; is that right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 O. What is DeLorme?
- 5 A. DeLorme is a mapping service, or a map
- 6 company.
- 7 Q. Okay. And the way I understand what
- 8 you've done here is to use little, kind of, cartoon
- 9 balloons to describe certain things; is that right?
- 10 A. That is correct.
- 11 Q. All right. Let's start through those just
- 12 to make sure I understand what they are intended to
- 13 connote. All right. At the bottom of the page
- 14 there is one balloon that says Humble Ranch
- 15 Education and Therapy Center. Do you see that?
- 16 A. I do see that.
- 17 O. What is that?
- 18 A. What is the Humble Ranch Education and
- 19 Therapy Center?
- 20 O. Yes, sir.
- 21 A. It's a 501(c)(3) that is located at the
- 22 main ranch headquarters. Their offices are located
- 23 at the main ranch headquarters.
- Q. Is that your residence location as well?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Okay. So your residence on this property
- 2 isn't on the map; am I right? Is it marked?
- A. It's not identified on the map.
- 4 Q. That's what I meant. Sorry. When did the
- 5 Humble Ranch Education and Therapy Center come into
- 6 being?
- 7 A. I believe it was early 2000.
- 8 Q. Okay. What does that entity do?
- 9 A. I don't have the mission statement in
- 10 front of me, but --
- 11 Q. Well, just to the best of your knowledge.
- 12 A. It services -- it services kids and adults
- 13 with special needs through hippotherapy and
- 14 therapeutic riding.
- 15 Q. Does that activity generate revenue for
- 16 the Humble Ranch?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. How much?
- 19 A. They pay rent to Humble Ventures. I don't
- 20 remember how much that rent is on an annual basis.
- 21 O. You can't estimate for me?
- 22 A. No. It changes during high use periods
- and low use periods.
- Q. Does the center charge people to use it?
- 25 Is that how it generates revenue?

- 1 A. It's a nonprofit. It does charge service
- 2 fees, yes.
- 3 Q. How much do they charge?
- 4 A. I do not know.
- 5 O. Who does?
- 6 A. My wife would probably know. She is the
- 7 director of the Humble Ranch Education and Therapy
- 8 Center.
- 9 O. If she doesn't, who does?
- 10 A. I don't know.
- 11 Q. Okay. The next balloon up starting from
- 12 the bottom, the words Department of Wildlife are
- 13 connoted on this Exhibit J. Do you see that? The
- 14 next balloon up from the bottom. I'm going to work
- 15 my way up to the top.
- 16 A. I see the Department of Wildlife.
- 17 Q. What's that mean? I take it you wrote
- 18 that?
- 19 A. That is -- again, that's an approximate
- 20 location of the Department of Wildlife's river
- 21 piece.
- Q. Of property?
- 23 A. Of property they own.
- 24 O. Okay. And that's not -- it's kind of in a
- 25 white -- it's not colored by you, right?

- 1 A. It is colored.
- Q. What color is that?
- 3 A. Pink.
- 4 Q. So it connotes the pink part above the
- 5 balloon that you're marking?
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. All right. And above that it says Elk
- 8 Lane Road, right?
- 9 A. That is correct.
- 10 Q. And what's that?
- 11 A. Elk Lane Road is a private road that
- 12 provides access to a number of homes on Emerald
- 13 Mountain.
- 14 Q. Including the sixteen homes that are to
- 15 the north of that road that were part of the initial
- 16 600-some-odd acres that you presold in the course of
- 17 this transaction leading to your purchase of the
- 18 Humble Ranch, correct?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 O. Okay. Now, Elk Lane Road is a private
- 21 road. How is it connoted as private, if you know?
- 22 A. It's not a route -- it's not a county
- 23 road.
- Q. So it's not anything that's marked private
- 25 or gated?

- 1 A. It is marked private.
- 2 Q. But not gated?
- 3 A. It's not gated.
- 4 Q. And just to make sure I understand, part
- of what we're here to talk about today is an
- 6 easement that runs alongside Elk Lane Road; is that
- 7 right?
- 8 A. That is correct.
- 9 Q. Okay. Now, you've made a red dotted line,
- 10 I guess it's kind of a -- it sort of looks like a
- 11 little Morse code on part of it. There's a red line
- 12 just above the words Elk Lane Road and the place
- 13 where Elk Lane Road is arrowed, and it runs up into
- 14 the yellow part indicated as Humble Ranch. Do you
- 15 see which line I'm talking about, sir?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. What's that line supposed to connote?
- 18 A. That line is labeled CDOW Access Easement.
- 19 Q. And that's what you intended to connote
- 20 there?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And then just below the -- to your right
- 23 of the red line there, there's some black dots that
- 24 seem to run from Humble Ranch Education and Therapy
- 25 Center more or less up towards the red Elk Lane Road

- 1 demarcation. Do you see that?
- 2 A. I do.
- 3 Q. It somewhat overlaps that red, correct?
- 4 A. Uh-huh.
- 5 O. What's that?
- 6 A. That is just an existing ranch two-track
- 7 road.
- 8 Q. That runs up to Elk Lane Road; is that
- 9 right?
- 10 A. That is correct.
- 11 Q. And it seems like it drifts a little bit
- 12 to the south there off of the road after it reaches
- 13 the road. Do you see those dots?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Is that because the road does that?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Oh. What was that supposed to connote
- 18 then, sir?
- 19 A. I think that's just an approximate line
- 20 that just happened to drift off of the red line.
- 21 Q. Oh, I see as you were drafting this you
- 22 were putting one on and then another on top of it?
- 23 Is that how that works?
- A. Correct.
- 25 Q. I see. So it was just like an errata of

- 1 some kind?
- 2 A. I don't know what --
- 3 O. You don't know?
- 4 A. Can you tell me what errata means?
- 5 O. An error.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. As you continue to your left on Elk Lane
- 8 Road you marked as you have it there there's another
- 9 sets of black dots. Do so you see that?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Inside the Humble Ranch, correct?
- 12 A. Correct.
- Q. What's that?
- 14 A. That is another two-track road.
- 15 Q. And it runs to what's called Special Needs
- 16 Tent Camp. What's that?
- 17 A. That is a site that Humble Ranch Education
- 18 and Therapy Center has put some tents up.
- 19 Q. Okay. Tell me about that. When did that
- 20 happen?
- 21 A. Approximately three years ago. Two to
- 22 three years ago.
- 23 Q. What was involved? What did you do?
- A. What did I do?
- 25 Q. Yeah. Well, what did Humble Ranch do in

- 1 order to get that tent camp there?
- 2 A. Well, Humble Ranch did very little.
- 3 Q. All right. Who did what?
- 4 A. Humble Ranch Education and Therapy Center
- 5 put those tents up.
- 6 Q. Okay. What was involved?
- 7 A. They put tents up. I don't understand --
- 8 0. Okay.
- 9 A. -- when you say what was involved.
- 10 Q. That's fine. Now, sir, there are other
- 11 two-track roads inside the Humble Ranch that are not
- 12 connoted on Exhibit J; am I right?
- 13 A. That is correct.
- 0. How many miles of two-track roads are
- inside Humble Ranch today that are not depicted on
- 16 Exhibit J?
- 17 A. I have no idea.
- 18 O. All right. How long is the road from --
- 19 or how long is Elk Lane Road from its terminus with
- 20 the county road as it proceeds to the west? How
- 21 long is that distance? Do you know?
- 22 A. Elk Lane Road -- how long is Elk Lane
- 23 Road --
- 24 O. Yes.
- 25 A. -- to the end of Elk Lane Road?

- 1 O. From the east to the west.
- 2 A. It could be miles.
- 3 O. You don't know?
- 4 A. I don't know.
- 5 Q. And how long is the CDOW Access Easement
- 6 that you've marked on Exhibit J from the time it
- 7 reaches the Humble Ranch property up to the point
- 8 where it exits the Humble Ranch property to the
- 9 north?
- 10 A. Looking at the map I would say
- 11 approximately two and a half miles from the
- 12 connection to County Road 14 to the connection to
- 13 the DOW, but that's just probably an approximate
- 14 with the scale I see here.
- 15 Q. What's the elevation gain from the bottom
- 16 to the top, if you know?
- 17 A. I can't read topographic lines on this
- 18 map.
- 19 O. So you don't know?
- 20 A. I don't know.
- 21 Q. But it is higher at the northwest end than
- 22 at the southeast end, correct?
- 23 A. Significantly higher, yes.
- O. Thousands of feet?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 O. Less than a thousand feet?
- 2 A. It could be 500 to 1000 feet would be a
- 3 wild quess.
- 4 O. Let's start on the far east side of the
- 5 Humble Ranch where you've depicted in yellow here
- 6 and move to the west. Do you know the elevation --
- 7 the average elevation gain from east to west?
- 8 A. I don't understand where you are on the
- 9 map here.
- 10 Q. I'm sorry. Let's start on the east
- 11 boundary of the Humble Ranch depicted on your map,
- 12 which is now identified as Exhibit J. I'm right
- 13 here, sir.
- 14 A. Okay.
- 15 Q. And if you move west from there what's the
- 16 average elevation gain as you move east to west, if
- 17 you know?
- 18 MR. DEIHL: You're talking about the
- 19 eastern boundary of the Upland portion of the Humble
- 20 Ranch; is that correct?
- 21 MR. LYONS: If that's correct then
- 22 Mr. Trousil is going to have to tell me. I
- 23 understood him to say that the yellow portion of the
- 24 map -- oh, I see where the concern might be.
- 25 A. There's another --

- 1 O. (By Mr. Lyons) There's three pieces --
- 2 excuse me. Let me try again. I'll try to remember
- 3 to keep it to one person talking.
- 4 There's three yellow pieces of property
- 5 marked on Exhibit J; is that right?
- 6 A. That is correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. The one that is the furthest east
- 8 is called what?
- 9 A. We can call it Humble Ranch Meadows.
- 10 Q. Okay. And the furthest north piece,
- 11 what's that called?
- 12 A. The Dog Lake.
- Q. And what is the furthest west piece?
- 14 A. The Upland parcel.
- 15 Q. All right. If we start on the east
- 16 boundary of the Upland parcel what is the average
- 17 elevation gain as you proceed to the west?
- 18 A. I don't know.
- 19 O. Okay. Let's look at what's been marked on
- 20 Exhibit J as Humble Ranch BLM lease. Do you see
- 21 where that balloon appears?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. What's that supposed to connote?
- 24 A. That's the approximate boundary of the BLM
- 25 lands that -- adjacent to our Upland parcel.

- 1 Q. So is this the property that once was a
- 2 part of your trespassers program?
- 3 A. Yes. Parts of this property were.
- Q. Okay. And then immediately north of the
- 5 place where you've put a balloon saying CDOW Access
- 6 Easement, there is the Emerald Mountain State
- 7 Wildlife Area balloon; is that right?
- 8 A. There's -- the balloon is there, yes.
- 9 O. And you asserted that to connote what?
- 10 A. To identify that part -- that land.
- 11 Again, the boundaries are approximate too.
- 12 Q. And you also made that line pink, right?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- Q. And then immediately north of that is
- 15 another balloon that says City of Steamboat. What's
- 16 that to connote?
- 17 A. Again, that's an approximate depiction of
- 18 what I believe the City owns, the lands that the
- 19 City owns.
- Q. Okay. Let's set that aside for just a
- 21 minute, sir. Have you ever had a real estate
- 22 appraisal of the Humble Ranch created?
- 23 A. I do not believe so.
- 24 Q. But there was an appraisal of the property
- 25 incurred preceding your purchase of it; is that

- 1 right?
- 2 A. I don't know.
- 3 Q. Okay. Have you ever been involved in
- 4 appraising real estate?
- 5 A. Have I personally been involved in
- 6 appraising real estate?
- 7 Q. Right.
- 8 A. As a business?
- 9 O. Sure. Not as a --
- 10 A. Personally? I don't understand when you
- 11 say personally involved in appraising real estate,
- 12 what you mean by that.
- 13 Q. Well, I would assume, sir, that as a
- 14 result of your having been involved in the oil and
- 15 gas industry since 1981 you have seen real estate
- 16 appraisals associated with oil and gas properties;
- 17 is that right?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Okay. So you have never seen a real
- 20 estate appraisal at all?
- 21 A. No, you said a real estate appraisal on
- 22 oil and gas properties.
- 23 Q. I know, but I'm following up with another
- 24 question. Have you ever seen a real estate
- 25 appraisal?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. In what context?
- 3 A. I've seen real estate appraisals
- 4 appraising structures, residential structures.
- 5 O. In what context?
- 6 A. I don't remember.
- 7 Q. Have you seen real estate appraisals that
- 8 take account of various difference in -- different
- 9 encumbrances on properties, like easements?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. And do you understand that if an easement
- 12 exists that might diminish the value of the
- 13 property?
- 14 A. I understand that there is a risk of
- 15 diminish in values, yes.
- 16 Q. And if an easement is released that the
- 17 property value might increase? Do you understand
- 18 that?
- 19 A. Yes, it might increase.
- 20 Q. Okay. When is the hunting season in Routt
- 21 County, sir, for elk?
- 22 A. I don't know the specific dates.
- Q. Just approximate if you can.
- A. September through November is an
- 25 approximate.

- 1 Q. So right now it's still hunting season in
- 2 Routt County?
- 3 A. I don't know if there's a hunting season
- 4 open right now.
- 5 Q. Okay. Do you have hunters on Humble Ranch
- 6 now?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Do you hunt?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. When's the last time there were hunters on
- 11 the Humble Ranch as far as you know?
- 12 A. Probably the last hunting season.
- 13 Q. How did that happen that there would have
- 14 been hunters on the Humble Ranch the last hunting
- 15 season?
- 16 A. These would have been hunters accessing
- 17 their access rights to go to the state wildlife
- 18 area.
- 19 Q. So they don't hunt on the Humble Ranch?
- 20 A. They do not hunt on Humble Ranch.
- 21 O. No one is allowed to hunt on Humble Ranch
- 22 except you?
- 23 A. This season nobody was allowed to hunt on
- 24 Humble Ranch.
- Q. For how many years has that been true?

- 1 A. Since we lost our state lease.
- Q. Okay. Is there some reason that kept you
- 3 from being able to allow hunters on Humble Ranch?
- 4 A. Can you say that again.
- 5 Q. It's probably a very bad question. Let me
- 6 try again.
- 7 Why did the loss of the state lands lease
- 8 prompt the conclusion of your trespassers' fee
- 9 program?
- 10 A. It considerably reduced the lands that we
- 11 could offer for hunting.
- 12 O. Okay. Yesterday you attended Mr. Wilson's
- 13 deposition; is that right?
- 14 A. That is correct.
- 15 Q. And in that deposition he was asked some
- 16 questions about signs on the Humble Ranch. Do you
- 17 remember those?
- 18 A. No, I don't.
- 19 Q. Do you -- do you know of any issue that
- 20 exists today respecting signs on the Humble Ranch?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. What is it that you know about that issue?
- 23 A. We have -- Department of Wildlife has put
- 24 signs marking their easement from Routt County 14
- 25 periodically all the way to their state wildlife

- 1 area.
- Q. Okay. And is there some issue that has
- 3 arisen concerning those signs?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 O. These are stakes that have various
- 6 different information imbedded in them; is that
- 7 right?
- 8 A. That's correct. They're not imbedded,
- 9 there are stickers stuck on top of the signs.
- 10 Q. And have some of those been lost --
- 11 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 12 Q. -- or pulled up or anything like that?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. And has there been any survey stakes or
- 15 pins that were removed as far as you know?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 O. In addition, Mr. Wilson was asked about
- 18 some concerns respecting -- or some issue respecting
- 19 the tent camp. Is there an issue about the tent
- 20 camp that's on the Humble Ranch?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. How many easements are there on the Humble
- 23 Ranch property as far as you know?
- 24 A. I don't know.
- 25 Q. I think you've already told me you know

- 1 there's a Department of Wildlife easement, right?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. You also told me there's a conservation
- 4 easement, correct?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. That's the Yampa Valley Land Trust
- 7 conservation easement?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. And there are also two City easements I
- 10 believe you told me; is that right?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. Do you know of any other easements?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. What other easements do you know of?
- 15 A. There are a lot of possible other
- 16 easements for the Elk Lane access to residential
- 17 units --
- 18 O. Okay.
- 19 A. -- across the Humble Ranch. There are
- 20 electrical and utility easements across the ranch.
- Q. Are we talking --
- 22 A. I don't know how many.
- Q. Are we talking about on the Meadows part
- 24 of the ranch, those last two you just described?
- 25 A. That is correct.

- 1 O. All right. What easements haven't you
- 2 told me about that you know of on the Uplands
- 3 portion?
- 4 A. I believe we've talked about them all.
- 5 Q. Are there easements on the Dog Lake
- 6 portion?
- 7 A. There's a power line easement.
- 8 Q. Any other?
- 9 A. There's a conservation easement.
- 10 Q. Any other?
- 11 A. There's a City easement.
- 12 O. Is that a trail easement?
- 13 A. I believe so.
- Q. Okay. Any others?
- 15 A. There may be others I don't know about at
- 16 this point in time.
- 17 Q. What revenue generating activities are you
- 18 engaged in in connection with the Dog Lake property?
- 19 A. This year, none.
- 20 Q. What revenue generating activities have
- 21 you engaged in in the past 10 years?
- 22 A. Those lines, could have been hunting.
- Q. Anything else?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. You don't have any hay operation there?

- 1 A. There is no hay operation.
- Q. No cattle operation there?
- 3 A. Cattle may be there. There have been
- 4 cattle on that piece of property in the last 10
- 5 years.
- Q. Do you have the cattle ownership of your
- 7 own or how is the cattle operation conducted?
- 8 A. We own our own cattle as well as we
- 9 sublease to other ranchers.
- 10 Q. So you lease the -- a pasture to somebody
- 11 for a while? Is that how that works?
- 12 A. That is correct.
- 13 Q. And how many head of cattle does Humble
- 14 Ventures own?
- 15 A. Approximately 50.
- 16 Q. And are there other cattle as to which you
- 17 have some ownership interest?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Do you have a knowledge of how many cattle
- 20 can be supported by the available sustenance on the
- 21 Humble Ranch at one time?
- A. Are we talking the Humble Meadows?
- Q. Sir, I guess I'm trying to make it an
- 24 accumulated issue. If you want to break it up
- 25 that's okay. We can talk just about the Meadows

- 1 first or we can talk about the Meadows.
- 2 A. I would rather talk about the entire ranch
- 3 operation.
- 4 Q. Okay. How many cattle can be sustained at
- 5 one time on the entire ranch?
- 6 A. This year we're running about a hundred
- 7 pair.
- 8 Q. So that's 200 cattle? Or cow and calf, is
- 9 that what you're telling me?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. So it's a cow-calf kind of operation?
- 12 A. That is correct.
- 13 O. Where are most of those animals?
- 14 A. Most of those are on the BLM lands.
- 15 Q. So you actually lease property -- lease
- the ability to graze cattle on the BLM lands too?
- 17 A. That's true.
- 18 O. So to go back to my initial questions, how
- 19 many cattle can the ranch itself sustain at any one
- 20 time?
- 21 A. Between 50 and 200.
- 22 Q. Okay. Now, sir, in connection with the
- 23 easements that exist as far as the City of Steamboat
- 24 Springs is concerned, you understand there are many
- 25 maps that exist that attempt to depict those

- 1 easements; is that right?
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 Q. And you've seen some of those maps in the
- 4 past?
- 5 A. I have.
- 6 Q. All right. See if I can ask you to
- 7 identify something else for me then, sir.
- 8 THE DEPONENT: Tom, can I take a break?
- 9 MR. LYONS: Sure, Mr. Trousil, you can
- 10 take a break whenever you tell me that is your
- 11 desire.
- 12 THE DEPONENT: Thank you.
- 13 (Whereupon, there was a break taken from
- 14 12:11 p.m. to 12:16 p.m.)
- 15 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Sir, I'm going to hand you
- 16 what's been marked for purposes of identification --
- 17 MR. LYONS: I guess we're ready to go
- 18 everybody?
- 19 MR. DEIHL: Yeah.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) I hand you what's been
- 21 marked for purposes of identification as Deposition
- 22 Exhibit M.
- MR. CAMERON: N as in Nancy?
- MR. LYONS: M and as Mary.
- MR. CAMERON: Oh, okay.

- 1 O. (By Mr. Lyons) Sir, I take it you would
- 2 not have seen M before; is that right?
- 3 A. I saw this yesterday.
- 4 Q. Okay. That's the first time you saw it?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And on it it's denoted as having come from
- 7 the Yampa Valley Land Trust at the bottom. Do you
- 8 see that?
- 9 A. I do.
- 10 Q. Okay. Other than having seen it yesterday
- 11 you had no knowledge it existed?
- 12 A. That is correct.
- 13 Q. Can you agree with me that the red box at
- 14 the bottom in the middle of the page on Exhibit M
- 15 appears to connote the Uplands portion of the Humble
- 16 Ranch?
- 17 A. No, that is not accurate.
- 18 Q. But does it appear to intend to connote
- 19 the Uplands portion of the Humble Ranch?
- 20 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 21 question.
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) What does the red box on
- 24 the legend to your left say?
- 25 A. The red box on the legend says YVLT CE's.

- 1 O. Oh, I see. So conservation easement. Is
- 2 that what you take it to mean?
- 3 A. I would assume that's correct, although
- 4 there's other red boxes on here that are not Humble
- 5 Ranch properties.
- 6 Q. Okay. Well, I was just talking about the
- 7 one in the middle of the page toward the bottom. It
- 8 appears to be a square attached to an oblong. Do
- 9 you see that box?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And you don't think that's in the
- 12 approximate location of the Humble Ranch Uplands
- 13 section?
- 14 A. Well, we have more land that just the
- 15 conservation easement on the Uplands section.
- 16 Q. Okay. So what do you think that means in
- 17 terms of my question, does that appear to connote
- 18 the Uplands portion of the Highlands -- of the
- 19 Humble Ranch?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 22 question.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. Why not?
- 24 A. There's lands missing on this map that are
- 25 not denoted by the red boxlike structures.

- 1 O. Right. And those would be the -- what we
- 2 call the Meadows portion?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Oh, okay. What is missing?
- 5 A. There are lands on the Uplands parcel that
- 6 are not denoted on this map.
- 7 Q. Where are those?
- 8 A. They are to the east of the eastern
- 9 boundary of the two rectangular lines.
- 10 Q. Okay. Why don't you put an X with a
- 11 circle around it there for me to show me what you're
- 12 talking about. Just write on it, that's fine. Now
- 13 that would be the portion of the property that is in
- 14 the limited development part of the Humble Ranch; is
- 15 that right?
- 16 A. That is correct.
- 17 MR. DEIHL: Objection.
- 18 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) You see the yellow lines
- 19 that pass through the two oblongs on that map,
- 20 Exhibit M?
- 21 A. I see more than two lines.
- Q. I said yellow lines, I didn't say two.
- 23 You see the yellow lines there?
- A. I see the yellow lines, yes.
- 25 Q. Do you see the legend on the left-hand

- 1 side indicating something about those?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Okay. Now, what do you understand that
- 4 legend to indicate that those yellow lines are
- 5 supposed to connote?
- 6 A. Well, this is not my map.
- 7 Q. I understand that.
- 8 A. The legend says, "Approximate Location of
- 9 Trail Easements."
- 10 Q. Okay. To your knowledge are those yellow
- 11 lines inside the two red oblong shaped -- or the red
- 12 oblong and square shaped portion of the middle of
- 13 the bottom of that page, are those yellow lines
- 14 approximately reflective of the trail easements
- inside the Uplands portion of the Humble Ranch?
- 16 A. Whose trail easements?
- 17 Q. Any trail easements you know about.
- 18 A. I do not know.
- 19 O. Okay. Let's go back to J. It's
- 20 underneath M. Okay. Back to J?
- 21 A. I am back on to J.
- 22 O. All right. You told me earlier that the
- 23 red line that looks like Morse code you drew on
- 24 Exhibit J was intended to show the Colorado
- 25 Department of Wildlife Easement; is that right?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- Q. On the Uplands portion of the Humble
- 3 Ranch?
- 4 A. That is correct.
- 5 Q. As well as all the way back down through
- 6 the Meadows portion of the Humble Ranch, right?
- 7 A. That is correct.
- 8 Q. Okay. Now, you see on Exhibit M there is
- 9 a similar line that seems to approximate the one
- 10 that you drew, don't you?
- 11 A. The -- there is one yellow line that seems
- 12 to be approximately that same line, yes.
- 13 Q. All right. Would you mark that for me,
- 14 with the pen that I handed you, on M to indicate
- 15 that it is No. 1, just so we know which one we're
- 16 talking about.
- 17 A. Can I clarify that. When I say
- 18 approximate it does not look like this line is
- 19 intersecting or even providing access to the
- 20 Department of Wildlife lands. So there are some
- 21 discrepancies in this map, that's Map M.
- Q. Okay. That's fine. You just did.
- 23 A. Okay.
- Q. Would you just mark No. 1 as the one
- 25 that's approximately the same as the one you marked

- 1 on Exhibit J with the red Morse code line.
- 2 A. Using the digit No. 1, is that --
- 3 Q. That would be fine. Sure. The digit
- 4 would be fine. Or however you'd like to do it. If
- 5 you want to write the letter or something else,
- 6 that's fine. How about if you circle it and put a
- 7 balloon arrow like you've done on Exhibit J just so
- 8 we know which one you're talking about. Wonderful.
- 9 All right.
- Now, on Exhibit J there is no line that
- 11 appears to be to the west of the one you just marked
- 12 as an easement indicator; is that right?
- 13 A. That is correct.
- 14 Q. All right. Would you draw for me on
- 15 Exhibit J any City of Steamboat Springs easements
- 16 that you know exist on the Humble Ranch Uplands
- 17 property.
- 18 MR. DEIHL: I'm going to object to this
- 19 exercise if you're asking the witness from memory to
- 20 estimate where the Steamboat easements run.
- MR. LYONS: Well, you can object. That's
- 22 fine. You did.
- MR. DEIHL: I am.
- 24 A. Can you give me those instructions again.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Sure. Just draw for me

- 1 on J the approximate location of any City of
- 2 Steamboat Springs easements you know exist on the
- 3 Uplands portion of the Humble Ranch.
- 4 A. I don't feel comfortable drawing easements
- 5 on a map without any other information.
- 6 Q. What other information do you need?
- 7 A. I would like to look at the exhibit that
- 8 those easements are tied to.
- 9 Q. Okay. Well, what exhibit would that be,
- 10 sir? You mean the easements themselves? What do
- 11 you want?
- 12 A. There's a document that was conveyed to
- 13 the City that has those easements drawn on it.
- Q. Are you talking about Exhibit A-2 to the
- 15 easement called the Two-track Trail Easement?
- 16 A. I don't know the exhibit number.
- 17 O. All right. Well, let's look at what's
- 18 been marked for purposes of identification as
- 19 Deposition Exhibit D, sir. Let's get identified
- 20 what Exhibit D is, if you could tell me first, sir.
- 21 A. Exhibit D is the Grant of Trail Easement,
- 22 also known as Primitive Mountain Easement, Two-Track
- 23 Trail.
- O. This is the same exhibit that was marked
- 25 yesterday as Deposition Exhibit 4 for Mr. Wilson's

- 1 deposition, as well as Deposition Exhibit 4 for
- 2 Ms. Dorsey's deposition, as well as Exhibit 5 to the
- 3 amended complaint in this lawsuit. Is that all
- 4 right, as far as you know?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. Did you sign Exhibit D?
- 7 A. Yes, I did.
- 8 O. When?
- 9 A. The notary indicates I signed this on the
- 10 10th of May, 1999.
- 11 O. Is that true?
- 12 A. I would assume so.
- Q. Do you have any reason to doubt you signed
- 14 it on that date?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Do you have any reason to doubt that you
- 17 signed it?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Can you tell me, why did you sign it?
- 20 A. I agreed to the terms and conditions
- 21 within this document.
- Q. Okay. And this was the grant of an
- 23 easement to the City of Steamboat Springs; am I
- 24 right?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 O. And sir, let's turn now to -- did you find
- 2 in the Exhibit D the document that you were talking
- 3 about that had been previously identified as Exhibit
- 4 A-2 to Exhibit D, second to the last page I think it
- 5 is?
- 6 A. Yes, I have.
- 7 Q. Is that what you were asking me to show
- 8 you in order to be able to help me with Exhibit J?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And can you now do what I asked; that is,
- 11 to write on Exhibit J what you believe to be the
- 12 approximate locations of the easement which was
- 13 called the Primitive Mountain Easement granted to
- 14 the City of Steamboat Springs in 1999?
- 15 A. I don't feel comfortable transposing it,
- 16 but I can give you an approximate drawing.
- 17 O. That would be just exactly fine with me,
- 18 sir. I want to know what you understand to be the
- 19 situation. So as best you can if you can draw that
- 20 on there for me, I would appreciate it.
- 21 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 22 question.
- A. What do you mean by situation?
- 24 O. (By Mr. Lyons) The easement situation on
- 25 the Uplands portion of the Humble Ranch. I would

- 1 like you to draw on the map that is Exhibit J what
- 2 you believe to be the location of the Primitive
- 3 Mountain Easement on that Uplands portion of the
- 4 Humble Ranch.
- 5 MR. DEIHL: Same objection.
- 6 MR. LYONS: Okay.
- 7 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. Now, it looks like
- 8 you made three lines kind of in the shape of an
- 9 upside down T; is that right?
- 10 A. Those are my approximation lines, yes.
- 11 O. Okay. And let's start with the furthest
- 12 west line that runs towards the east. What's that
- 13 supposed to connote?
- 14 A. That is supposed to connote Section --
- 15 Segment 3 on Exhibit A-2.
- 16 Q. Okay. And then the one that runs from
- 17 south to north just to the west of what you just
- described as Section 3, what's that supposed to
- 19 connote?
- 20 A. That is supposed to connote No. 4.
- 21 Segment 4.
- 0. Of the easement?
- 23 A. Of the easement.
- Q. Described in Exhibit D?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Okay. And then what's the line that runs
- 2 from Segment 4, which you just described, to the
- 3 east towards your Morse code red line on Exhibit J?
- 4 A. That is a depiction of Segment No. 2.
- 5 Q. Okay. So, let's do this. I'm a little
- 6 confused by D that's why I wanted you to go through
- 7 this exercise with me. I don't want to draw it as D
- 8 is drawn because I don't think that it makes for
- 9 something that we can even understand. So I wonder
- 10 if you would just number on J for me, write the
- 11 number with a little balloon like you did on the
- 12 rest of the map, 2, 4, and I think 3 was the other
- 13 number you used, just to show me which one is which
- 14 from your point of view.
- Now, we're going to get confused about
- 16 which number is intended to apply to which line, so
- 17 could you mark which number applies to which line
- 18 for me somehow. There we go. That would be great.
- 19 Lovely.
- Now, from my understanding, sir, there are
- 21 other segments to the City's easements that you
- 22 haven't marked on Exhibit J; is that right? For
- 23 example, there's a segment on the Dog Lake section
- 24 called I think Segment 6, right?
- 25 A. That is correct.

- 1 Q. Could you put your approximation on
- 2 Exhibit J of the City's easement on the Dog Lake
- 3 portion which is called Segment 6.
- 4 And would you mark it again as you did the
- 5 others to show which one that is with a little arrow
- 6 again. Sorry to trouble you. Thank you, sir.
- 7 All right. Now, where are 1 and I guess
- 8 it's 5 of the City's easement segments on the Upland
- 9 portion of the Humble Ranch, sir? Could you locate
- 10 those for me, sir, with a line.
- 11 Q. So for 1 and 5 what you've marked is
- 12 actually coterminous with your Morse code red line
- of the CDOW easement; is that right?
- 14 A. Could you define coterminous.
- 15 Q. Sure. It's on top of or the same as the
- 16 CDOW Access Easement line that you drew?
- 17 A. That is correct.
- 18 O. Okay. And that's how you understand this,
- 19 that the CDOW easement is in the same piece of
- 20 earth, if you will, as is the City of Steamboat
- 21 Springs easement on the Upland portion of the Humble
- 22 Ranch?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. Oh, it's not on the same piece of earth?
- A. Well, are you referring to 1 and 5 only?

- 1 O. Yes.
- 2 A. There are other easements up there that
- 3 are not coterminous with the DOW property.
- 4 Q. Okay. Well, we'll talk about just 1 and 5
- 5 as being coterminous. Is that your understanding?
- 6 A. That is my understanding.
- 7 Q. And 1 actually extends all the way out to
- 8 the county road; isn't that right?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 O. Okay. Where does 1 extend to?
- 11 A. Well, if I'm looking at Exhibit A-2, 1 is
- 12 -- I mean, this document speaks for itself that 1 is
- 13 defined as it is on Exhibit A-2.
- Q. So it's the easterly boundary of the
- 15 Uplands portion of the Humble Ranch?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Well, you're going to have to help me out
- 18 then, sir, because I don't know if I understand what
- 19 you understand to be the east end of Segment 1 of
- 20 the City's easement?
- 21 A. I see Section 1 being close to this
- 22 vertical line here which does not match out to the
- 23 eastern boundary of the Humble Uplands parcel.
- 24 O. So it's disconnected from the Elk Lane
- 25 Trail and the CDOW easement there?

- 1 A. No, it's not disconnected. You said that
- 2 it's at one -- stops at the edge of this property.
- 3 According to this map, it does not.
- 4 Q. Oh, it goes further than the edge of the
- 5 property?
- 6 A. I'm looking at this exhibit.
- 7 Q. Well, I'm trying to figure out what you're
- 8 saying and I'm sorry to be dense about it, sir.
- 9 Would it help to look at the next page,
- 10 Exhibit A-3 on Exhibit D? Does that give you
- 11 further information about where Segment 1 of the
- 12 City's easement described in Exhibit D ends and the
- 13 eastern end.
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Okay. So, there are -- there's also a
- 16 second City easement called the Elk Lane and Elk
- 17 Lane Trail Easement; is that right?
- 18 A. That is correct.
- 19 Q. All right. Hand you what's been marked
- 20 for purposes of identification as Deposition
- 21 Exhibit E and ask if you would please examine that
- 22 document. When you have, let me know, sir.
- 23 A. Can you ask your question, I was looking
- 24 at the document. I'm sorry, I didn't hear what you
- 25 said.

- 1 Q. Let me know when you've had a chance to
- 2 look at it.
- 3 A. I have had a chance to look at it.
- 4 O. What is Exhibit E?
- 5 A. Exhibit E is the Grant of Trail Easement,
- 6 Elk Lane and Elk Lane Trail.
- 7 Q. And this pertains, again, to the Humble
- 8 Ranch; does it not?
- 9 A. That is correct.
- 10 Q. Did you sign Exhibit E?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And when did you do that?
- 13 A. The notary indicates that I signed it on
- 14 the 10th of May 1999.
- 15 Q. Is that when you signed it as far as you
- 16 know?
- 17 A. I believe so.
- 18 Q. Why did you sign it?
- 19 A. I accepted the terms and conditions within
- 20 this document.
- 21 Q. And you understood in connection with both
- 22 D and E that you were giving something that was
- owned by Humble Ventures, LLC to the City of
- 24 Steamboat Springs; is that right?
- 25 A. That is correct.

- 2 A. Well, I think the document speaks for
- 3 itself.
- 4 Q. So you understood you were giving a trail
- 5 easement to the City of Steamboat Springs in D and
- 6 E?
- 7 A. That is correct.
- 8 Q. All right. What part of Exhibit J
- 9 connotes the easement granted by you in Exhibit E?
- 10 A. I -- I -- what part of Exhibit J?
- 11 O. What on Exhibit J connotes the easement
- 12 that you granted in Exhibit E?
- 13 A. Well, the Exhibit E has a legal
- 14 description named Exhibit A, and that is what is
- 15 conveyed. I don't know what this legal description
- 16 on Exhibit A and how that relates to Exhibit J.
- 17 Q. So you don't know that anything on
- 18 Exhibit J that already exists in terms of describing
- 19 the Colorado Division of Wildlife Access Easement is
- 20 coterminous with Exhibit E's grant of easement to
- 21 the City of Steamboat Springs?
- 22 A. I believe it's coterminous. I don't know
- 23 where it starts and stops based on this legal
- 24 description.
- Q. Okay. So is it fair to me -- is it fair

- 1 for me to assume that you think the red line you
- 2 drew in the Morse code fashion through the Meadows
- 3 portion of the Humble Ranch and continuing all the
- 4 way up to the Emerald Mountain State Wildlife Area
- 5 more or less depicts the same ground as is covered
- 6 by Exhibits D and E?
- 7 A. Can you ask that question again. I'm
- 8 sorry, I'm getting confused with all the exhibits
- 9 here. Can you ask that question again.
- 10 MR. LYONS: Actually, let's have her
- 11 reread it. Would you mind.
- 12 (Whereupon, the last question was read by
- 13 the reporter.)
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) And I'll modify it by
- eliminating Segments 4, 3, 2 and 6.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. And just to make sure I understand,
- 18 Segments 4, 3 and 2, as you've depicted on Exhibit J
- 19 and are described in part in Exhibit D, have never
- 20 been surveyed; is that right?
- 21 A. That is correct.
- 22 Q. Why not?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. You have never set out to survey those,
- 25 correct?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- Q. But you understand the City has the
- 3 ability by virtue of Exhibit D to do that survey,
- 4 correct?
- 5 A. I don't know that.
- 6 Q. Is that an issue you understand exists in
- 7 connection with our litigation that brings us here
- 8 today?
- 9 A. Can you repeat your question.
- 10 Q. Is the issue of a survey any part of the
- 11 litigation that brings us here today, as far as you
- 12 know?
- 13 A. As far as I know, no.
- Q. Okay. Now, on Exhibit J you told me there
- 15 has been a recent change in ownership that brought
- 16 the Bureau of Land Management into ownership of some
- 17 property west of the Uplands portion of the Humble
- 18 Ranch, right?
- 19 A. That is correct.
- 20 O. Is there a closure issue with the BLM that
- 21 you know about?
- MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 23 question.
- A. I don't know what the status is today.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) You understand what I mean

- 1 by closure? Property being closed?
- 2 A. You could help explain that to me.
- 3 Q. I'm just trying to figure out whether
- 4 there's any issue about when the Bureau of Land
- 5 Management allows public access to its property
- 6 during the year.
- 7 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 8 question.
- 9 A. And what is your question again.
- 10 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Do you know that there is
- 11 any issue about when the Bureau of Land Management
- 12 allows access to its property during the course of a
- 13 calendar year?
- 14 A. Issues with whom?
- 15 Q. Anyone.
- 16 A. I'm sure there are issues with people out
- 17 there as to closure dates.
- 18 Q. Do you know of any closure dates the BLM
- 19 has imposed on its property?
- 20 A. I understand it's proposing some closure
- 21 dates.
- Q. What is being proposed, if you know?
- 23 A. I understand that the BLM is proposing the
- 24 same closure dates as the Emerald Mountain State
- 25 Wildlife Area.

- Q. Okay. And what are those? Do you know?
- 2 A. December 1st through June 30th.
- 3 Q. Do you know what the scientific basis for
- 4 that would be?
- 5 A. To whom?
- 6 Q. To anyone.
- 7 A. To be on --
- 8 Q. To anyone. Any scientific basis that you
- 9 know about.
- 10 A. Well, I presume that the state wildlife
- 11 area closures have some scientific basis.
- 12 Q. But you don't know that, you just presume
- 13 so?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. Okay. All right. Hand you what's been
- 16 marked for purposes of identification as Deposition
- 17 Exhibit B, sir, B as in boy.
- 18 MR. LYONS: Sorry, Josh needs one too.
- 19 Sorry.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) What's that?
- 21 A. This is a letter from Humble Ventures, LLC
- 22 to Bruce and Nancy Jarchow.
- Q. Who are they?
- 24 A. Bruce and Nancy Jarchow are residents of
- 25 Dakota Ridge.

- 1 Q. What's Dakota Ridge?
- 2 A. It's a subdivision adjacent to the Humble
- 3 Ranch.
- 4 Q. So these are neighbors?
- 5 A. That is correct.
- 6 Q. All right. And you wrote this letter?
- 7 A. It appears that I did, yes.
- 8 Q. Did you sign it?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And this says Humble Ventures is located
- 11 on a Willow Creek address in Dakota Ridge. Is that
- 12 one that's a residence of yours?
- 13 A. That is correct.
- 14 Q. So this was before the Humble Ranch was
- 15 acquired by you through Humble Ventures, Inc. -- or
- 16 LLC?
- 17 A. Yes, the date of this letter March 12,
- 18 1999, that's prior to our closing of our
- 19 acquisition.
- 20 O. And in this letter you describe what?
- 21 A. I describe everything in the letter.
- 22 Q. But what are you trying to do? What's the
- 23 purpose of the letter?
- A. I don't know what the purpose is.
- Q. Well, it says in the last paragraph that

- 1 "We need your written support." Do you see that?
- 2 In capital letters, right?
- A. I do see that now, yes.
- 4 Q. Why did you need their written support?
- 5 A. As I read that paragraph it says, "We have
- 6 recently applied for a special use permit for the
- 7 handicapped facility and a land preservation
- 8 subdivision to properly fund and operate this
- 9 project. We need your written support. Please
- 10 address your support of the proposal to Andy Baur,
- 11 Routt County Planning, PO Box 773749, Steamboat
- 12 Springs, Colorado 80477."
- 13 Q. Is there anything in this letter that's
- 14 incorrect, sir?
- 15 A. Can you give me a moment to read this.
- 16 Q. Certainly. Take as long as you like, sir.
- 17 A. I believe the letter is correct as
- 18 written.
- 19 Q. Now, did you use a word processor to
- 20 create this letter?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Did you send a letter like this to anyone
- 23 besides Bruce and Nancy Jarchow?
- A. I don't remember. That was 10 years ago.
- 25 Q. So you don't remember that you sent it to

- 1 each of the residents of the Dakota Ridge
- 2 subdivision?
- 3 A. No, I don't remember.
- 4 Q. You don't remember that you sent it to
- 5 anyone else?
- 6 A. I don't remember.
- 7 Q. Okay. Hand you what's been marked for
- 8 purposes of identification as Deposition Exhibit C.
- 9 Sorry, I've got a problem with stapling it looks
- 10 like. I'll have to staple this later. It's got
- 11 three pages and I'll put a paper clip on it for you.
- 12 Take your time and read it, sir, if you
- 13 would.
- MR. CAMERON: I'm sorry, Tom, this is C as
- 15 in cat?
- MR. LYONS: C as in cat. Yes, sir.
- 17 (Whereupon, there was a pause in the
- 18 proceedings at this time.)
- 19 A. Okay. I've read it.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. Do you remember
- 21 having seen this before today, sir?
- 22 A. Yes, I believe I've seen this.
- Q. Okay. This was not written by you, but
- 24 received by you, correct?
- 25 A. It is addressed to me, yes.

- 1 Q. Did you receive it on or about May 13th of
- 2 1999?
- 3 A. I don't know.
- 4 Q. Did you make a promise to the homeowners
- 5 association on behalf of Humble Ventures to locate
- 6 pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle access off of Elk
- 7 Lane?
- 8 A. In relation to this letter?
- 9 Q. No, sir, in relation to the acquisition of
- 10 the Humble Ranch.
- 11 A. I'm assuming that you're quoting a section
- 12 of this.
- Q. Right. It's in the middle of the first
- 14 page.
- 15 A. Okay. Yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. Hand you what's been marked for
- 17 purposes of identification as Deposition Exhibit F.
- 18 F as in Frank. And sir, have you had a chance to
- 19 look at Exhibit F?
- 20 A. I have.
- Q. What is it?
- 22 A. It's a map.
- Q. Who created it?
- 24 A. I don't know.
- Q. And it doesn't -- it doesn't help you to

- 1 see that it has your former residence address on it?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. And you didn't create it?
- 4 A. I don't know. The map is completely
- 5 inaccurate. It's just -- the boundaries are -- are
- 6 wrong.
- 7 Q. Okay. Can you tell me anything else about
- 8 this map?
- 9 A. The property underlayment is not of any
- 10 program that we ever used to map anything. So I
- 11 don't know who created this map.
- 12 Q. Okay. Thank you. I wonder if you would
- 13 take a look for me at Deposition Exhibit G as in
- 14 George. Have you had a chance to look at it, sir?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 O. What is it?
- 17 A. This is a letter from Humble Ventures, LLC
- 18 to Chris Wilson dated June 13th, 2007.
- 19 O. You wrote the letter?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And did anyone help you?
- 22 A. We had help from an attorney.
- Q. Okay. I don't want to ask you anything
- 24 about what help an attorney gave you, so I just want
- 25 to make sure that nobody else besides an attorney

- 1 helped you.
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 Q. So it was you and an attorney?
- 4 A. That is correct.
- 5 Q. When you went to speak to Chris Wilson on
- 6 May 22nd, 2007, did you tell him that you had
- 7 conferred with an attorney regarding any issues
- 8 associated with the easements?
- 9 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 10 question.
- 11 A. Can you ask your question again.
- 12 O. (By Mr. Lyons) Sure. When you went to
- 13 speak with Chris Wilson on May 22nd, 2007, which you
- 14 said you did in your letter, Exhibit G, did you tell
- 15 Mr. Wilson that you had help from an attorney with
- 16 respect to any issues you discussed with Mr. Wilson?
- 17 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 18 question.
- 19 A. I don't think we had help from the
- 20 attorney at the discussions that we had.
- 21 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Did you tell Mr. Wilson
- 22 anything about help from an attorney when you talked
- 23 to Mr. Wilson on May 22nd, 2007?
- 24 A. No, I did not state to Mr. Wilson that I
- 25 had help from an attorney at those discussions.

- 1 O. Okay. Let me see if I can get some
- 2 background here, sir. Now, if I understand
- 3 correctly, from whenever in 1999 you acquired the
- 4 Humble Ranch through Humble Ventures, LLC, until
- 5 sometime in the spring of 2007, were there any
- 6 issues you raised respecting any Steamboat Springs
- 7 trail easement on the Humble Ranch?
- 8 A. Can you say that question again.
- 9 MR. LYONS: Let's ask the reporter to read
- 10 it.
- 11 (Whereupon, the last question was read by
- 12 the reporter.)
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Sometime in the spring of
- 15 2007 some issues arose; am I right? Respecting
- 16 those easements?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Why don't you tell me, how did that come
- 19 to pass? What happened?
- 20 A. What sparked those issues, today I don't
- 21 remember specifically.
- Q. Just tell me anything you do remember.
- 23 A. I remember having two meetings with Chris
- 24 Wilson.
- Q. Okay. Why don't you tell me, when was the

- 1 first?
- 2 A. I don't remember the first meeting prior
- 3 to May 22nd, but it happened that same spring.
- 4 Q. Okay. What happened at that meeting?
- 5 A. We had discussed some issues regarding the
- 6 Steamboat easements and I was trying to understand
- 7 the situation from the City at that time.
- 8 Q. Okay. What had you discussed?
- 9 A. Well, I think we discussed use issues,
- 10 wildlife closure issues and safety issues.
- 11 Q. Now, if I understand you correctly, you're
- 12 describing a meeting that occurred before May 22nd,
- 13 2007?
- 14 A. That is correct.
- 15 Q. Where was that meeting?
- 16 A. In Chris's office.
- 17 O. How long did it last?
- 18 A. I don't know.
- 19 O. Who was in attendance?
- 20 A. Chris Wilson and I.
- 21 Q. Did you generate any kind of writing
- 22 subsequent to the meeting to memorialize what
- 23 happened during the meeting?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. What do you remember the discussion as

- 1 being?
- 2 A. There was concern about wildlife closures,
- 3 there was concern about bicycle safety, there was
- 4 concern about trail construction.
- 5 Q. As best as you can, why don't you tell me
- 6 what did you say regarding wildlife closures?
- 7 A. I asked -- and again, this may be -- we
- 8 had two meetings and there was overlap on the topics
- 9 on both meetings, so there was a meeting prior to
- 10 May 22nd and there was a meeting on May 22nd.
- 11 Q. Fair enough. I understand. I'm trying to
- 12 ask about the first meeting as best you can
- 13 recollect. If you can, segregate anything about
- 14 that meeting from the later meeting.
- 15 A. I'm not able to segregate the two
- 16 meetings.
- 17 O. Okay.
- 18 A. The topics were very similar.
- 19 Q. Who set up the meeting, the first one?
- 20 A. I don't remember.
- Q. Do you know what the catalyst for setting
- 22 up the meeting was?
- 23 A. I don't remember.
- Q. Well, I guess I'm a little bit befuddled
- 25 here, sir. For eight years there had been no

- 1 meeting and now there was one; is that right?
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 O. And you have no reason to understand
- 4 anything about why there would be a meeting eight
- 5 years after the easements were granted?
- 6 A. No, I don't remember what triggered off my
- 7 call or Chris's call to me to have that first
- 8 meeting that spring. I don't remember what event
- 9 triggered that meeting.
- 10 Q. During the eight years preceding that
- 11 first meeting, sir, was the public accessing the
- 12 Uplands portion of the Humble Ranch pursuant to any
- 13 easement?
- 14 A. Yes, the public was accessing the state
- 15 wildlife area over the DOW easements.
- 16 Q. In what volume? How many people were
- 17 involved in doing that access?
- 18 A. I have no idea what the volume was.
- 19 O. Well, it wasn't like walking down the 16th
- 20 Street mall at lunchtime, was it?
- 21 A. No.
- O. And it wasn't no one?
- 23 A. That is correct.
- 24 O. All right. So it's somewhere in between
- 25 thousands and no one, correct?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- 2 Q. And how much closer to no one was it than
- 3 thousands?
- 4 A. Are we talking about on an annual basis?
- 5 Q. Tell me any way you'd like to, sir.
- 6 A. I'm sure it was in excess -- it was
- 7 hundreds per year, if not thousands.
- 8 Q. Okay. Over the whole of the eight years?
- 9 A. Per year.
- 10 Q. Right. But over the whole of the eight
- 11 years?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. It was between hundreds and thousands of
- 14 people?
- 15 A. Of daily users, yes.
- 16 Q. What were they doing? What were those
- 17 people who were visiting doing?
- 18 A. Well, there were hunters accessing the
- 19 state wildlife area.
- 20 O. Okay.
- 21 A. There were people walking and there were
- 22 people riding horses.
- Q. Were those neighbors? People that lived
- 24 in the area?
- 25 A. Yes, they were neighbors and other public

- 1 types.
- Q. Now, if you were going to ride a horse on
- 3 that easement in that eight prior years, how would
- 4 you go about that if you didn't live in the
- 5 neighborhood? Did you have to trailer your horse to
- 6 the parking lot or something?
- 7 A. Yes. People have trailered their horse to
- 8 the state wildlife parking lot and ridden up Elk
- 9 Lane to the state wildlife area.
- 10 O. Thousands of them?
- 11 A. Horses?
- 12 Q. People. People on horseback?
- 13 A. Oh, no, not thousands of people on
- 14 horseback.
- 15 O. Hundreds?
- 16 A. Possibly, yes.
- 17 O. How about walkers? In the course of a
- 18 year give me an estimate of the number of people who
- 19 walked from the state wildlife parking lot onto the
- 20 Department of -- Division of Wildlife's easement up
- 21 to or into the Humble Ranch.
- 22 A. I don't know.
- Q. Okay. And sir, have you ever had occasion
- 24 to interfere with anybody who was accessing the
- 25 Humble Ranch through the Division of Wildlife

- 1 easement?
- 2 A. Can you say that again.
- 3 Q. Did you interfere with anybody accessing
- 4 the Humble Ranch using the Division of Wildlife
- 5 easement, yourself?
- 6 A. I don't recall any incidents.
- 7 Q. Okay. Somewhere I have the understanding
- 8 that there had been an observation by you of
- 9 bicyclists on the private road or in the Humble
- 10 Ranch, somewhere around in the vicinity. Did you
- 11 have observation opportunities of people on bicycles
- during the eight years prior to the spring of 2007
- 13 that you were involved with Humble Ranch?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And were those bicyclists doing anything
- 16 you thought was improper?
- 17 A. We have had bicyclists trespassing, yes.
- 18 O. Okay. And what did you do about that?
- 19 A. We did not -- I personally did not do
- 20 anything.
- 21 Q. Did you call the sheriff about it?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. The sheriff is the law enforcement agency
- in that area, correct?
- 25 A. That is correct.

- 1 Q. Are you aware of anyone else calling the
- 2 sheriff about bicyclists trespassing in the vicinity
- 3 of the Humble Ranch?
- 4 A. I believe other neighbors have called the
- 5 sheriff, yes.
- 6 Q. With what --
- 7 A. But I don't know.
- 8 O. With what result?
- 9 A. I don't know.
- 10 Q. So, you had one meeting with Chris Wilson
- in the spring of 2007 before May 22nd. How long was
- 12 that meeting?
- 13 A. I believe you already asked me that
- 14 question.
- 15 Q. If I did, I'm sorry, I have forgotten the
- 16 answer. Could you repeat it?
- 17 A. I don't remember. It may have been an
- 18 hour.
- 19 Q. Okay. And then there was another meeting
- 20 on May 22nd, right?
- 21 A. That is correct.
- 22 Q. Let's go back to the first one. What did
- 23 Chris Wilson tell you during the first meeting?
- A. Again, I don't remember. I cannot
- 25 differentiate today what those two meetings were

- 1 about.
- Q. Okay. So you don't remember anything
- 3 specific he said during the first meeting; is that
- 4 fair?
- 5 A. Specifically today, no, I don't remember.
- 6 Q. Okay. There was a meeting on May
- 7 the 22nd, 2007?
- 8 A. That is correct.
- 9 O. What was the purpose for the second
- 10 meeting?
- 11 A. The purpose was the same as my first
- 12 meeting on concerns about wildlife closures, safety
- 13 and then trail construction.
- Q. Okay. Why did you need a second meeting?
- 15 A. Because I don't believe we resolved
- 16 anything in our first meeting.
- 17 O. So you had initiated the second meeting?
- 18 A. I don't remember who initiated the second
- 19 meeting.
- Q. Who initiated the first one you don't
- 21 remember either, right?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. Between the first meeting and the second
- 24 meeting how much time passed?
- 25 A. One to three months.

- 1 O. In that interim what did you do in
- 2 relation to the City's easement on the Humble Ranch,
- 3 if anything?
- 4 A. Can you repeat that question.
- 5 O. In the interim between the first meeting
- 6 and the second meeting as we've described them here,
- 7 what did you do in relation to the City easements on
- 8 the Humble Ranch, if anything?
- 9 A. In relation to the City easements we did
- 10 nothing.
- 11 Q. Okay. Then you went to the second
- 12 meeting. Tell me what --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- it was that you remember about the
- 15 second meeting apart from what's in Exhibit G.
- 16 A. I think Exhibit G is a very accurate
- 17 description of what occurred --
- 18 O. I see.
- 19 A. -- in our first -- or those two meetings.
- Q. And that was your intent of writing
- 21 Exhibit G; is that fair?
- MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 23 question.
- A. Can you ask me the question again.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Sure. It was your intent

- 1 in Exhibit G to recite what occurred in the second
- 2 meeting; is that true?
- A. According to the document I say here:
- 4 Based on our conversations it is my understanding
- 5 the City's position can be stated as follows.
- 6 Q. So what you were trying to do is express
- 7 your understanding of the situation?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Okay. Now, the first issue that exists
- 10 here is some issue about closure of easements; is
- 11 that right?
- 12 A. Are you referring to this letter?
- 0. Well, I also am referring to the lawsuit.
- 14 Isn't there an issue about closure of the easements
- 15 associated with the letter and the lawsuit?
- 16 A. That is correct.
- 17 Q. What's the issue, the best you understand
- 18 it?
- 19 A. That the City will not close their
- 20 easements in -- according to the same closure dates
- 21 as the state wildlife area.
- 22 Q. Okay. And what is it that you understand
- 23 makes that an issue?
- 24 A. The impact to wildlife habitat, the --
- 25 it's also that we gave the City a contract that had

- 1 those terms in it and we felt that that contract was
- 2 being violated.
- 3 Q. Okay. What contract are you talking
- 4 about?
- 5 A. I am talking about Exhibit D.
- 6 Q. All right. What page? Are you looking at
- 7 page 2, paragraph 5, sir? Is that the one you're
- 8 talking about?
- 9 A. Thanks for the help.
- 10 O. Sure. I want to make sure we don't waste
- 11 time here, but I also don't want to put words in
- 12 your mouth.
- 13 A. Yes, it's page 2, paragraph 5.
- 14 Q. Okay. Now, please explain to me what is
- 15 your understanding of what page 2, paragraph 5 of
- 16 Exhibit D is intended to do?
- 17 A. Well, I think the contract speaks for
- 18 itself.
- 19 Q. Okay. I'm asking you what you understand,
- 20 not what the contract says.
- 21 A. Well, I agree with what the contract says
- 22 and that is: The City agrees to cooperate with the
- 23 Division of Wildlife with regard to temporary
- 24 closure of the easement due to elk calving, elk
- 25 winter range, hunting and other wildlife safety and

- 1 protection concerns.
- Q. Okay. And in what respect do you think
- 3 that matters to you?
- 4 A. We want to protect wildlife habitat.
- 6 A. In accordance -- Humble Ventures would
- 7 like to protect wildlife habitat in -- according to
- 8 DOW standards.
- 9 Q. Okay. What are the DOW standards? What
- 10 are you talking about?
- 11 A. Today I'm talking about the state wildlife
- 12 area, Emerald Mountain State Wildlife Area.
- Q. And what are the standards that apply
- 14 there? What standards are you talking about?
- 15 A. The standards of wildlife closure. We're
- 16 specifically talking about wildlife closures.
- 17 Q. What is your understanding of the
- 18 situation from the point of view of the Colorado
- 19 Division of Wildlife?
- 20 A. Say that again.
- 21 Q. What's your understanding of the
- 22 circumstances on the Emerald Mountain State Wildlife
- 23 Area respecting closure from the standpoint of the
- 24 Division of Wildlife?
- 25 A. The Division of Wildlife closes its access

- 1 and its property from December 1st through
- 2 June 30th.
- 3 Q. Based on what?
- 4 A. Based on protecting elk calving, elk
- 5 winter range and -- and other wildlife habitat.
- 6 Q. Do you have any knowledge of the
- 7 scientific justification the Division of Wildlife
- 8 has for its closure decisions?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Have you spoken with anyone from the
- 11 Division of Wildlife about the closure of the
- 12 Emerald Mountain State Wildlife Area?
- 13 A. I'm sure I have, I just don't remember the
- 14 specific conversation.
- 15 Q. Have you had any conversation with them
- 16 about what dates apply?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Have you had --
- 19 A. Not -- not of recent memory.
- Q. How many elk live on the Humble Ranch,
- 21 sir?
- MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 23 question.
- 24 A. It depends on what you define as the
- 25 Humble Ranch.

- 1 O. (By Mr. Lyons) However you'd like to
- 2 define it. How many elk live on Humble Ranch as far
- 3 as you know?
- 4 A. We consider that elk have a range and they
- 5 move on and off the property.
- 6 Q. Uh-huh.
- 7 A. We estimate that there might be 300 or so
- 8 elk on the Emerald Mountain area which is very
- 9 speculative.
- 10 Q. Okay. Now, I've seen elk all over the
- 11 vicinity there personally, sir, haven't you?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. And you've seen elk on the golf course
- 14 nearby, right?
- 15 A. I have not seen elk on the golf course.
- 16 Q. Okay. Have you seen elk anywhere other
- 17 than in an area where there are no people?
- 18 A. Have I seen elk where?
- 19 Q. Where there are people.
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Where?
- 22 A. Estes Park.
- Q. And you've seen them in your own
- 24 neighborhood, haven't you?
- 25 A. That is correct.

- 1 Q. And there are people around there, right?
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 Q. So it isn't true that people and elk can't
- 4 co-exist, is there?
- 5 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 6 question.
- 7 A. I wouldn't agree.
- 8 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Oh, I see. You think
- 9 people and elk cannot co-exist?
- 10 A. I think that wildlife habitat is required
- 11 for elk calving purposes. I have not seen an elk
- 12 calve in a residential neighborhood.
- Q. Okay. Is that the only limitation on
- 14 co-existence you recognize?
- 15 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 16 question.
- 17 O. (By Mr. Lyons) Between people and elk?
- 18 A. I think elk have moved through residential
- 19 areas to go from one point to the other, yes.
- 20 Q. Okay. So just to make sure I understand
- 21 your position completely, sir, and I want to give
- 22 you every opportunity to articulate it, it's your
- 23 position that if the Division of Wildlife says this
- 24 easement is closed, that is a compulsory obligation
- of the City of Steamboat Springs, correct?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- Q. And that is your position based upon
- 3 paragraph 5 of Exhibit D as we've examined it today,
- 4 page 2, right?
- 5 A. That is correct.
- 6 Q. It isn't based on anything else?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. All right. Let's see. The second issue
- 9 here -- and this is what you've told Mr. Wilson,
- 10 right, about your position respecting closure?
- 11 A. That is right.
- 12 Q. And according to your understanding, the
- 13 City told you they had no intention -- or Mr. Wilson
- 14 told you they have no intention of cooperating or
- 15 honoring CDOW closures, right?
- 16 A. That's what I state in my letter, yes.
- 17 Q. That's a quotation from Mr. Wilson; is
- 18 that what you said?
- 19 A. I did not quote it, no.
- 20 O. So this is a paraphrase?
- 21 A. That is correct.
- Q. Well, what did he say?
- 23 A. I don't know specifically what he said.
- Q. You can't put any words in his mouth; is
- 25 that right?

- 1 A. A year and a half later, no.
- Q. Well, you didn't do it June 13th, 2007
- 3 either, did you?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. Is it fair to say you were attempting to
- 6 synthesize what was told to you?
- 7 A. No.
- Q. Okay. Well, what were you attempting to
- 9 do in writing Exhibit G?
- 10 A. It is to state the City's position.
- 11 Q. So this is your understanding of the
- 12 City's position? Is that what you're saying?
- 13 A. That is correct.
- 14 Q. It's not a quote, right?
- 15 A. That is correct.
- 16 Q. You didn't tape the conversation?
- 17 A. That is correct.
- 18 O. Let's look at No. 2 on Exhibit G --
- 19 paragraph No. 2 on Exhibit G. Here we're talking
- 20 about what trails are open, right?
- 21 A. Are you referring to City trails?
- Q. Well, I'm reading what you've put here on
- 23 paragraph No. 2 on the first page of Exhibit G in
- 24 front of you there, where you say: We also
- 25 discussed the other trails outside the Agate Creek

- 1 Corridor, in particular Primitive Mountain Easements
- 2 1 through 6 as referred to in the easement. That's
- 3 what I was asking about, but if I'm unclear just say
- 4 so.
- 5 A. You are correct.
- 6 Q. Okay. So, now we're on to a subject other
- 7 than what the CDOW does, right?
- 8 A. That is correct.
- 9 Q. And now we're on to the subject of what
- 10 trails are open pursuant to the City's easements
- 11 apart from what the Division of Wildlife says,
- 12 right?
- 13 A. Right.
- Q. What's the issue?
- 15 A. The issue is, as stated here I believe,
- 16 under the easement I believe I defined the easement
- 17 as what you referred to as Exhibit D, that unless
- 18 the community cabin exists the City has no access
- 19 rights.
- Q. Okay. So let's make sure we get as clear
- 21 as we can get here, sir. One of the things you say
- 22 in that paragraph 2 is that trails -- you're talking
- 23 about trails outside the Agate Creek Corridor.
- 24 Which ones are those? And you can refer to
- 25 Exhibit J or whatever you need to to tell me which

- 1 trails are outside the Agate Creek Corridor.
- 2 A. The trails outside of Agate Creek Corridor
- 3 are 2, 3 and 4.
- 4 Q. Okay. So those are the ones that are
- 5 unsurveyed, right?
- 6 A. That is correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. And just to make sure I know what
- 8 we're doing here, Agate Creek is a creek that runs
- 9 through the property; is that correct?
- 10 A. It is a perennial creek, yes, that runs
- 11 through the property.
- 12 Q. As opposed to an annual creek,
- 13 intermittent creek?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Let's make sure we get that figured
- 16 out here. Hand you what's been marked for purposes
- 17 of identification as Deposition Exhibit K as in
- 18 Katherine.
- 19 Did you see this one yesterday as well,
- 20 sir?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Was that the first time you saw Exhibit K?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And you understand that it's a Yampa
- 25 Valley Land Trust aerial photograph that's been

- 1 marked with a red oblong and boxes again like we
- 2 talked about with respect to Exhibit M earlier?
- A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And it appears to depict, to me at least,
- 5 the Humble Ranch Upland section; is that right?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Oh, it's not. Okay. What's wrong with
- 8 that in terms of being a depiction of the Humble
- 9 Ranch Upland section?
- 10 A. Again, this does not include all of our
- 11 lands on the Upland section.
- 12 Q. Okay. So it doesn't include the 600-odd
- 13 acres to the east as far as the red boxes are
- 14 concerned?
- 15 A. Parts of that, yes. I don't think -- I
- 16 don't know if these lines are -- how accurate these
- 17 lines are --
- 18 Q. In relation to your property line?
- 19 A. In relation to our property lines.
- 20 Q. Sorry. So if it's approximate we
- 21 understand that. Does it look topographically to be
- 22 like the Humble Ranch Uplands area as far as you
- 23 know?
- 24 A. I don't know topographic lines on this
- 25 map.

- 1 0. I understand that, but have you had the
- 2 opportunity to be on Humble Ranch Upland section?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And you've seen it physically?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Have you seen it from the air?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. So you don't have any idea whether this
- 9 does or doesn't show anything from the air that
- 10 actually is on the ground there?
- 11 A. This looks like it is a representation of
- 12 our property on the Uplands, yes.
- Q. Okay. On K, can you mark for me, where is
- 14 your residence?
- 15 A. It's not on this map.
- 16 Q. All right. And can you mark for me where
- 17 is the tent camp. Can you put TC inside that circle
- 18 for me -- or outside the circle, that's fine. That
- 19 -- actually you can see a little clearing there,
- 20 right?
- 21 A. That is correct.
- 22 Q. Does that mean to you that this photograph
- 23 was taken after the tent camp was created?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. It doesn't appear to be that the camp is

- 1 there?
- 2 A. I can't tell.
- 3 Q. But there is a clearing there, right?
- 4 A. There is a clearing there.
- 5 Q. All right. And would you mark for me the
- 6 Agate Creek Corridor that you talked about in
- 7 Exhibit G as being the trails -- as being the Agate
- 8 Creek Corridor Trail?
- 9 A. What am I marking?
- 10 Q. I'd just like you to show me where is the
- 11 Agate Creek Corridor Trail, that's what I'm
- 12 interested in, if you can show me. I don't want you
- 13 to draw a whole line but if you can give me an idea
- 14 of where it is. So it's kind of a lightened area
- 15 that runs from north to south as I look at it, you
- 16 can see as though --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. It says though there is actually something
- 19 that has a lot of the vegetation to be diminished
- 20 enough so that you can see kind of a line running
- 21 down the map; is that right?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And that's because there is in fact a road
- 24 there, an old two-track road?
- 25 A. No, I believe that what you see on this

- 1 map is the creek.
- Q. Oh, I see. You can't see the actual
- 3 two-track road?
- 4 A. I don't see it.
- 5 Q. Okay. Now, sir, I think earlier we asked
- 6 about other roads in this Uplands area. There are
- 7 other roads in this area besides that along the
- 8 Agate Creek Corridor; isn't that right?
- 9 A. That is correct.
- 10 O. And there are ranch roads that have been
- 11 there historically for a long time?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. And they are roads that you still use
- 14 today on the property, right?
- 15 A. That is correct.
- Q. And how many are there, different roads,
- 17 as far as you know?
- 18 A. I don't know.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- A. We have a lot.
- 21 Q. All right. So when you were talking in
- 22 Exhibit G about trails outside the Agate Creek
- 23 Corridor you were actually describing those, I think
- 24 you said, were to the west of the Agate Creek
- 25 Corridor and you earlier marked them on Exhibit J as

- 1 4, 3 and 2, correct?
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 Q. And just to make sure I understand as best
- 4 I can your circumstances here, those trails, as far
- 5 as you are concerned, are closed and have been
- 6 closed since you acquired the Uplands portion of the
- 7 Humble Ranch; is that right?
- 8 A. That is correct.
- 9 Q. And the reason they are closed is?
- 10 A. The reason they are closed is because of
- 11 the terms and conditions in Exhibit D.
- 12 Q. Which term and condition specifically are
- 13 you referencing, sir?
- 14 A. Anything that refers to Sections 2, 3 and
- 15 4, and perhaps there are other conditions in here as
- 16 well.
- 17 O. Well, let's look at that then.
- 18 A. Okay.
- 19 Q. Let's look at paragraph 7 of page 3. Do
- 20 you see that one?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. That one says that: Notwithstanding the
- 23 foregoing, the City agrees that the -- Segments 1, 2
- 24 and 4, that there should be no public use until
- 25 there's a public trail connecting the northerly

- 1 terminus -- I'm paraphrasing, I understand -- of
- 2 Primitive Mountain Easement 4, and provides a public
- 3 outlet other than back through Elk Lane Easement; is
- 4 that right?
- 5 A. That's what the paraphrased statement
- 6 says, yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. And Segment 4 is the one you marked
- 8 on Exhibit J?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. And as far as you know has there been some
- 11 sort of an outlet created there for the public to
- 12 use to leave besides turning around and retracing
- 13 their steps through the ranch?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. And in so far as you are concerned then,
- 16 that's one of the barriers to the public access; is
- 17 that right?
- 18 A. That is correct.
- 19 O. And then do you understand that there is a
- 20 plan afoot to create that outlet?
- 21 A. I do not know any specifics on that plan.
- 22 Q. But you never mention that in connection
- 23 with paragraph 2 on Exhibit G, do you?
- A. You've lost me here. I'm not sure what
- 25 you're referring to.

- 1 Q. Well, you didn't mention that there is
- 2 some northerly terminus outlet needed in order to
- 3 have the public access Segment 4 when you're writing
- 4 Exhibit G, paragraph 2?
- 5 A. That is correct.
- 6 Q. Okay. All you write about there is a
- 7 cabin, right?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. All right. Why didn't you talk about
- 10 paragraph 7 of Exhibit D in paragraph 2 of
- 11 Exhibit G?
- 12 A. Can you -- I'm sorry can you state that
- 13 question again.
- Q. Sure. Why didn't you talk about paragraph
- 15 7 of Exhibit D when you wrote paragraph 2 of
- 16 Exhibit G?
- 17 A. I don't know.
- 18 O. Okay.
- 19 THE DEPONENT: Can I take a break?
- 20 MR. LYONS: Sure. Whenever you wish,
- 21 that's fine.
- 22 (Whereupon, there was a break taken from
- 23 1:28 p.m. to 1:39 p.m.)
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. Mr. Trousil, are
- 25 you ready to go back to work?

- 1 A. I am. Thank you.
- Q. Let's go back to Exhibit G. Now, my
- 3 understanding is that somehow there's a cabin issue
- 4 here. I'd like you to tell me what you have as your
- 5 understanding of a cabin issue in this lawsuit.
- 6 A. Well, the -- Exhibit D states there are
- 7 requirements of the City by which a cabin is a
- 8 contingency.
- 9 Q. Okay. And where is that? In paragraph 8
- 10 on page 3?
- 11 A. Well, paragraph 8 is -- yes, that's where
- 12 it talks about the cabin.
- 13 Q. Okay. What's the contingency? What needs
- 14 to be done?
- 15 A. Well, as paragraph 8 states -- and again,
- 16 I signed this document accepting the terms and
- 17 conditions, paragraph 8 says: Notwithstanding the
- 18 foregoing, the City agrees and covenants with Humble
- 19 that no public use of Primitive Mountain Easements
- 20 1, 2 and 3 shall be permitted until such time as a
- 21 community wilderness cabin is constructed at the
- 22 westerly terminus of Primitive Mountain Easement 3.
- Q. Okay. That's what it says?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. What do you understand that means?

- 1 A. I think the document speaks for itself.
- 2 Q. So you don't have any external
- 3 understanding?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 O. Okay. Is there a cabin?
- б A. No.
- 7 Q. Where is the cabin to be?
- 8 A. At the westerly terminus of Primitive
- 9 Mountain Easement 3.
- 10 Q. Show me on J if you wouldn't mind, sir.
- 11 Could you mark that for me. Where is the westerly
- 12 terminus of Primitive Mountain Easement?
- 13 A. Well, I would rather not use J since it's
- 14 a hand drawn estimate of easements.
- 15 Q. Well, I understand it's approximate, I'm
- 16 just trying to figure out as best I could in any way
- 17 approximately where it is.
- 18 A. Would you like me to mark --
- 19 O. Sure. Just do something to show us that's
- 20 where you think, approximately, the cabin is
- 21 supposed to be according to what it says in
- 22 paragraph 8 of Exhibit D.
- 23 You drew a large circle there; is that
- 24 right?
- 25 A. That's right.

- 1 Q. Encompassing the number 3 that you wrote
- 2 on there and almost touching the number 4; is that
- 3 right?
- 4 A. Well, you suggested an approximate
- 5 location, so I'm being safe.
- 6 Q. Okay. Now, Primitive Mountain Easement
- 7 Segments 3 and 4 are not -- do they have any
- 8 relationship to anything on the topography of the
- 9 ranch as far as you know? Are there old roads there
- 10 or --
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. -- drainages or anything that would
- 13 connote where they are to be located?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. So they could be about wherever once the
- 16 survey got done?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 O. That's one of the reasons for your
- 19 approximation concerns?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. Okay. And in so far as the cabin is
- 22 concerned what steps have you taken, if any, in
- 23 relation to the creation of a wilderness cabin?
- A. We have reserved a cabin right in our
- 25 conservation easement.

- 1 Q. Okay. Any other steps?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 O. Okay. Now, let's talk -- make sure I
- 4 understand the issue with the conservation easement.
- 5 The conservation easement is to prevent, basically,
- 6 development on the property, right?
- 7 A. That is correct.
- 8 O. And yet there are some things that the
- 9 conservation easement allows, right?
- 10 A. That is correct.
- 11 Q. Like continued ranching?
- 12 A. I don't -- I would have to take a look and
- 13 make sure that's in there, but I would assume that
- 14 it is.
- 15 Q. Well, since you've been ranching and
- 16 nobody's called you on it, seems to me kind of
- 17 reasonable that that would be true?
- 18 A. That would be a reasonable assumption,
- 19 yes.
- 20 O. Okay. And in order to be able to have
- 21 this cabin we've been talking about just now, there
- 22 needed to be a reservation of a right to the owner
- 23 of the property in connection with the conservation
- 24 easement so that a cabin could be constructed in the
- 25 future, right?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- Q. And that was reserved to the Humble
- 3 Ventures, LLC in the conservation easement, right?
- 4 A. Can you please restate that question
- 5 again.
- 6 Q. The ability of Humble Ventures, LLC to
- 7 build a cabin on the property, that's called the
- 8 Upland portion of the Humble Ranch, was reserved in
- 9 the conservation easement?
- 10 A. That is correct.
- 11 Q. And that's different than the tent camp
- 12 we've talked about earlier today, right?
- 13 A. That is correct.
- Q. And there's a reservation for the tent
- 15 camp in the conservation easement, right?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 O. There's not?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 O. Okay. Why not? If you know.
- 20 A. There is no reservation of tent camp in
- 21 the conservation easement.
- Q. Well, you intended to have a tent camp
- 23 when you bought the property, didn't you?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. Well, I guess I'm a little puzzled then.

- 1 I have to ask you to give me a little information
- 2 about an exhibit we already talked about. Let's go
- 3 back to Exhibit B. Do you have that, B as in boy.
- 4 It's the letter to the Jarchows. There it is. Got
- 5 Exhibit B?
- 6 A. I do have Exhibit B.
- 7 Q. All right. Your first paragraph numbered
- 8 there on the letter you wrote on March the 12th,
- 9 1999, that certainly indicated that you were going
- 10 to create a visitation facility for physically
- 11 handicapped children on the Humble Ranch, didn't it?
- 12 A. That is correct.
- 13 Q. So you knew there would be some kind of an
- 14 entity such as the one that actually ended up being
- 15 created on Humble Ranch, right?
- MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 17 question.
- 18 A. Yeah, I don't understand the question.
- 19 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Well, before you owned the
- 20 property through Humble Ventures, LLC you knew there
- 21 would be some kind of a facility on the property for
- 22 physically handicapped children, right?
- 23 A. The facility is the main ranch, and that
- 24 is what is alluded to in the visitation facility in
- 25 this letter.

- 1 Q. I see. So the tent camp was a later,
- 2 what, vision? Notion? Thought?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. Okay. It just came up later on?
- 5 A. That is correct.
- 6 Q. Did you have any kind of conversation with
- 7 the folks from the Yampa Valley Land Trust about the
- 8 tent camp being created on that easement protected
- 9 property?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. You just did it?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 13 Q. Okay. And so far as the cabin is
- 14 concerned, sir, where did the cabin notion first
- 15 come from? If you know.
- 16 A. I believe it was my wife and I's idea.
- 17 Q. To create a camp?
- 18 A. Well, to reserve a site for a cabin, yes.
- 19 Q. Well, and to indicate the existence of a
- 20 cabin was contemplated in paragraph 8 of Exhibit D
- 21 as well, right?
- 22 A. Exhibit D?
- 23 Q. Yeah, that's the Primitive Mountain Trail
- 24 Easement.
- 25 A. Exhibit D, let me make sure that I'm --

- 1 yes.
- Q. Okay. So you certainly understood then in
- 3 1999 that the creation of a wilderness cabin was
- 4 contemplated, right?
- 5 A. That is correct.
- 6 Q. And yet there is no cabin --
- 7 A. That is correct.
- 8 Q. -- today, nine years, almost ten years
- 9 later?
- 10 A. That is correct.
- 11 Q. Why not?
- 12 A. We haven't built one.
- 13 Q. Why not?
- 14 A. I don't know.
- 15 Q. You have no plans to build one either, is
- 16 my understanding; is that right?
- 17 A. That is correct.
- 18 O. You don't intend to build one now, right?
- 19 A. We do not intend to build one now, no.
- 20 O. So as a result then you consider there to
- 21 be no means by which paragraph 8 of Exhibit D will
- 22 ever be satisfied by you?
- MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 24 question.
- 25 A. That is not true.

- 1 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. Well, how are you
- 2 going to satisfy any obligation that exists on your
- 3 part, or Humble Ventures, LLC, pursuant to
- 4 paragraph 8 of Exhibit D?
- 5 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 6 question.
- 7 A. Can you ask me the question again.
- 8 MR. LYONS: I'll have her read it again.
- 9 (Whereupon, the last question was read by
- 10 the reporter.)
- 11 A. I don't think we have an obligation to
- 12 build a cabin.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) okay. You recognize the
- 14 difference between rights and obligations, don't
- 15 you?
- 16 A. I don't know.
- 17 Q. You don't recognize any difference between
- 18 rights and obligations?
- MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 20 question.
- 21 A. Say your question again.
- 22 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Do you recognize any
- 23 difference between rights and obligations?
- A. Well, you can reserve a right.
- 25 O. Correct.

- 1 A. We reserved a right in the conservation
- 2 easement.
- Q. Correct. Okay. And yet you have no
- 4 obligation to build a community wilderness cabin?
- 5 Is that what you're telling me?
- 6 A. In the conservation easement we do not
- 7 have an obligation to build a wilderness cabin.
- 8 O. Well, how about in Exhibit D?
- 9 A. In Exhibit D we do not have an obligation
- 10 to build a community cabin.
- 11 Q. Why not?
- 12 A. It's not in the document.
- 13 Q. So, in other words, mention of the
- 14 community wilderness cabin there was intended by you
- 15 to be inducing somebody else to contract with you,
- 16 but you never intended to do it; is that right?
- 17 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 18 question.
- 19 A. I don't understand your question.
- 20 O. (By Mr. Lyons) Why did you include in
- 21 paragraph 8 the existence of a community wilderness
- 22 cabin as a condition on anything?
- 23 A. We reserved a right to build a community
- 24 cabin in the conservation easement.
- 25 Q. Right.

- 1 A. We facilitated access to that cabin in
- 2 Section 8 should there be a cabin constructed.
- Q. Well, that's not what it says, sir. It
- 4 says: Shall be permitted until such time as
- 5 community wilderness cabin is constructed. That's
- 6 in the affirmative obligation statement sense as far
- 7 as I read it. Do you disagree?
- 8 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 9 question.
- 10 A. I disagree.
- 11 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. Why?
- 12 A. I think the statement speaks for itself.
- 13 Q. You don't want to build a cabin, do you,
- 14 sir?
- 15 A. That's not true.
- 16 Q. When are you going to build the cabin?
- 17 A. I don't know.
- 18 Q. What has kept you from building a cabin to
- 19 date?
- 20 A. There could be issues of finance, money,
- 21 timing.
- Q. Well, what's the finance issue, sir?
- A. A cabin costs money to build.
- O. How much?
- 25 A. I don't know.

- 1 O. You don't know, so you don't know if it
- 2 costs any money to --
- 3 A. It costs a lot of money to build any real
- 4 estate structure.
- 5 Q. Well, how much? You don't know?
- 6 A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. What's the money issue then if there's a
- 8 difference between the finance issue and the money
- 9 issue? What's the difference?
- 10 A. We are not ready to spend money on a
- 11 community cabin today.
- 12 Q. Did you ask anyone else to spend money on
- 13 that?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Yet you did ask for public support to
- 16 acquire the ranch, right? In the form --
- 17 MR. DEIHL: Object to the --
- 18 O. (By Mr. Lyons) -- of the \$950,000 from
- 19 the GOCO fund, right?
- 20 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 21 question.
- 22 A. Can you restate your question.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Why? What's wrong with
- 24 it? You don't understand it?
- 25 A. I don't understand your question.

- 1 MR. LYONS: All right. Let's read it
- 2 again.
- 3 (Whereupon, the record on page 119, lines
- 4 15 through 19 was read by the reporter.)
- 5 THE DEPONENT: Can you read that again,
- 6 please.
- 7 (Whereupon, the record on page 119, lines
- 8 15 through 19 was read by the reporter.)
- 9 A. I don't understand the question.
- 10 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Did you take \$950,000 as a
- 11 contribution to the necessary payment that led to
- 12 the ownership of the Humble Ranch by Humble
- 13 Ventures, LLC?
- MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 15 question.
- 16 A. We sold a conservation easement to GOCO
- 17 for \$950,000.
- 18 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) So you took that money,
- 19 right?
- 20 A. That money was delivered at closing.
- Q. To facilitate your acquisition of the
- 22 Humble Ranch, right?
- 23 A. That money was taken from the sale of a
- 24 conservation easement.
- Q. Which generated the revenue necessary to

- 1 allow your entity to acquire the Humble Ranch,
- 2 correct?
- 3 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 4 question.
- 5 A. We sold the conservation easement to GOCO
- 6 for \$950,000. That \$950,000 was credited at closing
- 7 to our account.
- 8 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. But you have turned
- 9 to no one and asked no one for money to build a
- 10 community cabin; is that right?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. In the whole 10 years since you acquired
- 13 the Humble Ranch?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. You've taken no other step to create the
- 16 cabin described in paragraph 8 of Exhibit D?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. Okay. In so far as I understand you, you
- 19 have no obligation to create the cabin?
- 20 A. That is correct.
- 21 Q. Ever?
- 22 A. That is correct.
- Q. And when you signed Exhibit D you
- 24 recognize no obligation to create the cabin
- 25 described in paragraph 8?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- Q. Who did you tell that to?
- 3 A. I don't understand your question.
- 4 Q. Did you tell anyone you did not have any
- 5 obligation to create the cabin described in
- 6 paragraph 8 of Exhibit D, ever?
- 7 A. I don't remember. That was 10 years ago.
- 8 Q. Well, you just told me that. Have you
- 9 told anybody between then and now besides me?
- 10 A. I am sure I discussed that with our
- 11 attorneys.
- 12 Q. Anyone else?
- 13 A. I don't remember anybody else.
- 14 Q. So if anyone else had the idea that you
- 15 would build a wilderness cabin on the Humble Ranch
- 16 over the course of the past 10 years they were
- 17 mistaken about your intentions, right?
- 18 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 19 question.
- 20 A. Can you restate your question again.
- 21 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) If anyone else had any
- 22 expectation that you were going to build a cabin on
- 23 the Humble Ranch over the course of the last 10
- 24 years they would be mistaken about your intent?
- MR. DEIHL: Same objection.

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) And if there were anyone
- 3 who testified that you made any commitment to
- 4 building a community wilderness cabin on the Humble
- 5 Ranch, in the course of the transaction that led to
- 6 the ownership of the Humble Ranch property by Humble
- 7 Ventures, LLC, they would be lying; is that right?
- 8 A. I don't know.
- 9 Q. Okay. All right. Let's see here. Let's
- 10 -- oh, I'm sorry, I guess we didn't finish with G.
- 11 Do you still have Exhibit G in front of you, sir?
- 12 Let me just synthesize the cabin issue as
- 13 best I can. There's no right in the City of
- 14 Steamboat Springs as far as you're concerned --
- 15 A. I'm sorry, you asked me if I had G in
- 16 front of me. So I was going to answer that question
- 17 and, yes, I have G in front of me.
- 18 Q. Okay. And just to make sure I have a
- 19 clear understanding of your position, sir, and your
- 20 testimony today, there is no right on the part of
- 21 anybody to build any cabin on the Humble Ranch but
- 22 Humble Ventures, LLC?
- 23 A. That is correct.
- Q. And there is no right on the part of
- 25 anybody to ask Humble Ventures to build any cabin?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- Q. And as far as you are concerned then, that
- 3 could be something that will never happen, forever,
- 4 right?
- 5 A. I don't know.
- 6 Q. Well, you have no current intent of ever
- 7 building any cabin is what I understood. Is that
- 8 wrong?
- 9 A. We don't have any intent this year to
- 10 build a cabin, or next year. So there is no current
- 11 intent, that is correct.
- 12 Q. And just to make sure I understand, you
- 13 said before that you were concerned that there were
- 14 -- there is money as an object of -- or an obstacle
- 15 to building the cabin, and is there any other
- 16 obstacle to building a cabin?
- 17 A. There could be other obstacles that I am
- 18 unaware of today.
- 19 Q. Okay. Now, you did build a residence on
- 20 the Meadows -- or the -- what is it -- would you
- 21 call it the Meadows portion of the Humble Ranch?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. You did build a residence there, right?
- 24 A. That is correct.
- 25 Q. And you went through the City -- or the

- 1 County planning process to get that done, right?
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 Q. Did you have any obstacles about that?
- 4 A. Not that I can remember.
- 5 Q. Okay. So if you get to testify in
- 6 connection with the cabin issue in front of Judge
- 7 O'Hara in this lawsuit, would you tell him anything
- 8 about the cabin issue that I haven't yet heard you
- 9 tell me today?
- 10 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 11 question.
- 12 A. I don't know.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Do you have any intention
- 14 to telling him something you haven't told me today?
- 15 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 16 question.
- 17 A. I don't know.
- 18 O. (By Mr. Lyons) As you're sitting here
- 19 right now you don't know if you intend to tell Judge
- 20 O'Hara anything you haven't told me yet?
- 21 MR. DEIHL: Same objection.
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. Same question
- 24 though, let's ask that, about the closure issue.
- 25 Would you like Judge O'Hara to know anything you

- 1 haven't told me yet about the closure issue on the
- 2 elk question in connection with the Humble Ranch?
- 3 A. I don't know.
- 4 Q. Okay. Now, you, in Exhibit G, address
- 5 also a safety issue. What's that? That's paragraph
- 6 No. 3 on page 2.
- 7 A. I think that refers to the -- it states
- 8 here -- the easement states that: The City agrees
- 9 to address and enforce safety issues regarding the
- 10 passage of bicycles, and the City will restrict or
- 11 regulate bicycle access if such use poses a hazard
- 12 to equestrian and pedestrian traffic.
- Q. Well, that's a paraphrase, right, what you
- 14 just read?
- 15 A. Well, that's the actual words that are on
- 16 this letter.
- 17 Q. But it's a paraphrase of the easement,
- 18 correct?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 O. Okay. Let's look at Exhibit D then. What
- 21 language in Exhibit D did you intend to reference in
- 22 paragraph 3 of Exhibit G?
- 23 A. Did you say we're on Exhibit D; is that --
- 24 finally found it.
- 25 Q. Okay. Where is it?

- 1 A. It's section 5 on page 2.
- Q. All right. So your paraphrase of
- 3 Exhibit G, paragraph 3, is actually an attempt to
- 4 recite what's at paragraph 5 of Exhibit D, correct?
- 5 A. That is correct.
- 6 Q. All right. What is the issue, sir?
- 7 A. Well, we have an agreement, Exhibit D --
- Q. Uh-huh.
- 9 A. -- that has this reservation in it, this
- 10 requirement of the City, and that is to restrict or
- 11 regulate bicycle access if such use poses a hazard.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. I think that speaks for itself.
- 14 Q. So is it your position that any bicycle
- 15 use is a hazard?
- 16 A. Where?
- 17 O. Anywhere.
- 18 A. Well, I don't know about everywhere. This
- 19 specific document relates to the Humble Ranch lands.
- 20 O. Okay. So any bicycle use poses a hazard
- 21 on the Humble Ranch land? Is that what you're
- 22 telling me?
- 23 A. I'm saying -- this document says that
- 24 bicycle use on the easements poses a hazard by the
- 25 public -- public bicycle use poses a hazard, yes.

- 1 Q. Why?
- 2 A. Well, there's concern of safety that
- 3 bicycles descending down through Agate Creek Trail
- 4 will be a safety hazard to pedestrian and equestrian
- 5 traffic on that same trail.
- 6 Q. So why doesn't this say just no bicycles?
- 7 A. Well, it doesn't.
- 8 Q. It doesn't say no bicycles, I understand
- 9 that. Why not?
- 10 A. I don't know.
- 11 Q. Well, did you help write these easements,
- 12 sir?
- 13 A. I'm sure we had input in writing the
- 14 easements, yes.
- Q. Who's we. I'm sorry, I don't understand
- 16 "we"?
- 17 A. I'm sorry. My attorney and I.
- 18 O. There were drafts, right?
- 19 A. There were drafts.
- 20 O. How many?
- 21 A. I have no idea.
- Q. Did any ask that there be a ban on
- 23 bicycles?
- A. We asked if we could ban bicycles from
- 25 this easement.

- 1 Q. And what were you told?
- 2 A. The City asked that they would like to
- 3 include bicycles in this easement.
- 4 Q. And so the word "bicycle" does appear in
- 5 the easement, right?
- 6 A. It does.
- 7 Q. In multiple places?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And that's true of the other easement as
- 10 well, right? The easement described as -- here as
- 11 Deposition Exhibit E, I think it is. I've got to
- 12 find that one.
- 13 A. That is correct.
- 14 Q. In fact, it's the same language in both,
- right, or essentially the same language in both?
- 16 It's paragraph 6, page 2.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. In fact, the language about closure and
- 19 the language about bicycles in paragraph 6, page 2
- 20 of Exhibit E is repeated exactly word for word in
- 21 paragraph 5, page 2 of Exhibit D, right?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. So this was a process that unfolded
- 24 where the language was negotiated, right?
- 25 A. That is correct.

- 1 Q. Okay. So did you have any expectation as
- 2 the result of the language that was created in
- 3 Exhibit D or in Exhibit E of there being no bicycles
- 4 on any easement granted to the City of Steamboat
- 5 respecting any Humble Ranch property?
- 6 A. Can you say that question again?
- 7 (Whereupon, the last question was read by
- 8 the reporter.)
- 9 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 10 question.
- 11 A. We didn't have expectations, we had great
- 12 concerns even at that time about bicycles being on
- 13 the property and that's why we put the clause of
- 14 safety into this document.
- 15 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Uh-huh.
- 16 A. Both documents.
- 17 Q. What part of any City easement is open
- 18 today, as far as you know, as to D or E?
- 19 A. You are referring to Exhibits D and E, I
- 20 don't think they are referring to segments in here.
- 21 Q. The segments are numbered, I understand.
- 22 A. I believe the City easements are closed.
- Q. All of them?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. For every use at all?

- 1 A. That -- that would be my understanding
- 2 today, yes.
- 3 Q. Okay. And what's the basis of the
- 4 understanding?
- 5 A. Well, I think if you go through these
- 6 documents and look at the reservations and the
- 7 conditions, I don't think there are conditions that
- 8 would allow any of the segments to be open today.
- 9 Q. Okay. What's the barrier to opening
- 10 Segment -- well, Easement E? What's the barrier to
- 11 opening Easement E?
- 12 A. Well, a barrier is the entire document.
- 13 The document is -- you have to read the entire thing
- 14 to understand what you refer to as a barrier.
- 15 Q. Right. So that's what I'm trying to find
- 16 out from you. What's your understanding? I don't
- 17 care if you have to read the whole thing, I
- 18 understand that this is existent and we don't need
- 19 to read it again, but I'm just asking you what
- 20 barriers are there? What does the City have to do
- 21 to open an easement as with respect to Exhibit E?
- MR. CAMERON: And Tom, just to clarify,
- 23 that's the Elk Lane --
- MR. LYONS: Yes.
- 25 MR. CAMERON: -- Easement, Exhibit E.

- 1 MR. LYONS: Elk Lane and Elk Lane Trail
- 2 Easement.
- 3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.
- 4 A. Some of the conditions on Segment E would
- 5 be the -- the agreement to cooperate with the
- 6 Division of Wildlife with regard to temporary
- 7 closure of Elk Lane Trail Easement. I don't know if
- 8 the City has agreed to cooperate with the Division
- 9 of Wildlife or not.
- 10 Q. Uh-huh. Anything else?
- 11 A. If there is vegetation to be removed, I
- 12 have not seen any written notice of that --
- 13 O. Uh-huh.
- 14 A. -- pursuant to construction.
- 15 Q. Anything else?
- 16 A. I don't know if the City has agreed and
- 17 addressed safety issues regarding the passage of
- 18 bicycles on the Elk Lane Trail.
- 19 Q. What do they have to do to do that, sir?
- 20 A. I don't know. I don't have -- it's not
- 21 specified in this document the checklist.
- 22 O. So --
- 23 A. But there is an agreement for them to
- 24 address and enforce safety issues.
- Q. Just like there is in Exhibit D, right?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- Q. So what I'm asking you is what do you
- 3 expect? What do you want them to do?
- 4 A. I don't think they should use bikes.
- 5 Q. Okay. So if they don't ban bikes you
- 6 think they can't open the easement; is that right?
- 7 That's your position?
- 8 A. Can you say that question again.
- 9 Q. If the City doesn't ban bikes, from your
- 10 view, they cannot open the easement; is that
- 11 correct?
- 12 A. You've got a double negative going on.
- 13 Can you restate that question. Doesn't ban --
- 14 Q. If the City allows any bicycles to be on
- 15 the Elk Lane Trail they cannot open the Elk Lane
- 16 Trail?
- 17 A. No, I think it's a safety issue.
- 18 O. So now we have three double negatives
- 19 working. Let's see if we can figure that out.
- 20 As far as you are concerned, any bike
- 21 usage of the Elk Lane Trail must be banned if the
- 22 trail is to open?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And as far as you're concerned
- 25 despite the fact that the trail is opened today as

- 1 regards to the Colorado Division of Wildlife
- 2 Easement, it's closed as to the City?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. Because they haven't, what, in relation to
- 5 the Division of Wildlife? What do they have to do?
- 6 A. Well, we would like to see them agree to
- 7 the same closures as the state wildlife area.
- 8 Q. Well, I understand what you may like them
- 9 to do. What I'm trying to ask you is what are they
- 10 obliged to do in your estimation under Exhibit D and
- 11 E relative to the closures of the area imposed or
- 12 expected by the Division of Wildlife?
- 13 A. It is my -- back up. The City must close
- 14 its easements from December 1st through June 30th,
- 15 which are the same dates as the state wildlife area
- 16 is closed.
- 17 Q. That's required by their easement
- 18 according to you; is that right?
- 19 A. That's required, yes, in the City's
- 20 easement by me.
- 21 Q. Okay. Now, sir, do you agree with me that
- 22 the Division of Wildlife can change the dates of
- 23 closure any time they wish to?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 O. And that that would mean that whatever

- 1 dates there were would be the dates that apply with
- 2 respect to their easement?
- A. Yes.
- 4 Q. The Division of Wildlife's easement,
- 5 right?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And they could drop the whole idea of
- 8 closure, right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Their easement allows them to do that,
- 11 right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 O. Their easement came to them from the Trust
- 14 for Public Lands, right? Not from you?
- 15 A. I don't know.
- 16 Q. Okay. And if the Division of Wildlife
- 17 agrees to allow bicycles on their easement you can't
- 18 stop that, can you?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 O. How do you know that?
- 21 A. Well, the Division of Wildlife does not
- 22 have the same restrictions as the City easement
- 23 does.
- Q. Would you look at paragraph 2 of Exhibit E
- 25 for me, the first sentence there.

- 1 A. Okay.
- 2 Q. Now, my reading of that first sentence and
- 3 the second sentence there gives me the understanding
- 4 that bicycles are an expected user -- bicyclists are
- 5 expected users of the easement described in
- 6 Exhibit E. Why am I wrong?
- 7 A. Well, you're reading one sentence of a
- 8 whole document.
- 9 Q. In other words, you have to read the whole
- 10 document. Is that what you're telling me?
- 11 A. The document speaks for itself.
- 12 Q. I see. Okay. But you don't consider
- anything but a ban on bicycles as compelled by
- 14 Exhibit E according to what you told me before,
- 15 right?
- MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 17 question.
- 18 A. Say that again.
- 19 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) You don't consider
- 20 anything but a ban on bicycles -- bicyclists on this
- 21 easement described in Exhibit E as conforming to the
- 22 requirements of Exhibit E? That's what you told me,
- 23 isn't it?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. So you'll just ignore whatever bicycle

- 1 ingress and egress as described in paragraph 2 of
- 2 Exhibit E --
- 3 MR. DEIHL: Object to form.
- 4 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) -- to do so, right?
- 5 MR. DEIHL: Go ahead and answer. I just
- 6 wanted to get my objection on the record.
- 7 A. I believe the document speaks for itself.
- 8 The entire document not just one sentence.
- 9 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Well, actually that's two
- 10 sentences.
- 11 A. Not just two sentences.
- 12 Q. Okay. Let's see where we're at then. Got
- 13 to go to -- where did that go. Let's look at
- 14 Exhibit H, if you will, sir. Do you recognize
- 15 Exhibit H, sir?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Do you want to take the chance and read it
- 18 and let me know when you have had that chance.
- 19 A. I've looked at it.
- Q. Okay. Did you receive this letter?
- 21 A. Yes, I have.
- 22 Q. All right. What did you understand it to
- 23 be?
- 24 A. I understand that this letter was a letter
- 25 written by Chris Wilson that was a response to my

- 1 letter dated June 13th, 2007, which is your
- 2 Exhibit G.
- 3 Q. What was your reaction on your receipt of
- 4 Exhibit H?
- 5 A. Well, I think that our June 13th letter
- 6 was pretty darn accurate.
- 7 Q. So you disagreed with what Mr. Wilson put
- 8 in his letter, Exhibit H?
- 9 A. I'm sorry, can you say your question
- 10 again.
- 11 Q. You disagreed with what Mr. Wilson put in
- 12 his letter, Exhibit H?
- 13 A. Yes, I disagree with the first sentence,
- 14 it seems to be highlighted --
- 15 Q. Uh-huh.
- 16 A. -- and the definition of cooperate.
- 17 O. Okay.
- 18 A. I agree that the City was going to go
- 19 ahead with its plans unless we -- unless we stopped
- 20 them through a lawsuit. I mean, obviously there are
- 21 disagreements between my letter and Chris's
- 22 response.
- Q. Okay. What did you do in response to
- 24 Mr. Wilson's letter?
- 25 A. Well, there was already a lawsuit filed

- 1 prior to us receiving this letter.
- Q. Okay.
- 3 A. So we were in court action at that point
- 4 in time.
- 5 O. So besides the fact there was a lawsuit in
- 6 effect what did you do in reaction to Exhibit H?
- 7 A. Well, I think that we stated our -- we
- 8 restated our legal positions in our lawsuit.
- 9 Q. Before you had Exhibit H, right?
- 10 A. Say it again.
- 11 Q. You restated your positions in your
- 12 lawsuit before you had Exhibit H?
- 13 A. Yeah. Okay. I correct myself. We stated
- 14 our positions in our lawsuit and then we received
- 15 Chris's letter.
- 16 Q. Okay. I wonder if you'll take a look at
- 17 Exhibit I for me. Now, Exhibit I was earlier
- 18 identified as part of Exhibit D, remember? It's the
- 19 second to the last page of Exhibit D, isn't it?
- 20 A. Let me check.
- 21 Q. Sure.
- 22 A. Yes, it appears that they are identical.
- Q. If I remember correctly you have no idea
- 24 who did anything to create Exhibit A -- or
- 25 Exhibit I?

Page 140 1 That is correct. Α. 2 Ο. You didn't write on it yourself? No. 3 Α. 4 Q. Ever? 5 Α. No. 6 Q. And you don't know who did? 7 Α. No. 8 Ο. Okay. 9 MR. LYONS: What -- how are we doing on We can go off the record. 10 (Whereupon, there was a discussion held 11 12 off the record and a break was taken from 2:23 p.m. 13 to 2:54 p.m.) (By Mr. Lyons) Sir, when the transaction 14 15 was occurring that generated Exhibit E and Exhibit D, who were you talking to besides your 16 17 attorneys? 18 Can you give me the exhibit. I didn't Α. understand the first --19 20 D and E, Exhibits D and E in front of you 21 when the transaction was occurring, that those were created, who were you talking with about those, 22 23 other than your attorneys?

You have no recollection of any

I don't remember.

24

25

Α.

Ο.

- 1 conversation with anybody in that time frame prior
- 2 to May of -- of 1999 regarding anything contained in
- 3 E and D?
- 4 A. That was 10 years, I don't remember. It
- 5 was a very complicated deal and there were a lot of
- 6 things going on, so I don't remember.
- 7 Q. So you don't have any recollection of ever
- 8 talking about the community cabin with anybody at
- 9 that time frame?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. You don't have any recollection of ever
- 12 talking with anybody about a bicycle use issue at
- 13 that time frame?
- 14 A. Can you ask your question again.
- 15 Q. You have no recollection --
- 16 A. No, I do not have any recollection.
- 17 Q. -- of bicycle use being discussed by you
- 18 and some other person during that time frame?
- 19 A. No, I don't.
- 20 Q. And you have no recollection of discussing
- 21 any cooperation with the Division of Wildlife with
- 22 any person in that time frame?
- A. Well, I do -- now, we're referring to D
- 24 and E, we're not referring to --
- 25 Q. Right, D and E.

- 1 A. D and E, no. You know, we did talk to the
- 2 Division of Wildlife and give them their easements
- 3 during that time frame, and I remember those
- 4 discussions with them.
- 5 Q. What do you remember of those discussions?
- A. Well, we negotiated the easements to the
- 7 Division of Wildlife. I believe Mr. Cameron was
- 8 part of that process.
- 9 Q. Did you discuss with the Division of
- 10 Wildlife their closure of the easement that was
- 11 granted to the Division of Wildlife?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Do you have any recollection of discussing
- 14 any closure issues during 1999 in connection with
- 15 the Division of Wildlife Easement D or E?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. And do you know of anyone who was a
- 18 witness to any discussion about the intent of D and
- 19 E apart from yourself and your lawyers?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Does Segment E as you have seen it on I
- 22 here or you drew it on J, does Segment E extend to
- 23 the boundary of the Humble Ranch?
- A. What segment?
- 25 Q. Three, I'm sorry. Three. Does it extend

- 1 to the western boundary of the Humble Ranch?
- 2 A. Looking at Exhibit I, I can't tell.
- 3 O. You don't know?
- 4 A. I don't know.
- 5 Q. Okay. And explain to me, sir, if there is
- 6 no community cabin why are Segments 1 and 5 closed?
- 7 A. As it refers to the City easements?
- 8 O. Uh-huh.
- 9 A. I believe there's a condition of 1, 2 and
- 10 3 being closed.
- 11 Q. Okay. Is that the only reason?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. If there were a connection existed
- 14 to the BLM property at the northerly terminus of
- 15 Segment 4, would Segment 4 of the City easement be
- 16 open?
- 17 A. This is a hypothetical question?
- 18 Q. I'm talking about in a practical sense
- 19 from your point of view.
- 20 A. Would Segment --
- 21 Q. -- 4 --
- 22 A. -- 4 be open if there was a --
- 23 Q. -- connection into the BLM property as is
- 24 described in Exhibit D?
- A. Well, the No. 7 in the Exhibit D states:

- 1 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the City agrees and
- 2 covenants with Humble that no public use of
- 3 Primitive Mountain Easements 1, 2 and 4 shall be
- 4 permitted until such time as there is a public trail
- 5 which connects with the northerly terminus of
- 6 Primitive Mountain Easement 4 and provides a public
- 7 outlet other than back out through the Elk Lane
- 8 Easement.
- 9 Q. So what do you think that means to you?
- 10 A. For --
- 11 Q. For Segment 4.
- 12 A. Based on that one thing, 4 would be open.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. Unless there are other conditions in this
- 15 document that supersede that.
- 16 O. Which are?
- 17 A. I said unless there are.
- 18 O. Okay. Is 31500 Cattle Drive on the ranch?
- 19 That address?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. It's on the Meadows portion we've talked
- 22 about today?
- 23 A. Yes.
- O. Okay. Are there other residences there?
- 25 I didn't understand why that had an address, I

- 1 guess. Can you tell me?
- 2 A. 31500 is the address of our main ranch
- 3 compound.
- 4 Q. Right. But is there -- are there other
- 5 places that have addresses on Cattle Drive?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. It's a part of something, some road that
- 8 already exists in the ranch, is that --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. So are there other residences inside that?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 O. What other residences are there?
- 13 A. There's our residence.
- Q. And 31500 is not your residence?
- 15 A. No, our residence is 31400.
- 16 Q. I see. So 500 is a different building?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. And the post office has given it a
- 19 separate address?
- 20 A. The county -- Routt County has given it a
- 21 separate address.
- Q. Okay. Now, it's not your intention in
- 23 connection with this lawsuit or anything else to
- 24 deny public access to the Humble Ranch, is it?
- 25 A. What do you mean deny to the Humble Ranch?

- 1 O. I said, it is not your intention, is it,
- 2 to deny public access to the Humble Ranch as a
- 3 result of this lawsuit?
- 4 A. I don't understand what you mean to the
- 5 Humble Ranch. I mean the Humble Ranch is three
- 6 pieces of land, and when you say "to" are you
- 7 talking to the property boundaries or are you
- 8 talking through the properties? I don't understand.
- 9 Q. Well, I was thinking about it in the sense
- of allowing the public onto the ground, the earth
- 11 that is the Humble Ranch. Is it your intention to
- deny the public the opportunity to be on the ground
- 13 inside the boundaries of the Humble Ranch in the
- 14 context of this lawsuit?
- 15 A. Well, the Humble Ranch is private property
- 16 owned by Humble Ventures.
- 17 O. I'm asking about your intent, sir. Is it
- 18 your intent in the context of this lawsuit to deny
- 19 the public access to the ground within the
- 20 boundaries of the Humble Ranch?
- 21 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 22 question.
- 23 A. I don't understand the question.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) So you can't answer it?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 O. Okay. Are you engaged in any kind of
- 2 discussions with the Bureau of Land Management
- 3 respecting any property of the Humble Ranch and the
- 4 Bureau of Land Management at the present?
- 5 THE DEPONENT: Can you reread that
- 6 question back to me, please.
- 7 MR. LYONS: Sure.
- 8 (Whereupon, the last question was read by
- 9 the reporter.)
- 10 A. Yes, we are. We are in continuous
- 11 discussion regarding our agricultural lease rights
- 12 with the BLM, grazing densities, grazing reviews.
- 13 They would like to know how it's going.
- Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Are you discussing any
- 15 other subjects with the Bureau of Land Management
- 16 personnel at the present?
- 17 A. At the present, no.
- 18 Q. Are you discussing any access issue
- 19 respecting the Humble Ranch with the BLM?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Are you discussing any closure issues with
- 22 the BLM? That is, closure of access?
- A. Today we are not discussing that. We do
- 24 have ongoing, as I discussed, discussions with the
- 25 BLM.

- 1 O. Okay. You understand that the easements
- 2 that are described in Exhibit D and E that you
- 3 granted were held for the benefit of the -- or held
- 4 by the City for the benefit of the public, right?
- 5 A. Well, it doesn't say that here.
- 6 Q. Okay. So you don't think that's true?
- 7 A. I don't know if it's true.
- 8 Q. So if you alleged it in the complaint
- 9 that's false?
- 10 A. I don't know.
- 11 Q. Paragraph 33 of the amended complaint, as
- 12 I read it, says: Both the Primitive Mountain
- 13 Easement and the Elk Lane Trail Easement are engross
- 14 and are held by the City for the benefit of the
- 15 public subject to restrictions and the limitations
- 16 contained in them. You don't know whether that's
- 17 true or not?
- 18 A. I don't know if it's true or not.
- 19 O. What's the public benefit at the present
- 20 of the easements that are described in D and E?
- 21 A. Well, the public benefit is that if
- 22 certain conditions are met within these two
- 23 documents there's entitlement to access.
- Q. According to what you've told me today, at
- least with respect to Segments 1, 2 and 3, because

- 1 there will never be a cabin built, the public will
- 2 never benefit from those easements; is that right?
- MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 4 question.
- 5 A. I don't think that I said never. But on
- 6 the other hand, if you look at Segment 6 the public
- 7 could benefit to Segment 6 without a community cabin
- 8 being in place.
- 9 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) But not without banning
- 10 bicycles, right?
- 11 A. Six is not a -- is a -- 6 is a piece of
- 12 land that follows the topographic line. There isn't
- 13 the ability to descend quickly down into a
- 14 pedestrian or equestrian user.
- 15 Q. So in other words, paragraph 5 of
- 16 Exhibit D is not applicable in terms of your
- 17 understanding of what posing a hazard means on
- 18 Segment 6; is that right?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. So the only public benefit that could be
- 21 derived of Exhibit D, the easement, Exhibit D, is
- 22 that if someone did so, they could -- wish to do so
- 23 they could open Segment 6; is that right?
- 24 A. Under the -- if they -- if they -- there
- 25 are other conditions on Segment 6 that must be met.

- 1 So yeah, if all the conditions for Segment 6 to be
- 2 opened are met, then yes.
- Q. I see. Well, sir, if I were a taxpayer,
- 4 which I am, and I asked you what is it that the
- 5 taxpayers gain by these easements that you granted
- 6 to the City, what would you tell me?
- 7 A. I think that the taxpayers have an
- 8 opportunity to access parts of the ranch if certain
- 9 conditions are met.
- 10 Q. To your satisfaction?
- 11 A. Well, to my satisfaction of the conditions
- 12 that are in the instruments, yes.
- Q. Right. But you, of course, understand
- 14 that the City disagrees with your conditions and
- 15 meeting them in the terms that you've described
- 16 today, right?
- 17 A. I understand that.
- 18 O. Okay. And, sir, I want to be as fair to
- 19 you as I possibly can be here, so here's what I
- 20 would like you to tell me. What haven't you told me
- 21 that I should know about your position respecting
- 22 this litigation?
- 23 MR. DEIHL: Object to the form of the
- 24 question.
- 25 A. Can you repeat the question.

- 1 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) What haven't you told me
- 2 today that I should know about your position
- 3 respecting this litigation?
- 4 A. I don't know.
- 5 Q. You can't think of anything?
- 6 A. No, I cannot think of anything.
- 7 Q. All right. Well, sir, one of the things
- 8 about discovery in connection with litigation is
- 9 that there's an obligation on the part of the
- 10 participants in litigation, described in the rules
- 11 for litigation, to supplement their discovery
- 12 responses, and in connection with my deposition of
- 13 you here today I request that you fulfill that
- 14 obligation to any extent you can supplement any
- 15 response you've given me to any question today,
- 16 okay?
- 17 A. Okay.
- 18 O. And additional to that, sir, do you want
- 19 to change any answer you've given me today at this
- 20 point?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. And you've understood throughout our
- 23 discussion today in my questions of you and your
- 24 responses that you've been under oath, right?
- 25 A. I do.

- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 MR. LYONS: With that I'm going to let
- 3 Mr. Marks have a chance. Do you want to sit over
- 4 here, Josh?
- 5 MR. MARKS: Yeah, I think it will be
- 6 easier.
- 7 MR. LYONS: Thank you very much for your
- 8 indulgence today, sir.
- 9 THE DEPONENT: Thank you.
- 10 (Whereupon, there was a brief discussion
- 11 held off the record.)
- 12 MR. MARKS: I didn't know if you were
- 13 using the prior deposition exhibits.
- MR. DEIHL: We were yesterday, but --
- MR. MARKS: Do you have them?
- MR. DEIHL: -- he chose not to.
- 17 MR. MARKS: Oh, okay. That's all right.
- 18 MR. DEIHL: We numbered consecutively
- 19 yesterday, so -- and I do --
- 20 MR. MARKS: Do you have the notebook of --
- 21 MR. DEIHL: I don't have the notebook but
- 22 I --
- 23 MR. MARKS: I want to show him the
- 24 conservation easement.
- 25 MR. DEIHL: I have the conservation

- 1 easement. I don't have all of them, but I have
- 2 that.
- MR. LYONS: We didn't talk about that
- 4 anyway yesterday, Josh.
- 5 EXAMINATION
- 6 BY MR. MARKS:
- 7 Q. Mr. Trousil, I think you know I represent
- 8 the Yampa Valley Land Trust.
- 9 A. Right.
- 10 Q. So I'm going to be asking you questions
- 11 related to their interest and participation in this
- 12 case. So when I use the word land trust I'm talking
- 13 about the Yampa Valley Land Trust. I assume that's
- 14 all right with you, correct?
- 15 A. Well, I would rather you say Yampa Valley
- 16 Land Trust.
- 17 O. Okay.
- 18 A. There's a lot of land trusts out there and
- 19 I just want to make sure that it's all -- you can
- 20 say YVLT.
- 21 Q. Okay. That's fine. Just trying to use
- 22 terms that make my sentences a little shorter and a
- 23 little more understandable for you. When I use
- 24 Humble Ranch I'm talking obviously about the
- 25 property that you own, right?

- 1 A. I understand.
- Q. And when I use the term "you" I'm really
- 3 referring to Humble Ventures, LLC, which is the
- 4 entity that owns the ranch, correct?
- 5 A. Okay.
- 6 Q. Okay. In addition, I'm assuming in -- in
- 7 some of the correspondence that you -- you signed
- 8 correspondence on behalf of Humble Ventures as its
- 9 manager and I've seen that. Is that still true
- 10 today?
- 11 A. I didn't -- I misunderstood. Did you say
- 12 I saw or signed?
- 13 Q. I've seen correspondence --
- 14 A. Okay.
- 15 Q. -- where you've signed correspondence on
- 16 behalf of Humble Ventures as its manager.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And I'm asking you is that still true
- 19 today? Are you still the manager?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And so do you have the authority to answer
- 22 questions on behalf of Humble Ventures as its
- 23 manager here today?
- A. I believe so.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to take you back prior to

- 1 the closing. In the negotiations leading up to the
- 2 closing were -- were you in competition with other
- 3 potential purchasers of the Humble Ranch?
- 4 A. I believe -- I don't know if we were in
- 5 competition, I understand there were some other
- 6 people interested in the property.
- 7 Q. Okay. And was -- did you have discussions
- 8 with the Trust for Public Land or other community
- 9 groups about the overall transaction that was
- 10 contemplated with respect to I think it was the
- 11 Yampa Valley Land and Cattle property?
- 12 A. No. That was 10 years ago and I don't
- 13 remember what discussions with whom. I'm sure there
- 14 were discussions, but I'm trying to go back 10 years
- 15 and I don't know -- I don't recollect specifically
- 16 what discussions and with whom, and who was there.
- 17 Q. Okay. Well, with respect to the Humble
- 18 Ranch property, were certain conditions mandated by
- 19 the Trust for Public Land or by the group that was
- 20 putting together this transaction upon which you
- 21 would purchase the property? In other words,
- 22 whether -- was there certain things that you had to
- 23 purchase this property subject to?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. Okay. So everything was wide open for

- 1 negotiation?
- 2 A. Everything was wide open for negotiation.
- 3 That's my recollection from 10 years ago. It's a
- 4 long time.
- 5 Q. Okay. Yeah. Because I wasn't there, so
- 6 I'm just trying to understand what you remember.
- We looked earlier today at Exhibit B,
- 8 let's see if I can find that for you here. Here it
- 9 is. All right. This was the letter that you wrote
- 10 to your neighbors, correct?
- 11 A. That is correct.
- 12 Q. And about a third of the way down on that
- 13 letter you mention some of the highlights of the
- 14 proposed transaction to your neighbors; isn't that
- 15 right?
- 16 A. That is correct.
- 17 Q. Okay. And one of the highlights was to
- 18 open the ranch up to public -- to a public trail
- 19 system, including the construction of a community
- 20 wilderness cabin in the Uplands, do you see that?
- 21 A. No, I think you left out the word future
- 22 construction.
- Q. Future construction, yeah. Okay. I'm
- 24 sorry, I'm reading this upside down. When you used
- 25 -- when you wrote this, this was before the closure

- 1 -- I'm sorry, before the closing, right?
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 Q. Okay. So at this point in time had you --
- 4 was the property under contract?
- 5 A. I don't know. I don't know if the
- 6 property was under contract on March 12.
- 7 Q. Do you know what commitments you had made
- 8 by this time for a public trail system on the ranch?
- 9 A. I don't know.
- 10 Q. Okay. Do you know what commitments, if
- 11 any, you had made regarding the future construction
- 12 of a wilderness cabin?
- 13 A. I don't know.
- Q. Okay. Part of the way down it says that,
- 15 in the second to the last paragraph: We have
- 16 recently applied for a special use permit, do you
- 17 see that, for the handicapped facility and a land
- 18 preservation subdivision, and it says in parenthesis
- 19 Agate Creek Preserve?
- 20 A. Yes, I see that.
- 21 Q. Okay. This was a land use -- these were
- 22 land use applications you had applied for with Routt
- 23 County?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. And the Agate Creek Preserve, was that the

- 1 residential project?
- 2 A. It was a land preservation subdivision,
- 3 yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. And that was to help fund the
- 5 overall transaction?
- 6 A. That is correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. Did you -- do you remember
- 8 discussing at all the public trail system in
- 9 connection with those proceedings before the county
- 10 commissioners?
- 11 A. I don't remember.
- 12 Q. Okay. How about -- do you remember
- 13 talking at all about the future construction of a
- 14 wilderness cabin in discussing the project with
- 15 Board of County Commissioners?
- 16 A. I don't remember.
- 17 Q. Okay. And I should probably go back one
- 18 question. Did you personally go before the county
- 19 commissioners and represent Humble Ventures on these
- 20 applications?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Do you remember talking to anyone
- 23 else in the process of trying to gain support for
- 24 the Agate Creek Preserve about the construction of a
- 25 future wilderness cabin?

- 1 A. No.
- Q. The words here, "to open the ranch for a
- 3 public trail system" on Exhibit B, do you remember
- 4 what you contemplated when you used those terms?
- 5 A. No, I don't.
- 6 Q. Were -- at the time were you in
- 7 negotiations with the City with respect to the Elk
- 8 Lane Easement or the Primitive Mountain Easement?
- 9 A. I don't remember if we were in negotiation
- 10 with the City at the time of this letter.
- 11 Q. Okay. Do you remember how long -- how --
- 12 how many weeks, how many months, prior to the
- 13 closing that you were in negotiations with the City
- 14 over those easements?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. And you would agree with me that one of
- 17 the components of the closing was the execution of
- 18 the conservation easement with the Yampa Valley Land
- 19 Trust; is that correct?
- 20 A. That is correct.
- 21 Q. And we have -- your attorney has
- 22 previously marked that as Exhibit 3, I think in
- 23 Ms. Dorsey's deposition, and I'd like to utilize
- 24 that copy because I think it has the recorded deed
- 25 of conservation easement.

- 1 MR. DEIHL: I don't have a copy with me.
- 2 I can go downstairs and get it.
- 3 MR. LYONS: I think I have it, Josh.
- 4 MR. MARKS: We can do it another way then.
- 5 MR. DEIHL: I can go get it, I just didn't
- 6 bring it with me. I've got a copy that's all marked
- 7 up that isn't the recorded copy.
- 8 MR. MARKS: Let's do this then. Have
- 9 these marked then. It's in here.
- 10 MR. LYONS: Are you going to give one to
- 11 everybody or -- you don't care much about trees.
- 12 MR. CAMERON: The conservation easement
- 13 I've got one, but --
- 14 (Whereupon, Deposition Exhibit O was
- 15 marked for identification by the reporter.)
- 16 Q. (By Mr. Marks) There you go.
- 17 MR. LYONS: O as in Oscar.
- 18 O. (By Mr. Marks) I'm handing you what we've
- 19 marked as Exhibit O, and the front page of this
- 20 exhibit indicates it's the Baseline Inventory Report
- 21 for the Humble Ranch property. Does this document
- 22 look familiar to you at all?
- 23 A. I believe I looked at it this morning.
- 24 O. Okay. Was this a document that was given
- 25 to you at some point within the first year after the

- 1 closing of the property?
- 2 A. I don't know.
- Q. Even though you saw it this morning, did
- 4 it look familiar to you at all?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. Ten years is a long time.
- 8 Q. Well, we've marked on the lower right-hand
- 9 version -- lower right-hand corner of this document
- 10 some labeling, and I'm going to ask you if you can
- 11 turn to YVLT 00044. Do you see on that page there's
- 12 -- it's -- there's a deed of conservation easement,
- 13 Yampa Valley Land Trust, you see that marked --
- 14 A. I see that.
- 15 Q. Okay. And does this appear to be the
- 16 version, if you want to look at that page and the
- 17 roughly 21 pages that are after that first page,
- does that appear to be the recorded version of the
- 19 conservation easement?
- 20 A. It appears to be the recorded version of
- 21 the conservation easement.
- 22 Q. Okay. And on the page that's marked YVLT
- 23 00066 there's your signature there.
- A. What was your question?
- Q. Does your signature appear on this page?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have any input into the creation
- 3 of this document? I'm talking about the
- 4 conservation easement.
- 5 A. I'm sure that my attorney and myself had
- 6 input into the conservation easement.
- 7 Q. Okay. Why don't you turn to Section 4-I
- 8 which is structures, which is on YVLT 00053.
- 9 A. Okay.
- 10 Q. Okay. See that paragraph?
- 11 A. I do.
- 12 Q. Okay. And would you agree with me that
- 13 this paragraph mentions the community cabin that you
- 14 have been talking and you've referred to earlier
- 15 today?
- 16 A. I see that it refers to the community
- 17 cabin.
- 18 O. Okay. Do you recall whose idea was it to
- 19 insert language with respect to the community cabin
- 20 in this conservation easement?
- 21 A. I believe it was mine.
- 22 Q. Okay. And do you remember how that idea
- 23 was received by the Yampa Valley Land Trust?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Do you know if the idea of a community

- 1 cabin had -- had been something that was
- 2 contemplated by this conservation -- I'm sorry, let
- 3 me rephrase it.
- 4 Do you know if the idea of a community
- 5 cabin had been discussed between you and the land
- 6 trust prior to the drafts of this conservation
- 7 easement?
- 8 A. I don't remember.
- 9 Q. Okay. Do you know if the concept of a
- 10 community cabin had been discussed within the
- 11 Steamboat Springs community as being part of a
- 12 future conservation easement prior to the execution
- 13 of all this?
- 14 A. As it relates to the conservation easement
- 15 I don't know.
- 16 Q. Did someone from the community come to you
- 17 and ever indicate to you that the community desired
- 18 a community cabin up in the Humble Venture land?
- 19 A. I don't remember.
- 20 O. Okay. Why did you want a community cabin
- 21 put into the conservation easement?
- 22 A. We wanted to reserve a site that enabled
- 23 the public to access it at some time -- at some
- 24 point in the future.
- Q. And I assume that was consistent with your

- 1 representations at least you had had to your
- 2 neighbors, right? Of doing that kind of concept,
- 3 right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. Did -- I know I'm moving ahead a
- 6 little bit, but you subsequently went and developed
- 7 the Agate Creek Preserve, correct?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. Okay. And you received revenue from that
- 10 project?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Did you ever take any of the monies from
- 13 that and throw it into a fund for the construction
- 14 of the community cabin?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Why not?
- 17 A. We didn't feel it was necessary.
- 18 Q. Do you remember representing to your
- 19 neighbors that the funding for the project, the
- 20 Humble Ranch project, would come from the revenues
- 21 from that reserve?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Okay. Did you ever -- is that a no that
- 24 you don't recall or are you saying you don't -- you
- 25 never represented to your neighbors that you were

- 1 going to use the revenues from the reserve -- or the
- 2 preserve residential project to help fund the things
- 3 you wanted to do on the Humble Ranch?
- 4 A. Can you restate your question.
- 5 Q. Yeah. I want to just clarify your answer.
- 6 Are you saying you just don't recall making those
- 7 statements or are you saying you never made those
- 8 kinds of statements?
- 9 A. Exactly what statement are you referring
- 10 to?
- 11 Q. The statement that you were going to use
- 12 the revenues from the residential project to help
- 13 fund what you wanted to do on Humble Ranch.
- 14 A. I believe we never made that statement.
- 15 Q. Okay. Look at Exhibit B, and read through
- 16 that and tell me whether you think Exhibit B is a
- 17 representation that you were going to use the funds
- 18 from the Agate Creek Preserve to help fund the
- 19 Humble Ranch project including future construction
- 20 of a wilderness cabin.
- 21 A. I don't understand the question.
- 22 Q. Okay. Well, in Exhibit B you indicated
- 23 that you wanted to create a visitation facility for
- 24 physically handicapped children on the Humble Ranch
- 25 if you were to acquire it, right?

- 1 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. And that's a -- I need you to say --
- 3 A. Oh, I'm sorry.
- 4 Q. -- yes.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And then secondly, your next priority was
- 7 to open up a public trail system including future
- 8 construction of a wilderness cabin in the Uplands.
- 9 Do you see that?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. And then you also represented that
- 12 another priority of the project would be to preserve
- 13 the development of the Meadows?
- 14 A. That is correct.
- 15 Q. And the Meadows area is where your house
- 16 is, right?
- 17 A. That is correct.
- 18 Q. Okay. And then, right below those three
- 19 things, doesn't it say the project will be primarily
- 20 funded by a 16-home, low impact development, Agate
- 21 Creek Preserve, located on the hillsides above
- 22 Dakota Ridge?
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. Now, the project as you refer to project

- 1 here, this references the Humble Ranch project at
- 2 the top there. So I think we're talking about the
- 3 entire purchase of the ranch as being funded by this
- 4 16-home, low impact development.
- 5 Q. Okay. And not -- and so you're saying
- 6 that doesn't include the components --
- 7 A. It includes all the components.
- 8 Q. Okay. Including the future construction
- 9 of a wilderness cabin?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 THE DEPONENT: Do you mind if I grab a
- 13 Coke?
- MR. MARKS: No, go ahead.
- 15 Q. (By Mr. Marks) Do you recall any
- 16 discussions about how you would fund the future
- 17 construction of the wilderness cabin?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Okay. Have you done any preliminary
- 20 sketches or plans for the construction of that?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Have you asked anyone to begin any
- 23 drawings or sketch plans for that kind of facility?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. Has any outside group come to you

- 1 indicating that they would be interested in creating
- 2 that facility?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Do you recall at the time that you
- 5 negotiated this conservation easement the
- 6 possibility that an outside group would come in and
- 7 own it or operate that wilderness cabin facility?
- 8 A. Certainly there's always an opportunity to
- 9 talk to anybody about facilitating the construction
- 10 of a cabin on our property.
- 11 Q. I'm talking about the time that the
- 12 conservation easement was negotiated, do you
- 13 remember any talk about the option of a third party
- 14 coming in and owning and/or operating that facility?
- 15 A. I don't remember.
- 16 Q. I'll have you turn back to the
- 17 conservation easement and --
- 18 A. Remind me the number on that page.
- 19 Q. Sure. Why don't you go back to YVLT
- 20 00053.
- 21 A. Okay.
- 22 Q. Still in the structures paragraph. And
- 23 about two-thirds of the way down in this paragraph
- 24 there's a sentence that starts off: Under no
- 25 circumstance. And if I can point it out to you, if

- 1 you don't mind me reaching over the table, it starts
- 2 right there.
- And the sentence reads, "Under no
- 4 circumstances shall any of the land under the
- 5 community cabin or the private cabin be divided in
- 6 any way from the property or conveyed separately,
- 7 however, the community cabin structure may be held
- 8 in an ownership different from that of the grantor."
- 9 Do you see that.
- 10 A. I do see that.
- 11 Q. Okay. Do you remember how that very last
- 12 clause got into this document that the community
- 13 cabin structure may be held in different ownership?
- 14 A. No, I don't remember.
- 15 Q. You don't know if that was your idea or
- 16 someone else's idea?
- 17 A. I don't have any idea about that
- 18 statement.
- 19 Q. But would you agree with me that under the
- 20 terms of this language that the -- if you wanted to
- 21 -- that if you wanted an outside entity to come and
- 22 build a community cabin on your behalf you could do
- 23 that?
- A. I believe that's true.
- Q. Okay. And that an outside entity could

- 1 come in and even own the cabin itself, but maybe not
- 2 the land underneath it?
- 3 A. I believe according to this conservation
- 4 easement that's a possibility.
- 5 O. Right. Okay. At the time the
- 6 conservation easement was negotiated and executed
- 7 had -- and the transaction closed, had you done
- 8 anything to assess what kind of hiking, public
- 9 hiking or public biking was happening on the Humble
- 10 Ranch property?
- 11 A. Prior to the closing?
- 12 O. Yeah.
- 13 A. It was private property.
- Q. Okay. But were you aware whether the
- 15 public was still accessing trails through the Humble
- 16 Ranch property?
- 17 A. Well, at that time it wasn't Humble Ranch
- 18 property.
- 19 O. Well, the predecessors' property?
- 20 A. I don't know what public trespassing
- 21 issues were going on at that time.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. Or if the -- what the predecessors were
- 24 doing with their lands or what uses they were
- 25 allowing on their lands.

- 1 O. Were you -- did you ever become aware
- 2 during your negotiations for the Humble Ranch that
- 3 the public had been using some of the trails through
- 4 the Uplands parcel to access different areas beyond
- 5 the Humble Ranch property?
- 6 A. Beyond the Humble Ranch property?
- 7 O. Yeah, like into the State Land Board
- 8 property?
- 9 A. There -- my recollection was there is no
- 10 public trails open on the -- what is now the Humble
- 11 Ranch or the State Land Board property.
- 12 Q. I'm not talking about public trails, I'm
- 13 talking about were you aware whether the public
- 14 either permissively or even trespassing were using
- 15 trails either for biking or for hiking?
- 16 A. No, I was not aware.
- 17 Q. Okay. So in terms of the conservation
- 18 easement, would you agree that the conservation
- 19 easement does allow the public access to the
- 20 community cabin if that gets built?
- 21 A. I believe the conservation easement does
- 22 allow for public access through the conservation
- 23 easement, yes.
- 24 O. Okay. And while the conservation easement
- 25 doesn't grant any other trail usage, would you agree

- 1 with me that it also recognizes some of the other
- 2 agreements that Humble Ventures had made with, for
- 3 example, the Division of Wildlife and the City in
- 4 terms of other access easements?
- 5 A. I would like to review that language if
- 6 there's specific referrals to the --
- 7 O. Sure.
- 8 A. -- DOW and the City as you mentioned.
- 9 Q. Sure. Why don't you turn to paragraph 14.
- 10 A. Is that the paragraph that says: No
- 11 public access created hereby?
- 12 Q. Correct. You want to read through that?
- 13 A. Okay.
- 14 Q. And the first part of that paragraph
- 15 says -- notwithstanding the heading it says:
- 16 Grantor has offered and granted to the public,
- 17 access to and use of the community cabin as defined
- 18 in this easement, right?
- 19 A. That is correct.
- 20 Q. Do you remember whose idea it was for the
- 21 grant of that access to the community cabin?
- 22 A. Can you ask me that question again.
- 23 Q. Yeah. Do you remember whose idea it was
- 24 to include that kind of language in the conservation
- 25 easement?

- 1 A. It was probably mine.
- Q. And then the next -- you see the next
- 3 sentence that says: Nothing herein contained shall
- 4 be construed as affording public access to or use of
- 5 any additional portion of the property other than
- 6 access to the use of the community cabin, right?
- 7 That's the next sentence?
- 8 A. Okay. Right.
- 9 Q. Okay. But then the next sentence says:
- 10 It is acknowledged that the grantor -- which in this
- 11 case you agree with me is Humble Ventures?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 0. -- has other agreements with the Colorado
- 14 Division of Wildlife, the Colorado Division of Parks
- 15 and Outdoor Recreation and the City of Steamboat
- 16 Springs for public access on trails through and
- 17 across the property?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. The reference to the City of Steamboat
- 20 Springs, is that a reference to the Elk Lane
- 21 Easement and the Primitive Mountain Easement?
- 22 A. Well, I don't think it would be the Elk
- 23 Lane Easement since that does not cross the
- 24 conservation easement --
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. -- but probably refers to the other
- 2 easement that's called the Primitive Mountain
- 3 Easement, your Exhibit D.
- 4 Q. Okay. That's the -- that's Exhibit D that
- 5 you've been discussing earlier today?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Now, with respect to public access, has
- 8 any additional public access been granted by you
- 9 through the -- through the ranch property since the
- 10 conservation easement was executed?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Okay. Is Humble Ventures, or you
- 13 personally, involved in any kind of litigation with
- 14 the Bureau of Land Management?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Okay. Are you involved in any kind of
- 17 ongoing dispute with them?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 O. Okay. Is Humble Ventures asserting that
- 20 -- in this lawsuit that the land trust has violated
- 21 any of its obligations under the conservation
- 22 easement?
- A. I do not believe so.
- Q. Okay. And you would be the one who would
- 25 have knowledge of that for purposes of Humble

- 1 Ventures, right?
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 Q. Okay. You talked about earlier today your
- 4 concerns of the use of bikes over the City's -- it's
- 5 called the Primitive Mountain Easement, okay, and I
- 6 believe the Elk Lane Easements, you had concerns
- 7 about the use of bikes, right, with respect to
- 8 safety?
- 9 A. Those are four questions. Can you start
- 10 from the beginning?
- 11 O. Sure.
- 12 A. Okay.
- 13 Q. I'll go back. Earlier today -- I'm trying
- 14 to re-orient you.
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Q. Earlier today I thought you were asked
- 17 some questions about the safety concerns in the
- 18 verbiage related to safety concerns in the City's
- 19 Easements with you.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. And I thought your position was
- 22 that the use of bikes creates a risk of harm to
- 23 other users --
- 24 A. That's correct.
- 25 O. -- on those trails?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- Q. All right. Now, are you aware of any
- 3 actual collisions on -- over those trails? Over any
- 4 trails I guess within the Uplands portion?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Between bikes and pedestrians?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. How about between bikes and equestrian
- 9 usage?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Are you aware of any near collisions that
- 12 have occurred on those trails?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. Have you personally encountered any bikes
- on any trails in the Uplands parcel?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. And earlier you also talked about concerns
- 18 with seasonal closures of those trails through the
- 19 Uplands portion. Do you remember some discussion
- 20 about that?
- 21 A. I do.
- Q. Okay. And I don't think you were asked
- 23 these questions. Have you had any studies done on
- 24 the impact of any of your usage of the Uplands
- 25 portion on wildlife?

- 1 A. Have we had any studies done?
- Q. Right.
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Have you had any studies done on whether
- 5 the public usage of trails in the Uplands portion
- 6 has had any impact on wildlife?
- 7 A. No.
- Q. What kinds of -- well, let me ask you, do
- 9 you use any of the trails in the Uplands portion
- 10 yourself?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Which trails, just generically if you can
- 13 tell me, do you use?
- 14 A. Um --
- 15 Q. Are there many -- I guess I don't even
- 16 know, are there many trails?
- 17 A. There's many game trails and roads up
- 18 there. I use them all.
- 19 O. And have you used the trail that -- that
- 20 goes by the Agate Creek access area?
- 21 A. You mean Agate Creek Trail?
- 22 Q. Yeah, right.
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And does that trail go all the way
- 25 up to either the Division of Wildlife or the BLM --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- property?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And is there -- is there some kind of
- 5 obstruction or gate that exists so that users can't
- 6 go into the adjoining property?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 O. Does the trail continue on into those
- 9 properties?
- 10 A. The two-track road continues on, yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. Have you -- do you operate -- when
- 12 you go on those properties do you use vehicles to
- 13 get into that area over that trail?
- 14 A. I access those properties by foot and by
- 15 ATV.
- 16 Q. Okay. You talked about earlier how you
- 17 formerly had allowed hunting to be conducted on the
- 18 property and then the nearby lease, right, on the
- 19 state land board property?
- 20 A. That is correct.
- Q. Did you allow hunters access into your
- 22 property and the adjoining property through ATVs?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. How did you allow them to get into that
- 25 area?

- 1 A. As a safety precaution we forced them to
- 2 walk.
- 3 Q. Okay. How about in the wintertime? Do
- 4 you use snowmobiles to get up into the Agate Creek
- 5 Trail?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Is that the only way to access it other
- 8 than -- I mean, through machinery at least, is that
- 9 about the only way in the wintertime to access it?
- 10 A. I believe so.
- 11 Q. Yeah, I'm saying there's just too much
- 12 snow to use a truck?
- 13 A. No, you cannot. You're not able to use
- 14 any wheeled vehicle in the wintertime.
- 15 Q. Have you -- do you recall giving the Yampa
- 16 Valley Land Trust any kind of correspondence, or
- 17 through any discussions have you given them your
- 18 position on the seasonal closure of the City's
- 19 easements?
- 20 A. Would you repeat your question.
- 21 Q. Yeah, I can rephrase it so it's a little
- 22 bit more clear.
- You said earlier in response to Mr. Lyons
- 24 questions your position on why the City shouldn't be
- 25 able to use its easements --

- 1 A. Uh-huh, yes.
- Q. -- on the property. Have you communicated
- 3 that position to the Yampa Valley Land Trust before
- 4 this litigation?
- 5 A. I don't know.
- 6 Q. Okay. You were also asked questions about
- 7 what your position is on building the community
- 8 cabin earlier today, right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And do you recall ever previously
- 11 communicating your position with respect to that to
- 12 the Yampa Valley Land Trust?
- 13 A. I don't remember.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall any discussions with
- 15 my client about your intent to build the community
- 16 cabin?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 O. Okay.
- 19 MR. MARKS: Well, I'm going to step aside
- 20 and let Mr. Cameron ask you some questions if he has
- 21 any.
- 22 (Whereupon, there was a brief discussion
- 23 held off the record.)
- 24 MR. CAMERON: I don't think it will take
- long, but you know how we get verbose.

- 1 MR. DEIHL: Not you, Brad.
- 2 MR. MARKS: It's all warm for you.
- 3 MR. CAMERON: And let's see, we were up to
- 4 Depo Exhibit P, I believe.
- 5 MR. MARKS: Yes.
- 6 MR. LYONS: And just so you don't get
- 7 confused, guys, I skipped N and L, so we didn't --
- 8 MR. CAMERON: Whatever.
- 9 (Whereupon, Deposition Exhibit P was
- 10 marked for identification by the reporter.)
- 11 MR. CAMERON: And I only have four copies
- 12 so, Colin, you'll need to look on with the -- oops,
- 13 I just smeared it -- with the version you have.
- 14 This is Exhibit P as in Paul.
- 15 EXAMINATION
- 16 BY MR. CAMERON:
- 17 Q. And, Mr. Trousil, before I get going you
- 18 do understand that my name is Brad Cameron and I
- 19 represent the -- I am with the Colorado Attorney
- 20 General's Office and I represent the Colorado
- 21 Division of Wildlife in this lawsuit. Do you
- 22 understand that?
- 23 A. I understand that.
- Q. Okay. What I'd ask you is to take a look
- 25 at what's been marked Depo Exhibit P. And this is

- 1 titled a Special Warranty Deed from the Trust for
- 2 Public Land to Humble Ventures Limited Liability
- 3 Company, and it's recorded at Book 758, page 642 of
- 4 the Routt County Clerk and Recorders Office. Would
- 5 you agree with me on that?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And I'd ask you to go back in to what
- 8 would be labeled -- this is about -- and this is a
- 9 front and back copy, so it's probably about seven or
- 10 eight pages in, to what would be the reservation to
- 11 be used as Exhibit B to the special warranty deed.
- 12 This would be -- if you look at the right side, it
- would be page 12 of what is a 61-page document.
- 14 Would you agree with me -- do you see where we're at
- 15 in the document?
- 16 A. I see where we are at the document.
- 17 Q. Would you agree this is the access
- 18 easement that was reserved by TPL when they sold
- 19 property to you back in 1999; is that correct?
- 20 A. That is correct.
- 21 Q. And would you agree then that this is the
- 22 access easement that the State of Colorado, the
- 23 Division of Wildlife, currently operates in terms of
- 24 providing access to its fee title property on
- 25 Emerald Mountain?

- 1 A. I agree.
- Q. What -- do you have any concerns or
- 3 problems with how the Division of Wildlife has
- 4 operated under its access easement across your
- 5 property?
- 6 A. None whatsoever.
- 7 Q. And would you agree with me that this
- 8 access allows use by the public of bicycles across
- 9 portions of the easement for purposes of accessing
- 10 the Division of Wildlife's fee title land on Emerald
- 11 Mountain?
- 12 A. Can you state that again. I lost you on
- 13 that question.
- 14 Q. Would you agree with me that this access
- 15 easement allows the use of bicycles by members of
- 16 the public to get to the Division's fee title land
- 17 at the top of Emerald Mountain?
- 18 A. I agree.
- 19 Q. And would you agree with me that currently
- 20 the Division doesn't authorize the public to use
- 21 bicycles to access its land; is that correct?
- 22 A. That is correct.
- 23 Q. But if that were to change in the Division
- 24 or some other owner of the fee title land on the top
- of Emerald Mountain that the Division currently owns

- 1 were to change that and allow public use of bicycles
- 2 on the State's -- on this access easement, would you
- 3 agree that that's authorized under this?
- A. I would agree.
- 5 Q. Now, I'd like to have you go back then to
- 6 what's been previously marked Deposition Exhibit E
- 7 and D. These are the two trail easements granted to
- 8 the City. And if you'd look on Exhibit D, I'd refer
- 9 you to go to paragraph 5 at the bottom of page 2.
- 10 This is the provision that talks about cooperation
- 11 with the DOW, and then just if you could also
- 12 compare it to paragraph 7 on Depo Exhibit E --
- 13 excuse me, not 7, 6 on page 2 of Depo Exhibit E.
- 14 This is, likewise -- these are the two provisions in
- 15 the two separate easements that you granted to the
- 16 City that talk about cooperation with the Division
- 17 of Wildlife, correct?
- 18 A. That is correct.
- 19 O. When you granted these two easements to
- 20 the City back in 1999 what intent did you have in
- 21 regards to any rights that the Division of Wildlife
- 22 would have under these two easements in regards to
- 23 the closure for wildlife purposes?
- A. One of our main goals in this acquisition
- 25 was to preserve wildlife habitat. When I say

- 1 acquisition I refer to the Humble Ranch acquisition.
- 2 Wildlife habitat has been one of the most important
- 3 things for us on the Uplands parcel. So the right
- 4 that we, you know -- I wouldn't call it a right, but
- 5 the -- the provision on both of these easements was
- 6 to close any access through our property in the same
- 7 manner that the DOW would close their property.
- 8 Q. Well, let me rephrase my question a little
- 9 bit then. Did you have any intent that the Division
- 10 of Wildlife would have any -- any ability to enforce
- 11 these provisions regarding cooperation in regards to
- 12 the City?
- 13 A. Can you say that again? Can you repeat
- 14 that question.
- 15 MR. CAMERON: Why don't you just read it.
- 16 (Whereupon, the last question was read by
- 17 the reporter.)
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 O. (By Mr. Cameron) And in what manner did
- 20 you think DOW would be able to enforce? Can you
- 21 explain that?
- 22 A. I think the manner would be to enforce all
- 23 public access pursuant to its closures.
- 24 Consequently, if somebody was on this property
- 25 outside of wildlife closures that person would be in

- 1 violation of the wildlife closures both because it's
- 2 Humble Ranch lands and DOW lands.
- 3 Q. Okay. So, obviously you initiated this
- 4 lawsuit and have raised this issue and concern of
- 5 cooperation on the part of the City regarding --
- 6 with the Division of Wildlife, but say, for example,
- 7 in the future when -- when you perhaps are not the
- 8 owner or whatever and a future owner did not share
- 9 those sorts of concerns, would you envision that
- 10 these two provisions that we've been talking about
- 11 would create any right in the Division to
- 12 independently insist that the City would cooperate
- 13 as discussed here in regards to elk calving, elk
- 14 winter range, hunting and other wildlife safety and
- 15 protection concerns?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. All right. Now, if you would, on
- 18 Exhibit D if you could turn to what is Exhibit B to
- 19 that document, and this is the -- it's actually --
- 20 excuse me, it's not Exhibit B it's labeled Exhibit
- 21 A-2. That would be this map. This would be the --
- 22 the grant of trail easement, the Primitive Mountain
- 23 Easement, two-track trail. And I want to make
- 24 certain that I understand what your position is.
- 25 Referencing paragraph 8 of the easement,

- 1 this is the provision that talks about no public use
- of Primitive Mountain Easements 1, 2 and 3 until the
- 3 wilderness cabin has been done. So, as I understand
- 4 what your position then is, is all three of those
- 5 segments are -- are -- under the City's easement are
- 6 precluded for public use without the wilderness
- 7 cabin having been constructed?
- 8 A. That is correct.
- 9 Q. But overlapping Segment 1 then, is the
- 10 easement that was reserved by TPL that is now for
- 11 the benefit of the State's property, and are you
- 12 asserting that provision 8 would have any impact on
- 13 the State's operation under its easement?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. So, in essence the City would be
- 16 prohibited from allowing public use on Segment 1
- 17 pursuant to its easement, but the State could still
- 18 allow public use under its easement, correct?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. I understand, certainly, what the language
- 21 of paragraph 8 says, are you able to provide any
- 22 explanation as to the intent as to why 1 would be
- 23 restricted even if the wilderness cabin, which is at
- 24 the end of 3, isn't built? What was the intent
- 25 behind that thinking?

- 1 A. I think the document speaks for itself,
- 2 and this is the document that I signed and executed
- 3 in 1999.
- 4 Q. So, then to kind of follow up on what was
- 5 previously asked as a question, so without a
- 6 wilderness cabin, 1, 2 and 3 are closed, but if
- 7 referencing Segment 4 on this Exhibit A-2 to the
- 8 Depo Exhibit D, if there is that connection created
- 9 by BLM to the northern portion of Segment 4, the
- 10 public would be able to use Segment 4, presumably
- 11 then turn around and exit the way they came; is that
- 12 correct?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And would the same then, likewise, be true
- 15 regarding Segment 5 in the sense that if there is a
- 16 connection, the public can reach the northern
- 17 terminus of Segment 5, would they, under the City's
- 18 easement, the public be able to use Segment 5,
- 19 presumably then turn around and be able to leave the
- 20 way they came?
- 21 A. Presumably. It wouldn't make much sense,
- 22 but that would be the case.
- 23 MR. CAMERON: I have no further questions.
- MR. DEIHL: I don't have any questions.
- MR. LYONS: I have a couple of follow-ups,

- 1 if you don't mind.
- 2 EXAMINATION
- 3 BY MR. LYONS:
- 4 Q. Sir, if the City determines that because
- 5 of concerns about habitat what the Division of
- 6 Wildlife does respecting closure of the Emerald
- 7 Mountain Wildlife Area is insufficient, and the City
- 8 decides that the closure should extend from
- 9 November 1st to July 31st rather than what it is
- 10 today, which is a shorter interval, what right does
- 11 the City have to make the Division of Wildlife
- 12 follow that determination by the City?
- 13 A. I don't know. Is that a hypothetical
- 14 question?
- 15 Q. Sir, I'm understanding what you're saying
- 16 meaning that the word cooperation means compulsory
- 17 behavior on the part of the City. I'm asking you
- 18 whether the word cooperation as found in Exhibits D
- 19 and E means compulsory behavior on the part of the
- 20 Division of Wildlife?
- 21 A. Can you restate that question. I'm
- 22 confused here.
- Q. All right. Look at D and E, paragraphs 5
- 24 and 6 I think it is.
- 25 A. Okay.

- 1 Q. Do you have those?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. And we'll just use D because it's the same
- 4 language except paragraph 6 in E. Do you agree with
- 5 that?
- 6 A. Uh-huh.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. I do.
- 9 Q. The first sentence: The City agrees to
- 10 cooperate with the Division of Wildlife regarding
- 11 the temporary closure of the easement due to, and so
- 12 forth. You're on that sentence?
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. Now, what I'm asking you, sir, is if the
- 15 City says these areas must be temporarily closed for
- 16 an interval longer than an interval imposed by the
- 17 Division of Wildlife on its easement, is the
- 18 Division of Wildlife required to close its easement
- 19 for the dates that the City establishes?
- 20 A. No, those conditions are not in the
- 21 Division of Wildlife easement.
- 22 Q. So you're saying then that the Division of
- 23 Wildlife doesn't have to cooperate with the City; is
- 24 that right?
- 25 A. I am saying just as the document states

- 1 here the City agrees to cooperate with the Division
- 2 of Wildlife with regard to temporary closure of the
- 3 easement due to elk calving, elk winter range,
- 4 hunting and other wildlife safety and protection
- 5 concerns.
- 6 Q. I don't know why the Division of Wildlife
- 7 would be able to tell the City what closures to
- 8 impose if the City can't tell the Division of
- 9 Wildlife what closures to impose. Can you explain
- 10 to me how that's to work?
- 11 A. I think the document speaks for itself.
- 12 Q. Okay. And from what I've heard today in
- 13 testimony in relation to questions Mr. Marks asked
- 14 you, there is no correspondence you're aware of
- 15 wherein you made any statements about constructing
- or developing a community cabin in advance of your
- 17 closing on the property that is the Humble Ranch; is
- 18 that right?
- 19 A. I don't remember making those statements.
- Q. So if somebody else does, you can't
- 21 contradict them, right?
- 22 A. I don't know.
- Q. Why don't you know?
- 24 THE DEPONENT: Can you read that question
- 25 back for me?

- 1 MR. LYONS: Sure.
- 2 (Whereupon, the record on page 191, lines
- 3 12 through 21 was read by the reporter.)
- 4 A. In regards to that, that is correct.
- 5 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. Does Humble
- 6 Ventures, LLC file tax returns?
- 7 A. Yes. Yes.
- 8 Q. And have they shown any tax owed over the
- 9 course of the last 10 years?
- 10 A. No, I don't believe so.
- 11 Q. Even in the years when the trespassing
- 12 program that you were running generated 50- to-
- 13 \$70,000 a year?
- 14 A. I have to look and see what those tax
- 15 returns say. Here today I don't know --
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. -- what they say.
- 18 O. And if a hunter wanted to access the
- 19 property pursuant to one of your trespasser
- 20 arrangements that you made with them when you were
- 21 doing that, and they had to walk to the BLM
- 22 property, how did they get there? Can you show me
- 23 on Exhibit J how someone would walk there?
- A. Are you referring to one of our hunters?
- Q. One you've given a license, yes.

- 1 A. They all accessed it from the BLM side.
- 2 Q. So they never went through your property?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Why did you have to give them a license
- 5 then?
- 6 A. Because we had the lease on the state
- 7 land, board land.
- 8 Q. I see. When you were giving them a
- 9 license it wasn't to hunt on the Humble Ranch?
- 10 A. They could also hunt the Humble Ranch.
- 11 Q. How would they get there to do so?
- 12 A. From the state land board property.
- 13 Q. Okay. And when we were talking about the
- 14 children who are the part of the special camp, the
- 15 special needs camp that you've established up there,
- 16 how many people are involved in that in an average
- 17 week?
- 18 A. What do you mean by people?
- 19 O. People. Human beings. How many are
- 20 involved in that special needs camp during an
- 21 average week when it's in operation?
- 22 A. I don't know.
- Q. How many of those who are involved are
- 24 paying customers?
- 25 A. I don't know.

- 1 O. More than a hundred?
- 2 A. I don't know.
- Q. Well, do you have any idea the capacity of
- 4 that facility?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. How many llamas are there that are
- 7 available for that program?
- 8 A. Three.
- 9 Q. And how many horses?
- 10 A. Ten.
- 11 Q. And those are owned by the Humble -- or
- 12 owned by the program?
- 13 A. They are owned both by Humble Ventures and
- 14 Humble Ranch Education and Therapy Center, and some
- 15 of them are loaned.
- Q. And do people who are customers there stay
- 17 overnight?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. So they just come for daytime purposes?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. In all cases?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. And are there employees, apart from your
- 24 spouse, of that entity?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And how many are there?
- 2 A. I don't know.
- 3 MR. LYONS: Give me a second here.
- 4 (Whereupon, there was a pause in the
- 5 proceedings.)
- 6 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) What do you know about the
- 7 Boulder trail system?
- 8 A. The Boulder trail system has
- 9 nonmechanized, nonmotorized trails.
- 10 Q. How many?
- 11 A. I don't know.
- 12 O. What's the extent of them in terms of the
- 13 percentage of trails that Boulder operates?
- 14 A. I don't know.
- 15 Q. How do you know they have nonmechanized,
- 16 nonmotorized trails?
- 17 A. I have walked on them.
- 18 O. How many times?
- 19 A. A hundred.
- 20 O. A hundred times?
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 O. And what were the occasions?
- 23 A. I used to live in Boulder.
- Q. So you haven't since you moved from
- 25 Boulder walked on them, have you?

Page 196 1 Yes, I have. Α. 2 And how many times since you've moved from Ο. Boulder? 3 Ten times. 4 Α. When did you move? 5 Q. I'm sorry, I didn't hear you? 6 Α. 7 When did you move from Boulder? 0. Approximately 1995. 8 Α. 9 Ο. Okay. MR. LYONS: I don't have any further 10 11 questions. And again, thank you, sir, for your 12 indulgence today. 13 THE DEPONENT: Thank you. 14 (Whereupon, at 4:22 p.m. the deposition 15 was concluded.) 16 (Whereupon, reading and signing of the deposition was not requested.) 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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Page 197
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                          CERTIFICATE
 2
 3
 4
     STATE OF COLORADO
                                  ss.
 5
     CITY & COUNTY OF DENVER
 6
               I, Kelly A. Mair, a Registered
     Professional Reporter and Notary Public within and
 7
     for the State of Colorado, do hereby certify that
     previous to the commencement of the examination of
     the said ED TROUSIL, a witness called for
 8
     examination herein in the said suit in the said
     District Court, was duly sworn by me to testify to
 9
     the truth in relation to the matters in controversy
     now pending and undetermined between the said
10
     parties so far as they should be interrogated
     concerning the same;
11
               That the said deposition was taken in
12
     shorthand by me at 3200 Wells Fargo Center, 1700
     Lincoln Street, City of Denver, State of Colorado,
13
     on the 19th day of November, 2008, at 11:14 a.m.,
     and was reduced to typewritten form under my
14
     supervision;
15
               That the foregoing is a true transcript of
     the questions asked, the testimony given, and the
16
     proceedings had;
17
               That I am neither attorney nor counsel,
     nor in any way connected with any attorney or
18
     counsel for any of the parties to said action, or
     otherwise interested in its event.
19
               IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
20
     hand and affixed my notarial seal this
                     , 2008.
21
     \circf
22
23
                    Kelly A. Mair, RPR
                    Registered Professional Reporter and
24
                    Notary Public.
25
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