

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council
From: Tom Baker, Town Administrator
Date: November 15, 2016
Re: Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV) Request for Funding

Purpose: The purpose of this item is to consider a \$3,000 contribution to RFOV in exchange for the work they have committed to regarding trail building on BLM land north of New Castle.

Background and Discussion: The Town and RFOV have a long and continuing relationship regarding trails in the New Castle area. In 2014 and 2015 RFOV lead the design and construction of the Jolley trail network (upper and lower Jolley trail). In the past, RFOV has also assisted in the building of trails in the Elk Creek corridor. In 2017, RFOV has scheduled two workdays for trail construction on BLM land north of CVR. RFOV will assist Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA) and New Castle Trails (NCT) with the implementation of the trail plan that is being developed in concert with the BLM on the 400 acre tract that has been recently studied for cultural artifacts.

The New Castle community is experiencing a surge of excitement with the volunteer creation of soft trails in town and in the area. We have much momentum and our continued partnership with RFOV will add to that momentum. RFOV provides trail design expertise, trail construction supervision, and volunteers to build trails. They have trail building tools and a network of supporters from the entire region. A RFOV trail project is advertised region-wide and provides a publicity boost to our effort as people from around the region come to New Castle to help on our project.

Financial Implications: Staff recommends funding be taken from the economic development line item.

Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of this request.

Attachment: RFOV Letter



New Castle Town Council
PO Box 90
New Castle, CO 81647

November 8, 2016

Dear New Castle Councilors,

Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers ("RFOV") requests \$3,000 in funding for a 2017 volunteer trail project in New Castle. In recent conversations with the BLM and Adam Cornely representing the New Castle RFMBA chapter, we have agreed to work on the two trails north of the Colorow Trail. These trails were created over the last few years by users without authorization. Our project will include rerouting a trail section that is currently on private property and make improvements on both trails to bring them up to a sustainable standard and bring them into the official BLM trail system. The BLM has prioritized this project and has assured me that the Environmental Assessment (EA) would be completed in time for this project to be scheduled in 2017.

RFOV has a long and successful history of partnering with the Town of New Castle in helping to build and maintain your trails. Major volunteer projects have included the Mt. Medearis, Colorow and Jolley Trails. We have also supported the New Castle RFMBA chapter's work this past year (and into the future) by lending tools, training and staff. We also are working to connect the youth of New Castle through our Young Stewards Initiative in a variety of ways including organizing youth groups to perform trail maintenance, current programming in both the Riverside Middle School and the New Castle Library, and the GOCO Inspire Initiative regional community of New Castle to Parachute.

In 2014 and 2015 the Town helped fund each of the two Jolley Trail projects at the \$3,000 level. The BLM does provide some funding of RFOV projects each year but it is limited and is spread over several different projects. We hope the Town will continue to be a partner and supporter of RFOV's work to improve and maintain your community's trails, as well as engage the citizens of New Castle in being stewards of our public lands. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

J. David Hamilton
Executive Director