



Our mission is to create and sustain the best possible mountain bike trail system and experience in the Roaring Fork Valley.

November 20, 2015

Attention: New Castle Town Council

Re: RFMBA presentation on 12/1/15 regarding future of New Castle area trails.

The Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association, a Chapter of IMBA, would like to thank New Castle's Parks, Open Space, Trails, and Recreation Committee for inviting us to present on the potential future of the area's trails system. The POSTR meeting on 10/28/15 was well attended, with much enthusiasm relayed for the future stewardship of the area's trails. We'd like to further thank the Town Council's members for this opportunity to elevate the matter towards next steps with BLM land managers and other entities.

RFMBA's mission is to create and sustain the best possible mountain bike trail system and experience in the Roaring Fork Valley. Over the past seven years we've advocated for a variety of trails related issues that improve the recreation opportunities in our valley over the long term. Our status as a Chapter with the International Mountain Bicycling Association enables an expansion of our activities including the recent formation of a committee that is composed of New Castle citizens focused on local trails.

Attached, please find a draft letter that may be used by Town Council and Staff to initiate a process with the BLM's local Field Office. A draft map is also attached which indicates existing trails that are mostly on BLM land to the north of New Castle. RFMBA and our local New Castle Trails Committee look forward to working towards best possible solutions and increased stewardship of local trails in the months and years to come. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or ideas: 970-948-3486, mike.pritchard@imba.com

Best Regards,

Mike Pritchard

RFMBA, Executive Director
IMBA, Associate Region Director

Imagine! The best trails on the planet – right outside your door!

RFMBA, an IMBA Chapter, is a 501(c)(3) public charity. RFMBA, PO Box 2635, Aspen, CO 81612, www.rfmba.org

New Castle Area Trail Mapping

Yellow Shade area = BLM land

white = existing route open to foot and bike

pink = existing route open to Admin. only

red = non system route

BLM Route
8131K

BLM Route
8133B

BLM Land, designated as
Extensive Recreation
Management Area (ERMA)
per Approved RMP signed
June 2015.

BLM Route
8131J

Colorow
Trail

Private Lands
controlled by Warrior
Acquisition LLC, CVR
Investors Inc, CTS
Investments LLC.

245

Buford Rd

Castle Valley Blvd

Google earth

© 2015 Google



1 mi

December 1, 2015

Bureau of Land Management
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, CO 81652

Attn: Karl Mendonca, Acting Field Manager
Cc: Brian Hopkins, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Greg Wolfgang, Outdoor Recreation Planner

RE: Colorado River Valley Field Office – Proposal for study and revision of Travel Management within the New Castle Extensive Recreation Management Area.

Mr. Mendonca,

Thank you for taking the time to consider the following proposal to study and revise the current travel management system on public lands adjacent to the Town of New Castle. As our community grows and evolves, our interest in providing high quality recreation experiences for our current and future citizens and visitors has reached a level of increased priority.

The opportunity to address the future of recreation on our adjacent federal lands arrives courtesy of the Field Office's Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, signed into action earlier this year. This plan includes an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) in the vicinity of New Castle and provides a framework for Best Management Practices including:

Construct new non-motorized routes on an interdisciplinary-basis in concert with other resources/resource programs. The focus of new routes should be to: reduce the amount biking on roads, form loop routes, link existing routes, create route connections to new access points and reduce conflicts (e.g., recreation, trespass on private property, resource).

Develop new recreation developments (e.g., trails, trailheads, restrooms) to effectively address recreation activity demand created by growing communities and recreation - tourism if: 1) the proposal is consistent with interdisciplinary land use plan objectives; and 2) sufficient funding and long-term management commitments are secured from managing partners.

New Castle's Parks Open Space Trails and Recreation Committee recently met in regards to the apparent expansion of non-system trails in the New Castle area. This

issue has also been raised directly with this Council, which is now recommending that the Town of New Castle work with BLM to address existing and future trail planning for this ERMA. A summary of the issues at hand include:

Colorow Trail (BLM): Built in phases with support from Town of New Castle by volunteers with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers starting in 2002. Open to use by foot and bike traffic. West side is steeper than East. OK for fit expert mountain bike riders; not friendly towards new and younger riders or visitors. Other BLM trails north of Colorow are mostly open to Admin. use only. BLM Route 8131K is an exception, it's open to bikes and should be studied further.

Social Trails: Built over past number of years. Some trail segments are built with sustainable methods and offer a high quality recreation experience for hikers, runners, and mountain bikers. Some trail segments are not sustainable, but can be improved through future volunteer efforts. Some trail segments could be closed or re-routed to provide better 'flow' to improve trail user experience. BLM has recently posted signs indicating these trails are closed to mechanized travel. BLM has informally communicated to RFMBA that a process to study these existing trails may be possible starting in 2016.

Trails on Private Lands: Social trails have been developed on undeveloped land north of the VIX Ranch Park and East of BLM land on Lakota Canyon Ranch Golf Club. Developers may be required to provide public recreation amenity; these or other future trails may help to meet that requirement. These trails currently provide for more gentle access to BLM land, but are generally outside the scope of this proposed study.

Future Trails: This area's ERMA prescriptions allow for BLM to study and finalize the routes open to public use for this area, including potential for additional miles of (non-motorized) trails.

The Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association, a Chapter of IMBA, and their committee of local volunteers, New Castle Trails, have resolved to work with the Town and the BLM during this process, gathering broad stakeholder input and assisting in the organization of future trail stewardship needs.

New Castle Town Council confirms its desire to work with these and other volunteer groups, including Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, as well as the BLM, to provide increased stewardship of federal lands adjacent to New Castle. Commitment of funding by the Town for any planning and approval process or project implementation on federal lands may be addressed at a later time.

We foresee that the BLM's Colorado River Valley Field Office will determine the scope, schedule, and potential need for external funding to undertake trail system studies and planning processes during 2016 and 2017. We welcome your input and guidance on next steps that we should undertake in order to establish a timely and successful

process and outcome. We greatly appreciate your efforts to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for the Town of New Castle.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Gordon, New Castle Town Council, Mayor

Bruce Leland, Mayor Pro-Tempore

Frank Breslin, Councilor

Mary Metzger, Councilor

Art Riddile, Councilor

Patrick Stuckey, Councilor

Merle Means, Councilor