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Memorandum

To: Mayor & Council

From: David Reynolds

Re: Agenda Item: Consider Resolution TC2025-9 Approving an MOU with the Bureau of Land Management

Date: 04/01/2025

Purpose:

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider Resolution TC2025-9 a resolution of the New Castle Town Council approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding trail development and management.

In 2016 the Town of New Castle signed an MOU agreement with the BLM concerning trail development, trail maintenance, mutual benefits, and operational expectations for BLM properties north of Town. While technically the MOU expired in 2021, the BLM and the Town continued to operate under the mutually beneficial terms of the agreement. For consideration in Resolution TC2025-9 is a renewal of the same agreement that has been for nine years. Staff has met with representatives from the BLM to discuss who our compliance with the MOU to date and take suggestions for improvements in the future. BLM staff has expressed that New Castle has done a great job and is meeting all expectations with trail construction, maintenance, and events. BLM staff had the following recommendations as we move forward:

- Limit new trail construction projects to the single proposal that is currently under consideration. This project is a proposed new flow trail just east of the East Colorow Trail.
- Shift Town efforts from construction mode to maintenance mode focusing on weed control where needed.