



MEMORANDUM

P.O. BOX 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

**TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FROM: KATIE KENT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
**RE: WORK SESSION: FRISCO BACKYARD FUELS AND RECREATION PROJECT UPDATE**  
**DATE: AUGUST 22, 2023**

**Summary and Background:** On March 22, 2022, based on the Town's ongoing priorities for trail and recreation improvements, wildfire management, and increasing pressure on the existing trail network, Town Council adopted Resolution 22-10: A Resolution Approving an Agreement with Sno-Engineering, Inc., for the Development of a USFS Proposal for Resource Management and NEPA Review in Frisco's Backyard. Sno-Engineering, Inc., locally known as SE Group, is developing a proposal for USFS consideration of trail and resource management in the area known as Frisco's Backyard. The contracted scope of work includes the development of a proposal, on behalf of the Town, for resource management in the Backyard area. The proposal includes goals for fuel reduction and trail improvements among other resource management opportunities.

**Analysis:** During the work session before Council on August 22, 2023, the consultant team, led by Ash Smith of SE Group, along with Adam Bianchi with the U.S. Forest Service, will give an overview of the following:

- Update on the public scoping period that occurred along with unique comment submittals received.
  - The public scoping period for the project began with the publication of a legal notice in the Summit Daily on April 14, 2023 and ended on May 15, 2023. SE Group assisted the Forest Service with preparation of a scoping narrative and map that was emailed to a mailing list. SE Group also prepared an online StoryMap of the project that allowed the public to explore the proposal in detail (<https://arcg.is/181GiK0>). A public meeting was held at the Frisco Day Lodge on May 2, 2023 from 5-7 pm. While 32 individuals provided information on the public meeting sign-in sheet; attendance was higher than 32 as some attendees declined to sign in.
  - A total of 64 unique comment submittals were received from the public during the scoping period, and these submittals are publicly available on the Forest Service project website: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/ReadingRoom?Project=63395>.
- Modifications to the scope of work.
  - The fuels treatments initially proposed by the Town and the basis for SE Group's cost proposal were 230 acres; the acres proposed for treatment has been increased to approximately 1,200 acres following Forest Service Proposal review.

The overall analysis area, including trails projects, is currently approximately 2,850 acres.

- On October 12, 2022, the Frisco Backyard area was included in the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument designation. The intent for this presidential designation was not known at the time SE Group's contract of services was awarded in March 2022. Due to the project area's designation as a National Monument and the regulatory complexity associated with this designation, the National Environmental Policy Act process has been modified to include a more robust alternatives development process, more opportunities for public involvement, additions to resource analyses, and an increase in the number of prepared documents than was disclosed in SE Group's cost assumptions.
- Since the original contract was executed in 2022, the project design, regulatory environment, and the public involvement have been modified. As a result, a change order is requested at this time to bring out of scope and previously completed tasks into contract, meet the needs of the White River National Forest, and extend the contracted period.
- Request for additional funding in 2023 and an updated cost of funding the project in 2024.
  - Initial contract costs were based on a project schedule ending in February 2023. Due to the modifications to the scope of work, an additional fee is necessary to extend the project schedule through 2024.
  - SE Group will review the proposed change order request with Council. Preliminary numbers are still being reviewed at this time but indicate a need for an additional \$381,124 for work to be performed through 2024. This \$381,124 change order is requested to supplement the original \$240,500 contract. If approved, this would change the contract from \$240,500 to \$621,624.

**Financial Impact:** Sno-Engineering Inc.'s existing contract is for a cost not to exceed \$240,500, which was to be spread over the 2022 and 2023 budget years.

A request for an additional \$381,124 is being requested.

For reference, Town Council allocated \$500,000 in the 2023 budget (20-2000-5066) for Trails Projects. In February 2023, the Town did a supplemental budget appropriation for \$133,744, for a total allocation of \$633,744.

Project	2023 Budget	2023 Amended Budget	2023 Additional Requests	2024 Proposed Budget
PRA Trail Construction	\$250,000	\$250,000		\$150,000
Backyards Fuels and Mitigation Plan	\$100,000	\$100,000		
Management Plan with USFS for Frisco's Backyard Plan	\$150,000	\$150,000		\$125,000
<u>Trails Master Plan</u> <u>Carryover from 2022.</u>		\$6,252		
<u>Management Plan with USFS for Frisco's Backyard Plan</u> <u>Carryover from 2022.</u>		\$127,492		

<i>Management Plan with USFS for Frisco's Backyard Plan Proposed contract change for 2023</i>			~\$256,124	
TOTAL	\$500,000	\$633,744	\$256,124	\$275,000

Amending the 2023 budget for this additional request would need to come before Council in the form of a budget amendment. Funds of this magnitude are not currently available and will need to be further reviewed with the Finance Department before returning to Council for such a budget amendment.

The 2024 budget request will be brought before Council through the 2024 budget process.

Staff have sought opportunities for grant funding and cost sharing with other entities to help fund these efforts and will continue to do so. Mr. Bianchi will also be able to speak about funding as it pertains to project implementation.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff is seeking feedback from the Town Council on the project as a whole, and specific direction regarding the proposed budget amendment for 2023 for a cost of \$256,124. Modifications requested include:

- Formally amending the contract to state the scope of work has changed from 230 acres to approximately 2,850 acres.
- Modifying the proposed contract (\$240,500) to include an additional \$256,124 for 2023 and an additional \$125,000 for 2024, for a total contract cost of \$621,624. Contract details and financial purchasing policies will be reviewed and followed with our Town Attorney and Finance Director.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:** Completion of hazardous fuels mitigation and improvement of the trail network in the Frisco Backyard area would support a 2023 Project Goals under Thriving Economy noting the NEPA planning process with USFS for Frisco Backyard.

**Environmental Sustainability:** The overarching focus of this project is to improve the ecosystem health, reduce hazardous fuels and risk of wildfire, and create more sustainable recreation opportunities in the Backyard area. Mitigation of hazardous fuels on USFS lands adjacent to the Town of Frisco will improve forest health while reducing the potential impact of wildfire. Trail system improvements in this area will be required to follow current USFS management best practices for trail construction, which will reduce erosion and sedimentation. As with any type of construction activity there will be negative environmental impacts associated with energy consumption and soil disturbance but by conducting these activities in accordance with a plan that incorporates sustainable construction practices, the overall impacts will be minimized.

**Reviews and Approvals:**

- Leslie Edwards, Finance Director
- Diane McBride, Assistant Town Manager
- Tom Fisher, Town Manager

**Attachments:**

- Attachment 1 – SE Group - Change Order Request, August 16, 2023