



## Memorandum

To: Town Council

From: Paul Cada, Wildland Program Manager

Date: April 5, 2022

Subject: Booth Creek Fuels Treatment-NEPA Phase 5 Change Order

### I. Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to provide Council supporting information for a requested change order to the existing contract between the Town of Vail and SE Group for the support of the United States Forest Service completing an environmental review of the Booth Creek Fuels Reduction Project.

### II. Background

In 2020 the Town entered into a cooperative agreement with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to jointly study the environmental impacts of proposed fuels treatments in the Booth Creek area of East Vail. This area was identified as a high priority treatment area in to 2020 Vail Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The Town entered into a service agreement with the SE Group to assist the USFS in completing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the project area. To date the SE Group has completed field studies of the area as well as helped to develop a proposed action which is currently open for public comment.

### III. Current Situation

Due to unforeseen costs, variable study requirements, and an extended study period, the Town of Vail has chosen to execute the contract with SE Group in a phased approach. Phase 1 was executed on August 13, 2020, and three subsequent change orders have been approved in June, August and October of 2021. To date SE Group has completed all approved work in a timely and professional manor. Their expertise in the NEPA process is a valuable asset to both Town of Vail and USFS staff working on this project.

The attached change order requested for this contract will cover the public scoping, drafting of final decision documents and costs for some previously out of scope work associated with required project changes. The requested change order of \$99,000 will bring the total contract cost for the Town of Vail to \$292,850. This amount is in the range of the original quote provided by SE Group at the start of the project.

### IV. Staff Recommendation

Approved the requested change order to the existing contract with SE Group in a form approved by the Town Attorney.

### V. Attachments:

1. SE Group Change Order