MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EAGLE RANCH WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

A Meeting of the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Protection Committee (ERWPC) was held on April 10, 2026, at the Eagle Ranch Office, 1143 Capitol Street, Eagle, CO 81631.

Committee members present:
- Kim Hubble
- Steve Hoffman, Co-Chair
- Kate Sheldon, Chairperson
- Geoff Grimmer, Town of Eagle
- Devin Duval, CPW
- Courtney Harris, CPW

Also present:
- Tom Olden, Eagle Ranch HOA Executive Board Member
- Jason Berghauer, Eagle Ranch HOA Assistant Community Manager
- Scott Jones, habitat enhancement contractor
- Jennifer Jones, habitat enhancement contractor
- Mary Dow, Owner
- Debbie Murphy, Owner
- Tom Murphy, Owner
- Steve Mairose, Owner

The order of business was as follows:
1. Call to Order. Sheldon called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm MST. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes Approval. Upon motion made by Grimmer and seconded by Hubble, the Committee approved the minutes as corrected of the meeting held on February 24, 2026. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Item 8: strike "*from when Jamie Harrison was Coordinato*r" so the sentence reads: "*It was discussed that approximately one decade of records are missing*."

3. Adoption of Agenda: Upon motion made by Hoffman and seconded by Hubble, an amendment was made to the agenda to take up items involving attendees and items prioritized by CPW following Items 5 and 6. The motion was adopted unanimously.

4. Financial Report: Presented; fund balance $1,146,756.80

5. CPW's input to the Evaluation Criteria in *Roles and Responsibilities* Document

Hoffman said refining project evaluation criteria will benefit future committee members.

Duval advised that evaluation criteria needs to complement and be consistent with the Herd Management Plans for E-16 (elk), D-14 (deer), and B-11 (bear). Duval also emphasized that item 6. Monitoring and Adaptive Management is important for evaluating down the road and that it must reflect achievement of project objectives, whether it's three years or five years post-treatment.

Replace section 1.8 with the Evaluation Criteria and reference the RFP as a source

Kim Hubble noted "*not to exceed*" should be included, and it was discussed that after this first RFP launch it would be written in.

Hoffman said each year when the budget is adopted it needs to include how much will be spent from the budget.

Potential friction points were brought up that even if a project scored high, CPW approval is required and therefore CPW has veto authority.

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Executive Board Member Tom Olden commented that RFP items 5. Budget and Value and 6. Monitoring and Adaptive Management for follow-up are especially important, such as when noxious weeds are treated that requires continuing recurring followup and treatment. Olden also said seeking compounding funding is important.

Upon motion made by Hoffman and seconded by Grimmer, Evaluation Criteria was changed from percentage to points; with a minimum of 75 points being required for a project to advance to CPW for final approval which is required by the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan. Plan alignment was changed from 25 to 50 points, with the other categories adjusted:

1. **Plan Alignment (50 points)**–Consistency with Plan objectives and compliance with seasonal restrictions, setbacks/BMPs, and habitat priorities.
2. **Ecological Merit (15 points)**–Expected benefits to wildlife, winter range function, fisheries,riparian condition, and water quality.
3. **Feasibility & Readiness (10 points)**–Permitting path, landowner permissions, constructability, realistic schedule, seasonal window integration.
4. **Team Experience (10 points)**–Relevant restoration/wildlife expertise; success on similar projects; familiarity with local conditions and agencies.
5. **Budget & Value (10 points)**–Cost effectiveness, leverage of matching funds, clear and reasonable costs tied to outcomes.
6. **Monitoring & Adaptive Management (5 points)**–Clear metrics, practical monitoring plan,and commitment to data/reporting

And for projects to be consistent with CPW's Herd Management Plans for E-16 (elk), D-15 (deer) and B-11 (bear)

The motion was adopted unanimously.

6. Amendment to *RFP form* to make the evaluation criteria consistent with *Roles and Responsibilities* Document, and distribution launch date:

Duval added a caveat that after bids to reevaluate our Evaluation Criteria.

RFP launch date would be the following week, April 13-17, 2026.

Hoffman said the Roles and Responsibilities rewrite will be on the May 13 HOA Executive Board meeting agenda.

Upon motion made by Hoffman and seconded by Grimmer, adoption with changes and transmittal to the HOA Executive Board, adopted unanimously.

9. **New Business**
a) Discuss and approve: bear-proof trash enclosures

Jason Berghauer clarified that the Phase One Acquisition Element is $20,156, due to the removal of the laser engraved Eagle Ranch Wildlife Protection Committee plaques.

It was discussed whether it was the HOA's responsibility, and specifically the Commercial district's responsibility for the cans within the commercial district.

Options such as cost-sharing with the Commercial district and/or HOA were discussed, as well as asking a company to sponsor it. It was brought up that homeowners had to pay for their own bear-proof trash cans; that it was the end-user who was ultimately responsible for paying for the bearproof trash cans.

Concerns were cited regarding whether any company or entity within 5 miles would qualify to [ask ERWPC to pay for their bear-proof enclosures, and if the Committee denied such requests would we be found to be discriminating.

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Grimmer said fines will start to be imposed starting January 1, 2027 of up to $5,000.

Duval noted that some grants are available, such as CPW's Glenwood area office but are $1,000,000 for the entire state annually, and involve a huge administrative lift to apply and follow up for.

Timing and sense of urgency were discussed.

Hoffman stated that any decision we make does not create precedent for the future, and this will be included in any approval letter.

Grimmer and Harris will follow up with Town of Eagle to see about additional funding opportunities, Vail Honeywagon and Vail Waste for a potential Lend/Lease program, and CPW's grant deadline of May 29, 2026.

Upon motion made by Harris and seconded by Hubble, the decision to push to the May meeting was adopted unanimously.

9. New Business

d) Owner request for Letter of Support for speed calming measures on Eagle Ranch Road:

A representative from a neighborhood group on Double Hitch and Foxglove requested a Letter of Support for the speed limit to be returned to the original 25mph to be sent to Eagle Town Council, and funding for two speed radar feedback signs on a stretch of road between Abrams & Fourth of July Rd. Cost of two signs is $6,790- which does not include installation, plus the cost of two 25mph signs.

Grimmer said the timing f
or a Letter of Support is when the topic is on Eagle Town Council's agenda, and it is not currently on the agenda. The road is Town of Eagle's jurisdiction.
Hoffman discussed posting an unmanned police car in the area.

Hubble pointed out there is also the same problem on Fourth of July Road all winter, and that it's also deer year round (not just elk seasonally).

Duval discussed other passive means such as temporary rumble or speed strips. Cons include that it would be labor-intensive and that Public Works has said snowplows don't work on these. Treating the cause -not the symptom- by investing in habitat enhancement measures outside of Eagle Ranch to keep wildlife out of Eagle Ranch, mitigations such as pinon juniper mastication, guzzlers, reseeding etc to remove the desire of Elk to travel down into Eagle Ranch.

School zones have lower speed limits; a question was raised if this area could be interpreted as a school zone because it has kids biking to school on the paved path next to the road.

The representative volunteered to do more fact-finding: find out details regarding the flashing speed limit sign near Color Coffee: how it's changed behavior in the approx two years it's been in place, and if there was a corresponding speed study prior to installation which could be looked at that would be comparable to the stretch between Abrams and Fourth of July Rd.

8. Unfinished Business

b) Dilapidated barbed wire mapping
Sheldon is building a map of unused/expired barbed wire fencing which could be removed within 5 miles: 12 locations thus far, and three locations where barbed wire could be retrofitted with wildlife-friendly top and base wire. Sheldon is communicating with Eagle County Open Space, BLM, USFS, Town of Eagle Open Space, Loyd Gerard, Scott Jones, Rangewise Fencing and ECCD to create the map.

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Scott Jones was introduced; his company did the barbed wire retrofit in BCVR which ERWPC co-funded with ECOS. Jones' company does a myriad of habitat enhancement work from mastication to revegetation in numerous approaches including noxious weed removal strategies, worm farms and castings enhancement, water enhancements such as spring development into tire tanks, guzzler installation and bubblers. He converted Colorado River Ranch into a successful sustainable habitat with the description that "CRR looked like Chuck E. Cheese while the surrounding area looked like Jenny Craig".

Duval inquired about Jones' equipment, rough cost per acre and per mile and Jones described low-impact approaches including accessing areas by horseback and hiking, to further protect habitat.

Jones has relationships with BLM, the Gerards and numerous entities and is able to manage the paperwork involved as well with HPP and other funding multipliers. He grew up here and knows the land as a local rancher would. Jones will look at adding locations to our barbed wire removal map, retrofit map, and also adding springs locations for potential year-round water sources for wildlife, and looks forward to our RFP.

9 New Business
c) Whether to advocate or not for initiatives such as E-Bike letter to BLM

Hoffman said in review of the Declaration it seems clear the Committee is to strictly manage the Wildlife Trust Fund and develop educational materials for wildlife protection. Advocating is crossing the line in our authority. The letter to BLM letter resulted in some blowback. We are to mimic CPW's position in our projects, and even though we also mimicked OSRAC's decision regarding E-Bikes there could be consequences beyond what was achieved. Declaration is clear: only The Town and CPW can enforce the Mitigation Plan. The speed calming letter of support request falls into an advocacy category.

Duval discussed how we interface; that it is redundant for ERWPC to mirror CPW because CPW has already spoken to BLM in opposition.

Hubble said sending a press release encouraging the public to write letters to BLM would be what ERWPC could do.

Owner Debbie Murphy, member of MEAC asked about her request for ERWPC to advocate for a date change for upcoming mountain bike races within 5 miles of Eagle Ranch; CPW suggested she contact Nick Jaramillo at BLM.

9. New Business
b) Abrams CE and Bighorn Gravel Race
Motion made by Hubble and seconded by Sheldon to send a letter to Alex Smiley/Town of Eagle approving the race to reflect the twelve conditions of EVLT's letter, to be sent by Sheldon, was adopted unanimously.

Grimmer left at approximately 2pm; Duval left at approximately 2:15pm

8. **Unfinished Business**
a) 1994 to current records organization, storage for future committee members

Hoffman updated the Committee on efforts to organize records for future committee members.

c) Designs for educational signage for habitat enhancement projects

The small basic signs will state: Please stay on trail; habitat enhancement in progress
The large advanced signs will follow the style introduced at our March meeting: Land Stewardship: Conserving Natural Landscapes

Sheldon will continue to develop the content on the advanced sign.

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d) Procedure for Owners' project ideas and suggestions submissions:

Discussion for HOA website to link to a page for Owner involvement and opportunity, where owners can learn about meetings and submit a form with their ideas. Content for the form was discussed as well as response procedure,

e) Future projects for the Committee:

Update that the potential projects master list has been refined to 31 projects, with Habitat Enhancements being the largest category.

f) ERWPC logo and email address

It was discussed for Sheldon to try canva.com for no-cost logo generation, utilizing the basic framework of Eagle Ranch's blue logo and adding silhouettes of eagle, elk and cutthroat trout.

It was discussed for Sheldon to see if East West would provide an email, which a member of ERWPC would be able to access; the point person from ERWPC would be gatekeeper of incoming project ideas, complaints and suggestions.

g) Cub Scouts distribution of BearWise door hangers
Vail Troop 231 distributed 500 door flyers in Eagle Ranch, which were provided free of charge by Eagle County OS/DNR. It was decided for Sheldon to draft a blurb to send with photos to the HOA Executive Board, with a request to publish in the Eagle Ranch e-newsletter, Vail Daily Town Talk, and Eagle Outside. There will be no mention of ERWPC in the blurb.

7. Report of Town of Eagle representative: Effort overlap of habitat enhancement projects with ToE OS; ToE's mechanism for ERWPC work on ToE property:

Geoff Grimmer left the meeting earlier so this topic was not covered.

9. **New Business**
a) Education effort for noxious weeds in HOA e-news for May/June

A draft for addressing White Top was discussed: change it to focus on how White Top outcompetes native forage. Remove the deer picture and cattle language, but leave the steps of how to get rid of White Top. Circulate via email to ERWPC for final approval prior to submitting to HOA Executive Board.

f) Platform for virtual attendance, recording and Ai for assisting writing meeting minutes (Microsoft Teams)

Sheldon found a no-cost workaround for recording and broadcasting meetings. Discussion that the Executive Board is going to discuss/decide on a policy for recording and broadcasting at their May meeting, which ERWPC will follow.

g) Abrams area unsanctioned trails update

Under Future Biz at March 2026 meeting, Grimmer brought up concerns about 6 illegal mountain bike crossings on Abrams Creek near the area of our Cutthroat Trout road intervention project. Sheldon investigated and learned that VVMTA is in the process of re-routing some trails and installing two bridges. The project is currently being reviewed by BLM, with a potential 2-5 year timeline.

h) Potential fire mitigation rec trail proposal was tabled.

10. **Future Business**
    a) Potential project: create map of undeveloped land potentially available for purchase within 5 miles

Hoffman gave an update on Brush Creek Stables Ranch/Evancho property of 36 acres at the end of Eagle Ranch Rd from an EVLT perspective with potential project partnerships with other entities.

Double lot owners parcels was discussed, 26 private property owners own 28 vacant lots in key wildlife movement areas.

Several parcels within Eagle Ranch are also undeveloped, including 19 empty lots in strategic locations for wildlife movement.

11. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates:

May 13 meeting was moved to May 11 to accommodate the Executive Board's quarterly meeting.
June 10; and moving meetings to quarterly.

12. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:14pm MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Sheldon, Chairperson
May 1, 2026

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