

Action items bolded

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE WILDLIFE COMMITTEE OF
EAGLE RANCH ASSOCIATION

A Meeting of the Wildlife Committee of the Eagle Ranch Association (the “Association”) was held on June 5, 2024, at the Eagle Ranch Office, 1143 Capitol Street, Eagle, CO 81631, or via video/teleconference*.

Committee Members Present:

Derek Rose, Eagle Ranch Golf Course
Brian Wodrich, Colorado Parks and Wildlife*
Hugh Fairfield-Smith, Eagle Valley Wildland
Brian Lieberman, Town of Eagle

Others Present:

Shelley Bellm, EWH Assistant Community Manager, Eagle Ranch; Wildlife Coordinator

The order of business was as follows:

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. MDT. A quorum of Committee members was present.
2. Approval of Minutes. Derek Rose motioned to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024, Wildlife Committee, seconded by Brian Wodrich. Motion carries 3-0.
3. New Business

a. Town of Eagle Enforcement Ranger.

Brian Lieberman provided an update on the creation of the Open Space Ranger position with the Town of Eagle. This position will be evaluated through the Town’s budget process. Additionally, the Town’s Open Space Master Plan identifies open space enforcement as a priority.

The Open Space Ranger would replace the current seasonal open space maintenance position and would be responsible for trail maintenance, trail/open space planning, and enforcement ranger. The budget for this position is estimated around \$150,000 for the first year and approximately \$100,000 the following years. The initial costs for the ranger would include updates to a vehicle, body cam, Kevlar vest, dispatch licensure, ranger training, radio, uniform, and other personal protective equipment. This position would be a limited commission officer, not a POST certified officer.

The Town is seeking partners to fund this full-time position and is requesting participation from the Wildlife Committee, Eagle Ranch Metro District, and the Eagle Ranch Home Owner’s Association.

Board Discussion:

Hugh Fairfield-Smith suggested covering up to one-half of the cost for a period of two years. It would look better if the Town provided 52% with the remaining amount covered through partner participation.

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Brian Lieberman mentioned that contract discussions will occur at a later time. The committee discussed whether to consider adding coverage details as a condition of approval and suggested that the contract should include enforcement of all open space, and golf course winter trails.

Shelley Bellm suggested that this position should not be limited to Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm and that weekend and evening enforcement need to be considered. A potential rotation with Eagle County Animal Control may provide the coverage needs without requiring this position to work every weekend.

Direction: Brian Lieberman will bring the proposed funding model to the Town indicating a willingness of the Wildlife Committee to fund up to 48% of this position for a period of three years. The Committee recommends that the Town continue to work with other funding partners, such as the Eagle Ranch HOA and the Eagle Ranch Metro District. In addition, the Committee recommends that the Town provide funding for at least 52% of the cost for this proposed position.

The Town will return to the Committee for an official financial commitment and contract.

b. Wildlife Protection Plan Update.

Shelley Bellm provided an overview of the conflicting language found in the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Protection Plan, Eagle Ranch Design Guidelines, and the Eagle Ranch PUD. In order to update the Wildlife Mitigation Plan, all partners must be in agreement and those partners are CPW, Town of Eagle, and the Wildlife Committee.

Updates will be required for all documents to ensure conflicting language does not exist. The Design Review Board is currently working to update their guidelines and the final step will be to amend the Eagle Ranch PUD.

Wildlife Mitigation Plan

Total building envelope shall include any residence, any allowable outbuildings, driveways, walkways, patios, and landscaped areas. All portions of a lot outside of the designated 16,500 square feet building envelope shall be retained in its natural state to maintain undisturbed native vegetation as wildlife habitat. No grading, vegetation manipulation or landscaping shall be permitted to these lands. Underground utility crossings shall be permitted but must be revegetated to a natural condition subject to Design Review Committee and Town approval.

Design Guidelines

Development disturbance on all lots in Filings 24 and 25 is restricted to not more than 16,500 square feet as follows: 1) The disturbance area should be compact in shape to retain as much contiguous natural vegetation as practicable. 2) The disturbance area may not include slopes greater than 30% gradient. 3) All construction activities shall be contained within the disturbance area, including but not limited to site grading, construction impacts, buildings, driveways, walkways, patios, retaining walls, outbuildings, and most landscaped areas. 4) Permitted actions outside the Building Envelope are limited to the following: a. Street cut and fill slopes and utility crossings to be promptly revegetated to a natural condition; b. Noxious weed control. c. Wildfire Defensible Space

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landscape treatments prescribed in Section 1.8 below. d. Approved wildlife habitat enhancements. 5) No other grading, disturbance, structures, vegetation manipulation, or landscaping shall be permitted on lands outside the disturbance area without prior approval by the Town of Eagle and the DRB.

PUD Language

Building Envelopes: Home site construction disturbance on any lot over 1/2 acre that is located within Eagle Ranch Filings 8, 22, 24, and 25 shall be limited to 16,500 square feet. 12 As used in this document, the term “building envelope” shall be deemed to include the residence, any allowable outbuildings, driveways, walkways, patios and landscaped areas. All portions of a lot outside of the designated 16,500 square feet building envelope shall be retained in its natural state to maintain undisturbed native vegetation as wildlife habitat. No grading, vegetation manipulation or landscaping shall be permitted on these lands, except for wildfire hazard mitigation requirements approved by the Design Review Board and in accordance with the requirements of the Town of Eagle and noxious weed control. Underground utility crossings shall be permitted but must be revegetated to a natural condition subject to Design Review Board and Town approval.

Staff is recommending updating plan’s language to “Allow for minimal planting, in accordance with the Eagle Ranch Design Guidelines and with approval from the Eagle Ranch Design Review Board and Eagle Valley Wildland. Any plantings approved shall not be an attractant for wildlife and will follow the recommendations found in the Landscape Plantings List Addendum to the Eagle Ranch Design Guidelines.” Additional language will be added to match the PUD language to include wildfire hazard mitigation as approved by the Design Review Board.

Board Discussion:

Brian Wodrich suggested utilizing wildlife standards for any planting outside of the limit of disturbance. Recommends not making any changes to the fencing requirements to allow the full property to be fenced.

Direction: Direction was provided to Shelley to continue to work on updating the language and bring the Wildlife Plan to the committee for final approval.

4. Other Business

- a. GroundUp Solutions. Brian Lieberman gave a brief update from the data collection meeting held June 30. Locations for soil testing were discussed to provide better direction to the team. Contract and a proposal update are forthcoming.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m. MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

SBellm

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Shelley Bellm, Coordinator