



Eagle Ranch Association  
Wildlife Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 21, 2023  
2:00 p.m. MDT

Eagle Ranch Office

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Meeting ID: 951 6286 1671

Passcode: 991949

Agenda

- 1) Call to order, verify quorum.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
- 3) Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2023
- 4) New Business
  - a) Town of Eagle Interpretive Sign Program Funding 20 min.
  - b) Budget Approval 5 min.
- 5) Other Business
- 6) Adjourn

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 October 24, 2023, at the Eagle Ranch Office, 1143 Capitol Street, Eagle, CO 81631, or via video/teleconference.

Committee Members Present:

Scott Turnipseed, Eagle Ranch Association  
Kent Rose, Eagle Ranch Association  
Brian Lieberman, Town of Eagle

Others Present:

Liz Adams, Residential Director, Executive Board  
Jamie Harrison, Residential Director, Executive Board  
Shelley Bellm, EWH Assistant Community Manager, Eagle Ranch; Wildlife Coordinator  
Hugh Fairfield-Smith, Eagle Valley Wildland  
Nicole Asselin, Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance  
Ernest Saeger, Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance  
Kate Sheldon & Steve Mairose, Resident  
Tom & Celena Olden, Residents  
Nathan Lehnert, Eagle County Animal Services

The order of business was as follows:

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. MDT. A quorum of Committee members was present.
2. Approval of Minutes. Kent Rose motioned to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2023, Wildlife Committee, seconded by Brian Lieberman. Motion carries 3-0.
3. New Business
  - a. Eagle Valley Wildland – WUI adoption & partnership opportunities  
Hugh Fairfield-Smith, Eagle Valley Wildland, gave a presentation to the committee regarding Eagle Valley Wildland and the organizations purpose. Established in 2019 in response to the growing wildfire threat in Eagle County. We actively treated 1700 acres of wildfire risk areas in 2022 and we will have treated 2600 acres by the end of 2023.

Eagle Valley Wildland wildfire prevention benefits our community through improvements to ecosystem health. Lack of natural fire and non-management of vegetation has degraded the forestlands.

Eagle Ranch Association is currently reviewing a partnership with Eagle Valley Wildland for property assessment, Design Review Board landscape recommendations and potential habitat enhancement opportunities. The committee was provided with a copy of an IGA

for reference only. The wildlife committee may be asked to consider an investment in this partnership and this partnership would be specifically designed to benefit wildlife habitat according to Wildlife Management documents.

b. Respect the Wild Campaign – Recap & Request for Future Funding

Nicloe Asselin provided a recap of the 2022/2023 Respect the Wild Campaign and recognized improvements that were observed through this education program. The Respect the Wild Campaign is a community wide education campaign meant to express the importance of coexisting with our local herds. This campaign contributed to a 99% success rate for compliance with seasonal closures, provided creative signage and email campaigns utilized in educating residents, and a wildlife education program.

2024 campaign will allow for the addition of paid staff at trailheads including Arroyo, Haymaker and the Golf Course, volunteer training, recruitment & incentives, wildlife education event, additional trailhead game cameras, increased social media, partner marketing, etc. 2023/2024 Contribution from Wildlife Committee would be \$15,400.00.

Kate Sheldon, resident of Eagle Ranch, asked to provide additional information related to this campaign and discuss some of the frustrations surrounding the golf course and the interaction between wildlife and pets & humans. Nathan Lehnert was introduced at this time to discuss an opportunity to partner with Eagle County to provide a full-time enforcement agent to the Eagle Ranch Community. The cost for this additional enforcement agent would be \$80,000 a year, for three years.

Nathan indicated that Eagle County Animal Control does not have the authority to enforce leash laws on Eagle Ranch Golf Course and common areas within Eagle Ranch. This conversation created some concern with all parties involved and the Wildlife Coordinator will work with the Town of Eagle to ensure that enforcement mechanisms are in place throughout Eagle Ranch prior to requesting a modification to the Town Code.

Brian Lieberman motioned to approve the funding for continued support for the VVMTA Respect the Wild Campaign, the motion was seconded Scott Turnipseed. Motion carried 3-0.

c. Dynamic Wildlife Warning Signs – Kate Sheldon

Kate Sheldon presented research on a Dynamic Wildlife Warning Sign program that provided signage options from simple yard signs to more technologically advanced options based on information received from CDOT. The goal would be to give warning to motorists when wildlife is in the areas known for high wildlife movement.

No decision on this item was made. Warning Signs will be added to a future agenda item.

d. Wildlife Education & Enforcement - Partnership with Eagle County Animal Services

The request to partner with Eagle County Animal Control services was presented to the Wildlife Committee during an earlier discussion. The contract for this service is between the Town of Eagle and Eagle County. The Town would be required to authorize this agreement.

e. Wildlife Expenditures – Budget discussion

A brief discussion regarding 2024 expenditures was presented to the board, including a reimbursement to the Eagle Ranch Master Association for wages associated with the Wildlife Committee Coordinator. A wage of \$250 per meeting will be reimbursed to the Association to cover the salary expenses of the current employee. This wage will cover all agenda preparation, meeting attendance, and the preparation of minutes. Any additional time spent will be addressed on a per-project basis.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelley Bellm, Coordinator

DRAFT

**Town of Eagle  
Funding Request  
Interpretive Wildlife Sign Project  
Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee  
November 21, 2023**

Project Need

The Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails plans to install interpretive wildlife/ecosystem educational signs along the Brush Creek paved path in the open space.

A key recommendation from the 2022 Open Space and Trails Master plan was to invest in new interpretive signage in Town Open Space that provides educational material about local wildlife. This included information about how to mitigate impacts on wildlife while recreating, the importance of keeping distance from wildlife (particularly in winter), the need to keep dogs on a leash, and the significance of respecting seasonal wildlife trail and open space closures.

In addition, both the 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan and the 2021 Elevate Eagle Comp Plan identify the need to improve signage and educational material in open space for non-English speaking and traditionally underserved communities. All text for this project will be in both Spanish and English.

Project Budget/Request

The total budget for this project is \$145,000. Most of the funding (\$110,000) for this project will come from the Town’s Open Space fund. **The Town requests \$35,000 from the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee to help close the gap on project costs.**

Phase	Item	Budget
	1 Project Visioning/into	\$5,375.00
	2 Content/ design	\$14,000.00
	2 Walking Mountains	\$5,000.00
	2 Spanish Translation	\$1,000.00
	2 Photographs	\$1,000.00
	2 Illustrations	\$2,000.00
	Fabrication and 3 instlatioon	\$105,000.00
	Contingency (8%)	\$11,625.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$145,000.00</b>
	<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	
	Town of Eagle	\$110,000
	Eagle Ranch Wildlife	<b>\$35,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$145,000</b>

### Project Background

The Town hopes to develop 12-15 interpretive signs that will be spaced along the paved path near Brush Creek in Open Space. One sign will be located near the Haymaker Trailhead. A trailhead kiosk sign will also be developed near the fishing-is-fun pond. It will include a map, information about the interpretive signs, and the fishing pond.


Walking Mountains has been contracted to develop the signage content, and we will work with a local photographer for wildlife pictures.

Examples of the signs are located on the next page. These are rough drafts and are subject to change. Keep in mind that the translation on the signs was developed with Google Translate to get an idea for space. The final text will be translated by a local translator.

## Signage Examples:


**During the spring, after** gestating for about 250 days, cows give birth to their young. Newborn calves weigh about 30 pounds but quickly put on weight.

To supply calves' rapid growth, cows need a steady supply of food to produce milk to feed their young. Elk herds return to the same areas year after year in search of food and to avoid other animals.



### Protective Parents


When an elk perceives a threat, it can cause a great deal of stress to the animal and reduce the overall survival of calves. **Give us space!**



Durante la primavera, después de una gestación de unos 250 días, las vacas dan a luz a sus crías. Los terneros recién nacidos pesan alrededor de 30 libras pero rápidamente aumentan de peso.

Para facilitar el rápido crecimiento de los terneros, las vacas necesitan un suministro constante de alimentos para producir leche para alimentar a sus crías. Las manadas de alces regresan a las mismas zonas año tras año en busca de alimento y para evitar otros animales.

Cuando un alce percibe una amenaza, puede causar mucho estrés al animal y reducir la supervivencia general de los terneros. **¡Danos espacio!**



The wetlands around Brush Creek have been altered and shaped by beavers building and changing their habitat over time. Beavers build dams to stop the flow of water and lodges to live in.

Beaver dams create ponds which enhance a beaver's shelter and increase their access to food. A beaver pond also creates habitat for fish, waterfowl, diverse plant species, and other mammals.

Beaver lodges and dams are important parts of this Open Space, so **don't disturb the beavers' hard work!**



### Busy Beavers



*Underwater view/Vista submarina*

Los humedales alrededor de Brush Creek han sido alterados y moldeados por los castores que construyeron y cambiaron su hábitat con el tiempo. Los castores construyen represas para detener el flujo de agua y refugios donde vivir.

Las represas de castores crean estanques que mejoran el refugio de los castores y aumentan su acceso a los alimentos. Un estanque de castores también crea un hábitat para peces, aves acuáticas, diversas especies de plantas y otros mamíferos.

Las cabañas de castores y las represas son partes importantes de este espacio abierto, **¡así que no interrumpas su arduo trabajo!**





