



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631**

This agenda, meetings, and information about the Committee can be viewed at www.Townofeagle.org.

OSRAC MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION

This will be an in-person meeting with access via Microsoft Teams. First-time users of Microsoft Teams will need to download the free app before joining the meeting.

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9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT

9:10 a.m. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

9:15 a.m. (40 min) 2024 Open Space Management Plan Priorities and Work Plan Presentation

9:55 a.m. (20 min) Respect the Wild Update

10:15 a.m. (5 min) New Business/ Future Agenda items

10:20 a.m. (40 min) Executive Session to consider the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal or other property as it relates to open space pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a) and (E).

11:00 a.m. ADJOURN



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631**

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Phone Conference ID: 870 694 782#

9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Call to Order at: 9:03

Roll Call:

Committee members present: Roger Mitchell, Chris Kehoe, Phil Kirkman, Jessica Foulis, Ernest Saeger, Lizzy Owens, Erinn Hoban, Anna Nakea

Committee members absent: None.

Staff Present: Brian Lieberman, OST Manger and Tom Gosiorowski, PW Director

Town Council Present: Ellen Bodenheimer

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

9:10 a.m. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

MOTION to approve the DECEMBER OSRAC meeting minutes by Owens and second by Kehoe. Motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor (Kehoe, Mitchell, Foulis, Saeger, Owens, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

Election of Committee Officers

MOTION to elect Ernest Seager as the Committee Chair of the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee for the 2024 calendar year by Kehoe and second by Foulis. Motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor (Kehoe, Mitchell, Foulis, Saeger, Owens, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.

Eagle Environmental Assessment Update for non-motorized projects on Bureau of Land Management Lands

- Alan Czepinski, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado River Valley Field Office, presented an update on ongoing Environmental Assessments in the Eagle area on lands managed by the BLM.
- Zone 1 of the Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is the non-motorized focused area. The Hardscrabble Trails Coalition (HTC) and the Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA) submitted a proposal for trail decommissioning, reroutes, and some new trail miles on BLM lands adjacent to the Town of Eagle. The proposed projects are largely derived from high-priority items identified in the Town's 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan (OST Plan).
- Alan reported there have been some adjustments to what was originally proposed. Alan presented some updated maps.
- Alan believed the environmental assessment should be completed by March 2024.
- The BLM received 14 comments on the proposed projects in the EA. None of the comments were deemed to have substantive content and, therefore, were not specifically addressed.
- The Rocky Mountain Sport Riders also submitted a proposal for a new trail in Zone 2- which is the motorized zone of the Hardscrabble area. This proposal is also undergoing review.

Eagle Bureau of Land Management Camping Management and Capacity Discussion

- Town staff reported that the 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan identified determining a community-supported level of dispersed camping on adjoining BLM lands and reducing impacts to natural resources from camping as a high-priority project.
- Alan Czepinski with the BLM explained the current camping regulations on BLM lands adjoining the Town of Eagle.
- The Committee discussed the topic.
- The Committee suggested that it would be beneficial for the Town to continue conversations with the BLM on camping management for adjacent public lands.
- The Committee was generally supportive of adding a portable restroom on Bellyache Road, posting additional signage related to camping, and monitoring camping and its impacts in the area.

Hardscrabble Road Use Designation Consistency for Spring Non-Motorized Travel

- Town staff reported that the lower portion of Hardscrabble Road travels through lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management below the Wolverton area. However, the entire road is

managed and maintained by the National Forest Service (NFS), including travel management. This has led to inconsistent seasonal closure dates in the area.

- The 2022 OST Master Plan identified the need to address inconsistency for seasonal use restrictions and travel management. However, Hardscrabble Road was not specifically identified in the plan.
- The NFS staff said they would be willing to consider this inconsistency. However, the Town or a partner would need to submit a proposal, and it would be subject to NEPA.
- The Committee generally saw value in the Town addressing this inconsistency.
- There was general agreement that the road could be opened to mechanized use up to the intersection with Second Gulch.
- Some Committee members thought it should go up to Wolverton, however, others did not support early access above Second Gulch.
- Some Committee members thought if the road is opened to mechanized use, it should also be opened to motorized use.
- The types of use and locations for use could be figured out during the NEPA analysis.

MOTION to recommend that the Town pursue modifying the use restrictions on Hardscrabble Road (Forest Service Road 413) from April 16 – May 22 to permit mechanized use and potentially motorized use to be consistent with the surrounding trail system policies by Saeger and second by Kehoe. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Kehoe, Foulis, Saeger, Owens, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 1 opposed (Mitchell).

New Business/ Future Agenda Items

- A Committee member requested that staff present the priorities for implementation from the Open Space Management Plans in 2024.

MOTION to ADJOURN at 10:28 by Saeger and second by Foulis. Motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor (Kehoe, Mitchell, Foulis, Saeger, Owens, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: February 6, 2024

Agenda Item: Open Space Management Plan Priorities and Work Plan Presentation

REQUEST: None.

BACKGROUND: In December 2023, the Town of Eagle adopted Management Plans for open space properties owned and managed by the Open Space and Trails department. The Management Plans detail the conditions of the open space properties as of the plan's adoption date and provide management strategies to maintain and improve the open space values of the properties.

Recommendations and management strategies are prioritized according to the priority level, timing of implementation, and project duration. They also consider if projects should be tackled through general program operations or as a capital project.

The plans have a lifespan of five years, and most projects and recommendations in the plan are intended to be met or completed within five years. Other projects are identified as "ongoing" and generally address annual operations.

Staff have created the 2024 Implementation Work Plan to help the Town and the public understand the priorities in the management plans and identify a road map for projects to be completed in 2024. The work plan outlines capital projects, partnerships, and operation approaches to implement recommendations in the management plan.

ANALYSIS AND COMMUNITY INPUT: The development of the Management Plans included several opportunities for the Committee, the public, and stakeholders to engage with the plan development in 2023. Staff will continue to provide engagement opportunities through the implementation of the plans.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: The 2024 Implementation Work Plan includes a chart outlining the funding source, cost, and staff time associated with project implementation. Funding for the projects comes from a wide range of sources, including the Open Space Preservation Fund Operation and Capital budgets, grants from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, contributions from the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee, the Eagle Valley Wildland Fire, and others. Anticipated staff time is broken out per objective identified in the plan.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: The Open Space and Trails Master Plan and the Open Space Management Plans identify community-supported and prioritized projects and management approaches for the Town's Open Space and Trails program. This work plan provides a road map for the Town and the public to understand the priorities in the management plans for 2024.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Open Space Management Plan 2024 Implementation Work Plan
2. The Open Space Management Plans can be viewed on the Town of Eagle website at this link:
<https://www.townofeagle.org/1014/Open-Space-Management-Plans>.

Open Space Management Plan

2024 Implementation Work Plan

February 6, 2024

In 2023, the Town of Eagle adopted management plans for open space properties owned and managed by the Open Space and Trails department. The plans detail the conditions of the open space properties as of the plan's adoption date and provide management strategies to maintain and improve the open space values of the properties. Recommendations are prioritized according to the priority level, timing of implementation, and project duration. They also consider if projects should be tackled through general program operations or as a capital project.

The Management Plans have a lifespan of five years, and most projects and recommendations in the plan are intended to be met or completed within five years. Other projects are identified as "ongoing" and generally address annual operations.

This work plan identifies the objectives and projects to address in the 2024 calendar year.

Riparian Enhancements

- Develop a restoration project to address channel incision, bank erosion, and revegetation on Brush Creek
- Start planning for a restoration project along Hernage Creek – focusing on channel incision, bank erosion, and vegetation.

Fuels Management

- Meet with Eagle Valley Wildland Fire and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to identify and discuss fuels management projects and goals for 2024.
 - The meeting should take place in early 2024.
 - Projects will be mostly managed by Eagle Valley Wildland.
 - The Town will assist with communication efforts.
- Continue tracking and monitoring the implementation of new and existing projects.
- Continue to monitor and improve noxious weed management in fuel treatment areas.

Noxious Weeds

- Work with the Colorado Department of Agriculture to secure the \$14,000 grant request for noxious weed treatments in fuel breaks and wildfire treatment areas.
- Focus noxious weed treatments on problem areas identified in the management plans.
- Work with the Town's noxious weed contractor to increase tracking of treatment locations and findings in the field.
- Work with the Town's noxious weed contractor to increase treatment of trail corridors with their new one-wheel treatment apparatus.
- Start planning to develop a noxious weed management plan and a noxious weed advisory board (likely OSRAC).
- Work with Eagle Valley Wildland Fire to identify, fund, and treat noxious weeds in fuel treatment areas.

Pest Management

- Focus treatment efforts of ground squirrels on problem areas identified in the management plans.
- Focus treatment efforts on areas typically used by humans, such as trailheads, the dog park, and the interface between open space and the built environment.
- Look into alternative population management approaches, such as predator control.
- Encourage neighboring property owners to manage ground squirrel populations.

Big Game Winter Range Protection/ Wildlife Management

- Evaluate the need to install new closure gates on Mayer Gulch where the trail crosses the highlands bike path.
- Improve monitoring efforts during the winter closure period.
- Work on enforcement options for closure violations and off-leash dogs (likely not concluded in 2024).
- Coordinate with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to determine any new management needs.
- Start planning for revegetation efforts in disturbed areas throughout the Town's Open Space portfolio. Focus efforts on areas that are beneficial for wildlife and coordinate with CPW.
- Continue coordination with Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA) and the Respect the Wild Campaign.

Recreation Access and Management

- Work with Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA) and the Hardscrabble Trails Coalition (HTC) to implement phase 1 Open Space and Trails Master Plan projects. Consider any needs and impacts from these projects on Town open space.
- Partner with VVMTA and HTC to develop a trail maintenance plan and tracking system.
- Contract with VVMTA's Trail Conservation Crew (TCC) to complete needed trail maintenance projects.
- Install new trail etiquette signage on Mayer Gulch. Evaluate the need for additional signage on other trails.

Public/ Private Lands Interface

- Monitor for encroachment from public lands and private property on open space.
- Work with the Code Enforcement Officer to address encroachments that are causing significant resource damage.

Budget and Staff Time Matrix - 2024 Implementation Work Plan			
Project	Funding Source	Budget	Staff Time Requirements
Riparian Enhancements	OS Capital Budget	\$80,000	<u>High</u> : RFP development, project management
Fuels Management	Eagle Valley Wildland Project Budget		<u>Low</u> : Eagle Valley Wildland takes lead
Noxious Weed Management	OS Operating Budget	\$14,000 from AtB Grant \$13,000 from OS Operating	<u>Medium</u> : grant and contractor management
Pest Management	OS Operating Budget	\$12,000	<u>Medium</u> : contractor management
Big Game Winter Range Protection/ Wildlife Management	OS Operating Budget VVMTA Respect the Wild	\$1,000 from OS Operating	<u>Medium</u> : build gates, increase monitoring, planning, coordination with VVMTA
Recreation Access/ Management	OS Operating Budget/ OS Capital Budget	Interpretive sign project: \$110,000 from OS Capital \$35,000 from ERWC Trail and Open Space Stewardship: \$40,000 from OS Operation	<u>High</u> : project management, contactor/partner coordination
Public/ Private Lands Interface	N/A	N/A	<u>Low – Medium</u> : monitor properties from encroachment. Work with code enforcement

*Disclaimer: This work plan was prepared to guide staff time and fund allocation. It is subject to review, revisions, and alterations. *



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: February 6, 2024

Agenda Item: Respect the Wild Campaign Update

REQUEST: None.

BACKGROUND: Representatives from the Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA) and the Hardscrabble Trails Coalition (HTC) will provide an update on the Respect the Wild Campaign for the 23/24 winter.

The goal of the Respect the Wild Campaign is: “Education intended to better understand our relationship with wildlife and change human behavior to recreate responsibly and better co-exist. Key behavior changes include keeping dogs on leashes (therefore away from wildlife), respecting and obeying trail closures, and leaving wildlife alone & giving them their space.” For the Town of Eagle, the campaign is mostly geared toward improving recreational behavior during the winter to reduce impacts on winter wildlife. Components of the campaign include creative messaging on signage and social media, data collection to better understand the amount and types of recreation occurring during the winter, and rewards that emphasize education and positive behavior.

More information can be found on the campaign website at this link:

<https://www.vvmta.org/respectthewild/>.

Town staff have requested the following data to be presented to the Committee:

- Number of users so far this winter on Haymaker and other open trails in Town where data collection is occurring. Data will likely be preliminary.
- Report on any closure violations observed on any of the cameras on closed trails in the Eagle area.
- How many staff hours have been at Eagle trailheads and how many volunteer hours?
- How often are the outreach messages posted, and where are they posted? Are we seeing good traction with views?
- Any lessons learned so far this winter? Anything the Committee could do to help?

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: The Town of Eagle contributed \$20,000 to the Respect the Wild Campaign in 2023. The funding was intended to help with creative messaging content development and distribution,

signage, and other outreach efforts. Staff time includes posting signage and social media, and coordination with campaign staff.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: The 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan includes the following goals:

- AE1 – Wildlife Education: Develop educational materials about area wildlife and their habitat, how to recreate responsibly with wildlife, and the value of seasonal wildlife closures for wildlife and residents. These materials could be shared through trailhead kiosks, the Town of Eagle website, Town social media platforms, open houses, and via partners' networks.
- AE2 – Natural Resource Education: Develop educational materials about area natural resources and the fragile ecosystem and soils, and accordingly how to recreate responsibly. These materials should be shared through trailhead kiosks, the Town of Eagle website, Town social media platforms, and via partners' networks.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: Links to the presentation and other supporting materials are included in the document below titled "Respect the Wild Packet Materials"

Respect the Wild Packet Materials

February 6, 2024

Representatives from the Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA) and the Hardscrabble Trails Coalition (HTC) will provide an update on the Respect the Wild Campaign for the 2023/24 winter to the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC) on 2/6/24.

The goal of the Respect the Wild Campaign is: “Education intended to better understand our relationship with wildlife and change human behavior to recreate responsibly and better co-exist. Key behavior changes include keeping dogs on leashes (therefore away from wildlife), respecting and obeying trail closures, and leaving wildlife alone & giving them their space.”

For the Town of Eagle, the campaign is mostly geared toward improving recreational behavior during the winter to reduce impacts on winter wildlife. Components of the campaign include creative messaging through signage and social media, data collection to better understand the amount and types of recreation occurring during the winter, and rewards that emphasize education and positive behavior.

The following are links to materials provided by VVMTA and HTC. The links include information about the Respect the Wild Campaign and updates for winter 2024 that will be presented at the meeting.

Link to OSRAC presentation with supporting data:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LBJng-CYGkAHeYGsK0ULM9c8PuXpKyAhJw27LYzaB0/edit?usp=sharing>

Link to the Wildlife Education and Ambassador Training event from December 2024. This contains background information on the Trail Ambassador program and the program's impact throughout the country:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/17cURrZc4o3UBct2cwVB711G7fqC8-TvV8tbSOkYuqo/edit?usp=sharing>

Link to the media campaign that was developed last spring (2023). It has all the detailed information on the performance of the campaign:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h2bkXvye3bLZSbNojiRqTVOLvgibKwg-/view?usp=sharing>

Link to the media kit and the campaign overview:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14c9qDRBEYEzoNqG4IFQ1FnjtB7O9M42M/view?usp=sharing>