



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, April 2, 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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Meeting ID: 252 517 008 239

Passcode: E6WQzL

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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 MARCH MINUTES

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

9:15 a.m. (45 min) 2024 Town of Eagle Wildfire Mitigation Projects Presentation

10:00 a.m. (10 min) OSRAC Vacancy Update

10:10 a.m. (15 min) Open Space Management Plan Projects and Partnerships Updates

10:25 a.m. (5 min) New Business/ Future Agenda items

10:30 a.m. ADJOURN



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 5, 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: 9:02am

Roll Call:

Committee members present: Erinn Hoban, Ernest Saeger, Jessica Foulis, Roger Mitchell, and Anna Nakea

Committee members absent: Phil Kirkman, Chris Kehoe, and Lizzy Owens

Staff Present: Brian Lieberman- Open Space and Trails Manager

Town Council Present: Ellen Bodenheimer

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

9:10 a.m. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

MOTION to approve the FEBRUARY OSRAC meeting minutes by Saeger and second by Mitchell. Motion passed with a vote of 5 in favor (Mitchell, Foulis, Saeger, Nakea, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

Open Space Interpretive Signage Project Update

- Staff presented an update on the Open Space Interpretive Signage project.
- The Committee discussed the project, asked staff questions, and provided suggestions.
- The new interpretive signage will be installed along the Brush Creek paved path, at the Haymaker Trailhead, and the Brush Creek Pavilion.
- The goal of the signage is to focus on local wildlife, ecosystems, and open space education. Specifically, the messaging is focused on how we can coexist with wildlife and reduce our impact, particularly during the winter months.
- The signs will also include information about fishing for families at the fishing-is-fun pond.
- The signs attempt to minimize text and focus on pictures with a call to action.
- Signage will be in English and Spanish.
- The signage is expected to be installed by the end of summer 2024.

Open Space Riparian Enhancements Update

- Staff presented an update on developing a restoration project based on the results from the Town's 2023 Open Space Management Plans.
- Staff is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for design, permitting, and construction services to address impaired resources along Brush Creek that were identified in the Management Plans.
- Staff budgeted \$80,000 for a restoration project for 2024. This can be used to fund a smaller scale restoration project, or for planning a larger restoration project.
- Additional funding is planned for future years. The RFP will request that the proposal suggest the size of the restoration project.
- Volunteer projects could be available with local organizations to support this project.

Spring Open Space Projects Update

- Staff presented the current list for spring open space projects. These projects are in addition to ongoing operational projects, such as noxious weed treatments and pest management. The project list will grow and change as we approach spring.

New Business/ Future Agenda Items

- Anna Nakea will be accepting another professional position outside of the state so her last day on OSRAC will be April 2.
 - o Staff will release an application for a new member on OSRAC to replace Anna's appointment.
- A Committee member suggested that the Town consider some pinion and juniper mitigation along the 3rd Gulch Area and Abrams Creek.

- o Staff informed the Committee that some juniper mitigation has already occurred in partnership with Eagle Valley Wildland for fuel mitigation.
- o Staff will invite Hugh with Eagle Valley Wildland to present upcoming goals and projects in Town open space at the next meeting.

10:25 a.m. ADJOURN

MOTION to ADJOURN at 10:08 by Saeger and second by Foulis. Motion passed with a vote of 5 in favor (Mitchell, Foulis, Saeger, Nakea, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: April 2, 2024

Agenda Item: Town of Eagle Wildfire Mitigation Projects Presentation

REQUEST: Review the 2024 wildfire mitigation projects proposed by Eagle Valley Wildland (EVW) on town open space properties. Provide feedback to Town staff and Eagle Valley Wildland on 2024 projects and consider how to plan for future projects on open space.

BACKGROUND: Eagle Valley Wildland (EVW) is an intergovernmental partnership between Eagle County and the fire districts located in the County. Resulting from the recognition of Colorado's fire history and the presence of a growing wildfire threat within Eagle County, the EVW program was formed in August 2019.

EVW manages fire management activities across 1,680 square miles of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), rural communities, forests, and rangeland in Eagle County. To accomplish this, the program functions as a pool of subject matter experts to coordinate pre, during, and post-incident activities between the emergency response agencies, communities, and members of the public across its jurisdiction.

Since 2019, EVW has partnered with the Town of Eagle (Town) to complete projects focused on reducing the risk of catastrophic fire and protecting homes and infrastructure. These projects have included constructing wildfire fuel breaks, prescribed burns, and thinning of dead and sick fuel. In the Eagle area, most projects have occurred in open space properties owned by the Town.

The partnership with EVW resulted from a Hazard Mitigation and Resiliency Plan that the Eagle Town Council adopted in 2019. The plan, among other things, highlighted the need to better prepare for wildfires through vegetation and landscape management.

For 2024, EVW has proposed continuing prescribed burns near Brush Creek and thinning dead and sick piñon pine and juniper trees in open space properties. The project proposal from EVW is attached.

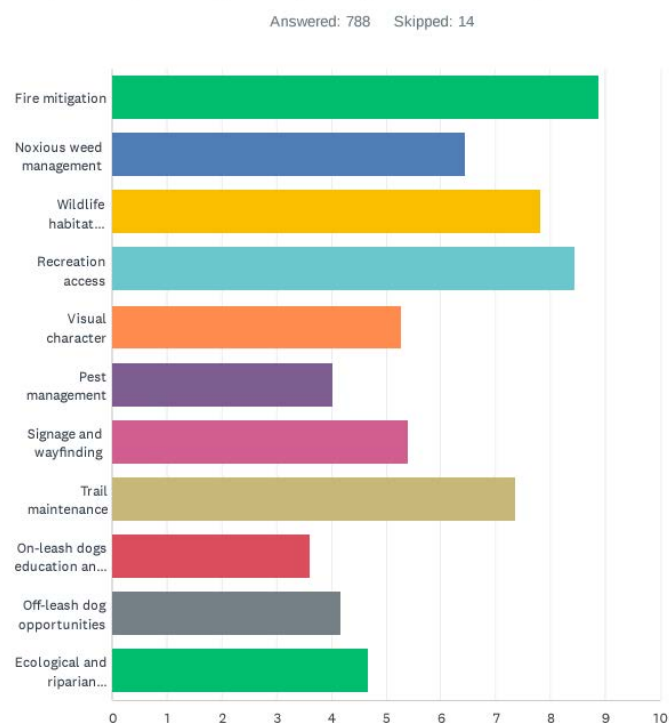
ANALYSIS: The main objectives of the EVW projects have been fuel mitigation and safety against wildfire. The original projects focused heavily on creating fuel breaks to establish perimeters on the south and west sides of town. These areas have some of the highest fire risk and are the furthest from response times, so they were prioritized. The fuel breaks will give firefighters a significant head start should a fire ever occur in the area. These fuel breaks have been key tools used in several local and national recent fires and helped save structures.

With the completion of several of the original projects, the Town and EVW will need to establish future goals for the program. Although the main objectives of these projects are fuel mitigation and safety against wildfire, there can be overlap with vegetation and wildlife habitat management.

Staff requests that the Committee engage in a discussion with EVW to understand the program and start to consider how future projects could benefit goals identified in the Open Space Management Plans, in addition to fuel mitigation.

COMMUNITY INPUT: There has been general support for fuel mitigation projects in open space. The survey for the Open Space Management Plans found that fire mitigation projects ranked highly for priority projects in open space.

**Q4 What should be the recreation/natural resource management priorities?
(1 being the highest priority and 11 being the lowest)**



BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: Most wildfire mitigation projects have been funded through grants obtained by EVW. The Town has contributed some funding over the past couple of years.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED:

- Goal 4.14 in the Town's 2021 Elevate Eagle Comprehensive Plan is to "Develop a Hazard Mitigation and Resiliency Plan to address wildfire and flood mitigation and response through coordination with state and federal agencies."
- The Town's 2023 Open Space Management Plans include management objectives for fuels management:

Fuels Management Management Objective – Coordinate with Eagle Valley Wildland to plan, implement, monitor, and manage fuels management projects to meet both wildfire protection and ecological enhancement goals.		
• Meet with Eagle Valley Wildland bi-annually to discuss upcoming projects, recent projects, and strategies to maximize ecological benefits.	O	M
• Monitor thinning and fire break project areas for noxious weeds and native vegetation response for three years following project completion.	O	M
• Coordinate with CPW to plan and implement projects in a manner that enhances the quality and availability of winter range habitat for mule deer and elk.	O	M
• Seek opportunities to coordinate upland fuels mitigation projects with riparian enhancement needs, particularly along Abrams and Hernage Creeks.	O	M
• Review and adapt project design and implementation over time to integrate lessons learned and maximize ecological benefits.	O	L

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None. Provide feedback to Town staff and Eagle Valley Wildland on 2024 projects and consider how to plan for future projects on open space.

ATTACHMENTS: Eagle Valley Wildland 2024 proposed projects in open space.



2024 Town of Eagle Open Space Land Management and Wildfire
Mitigation Projects 2024



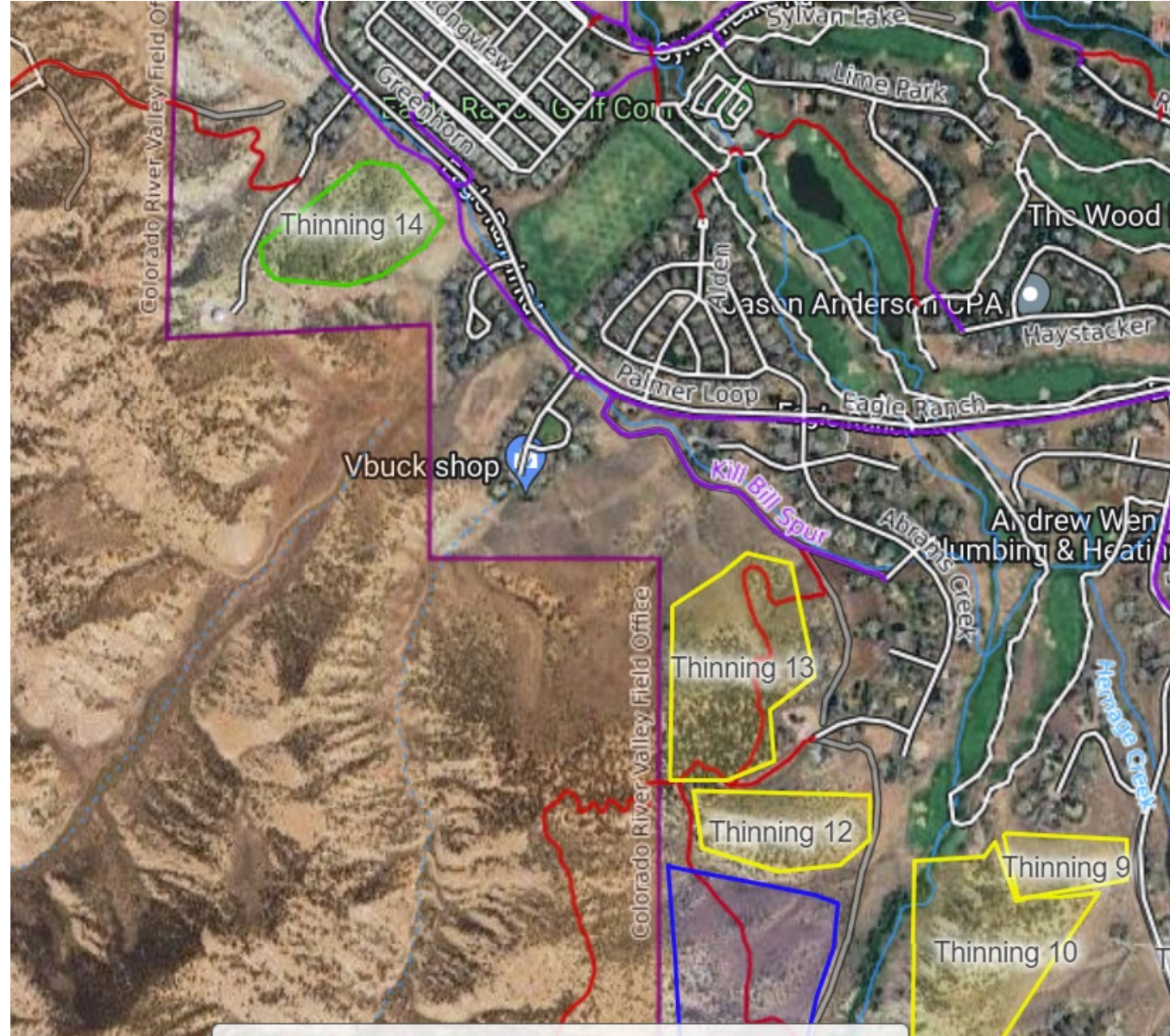
Prescribed Fire

Thinning and PJ Reduction

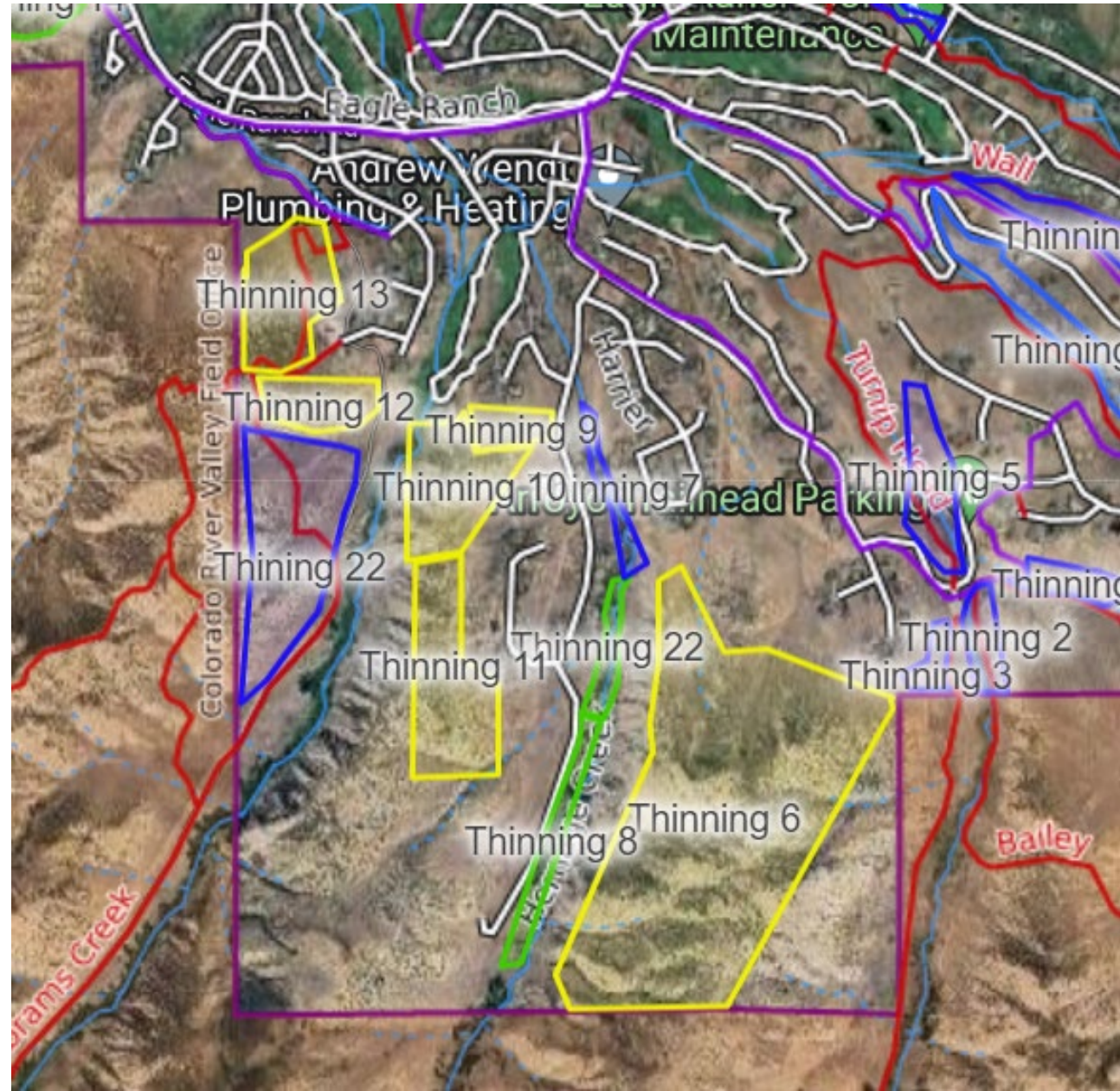
- 2024 will target sick, dead, and dying. Estimate of 30% of PJ in TOE Open space.
 - IPS Beetle focus
- Pile and Burn in the winter months to remove cut wood.
- Sage enhancement in units 6,7,8, 11
 - PJ encroachment into sage flats. PJ will overtake sage and grass, reducing the critical winter range for deer and elk.
- PJ (Pinion Pine/ Juniper) reduction is important for watershed health as PJ removes about 80 gals of water per day from the water table.

Thinning and PJ Reduction

- 2023 Thinning projects
 - Unit 14- 10.5 acres- Completed.
 - Unit 13 half complete- 9 acres
- 2024 Thinning projects
 - Thinning work in units 12, 9, 10, 11, and maybe 6.



Thinning and PJ Reduction





To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: April 2, 2024

Agenda Item: OSRAC Vacancy Update

REQUEST: None.

BACKGROUND: Staff advertised the vacancy on the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC) on March 8, 2024. Information about the vacancy has been posted on the Town's website, Eagle Today newsletter, Town social media, and posted in the Vail Daily. Applications will be accepted through Friday, April 5, 2024.

As of Wednesday, March 27, 2024, the Town has received three applications for the vacancy. Staff intends to present the applications at the May 2024 OSRAC meeting. Staff will request that the Committee provide a recommendation to the Town Council for the appointment.

More information about the vacancy is included in the OSRAC vacancy press release attachment.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: OSRAC vacancy press release and information.

Applications Sought to Fill Eagle's Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee Vacancy

Town of Eagle, Colo.- March 9, 2024- The Town of Eagle is seeking passionate community members interested in shaping the future of its open space and trail initiatives to apply for a vacancy on the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC). The volunteer committee meets from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Eagle Town Hall.

The available position is for an alternate member, serving the term from June 2024 to December 2024 and eligible for reappointment for a subsequent four-year term. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit their applications by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 5. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be residents of the Town of Eagle, property or business owners within the town, or employed within the town limits. Application forms are available at townofeagle.org.

Eagle's OSRAC provides valuable expertise to the Eagle Town Council and town manager, contributing to the enhancement and facilitation of open space and recreation initiatives. Committee members serve as a link between the town, residents, stakeholders and the broader community and are committed to expanding and improving both internal and adjacent open space and recreation opportunities. All these efforts align with the town's dedication to conservation, social responsibility and environmental objectives.

Further details about the [town's open space program](#) and OSRAC can be found at townofeagle.org. For more information, contact Eagle's Open Space and Trail's Manager Brian Lieberman at openspace@townofeagle.org or call 970-404-9710.

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Media Contact:

Jamie Wilson, Town of Eagle Communication and Marketing Specialist

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To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: April 2, 2024

Agenda Item: Open Space Management Plan Projects and Partnerships Updates

REQUEST: None, staff will provide an update on a potential open space partnership project.

BACKGROUND: The Town's 2023 Open Space Management Plans include recommendations and strategies for revegetation and improvements of vegetation cover and soil health. Most of these proposed recommendations and projects would also benefit wintering wildlife by encouraging better vegetation growth.

The Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee (ERWC) was established through the Eagle Ranch HOA to steward a fund for the purpose of protecting and managing wildlife within, affecting, or affected by Eagle Ranch. Through a real estate transfer tax on properties within the HOA, the ERWC has funding to use for projects that benefit wildlife within five miles of Eagle Ranch.

For several years, the ERWC has considered potential opportunities for improving vegetation on open space properties. Staff will provide an update on a potential project development that the ERWC has been discussing.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: The Town's Open Space Management Plans can be viewed on the Town's website at this link: <https://www.townofeagle.org/1014/Open-Space-Management-Plans>.