

# **APPENDIX C. DRAFT PLAN COMMENTS**



# MEMORANDUM

TO: Town of Eagle

FROM: Gabby Voeller, SE Group

DATE: April 27, 2022

RE: Draft Plan – Response to Comments

## Draft Plan Feedback

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The draft Open Space and Trails Plan was shared with the Open Space Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC) and members of the public in March 2022. OSRAC and other stakeholders provided comments during a meeting on March 3, 2022. The Town held a draft plan public meeting on March 15, 2022, where members of the public could learn about the plan's vision, goals, and recommendations and provide comments on a draft plan. Approximately 50 to 60 people were in attendance. A public comment period was open from March 16, 2022 to April 8, 2022. Members of the public and agencies could submit comments via an online portal, email, or mail to the Town. In total, 36 comments were received.

The response to the comments received, including revisions made to the draft plan as a result, are presented by the theme of the comment, rather than the individual comment. All individual comments are included as Attachment A. Verbal comments from the public meeting have been incorporated into the table below.

Several comments made during the OSRAC meeting were made prior to the presentation of the plan to the public. These include:

- Clarification of closures in Brush Creek Valley Ranch Open Space
- Removal of names of social trails
- Reordering of recommendations
- Acknowledging that the trail landscape is more sophisticated, and the nature of recommendations is different
- Downtown trail connectivity
- Policy around social trails

- Broadening language around partners
- Improving the graphics/organization of the priorities section
- Discussing sustainable trail building and limiting future maintenance load
- Speaking to a variety of fuels management strategies (not just prescribed burns)
- Wildlife-friendly trash receptacles
- Wetlands evaluation in Brush Creek

DRAFT

Theme	Comments	Response/Revision
Open Space Management	Several comments urge greater focus and substance around open space management in the plan. Some comments suggest working with volunteers on natural resource/restoration projects, open space project figures and better presentation of the physicality of these recommendations, and the development of the open space and trails plan as a separate document.	Additional emphasis has been placed on open space management. This includes additional recommendations around open space management, detail around existing open spaces, plan ordering, goal prioritization, incorporation of the 1996 open space values, and new habitat and open space opportunities figures. It is further noted that while better managing its open spaces is a high priority for the Town, the Town is working with a lack of information/recent studies. With additional information, the Town can have a better understanding of future open space management actions it can take. Recommendations to complete these types of studies have been included in the plan.
E-bikes	Residents shared both a desire to see e-bikes allowed and a desire to limit e-bikes on Eagle area trails (reasons included safety, accessibility, people powered trails, more use of currently quieter trails)	No changes were made as the plan at present recommends studying e-bike policies through a future process that engages the public.

River Park	Multiple residents mentioned that the plan does not discuss supporting connectivity to River Park	This opportunity was added to the trail recommendations list and map.
Dogs	Residents expressed a desire to see more opportunities for dogs, concerns about unleashed dogs and wildlife, enforcement, and a need for more unleashed areas, potential enforcement officer/ranger.	No changes were made as the plan at present recommends studying dog policies and enforcement going forward. These comments (and the range of ideas expressed) do support continuing to work through this issue beyond this planning process. An enforcement officer/ranger was mentioned under dog recommendations.
Paved Paths	Several comments expressed concerns about paved path maintenance and continued maintenance/access with HOA management, maintenance of paved paths of high importance	Maintenance and planning of paved paths do not fall under the purview of the Town Open Space and Trails Department and thus these revisions have not been incorporated.
Goals and Priorities	Multiple residents commented that the list of goals was lengthy and demonstrated no clear priorities. A few residents offered suggestions on a potential order.	The 17 goals were sorted into 6 primary goals, with 14 sub-goals. These goals were then ordered based on broader community sentiments expressed in the October visioning survey and open house and the Town's understanding of the importance of habitat and conservation in the Eagle area.
Trail Mileage	Comments received state the following: do not increase trails but focus on maintaining what we have,	The mileage of new trails recommended decreased slightly to remove two trails proposed in the

	prohibit all future trail development, develop significantly more new trails than are currently shown in the plan, and develop more new trails around 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> gulch, and the trail system already has a “Disneyland” feel.	West Eagle ACEC. Otherwise, trail mileage was not adjusted. The recommended mileage was in line with the sentiments expressed by a majority of respondents in the October Open House and Survey (modest amount of new trails, improving system useability). However, it is further noted that the Town’s primary priorities are around open space management and trail maintenance, and new trail development is not the highest priority. No additional trails were added around 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gulch as these are located in or near the BLM-designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern.
East Eagle SRMA	Residents commented on the language around the area of East Eagle designated for future study and conservation/recreation. The concern was that this designation would contradict this area’s management as an SRMA by the BLM.	Label was updated to say “East Eagle Future Study Area for Habitat Conservation and Trails, Consistent with SRMA.”
Education	Several residents highlighted the importance of education (wildlife, etiquette, trail conditions, human impacts).	No change to the plan. The plan places a high emphasis on the need for education. The plan supports increasing communication with the community and visitors, improving signage and outreach, and continuing

		to partner with originations such as VVMTA that have a Wildlife Trail Ambassador Program.
Motorized Access	Comments included interest in better motorized access from Eagle (Hockett Gulch), concerns about level of motorized access to the system and on existing roads, desire to see Sawmill allow motorized access.	No Change to the plan. The Town worked closely with the BLM, CPW, motorized and non-motorized users groups to establish the current recommendations.
Residential development	Multiple comments expressed displeasure with new housing developments in Eagle and that the Town should only be allowed to do such developments if they can prove there is no meaningful impact on wildlife.	Housing and development are outside the scope of this plan and was not incorporated.
Wildlife Habitat	Several individuals commented on the importance of wildlife habitat and concern about declining population (particularly mule deer and elk habitat). Commentors urged the development of habitat maps for this plan and working with CPW (avoidance areas, seasonal timing)	Habitat maps have been included in this plan. CPW has been consulted in this planning process and a statement about the town's future evaluation of any trail in open space and the inclusion of CPW in that process has been added. Further, the plan provides support for establishing larger habitat maps at a County/ watershed level and the plan could be amended upon the completion of such plans. The Town of Eagle is too small of a location to produce meaningful and comprehensive wildlife and habitat maps, as most

		wildlife move regularly across Town boundaries.
View Corridors	Residents expressed concern about the lack of discussion/recommendations around important view corridors in this plan.	Additional information/recommendations has been added around view corridors from the 1996 plan
Trail Maintenance	Residents commented on the poor condition of second Gulch condition, overuse from UTVs, trying out a soil amendment/tackifier, better noting that trails are well maintained, and that the maintenance priority should be for pedestrians	The Town does not prioritize any user group for trail maintenance, however, the Town does partner with user group-oriented organizations that do trail maintenance work. A note was added about the existing level of maintenance of Town trails.
Trailheads and signage	A resident expressed a desire for more trailhead amenities (restrooms) and others noted that the signage of the system is poor.	No change to the plan. The plan proposes four new trailhead locations to accommodate new development in Town. Further, the plan recommends an evaluation and facelift for wayfinding signage.
Supporting BLM lands management	Residents commented on the recommendation around supporting the BLM in the management of the ACEC – that it should encompass all lands managed by the BLM in the area.	Supporting the BLM in the management of the SRMAs has been added to this recommendation.
Social trails	Residents noted that some social trails provide important opportunities, limit user conflict, and may be in an area where it's not particularly impactful and could formalize. Others expressed	As stated in the plan, the Town does not want the impression that social trails will be adopted or formalized into the system. Both the BLM and Town do not support this



	a desire for policing and heavy fines for creation of such trails and excitement that the Town was moving away from formalizing trails.	management strategy. The plan includes a high priority recommendation for social trails to be inventoried and decommissioned, particularly near the Eagle River and Brush Creek, Spud Cellar, Haymaker, and Charlie Brown.
Restoration planning and assessments	An entity commented that the Town should ensure that these efforts are holistic and speak to other management planning efforts.	This has been incorporated into the plan. An overarching theme of the plan is to integrate with existing plans and provide support where possible – and in particular, not to duplicate efforts or recommend actions that would negatively impact existing plans.
Horse access	Residents expressed concern about horse impact on trails particularly in areas with easily degraded soils	No Change to the plan. The Town and BLM trail system is a multi-use amenity with opportunities for all user groups.
Acquisitions	Eagle County recommended establishing conservation criteria around acquisitions, potentially in line with that of Eagle County	It has been clarified that the Town's priorities around acquisitions as stated in the plan do reflect criteria by which it would make decisions.
Recreational Tourism	Comments received include not wanting to be a biking destination, wanting to be a biking destination, and that promotion of the trails should be the lowest priority.	Promotion of the trails is not the responsibility of the Open Space and Trails department and no comments on the subject were included in the plan.

Spud Cellar OS	Comments were received about the type of trail and placing signage adjacent to private property	The type of trail would be determined through a future planning process, and it is Town policy to not place signage on private property. No changes were made to the plan.
Haymaker Trail	Residents commented on the social trails in the area (both allowing cut-offs and confusing to follow), keeping first two loops open for winter recreation, and concerns about that trail's location/elk habitat.	<p>Signage/ Social Trails: One of the major goals of the plan is to inventory and decommission social trails and to improve signage throughout the trail system. No changes made.</p> <p>Big game: The plan recommends any new trail be subject to a seasonal wildlife closure determined with CPW. Existing seasonal trail closures will be determined in partnership with CPW and BLM. The plan will not make specific recommendations for closure changes on any specific trails.</p>
Haymeadow Development	Residents expressed concerns about the development and wildlife habitat. Residents also noted future trails/trailheads in the approved development plans.	Residential development is outside the scope of this plan. The future trails/trailheads were noted on the maps and included in planning. Paved trails and specific trail alignments will be determined as the PUD is built out.
Seasonal Closures	A commentor recommended additional information about seasonal wildlife closures and that any trails located near mule deer/elk winter habitat be required to have a seasonal closure.	Additional information and a link to a seasonal closure map were added to the plan. Language was added that all new trails would be reviewed with CPW for potential wildlife closure.

Winter recreation	Residents commented on the importance of winter options, preserving or increasing access on haymaker, and a new winter option in Eagle Ranch.	No revisions were made to the plan as the plan recommends balancing recreation opportunities with consistency and the important and changing habitat needs of wildlife. These options would continue to be evaluated. Existing seasonal trail closures will be determined in partnership with CPW and BLM. The plan will not make specific recommendations for closure changes on any specific trails.
User groups	Residents commented on the over emphasis of the needs of mountain bikers in the plan.	A wide variety of user groups have been involved with the planning process since the beginning, and the plan addresses the needs of these many user groups. Roundtable meetings were held with representatives of all user groups. Biking is a significant demand on the system and therefore, considerations for biking are noted in the recreation management section of the plan. These improvements and maintenance items will benefit more than just one user group.
Past Planning Efforts	A resident commented that additional past planning efforts need to be taken into account in the planning process.	The "Relationships to Other Plans" section has been expanded to include these planning documents, and background and recommendations were revised accordingly as well.

ADA Accessibility	A resident stated that goals and recommendations around inclusive trails should include ADA accessibility.	The goals and recommendations were revised accordingly. All paved paths and the crusher fine trail are currently ADA accessible and the Town intends to continue expanding these options moving forward.
Forest Service	The Forest Service noted that they could be included in additional locations as a partner in this plan.	The Forest Service was further incorporated, however, limited by the fact that land that the agency manages is not within the project study area.
Camping	Residents expressed concern about in-town camping options around potential fires.	Language was added around mitigating wildfire risk should a campground be developed.



4/7/2022

Brian Lieberman

Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails Manager

RE: Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails Master Plan

Thank you for providing Eagle County Open Space (ECOS) the opportunity to provide comments on the draft of the Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails Master Plan. As neighboring land managers and partners in conservation and recreation, ECOS believes a successful open space and trails network requires thoughtful coordination and communication with all stakeholders. We appreciate being included in the process and look forward to the continued partnership.

The draft plan aims to provide guidance on “how to improve and enhance the trail system as well as stewardship strategies for open space management.” We believe this approach is appropriate, but overall, encourage more substance and content related to habitat improvements and stewardship of non-recreation resources.

As an example, in Chapter 2, *Conservation and Wildlife* (pg. 17) the plan “describes habitat, conservation, and resource efforts on adjacent BLM lands. This information is to be considered in the planning of future recreational opportunities beyond the town.” We encourage these efforts to also guide the planning of restoration, habitat enhancement projects, and partnership opportunities as well.

Similarly, we would encourage the plan to provide more equitable recommendations between the suggested stewardship strategies and enhancing the trail network. For example, *Recommendation M10* (chapter 3, pg. 4) suggests supporting specific volunteer projects on trails. While we wholly support this recommendation, we suggest codifying support for restoration or natural resource based projects or partners as well.

We applaud the coordination with existing plans as this is necessary for successful implementation. Of the 3 plans cited, 2 speak to the trail systems and recreational amenities. ECOS has worked with consultants to provide “Restoration Opportunities Reports” and encourage similar projects to better coordinate this draft plan with region-wide restoration opportunities or habitat conservation projects.

With a newly turned focus towards acquisitions, ECOS recommends developing a set of conservation criteria or specific conservation values that can serve as a guide for evaluating

potential acquisitions. ECOS is happy to share the program's conservation criteria with the Town's Open Space and Trails program. Alignment of these priorities will enable a frictionless partnership when pursuing projects together. For example, one of ECOS' conservation criteria is "*PHYSICAL AND VISUAL BUFFERS*- Promote community separation and distinction, and provide separation between developed areas and sensitive lands."

In sum, ECOS thinks this draft plan is a huge step forward in the right direction. However, a more balanced approach between recreation and habitat improvement or conservation priorities and recommendations may be more impactful. Whereas we understand the increasing recreational pressures on our community will not be waning anytime soon, plans such as this are the one opportunity to give standing to the natural resources and local ecology that make the Town of Eagle such a great asset to the greater Eagle County community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments you may have.

**Peter Suneson**

Outreach and Stewardship Coordinator

Eagle County Open Space

[peter.suneson@eaglecounty.us](mailto:peter.suneson@eaglecounty.us)

(o) 970-328-8637

(c) 970-401-1054

April 25, 2022

Brian Lieberman  
Open Space and Trails Manager  
Town of Eagle

RE: Town of Eagle Open Space Master Plan Draft

Mr. Lieberman,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the Town of Eagle Open Space Master Plan Draft and appreciates the opportunity to provide the following additional comments. For Reference, the chapters of the Draft plan are indicated before each comment.

- (1-1) Recommend that the purpose of the Open Space program is included in the introduction so public can immediately relate to the goals of the Town of Eagle Open Space. “The purpose is to preserve and protect natural open space areas and wildlife habitat while also providing outdoor recreation opportunities for Eagle's citizens and visitors”
- (2-4 to 2-21 ) Seasonal Winter Closures: CPW recommends that any trails that go through or in the general vicinity of mapped winter range for elk or deer will have a winter closure from December 1 to April 15.
  - As Winter Closures serve an important role in protecting wintering wildlife, CPW recommends creating a short chapter to address the importance and rationale of winter closures where the dates and locations are found in one location within the Plan.
- (3-10) P2: Have all Seasonal Wildlife Closures utilize the same dates throughout Town to increase consistency and decrease confusion by Open Space users.

- (2-15) Make clear that the link included in the Plan for wildlife habitats prepared by the Eagle Community Wildlife Roundtable may quickly become outdated and should not be used for official reference. Current, up to date data on these habitats shall be obtained directly from local CPW staff.
- (3-3) Regarding OS13 and OS14 - Dog/ Wildlife Conflicts: Include information on the Town's current contract with Eagle County Animal control to be the main enforcement when dealing with dog control policies. As more enforcement is deemed necessary, a direct reference to the need of a full time Town of Eagle Open Space Ranger should be included in this section.
- (3-1) Omit "Wildlife" from the title "Wildlife Enforcement Officer" in OS2 recommendation. Change to either Town Code Enforcement Officer or Open Space Ranger as CPW will continue to be the lead Agency to enforce State Wildlife Law under Title 33, Colorado Revised Statutes. Continue to explore the inclusion of wildlife closure enforcement in Town Code Enforcement officer duties or a dedicated open space ranger.
- (3-5) Change wording under section T-1, second paragraph: "...specifically around an accessible trail system WHILE CONTINUING TO conserve habitat, and the Town's capacity and priorities."
- (3-10) SF11: Change "wildlife-friendly trash receptacles" to Approved Bear-Resistant Containers
- Are all existing and approved trails on the map? Add an additional map(s) to include all current and approved trails within the Town of Eagle Open Space to use as reference when navigating TABLE 5 (3-1) Trail Recommendations. It appears that several existing trails are missing from the map on "Figure 2: Town Trails and Open Space Map" and "Figure X: Recommendations Map."
- (Map section): Add a detailed map of existing Seasonal Closures within the map section.
- Reference the recent Eagle County Wildlife, Recreation, and Land Use Survey (Michael Quartuch) within the beginning chapters of the Plan to illustrate the public's overwhelming support to protect local wildlife within areas where recreation exists. This will help support the Plan's chapters and methods in protecting Wildlife.



CPW appreciates the Town of Eagle Open Space's dedication to creating such a well-written and thorough Draft of the Open Space and Trails Master Plan, and for providing CPW an opportunity to provide comments. If further clarification or discussion is needed on any of the above comments, please contact CPW District Wildlife Manager, Brian Wodrich at [Brian.Wodrich@state.CO.US](mailto:Brian.Wodrich@state.CO.US) or by phone at 970-948-9166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Wodrich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Wodrich" clearly distinguishable.

Brian Wodrich

District Wildlife Manager

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Prusse, Jennifer - FS <jennifer.l.prusse@usda.gov>

Good Afternoon,

My comments include three general recommendations:

- 1) Coordinate with CPW DWM Brian Wodrich to get recommendations on trail-avoidance areas, determine where new trails would not pose adverse cumulative effects, and develop seasonal timing restrictions if needed (tied to an enforcement plan).
- 2) Develop maps to show where the proposed trails are to share with the public, as well as where they are in relation to important ungulate habitats, which can be found here:

[https://hub.arcgis.com/datasets/190573c5aba643a0bc058e6f7f0510b7\\_Activity\\_Mapping\\_Data\\_\(arcgis.com\)](https://hub.arcgis.com/datasets/190573c5aba643a0bc058e6f7f0510b7_Activity_Mapping_Data_(arcgis.com))

Or, to see key habitat types specific to Eagle County:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a425288bd373418f974269c75ce5ce87&extent=-12009865.7211%2C4746998.8943%2C-11716347.5325%2C4880916.5679%2C102100ion>

- 3) Consult this document as well in your planning efforts for additional management recommendations:

[Sustaining wildlife with recreation on public lands: a synthesis of research findings, management practices, and research needs | Treeseearch \(usda.gov\)](#)

Thanks for the opportunity to comment,



**Jen Prusse**  
**Wildlife Biologist**  
**She/Her/Hers**

**Forest Service**  
**White River National Forest,**  
**Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District**

**Desk: 970-827-5160**  
**Cell: 970-471-8894**  
[jennifer.l.prusse@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.l.prusse@usda.gov)

24747 US HWY 24  
 Minturn, CO 81645  
[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)



**Caring for the land and serving people**

To: Town of Eagle Open Space  
Email: [openspace@townofeagle.org](mailto:openspace@townofeagle.org)  
P. O. Box 609  
Eagle, CO 81631

Dear Town of Eagle Open Space,

Well, for once I don't have a joke- because it is NO JOKE what's happened to our local elk herd.

When I first moved to Eagle in 2008, the elk herd filled my driveway. And my yard. I used to see them all winter long, pretty much every day; they made elk beds in my yard and snacked on my yard. This winter I didn't see them much. Where did they go? These past few years I've seen them less and less. I hear it's because of the new mountain biking trail which was built a few years ago (Haymaker Trail) because it runs right through elk resting area.

I also hear there are many more trails proposed, adding in trail connections, and more use of the Open Space, in your new Open Space Master Plan Proposal. I am writing to say I am **not** in favor of any new uses of our Open Space, because it has affected the elk too much already. I would like you to consider closing all the trails during the winter to give our elk the chance to come back, and to not add any new uses (e-bikes, camping, fire rings, and outfitter companies who would profit on using up the Open Space).

I wish I had a joke about this, but it is too serious to joke about. I'm 85 years old and have seen some pretty special places; all over the World, and I chose to live in Eagle. But it is changing, with all this new development, and using up the wild lands. It's not the same place. When you take away the wildlife it isn't special anymore.

## HTC Comments

1. It feels that the plan emphasizes that the trails in Eagle are not maintained. HTC feels that they put a lot of effort into trail maintenance and overall, the trails are well maintained.
  - a. We need to define what standard or level of care we need trails to be maintained to.
  - b. The plan should acknowledge that soils in this area are a significant challenge.  
Conditions on trails reflect soil challenges.
  - c. Perhaps some rewording on page 11?
2. In figures, how can we represent the efforts that need to occur on the open space side? Most people look at figures and figures are heavy on trail expansion.
3. Rename East Eagle polygon: **“East Eagle Future Study Area for Habitat Conservation and Trails, consistent SRMA”**
4. Should we include something in the plan that explains that the river park is not included in this study?



Brian Lieberman  
Open Space and Trails Manager  
1050 Chambers Ave  
Eagle, CO 81631

March 14, 2022

Dear Brian,

Thank you for all your work putting together the Town of Eagle Open Space Master Plan. We are proud to be your partner and are excited to keep Eagle on the map as a great place to live and recreate. We would like to take the opportunity to add additional comments on the Master Plan regarding the East Eagle SRMA and Winter Recreation.

We have expressed concern about the omission of trails beyond Sasquatch within the original East Eagle SRMA. We feel that adding a polygon over this area indicating “future trail area for consideration” is necessary. We agree that it is a lower priority for trail development considering wildlife concerns and that trails in this area need to follow the county’s extended closures. However, to omit it entirely could indicate to the BLM that we aren’t interested in developing trails in this area. Rather, we would like to keep the option open, defaulting to the original SRMA, and keep monitoring this area as things change and develop over the next ~10 years.

We feel that officially designating sacrificial winter recreation areas in the master plan supports protecting more critical wildlife habitats and closures. When Haymaker was developed it was designated by the town for winter recreation. Since then, the Elk like to winter in the third and fourth loops. We all agreed to close down that area and have effectively enforced those closures for the last two years. We proposed officially designating the first and second loops open for winter recreation giving people the ability to choose where they recreate depending on where the wildlife is on any given day. We will continue to support winter recreation with education about wintering wildlife and the appropriate etiquette.

Furthermore, we would like the town to consider opening a small section of the Eagle Ranch loops on Town of Eagle land for winter recreation. The trails are close to the building density, and as the town continues to grow, if we have choices for people to recreate, we can better avoid the wildlife and give people much-needed space in the winter.

Thank you for your consideration of these two matters. We look forward to finalizing the plan and continuing to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Robert Tadlock, President

Charlie Brown, Vice President

Laura Turitz, Treasurer

Nicky Asselin, Secretary

Hardscrabble Trails Coalition

[www.hardscrabbletrailscoalition.org](http://www.hardscrabbletrailscoalition.org)

April 6, 2022

Dear Mr. Turnipseed, Council Members and Members of Open Space,

I am concerned about the uses of our open space for 2 reasons. First, the shrinking of our elk herds and second the slightly shady way the mountain bikers have manipulated the process by which mountain bike trails are approved.

The thriving and surviving of our elk herds is the responsibility of our local citizenship. It is our duty to care for and preserve our elk for a balanced eco system and for our posterity. Colorado is natural habitat for elk and we must ensure their presence in our state.

Secondly, the methods of data collection and procedures used at the Open Space meeting on March 15 were not transparent. In this current climate of political corruption, public officials should make every effort to hear all sides, to be honest and to be unbiased. I was not at the meeting, because I did not know about it. I obtained this information from an attendee. The following lists some examples of manipulation of the public meeting:

1. Notice of the December meeting was suppressed.
2. The meeting was held during Covid cautionary time.
3. During the meeting, public comment was limited to 15 minutes total, for all comments.
4. Questioning by the SE group was ambiguous and difficult to understand.
5. Opposition views were cut short, passed over, or ignored.
6. No protection of wildlife was proposed in the expansion of the trails.

The purpose of the Open Space program is to preserve and protect natural open space areas and wildlife habitat while also providing outdoor recreation opportunities for Eagle's citizens and visitors. Decimating the elk herd so that a group of people can compete with each other and feel good about themselves is wrong. Current bike trails should be used for that. Please stop the mountain bike trail expansion. Please do not sacrifice our state's natural resources for someone's ego.

**RE: Comments on Revision to TOE Open Space and Trails Master Plan**

Brian Lieberman, OS Director

Scott Turnipseed, Mayor

Tom Gosiorowski, Public Works Director

Brian, Scott, Tom,

Thank you for extending the comment period following the recent publication of the OSTMP. I understand quite well how different a process such as the one that you are currently leading can appear quite differently from a staff point of view than from a public POV, so first of all, thank you for putting this important revision forward. The part of this process comprised of public surveys, focus groups, and “open houses” that are heavily facilitated polls may be useful to staff and the consultant in getting a feel for public sentiment to shape the draft document, but the process doesn’t really begin for most of the seriously interested public until there is a draft document to review.

For many of us who’ve utilized such documents as the OS plan going back to 1996 and various Comp plans which have been adopted since, these value-laden plans provide general insights that have been invaluable in shaping our reviews of proposed site specific developments such as Adams Rib, Eagle Ranch, Haymeadow among others. What Eagle is today south of old town is largely defined by the town’s vision of open space that was written into previous plans. This is the primary purpose of my comments. Secondly, though I apologize for not naming each of them correctly, I think the document is missing some key document references and other historical context.

You will also have to forgive that I have an excess of institutional memory related to the Town, having been on the board for a decade starting in 1998, including Mayor when we had public hearings to determine the location and uses of each access point from Eagle Ranch, and much later serving as Town Manager. That doesn’t give me any special standing, but it does explain why certain things may jump off the page to me, and why some of my comments may appear edgy. No offence intended.

**General Comments:**

- Having seen the goals in the open house and then reading them again in the document, I agree with Jamie Harrison’s comment at the meeting. The vision is far too broad and there are far too many goals. They say so much that they say nothing at all. Some group—the town board likely-- needs to do some difficult prioritization, either eliminating many goals, prioritizing the goals, or creating a more pointed framework with a hierarchy. Jamie stated his priorities in the meeting. Mine **in descending order** would be:
  - Preserving and enhancing natural habitats, specifically for wildlife
  - Preserving and enhancing view corridors
  - Protecting critical habitat and wildlife corridors seasonally
  - Quality and maintenance of the “in town” paved and crusher fine paths networks that extend from public ROW onto town Parks and Open Space



- Quality and maintenance of singletrack paths that extend from town to federal lands, descending priority for this would be
  - Careful management of and useful signage at access points
  - first for pedestrians,
  - second for non-mechanized, non-motorized bikes,
  - third for mechanized or motorized use
- Supporting facilities, oversight and upkeep of adjacent federal lands including policing of and heavy fines for creation and use of social trails
- Creation of approved singletrack trails
- Creation of better access points, play areas and parking for motorized users in the Eagle-Gypsum Hardscrabble area and closure of dirt bike access on roads through town
- Dogs – people are far too obsessed with leashing of dogs, we need more off leash areas for the thousands of dog owners. BTW, there is no mention of the dog park which uses a major chunk of important open space.
- Promotion of Town trails and open space for visitors
- Note: Clearly others would rank these differently, but without some kind of priority ranking, I believe that with so many goals, this plan as currently structures could be read for anyone to do anything, and would provide little guidance when decisionmakers are faced with actual proposals for use or land use.
- The Open Space Plan and Trails Master Plan should not be combined. This document reads almost exclusively as a trails plan advising adjacent land managers of public input from the town. That is useful, but it obscures the use of a plan that defines uses of actual Open Spaces that the town fought to acquire, defended in court to protect and seems to forget all of the reasons the town had for doing so. The top five priorities listed above why we have these open spaces in the first place. Pages 30-37 belong in a Trails Plan as to pages 49-55. Would like to see as much close in mapping of in town OS and uses as effort is put into these singletrack trails maps which are great for a Trails Plan.
- Not sure why the pagination doesn't continue through the entire document. Below in cases I refer to the pagination in the PDF.

### Specific Comments:

#### 1:Page 2: Relationship to Other Plans

It is a clue what is absent in the plan and so far represented by the process that not mentioned in this are:

- The Town Comprehensive Plan and previous OS Plans
  - OS Plan informs the land use plan for review of development large and small
  - 1996 OS Plan defined need for view corridors that informed existence of Brush Creek Park/OS, setback of Haymeadow from Brush Creek Road as well as what became the Brush Creek Open Space
  - It defined the value of density close to town and growing “from the inside out” to lesser densities further from Highway 6
- The Eagle Ranch Wildlife Management Plan

- explains purpose of wildlife closures
- explains design of wildlife corridors including golf course design
- talks about the fishery, Abrams and Brush Creek
- The Eagle River Corridor Plan (discusses OS at Fairgrounds, the Villas and up the Eagle River)
- Town and Mtn Rec Recreation Surveys – going back as far as 2004 which was the first I recall. **In each survey, walking was the top recreational priority for most residents** and still is. Walking use by residents far exceeds biking or mountain biking, which is not how the plan reads at all. This plan reads like an IMBA pamphlet.

1: Pages 3-4, Vision and Goals – see previous comments

1: Pages 5-6, Not sure why the process needs to be written into the plan. It belongs in a staff memo. Here it reads as defensive.

2: Page 1: the intro is telling here of my previous points. **The only feature mentioned in the existing conditions intro that is actually on town OS is the fish pond.** All else is on town park land, dedicated recreation lands, County lands, and federal lands beyond. Is this plan concerned with the actual management of actual town owned open space? Again, these other things may be important, but they should not dominate an OS plan.

2: pages 1-2 Land Management

It is great to mention the adopted management documents of adjacent lands, but what is important to this document would be how those would inform management back onto the adjacent town managed open spaces. For instance, on BCVR&OS paragraph, it would be useful to note that Haymeadow has a wildlife corridor adjacent to this county OS that was designed to be combined with a similar corridor on that property should it ever be developed. Since it will not be developed, what does this mean to Haymeadow OS? Should it go away since adjacent land is now protected? Is it still good to not have Haymeadow develop right to the BCOS fence line? This document would be a good place to discuss such things.

Also related to Haymeadow OS, the plan mentions the Haymaker trail quite a bit. Of equal or greater interest is the connecting points that were designed for future pedestrian circulation from the Willow Corridor in the center of the Haymeadow property that will connect across Brush Creek road to the Eagle Ranch crusher fine path. Again, lots of input from bikers, lots of attached maps showing bike trails on BLM, not much mappage on actual town OS from the perspective of thousands of daily, year-round walkers. The Haymeadow ADA should be cited.

2: pages 3-7: Excellent work. Should be adopted in a trails plan and forwarded to BLM land managers. If the two plans are to live together, they need some clear separations starting with the goals which would read quite differently if they were to be written specifically to pertain to the section beginning on 2-8.

2: Page 8-13

RMR OS– should note that the Eagle River Corridor Plan informs this future OS, and might reiterate some of what values will be used in determining uses along that key riparian reach –

light fishing access with managed points, type of path/use and distance from high water mark, location of Eagle River Trail on property, etc

Abrams Creek OS— detail here is excellent and should inform level of detail on other properties

Eagle Ranch OS—again, listing the trails that take off, barely skims the surface of what should be said about these lands which make up 2/3 of the town OS. Almost nothing is said about the Brush Creek Reach of OS, I suppose because there is no single track there.

Haymeadow OS—again, all singletrack. It is incorrect to say there is no seasonal closure on Haymaker Trail. The second loop is closed seasonally for wildlife.

Haymeadow School/Rec- shouldn't this be informed by the Mountain Rec master plan, not by the town's OS plan? Yes there is to be a trailhead there...but this is the only purview of an OS/Trails plan for this property.

Spud Cellar – OK detail here. There is mention of the approved singletrack connection which has never been installed just above the backyards to connect from the Pool and Ice paved path to the existing rec path constructed by the Terrace. This entire corridor separating the Terrace from Upper Kaibab is critical for wildlife. The town should also prioritize repair of the Terrace paved rec path once it becomes part of the larger rec path system when connected.

Other OS parcels mentioned—the primary comments on each seem to be about the recreation potential, not highlighting in much detail if at all if there were other key values and purposes. Some were acquired specifically to block development and for non-use. Again, these read like a trails plan, not an OS plan.

Eagle River OS: Again—completely misses work done previously in River Corridor plan when it should be reinforcing that work. Town also has looked to acquire more OS on the East side of the River on private property. Might be some mention of why that may still be of interest without mentioning specific properties. When river park development happens, a path along the East side of the river from Brush Creek to Eby Creek Road would be an amazing amenity.

Brush Creek OS Extension: good, but neglects to mention that there are also two parcels on the East side of the Creek that abut Brush Creek Road and Haymeadow, which have connection possibilities for the crusher fine path. Doesn't speak to trails on the uphill side of the far end of the Eagle Ranch road which connect up to the Highlands and back over properties to above the fifth (I think) tee box. Pedestrian only. This is some key OS circulation for some walkers and a few bikers.

2:page 14. Love the mention of weeds and pests. Town should be more active about this and this should also note a need for coordination with Eagle Ranch Golf Course and adjacent vacant lands in ER with regard to pests and weeds.

Riparian, Wetland and Water Management: again, after spending tens of thousands of dollars to improve the stream banks along Brush Creek to improve the fishery, there is almost no mention at all about the importance of this habitat or use beside the childrens pond which is artificial. Also not mentioned is the Brush Creek Management Plan which is a critical document that informs the flow, stream management and use of water rights. I don't think town has

adopted a Surface Water Management plan, but this would be the place to recommend that. It would have been of use in informing how to handle development in the lower reaches of Brush Creek.

2: page 16 – OK there is one sentence here about stream health and fish

2: page 18 – has Eagle Adopted any kind of Wildfire management document? I know it was much discussed and in the Design Guidelines when the Highlands were added to Eagle Ranch. This would be a good place to recommend that. What plan guided the fuels reduction work in the Brush Creek OS corridor by Greater Eagle Fire last year? Are we going to do fuel loads management on all OS? This would be an important place to guide that. Touched upon in 3-2.

**Things I did not see in the plan that ought to be covered:**

1. Wildlife fence installed by town to fence-out Hardscrabble grazing area
2. View Corridors
3. Stream setbacks
4. Ridgeline protection – one of the past Comp or OS plans addressed this
5. Uses at the Fairgrounds to inform County Plan, how it should interrelate and also connect to OS trails/ paths plan
6. Hockett Gulch
7. Winter uses on Highlands OS which are not covered by the previous Eagle Ranch Wildlife Master Plan—would be great to have snowshoe loop up Third back to Arroyo trailhead
8. East Eagle generally
9. Generally being useful to inform review of future proposed developments
10. Lack of fence-out to BLM Grazing area above Haymeadow – not a problem today, but shouldn't be at expense of taxpayers after being amended out of requirement for Haymeadow. Colorado is a fence out state, not a fence-in state by law.
11. Closure of town roads to dirt bikes for access to trailheads—this is absolutely ruining the quality of life because of the constant sound pollution in Eagle Ranch, and I suspect elsewhere as well.

Generally, the Recommendations section is well done. Probably would want more emphasis on replacing the many aging signs on town OS that have never been replaced, and pulling up the kiosks which were improperly installed directly in ground without concrete, gravel or metal separating dirt from wood. They will all rot and fall over eventually if not fixed. I happen to know who installed them so poorly, but will not mention herein.

Apologies for any offence given through my vehemence or tone.

Thank you

It was brought to my attention that at the last open space and trails plan meeting the topic of e-bikes and motorized vehicles on our local trails was discussed. I would like to share my thoughts with you in hopes that it might be of value.

I'm an avid mountain biker and ride the trails often. As expected there has been a large amount of growth and with that more traffic which is great! However that does bring up a few concerns for me especially regarding e-bikes and motorized vehicles. The following are the issues I would like addressed before considering allowing e-bikes on singletrack.

- Safety for riders and pets
- wildlife disruption and injury
- trail conditions and destruction on non designated singletrack land
- Enforcement of rules and regulations

The topic of safety is my biggest concern. There have been increasing encounters with dogs off leash, hikers, mountain bikers and wildlife. With the introduction of e-bikes comes more traffic, greater speed and weight. I have witnessed ebikers going uphill on some of the most popular downhill enduro trails even when it's not currently allowed. Keep in mind that this is a far greater hazard than a non-motirzed or battery powered bicycle. e-bikes can easily carry a rider uphill at speeds greater than 30mph and downhill riders the same at 30 mph. A collision at those speeds is equivalent to hitting a parked vehicle or wall at highway speeds of 60mph, this puts us in the category of **not only injury but very likely death.**

While it may be possible to designate more trails downhill only or introduce a speed limit the problem we have is that we currently have very poor enforcement. We have had encounters with dogs chasing wildlife despite clear signs that pets must be leashed and still I see dogs off leash regularly. Without addressing our current issues I see it as highly irresponsible to allow faster vehicles and e-bikes on non-motorized singletrack. I predict if it's allowed now it will sooner or later be reconsidered when someone is seriously injured or possibly killed. I urge you to please consider this before a tragedy occurs and then having to roll back. I would prefer to see trails that are not on singletrack such as fire roads (we have so many miles of them) and motorized vehicles trails designated for ebiker traffic instead of on singletrack for the reasons mentioned above.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, thank you for your time.

4/4/2022

I am a resident of the Town of Eagle and a senior citizen long time mountain bike rider who just does not have the strength or strong heart that I once had when I was 30 years old.

Please allow Electric assist bikes on Eagle Trails. As you know you still have to pedal on an E-Bike. An Electric assist bike does not have a throttle, they just give you more power every time you pedal to make up for any lack of strength or physical fitness you may have. A E-bike does not erode the trails more than a regular Mountain bike. They do not make the trails Unsafe. A rider can turn the electric assist on and off on their handle bars. They do not make any noise or take away from others experience in any way.

I cannot think of a single valid reason for prohibiting Electric Assist Bikes on the Eagle Trail system. Can you come up with one?

The typical Electric assist Mountain bike rider is someone who wants to enjoy the trails but lacks the physical strength or does not have a strong enough heart to make it up all the hills without a little help. Most riders will turn the assist on and off to conserve the battery and only use the pedal assist on hills they need help on.

Not allowing E-bikes is discriminating against Seniors and others who don't have the physical ability to ride up steep trails without their heart rates getting to a dangerous point. Because of these physical limitations Many seniors or other people with disabilities cannot enjoy the beautiful Eagle Trails from a bike.

Instead the Mountain bike trails in Eagle are being set aside for only the physically fit and young riders with strong hearts. Yes there are some seniors who can still ride straight up the side of a mountain, but not many.

Electric assist bikes are here to stay and you should review your policy. Your policy of non motorized vehicles should be revised to **NO COMBUSTION ENGINES** or you should specifically exclude electric pedal assist bikes from the non motorized policy.

Part of the Eagle Trails Plan is to be more inclusive to everyone. Everyone in the Town of Eagle should be able to enjoy the trail system. This current policy is not inclusive. It is the opposite.

I love Eagle and would not personally consider a Lawsuit against Eagle for Discrimination. But someone will one day. You can be sure that in this world we live in that someone will hire an attorney and bring a law suit against Eagle under the **Americans With Disabilities Act** for discriminating against those who don't have the physical fitness to ride the trails in Eagle without Electric assist bikes. This lawsuit will be triggered when and if someone is riding and enjoying an Eagle Trail and they are cited for riding an Electric Assist Bike.

Are you willing to go to Court to defend this policy? Ultimately it will cost Eagle a lot of money and you would lose.

Therefore you cannot enforce this policy. It is a bad idea to set policies that you cannot enforce.

Please reconsider the policy and allow Electric pedal assist bikes on the Eagle Trail System.

Maybe you could change the policy to say --- **Permitted Electric Assist Bikes Are Allowed or Electric Assist Bikes Require a Permit from the Town of Eagle.** You could then have a process for a permit where the bike is inspected to make sure it doesn't make noise and it is truly pedal assist and not some form of a electric motorcycle. You then could verify that the owner has physical limitations that require electric assist. You could charge a fee for it and add another form of revenue. Everyone wins!

Thank You for what you are doing to preserve and build on the Eagle Trail System.

## EVLt:

- Would
- the Town prefer to install the Connector Trail as singletrack or paved path? Additional planning needed as noted in the draft OSTMP (Open Space and Trails Master Plan).
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- Will
- the Town consider signage on private property adjacent to Spud Cellar (Roberts Ranch) to help users know where it is permissible to recreate?
- 

## TOWN Response:

The master plan will not identify the type of trail desired by the Town. I see that decision being determined if and when the Town considers moving forward with this project. The decision would include stakeholder and public comments.

The Town does not typically sign private property. I know this is a special circumstance, so perhaps together we could come up with a proposal. I do not see this being included in the master plan though, as it is more of a smaller management objective.



**RE: PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING DRAFT OST PLAN**

Dear Brian:

In case my hardcopy letter is not received by Open Space in time, I am sending it to you here via email as a backup.

I am opposed to any further trails expansion, trails construction and any new uses of our Open Space. In addition, I propose a halt to any further planning and proposals regarding our Open Space. I believe the current trails have already severely impacted our wildlife and wild habitat at crisis levels, and our wildlife needs a breather.

The Draft OST Plan reflects what Mountain Bikers want, ***not what the general Eagle Public wants.***

- 52% of attendees to the Visioning Open House in December self-identified as Mountain Bikers, and
- 42% of Oct/Nov Survey respondents self-identified as Mountain Bikers.

I never received notice for the Survey, or the December meeting; and nobody I know heard about these either. Two weeks before Christmas (and during a Covid cautionary time) was a bad time to conduct an Open House to get a representational idea of what all Eagle residents want. The survey should've been more circulated; 234 survey responses does not represent what the general Eagle population of 6,356 wants.

**In addition, it is questionable whether SE Group's methods of data collection and interpretation is accurate,** for these reasons:

1. Open Space's March 15 meeting was touted as a public input/engagement opportunity, however when citizens tried commenting during SE Group's presentation, SE said to wait til the end for public input. SE suddenly cut the meeting short by half an hour & only allowed 15 minutes for input, which wasn't enough time.
2. During the 15 minutes of public input, I did not observe anyone taking minutes or notes for oppositional input, it appeared only notes supporting SE's proposal were recorded, such as someone's suggestion for making trails ADA-compliant.
3. The vast majority of attendees' input was QUESTIONING any further trails expansion and use, due to the public's concerns about wildlife and wildlife habitat already being seriously and negatively impacted from the current Trails; they were ***not*** in support of SE Group's proposals.
4. During the presentation SE Group asked railroading questions which appeared designed to attempt to gain public consensus to approve up to 18 different statements at a time. Several people questioned the unusually-worded statement requests, as many canceled each other out or were diametrically opposed. Also, SE claimed wifi wasn't working so the voting was not confidential.
5. In the public input, people providing support of SE's proposals were encouraged to speak more (for example, a person describing how their EBikes wouldn't damage the trails). Anyone seeming in opposition was barely acknowledged, no SE commentary given, and SE moderator Gabby Voeller quickly went on to another raised hand. One citizen, Sheela Loudermilk,

apparently went over her time (but there was not a timer) and Ms. Voeller silenced her by loudly berating her, and angrily refusing to comment even when Ms. Loudermilk politely asked for discussion. **Ms. Voeller's behavior was unprofessional at this meeting and this fostered a negative, threatening environment where people were intimidated to speak up after her outburst.**

6. Three different individuals (including former Eagle Mayor Jon Stavney) all commented that the wording of the questions was bizarre. One person suggested we reply to each individual statement (instead of 11-18 at a time), because one couldn't possibly be in total agreement with so many different statements. It appeared to many of us the questions were designed to give blanket approval to the entire proposal, which does not make a fair public input process.

7. There was such a blizzard of proposed items, one person asked for a halt on anything new; instead that a policy be written that one of these proposed ideas at a time could be tried (for example, not allowing camping, fire rings, horse trailriding and professional outfitters all at the same time). This way it could first be properly assessed whether the proposed utilization was beneficial or detrimental to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

8. Several people asked why we would build more trails/add more utilizations when we already have serious problems with the current trails, specifically the decimation of our local elk herd. I've watched it diminish from 550+ to approx 70 elk since Haymaker Trail opened. Three months ago a worrisome development began- the Elk dispersed into small pods of 3-7, and are being picked off by cars and predators; in fact there were three elk killed in one day on the same exact road spot last month.

9. Several citizens asked why SE did not include any ideas for protecting wildlife, as nothing specific was proposed in this draft plan. SE claimed they needed more data to submit ideas for this; however as you know it is too late for that, the majority of the elk herd is already dead. I have an inquiry in to State Patrol Public Affairs to learn roadkill data from this year, last year & previous years to learn if there has been an increase, so this data point can be considered. It is a well-researched fact the elk are spooked just by the presence of a dog, a fast-moving bike or trailrunner, and this had led to them breaking off from their safe herd, becoming displaced, and being vulnerable to vehicles and predators. Haymaker Trail runs right through historic migrational elk birthing area, and I believe this is why our local herd has diminished so severely in very recent years.

10. Dog control was barely mentioned in the proposal. It is a fact that 87% of dogs on Haymaker Trail run off-leash, according to Trail Cams. Dogs and off-leash dogs are a primary reason for the decimation of our elk herd. Yet there was nothing mentioned for stopping this problem; in fact it is also common knowledge that during 2020 Eagle Ranch association asked code enforcers to stop writing dog tickets.

11. It is stated: *The purpose of the Open Space program is to preserve and protect natural open space areas and wildlife habitat while also providing outdoor recreation opportunities for Eagle's citizens and visitors.* How are we preserving and protecting natural open space and wildlife habitat by adding more trails, camping, fire rings, EBikes and professional outfitters? Is Open space remaining true to its vision statement which lists preserving/protecting open space & wildlife habitat FIRST?

There is a very large amount of published data on how drastically our local Eagle Elk herd has suffered from humans and dogs on the current trails, dating back to 1986; with all this factual data why is it being considered to build more trails and further utilize our Open Space?

I would like to suggest TOE Open Space consider **extending public input through July 1, 2022** to see what the majority of Eagle residents really want for their Open Space, **to use a different method of data collection than SE Group**, and to **close Haymaker Trail immediately**, to give our starving elk in their third trimester a chance to survive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hello,

I just wanted to say thank you for starting a plan to make Eagle an even better place by preserving wildlife and having access to BLM and National forest.

I've been in this valley since 93 and have been a homeowner in Eagle since 99. I know it's impossible to keep everyone happy, so I'm going to keep it short and sweet.

Our wildlife need to be put first! Second....by giving ebikes or any other form of motorized vehicles easier access to west Eagle or to our non motorized single track is a huge mistake!! They already ride every single trail except Abrams ridge and School House rocks. There is unfortunately no enforcement up there and these people don't care. Some actually are a part of VVMTA and the mountain bike scene, but know that most people can't see who they are when they're fully suited up in their Moto gear. I won't throw them under the bus just yet.

If our trails were only for non motorized users like hikers, bikers and horses....we still would need a ton of education and maintenance. Our population is growing so fast our trails cannot keep up now. I just see adding more ebikes and Moto's were screwed! And not to mention it's a huge safety issue that I've personally experienced.

I've been riding and hiking all over this beautiful state and by far we have more erosion and destruction from motorized vehicles on our trails then anywhere in the state.

Thanks for your time

Hello town of Eagle representatives,

I first want to thank the Town for the significant effort that has gone into creating a new trails master plan. I really appreciate the effort to include community members and local trails focused groups. I have a few comments I wanted to share with you regarding OHV recommendations and funding:

1. I know most of the plan is focused on Town and BLM land, but I would like to see Sawmill added to the list of recommendations for opening to motorcycles. Even if the Town does not plan to fund or work in that area, it is part of our overall network and I would like to see support from the Town to reopen this route to motorcycles. As it is, this trail does not get much use from other user groups and is a great way to move OHV traffic out of town. Furthermore, motorcycles keep the trail from becoming too overgrown to ride. Please consider adding this to your recommendations for opening to motorcycles.

2. Second, under funding, I think you should think about applying for CPW OHV grants to accomplish OHV related work. RMSR successfully applied for a grant in 2017 and has applied for a grant this year and will likely receive some funding. Town of Avon also applied for an OHV grant this year and is likely to receive some funding. Writing a grant is something RMSR would gladly help with and we feel with the Town behind a project, the chances of getting funds from this pool are high.

Thanks a lot for your attention. Feel free to reply with any questions/concerns.

To: Town of Eagle Open Space

From:

Date: April 8, 2022

Re: Draft Eagle Open Space and Trails Plan (2022)

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**Comment:**

Page: 3-2

**Section: OS5 – Wetlands**

**Comment:** It would be beneficial if a Brush Creek wetlands assessment could be aligned with other Brush Creek management plans or water quality assessments.

Page: 3-3

**Section: OS – 8 Social Trail Management**

**Comment:** There are several social or game trails along the haymaker loop that people appear to use to shorten loops and routes which reduce conflict between different trail users. i.e. hikers, dog walker, and mountain bikers. The use of trails in this area appears to align with Opportunities and Analysis bullets Directionality, and Trail Function from page 2-5. Prior to closing a social trail, it would be good to evaluate if it is bringing benefit to open space users with no harm created, or if an alternative formal trail should be created.

Page 3 – 4

**Section OS16 – Restoration near Brush Creek and Eagle River**

**Comment:** Potentially align Restoration plans with other entities to wholistically and cooperatively approach water quality, usage, and stream health.

Page 3 – 4

**Section AE5 – Creative User Etiquette Signage**

**Comment:** In strong support of trail etiquette signs to improve user experience. Consider trail conditions etiquette signs, i.e. Only use trail if frozen or dry.

Page 3 – 6

**Section T5 – Support Horse Access**

**Statement:** Support improved horse access to BLM land from Town and work to limit conflict with other user groups. Explore opportunities to provide horse trailer parking and equestrian access from the Haymaker trailhead to BLM lands.

**Comment:** Horse use on trails tends to degrade the trail quality of other users quite rapidly. This is especially prevalent in areas of poor and non-cohesive soil. Consider providing horse only trails if and where possible.

Page 3 – 7

**Trail Maintenance**

**Comment:** Can the Town consider a soil amendment such as a tackifier to improve soil and trail quality?

Page 3 – 10

**P1 – E-Bikes**

**Comment:** In support of continuing to evaluate the e-bike policies.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me at if you have questions or need additional clarification on my comments

Sincerely,

To: Town Council of Eagle

Re: Open Space Plan

I have attended 2 of the meetings regarding the Open Space Plan. They have not been widely advertised in my opinion. There seems to be a majority of bicyclists represented at the meetings. They are not the only ones that should be driving our open space plans. These plans affect my family. Our home backs up to TOE open space. We are also frequent users of the trails beyond the TOE open space. From April 16th until December 15th, we use the unpaved trails 5 to 7 times a week.

I slogged through the 55 page PDF of the Open Space Plan. One thing I saw that was disturbing was that "wildlife should be considered". Protecting our wildlife should be a **priority**, not just a consideration. I counted 19 proposed new unpaved trails and 1 paved. The length of **each** of the proposed new trails was not exceedingly long but added together, it is **too much**. The proposed paved path is over 4 miles long. Why do we need 20 new trails? I do not think we do at this time. As I mentioned, I am a frequent trail user and the trails I use are not crowded. I am all for maintaining and improving our current trail system but an additional 20 trails is just too many. Our Elk population is in crisis. Any new disturbance could push the herd over the edge and we could lose them forever. The Deer are also in decline. Adding and developing are not always the best course action. "If you build it, they will come.", a line from Field of Dreams, seems to me to be true. So **don't** build it. We do not need "them" to come. I am all for recreational opportunities for our town but we do not need to make this a biking destination for Coloradans or out of staters. There is already so much construction going on in our town with much more already approved. If we don't curb our desire to build houses, trails, etc, the Town of Eagle is going to find itself without one of its most precious resources; our wildlife.

I want to hear a wildlife expert speak at a town meeting about the effect these newly proposed trails would have on the Elk, Deer, Bobcats, etc.

Thank you for your time.

Hello,

I would like to share my thoughts on the recent discussion regarding the use of trails. I've been an avid mountain biker and trail user in our county for over 25 years. I appreciate the development and maintenance of all trails around.

The recent meeting and the discussion on allowing moto and e-bikes on our mtb/hiking trails are not making me happy for several reasons.

Most of the time, our trails are in pristine conditions. The whole county is growing and it seems like there are more tourists in town than ever before. I agree that this is great for local businesses and it helps our economy to remain strong. But more usage and higher traffic on our trails will cause issues.

#### 1. Safety

As of now, most of the trail use remains in the lower parts of Eagle. It is easy to get to and you don't need to be super fit to ride most of these trails. It's a different story with trails like Sawmill, Mike Nights Out, etc.

If you allow e-bikes and moto to ride on these trails, not only these trails will require more maintenance, but

we will have issues with safety. Almost nobody rides these trails uphill. Every now and then there is that guy,

that's either lost or someone that's looking for an extra challenge, but generally (unofficially) these are considered downhill trails.

I've personally run into e-bikers and moto guys on these two (and many other) trails, even when it is not allowed.

With an engine or motor on their bikes they tend to climb these trails uphill. Most of the times you can hear the moto

coming, but not an e-bike. This will result in crashes and issues between all parties. Now, it's very peaceful at the higher

elevations. That won't be the case if e-bikes and motos are allowed up there. It will encourage more people to ride

these trails and the amount of accidents will increase.

#### 2. Environmental/Habitat impact

As mentioned earlier, you can hear the moto's most of the time from a mile away. Don't you worry what's it going

to do with our elk, deer and other animals in the area? Same with e-bikes. If allowed, there will be so many more

users up there. Was there a study done on the impact? What are the grounds that the authorities will consider to make

a decision whether to allow or not?

Thank you,



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- I read the article in the Vail Daily this morning about the Haymeadow development and after this winter, I am very concerned that such a large number of homes and people is going to harm our Elk population. The elk this winter have spent a tremendous amount of time in the Haymeadow development area and across the road by the homes and horses along Brush Creek. They are often resting or sleeping on the area to be developed. It does not seem like the plans are leaving enough undisturbed areas for the herd. I hope someone is still taking a look into this issue.
  - "Thanks for all your hard work and the meeting last week. People had troubles voting, because the sets of bullet points for goals and recommendations encompassed both recreation and conservation, which can conflict with each other. It would help to break all categories into 2 parts, those that address recreation and those that address conservation. People would then be able to vote more accurately on each set of bullet points.
  - Also, I know prior to the meeting there was a lot of discussion about dogs, but very little was resolved. Eagle is a dog town, and to not have accommodations for them is a mistake. For off-leash opportunities a dog park and a trail along highway 6 is not enough. Eagle people are busy and into fitness. They like to exercise with their dogs. This is one reason dogs are off-leash and poop is everywhere. I have ideas and want to offer time to help create options.
  - "The paved bike paths in Homeowner Association areas (ownership) are slightly referenced as ""partnerships with HOA's"", which is vague and leaves areas of problems to come in the future. These HOA's may have obligation(s) to keep the paths public, but no obligation to keep them paved or in good paved condition. The ever increasing use of paths through these neighborhoods creates increasing maintenance obligations on these HOA's as well as greater impact on the homes along the paths. The trail system's dependence on these (to move people from one area to another to use the trail system) may fail when the HOA's decide to let the path(s) become unpaved natural surface trails.
  - There should be some documented arrangement with the HOA's to share the maintenance costs to incentivize the HOA paths remaining available to the trail system, or just acquire the paths away from their HOA ownership and control."
  - Thank you for sharing this draft. I personally appreciate the action to remove noxious weeds/thistles from our lands before they take over!
  - "I want to thank ToE and Brian Lieberman for this fantastic effort. The leadership in the work and collection of public input is how we shape our community and surrounding jurisdictions to best meet community wants and needs. I am a member and supporter of VVMTA and HTC as they have crafted MTB trails that make our community great. I hope we continue to develop more MTB trails with interesting features to keep our youth engaged in the sport I love and connect the trails we have today. Additionally, I want to urge we continue the policy of predominantly ""People Powered Trails"" as E-bikes have their place but not at the expense of the vast majority of non-motorized users. Thank you, "
  - "The maps in plan that were emailed were difficult to understand. Today, I met with Brian Lieberman who did a wonderful job of clarifying the maps and vision for Eagle. Thank You Brian!
  - I saw the new signage for the trailheads which should help those of us who use the trails and should hopefully prevent inappropriate use of them in the off season so that our wildlife is not disturbed. The signs will also help us all know which trails are hiking only. The Arroyo parking lot

## Comments submitted through online platform

being closed from December 15 to April 15 should also prevent trail usage. The hope is that people who want to hike the tarred trails will use the pocket park slots and I'm not sure how that can be indicated. Thank You for sharing the information that you have gathered.

- Highest priority should be protection of wildlife, particularly Deer and Elk populations. They were here long before we were and deserve our best efforts to just "let them be". Wildlife education concerning Winter closures is essential and should be backed up with enforcement. Concentration should be on improving upon what we have, not building more trails. Mountain biker preferences for the trail system are no more important than any other users preferences. Education on Trail Etiquette is needed. As a hiker, I always get off the trail to allow bikers to pass easily but I am tired of having to literally jump off the trails when mountain bikers are speeding around blind turns.
- Would be wonderful if there could be more direct access to the motorized Hardscrabble single track system just west of town somewhere within the Town of Eagle. There's easy access by MTB, but in order to get to the trail systems just west of town, you have to enter from Spring Creek (Buckhorn), or go all the way out to 2nd Gulch or Hardscrabble. Motorized access via Hockett Gulch or Abrams would make it far more accessible directly from town.
- Given the explosion both in eBike sales and the number of new residents in the town, I can't believe there is a debate as to allowing class I eBikes access to all of the town trails. I live in the eagle ranch area and the vast majority of my neighbors, 50 years and older, want eBike access to the mtb trail system. Older residents and residents with medical issues are prevented from trail access under the current rules. The ski resorts now allow eBike access, why not the town of eagle?
- Hi, 2 years ago, after looking for 10 years, we built our dream home in the Highlands and are 100% against any further trail or open space development. The reason we built here was for the abundance of wildlife, the relative solitude and lack of development. Now it seems everything in Eagle and Eagle Ranch is moving forward as fast as possible. Please stop. Don't turn this beautiful unspoiled area into the next recreational hot spot in the valley. I oppose any new development and will vote against any official that supports it. Thank you.
- Please improve the access to the motorized and E-bike access to the Hardscrabble - approved motorized (e-bike) trails from Eagle. Spring Creek is excessively far to travel on an E-bike to gain legal access to legal trails. I see little to no information about E-bike access and many users are unclear where they may legally ride.
- "The open space and trails master plan requires a balanced approach and for all of us to be responsible stewards of the iconic landscape and animals that live therein. One glaring example where humans are not being responsible is the destruction of our elk herd. The Town of Eagle has the data. The human threat to the elk herd includes interaction with cars, unleashed dogs and anything, including fast moving bicycles and people, that triggers the 'flight' response. The 'flight' response can cause an animal to burn valuable fat which is necessary to survive the winter, and stress that can disrupt the birthing process and survival of the species. I have personally witnessed runners and bicyclists on trails with their dogs running next to them, and unleashed dogs chasing elk while the owners laughed. To save the elk, we have to limit access on all current elk trails and halt trail expansion... All because of those who are not responsible and are often belligerent when confronted."

## Comments submitted through online platform

- "I appreciate the vision toward expanding a sustainable trail network that takes wildlife into account. I would like to see more single track than seems to be prioritized; there is a real opportunity for Eagle to position itself in a similar position to mtb destinations in Colorado like Salida, Crested Butte, and Fruita, which would drive local business considerably! I would also like to see more consideration given to dog owners in the area, there are currently few good options for off-leash travel for our four-legged friends. Boulder OSMP has an excellent model for how high-use areas with considerable wildlife populations can still allow significant, legally sanctioned opportunities for pet-owners to have their dogs off-leash within their trail system. Current language in the draft plan includes minimal language regarding dogs; dog ownership seems to be high and tensions will continue to increase with minimal good options/systems for dog owners to have their dogs off-leash."
- "I realize it's already a goal but continue to have trails for all user groups. Trails that are heavily used by mountain bikers are sometimes stressful for hikers, runners, dog walkers, and/or families. Not all trail users know good etiquette. To some, faster equals more rights. The goal should be to promote a healthy life style for all. There are some trails with limited sight distance and a history of crashes. It may be time to consider directional trails. When balancing recreation and wildlife, consider all wildlife big and small. Not just the large visible animals."
- "Something needs to be done on second gulch to make it a sustainable path for all users. As of now, turbocharged RAZORS can rip up second gulch to get to Hardscrabble and in doing so have ruined that section for any other user. What once was a nice double track option to get to third gulch has now become so deep with ruts and moondust that even dirt bikes have a hard time getting up or down the road. Getting up on a bicycle is impossible most of the season due to these conditions, which is a shame as it was such a nice alternative to third gulch and allowed access into some very beautiful areas in our valley. I'm not sure that the BLM/town of eagle team saw the rise of the UTV's and how they will impact are fragile trail system if left unchecked. If you've ever ran into a UTV running 50mph up second gulch you'll immediately appreciate the safety aspect of this equation as well. 100+ HP 4x4's shouldn't be on this section of trail."
- The plan looks AMAZING! Only thing I would love to see are more trailheads / parking lots and more facilities such as restrooms throughout the trail system. Additional trails leading off of second or third gulch could be nice too (even further than the LOV connection trails). All in all FANTASTIC work done by you all on this project!!
- "The plan does not mention the River Park at all or trail connectivity to the River Park. As one of Eagle's biggest new amenities it seems like it should be included in the master plan. The plans recommendation (#12) is to support the BLM in their management of the ACEC's and allowing Herrington's Penstemon to thrive. I believe the plan should state the the town will support the BLM in all of their management objectives and also specifically in the SRMA's and allow recreation to thrive where it has been designated. The plan mentions trail maintenance numerous times but never mentions all the volunteer partner organizations the town has to help with maintenance. I think it's a great idea for the town to focus on land that is in their jurisdiction, partner with other land managers to further their already determined objectives and work on eduction and signage so everyone knows the rules and can enjoy their outdoor experience"

## **Comments sent from via Email May 31, 2022 - July 2022**

Good morning,

I fortunately I will not be able to attend in person today due to work commitments.

I do however want to emphasize my strong support of the trail/open space master plan as written. We need a document that guides further planning, maintenance, expansion of trails and balances these priorities with wildlife habitat. I feel that this plan achieves that.

I would add that as a town we are going to continue to grow regardless of a plan like this. Change is somewhat inevitable and having a plan for it is a good idea.

I would ask that you support this master plan and vote yes to adopt the plan.

Thank you.

Miles Henson

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Dear Eagle Town Council,

I just wanted to show my support for the Open Space and Trail Master Plan that you are discussing tonight at your town council meeting. I am a VVMTA wildlife ambassador but also a mountain biker and hiker. I support the addition of new trails in the Eagle area while still being supportive of our wildlife habitat areas. I feel that the trail systems in Eagle are a huge asset to the Eagle community and the Vail Valley as a whole.

Thanks,

Debbie Lathram

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I support this plan because it is well balanced by providing direction on how to maintain, enhance, and create new trail opportunities while ensuring that our open space, wildlife, and natural environment are prioritized, managed, and maintained. Trail opportunities identified in the plan create strategic connections that improve a more cohesive and sustainable trail system, offer new and different types of trail experiences, and are concentrated in areas that already see recreation impacts. The trail opportunities do not branch off into new areas further impacting and fragmenting wildlife habitat. All

potential new trail opportunities would follow current seasonal wildlife closures in the Eagle area to ensure critical habitat is not impacted during the winter.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Mike Dahl

This email is to thank all of you for your efforts and that the McNeill family supports the Town of Eagle Open Space & Trails Master Plan.

Sincerely,

**Dan McNeill, AMS, CMCA, CAM**30 Benchmark Road, Suite 102

I don't like getting involved in another town's business, but wanted to commend you guys on the work you have done so far. You have a great trail system. Keep up the good work.

I enjoy coming to Eagle to ride and always support your restaurants and businesses when I do.

Brian Gillette

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Dear Eagle Town Council members,

I am an individual of Eagle county for the past 15 years. I actively work and support our trails on a yearly basis.

As our population continues to grow, we must have develop and execute according to a master plan to identify, coordinate, maintain, improve and build new trails outside the boundaries of our wildlife corridors.

I believe this is crucial because without sufficient, well maintained and clearly identified trails, the "local" population will "build" trails where we do not want them.

As you are well aware, this has been a long term issue and will continue into the future if we do not give our population a clearly defined place to play. With added population the criticality of doing this becomes more and more urgent. We can not burry our heads in the sand an hope the issue will go away.

I support the current VVMTA master plan initiative because it is well balanced by providing direction on how to maintain, enhance, and create new trail opportunities while ensuring that our open space, wildlife, and natural environment are prioritized, managed, and maintained. The trail opportunities do not branch off into new areas further impacting and fragmenting wildlife habitat. All potential new trail opportunities would follow current seasonal wildlife closures in the Eagle area to ensure critical habitat is not impacted during the winter.

Please support our initiative and take action now.

Sincerely,

Mark Luzar

I am writing to advocate for inclusion of Class 1 eBikes to the TOE Open Space and Trails Master Plan. Copious worldwide research and experience has disproven all of the usual arguments used to ban ebikes from trails currently prohibiting non-motorized use. Even experts in restriction-laden Boulder County have shown the arguments invoking trail destruction and excess speed are invalid. I am an avid mountain biker and steward of responsible backcountry trail use, having mountain biked for 45 years. The people that are buying e-mountain bikes are experienced mountain bikers. It comes down to vocal individuals expressing their desire to not have "my experience" affected by the presence of ebikes. This is a selfish, ego-driven argument of exclusion which has no merit in an inclusive community, such as the one Eagle and the Hardscrabble Trails Association purports to create. Simply following the USFS lead on this rule, one of many misguided policies that also include prohibition of fat bikes on roads that the USFS chooses not to plow in the winter, is disingenuous and promotes unnecessary conflict. There is no rational reason to continue prohibiting class 1 ebikes so let's ask those individuals to set-aside their fragile egos and recognize that mountain bikes with electric motors, some only generating a measly maximum of 325 watts, are different than motorized dirt bikes. They are mountain bikes and as such should be allowed on all mountain bike trails. BLM managers have allowed local land managers to make this determination on a case-by-case approach, and would likely support this decision. The use of e-mountain bikes is only going to continue growing but the TOE and HTC continue ignoring this fact. Don't be pawns of federal government agencies which sustain obsolete rules with no rational basis. Connect with the entire mountain bike community and eliminate unfounded bias against ebikes. The VVMTA mentality is going nowhere as they are essentially a USFS-directed entity. We can be different and can show the western region how to accomplish true inclusivity. Act now.

Gordon Hardenbergh

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Wanted to drop my comments in support of continued trail planning and improvements in Eagle! As a resident and property owner I value my recreation on trails from my garage door! My child is now out with me and we fully support all continued trail planning construction and maintenance in Eagle!

Thank you

Aaron Den Bleyker

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Hello,

I am not able to attend today's meeting, so wanted to email in comments in support of the OST plan as an eagle county resident and avid trail user and member of the VVMTA.

I support this plan as I believe it is well balanced by providing direction on how to maintain, enhance, and create new trail opportunities while ensuring that our open space, wildlife, and natural environment are prioritized, managed, and maintained.

The trail opportunities identified in the plan create strategic connections that improve a more cohesive and sustainable trail system, offer new and different types of trail experiences, and are concentrated in areas that already see recreation impacts. The trail opportunities do not branch off into new areas further impacting and fragmenting wildlife habitat. All potential new trail

opportunities would follow current seasonal wildlife closures in the Eagle area to ensure critical habitat is not impacted during the winter.

This is responsible and necessary development to continue to support our growing, vibrant, active community.

Thank you,

Holly Traut

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I am the founder and owner of Seagulls Cycles, Kyle Foster. The shop is located at 422 McIntire, my clients and I are supporters of Eagle's Trails Master Plan.

Diverse and connecting trails enable my community focused bike shop to thrive. It supports broader businesses and most importantly our community wellness and mental health. Currently my bike shop supports four weekly group rides including:

Sunday Recovery Ride in support of Mental Health and any type of Recovery.

Monday and Thursday Spoke and Stoke teen ride with Eagle Valley Behavioral Health.

Wednesday Community Ride with 30-50 participants every week, followed by pizza from Pick Up Pizza and a tech clinic taught by myself and guest speakers.

The Trails Master plan as drafted strikes a great balance between trail users and wildlife protections, I urge you to approve as drafted.

### **Kyle Foster | Owner**

Morning all,

Unfortunately the vocal minority is up in arms again now focusing their attention on attacking the Town of Eagle Open Space Trails Plan, please do not let the loud few ruin the benefits for the quieter majority...their silence is likely a reflection that they are still working full time to support their families and have trust in the Town to do the right thing.

Thanks for all your help making Eagle a great place to live and work.

Cody

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We support this plan because we believe it is well balanced by providing direction on how to maintain, enhance, and create new trail opportunities while ensuring that our open space, wildlife, and natural environment are prioritized, managed, and maintained. Trail opportunities identified in the plan create strategic connections that improve a more cohesive and sustainable trail system, offer new and different types of trail experiences, and are concentrated in areas that already see recreation impacts. The trail opportunities do not branch off into new areas further impacting and

fragmenting wildlife habitat. All potential new trail opportunities would follow current seasonal wildlife closures in the Eagle area to ensure critical habitat is not impacted during the winter.

Mountain Biking and trail maintenance have given me some of the best of friends. Would love to continue to grow in that. Thanks for your consideration and all you do.

Rachel Briney (long timevail valley local).

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Hello,

I am a resident of Eagle and just wanted to voice my support for the direction of the VVMTA and HTC as it relates to the open spaces master plan.

Kevin Christian

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Dear Eagle Representatives,

I support Eagle trail access, maintenance, and development including the following:

- Plan, identify, review, and **execute the 12-15 miles of singletrack trail** allocated in the Hardscrabble Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) as identified in the BLM's Resource Management Plan (RMP)
    - Build new trails that create strategic connections of the current trail system
    - Build new trails that offer new trail experiences (i.e. new terrain, difficulty level)
    - Execute reroutes to create a more cohesive and sustainable trail system that improves the user experience
  - Relate that trails and recreation are an important part of our life year-round and we must preserve access to **winter recreation** in designated areas
  - Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities while simultaneously managing environmental impacts on plants and wildlife
  - Engage the Forest Service to identify and execute new and existing trail opportunities in South Eagle (Yeoman, Salt Creek, Hardscrabble, Sylvan)
  - Demonstrate how we use the in-town trails to get to work, school, restaurants or the river park and why it's important to improve safety and connectivity within our town with continued investment in trails like **Singletrack Sidewalks**
  - Improve the Haymaker trailhead with better amenities including an off-leash dog park and skills **bike park** similar to the Minturn Bike Park
  - Additional motorized access in West Eagle is important to our motorized recreation community and will help prevent user conflicts
  - Develop improved **camping** options in town to alleviate the pressure of dispersed camping on Bellyache and Hardscrabble
  - Work with land managers to re-route some small unsustainable sections of existing trails to improve the overall trail experience and decrease trail maintenance needs
  - Thank you!
  - Bob Sonntag
- 

I support the Open Space plan because I/we at VVMTA believe it is well balanced by providing direction on how to maintain, enhance, and create new trail opportunities while ensuring that our



open space, wildlife, and natural environment are prioritized, managed, and maintained. Trail opportunities identified in the plan create strategic connections that improve a more cohesive and sustainable trail system, offer new and different types of trail experiences, and are concentrated in areas that already see recreation impacts. The trail opportunities do not branch off into new areas further impacting and fragmenting wildlife habitat. All potential new trail opportunities would follow current seasonal wildlife closures in the Eagle area to ensure critical habitat is not impacted during the winter.

Please hear the voices of the people involved with the recreation of this area!

Thank you!

Michelle Wolffe

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We support this plan because it is well balanced by providing direction on how to maintain, enhance, and create new trail opportunities while ensuring that our open space, wildlife, and natural environment are prioritized, managed, and maintained. Trail opportunities identified in the plan create strategic connections that improve a more cohesive and sustainable trail system, offer new and different types of trail experiences, and are concentrated in areas that already see recreation impacts. The trail opportunities do not branch off into new areas further impacting and fragmenting wildlife habitat. All potential new trail opportunities would follow current seasonal wildlife closures in the Eagle area to ensure critical habitat is not impacted during the winter.

Thanks,

Casey Wyse and family

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**Support** for the Town of Eagle Open Space & Trails Master Plan.

**I support this plan** because it is well balanced by providing direction on how to maintain, enhance, and create new trail opportunities while ensuring that our open space, wildlife, and natural environment are prioritized, managed, and maintained. Trail opportunities identified in the plan create strategic connections that improve a more cohesive and sustainable trail system, offer new and different types of trail experiences, and are concentrated in areas that already see recreation impacts. The trail opportunities do not branch off into new areas further impacting and fragmenting wildlife habitat. All potential new trail opportunities would follow current seasonal wildlife closures in the Eagle area to ensure critical habitat is not impacted during the winter.

Cody Wyse

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Dear Town of Eagle Board and Staff,

Thank you for your prioritization and care of our open spaces and trails. I am grateful for the expansion of the Open Space Program. The expansion of the Open Space and Trails Manager position to fulltime and

hiring of Brian Lieberman have greatly increased the capacity for the Town of Eagle to steward and manage these important resources. I have been very impressed by what has been accomplished over the last year. Additionally, thank you for creating the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee to support community engagement in the oversight of this program. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this committee and take my responsibility seriously.

I appreciate Town Staff leadership and Board support for the Open Space and Trails Master Plan. Strategic planning for open space and trails is challenging and necessary for the benefit of the resource and the community. I believe that a successful open space and trails program requires thoughtful coordination and communication with all stakeholders, and I appreciate being included in the process.

I want to make you aware of a few parallel efforts that I hope will inform future open space and trail decisions throughout our community:

**Eagle County Community Wildlife Roundtable (CWR) Community Wildlife Survey:** CWR has conducted a community-wide survey to learn more about community values about wildlife and other land uses. The report has just become available and the CWR is working on community education and engagement efforts to share this information. The report demonstrates strong community values around wildlife, even when considering potentially competing land uses. As it relates to the Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails Plan, my hope is that the Town will prioritize projects related to Wildlife and Habitat, Open Space Assessment and Management, and Natural Resource Restoration

**Comprehensive Conservation/Recreation/Wildlife Plan:** Several community members and organizations are working together on a Comprehensive Conservation/Recreation/Wildlife Plan aimed at addressing protection of wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities at a landscape scale. This plan is not designed to supersede any existing or future land management plan, rather is meant to inform decisions to help prioritize habitat and/or recreation access as appropriate based on community goals and the best scientific information available. I would be happy to provide a separate presentation about this effort for any board or staff members interested. We are moving forward with grant applications and a scope of work this summer 2022, with the hope that field work can be conducted in 2023 so that a final plan could be available as early as 2024. This project is designed to focus on community engagement and bring all stakeholders to the table. Currently we are working through the Eagle County Community Wildlife Roundtable, Eagle Valley Outdoor Stewardship Coalition and Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement to engage stakeholders and move the project forward. It is our hope that any new trail proposals or additional recreation access will be informed by this collaborative and comprehensive effort. I believe this would go a long way to build trust among stakeholders. As it relates specifically to the Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails Master Plan, my hope is that any work in the next few years will focus on enhancement and protection of existing natural resources and any new trail proposals will be a secondary priority that will take priority further down the timeline.

As an OSRAC member, I agreed to the changes and additions to the Open Space and Master plan outlined during our April 27, 2022 meeting. Since that meeting, I have had time to reflect and receive community feedback about the draft itself and the specific changes and additions. I have additional feedback based on those thoughts and conversations. I think it is important to prioritize maintenance, stewardship and improvement of our existing resources before we direct attention and funds to creating new trails. I think this information can be reflected within the Priority Matrix within the Master Plan document. In addition to change #4 recommended by OSRAC, I would like to respectfully suggest the following:

Move from Medium to High:  
 OS8. Open Space Management Plans  
 AE3. Spanish Signage and Maps

AE6. Etiquette Standards

Move from High to Medium:

T8. Haymaker/Road Gluch/3 Sisters

M1. Re-Routes

SF6. Motorized Access

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

Jessica Foulis

Town of Eagle OSRAC member.

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Mr. Kerst

My wife and I were unable to attend the Town Council meeting on 5/31/2022, however we have concerns over the Trail Expansion Plan-2014 and understand that the Council is taking time to accept additional in-put.

My wife and I are not on Social Media platforms. I personally do not have a Twitter, Facebook nor any other social media account. I do not seek Social platforms for information about our Eagle Ranch Community nor about our TX resident community. I bring this to your attention, because not all Eagle Ranch residents use these platforms and they tend to be inappropriate for providing community up-dates. Posting up-dates on a project to the HOA website and/or City website may not achieve the desired effect unless the user is frequenting these websites routinely. This issue about expanding the Trail network in and around Eagle would have MISSED US had not the Town send us an email about the subject and subsequent public meeting a couple days before the event. This caused me to read the 2014 Trail Expansion Plan Proposal and the recent recommendations before the Town Council.

I am active in our TX HOA and as such, I am active with our TX City, (Southlake, Texas), City Council. Both our TX HOA and Town Council share community information via email addressed to each HOA member (capital contribution call, assessment changes, projects requiring capital expenditures, etc..) as a primary way to get residents focused/engaged in an event or when seeking feedback on a proposal that would impact the Community.

Our TX City (Southlake) has nature, wildlife and tree preservation requirements that need to go for City Council approval when the City is looking to pass a project that requests a variance to these preservation requirements. Our TX City has to publish and distribute to members of the community the 'findings' of the third party study (Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, etc...) which states the impact the project will/will not have on environmentally sensitive wildlife, trees, and nature preserves.

The 2014 Eagle County Trail expansion project does not mention (that I could find) a need for having impact studies completed and presented to the community (open form/records) on sensitive plants, animals, Elk and Deer populations/breeding grounds, etc.. prior to the Trail Expansion project approval/consideration. The 2014 Proposed Trail expansion Project does mention Eagle County has 'rare plant species' and the document does recognize that the Town of Eagle and surrounding area is 'home' to sensitive areas for Elk and Deer birthing and species reproduction.

From my perspective , the 2014 Eagle County Trail expansion proposal was written with bias to 'cycling' without soliciting these 'impact studies' from appropriate experts on the precious natural wildlife resources of Eagle County. As a current resident and representative of the community of Eagle, I would hope you have the same concern for the protection of unique wildlife in and around the Town of Eagle as my wife and I do.

I believe a 'pause' on this expansion project is 'most appropriate' so the Town Council can do the 'diligence necessary' and have CO Parks and Wildlife Dept submit a study for Council Members to share with our residents as it relates to Elk and Deer habitat impact. I also believe our residents should be given the benefit of understanding the wildlife impacts before tax payer funds are appropriated by the Eagle Town Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bert and Debbie Christianson

Good Morning,

Thank you for a great discussion last night! I noted a couple items I wanted to follow-up on.

1. BLM Hardscrabble SRMA - Mileage:

In a nutshell, there are two Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) as defined by the BLM's Resource Management Plan (RMP).

- SRMA RMZ 1: Non-motorized. Includes both East Eagle and West Eagle (bordering Tick Alley/Scratch and do the East)

- SRMA RMZ 2: Motorized. West of Tick Alley over to Gypsum

As stated in the SRMA, each RMZ is allocated approximately 12-15 miles of new trail. So a total of 24-30 miles between the two zones. For non-motorized RMZ 1, there is approximately 12 miles remaining to potentially be built. I am not sure what the available mileage is in the motorized RMZ 2.

Here is a link to the SRMA with maps, additional information, etc.

2. Code Enforcement Officer:

I personally made the suggestion during OSRAC on May 3rd to move this item to the High/Priority category based on the public feedback we have been receiving about the virtually non-existent enforcement of dog leash-laws and enforcement of seasonal closures. The CEO could be trained to understand seasonal wildlife closures and be able to enforce violations via tickets.

I want to clarify that the CPW cannot write tickets for seasonal wildlife closure violations. They have no authority to do this on Town of Eagle or BLM lands. The CPW can only write tickets if wildlife is being harassed or physically harmed by humans/dogs.

I believe that a CEO is/was identified to be hired by the police department. I am suggesting that this CEO could focus on normal, main job duties with the Police Depart/Comm Dev but also have these two items as part of the job description/duties. I am not suggesting that this CEO be solely Open Space focused.

### 3. Haymaker Seasonal Closure:

I completely understand the desire to close all of Haymaker during the winter due to its location in critical habitat. At the November 2nd OSRAC meeting, OSRAC passed a, "Motion for OSRAC to continue researching the topic of future closures of the Haymaker Trail area while implementing action items this fall and winter to include education, information gathering, enforcement, and additional signage completed by Town staff and community partners by Hoban second by Foulis. Motion passes unanimously." We have had one short winter to apply items from this motion and further research, education, and study is still needed.

Before considering seasonally closing the entire trail to all use I would suggest the following:

- Keep it open for human use only
- Restrict dogs on all of Haymaker from December 15 - April 15
- Continue the closure of the 3rd loop and Extra Credit
- Set policy to close the trail in the winter between Sunset & Sunrise (main time of activity for wildlife). Many other open space departments in Colorado do this.
- Seriously consider adding a dog park to the Haymaker trailhead area

The other item to consider here is that the Pool & Ice rink trail behind the ice rink enters BLM land (in orange/brown below) which does not have a seasonal closure. I understand the Town can only focus and act on town lands as per your authority and responsibility. But it would be an entirely different process for the BLM to put a closure on this trail/area. Additionally, if the BLM did institute a closure in this area, their seasonal closure policy is only applied to mechanized (bikes) and motorized use. Hiking and equestrian use are still allowed on all seasonally closed trails on BLM land. This is a policy in their Resource Management Plan and is a very lengthy and challenging process to change/update. This policy was determined due to CPW's recommendation and desire for hunting access.

I truly believe that all of these policies and changes would be a huge benefit to the wildlife during the winter in the area. At the same time, our community would still be able to enjoy Haymaker during the winter as a place where they can recreate.

Thanks again for all you do!

Best,

Ernest Saeger

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Hello Ellen and Scott,

Hope you both had a great Memorial Day weekend!

We have been working on laying out the facts and understanding elk populations based on CPW data. It is a work in progress right now but I wanted to pass along what we have compiled so far. We do plan to receive input from the CPW, Forest Service, and others prior to publishing anything for the general public as well, so for the time being this is internal.

Unit 44 is part of E16. The CPW does not release (at least publicly) population estimates for units but rather for the entire DAU E16.

Here is what we have so far:

All of the data below was compiled from [CPW's website here](#).

**For E-16 Frying Pan River (44,444,45,47)** ([Map covering](#) south of I-70 in a triangle between Vail, Eagle, Gypsum, and Basalt, including Vail's backbowls, Camp Hale, Beaver Creek, Eagle area trails, etc)

Population is up about 8.5% to 7,597 in 2021 from 6,970 in 2020.

Pre-1988 the population objective was about 3,700 elk. The 1988 population objective for E16 was 5,100. This was reset to a range of 5,500-8,500 elk in 2013, which is our current objective, and which we have dipped below only for one year in 2017 (4,610).

### **Takeaways**

An important takeaway is that in the last 2 years, (2019-2021) recreation on trails during COVID has increased significantly in our area, yet the E16 herd increased from an estimated 6,180 to 7,597 (23% increase).

The number one source of mortality in a calf's first year of life is predation (mountain lion and blackbear). This source of year-one mortality may be partially amplified by trail recreation, via the mechanism of reduced calf survival and thus reduced annual herd recruitment.

The leading source of mortality in an elk or deer's life after year one is hunter harvest (this is supported repeatedly by studies in Colorado and Wyoming). Healthy adult animals are not significantly impacted by lions and bears; they tend to live a long life and give birth to new animals every year unless they are harvested during the annual hunt.

While we have had two relatively mild winters since 2019/2020, we know that trails recreation increased significantly throughout our area during COVID.

This point is important because trail recreation increased significantly while herd size also increased.

The two are not directly-coupled in the way that CPW repeatedly pushes in public meetings and press releases (i.e.; increasing recreation does not necessarily or always lead to decreasing game).

Realistically speaking there were only two significant game management changes in our area instituted during this time:

1. VVMTA instituted the Wildlife Trail Ambassador program to increase spring calving closure compliance, and
2. CPW significantly reduced the number of tags being sold each season.

Of these, while 1.) is absolutely important to instill wildlife-conscious cultural values and responsible trail use in our area, 2.) is far and away the dominant driver of herd increases. CPW can perpetually maintain higher herd numbers in our area whenever they want by not trying to sell so many tags each year. This is a complicated topic and mainly socioeconomic based; i.e. cultural change of rural vs. a growing population and change in recreational priorities in our area. This also means significantly reduced revenue for the CPW.

In a nutshell, the herd population can be whatever the community desires. The desire is a combination and balance of hunting tags and wildlife viewing opportunities. Which one of those does our community want more or less of?

As a wildlife history refresher, populations in our area peaked around 1998/2000 (close to 13,000 in E16 and ~7,000 in E12), at which point the CPW, its Game Commission and the USFS believed elk to be hugely overpopulated and causing damage to the condition of range. These high herd numbers from ~1998-2002 are the baseline CPW staff has used whenever they go to public meetings or the paper and talk about the herd 'declining by 50% in the last 10 years', even though these years the statewide elk herd was considered highly overpopulated by the game commission.

From ~1998 to ~2007 in our area, to correct the overpopulation, CPW intentionally over-sold cow tags in both E16 and E12 in an intentional effort to reduce herd numbers towards their 1988 management objectives.

They could have easily increased the objective target numbers significantly in 2013 if they had believed elk numbers should be higher. Instead, they opted to increase them only modestly and began using a target range rather than a single number, recognizing there is significant natural fluctuations in animal populations each year due to weather, winter severity, randomness, etc.

The increased cow tag hunts in our area ended around 2006, not because they weren't still trying to reduce the herd, but by CPW's own admission, they just couldn't sell more tags. This was largely because hunters weren't interested in harvesting more cows and the unit was considered very crowded by hunters.

### Final Takeaway:

While recreation does impact wildlife, how large of an impact recreation has on populations is not as significant as is currently be stated to the public; the dominant control on managed game populations (both deer and elk) in Eagle County is annual hunter harvest.

Key Points (Data from [CPW's website here](#)):

- E16 herd population management objective: **5,500 - 8,500**
- E16 herd population estimate 2021: **7,597**
- E16 herd **population up 39%** from 2017 - 2021 (4,610 to 7,597)

- E16 total **hunters (tags) down 41%** from 2017 - 2021 (4,780 to 2,822)
- E16 total **elk harvest down 35%** from 2017 - 2021 (579 to 378)
- E16 **trail recreation has increased significantly** in the past 5 years

Lastly, I am attaching a spreadsheet showing the elk population, hunting tags issued, and elk harvest from 2005 - 2021. You can see that in 2015/16 there seemed to be a shift in the population. Prior to these years the CPW was able to liberally approve hunting tags and the population would generally remain steady. However, they were not seeing the population sustaining itself and made the decision to decrease hunting tags including not issuing any cow tags. This resulted in the population increasing again over the past 4-5 years.

#### Mule Deer:

We have not gotten into mule deer populations yet but the [Brush Creek management plan](#) (mule deer in the Eagle area) can be found on CPW's website. Their population has been relatively steady and is still within the management objective of 1,500 - 3500 (2021 estimate of 2,190), although on the lower end. I had an issue with a statement that Brian Woodrich made at a past OSRAC meeting that Craig ended up clarifying as well. The herd population was never at 7,000 or above, rather the geographical area was redrawn so the population number went down to match the new, smaller geographical area. From 1995 until 2018 there was never a real management plan for GMU 44, as stated in their now existing management plan. They also state that when they redrew the maps and stated the 1995 population objective of 7,000, it was never achieved and unrealistic. It was at around 4,000 in 2004 and now has hovered between 2,000-2,500 since 2008.

Best,

**Ernest Saeger**

Executive Director

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To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of myself as a local Eagle resident as well as a Eagle County business owner, along with our entire organization at Dave & Matt Vans, I want to express my overwhelming support of the [Open Space and Trails Master Plan](#).

I support this proposal because it is well balanced by providing direction on how to maintain, enhance, and create new trail opportunities while ensuring that our open space, wildlife, and natural environment are prioritized, managed, and maintained. Trail opportunities identified in the plan create strategic connections that improve a more cohesive and sustainable trail system, offer new and different types of trail experiences, and are concentrated in areas that already see recreation impacts. The trail opportunities do not branch off into new areas further impacting and fragmenting wildlife habitat. All potential new trail opportunities would follow



current seasonal wildlife closures in the Eagle area to ensure critical habitat is not impacted during the winter.

Thank you all for your hard work in support of our community,

Warm regards,

**Matt Felser**

---

Hello,

My name is Anna and I want to write a letter of support to be considered for today's meeting regarding the Open Space & Trails Master Plan for the town of Eagle.

Eagle was my first home here in the valley and one of the main reasons I was lured into this vibrant community was the connections I made through being active on all the amazing trails here. The friendships formed through helping maintain and enjoy these trails will last a lifetime and I am so grateful for this area. Through my fun recreation adventures here, I became motivated to get more involved in the community to help support these trails. I am a current volunteer of the VVMTA and support their vision.

I support this plan because I believe it is well balanced through providing education and direction on how to maintain the trails while ensuring that our open space, wildlife, and natural environment are prioritized, managed, and maintained. The trail opportunities do not branch off into new areas further impacting and fragmenting wildlife habitat. All potential new trail opportunities would follow current seasonal wildlife closures in the Eagle area to ensure critical habitat is not impacted during the winter.

I support HTC's note below as I personally implement this in my own life and am thankful for the singletrack sidewalks.

- Demonstrate how we use the in-town trails to get to work, school, restaurants or the river park and why it's important to improve safety and connectivity within our town with continued investment in trails like **Singletrack Sidewalks**

Thank you for considering this note and I appreciate all you do!

Best,

--

Anna Paulson

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As a resident of the town of Eagle for the last 15 years, I wanted to voice our support for the trail maintenance and development plan. We are so fortunate to live in this community that strives to balance access to nature and trails with the needs of local wildlife populations. Our trails have become a critical part of the fabric that makes our town special. I believe that a forward looking plan with trail expansion can be implemented that respects wildlife populations while allowing the trails to keep pace with the number of people looking to use them. If we don't have a comprehensive plan in place like the one proposed, I feel it will have a significant negative impact on the town and the wildlife in the area as people will recreate in unapproved areas. Although I do not condone that type of behavior, it is important that the town acknowledges the growing demand on our trail network and provides opportunities for individuals to recreate while minimizing the impact on wildlife in the area. We all know that the developments that have been approved in the last few years could stress local wildlife populations. I think it is imperative that the town approve a trail plan that supports those new residents in a constructive way. If they don't, then the negative effects of those developments will be amplified.

Patrick Hasselbach

Hello Board Members,

I attended the presentation of the Open Space Master Plan today and wanted to add my support for the plan. I am in favor of keeping the seasonal closures as they are now and not closing anything more in the winter. We are an outdoor oriented community that needs access to trails year round. That is part of what makes Eagle so special.

I would also ask that you ease up on all the negative dog related talk. I don't quite understand how a few very vocal Eagle Ranch residents have made this such a big deal but I happen to like dogs and they need a place to be able to run obviously without endangering wildlife.

I appreciate all you do for our town and thank you for your time.

Liz Bailey

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Town of Eagle,

I have not been able to attend in person for the open houses. But I hope this email can relay my feeling on the open space master plan. I have used much of the bullet points the HTC has proposed and edited a few. I agree with much of what HTC is promoting but my disagreement is mostly regarding the continued use of Haymaker trail during the winter. I also encourage and would like to see more trails with connectivity and possibly circling the town. I am also not sure trailforks is a good gauge on trail use and tried to look for a reason why this app was used. My observation is Strava heatmap would be a better measurement of trail use. Trailforks is good for someone who is new to the area and most don't use it once they are familiar with the area. The use of strava is more widely used even for the locals and new users. It also encompasses runners more so than trailforks.

- Plan, identify, review, and **execute the 12-15 miles of singletrack trail** allocated in the Hardscrabble Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) as identified in the BLM's Resource Management Plan (RMP)

- Build new trails that create strategic connections of the current trail system
  - Build new trails that offer new trail experiences (i.e. new terrain, difficulty level)
  - Execute reroutes to create a more cohesive and sustainable trail system that improves the user experience
- Use of trails year-round is extremely important. But I have found the use of haymaker in the winter tends to disturb deer and elk far more than any other winter trail. I am not sure the benefit of the haymaker outer loop in the winter over the amount of conflict it creates.
- Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities while simultaneously managing environmental impacts on plants and wildlife
- Engage the Forest Service to identify and execute new and existing trail opportunities in South Eagle (Yeoman, Salt Creek, Hardscrabble, Sylvan). The addition of the valley trail at Sylvan Lake state park for bikes would be a great amenity addition.
- I use the in-town trails daily basis to get to work and I is easy to avoid riding on US6, Sylvan Lake or capital is a great safety benefit.
- Improve the Haymaker trailhead with better amenities including an off-leash dog park and skills **bike park** similar to the Minturn Bike Park
- Develop improved **camping** options in town to alleviate the pressure of dispersed camping on Bellyache and Hardscrabble. Continue to allow RV camping at those locations.
- Work with land managers to re-route some small unsustainable sections of existing trails to improve the overall trail experience and decrease trail maintenance needs.

Thanks you for taking my comments and further improving this great amenity we have in Eagle. I call this an amenity but it is a way of life for me and my family since I have moved here in 1999. I am constantly amazed at how fortunate we are to live in a town with such a great network of trails.

Thank You

Peter Lombardi

Dear Town Council,

I was not able to make it to the meeting last night but did want to show my support for the Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails Master plan.

I live and work in Eagle and am an avid (but not hugely accomplished) mountain biker as well as hiker. I am out and about walking often. The trail system is one of the things I most love about our town and I believe that the plan and the direction it provides is necessary to maintain, improve and enhance that system while working to keep our wildlife habitat as safe from human interaction and intact as possible in our growing town.

Thank you!

Jennifer Decker Buck

Hello Council,

Thank you for all your hard work! Good to see you all last night.

I support the open because I believe it is well balanced by providing direction on how to maintain, enhance, and create new trail opportunities while ensuring that our open space, wildlife, and natural environment are prioritized, managed, and maintained. Trail opportunities identified in the plan create strategic connections that improve a more cohesive and sustainable trail system, offer new and different types of trail experiences, and are concentrated in areas that already see recreation impacts. The trail opportunities do not branch off into new areas further impacting and fragmenting wildlife habitat. All potential new trail opportunities would follow current seasonal wildlife closures in the Eagle area to ensure critical habitat is not impacted during the winter.

On a more personal note, I have struggled with depression and other significant mental health issues for a very long time. I have recently started mountain biking - which has made all the difference. I exercise more, I socialize more and I have deepened my connection to nature. Time spent outside has played a major role in my healing. I am happier and healthier than I have been in a long time and I can attribute that, in part, to my close proximity to the trails. I live in the Bluff Townhomes and I consider myself very lucky to be so close to such a valuable resource.

The access to nature that trails facilitate is something everyone deserves and it is one of my favorite things about calling Eagle my home. When people have access to something, they are more like to connect to it, care about it and protect it. Since I have nature to thank for my health and happiness, I am more motivated to protect it. Trail users are some of the most passionate stewards of the natural world and wildlife.

I hope we move forward with this plan so that more are given the same opportunity that I was - the resources I needed to finally make lasting progress in my struggle against depression and self-doubt.

Thank you for your time,

Shawna Wood

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Hello town council,

My name is Meghan Twohig and I am a resident of Minturn. However I regularly ride and run on the trails in Eagle; I have also coached for The Cycle Effect in the past and I currently volunteer with the VVMTA Ladies Trail Crew as well as Vail Mountain Rescue Group.

I am writing to you in support of the Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails Master Plan. I read the plan and attended the in person work session last night in Eagle and I was impressed by the balance the plan strikes between new trail development and preserving critical habitat for wildlife. I think it is possible to both create new recreational opportunities for all members of our community as well as visitors and respect and protect our wildlife. It is my hope that the council and town will rely on a data based approach to making these decisions as we move forward.

Thank you for the time you continue to put into this undertaking!

Best,

Meghan Twohig

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To All Council Members,

Thanks for a great work session yesterday, and thanks for your time in reading my email.

Simply put, the best way to protect wildlife and their habitat is to control the human footprint in those areas. A constructive, well thought out and calculated plan to do so, is what is needed. I am in heavy support of the open space master plan.

EVERYONE in that room yesterday, wether for or against the master plan loves wildlife and wants to protect it. Lets do it in a conscientious and constructive manner.

The truth is that Eagle is an amazing place to live and call home, and will continue to grow as it continues to be discovered by outdoor enthusiasts. We will continue to have more and more foot traffic on our existing trails, of which will eventually be bursting at the seams. Locales and new neighbors moving into town will want to explore these existing trails and new areas; without a proper, constructive, and calculated plan to handle that growth, will only cause more destruction to our open spaces and wildlife habitat.

Please support this master plan and the growth of our economy and trail system.

Thanks for your time!

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This was sent from my phone. Please excuse any typos.

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To Whom it May Concern-

Unfortunately, I missed the Master Plan meeting on Tues, 5/31, but I wanted to express my support for some of the items on the plan.

I am an year-round recreation user, which includes the snow and winter months. I want to express my desire to preserve access to our winter recreation in designated areas and possibly define some additional areas in the future.

I am in support of additional singletrack trails in the Hardscrabble area, in town, and East Eagle. I think we should build new trails that create connections to current trails in the system. Build new trails that offer varied difficulty (i.e. easy, medium, and difficult), this would help spread out users. Some uphill and downhill only routes could help as well. The new trails should make sure we consider environment impacts such as plants and wildlife.

Some of the new trails I approve:

-more trails in the Road gulch Eastern and Southern portions "new Road Gulch Area Loop Route" and "DM Re-route"

-Boneyard Road bypass would be a huge improvement

-Pool & Ice harder route downhill

-"Mikes Extension" and "Blue Grouse Extension"

-"Bailey/LOV connection"

-"Kill Bill/School House connector"

I think the town should work to improve interconnectivity of existing "in town" trails and paths to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. This could improve quality of life and potentially increase business to area retail and restaurants. Also, we could improve existing trail signage and wayfinding. I believe this could help avoid some confusion I see from out of town guests trying to navigate our existing trail system from within town.

The town should also consider improving trailheads, to include more amenities. Including, but not limited to, better signage, picnic tables, shade structures, water, tools, etc.

I also support improving the the Haymaker trailhead to include a bike park and potential a dog park similar to Minturn or Valmont Park in Boulder.

Finally, I think it would be a good idea to identify and create new camping options for out of town guests. If we want to be considered a mountain bike destination, we need additional infrastructure like established in town camping (similar to Telluride). This could also help alleviate the pressure of dispersed camping on Bellyache and Hardscrabble.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this letter.

Best Regards,

Brian Ingoldsby

Town of Eagle Resident

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Dear Mayor Turnipseed,

I hope you are recovering well.

Wanted to loop you in to several hot points brought up at yesterday's TOE meeting regarding Open Space's trails expansion proposal.

1. Below is email to Council Member Bodenheimier, regarding **5 very important points**.
2. Below that is **survey info** Council Member Parrish asked me for

Sincerely,

Kate Sheldon

-----Original Message-----

To: [ellen.bodenhemier@townofeagle.org](mailto:ellen.bodenhemier@townofeagle.org) <[ellen.bodenhemier@townofeagle.org](mailto:ellen.bodenhemier@townofeagle.org)>

Dear Council Member Bodenhemier,

Thank you for standing strong to uphold **Eagle's 1997 parameters which identify prioritizing wildlife over recreation.**

1. **DOGS:** Nathan Lehnert/Eagle Animal Control updated policies and fines three years ago, he's been ready with it since before the pandemic; please coordinate with Nathan about enforcing these new fines, **which will likely fully fund an Open Space Ranger.** All it takes is for a few violators to have to pay steep fines, complain on social media about it, and most people will STOP violating the rules. Nathan: 328-2442

2. Thank you for talking about **habitat restoration opportunities** and **establishing an accountability report** for this.

3. **Trails expansions are identified as HIGH Priority in the Proposal:** Even though Robert Tadlock/HTC said they **weren't** high priority- pages 40-43 identifies 8 of the 22 trails expansions as HIGH priority. The facts speak here. In addition, Nicky Asselin/HTC claimed there was only one violation in the year- that is absurdly incorrect as you know from CPW's trail cam data. Need to filter out this misinformation before it becomes public record. It seemed to me there was an attempt by HTC to blur the intentions of this important document which will Guide the next ten years.

4. **SEEKING MORE PUBLIC INPUT:** Below is my email to Council Member Parrish, with links to two **survey platforms** she asked about- which will help you determine your public's interest in developing Open Space.

Thank you for allowing the public a fair shake at giving their opinions regarding developing Open Space.

Sincerely,

Kate Sheldon

(970) 376-5431

*(below is my email to Council Member Parrish)*

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Dear Council Member Parrish,

Thank you for asking how to reach more of Eagle's public opinion regarding the Open Space Trails Expansion Plan. As promised at yesterday's meeting, here is Eagle County's trusted platform, SURVEY RESEARCH (actual recent survey attached below).

In addition, the platform used for Eagle's 2021 Community Survey is here:: [Town of Eagle Community Survey and Dashboard | Town of Eagle, CO - Official Website](#)

**Due to the nebulous wording of SE Group's survey, I suggest you *do not* utilize SE Group for this new survey. Even Jon Stavney pointed out SE Group's survey wording was manipulative and contradictory (Jon said this publicly at the March 15 Open Space public meeting).**

It is imperative to present both sides so your public understands the full picture, if you truly desire to determine your voting public's majority opinion. A neighbor describes it like this: **"We get emails about local projects being considered, most don't provide the level of background info or 'local ramifications' other than developer so-in-so in presenting their ideas. The community does not appear to be brought in until last minute for 'public comments', then it seems too late".**

I'd like to recommend you ask the Mountain Biking Community to write one side, and people supporting the Elk write the other side. Also please include an area for people to type/write their own input as well.

A good old-fashioned one-page survey in the mail to all voting public would get the most results; people pay more attention to paper mail than email these days.

I'd be honored to help draft the Elk's side; along with Brian Wodrich and Tom Olden, if you are interested. Sincerely,

Kate Sheldon

(970) 376-5431

cc: Ellen Bodenheimier, Geoff Grimmer, Pappy Kerst, Janet Bartnik, Scott Turnipseed, Nick Sunday

-----Original Message-----

From: Survey Research <[invites@mailersurveygizmo.com](mailto:invites@mailersurveygizmo.com)>

To:

Sent: Tue, May 3, 2022 9:01 am

Subject: Eagle County Wants YOUR Opinion!

Hi Kate:

We would like to include YOU in an important study about transportation issues in Eagle County. The County and its local partners survey residents a few times a year and you've been randomly selected to participate. Your opinions are very important to us and will help choose the direction that the County will take in the months and years ahead. This survey should take no more than 10 minutes.

To complete the survey at your convenience, click here:

<https://opinions-survey.com/index.php/survey/index/sid/768862/newtest/Y/lang/en/token/157590199>

The survey may be accessed from work, home, or any computer or smartphone with internet access by typing the address above.

If the link does not appear above, simply copy and paste the following text in your browser: <https://opinions-survey.com/index.php/survey/index/sid/768862/newtest/Y/lang/en/token/157590199>

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact us via email at [eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us](mailto:eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us) or phone - 970-328-8604.



Thank you for taking the time to share your opinions!  
Commissioners Jeanne McQueeney, Kathy Chandler-Henry and Matt Scherr  
P.O. Box 850  
500 Broadway  
Eagle, Colorado 81631-0850

**Note: Survey Research is a highly respected national public opinion survey research organization.** Your responses on this survey will be kept completely confidential. Your reply will go directly to Survey Research and be compiled with data from other residents who live in Eagle County. Survey Research will not report your individual responses, nor will it identify you as a participant in the survey. Eagle County

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Dear Council Member Grimmer,

Today's Vail Daily's article missed one of the most important points from Tuesday's meeting – where you and Council Member Bodenhemier went on record saying that mistakes had been made in regards to Haymaker & other trails, and that it would only be right to move forward in following the 1997 Eagle Land Use/Mgmt plan where WILDLIFE is more important than Recreation- and to make good on following this from here on out.

Bill Heicher, a prominent early Eagle land planner, emailed me this, today:

*Hopefully the Eagle Town Council will start putting some definitive action behind their words. If they say wildlife is important and a priority then the decisions need to be made that support those statements--not watered down for the sake of compromise or saying that the "proposed mitigation" will make up for any decision that may impact wildlife. I will say once again, that in my 50+ years in the Eagle Valley I have yet to see a proposed terrestrial wildlife mitigation plan offset the impacts caused by the change in the land-use/development. Best of Luck as you go forward. -- Bill Heicher*

Bill is an integral resource as you move forward, so is former CPW Director Bill Andree. I can provide you their contact information if you're interested. Perhaps Brian Lieberman could also contact these key resources for his due diligence, along with your suggestion for Brian to contact Rocky Mtn Elk Fndn and Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.

In the meantime, it seems important that Vail Daily coverage includes this important development- so the public, (who is hopefully about to fill out a survey regarding the open space plan) - is fully informed.

Thank you again for allowing public input.

Sincerely,

Kate Sheldon

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To All Council Members,

Thanks for a great work session yesterday, and thanks for your time in reading my email.

Simply put, the best way to protect wildlife and their habitat is to control the human footprint in those areas. A constructive, well thought out and calculated plan to do so, is what is needed. I am in heavy support of the open space master plan.

EVERYONE in that room yesterday, wether for or against the master plan loves wildlife and wants to protect it. Lets do it in a conscientious and constructive manner.

The truth is that Eagle is an amazing place to live and call home, and will continue to grow as it continues to be discovered by outdoor enthusiasts. We will continue to have more and more foot traffic on our existing trails, of which will eventually be bursting at the seams. Locales and new neighbors moving into town will want to explore these existing trails and new areas; without a proper, constructive, and calculated plan to handle that growth, will only cause more destruction to our open spaces and wildlife habitat.

Please support this master plan and the growth of our economy and trail system.

Thanks for your time!

Nick Junker

---

Hello,

As a firefighter on duty tonight, I will be unable to attend tonight's meeting. I am writing to express my support for the trail plan supported by Hardscrabble Trail Coalition. I am a hiker, runner, and mountain biker. My family and I moved to Eagle five years ago for both its community and the trail access. As the town grows, we will need more trails to accommodate the the extra volume of users and maintain the quality of experience we now have. This plan also incorporates great ideas on how to make the trails better for all user groups while making great accommodations for wildlife. I hope you support this plan as well.

Thank you,

Brent Wambach

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While I had participated in the earliest survey on this subject, Last weeks meeting was the first time I became aware of work that had been done.

My first impression was that of "what problem are we trying to solve"? 200 miles of existing trails seems ample to me. I frequently go by the parking lot at Arroyo and seldom see more than one or two vehicles parked there, and I seldom see anything close to what I would call crowded conditions on trails. So, I was pleased with the perspicacity of council member Ellen Bodenheimer and other board members who challenged the sketchy funding ideas presented. To whatever degree trail

operations are currently a drain on town resources, you can be assured that more trails will result in a larger drain on town resources. With dramatic, even unprecedented, price inflation now occurring on many fronts, it must be asked whether town expenditures of financial resources on trail expansion might be taking meals out of the mouths of senior citizens on fixed incomes. On balance, I think the town has bigger issues to deal with first.

I was pleased to see so many people concerned about the elk herd and the elk migration paths. Research conducted into these magnificent species and their migration patterns which predate human occupancy in the area indicate that migration corridors are vital and in need of protection and conservation. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2020/03/11/wildlife-migration-corridors-in-the-western-us-need-identification-conservation>

Like others who spoke, it did also seem to me that the “plan” was mountain bike centric and led me to think that the equine community was being marginalized. I wonder if any meaningful attempts have been made to obtain input from equine community.

Another concern associated with increased trails and attendant visitor traffic would be the concomitant fire initiation hazard. (Do we yet know what started last years Sylvan Lake fire?). This would seem especially true for dirt bikes, but I acknowledge that smoking, campfires and other ignition sources may be as likely. (On the subject of e-bikes, I think we are only in about the second inning of this trend. A forward looking council should spend some time thinking about where this trend is headed.)

I suggest, the council be prudent and unrushed in its consideration of this matter. Finally, if the council decides to bring the “Master Plan” to a vote, ample advance consideration must be given to determine whether any council member(s) has a pecuniary interest in the outcome and recuse if so indicated. This, naturally, should always be a matter of course.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to comment. I will pay more attention to interim opportunities to comment in the future.

David Christian -

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Hi Brian,

Thanks for the note.

Please note that I am a big advocate of private property rights.

On page 66, our sketch references future river access and you have highlighted private property. Do you have the property owner’s approval to draw anything on their property?.

If not, you should probably remove it.

Seems disrespectful to me.

Thanks

Stan Kensinger <StanK@oliverreg.com>

FYI, I have had similar discussions with the Hwy 6 Corridor people and I am the Founding member of the towns Economic Vitality Committee and the Chamber's Business Advocacy Council