



Vail bighorn sheep in their Booth Height habitat, acquired for \$17.5 million.

Letters to Vail

**\$17.5 million price tag to save the sheep habitat
TOV has committed \$12.5 million.
Where will the additional \$5 million come from?
Big donors and smaller contributions needed.**

September 25, 2023

The Town of Vail has been granted possession of the 23-acre Booth Heights site by the Court if it pays the \$17.5 million price set during the valuation hearing. The Town has earmarked \$12 million from RETT funds to acquire the property. Eagle County Open Space Advisory Committee has recommended to the Eagle County Commissioners that they contribute \$5 million to the effort. Vail Town Council will vote on the issue on Tuesday, October 3 during the regular Council meeting. Eagle County Commissioners have not scheduled a meeting to address the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

There is no guarantee that these funds will be secured so an "all-in" effort is required from the community. Already the Vail Bighorn Sheep Initiative is underway. It is a community-based fundraising campaign in which all contributions are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

If this comes to fruition it will be a huge boost for our community. In addition to the Booth Heights property, the Town of Vail has agreed to place an additional 123 acres of Town-owned land in a Conservation Easement bringing the total protected open space area to 147 acres stretching from the East Vail I-70 Exit eastward to Buzzard Park at the TOV Public Works facility.

Here is how you can help:

- Contact Vail Town Council to let them know preserving this essential habitat for bighorn sheep is important to you: towncouncil@vailgov.com.
- Contact the Eagle County Commissioners in support of \$5 million to help secure purchase of the 23 acre Booth Heights site: eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us.
- DONATE! Help make sure funds are available to purchase the Booth Heights parcel and to improve habitat into the future: <https://www.vailbighorn.com/ways-to-help>. Your donation is tax deductible.
- No donation is too small! Equally important is that each donation lets County and Town officials know that you support preserving this habitat and the bighorn sheep for generations to come.
- Attend the October 3 Vail Town Council Meeting.

Let the Commissioners and Council Members know that you support funding to ensure the purchase of the Booth Heights essential habitat for the iconic sheep herd that has lived on this land since before Vail was envisioned.

Where We Are and How Did We Get Here?

The Bighorn Sheep Initiative website details efforts to save the bighorn sheep AND build workforce housing; one is not exclusive of the other. Please visit the website at: <https://www.vailbighorn.com/ways-to-help>.

For more information on the decision for the recommendation that the County contribute to the effort, watch the September 11 Eagle County Open Space Advisory Committee meeting at: <http://reflect-vod-eaglecounty.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/6620?site=1>.

VHA provides clear and concise discussions of matters affecting the Vail community in the belief that an informed citizenry will be an engaged citizenry. Our intent is to promote more citizen involvement and community discussions of issues facing the Town. If these are issues that concerns you, please make your views known to candidates and [town officials](#). By joining with VHA, as a member, paid-subscriber or reader, you can add your voice to sustain what is good about our community and to shine a spotlight on important issues. See back editions of VHA communications on the Association's website.

To receive VHA letters and reports as a Reader, Paid-Subscriber or Member.

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