

Highlands Parcels Open House

January 29, 2025

Written Comments (“Other Ideas”)

The following comments have been translated verbatim from poster boards at the open house held on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at Town Hall. The headings correlate to the individual poster boards that were positioned around the meeting room. Each board included a section titled “Other Ideas” where open house participants could write their comments on the board or on a sticky note.

Action Alternatives Board (Open Space or Development Question) – “Other Ideas”

- 2023 Eagle County Open Space Committee recommended \$5 million to Town of Vail to preserve 23 acres in East Vail. January 3, 2025, Aspen Valley Land Trust, Eagle Valley Land Trust, and Pitkin County spent \$27 million to conserve 4,000 acres in Missouri Heights.
- A couple large parcels with restricted designated homesites if the open space purchase doesn't provide enough funds for water plant.
- Single owner “ranch” w/ zoning/use restrictions.
- The Highlands is a major migration corridor; for that reason alone it needs to be protected. No trails.
- Sell to one or two wealthy conservationists with a conservation easement to protect the parcels as wildlife habitat.

Real Estate Development Options Board (Low, Medium, or High Development) – Other Ideas:

- Small (development) – Tiny Home Village
- No real estate here
- Limit to 1-2 homesites/ranches so that most of the parcel is effectively open space and Town gets maximum funding needed to build water plant.
- No development. No trails. No human disturbance. It is a major migration that needs to be protected.

Other Ideas and Concerns Board:

- No development, particularly because of migration. No selling of parcels. Make it be a conservation easement.
- A major migration corridor exists there; for that reason alone no development. No trails. No human contact. Protect that ancient migration corridor.
- Keep for open space only. Keep our wildlife.

- Explore every option to conserve this land for wildlife only. There is nowhere else to go. No recreation! No private ownership.
- I want the land preserved for migration, etc. There was a chance for more funds with Minturn North that wasn't capitalized on and this piece shouldn't be sacrificed to make up for that. Will someone be willing to pay to conserve it?
- Sell land to open space. No recreation in area. Seasonal closures for wildlife.
- Reservoir parcel. Sell parcel next to (Bolts) reservoir to ERWSD for their recreational facilities and stipulate some uses so it's not overblown development.
- Wildlife refuge.
- No more development in areas with high density of wildlife. Find alternative area for funding.
- If the Town needs to raise money let's not look at the expense of the natural landscape. Protect the habitat and wildlife that needs it.
- No development. No parking. No trails. Protect migration corridor there. No parking.