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Land trust will match private donations for Droste acquisition

The Aspen Valley Land Trust (AVLT) will match private donations for the ongoing attempt to purchase and make public the 841-acre Droste family parcel in Snowmass Village.

AVLT Executive Director Martha Cochran announced Wednesday that the conservation group will match up to \$250,000 in donations for the property, in an attempt to fill a \$1.5 million funding gap to meet the Drostes' \$17 million asking price.

Pitkin County has spearheaded the effort to buy the land, and has committed \$10 million toward it. The state's Great Outdoors Colorado put up a \$2.5 million grant last week. Snowmass Village voters in November approved another \$2 million, and the Aspen City Council pledged \$1 million.

The county has scheduled an emergency public meeting on the acquisition for Dec. 27. County open space officials have said they hope to close the deal before the end of the year.

"This is a landmark opportunity for the upper valley and AVLT is pleased to partner on this great project," board president Wally Obermeyer said in an announcement. The board's vote to pledge \$250,000 was unanimous.

Donations to the Droste Mountain Park can be made online at [www.avlt.org](http://www.avlt.org) [1] or by mailing contributions to Aspen Valley Land Trust, 320 Main St., #204, Carbondale, Colo., 81623. Donors will be recognized by a permanent marker at the Droste Mountain Park. Donations can be made in recognition or in memory of friends and loved ones.

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[1] <http://www.avlt.org>