



- Courtesy AVLT

AVLT offers matching funds for Droste contributions

ASPEN TIMES STAFF REPORT
ASPEN, CO COLORADO,

CARBONDALE — Aspen Valley Land Trust will match private donations toward the purchase of the Droste open space, up to \$250,000, the Carbondale-based nonprofit announced Wednesday.

The matching funds are intended to help raise the private contributions that are needed to complete the \$17 million acquisition, which is scheduled to close at the end of the month.

Pitkin County Open Space and Trails is spearheading the effort to acquire the 841-acre parcel, which encompasses the ridge between the Brush Creek and Owl Creek valleys on the outskirts of Snowmass Village.

“It reminds me of Smuggler Mountain in its level of importance,” said Martha Cochran, AVLT executive director, in reference to another high-profile open space acquisition. AVLT’s board of directors felt the same way, she said.

Some small donations have trickled into AVLT, Cochran said, and the matching funds are a way for donors to, in effect, double their contribution.

Pitkin County has committed \$10 million toward the purchase, and additional major funding is being provided by Great Outdoors Colorado, Snowmass Village and the city of Aspen. Proponents hope to raise up to \$1.5 million in private donations.

The decision to pledge \$250,000 to the project was a unanimous decision of the AVLT board, according to board president Wally Obermeyer, calling the purchase a “landmark opportunity” for the upper valley.

AVLT will hold a conservation easement on the Droste open space to help ensure its future protection.

Tax-deductible donations to Droste Mountain Park can be made online at www.avlt.org or by mailing contributions to: Aspen Valley Land Trust; 320 Main St., No. 204; Carbondale, CO 81623. Donors will be recognized by a permanent marker at Droste Mountain Park. Donations can be made in recognition or memory of friends and loved ones.

A video of the proposed Droste Mountain Park can be seen at <http://vimeo.com/15927097> or on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pa3juD0S5yM>.

<http://www.aspentimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101216/NEWS/101219895/-1/RSS&template=printart>