

**Welcome to summertime - at last!**

1 message

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Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 10:29 AM

[ESWA HOME](#)[VOLUNTEER](#)[BECOME A MEMBER](#)[DONATE](#)**IMPORTANT DATES**

There's SO MUCH happening this summer, we're giving you a calendar so you can mark yours! More details are in this newsletter.

**2023 ESWA SCHEDULED SUMMER EVENTS**

June 3 - New VWR Training Day 8:30 am-3 pm Eagles Nest HOA Center  
June 5 - Summit County ESWA Volunteer Party 5-7 pm Highside Brewery, Frisco  
June 6 - Eagle County ESWA Volunteer Party 4:30-6:30 pm E-Town, Edwards  
June 9 - Flat Tops Wilderness Orientation Hike led by USFS Kat Bazan  
July 1 - Trailhead Hosting Day with FDRD  
July 8 & 18 - Summit County Weed Pulls  
July 7-9 - Llama-supported work trip to Soda Lakes, Eagles Nest Wilderness  
July 15 - Workday on reroute of Surprise Lake Trail, Eagles Nest Wilderness  
July 16 - Second workday on Surprise Lake reroute  
July 21-23 - Llama-supported work trip to Wheeler/Lost Lakes, Eagles Nest W.  
August 4-6 - Llama-supported work trip to Gore Lake, Eagles Nest Wilderness  
August 18-20 - Llama-supported work trip Willow Lakes, Eagles Nest Wilderness  
August 24-27 - Llama-supported work trip Flat Tops Wilderness

To be scheduled (check July 1 newsletter for dates):

- Adopt-A-Trail Work-Days on Deluge Lake Trail
- More Weed Pull Days

**TIME TO GIVE BACK TO WILDERNESS AND HAVE FUN!**

It's finally SUMMER!! This means we all get to hit the trail to help our local Wilderness Areas.

New VWR Training: On June 3 we will be training 30 new VWRs (with a later training for another 6-7 who can't make June 3). **We still need additional volunteers to lead mentor hikes this month.** Leading a mentor hike is an opportunity to welcome our newest rangers, share your experiences, pass on tips, and keep our VWR Program strong. E-mail [Mike Browning](#) ASAP.

New Sawyer Training: We will be training five new Sawyers to be certified by the Forest Service on June 10-12. Last year our Buckers and other volunteers cleared **over 1,200 trees** off our Wilderness trails. No training or fixed commitment is needed to be a Sawyer Helper. Just email [Zach Kauk](#) and tell him you're interested.



VWR Mandatory Recertification: Refresher sessions for all existing VWRs were held via Zoom on May 15 and 23. If you were unable to attend, the May 15 session was recorded and viewable [HERE](#). The updated VWR Training and Resource Manual is available [HERE](#) and includes lots of useful information.

VWR Resupply Boxes - New this year: Coordinating-a-Rescue cards:

VWRs, remember that you can resupply your patrol kits at either the Dillon or Minturn Ranger District offices. This year, ESWA will be supplying each VWR with a “Coordinating a Rescue” card with simple steps to follow in the event you are called upon to assist in an emergency situation. It also includes a basic form where you can record critical information needed by emergency dispatch should you connect with 911 or if you send for help.

This **does not** mean that as a VWR you are to automatically assume control in such a situation, but **it does** mean that you have a tool to allow you to be helpful if called upon. These cards will be available in VWR supply boxes at both the Dillon and Minturn ranger offices. New VWRs will receive their card at the June 3 training.

And check out this summer’s llama trips, weed pulls, trail-work days, Trailhead Host Days, and other great events.



Thanks to the ESWA VWRs who spent a fine morning at the Betz cabin in Pebble Creek assembling the kits for our new VWRs!

### LLAMA-SUPPORTED BACKPACKING TRIPS – CLAIM YOUR SPOT!



Our 3-night Flat Tops trip in August wins the popularity contest so far – already almost half full! Registration is picking up for these fun trips, so if you and your friends and family want to be ensured space, it’s time to stop procrastinating. Sign up today, and join ESWA and our friends at the US Forest Service for three days of camaraderie and good work helping keep our Wilderness pristine. Email Krista Hughes at [krista.a.hughes@gmail.com](mailto:krista.a.hughes@gmail.com).

- **July 7-9:** Eagles Nest Wilderness: Soda Lakes (north of Piney Lake)\*

- **July 21-23:** Eagles Nest Wilderness: Wheeler Lakes and Lost Lake (Copper Mtn Exit)
- **August 4-6:** Eagles Nest Wilderness: Gore Lake
- **August 18-20:** Eagles Nest Wilderness: Willow Lakes (above Silverthorne)
- **August 24-27** (3 nights!): Flat Tops Wilderness (northwest of Gypsum)

Llamas are great fun to hike with and allow us to camp at gorgeous backcountry lakes (while lightening our loads). For our 2-night trips, we hike in on a Friday afternoon, work hard on Saturday taking out illegal fire pits, clearing trash, and improving trails, and then hike out on Sunday.

**\*ORPHAN ALERT\*:** Our Soda Lakes trip needs a trip leader! This could be your chance of a lifetime to explore this remote and beautiful area rimmed with jagged, vertical peaks. Email Krista Hughes at [krista.a.hughes@gmail.com](mailto:krista.a.hughes@gmail.com).

### **ESWA IS THROWING A PARTY (OR 2)!**

To celebrate the return of Summer and kick off our VWR patrols, TH Hosting, Trail Projects, Sawyer Work, Weed Pulls, and other summer activities, ESWA is throwing a party — actually two — for our amazing Volunteers! On the Summit County side, come join us Monday June 5 from 5-7 pm at the Highside Brewery, 720 Main St, Frisco. The party on the Eagle County side will run from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Tuesday June 6 at the E-Town Kitchen and Bar, 295 Main St Unit C104, Edwards. All ESWA Volunteers are welcome, and we'll buy your first beer, wine, or soda. Come meet old friends, create new friendships, meet our freshly trained VWRs and Sawyers, and make your summer plans!

### **JULY 1 TRAILHEAD HOSTING DAY WITH ESWA AND FDRD**

ESWA is partnering again this year with our friends at FDRD for a 24-trail Trailhead Hosting Day, starting with a light breakfast, followed by hosting at a trailhead, and concluding with a BBQ at Meadowcreek Park.

- Objective: Liaise with trail users and FDRD volunteers by linking a host at each Wilderness trailhead from each organization.
- Date, time, and starting place: July 1 at 8:00am at Meadowcreek Park behind Walmart, Frisco.
- Breakfast 8:00-9:00am. Frank Gutmann will bring a light breakfast, including caffeinated coffee and hot water for tea.
- Either pick up trailhead info, sandwich boards (to advertise event at trailhead), and foldable tables (only 4 tables available so bring your own if possible) at Meadowcreek Park or arrange with Frank Gutmann (ESWA) or Lizzie Morrison (FDRD) to pick up at DRD station within seven days before event.
- BBQ lunch at noon, Meadowcreek Park, hosted by FDRD. Volunteers stationed far from the park may leave their trailhead at 11:30am.
- Master list of assignments to include e-mail address and mobile phone #, but info is only shared with volunteers assigned to same trailhead to maintain privacy as much as possible.
- If a volunteer wishes a particular trailhead or partner(s), share your preference with Frank or Lizzie who will try to accommodate volunteers' wishes.
- CONTACTS: To sign up or for more info:
  - ESWA: Frank Gutmann (970)333-4677 [mfgutmann@hotmail.com](mailto:mfgutmann@hotmail.com)
  - FDRD: Lizzie Morrison (970)262-3449 [lizzie@fdrd.org](mailto:lizzie@fdrd.org)

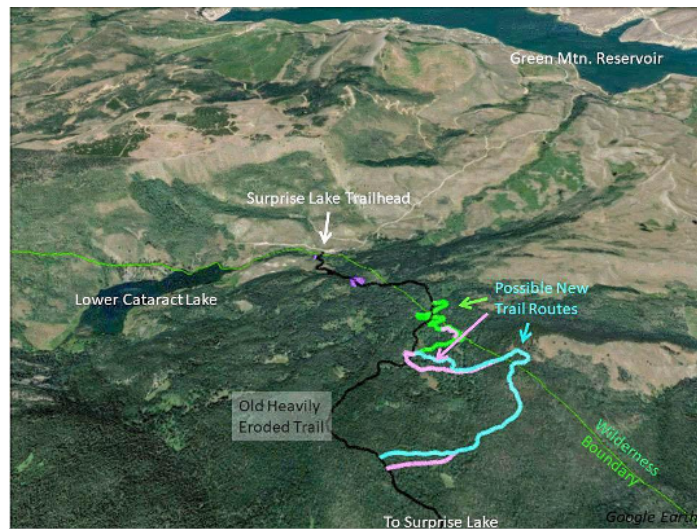
### **ESWA TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES: REBUILD SURPRISE LAKE TRAIL JULY 15 & 16**

Do you like to work with tools, move rocks and dirt, and build rock structures? Trail building is fun and very satisfying. Join the ESWA crew leaders and the US Forest Service to learn how trails are built. We bring our own lunch and there's a 2-3-mile hike to the worksite. We work at our own pace, taking breaks and heading back when we wish.

ESWA's most recent trail project is a reroute of Surprise Lake trail. This popular trail, which starts near Lower Cataract Lake and winds uphill to Surprise Lake, had serious erosion problems with deep gullies. But, three years ago, ESWA won grant money to plan a reroute. Next, the trail was laid out and all approvals were obtained. Last year ESWA sawyers helped clear trees. This year ESWA will help build the new trail!



Be part of this success story! There are two planned workdays, July 15 and 16. To join us for one or both days, contact [Dave Brewster](#).



Did you know that ESWA has a long history of working in our Wilderness Areas? As far back as 1996, FENW (now ESWA) was installing Wilderness signs. In 2004 FENW obtained grants to help build a new, sustainable, and safer trail up Buffalo Mountain, and supplied volunteer labor. Other projects have included improvements to the Squaw Creek trail (recently renamed Nuchu Creek), and installing boardwalks on Middle Willow Creek trail and bridges over Slate Creek. Most recently, thanks to a generous grant from the Schuette family in memory of Beau Schuette, ESWA helped build the boardwalk on the Mesa Cortina trail.

A huge thank you to Maryann Gaug for her generous donation towards repairing/replacing the bridge on South Willow Creek. ESWA is meeting with the USFS to plan the needed work.

There also will be **Adopt-a-Trail** workdays on Deluge Lake trail and **sign-installation days** this summer. Contact Dave at [David.L.Brewster@gmail.com](mailto:David.L.Brewster@gmail.com).

### **HAVE YOU SIGNED YOUR JHA AND RELEASE FORMS?**

ESWA Volunteers should have received an email from Zach Kauk with this year's USFS Job Hazard Analysis and ESWA's Release and Uniform Policy. These must be signed before you can do any patrols or other volunteer work for ESWA this summer. Contact [Zach](#) if you didn't receive the forms or are having trouble signing.

### **MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

We need your help! When we aren't out on the trails, we are busy inside with management tasks, such as preparing publication materials, communicating with committee members, and so forth.

As an all-volunteer organization, we have no paid staff and **we rely totally on volunteers**. We seek help for more than a dozen in-house tasks.

For example, we create our note cards and brochures in Microsoft **Publisher**, which is a lot like Word and PowerPoint. If you can add images to Word, you can easily learn to use Publisher. We'll happily teach you. The image below shows the front page of our trifold publication, created in Publisher.





Another example: **photo editing**. We take a lot of photos, and they usually need to be cropped and enhanced for optimal display. We would value the help from a volunteer experienced in these processes.

Click [HERE](#) to read about all of our needs.

### INTO THE (NOXIOUS) WEEDS



## SUMMIT COMMUNITY WEED PULL

**Two weed pulls at Hunters Knob - do one or both!** ESWA WeedSpotters will be hitting the nasty thistle infestation at Hunters Knob (which ESWA has fought for four years running) at least twice this summer. And we're also looking for volunteers who might adopt a trail and attack other infestations.

The ESWA WeedSpotters are proud to support the *revived* Summit County Weed Pull that will be held **Saturday, July 8**. Up to 100 volunteers throughout Summit County will attack noxious weed infestations at a dozen locations throughout Summit County - including Hunters Knob. The event begins at 8AM at the Community and Senior Center in Frisco - includes training, free breakfast, lunch, giveaways, prizes and weed pulling. Registration for the event is through FDRD [here](#). We encourage ESWA participants to choose the Hunters Knob site to pull weeds.

ESWA and FDRD will also host a second weed pull at Hunters Knob on **Tuesday, July 18** at 4PM. Noxious thistles pop up all summer, so it's important to continue the fight throughout the summer. Registration is through the FDRD Website [here](#).

Note: the registration form asks for your FDRD login; if you don't have a login, you can just close that window and still register.

If you have any questions, or are interested in other weed activities, email [Jim Alexander](#).





## **INTERESTED IN PATROLLING THE FLAT TOPS THIS SUMMER?**

This will be ESWA's first season for VWR patrols of the southernmost trails in the Flat Tops Wilderness. If you are interested in patrolling in the Flat Tops, please attend an orientation hike on Friday, June 9. The hike will be led by Kat Bazan, Trails and Wilderness Manager for that area.

WHEN: Friday, June 9, 9 a.m.

WHERE: Meet at the [Ute Trailhead parking lot](#) by 9 a.m. prompt. We won't wait long. The lot is just up the Colorado River Road from Dotsero. From there, we will caravan up to the Wilderness trailhead above Sweetwater Lake. It's about a 40-minute drive to the trailhead.

WHO: To sign up and for questions, contact [Steve Elder](#) or [Mike Browning](#).

WHAT: Be prepared for a hike of up to 4 hours. Bring a lunch. Wear your VWR kit and get credit for a patrol!

WHY: The Flat Tops access is remote, new to many of us, and has unique aspects, including the expected opening of Sweetwater Lake as a state park. Kat will give us an overview of the area, and we can get to know the trails a bit. Attending this orientation hike is strongly encouraged if you want to patrol in the Flat Tops.

NOTE: There will be a wonderful opportunity to experience the Flat Tops in more depth on the Llama Trip August 24-27. Sign up soon!



**Sheep Mountain, Flat Tops Wilderness**

## **ESWA IN THE COMMUNITY**

PWV: On June 11, Eric Malmberg, Mary Wolf, Mike Browning, Bill Betz, and Joan Betz attended the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (PWV) training for their new Rangers at the Buckhorn Camp west of Ft. Collins. PWV has long been a model for ESWA and perhaps runs the best scenario-training circuit in the country. They also met for many hours with the leaders of PWV and other groups such as the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance, Friends of Wilderness, National Wilderness Steward Alliance, Upper Arkansas Wilderness Group, and the Grand County Wilderness Group to discuss common issues, share ideas, and learn best practices. Check out some images from the event [HERE](#). They also began discussions about holding a Fall Rendezvous to further their collaboration.

## **EAGLE COUNTY RESIDENTS SHOW THEY LOVE WILDLIFE**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's recent survey of residents' attitudes towards protecting wildlife shows that residents value wildlife even when it means giving up some recreational access or permitting new development. Learn more in this recent [article](#) by Mike Browning.

### BECOME A PIKA PATROLLER



Ready to add a new skill to your patrols and help out what's arguably the cutest resident of our alpine zone? Climate change is threatening pikas' future, as warming temperatures are driving them higher and out of range of shelter and food.

You can help. The [Pika Project](#) – a partnership of the Denver Zoo and Rocky Mountain Wild – runs a citizen-science project where you can help track the number and location of pikas in the very alpine area that ESWA's members often

hike. They are offering five different training sessions this summer:

- June 24 Trail Ridge Road-Estes Park
- June 25 Loveland Pass
- July 22 Independence Pass
- July 23 Trail Ridge Road-Grand Lake
- August 5 Loveland Pass.

[Here's](#) where you can sign up or get more info.

### NEW SWAG IS HERE!



In addition to our blue and gray T-shirts, black ball caps, and photo notecards, we now have black knit beanies, blue fleece vests (available for pre-order), adorable stuffed llamas, ESWA ballpoint pens, and an updated version of our Trifold brochure featuring 2021 and 2022 photo contest winners.

Prices are \$20 for T-shirts, hats, beanies, and notecards, \$10 for llamas, and \$30 for fleece vests. Ball-point pens and Trifolds are free!

These items will be available during the VWR training on June 3 at the Eagles Nest HOA pavilion, [2700 Golden Eagle Rd, Silverthorne](#), between 9 AM and 3 PM, in case you want to stop by. And, we'll have samples of all of our swag at the Volunteer kickoff parties on June 5 and 6, including the fleece vests, which will be available to try on for preorders.

Mail orders will cost about \$5 in postage. [Questions?](#)





## HELP ESWA GET \$\$\$\$ FOR FREE!!

There is an easy way for you to give money to ESWA at no cost to you. City Market and King Soopers offers this opportunity. They will donate a percentage of every dollar you spend at their stores when you use your normal Loyalty Club Card. Here is all you need to do:

1. Go to the Community Rewards page on the King Sooper's website: <https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>.
2. Click "Enroll Now."
3. If you already have an online account, sign in using your email and password and skip to step 6.
4. If you don't have an account, click "Create Account" at the bottom of the page.
5. Enter the requested information and click "Create Account."
6. Under "Find an Organization" search for Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance.
7. Click Enroll.

**THAT'S IT. NOW EVERY TIME SHOP YOU GIVE BACK TO WILDERNESS. THANK YOU.**

## Donate

Special thanks to our partners for making our work possible!



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