

## EAGLE POST 60

The newsletter of **ESWA** (Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance) apprises you of important activities in and around Eagles Nest, Holy Cross, and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas.

[www.EagleSummitWilderness.org](http://www.EagleSummitWilderness.org)



[VIEW IN BROWSER](#)

**NEWS FLASH!** The pastoral **Lower Blue River Valley** is saved from a catastrophe - an open gravel mine. A brilliant team led by JOHN FIELDER provided compelling evidence, and on April 29 the state Mined Land Reclamation Board **UNANIMOUSLY DENIED** the permit.



Read more in the [Summit Daily](#) article, [Susan Knopf's](#) column, and the LBRU [website](#).

### BEFORE WE BEGIN:

- June 5 is training day for new Volunteer Wilderness Rangers (VWRs). Any VWR can also be a Trailhead Host and staff a table at a trailhead and greet visitors on their arrival and departure. You must be a trained VWR to also be a Trailhead Host. For more details on both programs check out our [website](#). To register for the June 5 VWR training sign up [HERE](#).



- May 15 is Tax Day. Haven't filed your taxes yet? Take advantage of the ReFUND CO program and donate all or part of your Colorado Tax Refund to ESWA! While filing your taxes, look for the "Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund" prompt, likely under the "Voluntary Contributions" section. You'll need



to input our name (Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance) and our CCSA Registration Number (20033007323 ).



- Not a member of ESWA? This is your **last alert**: In mid-May we will be mailing only to our members our 8-page, 24-article newsletter, full of informative and fun items about ESWA – llama trips, botanical sojourns, new board member profiles, advocacy updates, and lots more. If you haven't joined yet, dues will set you back as little as \$25 per year, will support ESWA's mission, and will secure your subscription to the biannual newsletter. To join, please click [HERE](#).

Interested in Noxious Weeds, and how to combat them? Join ESWA's **WeedSpotter** training the morning of **June 10** in Minturn. Contact Jim Alexander at [jimofcolorado@gmail.com](mailto:jimofcolorado@gmail.com) for details. (Some libations may follow training - subject to Eagle County Covid rules).



Oxeye daisy



- Last, but not least, we are excited to announce the debut of ESWA's new **Get Wild!** column in the **Summit Daily**. Look for our **weekly column** on issues of interest to lovers of Wilderness, including our kickoff offering **What Is Wilderness?**, by ESWA Chair Mike Browning.

There's more! The **Vail Daily** is sponsoring a **monthly column** from ESWA, in collaboration with the Walking Mountain Science Center. Check out the first two columns, written by ESWA Secretary **Frances Hartogh** on [Trail Etiquette](#) and [Moose in Our Midst](#).



Thanks to both newspapers for these great opportunities to get ESWA's message out!

May 2021

Dear \*|FNAME|\*  
Greetings! Our topic this month:  
**The Summit Foundation**

By Jeanne Bistranin, Executive Director  
The Summit Foundation



## **INTRODUCTION:**

Much of ESWA's work protecting our beloved Wilderness Areas is directly supported by grants from larger local and national nonprofit organizations whose primary mission is to raise and help provide funds to smaller nonprofits that do the actual work on the ground. In fact, a majority of ESWA's budget is grant funded. These larger grant-writing nonprofits are a vital part of the web of nonprofit organizations that make our nation and world a better place.

ESWA volunteer members, like Jim Alexander, devote long hours to preparing grant applications and monitoring expenditure of grant funds. All grant monies are used to directly further ESWA's mission to protect our three Wilderness Areas. For example, ESWA received almost \$100,000 in grants over the last three years to support efforts to combat the spread of invasive species. ESWA's WeedSpotters program has been supported by several grants from the National Forest Foundation Ski Conservation Fund (supported by A-Basin, Copper, and Vail). We have bought saws for our sawyer team with funds provided by the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.

The subject of this month's essay is one of the local nonprofit organizations that does so much to benefit our local communities. The Summit Foundation has provided funding for ESWA's work over the years. Recently, The Summit Foundation, in conjunction with the Schuette family, generously provided funding to construct a boardwalk to preserve a sensitive marshy area on the Mesa Cortina Trail in memory of Beau Schuette. ESWA is deeply appreciative of their support, and the support of the many nonprofit foundations that make our work possible.

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**THE SUMMIT FOUNDATION**

Jeanne Bistranin, Executive Director

The Summit Foundation is the community foundation serving Summit County and its neighboring communities of Fairplay, Leadville, and Kremmling. Since 1984, The Summit Foundation has awarded over \$40 million in community support through grants to local nonprofits and scholarships to deserving high school students.



### Grants

Each year the Foundation provides significant donations totaling over \$2 million to 90 local nonprofits in several key areas of impact: Youth Development/Education, Arts & Culture, Environment, and Healthy & Safe Communities.

An important component of this community support is the Environment category, which includes the preservation of the natural beauty throughout Summit County and surrounding areas. This category includes grants that have been given to the Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance for trail building, maintenance, and other local efforts. The Foundation strongly believes it will take all of us working together to preserve everything we love about the outdoors and natural habitat in our beautiful area, and ESWA is a strong leader in this important work.



Mesa Cortina Boardwalk, funded in part with a grant from The Summit Foundation

### Scholarships

The Summit Foundation's scholarships for deserving local high school students allow them to pursue their dreams through post-secondary education opportunities in both traditional and career

technical programs. The Foundation has a strong focus on first-generation college students, and 40% of the scholarship recipients are the first in their family to go to college.

### Expertise

The Foundation is also well known for its philanthropy expertise and helps people learn about the community by providing information and guidance to match people with their philanthropic interests. Almost 70 funds are managed by the Foundation to facilitate further community donations and philanthropy. These funds include other Scholarship Funds to support local students, Donor Advised Funds for businesses, individuals, and families to provide local donations, and community partner Endowment Funds established by our local nonprofits. These include one for ESWA, established in honor of Beau Schuette, to facilitate construction of a much-valued boardwalk across a marshy area on the popular Mesa Cortina Trail.

### Special Initiatives

As a key leader, The Summit Foundation is a trusted partner to bring people together to find unique and realistic solutions to critical community-wide issues and has started numerous impactful Special Initiatives in the community. These include Building Hope, the community-wide mental health effort, Peak Health Alliance that focuses on affordable health insurance for local residents and businesses, and the Mountain Scholars and Pre-Collegiate programs that help deserving first-generation students attend and complete college.



The Summit Foundation  
Soul of the Summit

### COVID relief

When times are difficult in our community, as they have been during this past year with the worldwide pandemic, our community's donors and nonprofit partners step up in a big way to help those in need. In March 2020 when the pandemic hit, The Summit Foundation immediately activated the Summit County Cares COVID emergency relief fund to help those in need. People generously donated to the Cares Fund, and as a result, the Foundation has provided almost \$900,000 in COVID relief and basic need support to our frontline community partners over the past year.

In addition, The Summit Foundation recognized that nonprofits of all types in our community have been impacted by the pandemic and

subsequent lack of fundraising and programs. So, in addition to the COVID relief for basic needs and the regular grants, for the first time in the history of the Foundation an additional round of grants was made available to all of the grantees, totaling almost \$700,000. This critical relief helped all nonprofits to bear the impact of the pandemic a little better.

### A Look Ahead

As we come out of COVID and navigate the next chapter for our community, The Summit Foundation will continue to keep the spirit of philanthropy alive and support our local nonprofits. We will reach out to new residents and encourage them to “Give Like a Local” by giving back to our community and caring for each other. We are honored to do this work and fortunate to live in such a special community.

### **ABOUT JEANNE BISTRANIN**

*Jeanne Bistranin has been the Executive Director of The Summit Foundation for over six years. She and her team are committed to ever-better mountain communities in Summit County and the neighboring communities.*

Follow us



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**Join us! Next Planning Meeting**

**Thursday, May 13** at 5:30 PM via [Zoom](#). Questions? Send us an [email](#).

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CITY MARKET COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Please [register](#) your City Market Value Card, linking it to ESWA, which will send rebates to us without compromising your earned fuel points. Please note that each card holder may only sign up for one tax exempt organization. **THANKS!**

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Become an ESWA Member today - click [HERE](#)

## **JOIN ESWA**

... and help ESWA "Keep Wilderness Wild!"

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**THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS AND FOUNDATION SPONSORS**



A huge thanks to [ARAPAHOE BASIN SKI AREA](#). For more than two decades, A-Basin staff have donated generously to their **Employee Environmental Fund**, of which ESWA has been a steady beneficiary. Last year, more than 150 employees donated, led by A-Basin Director **Alan Henceroth**. Our enduring THANKS to them.

And our sincere thanks to these foundations for their generous financial support of ESWA's work:

- **The National Forest Foundation** for their continuing support of our Noxious Weed Program, awarding ESWA funds to help ESWA hire contractors in coordination with the USFS to treat noxious weed outbreaks in our Wilderness Area.
- The **Schuetze Family** and **The Summit Foundation** for donations and grants that helped turn the Beau Schutte boardwalk into a reality.
- **The National Wilderness Steward Foundation** for their continuing support of our trail projects and other on-the-ground efforts.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, thanks to the 132 incredible individuals who became members and donated almost \$15,000 in 2020, including on Colorado Gives Day! Check out other [monthly eNewsletters](#)



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