

EAGLE SUMMIT WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

December 2021 Newsletter



RENEW YOUR ESWA MEMBERSHIP!

As we greet December, take a moment today to renew your ESWA membership. Members make everything ESWA does possible. Renewing your membership is easy to do – here are a few options:

- **Pay your dues by making a contribution to ESWA anytime in December via the Colorado Gives Day website.** Click [HERE](#).
- Visit the Join/Renew page on the ESWA website and pay via PayPal or credit card by clicking [HERE](#). *New* – the website now includes information about paying your dues from a Donor Advised Fund or stock transfer.
- Mail a check to ESWA at P.O. Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443-4504.

ESWA depends on your membership and support to allow us to continue to protect, preserve, and manage our three precious local Wilderness Areas.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

ESWA offers a wide range of membership levels to meet everyone's needs. And the higher the level, the more goodies you get:

Amount	Membership Level	Goodies
\$25	Lily Pad	ESWA Sticker
\$50	Piney Lake	ESWA Sticker
\$100	Cataract Lake	ESWA Sticker
\$250	Ptarmigan Peak	Box of ESWA Photo Note Cards
\$500	Eagle's Nest	All the above plus ESWA ball cap
\$1,000	Mount Powell	All the above plus the book " <i>Wilderness and the American Mind</i> "
\$2,500+	Holy Cross	All the above plus the book " <i>Driven Wild</i> "

ESWA is a local, all-volunteer organization, and every dollar you contribute goes directly to our impact. Please be as generous as you can.

ESWA DID A LOT IN 2021. HELP US DO EVEN MORE IN 2022!

ESWA put your dues to good work this year:

- Volunteer Wilderness Rangers covered over 2,700 miles during 400 patrols and helped educate nearly 12,000 Wilderness users
- ESWA Trailhead Hosts staffed tables at 12 different trailheads and greeted nearly 2,500 visitors to promote Leave No Trace principles and Wilderness ethics
- Our Trail Crews led three overnight llama trips and took out over 100 illegal fire pits
- We published dozens of articles in local papers promoting Wilderness values and themes – check out our *Get Wild* column each Friday in the Summit Daily
- Our Sawyers cleared over 900 trees blocking Wilderness trails
- Our Weed Spotters

identified dozens of noxious weed outbreaks and provided the USFS over \$20,000 for weed mitigation efforts



- ESWA helped defeat the proposed Lower Blue gravel mine, opposed Whitney Reservoir and Berlaimont, and continued to press for passage of the CORE Act

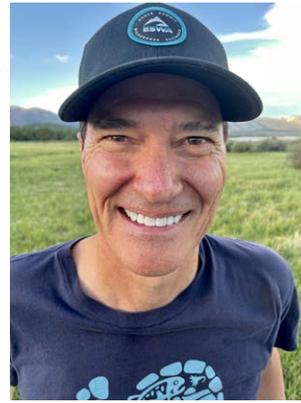
Help us do even more in 2022 by renewing your membership TODAY!



A MESSAGE FROM STEVE ELDER, 2022 ESWA CHAIR

When I'm asked what brought me to become involved with ESWA, I often answer, "The Nuchu." It is the Nuchu -- a name the Ute people call themselves, which literally means, "The People" -- who are the first known humans to inhabit the federally designated Wilderness lands ESWA now nurtures.

My first contact with ESWA was writing to past-chair Bill Betz in support of an effort, led by my now chair-elect, [Karn Stiegelmeier](#), to rename the Gore Range in the heart of Colorado the Nuchu Range, recognizing its original inhabitants.



I quickly learned that ESWA is about much more than even such a powerful symbolic endeavor as this. ESWA is the primary partner with the U.S. Forest Service in stewarding and advocating for some of the most popular Wilderness in the country.

I found ESWA at a very good time for me -- when I had the desire and opportunity to give back to lands I had been the beneficiary of all of my life. In 2021, I jumped in with enthusiasm, joining the board, logging lots of miles as a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger, clearing a number of trails as a certified sawyer, writing articles, helping with training, and my favorite -- getting others involved in working for Wilderness, including my two adult daughters, who have also become involved with ESWA.

I am excited to see what our impact will be in 2022. We have an opportunity to build on tremendous momentum created under Mike Browning's leadership. New and enhanced programs, more volunteer engagement, and a better financial footing has put ESWA in a very good position.

I look forward to working with Karn, the Executive Committee, the board, and all of the volunteers that make ESWA work to help take the organization to the next level. In 2022, we will focus on:

- Recruiting and engaging a diverse group of partners, volunteers, and leaders
- Strengthening the training and support of our volunteers to provide a rich experience for them
- Continuing to build financial and operational capacity

All these things will make us better at what we do, and even more effective colleagues to the USFS and our other partners. But when I want to get in touch with **why** we do what we do, I like to revisit this enduring indigenous wisdom:

*When the blood in your veins returns to the sea
And the earth in your bones returns to the ground
Perhaps then you will remember that this land does not belong to you
It is you who belong to this land*

Let's leave a legacy together.

A MESSAGE FROM KARN STIEGELMEIER, CHAIR ELECT

I have been a member of ESWA since the early days of its founding as Friends of the Eagle's Nest Wilderness. I am amazed and thankful for the continuing expansion and breadth of programs, volunteerism and boots on the ground work by ESWA members.

I have been involved with public lands and environmental protection since my early days, marching in the first Earth Day parade in high school and environmental work in college. I taught outdoor education in many settings, worked for the USFS and NPS, and in classroom settings. That background led me to run for County Commissioner to help protect and restore our Summit County wildland treasures.



With my environmental passions, I am excited to work with the leadership of our fabulous ESWA. We all know how our Wilderness Areas are being loved to death, and the need for expansion through the CORE Act. I am looking forward to working with Steve and past chairs and continuing our momentum! It is wonderful to be part of a group of like-minded, dedicated volunteers!

ESWA PHOTO CARDS MAKE EXCELLENT HOLIDAY GIFTS!

The winning photos of ESWA'S 2021 Photo Contest are now available for purchase as a box of 12 gorgeous note cards. The cost is only \$25 (postage included), or free with a membership donation of \$250 or more. These make great holiday gifts for family and friends. For orders of cards, please send a check to ESWA PO Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443, and indicate in a note or on the check that this is for a **purchase**, not a membership donation (sorry, no online orders).

Shown below are the three winning member photos:



From left to right:

1st Place - Guy Warren

2nd Place - Ellen Miller

3rd Place - Sarah Warren



[Donate](#)

Special thanks to our partners, including Arapahoe Basin, for making our work possible!



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