

Ahh, spring wildflowers in the highcountry...

4 messages

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HAPPY APRIL FOOLS DAY!

The first day of Spring was so last month, and perhaps there are hints of Spring under all that snow (along with all the fallen trees needing to be cleared from our trails). Speaking of trail clearing...

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2023 ESWA SAWYER PROGRAM



Ever wonder how trees are cleared from trails in the Wilderness? The USFS is responsible for clearing Wilderness trails and does an incredible job with the resources they have. However, due to the amount of deadfall in Eagle and Summit County, they need the additional help of volunteer organizations like ESWA.

In 2022, ESWA adopted 16 trails in Eagle and Summit Counties and cleared over 1,000 trees from those trails. Clearing fallen trees helps avoid trail braiding and erosion. For 2023, we plan to do even more, and we need your help! Our Sawyer

outings last from 4-8 hours, with an average of 5 miles of hiking. It is hard work, but if you can manage the hike, you can help us. If you're interested in more information about the program, please send a short note to Zach Kauk (zakauk@gmail.com).

ESWA'S PARTNERSHIP WITH NFF GOING STRONG!



The National Forest Foundation (NFF), through its Ski Conservation Fund, has been a major supporter of our WeedSpotter Program and Llama trips for the last four years. This past month we were pleased to hear that ESWA has been awarded a grant to continue this important work in 2023. The funds for this project come from the NFF, as well as A-Basin, Copper Mountain, and Vail Resorts. We thank them!

We also thank all the ESWA volunteers. You may not realize it, but the NFF grants (like most other grants) require ESWA to provide matching funds, or in-kind contributions. Because we have such a strong volunteer base - WeedSpotters, VWRs, THHs, Sawyers, Trail workers - we are able to cover all our matching requirements with volunteer time. So, any time you spend an hour working in the Wilderness, you're also creating \$25-30 of in-kind

contributions. This is a great way to amplify our funding - keep up the good work!

Speaking of amplification, the NFF recently featured ESWA on their social media. During the last week of March, ESWA posts on Facebook and Instagram were tagged with NFF hashtags. The NFF relayed this to their 430,000 followers - giving ESWA huge exposure nationwide!

ADVENTURES TO NURTURE THE WILDERNESS

Join ESWA and the USFS on ESWA's backpacking overnight llama trips or day work trips this summer. Whether an experienced backpacker or a first-timer who would like to backpack with some friends, you are welcome to experience the Wilderness and help maintain its pristine beauty on ESWA's weekend trips into the backcountry. Or perhaps you would prefer a day trip to learn trail building and help construct a new trail above Cataract Lake, or learn to identify and pull those pesky noxious weeds that are trying to overrun our Wilderness. For a good description of the work we do and what a typical backpack trip is like, go to the ESWA website: [Volunteer Trail & Campsite Projects | My Site \(eaglesummitwilderness.org\)](http://eaglesummitwilderness.org). A signup link is also available there. We are limited to 15 people in the Wilderness.



Scheduled [Llama-supported Backpacking Trips](#):

- **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)

To sign up for one or more - email Krista Hughes krista.a.hughes@gmail.com.

Day Projects (more to be added as season progresses):

- **July 15 & July 16** - Eagles Nest Wilderness: Surprise Lake Day Trip to help build a new trail. No experience required and we all work at our own pace. It is less than a 2-mile hike in with a thousand-foot vertical gain. Sign up for one day or both. Contact David.L.Brewster@gmail.com to sign up or for more details.
- **July 8 & July 18** - ESWA is very active in fighting the pernicious invasive weeds that try to infest our Wilderness. Like a biological wildfire, they crowd out the native vegetation --the food our native animals need. Some of these invaders must be sprayed, but others can be pulled. For more information or to join ESWA's WeedSpotters go to [Volunteer WeedSpotters | My Site \(eaglesummitwilderness.org\)](http://VolunteerWeedSpotters.MySite(eaglesummitwilderness.org)). This year ESWA is working with FDRD (Friends of the Dillon Ranger District) on two weed pulls. The County Wide weed pull for Summit County is on July 8 and a follow-up weed pull is at Hunter's Knob on July 18. Details and a signup will appear soon on the FRDR calendar at: [Calendar - Friends of the Dillon Ranger District \(fdrd.org\)](http://Calendar-FriendsoftheDillonRangerDistrict(fdrd.org)).

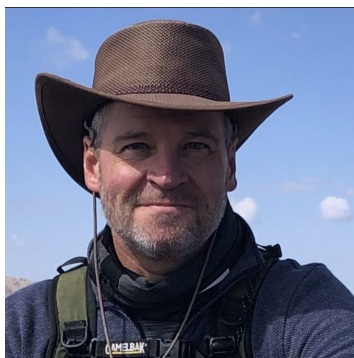
VWR TRAINEES AND VWR MENTORS NEEDED!

Replenishing the ranks of our VWRs is essential every year. It's likely you have a friend or acquaintance who would make a great VWR, and who with just a little effort you could talk into becoming a VWR this year. Please reach out and try. Our training day for new Volunteer Wilderness Rangers is June 3, 2023 at the Eagles Nest HOA Pavilion just north of Silverthorne. New recruits can sign up by going to the ESWA Website and filing out the [VWR Application](#).

We also need a few more volunteers to do mentor hikes with our new VWRs in the first few weeks after their June 3 training. This is a fun and rewarding way to pass along all the tricks and tips you have learned over the years. If you are interested, email Mike Browning mfrowning1952@gmail.com.

And look for information about this year's VWR recertification process and dates for our VWR season kick-off parties in the May e-newsletter.

ESWA BOARD MEMBER PROFILE - ZACH KAUK



I retired from Caterpillar Inc after 30 years of service in positions all over the world. I moved my family 12 times during my career, so the one thing my family asked of me in retirement was to find a place to call home.

I grew up in Western Kansas and began coming to Summit County regularly in 1978 to snowmobile and ski. After looking at a number of mountain communities in Colorado and Wyoming, we decided that Summit County was the place to be for at least the next 20 years.

Life in the business world requires many difficult choices that can affect people's lives in both positive and negative ways. After making those decisions for 30 years, I decided to try to help make only positive things happen and thus my desire to volunteer with organizations like ESWA.

I currently lead ESWA's Sawyer program and spend quite a few days during the summer helping to clear trees from the trails so that more people can enjoy our beautiful Wilderness areas. When I'm not doing that, I can be found skiing, boarding, hiking, or mountain biking somewhere on the side of one of our mountains.

FROM OUR PARTNERS AT FDRD

Friends of the Dillon Ranger District 5th annual casino night is a local's favorite! Join FDRD in a night of fun and fundraising. Friday April 14th, 2023 6pm at the Silverthorne Pavilion.



[Buy Your Tickets Here](#)

PROVIDE ESWA MUCH-NEEDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FREE

Sign up for City Market & King Soopers Community Rewards – it's so easy! If you don't yet have the card, please [sign up for one here](#). Then go to your [Community Rewards](#), choose your local store as your preferred store, and set ESWA as the charity to which you want to donate (search for Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance or use ESWA's code VX077)

Donate

Special thanks to our partners for making our work possible!

