



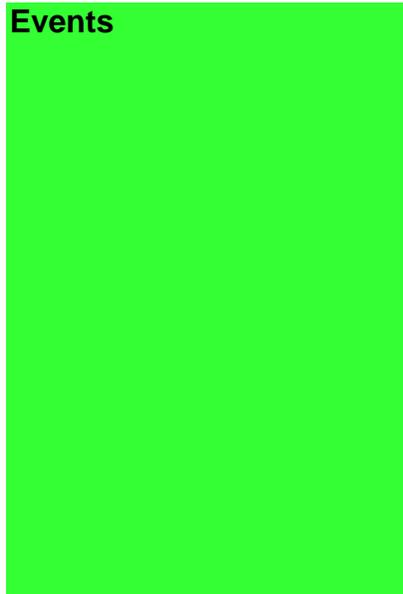
- HOME
- SUPPORT
- VOLUNTEER
- ADVOCACY
- TRAILS / HIKES
- CONTACT US

HOME



We are an all-volunteer organization committed to the health and preservation of three Wilderness Areas, and to spreading wilderness ethics to all who visit. *Won't you join us?* [Click here](#)

ESWA CALENDAR



[edit calendar](#)

AT ESWA, WE ADVOCATE

See our 2020 Advocacy **newsletter**. WE ADVOCATE...
 * for LBRU - that's Lower Blue Residents United - **Protecting the lower Blue River Valley from open pit mining.**

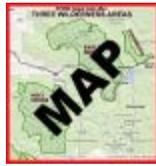


WEBSITE: LOWERBLUE.COM

OTHER LINKS:
 * 8 January 2021: **GOOD WORK!** Your letters have helped. The hearing scheduled for January 15 to consider the proposal of the new gravel mine has been

(fenwevents w**t*ne**)

We help the
US Forest
Service look
after three
Wilderness Areas.
Rollover to enlarge.



2020 POSTS



For sheer adorableness, nothing compares to the

PIKA. Read the ESWA **December eNewsletter** by Frances Hartogh about this little bundle of

endangered alpine fur. Topics that Frances addresses include: Where do pikas call home? What's a pika anyway? What do pikas do all day? What to eat? Those whistles. Making more pikas. The pika's dilemma - trapped at the top. How we can help.



postponed indefinitely. Details (plus some outstanding John Fielder photos) are **HERE**.

* 20 October 2020:

GOOD NEWS! DRMS has delayed the permit approval due to public input. Details **HERE**.

* 8 September 2020:

TIME TO ACT! Write a letter to the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS) asking them to deny the permit. Details **HERE**.

* UPDATE 12 August 2020: **THE FIGHT BEGINS**

* UPDATE 2 April 2020: No Use Permit Applications received yet by Summit County. Two permits are needed: one to allow mining on the site, another to allow transporting the mined gravels for processing in Silverthorne (near Summit Sky).

* **FENW/ESWA eNEWSLETTER**

* **CBS NEWS VIDEO**



* for protecting

Bighorn Sheep winter habitat in East Vail. See our letter to the VAIL



ESWA ADVOCATES - our [special newsletter](#) gives you timely updates about 6 campaigns that aim to protect and promote our beautiful local Wilderness Areas.

We are fighting 1) a proposed luxury development encompassed by the White River National Forest in Eagle County, 2) an open pit mine that would despoil the pastoral Lower Blue River Valley, 3) a plan to hemorrhage more water from Holy Cross Wilderness to front range cities, 4) a proposal to right the wrong when a stunning mountain range was named after one of the worst sportsmen in North American history (George Gore), and 5) a proposal to deprive the Eagle County bighorn sheep of crucial winter habitat. Oh, we also 6) support the passage of bill before Congress to add 3 new Wilderness Areas and additions to others, right in our backyard.

As Colorado Gives Day approaches (Dec 8), please give generously to the dedicated non-profits leading these campaigns.



Our

TOWN COUNCIL
HERE.



* for protecting

Homestake Creek and Holy Cross Wilderness from the Whitney Reservoir. See our [June Eaglet](#).

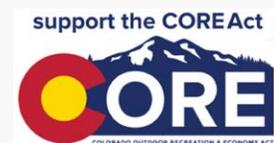
[VAIL DAILY](#) front page article (29 June)

Letter from ESWA to USFS [HERE](#)

Colorado Headwaters proposal [HERE](#)

* for **RENAMING**

THE GORE RANGE



* for passage of the

Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness and Camp Hale Legacy Act, now part of the **CORE ACT**

November eNewsletter

by DAVE
BREWSTER (left)

provides thought-provoking insights about the benefits of OLD-GROWTH FORESTS. This information should help inform the debate in Summit and Eagle Counties, and throughout the West, about the role of clear cutting, thinning, and other forms of “forest management” on our public lands. This debate gets hotter as the WUI - the wildland urban interface - extends farther into our forests.



Spruce and Fir growing into a Lodgepole forest hit hard by beetles in the Gore Range



CINDY EBBERT has received national recognition from the US Forest



Service as the winner of THE TRADITIONAL SKILLS AND

MINIMUM TOOLS LEADERSHIP AWARD. Cindy, the Wilderness & Trails Manager for the Dillon Ranger District, guides and informs all of ESWA's activities in Summit County as our USFS Liaison. We are so happy for this well-deserved honor for her.

The Award is for outstanding initiative, creativity, and commitment to wilderness principles by accomplishing difficult or challenging wilderness stewardship activities using traditional skills and primitive tools.

The citation reads,

"Cindy uses her planning, teaching, and on-the-ground experience to contribute to traditional skills trainings and wilderness partnership projects. She has also

* To BUCK

BERLAIMONT!



We support a grassroots campaign led by [Wilderness Workshop](#) to stop a luxury development that threatens wildlife deep inside the White River National Forest above Edwards. Read WW's advice on how to submit comments to the Commissioners and a letter to the editor [HERE](#).
UPDATE 26 SEPT 2020 - [Op-ed](#) in the VAIL DAILY: "What was the Forest Service Thinking?" by Anne Esson
UPDATE 24 Sept 2020 - The [VAIL DAILY](#) reported the Forest Service decision to allow the Berlaimont plans to go ahead. Now it's up to the Eagle County Commissioners to stop it.

UPDATE 22 Sept 2020: The USFS sent an [email](#) explaining their approval of the Berlaimont Estates project. The Final EIS

worked to address threats to the wilderness areas on her district like visitor use impacts and the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic through the lens of traditional tool methods. She does this by improving the crosscut saw skills of partners like ESWA and providing opportunities for certification. Cindy also leads a highly skilled trail crew that has removed significant numbers of dead trees and debris from wilderness trails, which drew attention and support from visitors and other interest groups for their effective use of traditional tools. One of the outstanding projects that Cindy applied her expertise to was the removal of Rock Creek Cabin in the Eagle's Nest wilderness. It required the removal of the cabin, a concrete slab, buried water line, assorted garbage, two storage tanks and restoration of a historic wetland. Cindy utilized a Minimum Tool Analysis to come up with a creative method to complete the project with the Colorado Corrections Industry. Overall, Cindy runs a very effective trails program due to her commitment to utilizing and providing ongoing education on traditional tools.”

You can read the nomination letter [HERE](#).



The 2020 Currie Craven Award for Wilderness Stewardship was given to CYNDI KOOP. Cyndi was



one of the original founders of the Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Program in 2005, and managed the program until 2016. Cyndi was an active mentor to new VWRs, became a certified sawyer (and in 2009 spent every weekend trail clearing after the big May windstorm), and rewrote the Training Manual. The past several years she has spent summers working in Denali

and Draft Record of Decision along with information about filing an objection are available [HERE](#). Deadline for comments is 9 November 2020.

[Click HERE](#) for the FENW April 2019 eNewsletter.

34 thoughts on wilderness

[CLICK](#) to see all 34.

National Park, but returns to Summit County in time to complete her four required VWR patrols. She is now preparing to move to Alaska, and we will all miss her friendly enthusiasm.



In the



Homestake Lake, 1955

ESWA **October**

eNewsletter WARREN HERN describes his idyllic childhood experiences in the Homestake Valley, the despair he felt at the despoliation caused by thirsty front range cities, and the organization that he founded - the Holy Cross Wilderness Defense Fund - to protect it.



The AMAZING LLAMA RESCUE it the subject of this month's **eNewsletter** essay. When photographer John Fielder's two llamas

were spooked by a bear, they pulled their pins and headed off. Soledad turned up, but for 2 days John couldn't find Earl, and worst case scenarios grew stronger in his mind. Enter ESWA Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Brad B., whose selfless searching led to an amazing denouement.

Work on the Mesa
Cortina Boardwalk in

memory of Beau Schuette concluded (a bit more will be done in 2021). The Rocky Mountain Youth



Corps crew, under the direction of USFS expert Zack Heineman, did a fantastic job - hauling in all of the supplies and building a 100 foot-long boardwalk over a swampy area on the popular Mesa Cortina trail. See the full story [HERE](#)

USFS Manager of Wilderness (and more) in the Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District
KATHERINE "KAT" BAZAN



(here with son Keller) is profiled in the latest ESWA [eNewsletter](#). Read about her laser-like journey from her earliest days to her new position, and the unprecedented professional challenges that arrived due to the pandemic.

ESWA has a new



ADVOCACY campaign: to protect the habitat of **BIGHORN SHEEP** in East Vail. In a letter to the

What makes Wilderness special?

Vail Town Council, ESWA Chair Mike Browning wrote, "ESWA's primary interest in the proposed Booth Heights land swap is the protection of the Bighorn Sheep herd that uses the Booth Heights property for winter range. Wildlife in the Vail Valley is under increasing pressure from human development and the increased number of hikers in our local Wilderness Areas. It is vital that we protect the critical wildlife habitat that remains. This is particularly true of the winter habitat provided by the Booth Heights property as it is essential for the survival of the Bighorn Sheep that spend the remainder of the year in the Eagles Nest Wilderness." Read the entire letter [HERE](#)



for enlisting screen technology in teaching young people how to appreciate Nature's bounty.

In our [July Newsletter](#) ANDREW LEARY, National Outreach Manager at the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, discusses strategies



ESWA is advocating to protect HOMESTAKE CREEK AND HOLY CROSS WILDERNESS, asking the US Forest Service to deny a permit to the towns of Aurora and Colorado Springs for the construction of a large reservoir that would require removal of up to 500 acres from Holy Cross

Read the 1964 [Wilderness Act](#) (it's not very long and we've highlighted important parts) and you will understand.

Check out the [VIDEO](#) of Wallace Stegner's 1960 letter to the US Congress in support of Wilderness.

Newsletters and Posts

[See recent newsletters](#)

SUBSCRIBE to the ESWA monthly newsletter
Name:

Email:

See an index of all of our FACEBOOK POSTS - click [HERE](#)

WE CHANGED OUR NAME...

Wilderness. See [the Eaglet](#) for more information.



Our **June**



eNewsletter celebrates the **EAGLE VALLEY LAND TRUST (EVLT)**.

Deputy Director **BERGEN TJOSSEM** write about their extraordinary work helping conservation-minded property owners create **CONSERVATION EASEMENTS** to protect open land. They manage over 36 such properties - over 11,200 acres - including 20 with public access featuring 34.8 miles of trails, 10 miles of river corridor and riparian habitat, over 10,116 acres of wildlife habitat, 6,396 acres of scenic vistas, and three working ranches.

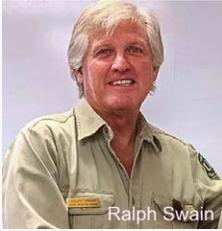
In the
ESWA
May

... from Friends of
Eagles Nest
Wilderness to
**EAGLE SUMMIT
WILDERNESS
ALLIANCE.**

Why? Two major reasons. First, we help the Forest Service look after more than just Eagles Nest Wilderness. The others - Holy Cross Wilderness and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness - double our commitment to about 250,000 acres.

Because these areas compose virtually all of the Wilderness in Summit and Eagle Counties, a simple solution - one that resonates with the idea of wilderness - is offered by recognizing our geographical immersion in these two counties - hence **Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance.**

Second, the multiple "Friends of" organizations in the area confuse many people. We'll of course tacitly remain good *friends*



Ralph Swain

eNewsletter Ralph Swain

describes a remarkable double centennial - the "Spanish Flu" pandemic and the birth of the wilderness movement - and how **Arthur Carhart** (1892-1978) was intimately involved with both events.

Spanish Flu, 1918. Family Portrait, including cat



of Wilderness, even though it isn't explicit in our new name.
Read more [HERE](#).

VailDaily  **VAIL VALLEY**
Vail, Beaver Creek and Eagle Valley, Colorado News

SUMMIT DAILY
Serving Summit County, CO



VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS RANGER TRAINING PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH
AT THE HOLY CROSS RANGER STATION IN MINTURN

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1ST

The Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance (formerly Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness) is now accepting applications for its annual Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Training Program.

VWRs hike trails in the Eagles Nest, Ptarmigan Peak and Holy Cross Wilderness Areas to help inform visitors about the special nature of our local wilderness areas and the best ways to protect and enjoy them. VWRs are required to do at least four hikes a year, on dates and trails of their own choosing, in any one of these wilderness areas. Not a hiker? Rangers can also be hosts at wilderness trailheads to greet and educate visitors before they start their hikes.

For more information and to submit an application go to
EAGLESUMMITWILDERNESS.ORG

APPLICANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE.
SPACE IS LIMITED, SIGN UP NOW

On Sunday, April 5th and again on April 19th
ESWA appealed for volunteers in the Vail Daily and

Summit Daily newspapers. We hope to attract people who want to help us steward Wilderness in Eagle and Summit Counties. The announcement will appear again on April 19th. Click [HERE](#) to learn more. Plans are subject to change depending on the pandemic.

In the [April eNewsletter](#) Dr. **FRANK GUTMANN** describes our work with the CROSSCUT SAW, the most important tool for clearing Wilderness trails of deadfall trees. In 2019, the US Forest Service and ESWA volunteers cleared from trails more than 2,500 trees that had been killed by the pine beetle a decade ago, and are now falling across trails in record numbers. ESWA is seeking volunteers to become **CERTIFIED CROSSCUT SAWYERS**. Please consider joining us! Send us an email at info@eaglesummitwilderness.org.



DOGS IN WILDERNESS - In the [March eNewsletter](#) **FRANCES**

HARTOGH examines the



challenging issue of leash laws for dogs inside designated Wilderness. She reviews the compelling evidence that dogs - especially when off-leash - unfortunately have serious negative impacts on Wilderness.



Wolf

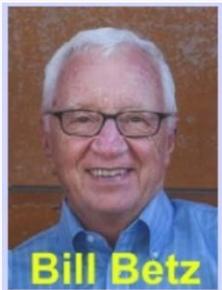


Eric Washburn



James Pribyl

reintroduction in Colorado? It's on the ballot. In the **February eNewsletter** two experienced, respected experts - Eric Washburn & Jim Pribyl - weigh the issues and come to an unambiguous conclusion.



Bill Betz

Out with the old and in with the new. In the **January eNewsletter** outgoing Chair BILL BETZ talks about 2019 and incoming



Mike Browning

Chair MIKE BROWNING introduces himself and

outlines an agenda for 2020.

OLDER POSTS

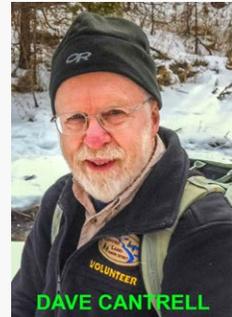
[HOME](#)[SUPPORT](#)[VOLUNTEER](#)[ADVOCACY](#)[TRAILS / HIKES](#)[CONTACT US](#)

ARCHIVAL_POSTS

2019 POSTS



The [December eNewsletter](#) is all about NWSA - **The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance**, formed in Colorado about a decade ago. Author **Dave Cantrell** was there from the start. Read about how NWSA knits together the fabric of volunteer non-profit organizations, including us, into a vibrant, busy wilderness preservation network.



WE ADVOCATE. If you find value in wilderness, we hope that you will support the 5 worthy campaigns that form our **ADVOCACY** portfolio. Read updates from each in our [special newsletter](#)

The five campaigns are:

1. The CORE Act - 400K acres protected
2. Buck Berlairmont - stop luxury development in WRNF
3. Lower Blue Residents United - stop open pit mine in unspoiled ranch country
4. Safe Passages - protect wildlife from collisions with vehicles on Vail Pass
5. Rename the Gore Range - possibly to the Nuches Mountains (Ute word for "Ute")

CORE ACT

San Juan Mountains

Continental Divide & Camp Hale

400,000 ACRES TO BE PROTECTED

Thompson Divide

Curecanti National Recreation Area



LOWER BLUE RESIDENTS UNITED



RENAME THE GORE RANGE





In the **November eNewsletter** LANE WYATT describes efforts to reverse the degradation of the Blue River, which lost its coveted **GOLD**



Lane Wyatt

MEDAL STATUS in 2016. Lane describes the criteria for achieving Gold Medal status, shows the data that reveal the sorry Blue River status, and describes the plans of a group (BREW) to restore the river through a series of carefully monitored variables and controlled treatments.

The **SUMMIT DAILY** wrote a parallel article, derived from our newsletter

October 24: We are in the process of changing our name to **Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance**. And, we have a **NEW LOGO**.

The logo comes in different arrangements, like the rectangle (right), or a square:



or a circle, nice for patches:

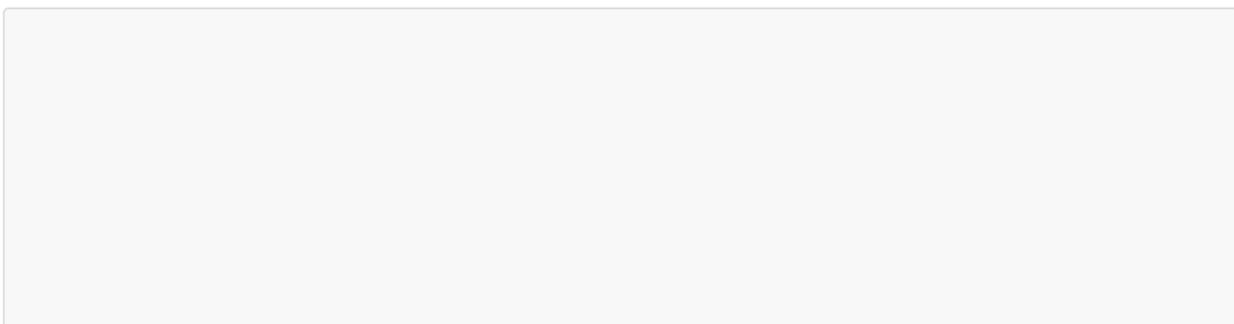
The jagged line through the letters traces the horizon of Eagles Nest Wilderness as seen from the west.



The logo was created by the folks at **KIND DESIGN**, who generously discounted our cost.

PLEASE NOTE: These changes won't become official until after **COLORADO GIVES DAY** (Dec 10), so look for us as Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness until then.

Let us know what you think of the new logo. Send your comments to us at info@fenw.org and we'll post them here.





Our annual thank you party for volunteer rangers was held for the 5th year at Jay's Cabin above Vail Pass, thanks to the generosity of the Ogilby family, and the planning and hosting by Ken Harper and spouse Pam Kennedy. ELLIE FINLAY was awarded Volunteer Ranger of 2019 (she will use her REI gift card towards new boots - she burned hers out on the trail!) Lots more pictures [HERE](#).



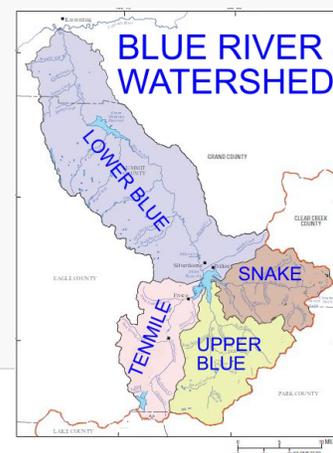
1 October: The FENW/ESWA October [eNewsletter](#) features an essay called NATURE AS HEALER by [SUSIE KINCADE](#), environmental activist, Nature-based coach, and Founder of the Women's Empowerment Workshop. Susie writes, "We know wild nature feeds our body, mind and spirit. Nature's magic melts away the creases on our face; our breathing slows and deepens, shoulders let go, anger/frustration/anxiety dissipate, and a sense of calm softens our energy. This is Nature as medicine. And the science is pouring in to support this."

10 September: Our co-founder, CURRIE CRAVEN, was profiled in an article in the [SUMMIT DAILY](#). Then, on 14 September, Currie was presented with the first annual Currie Craven Award for wilderness Stewardship by FENW/EWSA Chair Bill Betz (left), a

stained glass panorama of Eagles Nest wilderness viewed from Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness, brilliantly fashioned by local artist Gail Shears (right).



September 1: In the [September eNewsletter](#) JENNIFER HOPKINS describes the work of the BLUE RIVER WATERSHED GROUP ([BRWG](#)). Since their founding in 2004, they have completed a number of educational, planning and river restoration projects. Currently, they are working on restoring Gold Medal fishing status to a portion of the river (that coveted status was lost in 2016).



August 18: WilderFest – our Annual Meeting on a perfect summer day at the beautiful Frisco Historic Park. USFS Dillon District Ranger BILL JACKSON (left) celebrated our 25 years of partnering to protect Wilderness. Others (below) described plans for our new name (EAGLE SUMMIT WILDERNESS ALLIANCE – ESWA), announced the winner of our photo contest (see next post below), held a lively



silent auction, unveiled the first Currie Craven Award for Wilderness Stewardship (left, displayed by MARYANN GAUG and artist GAIL SHEARS), and generally enjoyed seeing friends. Click [HERE](#) for more photos (facebook).



MARIA LEECH won first place in our 2019 PHOTO CONTEST. Maria will receive a canvas-mounted copy of her photo. The photo was taken from the summit of Buffalo Mountain looking north towards Red Mountain Pass.



Maria was an intern wilderness ranger with the Dillion Ranger District last summer and participated in numerous multi-day trips where she and her crew cleared dead trees from trails, mitigated illegal campfire rings, and educated visitors. Congratulations, Maria, from everyone at FENW/ESWA.

The photo is our number one display on this website.

1 August - The August [FENW eNewsletter](#) is all about the famous 1935 Colorado Mountain Club expedition into the heart of the Gore Range. Written by [Stan Moore](#), whose father Charlie led two dozen women and men on a two week explosion of peak bagging - including some first ascents, the newsletter features a wonderful [gallery](#) of historic photos.



6 July - Read about the WEED MITIGATION work of JIM ALEXANDER on the front page of this week's [SUMMIT DAILY](#). Jim is carrying on the long tradition established by JOHN TAYLOR. Sign up for Jim's crew to map weed infestation sites (which will be treated by trained crews that are funded by a \$16,000 grant obtained by Jim and awarded to FENW). Read more about Jim's work in a recent [FENW eNewsletter](#).

ALSO - join Jim and John this Saturday at the SALT LICK trail for a weed pull sponsored by the SIERRA CLUB.



Jim Alexander



Diffuse knapweed



Oxeye daisy



Dalmatian toadflax

1 July 2019: In the [July FENW eNewsletter](#), MIKE BROWNING talks about his 1990 ascent of Mt. Everest, and how vastly different it was than the recent crowds. Mike and his small team pretty much had the mountain all to themselves.

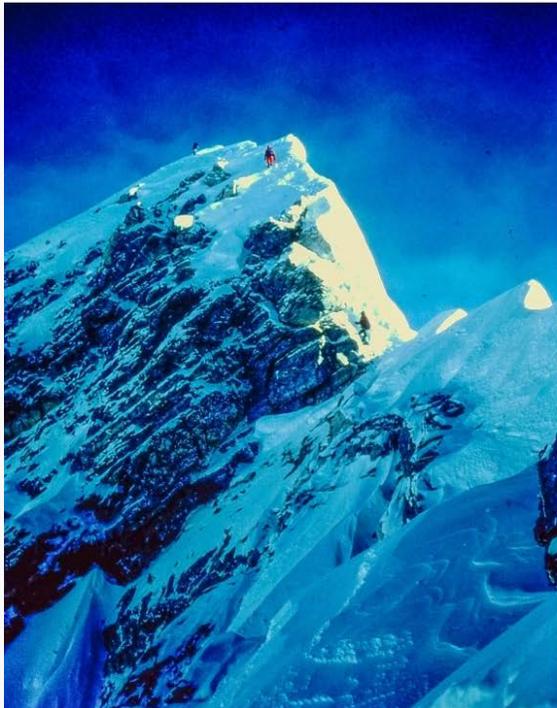
Mike reflects on how his experience on Everest impacts his appreciation of our Colorado Wilderness areas, and offers concrete advice for us as we think globally and act locally.



1990

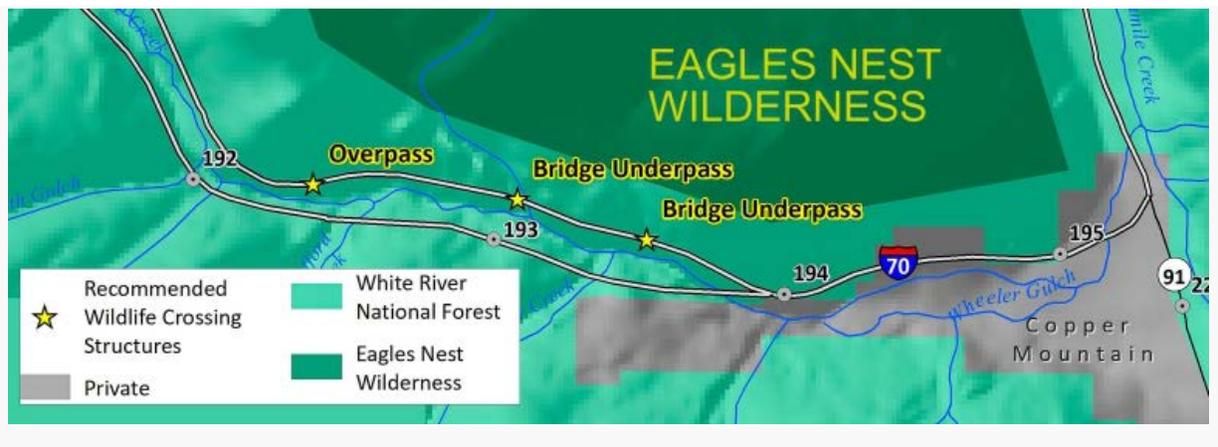
SUMMIT RIDGE

2019



1 June 2019: In the [June FENW eNewsletter](#), PAIGE SINGER extends her description of wildlife crossing structures. A proven success on State Highway 9 in the Blue River Valley with the construction of multiple wildlife over- and under-passes (as Paige described [last month](#)), the project will be extended to Vail Pass in the new plan, called **Summit County Safe Passages Connectivity Plan for Wildlife**.





18 May 2019: The USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Forester announced plans to allow temporary use of **chain saws in Wilderness** to clear trees across trails. FENW Board member **Dr. Frank Gutmann** responded on behalf of FENW, urging use of traditional tools. His letter was published in both the Summit Daily and the [Vail Daily](#).

ROLLOVER to view Frank's letter.

Summit Daily - 18 May 2019

ADVOCATING FOR WILDERNESS: PLEASE NO CHAIN SAWS

The U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Regional forester, Brian Ferebee, recently approved the use of chain saws between June 1 and Aug. 17, 2019, to clear beetle-killed trees obstructing access to the Weminuche and South San Juan wilderness areas. This requires invoking an exception to the use of mechanized devices in the wilderness. Clearly intended to bridge the ongoing tension between preserving the sanctity of wilderness and promoting responsible recreational use of wilderness, this decision affects not only the Weminuche and South San Juan Wilderness areas, but all wilderness areas throughout the country. As a Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness board member, I am greatly concerned about this decision. I think this decision is a wake-up call for the USFS and an opportunity for wilderness volunteers and donors to step forward to help.

Rather than invoking an exception to the wilderness regulations, which may save a few person work-hours, alternatively, USFS crosscut-saw specialists and trained volunteers could band together in the foregoing wilderness and solve the problem without infringing on regulations to preserve wilderness. In 2009, following a huge blowdown in Eagles Nest Wilderness on over 700 acres involving the Gore Range and parts of the Salmon Lake trails, a small team of volunteers stepped forward with crosscut and smaller hand saws to remove several thousand trees that had obstructed hiking trails. It can be done.

Let's preserve the solitude and sanctity of our wilderness by having professional and amateur wilderness stewards take mutual responsibility to mitigate and remedy the problem of trees obstructing hiking trails. We can do this with hand saws without invoking an exception to regulations regarding use of mechanized devices in wilderness. And let's reserve such exceptions for real emergencies, such as disastrous wildfire mitigation or life-threatening situations.

Frank D. Gutmann

FENW Board member and USFS certified crosscut sawyer

23 May UPDATE: Three conservation groups sue the Forest Service to block chain saw use in Wilderness - [Durango Herald](#)

May 2019: The May [eNewsletter](#) features an article by **Paige Singer** about the spectacularly successful State Highway 9 Project. It's seven wildlife crossings (both overpasses and underpasses) in an eleven mile stretch along the lower Blue River have reduced wildlife-vehicle collisions by more than 90%. The cameras have documented all kinds of wildlife - check out the photo gallery (link in eNewsletter). Here are some mule deer coming down an overpass.



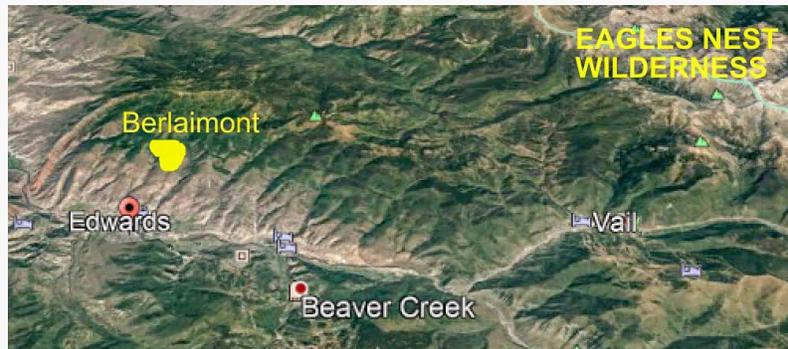
April 2019: **TRAIL PROJECTS** have been announced for this summer.

- National Trails Day with FDRD (Salt Lick Trail): June 8
 - Eagles Nest Wilderness Overnight with llamas (Slate Lakes, Summit County): July 12 - 14
 - Weed Pull with the Sierra Club on July 13th at 9:30 at Acorn Creek. Expect to hike about a mile, work gloves will be provided. Contact Jim at jimofcolorado@gmail.com
 - Eagles Nest Wilderness Overnight with llamas (Gore Creek, Eagle County): August 9 - 11
 - Lily Pad Lake Trail Bridge Construction: August 24
 - Adopt-A-Trail Deluge Lake Trail work – Dates TBD
- more info [HERE](#)

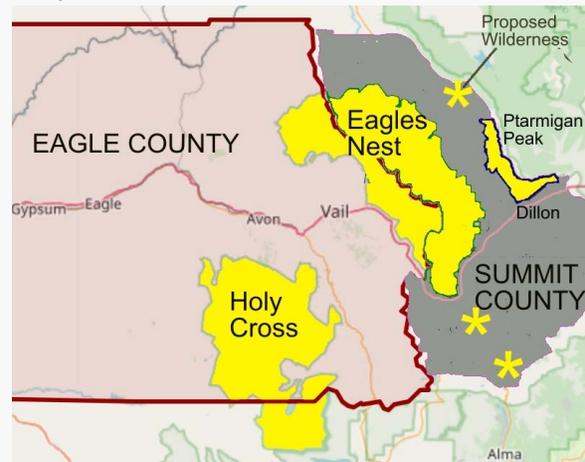
Dom and Powell, our pack llamas



April 2019: In the April **NEWSLETTER** Wilderness Workshop Attorney **Peter Hart** describes the proposed Berlaimont development, and the serious and urgent threats it poses for wildlife.



March 2019: We are considering **changing our name!** Read the **March eNewsletter** to learn why. We get confused with other "Friends of..." non-profits (left), and we help look after more than just Eagles Nest (right). We received many comments - read them **HERE**





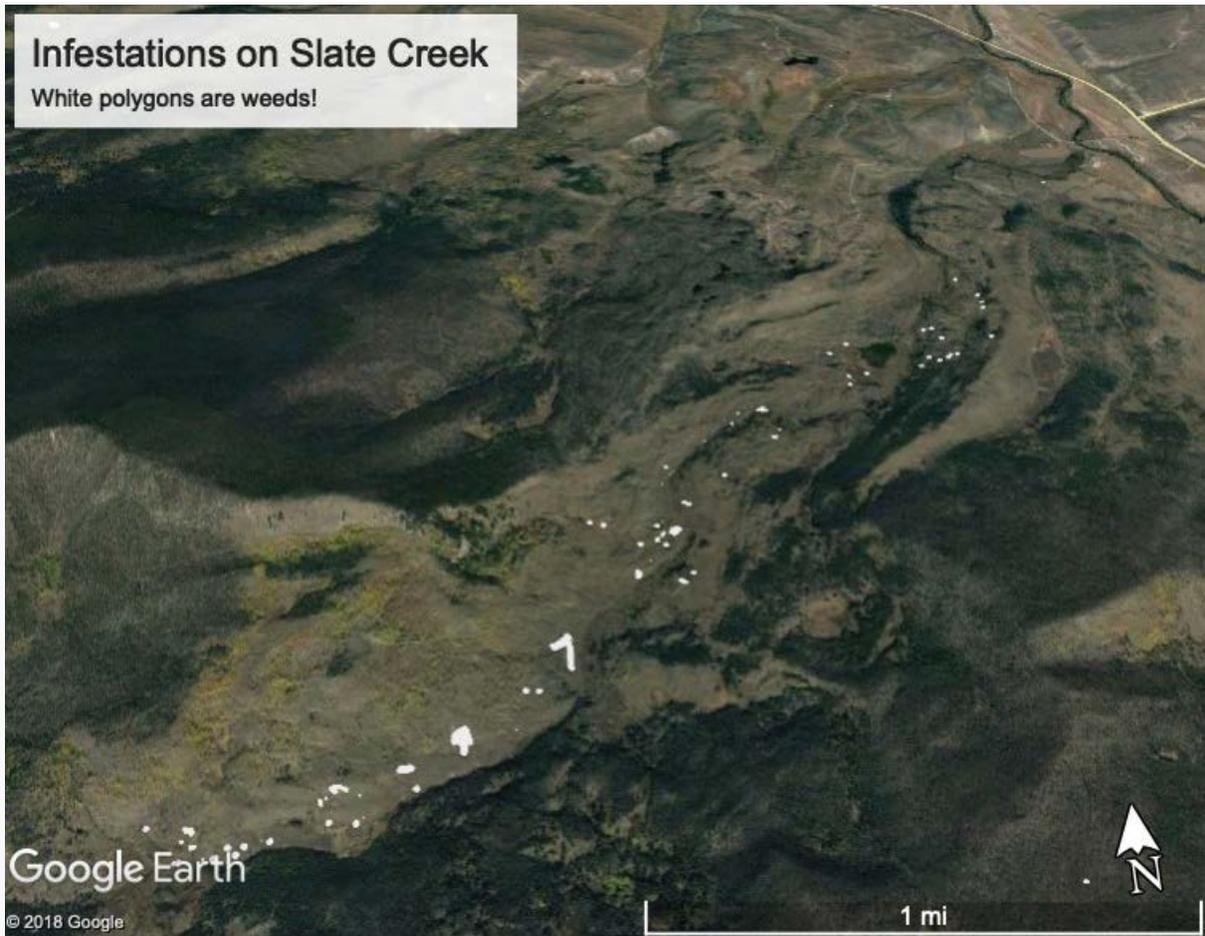
February 14: The National Forest Foundation has awarded a grant to FENW for **\$16,000** to combat invasive weeds in the wilderness. Thanks to **JIM ALEXANDER** for leading this project, which portends a rebirth of John Taylor’s longtime leadership. Happy Valentine’s Day, indeed! Read about Jim’s plans in the post below...

February 2019: FOREST HEALTH – combating invasive plants – is the subject of **FENW’s eNewsletter** for February 2018. “The Good, The Bad, and The Pretty Ugly” by Jim Alexander describes FENW’s renaissance (led by Jim) in the never-ending **Weed War**. Jim is especially interested in building a small crew of hikers who will report (via GPS) the locations of weed infestations, which the Forest Service personnel will then treat. Contact **Jim** if you can help.

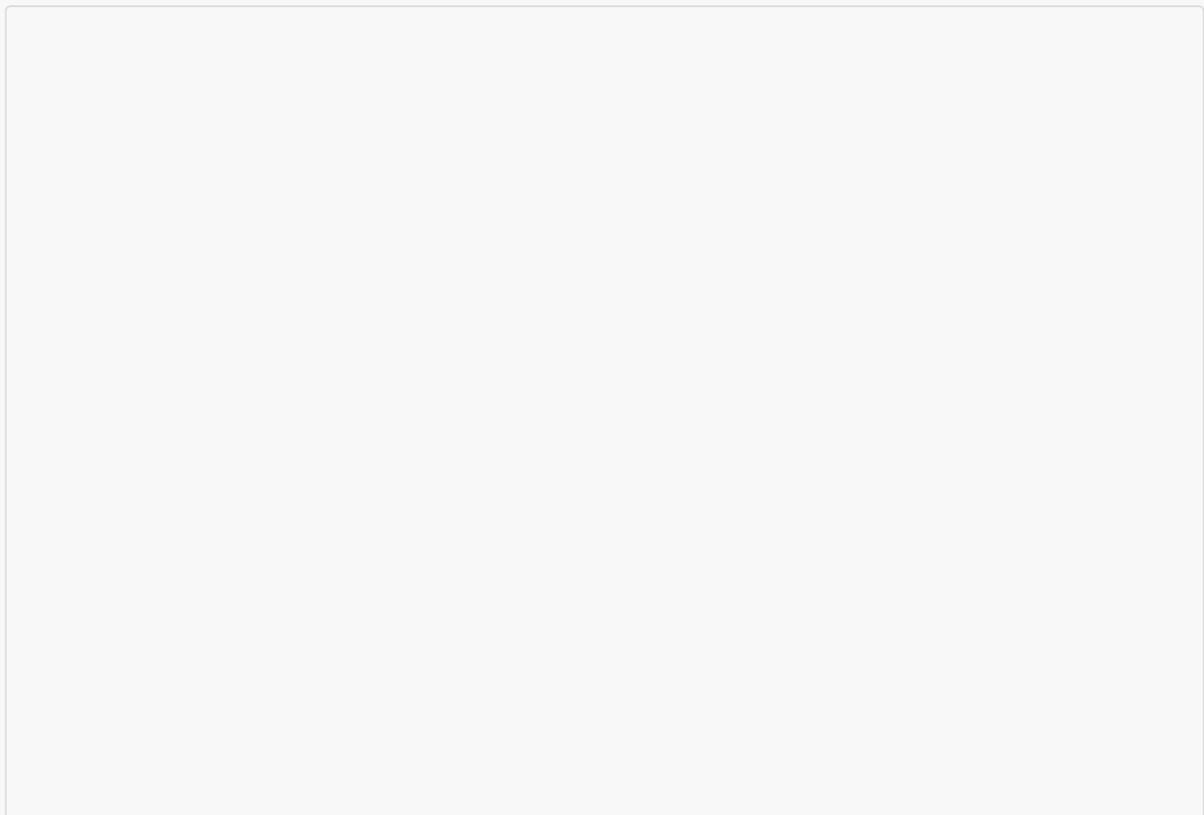


Infestations on Slate Creek

White polygons are weeds!



January 2019: Lower Blue Residents United





Mule Deer in the Williams Fork Mountains

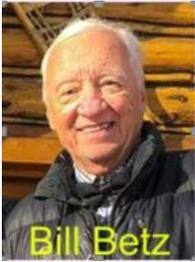
John Fielder

John Fielder, Dean of Colorado photographers and champion of Wilderness, and **Harris Sherman**, former head of the Colorado Division of Natural Resources, have teamed up to fight **OPEN PIT MINING** in the beautiful, unspoiled Lower Blue River. Read the background and details **[HERE](#)**.

John and Harris are assembling a crew of experts on WILDLIFE, WATER, PROPERTY VALUES, TRANSPORTATION, OPEN SPACE, and more. **Colorado Open Lands**, our state's largest land trust, has agreed to help.

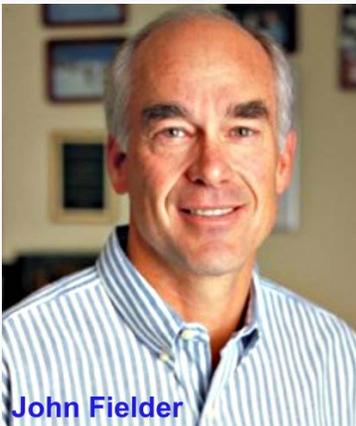
They are only \$10,000 short of our goal to raise the funds necessary to present their case to the Lower Blue Planning Commission. Send your check to:
Lower Blue Residents United, c/o John Fielder, POB 26890, Silverthorne CO 80497

January 2019: Thoughts from FENW's New
President Bill Betz



Read his comments in the January 2019 [eNewsletter](#). He ends with this: “Our work has never been more important. The Forest Service, that wonderful agency with an awesomely broad charge, a ginormous amount of acreage to look after, and a pitifully scanty federal budget (and none as I write: our FS advisors Cindy Ebbert (Dillon RD) and Mike Beach (Eagle/Holy Cross RD) are furloughed, due to the government shutdown) needs us more than ever.”

2018



Dec 2018: In the FENW [December eNewsletter](#), John Fielder, Colorado’s “Photographer Laureate” describes a new and unexpected threat to the beautiful, unsullied lower Blue River Valley – an open pit mining operation at the foot of Ute Pass. Read his personal essay in the [eNewsletter](#), and his public, urgent call to action [HERE](#).



Mike Beach

National Recognition

2018: Mike Beach, our USFS representative from the Eagle Ranger District just won the Bob Marshall Award for Individual Champion of Wilderness Stewardship, an important nationwide honor. Anyone who has worked with Mike and seen him cut a trail with a McLeod knows how impressive a worker he is. But this award recognizes the valuable work he does both inside the wilderness and outside with the public. We are proud to work with Mike and offer our heartiest congratulations!

SLATE LAKES trail project: 27-29 July 2018



Trail

Boss Kate led a hearty crew up beautiful Slate Creek for some trail and campsite work.

The intrepid crew of eleven volunteers and two llamas obliterated more than a dozen illegal campfire rings, installed two new signs, and hauled out many pounds of trash. To read TBK's trip report, click [HERE](#), or



Click [HERE](#) for pictures of work projects and the beautiful Slate Lakes

ROLLOVER to read the text of TBK's trip report.
FENW Slate Lakes Work Trip 27-29 July 2018
Our first overnight work trip turned out to be a rather fun and adventurous trek up some steep rocky trails, and included dodging garbanzo bean sized hail (twice), and trying to keep our hats on our heads (if not for the marmots then for the random storm) among other things! Powell and Dominguez, our trusty pack llamas, took good care to pack in our food, tools, and heavy camp items the six or so miles up to our campsite along Slate

Creek. We were a group of volunteers, Forest Service staff, and Student

Conservation interns intent on making our way to Slate Lakes to clean up campfire rings, pack out trash, and do what we could to leave the land a little better than when we found it. Friday

We had the good fortune of being able to hike in to our site from the upper trailhead of Boulder Creek Trail as a generous private property owner let our group park our cars at their property. Our hike in to our campsite was rather uneventful which in my mind was just fine.

Dominguez (or Dom for short) and Powell, each burdened with 65 pounds of gear and food, made the slow hike in with me after the rest of the group set off. The boys as I also call them, were such seemingly good sports about the work they performed for us and I was glad for their furry company. The llamas and I stopped after steep hikes to catch our breath and dallied at streams for drinks of water and every so often we stopped at the side of the trail for tasty plants to graze on. All in all it took roughly four hours for us to get to the upper reaches of the valley where we planned on setting up

camp.

Our home-away-from-home was perched above the trail on a mostly level prominence looking across the valley at what appeared to be some rather large historical avalanche paths off the north flank of Bledsoe Mountain. We set up tarps to shelter our tools and gear, set up a bear hang for food, placed a picket line for the llamas, dug a trench toilet system with the best view in the valley, and set up our cooking gear so we could all socialize as we prepared our meals together. When all the camp chores were taken care of we really had no other choice than to marvel at our beautiful surroundings and watch the large waterfall that ran down to a series of trout pools below us at Slate Creek. Todd, one of our volunteers and a fishing guide in a former life, spotted some nice browns and rainbows and made quick work to set up his rod and make a few casts before bedtime. Abby, the lead wilderness ranger of the FS crew was surprised with 8 birthday cards and some lemon pound cake from her crew, while the rest of us helped her celebrate by munching on chocolate sandwich cookies

packed in for the special occasion. The stout hike, setting sun, and looming storm clouds gave us all plenty of reason to tuck in early to acquaint ourselves with our backcountry beds and look forward to the next day's trek to the lakes. Saturday

The routine of camp can be a jarring adjustment if it's not something you do regularly. Lowering and re-hanging your food, gathering water, setting up your kitchen, leaving a clean camp, then packing up llamas, and in this case rolling straight into manual work for the entirety of the day. It can be exhausting even before it's time for a coffee break. As can be imagined, all of this is part of the process of performing routine work out in the backcountry and for many, is a ritual of the wilderness – a part of a job well worth the time and efforts needed to do good work. The volunteers and wilderness crew began their hike early and made their way to Upper Slate Lake so they could get a good start on campfire clean-up and gather the materials necessary for installing a “no campfires within ¼ miles of lake” sign. What I mean by this is rather than pack in a

heavy, milled post, the wilderness crew chose to source a small, downed naturally rot resistant spruce for their lumber. Also, in these parts, digging a decent hole for sign installation is always tough so the sooner you get to digging, the better. Once you start excavating, you're committed to the project, even if it means working after quitting time and/or it starts raining, or both. Dom got a day off from packing while Powell drew the short straw to carry in the roughly 30 pounds of tools, assorted gear, and llama snacks the roughly 2.7 miles to Upper Slate Lake. Lynette and Todd and I lead the llamas to meet the rest of the group and joined in on the afternoon of clean-up, restoration, and sign installation. John Taylor, easily the most veteran of the group at 81 and a long-time member of FENW, stayed behind to work in the valley as a one-man musk thistle eradication effort. Our day of work went by quickly as we worked, hunkered down against hail and rain, and dealt with the sad event of one of the volunteers hat's being partially eaten by a marmot. Our encounters with other wilderness users were met with surprise as

not many people were accustomed to seeing llamas and large work groups out so remotely. Most everyone we encountered was behaving and happy to see good work being done. We continued into the afternoon with another sign installation and campfire clean-up effort at Slate Lake and continued on with corridor clearing in some of the more brushy sections of trail. The second sign installation effort at Slate Lake was met with resistance on the part of large rocks that wouldn't cooperate. Thus, Saturday a turned into a marathon work day with most everyone arriving back to camp after dinner time. However, we did good work and were proud of our efforts and I feel comfortable reporting that everyone was in good spirits – even the gentleman down a hat. We celebrated with some surprise refreshments, talked about our exciting day around our cooking circle and had another early evening as we were all pretty tuckered.

Sunday

The trip flew by. Come morning we shook out our tents and repacked the

llamas, this time substituting full food canisters and Forest Service signs for bags of trash and weeds collected from the trip. A broken elk call, a pudgie pie maker, random clothing, candy wrappers, webbing, fishing poles, and lots and lots of burned aluminum foil... all of it abandoned in this wilderness. Even after ten years of work as a wilderness ranger, I'm still amazed and a bit saddened by the choices of other humans. Kirk had to make an early departure in order to get to a play rehearsal on time and John decided to leave early too so as to leave himself plenty of time to make it to a meeting. The rest of us took off together, taking turns leading the llamas and making our way back to the trailhead. Save for a brief encounter with a resting bull moose, our hike out was pleasant and uneventful.

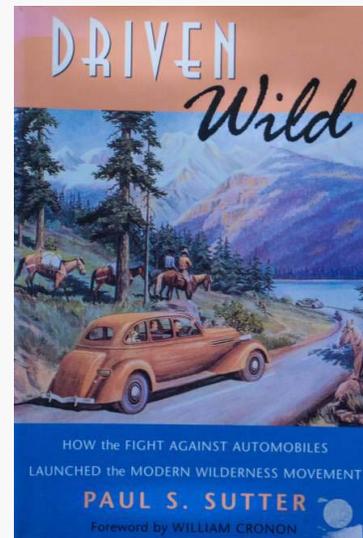
After all was said and done, I weighed our garbage haul in at around 15 pounds and our weed haul in at nearly 30. We cleaned up approximately 14 illegal campfire rings at the lakes and had what I felt was a really great time exploring the wilderness, unplugging for a day, and connecting

ourselves to each other and the mountains and lakes we feel so akin to.

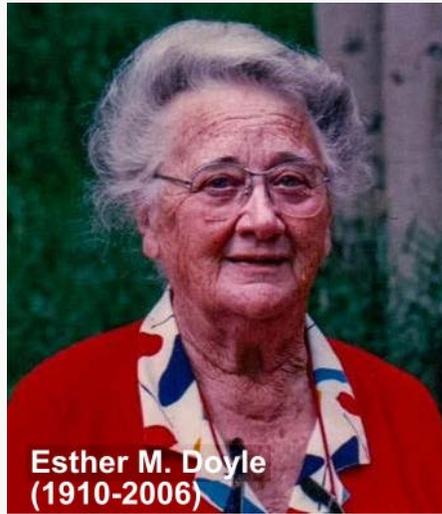


Dr. Paul Sutter, Chair,
Department of History,
University of Colorado

2018: In the FENW [August eNewsletter](#), Paul Sutter, author of the fascinating and authoritative history of the wilderness movement *Driven Wild – The Automobile and the Making of Modern Wilderness*, relates current challenges to Wilderness to battles fought nearly a century ago.



2018: In the FENW [July eNewsletter](#), Dr. Esther Doyle writes movingly about finding your “Home of the Heart.” She describes “those places that we encounter with a shock of recognition. We know immediately that they are ours. We claim them perhaps because they first claim us.” Esther identifies three essential components to such a place: separateness, solitude, and simplicity.



2018:



From FENW's **Trail Boss Kate**:

Hello everyone,

I wanted to share a few pics of our new trail LLAMAS. Katherine, Alex, Mike and I made the trek to Dove Creek, CO (outside of Telluride), this last Thursday to bring POWELL and DOMINGUEZ to their summer quarters.

The gray/black llama with the white star on his face is Powell and the extra fuzzy brown and white llama is Dominguez, or DOM for short. Dom and Powell have set up residence at the Minturn FS



compound where they have a pasture to graze and a shelter to stay tucked away from cougars and bears during the night.

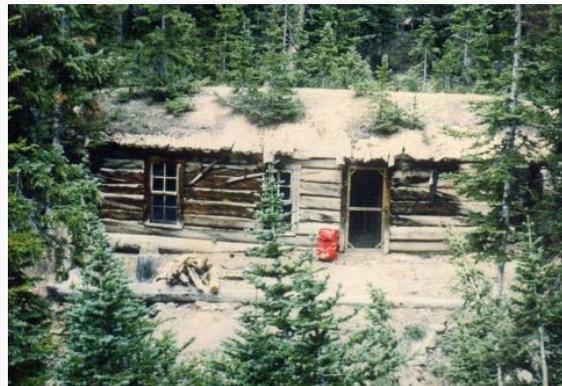
The trails and wilderness crew and I are working on a rotating schedule to care for and exercise the llamas. If any of you are interested in meeting Powell and Dom, I encourage you to give me a shout so we can set up a walk or a visit.

Just think! Dom and Powell are with us this summer to support our wilderness trail work projects **THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR SUPPORT.**

Have a wonderful evening and stay tuned for more trail project and llama updates.

Best,
Kate

2018: The **June FENW e-newsletter** features **The Mystery of Aerie Cabin**, by Maria DiBiase Eisemann. The old mining cabin, located high in Eagles Nest Wilderness, was rediscovered 50 years ago, after lying unknown the previous half-century. Maria writes movingly about her research about the place, and her personal journey of discovery.



Meet the 2018 class of **USFS Wilderness Ranger Interns**. Rollover an image to read the profile.



Born and raised in El Dorado, Arkansas, Ron is currently a student at the University of Kansas. From an early age he learned from his father wilderness ethics and a respect for wildlife. Ron is an Eagle Scout, and the summer of 2016 he worked at Philmont Scout Ranch as a program counselor specializing in interpretation and fly fishing. During his free time he enjoys playing guitar and mandolin and getting into the backcountry to fish and observe wildlife. He hopes his summer working in the Eagles Nest, Flat Tops, and Holy

Cross Wilderness areas will give him meaningful experiences towards a career in wilderness conservation.

...



My name is Maria and I'm coming straight from my college graduation at St. Lawrence University in New York to the White River National Forest. I grew up in Vermont and decided to stay east for school despite the allure and pull of the wild west, so I'm very excited to finally make my way across the Mississippi to some bigger mountains. My travels as a skier and geology major have brought me through Colorado quite a few times before but this time I'm looking forward to sticking around for longer than a week. I brought my skis with me, so in addition to the work I'll be doing as a Wilderness Ranger and Trails Intern I'm hoping to find some leftover patches to get some summertime turns on, or at least doing some recon for the next season! In my spare time you can find me hiking, snacking, riding my bike named Rigatoni, or in the kitchen creating recipes for gourmet backpacking meals and working on refining my bread baking skills.

...



Originally from the greater Cleveland area, Hannah just finished her 3rd year at the University of Pittsburgh where she studies chemical engineering. Her love of the wilderness began with national park family vacations, and only grew from there. In the summer of 2016 Hannah worked as a wrangler on a dude ranch in Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming. More recently, she worked as an EMT in Hampton, Pennsylvania.

...



Ainsley is a recent graduate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with her BS in Environmental Conservation and is continuing her schooling at UMass for a Masters in Public Policy. She's passionate about sustainability and has transitioned her institution towards resource conservation practices during her time as the Secretary of Sustainability for the Student Government Association. Ainsley loves identifying plants and searching

for amphibians in her free time. She plans to formulate more equitable policies for the earth and all its inhabitants in her future.

...



My name is Franz; I am a Southern California boy who loves the outdoors. I am currently a senior at San Diego State University studying Recreation and Tourism Management with an emphasis on Outdoor Resource Management. I was born in the Los Angeles area and moved down to San Diego when I was 7 years old. Most of my life I was involved with organized sports and now I stay active doing the things I love every chance I get. I enjoy surfing, skateboarding, camping/backpacking, and riding my dirt bike down in Baja. I have not spent much time in Colorado and am extremely excited to explore and experience the beauty of the Eagles Nest Wilderness.



2018: Read about **Environment for the Americas** – EFTA – in

the FENW [May newsletter](#), written by its founder and Executive Director, Dr. Susan Bonfield. EFTA is committed to protecting the migratory birds that we all love, especially by enlisting young people in the birds' winter habitats in Mexico and Central America.





2018: The Summit County Rescue Group is at the forefront of readiness, expertise, and commitment when

it comes to rescuing lost, injured, or stranded visitors to the backcountry 24/7/365. While about two-thirds of the calls they receive self-resolve, they deploy 50-90 times a year, usually in rugged terrain, often after dark, and frequently during foul weather. Read about this amazing organization in the [FENW April newsletter](#), written by Charles Pitman.

Charles Pitman in action

search for a lost snowboarder on Quandary Peak (lost overnight in sub-zero temperatures)



2018: The **FENW RETREAT** was a huge success, thanks especially to **Stuart Dodd**

(standing, 6th from right), Chair of IPWA (Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance) whose skills as a facilitator kept us thinking, discussing, laughing for seven hours, even through a working dinner. The entire Board, two US Forest Service reps, and several interested volunteers kept up a steady rain of ideas.

The walls were covered with our results - a few examples:

WHAT IS A SUCCESSFUL DAY

- * DEFINED ROLES / RESPONSIBILITIES
- * GET COHESIVE / TEAM SPIRIT
- * RENEWAL
- * LIST OF TO DO'S / CONCRETE
- * LEARN HOW TO HELP GROUP
- * BETTER DIRECTION
- * WHAT I CAN DO
- * WHAT VISION / MISSION
- * IMPROVE STRUCTURE!
- * HOW DO WE TEAM!

AGENDA (#2)

6:00-6:15	ADVOCACY / EDUCATION
6:15-6:30	NAME CHANGE
6:30-6:45	BREAK
6:45-7:00	WILDBENESS RAISERS
7:15-7:30	FUND RAISING - SPONSORS
7:30-7:45	GRANTS
7:45-8:00	SUMMARY / WHERE WE ARE GOING

INTED

- 1) NAME
- 2) WHY YOU VOLUNTEER
- 3) WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF WORKSHOP
- 4) WHAT DOES A SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP LOOK LIKE



2018: Senator **Kerry Donovan** writes about her famous grandfather, **Bill Mounsey**, in the **March FENW Newsletter** – and there’s no mistaking the resemblance! Read how Bill fought CDOT over the I-70 route, the US Forest Service over the size of Eagles Nest, and especially the Denver Water Board over water rights. Kerry writes also about his outsized life, and the deep influence that he had on her personal life.

2018: FENW had an informal party at Ollie's Pub in Frisco.



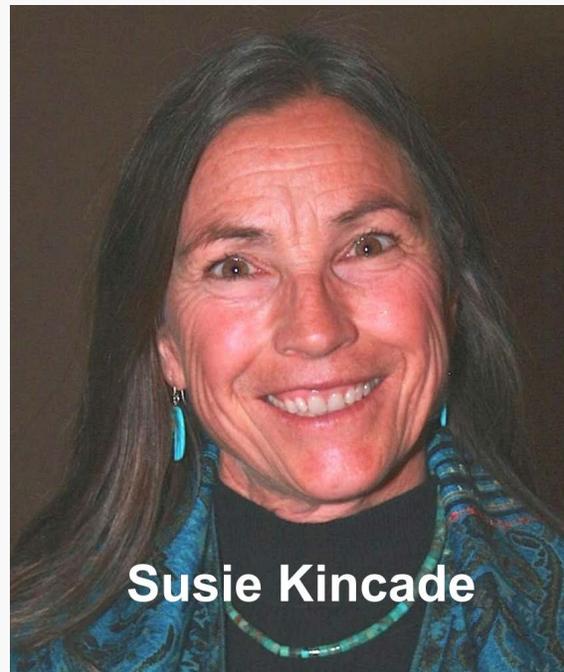
Trail Projects leader **Kate Demorest** proposed, planned, and hosted the event.



Several dozen board members and friends attended. More pictures [HERE](#).



2018: 100,000 acres for WE THE PEOPLE in Summit and Eagle Counties: In our February [Newsletter](#), Vail environmental activist and founder of the famous [Women's Empowerment Workshop](#) **Susie Kincade** describes the wonderful bill before Congress that will create new recreation areas, new Wildernesses, new game management areas, and the nation's first National Historic Landscape at the famous Camp Hale. The amazing thing is that all of this will be accomplished without limiting any activity currently permitted, but will just guarantee opportunities for outdoor recreation for generations, right in our neck of the woods. Click for [MAP](#)





Andy, Byron, & Victor Walker

2018: TV PREMIER: The Walker family rebuilt their famous cabin on Bighorn Creek last summer, using traditional tools. A team of photographers monitored progress, and their splendid production was shown on the DIY channel on January 16. More [here](#).



Part of the crowd at the screening



Tim staffs the FENW table on Colorado Public Lands Day 2017

2018: Meet **Tim Drescher**, FENW's new President, in the January 2018 [Newsletter](#). Tim writes about his love of wilderness, and the [photo journal](#) that he keeps documenting the many backcountry trips that he takes with his wife Kelly and dog Max.

We are entering a new era at FENW, and Tim will convene a comprehensive planning workshop, combining plans for a celebration of our first 25 years (in 2019) with a roadmap for the future. He urges wilderness lovers like you to get involved – just email us at info@fenw.org expressing your interest.

Dec 2017: FENW has received its biggest donation EVER! Breckenridge residents **Susy and Bill Gillilan** have donated two-thousand dollars to FENW. They are true friends of the environment – and Wilderness in particular – Bill is a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger with FENW.



The Gillilans, residents of Breckenridge, have made an extraordinarily generous donation to FENW.

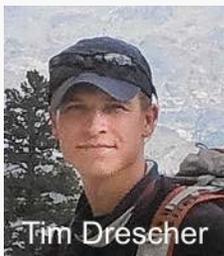
Bill & Susy could not have made their gift at a better time. FENW, led by new President Tim Drescher, faces growing challenges, including overuse by our loving public, underfunding to the USFS, and increasing pressures on public land protections.

Read more about Bill's illustrious career [HERE](#).

2017: THE SUMMIT FOUNDATION granted an award of **nine-thousand dollars** to FENW to help the USFS clear trails of deadfalls in 2018. The devastation wrought by the *mountain pine beetle* is entering a new phase. Those trees killed nearly a decade ago are beginning to fall, blocking trails. FENW will use the funds to hire **Rocky Mountain Youth Corps** crews to help the USFS and us clear trails in Wilderness.



2017: FENW HAS A NEW PRESIDENT: **TIM DRESCHER** was elected to be Currie Craven's successor at the November 30 meeting. Other officers



Tim Drescher

are: Currie Craven, Past-President; Bill Betz, President-Elect, Ken Harper, Treasurer; Dan Siebert, Secretary.

More about Tim on the [FENW facebook page](#).



FENW President Tim Drescher (left) with wife Kelly (right) & friends from college days

2017: The Search for Powder: The co-founder and CEO of the most accurate snow forecasting service in the country - OpenSnow - **JOEL GRATZ**, divulges secrets of the trade in the FENW [December newsletter](#).



Gratz confirms his forecast

2017: The Cabin on Bighorn Creek, built in the late 19th century, has been in the Walker family ever since. This past summer they, along with friends and passersby, restored the cabin, using original tools and

techniques. Read their story in the FENW [November newsletter](#).
Pictures: Top: early July 2017.
Bottom: late August 2017



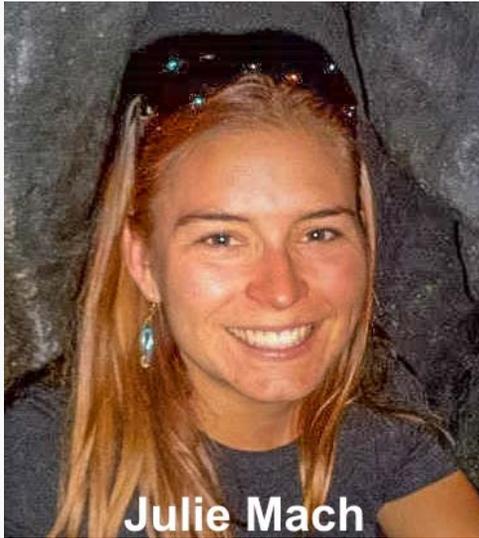
2017: Rename the Gore Range?
That's exactly what **Karn Stiegelmeier** and the Summit County Commissioners are proposing. Read the [FENW October Newsletter](#).



Karn Stiegelmeier

Who was Gore? What did he do? When was the range named for him? Read [HERE](#) about the issues, and the new proposal to honor the original inhabitants - the Ute Indians, who were known as the **People of the Shining Mountains**. Read comments by others, and send us yours (your email address will not be published).

The [Resolution](#) to RENAME THE GORE RANGE was introduced on Indigenous Peoples Day (October 9) at the Frisco Community Center - pictures [HERE](#).



2017: What's in a National Monument? History. Nature. Science. Solitude. Wildlife. Recreation. *Controversy*. **Julie Mach**, Conservation Director for the Colorado Mountain Club, offers an expert analysis of the battle over our National Monuments in the [FENW September Newsletter](#).

2017: Cal Tech Jet Propulsion Lab, NCAR (Boulder's National Center for Atmospheric Research), NEON (Nat'l Ecological Observational Network), Pebble Creek (Gore Range homesite) - just some of the workplaces of Dr. David Schimel, world authority on **CLIMATE CHANGE**, who writes about "Global Warming in the Gore Range" in the [FENW August Newsletter](#).



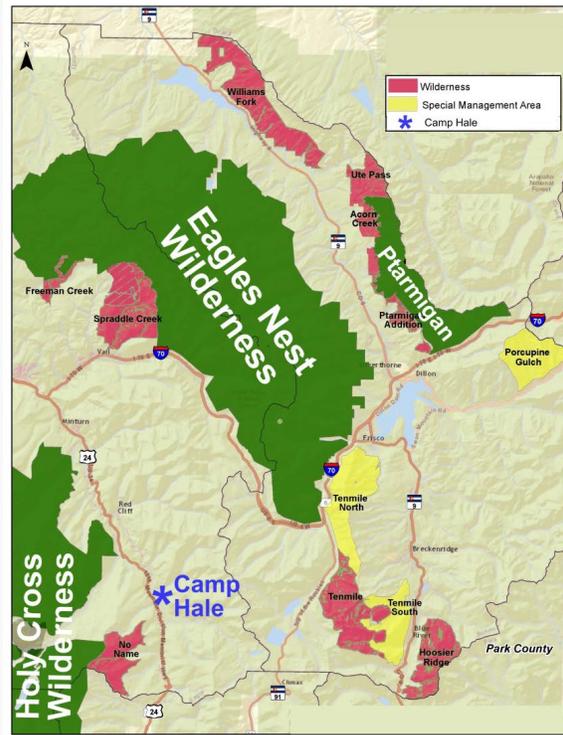
2017: In our [July Newsletter](#) Josh Kuhn of **Conservation Colorado** explains in simple terms the *Continental Divide*

[Click to enlarge](#)



Wilderness & Recreation Act, which would protect nearly 60,000 acres of land

in Summit and Eagle counties. While the bill was crafted with broad bipartisan enthusiasm, there is still a lot to be done, as Josh explains, particularly in gaining support from local businesses.



2017: The NATIONAL WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE announced that FENW is one of 23 recipients of National Forest System Trail Stewardship Grants, selected from 90 applications. Our portion of the \$230,000 distributed will be used for work this September at Missouri Lakes in Holy Cross Wilderness, especially for a **recreation site monitoring program**. Fifteen volunteers have signed on so far.

JUNE 17: FENW's first 2017 trail project - Lily Pad Lake and Meadow Creek trails. Teams from the west side and east side of the range converged to deal with extensive blowdown in the five-year-wake of the beetle epidemic. More pictures [HERE](#).

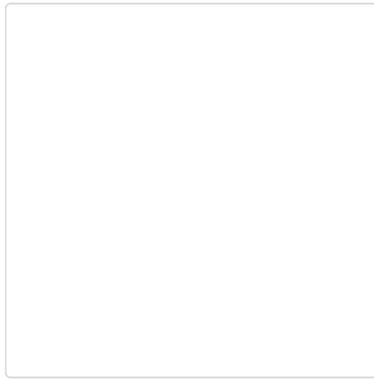


2017: June third was Volunteer Wilderness Ranger training day at the Minturn USFS station. Taught by Mike Mayrer's experienced team, the new rangers are ready to hit the trail. They'll meet, teach, and assist visitors to Eagles Nest, Holy Cross and Ptarmigan Wilderness Areas. Last summer, FENW VWRs met more than 12,000 hikers, horseback riders, and backpackers.

2017: "The American Beaver: An Icon of the West" is the subject of the [June Newsletter](#), authored by District Wildlife Manager **Elissa Slezak**



Elissa Slezak



2017: FENW celebrated Colorado Public Lands Day in Edwards on May 20. Tim Drescher (left) staffs our booth. Dean of Colorado photography **John Fielder** (right) gave a stirring presentation.



2017: The new **REI Dillon** store grand opening was a huge success - nearly 2000 shoppers showed up, and many stopped by the **FENW BOOTH**. Pictures are [HERE](#).

2017: USFS Wilderness Manager **MIKE BEACH** is profiled in the May **newsletter**. Mike is in charge of the west side of Eagles Nest (the east side is covered by **Cindy Ebbert**), as well as Holy Cross and Flat Tops Wilderness Areas. He

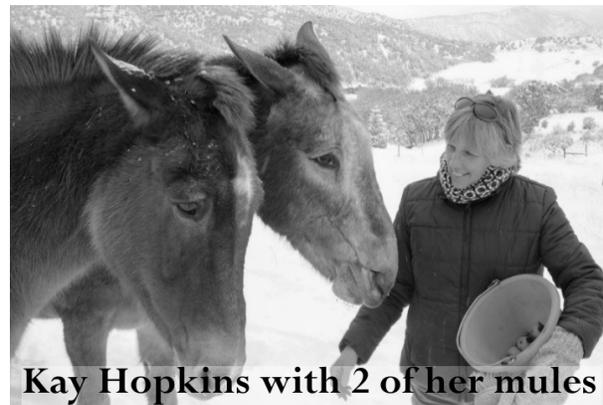
writes about his childhood and journey from engineering to outdoor recreation management, and subsequent work with the Forest Service, leading to his position today as Wilderness Trails Manager.



2017: A "Voices of the Wilderness" Prize been awarded to poet **Erin Robertson**, who composed **A View From Ute Pass** for FENW in 2016. She'll be doing poetry and peregrine falcon work at Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, which is 27 times larger than Eagles Nest Wilderness! Read more in Erin's [newsletter](#).

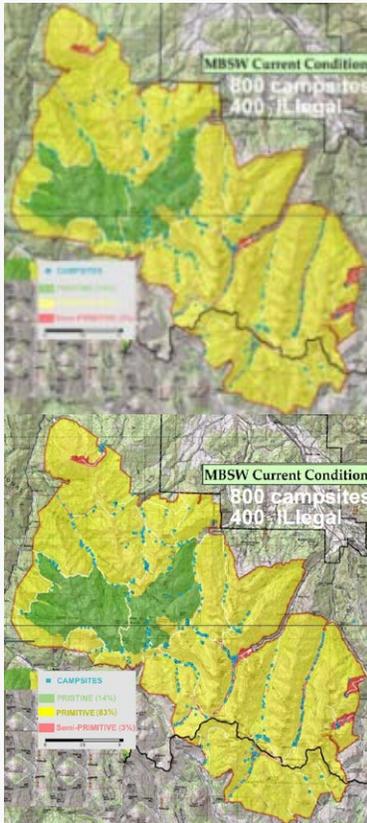
2017: **Kay Hopkins**, USFS Outdoor Recreation Planner, co-authored the just-released draft management plan for Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness. In our [March Newsletter](#), Kay explains how, after exhausting available tools, still the campsite trammeling continues, leading them to propose *mandatory permits*. It's an issue coming soon to a Wilderness near you, as we'll explain next month...

Check out the map below.



Wilderness recovery - Our neighbor, Maroon Bells/Snowmass WILDERNESS (MBSW) is getting hammered from overuse and misuse, and the Forest Service is proposing a PLAN to limit the damage. The main feature is **REQUIRED PERMITS FOR OVERNIGHT VISITORS**.

Rollover to enlarge



Years in the making, the USFS plan carefully and comprehensively documents the damage. It is evident to all who backpack there – limited parking, illegal and crowded campsites, illegal campfire rings, trash of all types, unburied piles of human waste and toilet paper, braided social trails... not the stuff of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Download the **PLAN** (6.5 MB).

Detailed MAPS are **HERE** (6.5 MB).

Naturally, we wonder about EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS, which is being subjected to all of the abuses of MB/S Wilderness.... Please stay tuned, and let us know how you feel about it – Click **HERE**.

The appalling cancer of spreading campsites – about half of them illegal – can be seen on the map – rollover to enlarge.

2017: **BILL REED's** "Cry From The Wilderness" kicks off a trilogy of monthly essays about overuse in the wilds, and what the Forest Service should, can, will do about it. Bill has spent countless hours maintaining trails and campsites in Eagles Nest Wilderness, and he is not sanguine about the future, unless changes are made. See



Bill Reed

the [February Newsletter](#) for Bill's essay.



2017: **DAVID LIEN** provides a crisp update of the unsettled and unsettling political landscape surrounding the efforts to sell our Public Lands to individual states, a short hop on the way to private ownership. See the [January Newsletter](#)

2016: **CINDY EBBERT** knows Eagles Nest Wilderness like no one else. As a former Wilderness Ranger, now Wilderness Manager, she directs her team of Rangers and Interns and provides invaluable guidance to FENW. Read about her personal journey in the [December Newsletter](#)



Cindy Ebbert



2016: **SAVING CUTTHROAT TROUT:** In the November 2016 FENW [Newsletter](#) **Matt Grove** describes his work to inventory native cutthroat trout in every stream and lake in Eagles Nest Wilderness, using the power of molecular biology to identify *environmental DNA* (eDNA).

2016: **LOVED TO DEATH:** In the October 2016 FENW **Newsletter**, KUNC reporter **Jackie Fortier** (right) writes about the impact that more than 130,000 visitors are having on *Hanging Lake*, with scary implications for Eagles Nest Wilderness.



2016: FENW ADOPTS A TRAIL. This is **Deluge Lake Trail**, outside of Vail. FENW volunteers have worked all summer to keep the trail free of erosion, fallen trees, and other hazards. We are part of a larger effort to take the maintenance of all the Adopt A Trail miles off the Forest Service list and onto the volunteer organizations, like us. Next year, we hope to also adopt **Pitkin or Bighorn Creek**, so please [CLICK HERE](#) to let us know that you would like to help.

2016: Read

Jim Furnish



how **Jim Furnish** helped reshape the U.S. Forest

Service with the help of a bird and a fish - from an agency focused almost entirely on "getting out the cut" to one that seeks a balance with the

environment. It's a lesson in conflict resolution we could use more of this political season... Click [HERE](#)

Spotted owl



I LOVE SPOTTED OWLS... FRIED



Clearcut



Salmon



2016: We obliterated a total of 52 illegal campfire rings on two weekend trail & campsite projects, one to **Upper Cataract Lake** 15-17 July, and one to **Slate Lakes** August 12-14.

2016: Warren/Oster Memorial Kiosk dedication: The Kiosk is named in memory of two lovers of Wilderness - Jacob Oster and Rick Warren. The front of the kiosk contains US Forest Service maps and information. Around behind is a tranquil picnic area, with table and plaques commemorating the lives of Rick and Jacob.

More pictures [HERE](#)



2016: 150 YEARS AGO ON UTE PASS



Click image to enlarge

This event was postponed due to inclement weather, but an alternative version rose like a phoenix when attendees retreated to a cabin on Pebble Creek. The Ute Pass version may be rescheduled. Please stay tuned.

PICTURES from the event are [HERE](#)

Erin Robertson's poem, "A View From Ute Pass," is [HERE](#)



2016: "BIRDS OF EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS"



The FENW [JUNE NEWSLETTER](#) features an essay by **Dr. SUSAN BONFIELD** about the fascinating lives of migratory birds, the threats they face on their journeys, the history of the **Alfred M. Bailey Bird Nesting Area** on Rock Creek, and some of the birdiest reasons to love the Eagles Nest Wilderness.

Sue also generously led a bird hike to the Alfred M. Bailey Bird Nesting Area on North Rock Creek. It was a spectacular Colorado day. Below is a 17 second video of Sue identifying some bird songs...

2016: BIKES IN EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS?

The FENW [MAY NEWSLETTER](#) features an essay by **TIM DRESCHER** about the growing cry to allow mountain bikes in Wilderness Areas.

ROLLOVER -> REPLIES FROM READERS



FEEDBACK FROM READERS:

As one of the founders of the International Mountain Bicycling Asso (IMBA) and as a board member for 12 years I believe bicycles should not be allowed in wilderness. In my experience Mountain bicycling does alter the desired serenity obtained in the wilderness. National, State and Municipal Parks have lots of other lands which can be used for mountain bicycling. I believe you should concentrate your considerable passion for our sport to open up these other areas to mountain bicycling. Leave the wilderness as wilderness.

Carl Birkrlbach

I am writing in support of FENW's position to continue to ban bikes in wilderness areas. Thank you for taking a stand on this important issue. I am a former volunteer wilderness ranger w/ FENW-now living in Southern Calif. My 40+ years experience hiking backpacking climbing mountain biking skiing in the Sierras and Rockies makes me think that the balance we currently have between wilderness areas as we currently define them and non-wilderness is a good mix. Especially in Summit Co which has many miles of bike accessible trails just across I-70 from no bike wilderness areas. The basic principles creating the wilderness act still exist. We need a place unmarked by man-made (other than trails) things. Let's leave it like it is.

Tom Fry

Terrific job on the newsletter. I liked how you paraphrased what I wrote you ~ FENW's position on bikes in the Wilderness. Kudos.

Frank Gutmann

What a great site! Congratulations on a job well done.

John T.

P.S. No to bikes!

NO bikes in the Wilderness! Too many people in these already. Bikes destroy trails.

Jennifer Collins

I totally agree with FENW---no bikes in the wilderness---
please

Shirley Beaty

FENW,

NO, NO, NO!!! to Mountain Bikes in the Wilderness. Keep them in the state forest or designated trails in State Parks but don't ruin the Wilderness.

Guy LaBoa

Leave them out.

Adam Poe

I really don't think so. Bikes come on you so quickly that I personally get startled every time. I also have a little 6 pound dog that I walk on an extended leash in the woods so he can feel like he's free. When bikes come by I am always shouting please watch out for my dog, as they never see and several times have almost run him over. I am in the woods for peace and harmony, not to be startled by a biker.

Thanks,

Deborah Casaletta

I like your position supporting no bikes in Wilderness, but endorsing special provisions for keeping important mtn bike trails and allowing bikes, but excluding motorized travel. I hike and mtn bike and would prefer to allow non-motorized bikes in Wilderness, but there is too much prejudice against bikes, so your position is most practical.

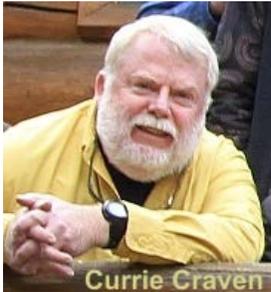
Thanks -----Bill Adamson

just a quick note to express my appreciation for the FENW e-newsletter, "Eagle Post" you are putting together. The last one, featuring the issue of mountain bikes in the wilderness, was particularly informative with links to related information and a concise summary of where this topic is now. Education of the public, in this case all those who benefit from our wilderness areas, whether spiritually, financially, physically, etc., can go a long way towards protecting our wilderness areas for the present and future. FENW Eagle Posts are hopefully reaching those who can(or

should) benefit from this information. As the trail project season gets underway, an Eagle Post illustrating what it takes to maintain our existing trails into the wilderness - allowing the public to enjoy these areas, - would be great. I have found most people have no idea who maintains these trails and the effort (volunteers and FS) involved. And trail construction and maintenance is one of the main reasons I am NOT in favor of bikes in the wilderness. I have had some experience in building and maintaining trails used by mountain bikers - a HUGE amount of work requiring MANY people!!

Keep up the great work for FENW!!

Suzanne Reed



2016: HELP PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS

After the Malheur Occupation FENW President **Currie Craven** wondered if the occupation of the **Malheur National Wildlife Refuge** could happen here. In this thoughtful and passionate essay - our **first Newsletter** - he presents FENW's stance on the issue of Public Land ownership.
