

# EAGLE SUMMIT WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

November 2021 Newsletter



## A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING CHAIR MIKE BROWNING

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as ESWA's Chair during 2020 and 2021. Even with the challenges of operating during a pandemic, we made considerable strides in moving ESWA forward. Our accomplishments include:

- **Electing 5 new Board members** – Joan Betz, Tom Copper, Steve Elder, Frances Hartogh, and Karn Stiegelmeier – who are bringing new energy, ideas, and skills to our leadership team.
- Recruiting and training **35 new Volunteer Wilderness Rangers**, conducting over 400 patrols, patrolling 2,700 miles, and greeting 12,000 trail users.
- Certifying **15 new Sawyers** and clearing over 800 trees.
- Developing a **new Trailhead Host Program**: our 26 new Hosts conveyed ESWA's LNT and Wilderness-protection message to over 400

- overnight users and 2,400 day users.
- **Publishing a weekly "Get Wild"** column in the Summit Daily and articles in the Vail Daily to educate the public about Wilderness values.
  - Fighting invasive weeds in our Wilderness through ESWA's **Weed Spotters Program**.
  - Developing a **strategic trail-improvement plan**, funding the USFS's design for realignment of the Surprise Lake trail and spearheading construction of a new boardwalk on the Mesa Cortina trail in memory of Beau Schuette.
  - **Advocating** to successfully defeat proposed gravel mines in the Blue River Valley and near Dotsero, redoubling our opposition to Whitney Reservoir/Homestake III and Berlaimont, and championing the CORE Act and Gore Range renaming.
  - Reestablishing our **membership** form of organization, with over 200 dues-paying members.



As Outgoing Chair, I look forward to working with 2022 Chair Steve Elder and 2023 Chair-Elect Karn Stiegelmeier to build on the momentum we have generated. Thanks to everyone who has given their time, energy, and money to make the last two years a success. Please continue to support ESWA in the future in every way you can, so ESWA can continue to help Keep Wilderness Wild!

## **ALERT! RENEW YOUR ESWA MEMBERSHIP BEFORE YEAR-END**

[Colorado Gives Day](#) is fast approaching, which makes this is a great opportunity to remind you to renew your ESWA membership/donation before the end of 2021. ESWA depends on your dues and additional donations to support all of our great Wilderness-protection programs, including Volunteer Wilderness Rangers, Trailhead Hosts, Sawyers, and Weed Spotters. And because we are an all-volunteer organization, 100% of your contribution goes directly to support our programs!

Visit the [Join/Donate](#) page on ESWA's website or renew/donate through the [Colorado Gives Day](#) website. Colorado Gives Day is December 7, but you can donate through their website at any time. Or, mail a check to ESWA at P.O. Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443-4504.

Choose from several membership levels, each with its own reward (in addition to helping protect Wilderness).

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> "



Please be as generous as you can. Help ESWA "Keep Wilderness Wild"! Our heartfelt thanks to our committed donors and members, including Arapahoe Basin and their Employee Environmental Fund.

## CORE ACT: CAMP HALE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION TOUR WITH SUSIE KINCADE

Kudos to Susie Kincade, well-known proponent of the proposed CORE Act, and ESWA Advocacy Committee member! On October 16, Susie took 10 lucky people on an informal tour of historic Camp Hale, where the 10th Mountain



Division trained during WWII. The tour provided a unique opportunity to learn more about the Pando Valley - where the US Army once housed 17,000 personnel, 400 POWs, 4,000 mules, and 250 sled dogs - and about the protection of this historic area that the CORE Act will provide if passed.

Please take a moment to help ESWA get the CORE Act passed by

the US Senate. Thank Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper and ask them to redouble their efforts to ensure CORE is passed – visit ESWA's [Advocacy website](#) to contact them.



Look for a new edition of our printed Newsletter coming to your mailbox soon! You'll receive this more-compact version annually, while our monthly e-newsletters will provide an up-to-date account of ESWA's activities.

### **ESWA HOLDS FIRST "VISION DAY"**

Well-known Colorado nature advocate, educator, and coach Susie Kincade hosted ESWA's 2021 Vision Day at her retreat center near Eagle. The retreat was facilitated by ESWA volunteers Steve and Emily Elder of For Impact. The purpose of the day was simply to think big together about Wilderness and what it means to be charged with the stewardship of three Wilderness Areas in the heart of Colorado. Why is Wilderness important? Why does ESWA exist and what are the implications for us? This was just the beginning of a conversation we wish to extend to all those who care about our mission, and to inspire more people to engage in ESWA's mission.





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