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**ESWA CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL 2022 SEASON. THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS!**

Framed by lovely golden aspens at the Eagles Nest Community Center, more than 50 ESWA volunteers and supporters joined to celebrate a productive season of supporting Wilderness. Check out some of the great photos of the event [here](#).

Highlights of the Annual Celebration included:

- Door prizes, including two A-Basin lift tickets to Zara Hickman!
- Special awards, including:
  - Volunteer Wilderness Ranger of the Year: Ellie Finlay
  - Rookie VWR of the Year: Ellen Miller
  - Trailhead Host of the Year: Joan Betz
  - Sawyer of the Year: Rick Williams
- A special thanks to Mike Mayrer, veteran VWR and “retiring”

Summit County VWR leader

- Announcement of the Alan D. and Dian H. Wilson Endowment for Wilderness at ESWA
- A Final Word for Wilderness by Julie McCluskie, Colorado State Rep, Dist. 61
- Pizza from [Nick-n-Willy's!](#)



### **ESWA ENDOWMENT PROGRAM GETS A HUGE BOOST!**

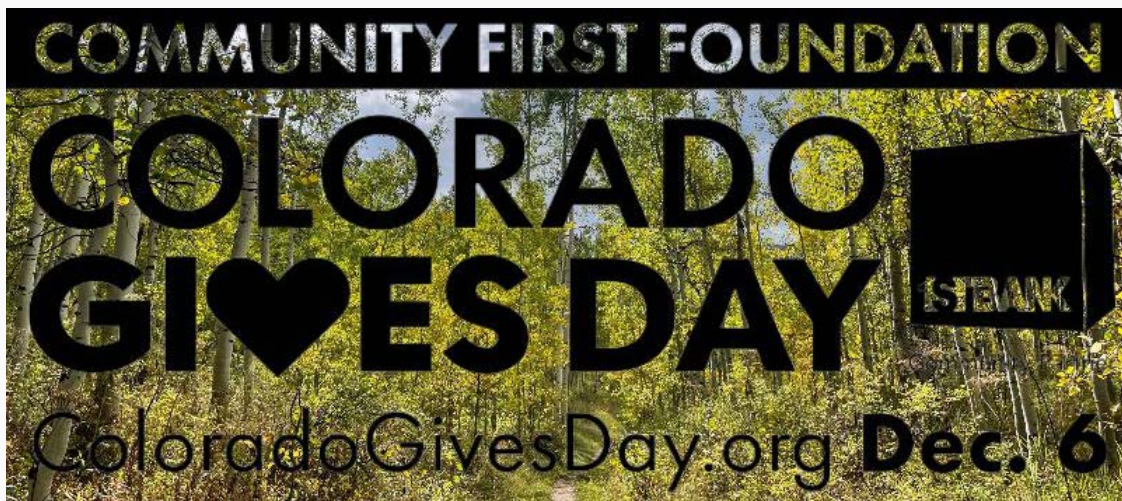
ESWA's new Endowment program received a welcome boost with the announcement of The Alan D. and Dian H. Wilson Endowment for Wilderness. Alan and Dian met in Colorado. They were married in Summit County, where they maintained a home throughout their lives together, delighting in the mountains. They passed that love and commitment on to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. This endowment is an enduring expression of that love and a memorial to Alan, who passed in April 2019. The purpose of this endowment is to support ESWA's work in stewarding, educating, and

advocating for our local Wilderness Areas and the principles of Wilderness preservation. There is a particular interest in, though not a restriction to, engaging youth in Wilderness and Wilderness principles. The fund will be seeded during Dian's lifetime, with the main principal of the fund to be established via direct bequest.



Dian H. Wilson, center, with ESWA Treasure Tom Copper and Chair Steve Elder

For more information on ESWA endowment opportunities, contact Tom Copper at [copperthomas@gmail.com](mailto:copperthomas@gmail.com).



## **PLEASE JOIN/RENEW YOUR ESWA MEMBERSHIP BEFORE YEAR-END**

ESWA is a membership-based organization, and because we are an all-volunteer organization, 100% of your contribution goes directly to support our programs! Donations received starting October 1 will credit to your 2023 annual membership.

Visit the [Join/Donate page](#) on ESWA's website. You can also 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).

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.

## **ESWA ADVOCATES FOR WILDERNESS**

Lots has happened this summer on issues important to our local Wilderness Areas. A couple of recent highlights:

**CORE:** ESWA has long advocated for passage of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act. Although CORE has passed the US House five times, the Senate filibuster keeps putting on the brakes.

**Recent Development:** Given the Senate's inaction, ESWA supports efforts spearheaded by Colorado's Senators and Congressman Neguse urging President Biden to create the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument. The Monument would provide immediate protection from development for at least some CORE lands. We encourage you to go to [coreact.org](https://coreact.org) and sign the petition urging President Biden to act.



Save winter bighorn habitat: A south-facing hillside capped by protective cliffs provides critical winter habitat for the last-remaining herd of Rocky Mountain bighorns in the area. As winter ends, the herd migrates into the adjacent Eagles Nest Wilderness. Colorado Parks and Wildlife says that Vail Resorts' plans to develop high-density housing on the bighorn's habitat will mean the end of the herd.

**Recent Development:** After years of unsuccessful negotiations with Vail Resorts, offering parcels more suited for development in exchange for preserving the bighorns' habitat, the Town of Vail commenced condemnation proceedings. On September 20, with the urging of ESWA and other local conservationists, the Town offered \$12 million for the parcel.

## **A HUGE SEASON FOR ESWA'S VOLUNTEERS**

ESWA's Sawyers, Volunteer Wilderness Rangers, and Trailhead Hosts, have had a huge impact this year. In fact, **TOTAL BOOTS ON THE GROUND VOLUNTEER HOURS AS OF 9/15/22 = 3,284!** Digging into the details:

### ESWA Sawyers:

- 37 Outings to 16 different Wilderness Trails
- 1366 hours in the field
- 1243 trees cleared

ESWA Volunteer Wilderness Rangers:

- 104 different VWRs did 281 patrols
- 1800 Hours on Patrol
- 9016 Day Users in 388 different groups contacted
- 179 Fire Safety conversations
- 858 Overnight Users in 358 different groups contacted
- 1,256 Dogs were encountered (75% on leash)

ESWA Trailhead Hosts:

- 20 different TH Hosts did 34 hosting shifts at 12 different Trailheads
- 118 Total Hours TH Hosting
- 1336 Day Users in 508 different groups
- 100 Overnight Users in 58 different groups
- 26 Fire Safety conversations
- 222 dogs were encountered (94% on leash)

**Thanks to our amazing volunteers!** (stats as of 9/15/22)

**DELUGE ADOPT-A-TRAIL WORK DAY A HUGE SUCCESS**



On September 29, a group of eight intrepid ESWA volunteers and VVMTA's Bay Stephens spent a long day clearing trees and water bars on ESWA's Adopt-A-Trail. Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, and Markus Klauser cleared a particularly humongous tree from upper Deluge, pictured.



## TWO FREE WAYS TO PROVIDE ESWA MUCH-NEEDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **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).
- **Sign up for Amazon Smile.** Amazon Smile offers the same products and same prices as the Amazon site. Amazon will donate to ESWA 0.5% of every purchase you make – and it costs you nothing. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up. All you do is log in to Amazon using [smile.amazon.com](#) instead of amazon.com. Sign in through [smile.amazon.com](#) each time you shop, so you might want to bookmark that page.

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Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance

P.O. Box 4504

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