

EAGLE SUMMIT WILDERNESS ALLIANCE



March 2022 Newsletter



SAVE THE DATES!

ESWA has already scheduled some fun and rewarding summer activities, so before your calendar fills up save the following dates:

May 21: VWR and THH Training. This year's training for new Volunteer Wilderness Rangers and Trailhead Hosts will be held at the Eagles Nest HOA Pavilion just north of Silverthorne. Two identical half-day sessions will be offered – one from 9 am to Noon and a second from 1 to 4 pm. To register,

sign up [here](#).

June 10-12: Sawyer Training. Always wanted to help clear our Wilderness trails of those darn trees that fall across them every year? Well, you're in luck. ESWA will again offer a free crosscut saw certification course. It starts with a two-hour class the evening of Friday, June 10, following by two days of field training on June 11 and 12. If you are interested or for more information, email Zach Kauk at zakauk@gmail.com.

July 2: Joint Trailhead Hosting Day and BBQ Social with FDRD. Join us for a fun joint Trailhead Hosting Day with our compatriots at the Friends of the Dillon Ranger District. A member of each group will be joint hosts at various trailheads in Summit County on Saturday, July 2, to meet, greet, and educate the large number of users that are expected. That evening we will all gather to share stories, summer plans, and BBQ. If you are interested, send an email to mfbrowning1952@gmail.com

Llama-Supported Overnight Trips. Llamas are great fun to hike with and allow us to camp at gorgeous backcountry lakes (while lightening our loads). We hike in on a Friday afternoon, work hard on Saturday taking out illegal fire pits, clearing trash, and improving trails, and then hike out on Sunday. This year's destinations are:

- July 15-17: Nolan Lake in the Holy Cross Wilderness
- July 22-24 Willow Creek in the east side of the Eagles Nest Wilderness
- August 12-14 Lake Charles in the Holy Cross Wilderness
- August 19-21 Upper Cataract Lake in the east side of the Eagles Nest Wilderness

Space is limited so sign up early by sending an email to krista.a.hughes@gmail.com.



HIGHLIGHT: A-BASIN'S MIKE NATHAN AND EMPLOYEE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND



Mike Nathan, Sustainability Manager for Arapahoe Basin Ski Area, was the featured guest at ESWA's February business meeting. A-Basin has partnered with ESWA for over 18 years, matching payroll donations from their employees to support ESWA's mission to protect our three local Wilderness Areas. A-Basin and its employees have donated over \$60,000 to ESWA. Originally from Springfield, Massachusetts, Mike has served as A-Basin's Sustainability Manager for the last seven years, and also serves on the board of High Country Conservation. Mike and ESWA are looking forward to getting A-Basin employees more engaged in ESWA's work, including llama-supported trips, sawyer training, Adopt-a-Trail work days, native seed collection, and a mid-week après ski event.

TRY TRAILHEAD HOSTING THIS YEAR!

Want to give back to Wilderness, but don't feel like doing a hike on a given day? Give Trailhead Hosting a try. ESWA's TH Hosts staff tables at one of our Wilderness trailheads and interact with our Wilderness visitors. This year TH Hosts can host on any day and at any trailhead they want, and choose their hours. A new sign-up form on our website will go live in May. And each TH Host shift of at least three hours counts against the four patrols required of VWRs each year. We hope you'll consider being a TH Host this summer. If you have questions about being a TH Host, email Dave Owens at djofrisco@gmail.com.



Note: Our VWR training is also required for all TH Hosts, so [sign up](#) for the May 21 training if you are interested.

ESWA'S ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Our Advocacy Committee is less than a year old, but we've been busy! Check out the [Advocacy page](#) of the ESWA website to see what we're working on and how you can help. A couple of updates:

CORE Act: In December the Town of Vail wrote a letter in support of the CORE Act. This is an important and very welcome update to its previous endorsements. The CORE Act coalition is preparing for a mark-up of the bill in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee level this spring. If it passes Committee, it will go to the full Senate for a vote. We could use a few

more letters of support, and kudos to the Town of Vail. If you live or have lived in the Town of Vail, a letter to the editor of the Vail Daily thanking the Town of Vail for officially re-endorsing the CORE Act and for making wildlife and wilderness values a priority, would be very helpful. Contact Susie Kincade, 970-328-5472, or susie@ebcmarketing.com, for guidance or to answer questions. Send your letter of 300 words or less to editor@vaildaily.com.

Nuchu: The Colorado Geographic Naming Board is expected to take up the request to change the name of the Gore Range to Nuchu Range, which means Ute's Range. The native Ute people relied upon Rocky Mountain wildlife for their sustenance, and Lord Gore's massacre of thousands of buffalo, elk, deer, bears, and other wildlife left to waste is the antithesis of our stewardship values. Lord Gore never stepped foot into our Gore Range. The USGS requires that naming after a person requires that person to have contributed beneficially to that community. The Gore Range was named before the USGS existed. Please be ready to send comments to the Naming Board. We will send out an Eaglet alert.

3 Proposed Vail Valley Trails: ESWA submitted [comments](#) to the USFS on three new trails in the Vail Valley proposed by the USFS and VVMTA. Our Eaglet asking ESWA members to submit comments had a good response – thank you. If you didn't get a chance, the USFS has extended the comment period, so please submit comments

at: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=61186>.

Further fragmentation of wildlife habitat is the chief concern. The good news: At a February 23 Eagle County Roundtable meeting, District Ranger Leanne Veldhuis confirmed that, in light of comments received, the USFS would conduct further review of two of the three trails.



If passed, the CORE Act would include expanding the Eagles Nest Wilderness boundary by Bald Mountain.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thanks to the Summit Daily for publishing our weekly [Get Wild](#) column! On

the Eagle County side, several Curious Nature columns authored by ESWA members have appeared in the Vail Daily, including this one by Susie Kincade on [Winter Constellations](#).



EASY AND FREE WAYS TO GIVE TO ESWA ALL YEAR LONG

Kroger-owned grocery stores - Kings Soopers and City Market - and Amazon all have community-award programs whereby they donate money to a charity of your choice each time you shop. It is easy to sign up and designate ESWA as your preferred organization. Last year, ESWA received over \$1000. The more members who sign up, the more funds we will receive. The money ESWA receives is in addition to any rewards that you receive yourself from their loyalty programs. Here is how to sign up:

King Soopers/City Market: You need to have a Kroger, King Soopers, or City Market Shoppers Card and use the card (or the alternate id you've chosen) at checkout each time you shop. (The card also gives you discounts off your grocery bill). If you don't yet have the card, sign up for one at <https://www.citymarket.com/account/create/>. Then go to <https://www.citymarket.com/account/communityrewards>, 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 of VX0777). The card works at any King Soopers or City Market store.

Amazon: Amazon will donate to ESWA 0.5% of every purchase you make – and it costs you nothing. All you do is login to Amazon using smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com. Login using the same credentials you use for amazon.com. If it is your first time, you'll need to select your charity. Search for "Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance" and then select it. Once you select ESWA, you should see the Amazon Smile logo in the upper left of the screen. Below that should show "Supporting Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance." You must sign in through smile.amazon.com each time you shop, so you might want to just bookmark that page.

Thanks for taking the time to designate ESWA as your preferred nonprofit!

Did you know? If you're over 70-1/2 and have a traditional IRA, you may be able to donate directly from your IRA to ESWA. If you take the standard deduction and don't itemize, this may be your most tax-efficient means of donating. Find more information [at investopedia.com](https://www.investopedia.com).

Donate

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