
Happy May Day!

5 messages

Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance <info@eaglesummitwilderness.org>
Reply-To: Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance <info@eaglesummitwilderness.org>
To: Colleen <colleengauron@gmail.com>

Mon, May 1, 2023 at 9:00 AM



[ESWA HOME](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

[DONATE](#)

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Photo courtesy of Richard Seeley Photography

A very Happy Mother's Day on May 14 to ESWA moms and to all the wildlife mothers who are nurturing their springtime newborns in our four Wilderness Areas. Mama birds, moose, elk, deer, bear, bobcats, lynx, foxes, coyotes, and so many more of our animal neighbors are caring for young now. As always, please keep your distance, stay on trail, and leash your dogs – a leash will help keep you and your pup safe from protective wildlife moms!

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ALL VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS RANGERS



Our season is almost upon us! Here's some important information for current VWRs:

- **VWR Recert:** VWRs need annual recertification. A 30-minute **mandatory** refresher session will be held by Zoom on **Monday, May 15**, and again on **Tuesday, May 23**, both from 7:00 pm-7:30 pm. You can attend either. The Zoom link will be sent out in early May. One of the sessions will be recorded for later viewing by those who can't attend either Zoom session. Topics will include relevant new USFS regs, a quick review of the Authority of the Resource technique, the new signup and reporting forms, and a few recent accounts of approaches that have worked best (and worst).
- **JHA and Release forms:** You will shortly be receiving an email from Zach Kauk with this year's USFS Job Hazard Analysis and ESWA's Release and Uniform Policy. These must be signed before you can do any patrols or other volunteer work for ESWA this summer.
- **New VWR Training:** This year's training for new VWRs is **Saturday June 3** at the Eagles Nest HOA Pavilion. **YOU** are our best recruiter! Please reach out to friends and neighbors and encourage them to become VWRs. The link to the application form is on our [website](#).
- **Mentors:** Mentors are a critical part of training and retaining new VWRs. If you are willing to be a Mentor,



email Mike Browning
at mfbrowning1952@gmail.com.



- **THH:** Consider performing one or more trailhead hosting sessions this summer. They are fun and rewarding, count as one of your four minimum patrols, and allow you to contact more people. Consider tag-teaming with another VWR - one patrols for two hours while the other stays at the trailhead, and then switch. Enjoy the best of both worlds!
- **Party!** We will be having kick-off parties for ESWA volunteers in early June in both Eagle County and Summit County. ESWA will buy your first beer! Dates and locations will be announced soon.

So, mark your calendars, lace up your boots, and get ready for another great season helping ESWA Keep Wilderness Wild!

LLAMA-SUPPORTED BACKPACKING TRIPS – JOIN ESWA AND THE USFS

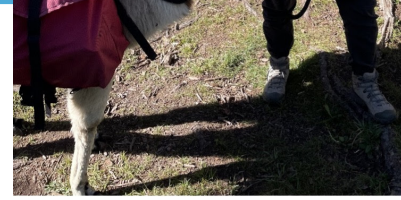
Sign up today for one or more of ESWA's amazing llama-supported backcountry work trips. These trips fill up, and we like to give priority to ESWA's members. To sign up, or for more info, email Krista Hughes krista.a.hughes@gmail.com.

Llamas are great fun to hike with and allow us to camp at gorgeous backcountry lakes (while lightening our loads). We generally 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 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)



GET WILD LATELY?

Thanks to the Summit Daily for publishing our Get Wild column each Friday, with riveting articles on our local Wilderness Areas and their wild inhabitants.

The latest Get Wild – [Beware the great spring poop melt out](#) – provides seasonally appropriate information on, well, you know what. Gain valuable tools for discussing this delicate issue when you meet canine guardians on your upcoming patrols! Check out all of ESWA's articles for the Vail and Summit Daily [here](#).

Whether you read Get Wild in the Summit Daily or in our weekly emails, be sure to click on the article links – the more clicks, the more likely Summit Daily will continue providing this great opportunity to communicate about Wilderness and wildlife!

Like to write about Wilderness and nature? Contribute an article – only about 600 words are needed. Interested? Contact [Karn](#). Are you a nature photographer? We are always looking for photographs to submit with articles.

ESWA MEMBERS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Left to right: PWV host Jeff Randa, ESWA members Mike Browning, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Eric Malmborg, Bo Chapin.

Although ESWA's season for patrols, sawyering, and trailhead hosting is just warming up, ESWA members have been actively promoting ESWA's mission to preserve Wilderness and inform the public about our Wilderness Areas – here are just a few examples!

- ESWA Chair Karn Stiegelmeier participated in the April 30 Earth Day Forum *The Need to Grow* held at Colorado Mountain College in Breckenridge. Karn hosted an ESWA table and encouraged people to volunteer and support ESWA's efforts to help the Forest Service preserve and protect Wilderness Areas.

- Bill Betz spoke on April 11 in Fort Collins about the history of the Wilderness movement, and efforts by ESWA and four cognate organizations in northern Colorado helping the Forest Service protect these precious public lands. The 10th in a series of talks Bill has given, the second part of the talk highlights ESWA and the other four all-volunteer groups (PWV, IPWA, FOMELC and FOW) and their different Wilderness Areas. This talk was different in that the audience was PWV (Poudre Wilderness Volunteers) that covers Cache La Poudre, Comanche Peak, Neota and Rawah Wilderness Areas. The many knowledgeable people in the audience included Dave Cantrell of National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. PWV plans to publicize Bill's recorded talk on their website and social media. Bill's host, Jeff Randa, and Dave Cantrell talked about a possible workshop for the five organizations later this year. Mike Browning, Eric Malmborg, Bo Chapin, and Joan Betz also attended. See [more photos](#) from this great evening!
- Former ESWA Chair Mike Browning will attend the training weekend put on by PWV, to compare their extensive 3-day events, with lots of scenarios, to gain ideas for improving our VWR training efforts.
- Mike Browning serves on the Eagle County Community Wildlife Roundtable's Education and Public Outreach Committee, which meets monthly to promote wildlife awareness and protection of critical habitat in Eagle County. Mike also recently met with the USFS, Town of Vail, and Wilderness Workshop representatives to discuss the Booth Falls Mitigation Project, which will reduce fuel loading and enhance Bighorn Sheep habitat in the Vail Valley north of I-70.

INVASIVE WEED EVENT ORGANIZERS NEEDED

Jim Alexander, ESWA's amazing head WeedSpotter, is looking for a few volunteers to help organize WeedSpotter events this summer. Interested? Contact Jim at jimofcolorado@gmail.com.

NEW SWAG – COME AND GET IT!



New swag is coming in time for the VWR training June 3! In addition to our famous ESWA T-shirts, photo notecards, and caps, we will be offering even more cool items with our ESWA logo for your enjoyment and to spread the word of who we are:

VESTS: We will be taking pre-orders for ESWA fleece vests. In gorgeous royal blue with our ESWA sticker embroidered. Cost will be about \$30. Available in men's or women's sizes.

- **BEANIES:** We will have cuffed knit acrylic beanies with our embroidered ESWA patch.

LLAMAS: Requiring no feeding, these lovable plush llamas come with a bandana sporting ESWA's logo!

We'll also have ESWA ballpoint pens, not to mention free stickers that say "Keep Wilderness Wild!" or "Junior Wilderness Ranger."

Send your vest pre-order to Joan at jbetz@regis.edu. Also send Joan ideas for other ESWA logo items you would like us to offer for sale. Joan also welcomes additional volunteers for the Swag/Membership Committee.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

You can still join ESWA or renew your membership [here](#) - 2023 calendar year dues start as low as \$25!

WANT TO BE 30?

ESWA is pleased to report that 29 members have signed up for City Market and King Soopers Community Rewards – **YOU COULD BE #30! 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). There's no cost to you, and ESWA receives a tidy dividend.

Donate

Special thanks to our partners for making our work possible!





The Summit Foundation
Soul of the Summit

