

## Summer is Llama season



### **2023 ESWA SCHEDULED SUMMER/FALL EVENTS**

August 4-6 - Llama-supported work trip to Gore Lake, Eagles Nest W.

Aug 9 - Hunter's Knob weed pull

Aug. 10 - Monthly planning meeting, Bighorn Park, East Vail 4:30-6 pm

August 12 - ESWA's Adopt-A-Trail Deluge Lake 2nd work day

August 18-20 - Llama-supported work trip Willow Lakes, Eagles Nest W.

August 24-27 - Llama-supported work trip Flat Tops Wilderness

September 8 - Deadline for photo contest & Currie Craven award submissions

September 23 – ESWA Annual Celebration Eagles Nest Pavilion 4-7 pm

**SUMMER IS LLAMA SEASON!**



### **JOIN AUGUST 4-6 LLAMA-SUPPORTED WORK TRIP**

We're heading to stunningly beautiful Gore Lake in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. A few slots have recently opened – contact [Frances Hartogh](#) or [Mike Browning](#) today!

Following this week's Gore Lake trip, our next two llama-supported work trips are Willow Lakes (8/18-20) and Flat Tops (8/24-27) – sign-up for both trips has been brisk, so email [Krista Hughes](#) right away if you're interested.



Dom and Monty get a well deserved break

### **WHEELER/LOST LAKE LLAMA-SUPPORTED TRIP REPORT**

Eleven ESWA volunteers and USFS colleagues had a great llama-supported work trip to Wheeler and Lost Lakes last month in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. We cleared 38 illegal fire rings, restored one illegal campsite, lopped hundreds of branches, and cleared drainages. Our faithful llamas Dom and Monty were a great support. Thanks to VWR Dave Brewster for serving as ESWA team leader.



Some of our hard-working Wheeler/Lost Lakes team

**HELP MAINTAIN DELUGE LAKE TRAIL—ESWA'S ADOPT-A-TRAIL AUGUST 12**



### Deluge Lake

Calling all ESWA volunteers on **Saturday August 12** to help maintain the Deluge Lake Trail in East Vail. ESWA has adopted the Deluge Lake Trail under the Vail Valley Mountain Trail Alliance's Adopt-A-Trail program. Our first trail-work day was July 19 and included just four ESWA Volunteers. On July 26, a 5-person team of ESWA Sawyers, led by Zach Kauk, cleared 15 trees from the trail all the way to Deluge Lake!

**Join us August 12** to complete our work keeping this beautiful trail in shape. We will concentrate on lopping branches and cutting back vegetation encroaching on the first mile. So, it won't be too taxing distance-wise. With enough volunteers, we can send those who want a longer hike to work farther up the trail. Email [Mike Browning](#). We will meet at the Gore Creek trailhead in East Vail at 8:30 am and end our work by 2 pm. Bring lunch and lots of water, and wear sturdy shoes and work gloves. VVMTA will provide the tools.



ESWA Sawyers - Deluge Lake Trail, ESWA's Adopt-A-Trail

### **ESWA LEADERSHIP THANKS 2022 CHAIR STEVE ELDER**

At our July meeting, 2023 Chair Karn Stiegelmeier thanked Steve Elder on behalf of ESWA for his service to the organization and his incredible work moving ESWA forward, including solidifying ESWA's financial standing. Steve received a recognition plaque and REI gift certificate. Thanks Steve!



ESWA's Tom Copper presents plaque to 2022 ESWA Chair Steve Elder

## **WEED PROGRAM UPDATE**



ESWA Volunteers cleared thousands of musk thistles from Hunter's Knob last month. We took part in the Summit County Wide Weed Pull (about 100 people pulled weeds across the county), and then went back two weeks later to get more weeds. There are still thistles out there, so we'll be there a third time on August 9 with youth who participate in an FDRD program. Interested in joining? Contact [Jim Alexander](#) . Meanwhile, our NFF-Funded contractors have been doing our annual treatment of infestations in both Eagle and Summit Counties.

### **AUGUST 10 ESWA BUSINESS MEETING – IN PERSON!**

August 10 is the next monthly planning/business meeting of the ESWA leadership group – come and join us at Bighorn Park in East Vail for snacks, and to see what happens and how you might become involved in the behind-the-scenes activities. Meeting is 4:30-6 PM.

**Need more ESWA Swag?** More supplies for your VWR kit? Come to the August 10 meeting early at 4 PM to pick up one of our new ESWA pens or Trifolds, to view our current offerings (t shirts, stuffed llamas, hats, knit caps), or to order one of our gorgeous new blue fleece vests.



## VWR AND TRAILHEAD HOST ACHIEVEMENTS



This year, our amazing Volunteer Wilderness Rangers and Trailhead Hosts have already:

Patrolled almost 1,200 hours, including 83 hours of Trailhead Hosting

Covered almost 1,100 miles

Encountered over 5,300 trail users, having constructive conversations (more than "hi") with two-thirds

Counted over 800 dogs, 71% on leash.

These stats bring home just how vital an impact our boot-on-the-ground programs play in communicating our Wilderness-preservation message to the public. If you're a VWR but haven't quite managed to squeeze in your minimum four patrols or trailhead hosting, please get on out there! If you're a new VWR, and need some support to meet your commitment, please reach out to your Mentor.

## REMEMBERING KEN HARPER



**ESWA leader Ken Harper** passed away on July 15 from complications of pancreatic cancer. ESWA members attended the wonderful memorial service held for Ken on July 29 at the Eagle-Vail Community Center. The room was overflowing with many of the people that Ken touched during his remarkable life.

ESWA Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Tom Larsen served as emcee. Friends spoke of Ken's across-the-continent and around-the-world bike adventures, recalled Ken's love of teaching children during his decades as a ski instructor and ski school supervisor, and reminisced about the hundreds of peaks Ken scaled during his life. ESWA's Mike Browning talked of the mutual love affair between Ken and ESWA, including Ken's role in founding the organization, being one of its first (and most prolific) Sawyers, running the Eagle side of the VWR program, and providing wise counsel while serving for decades on ESWA's leadership committees. Everyone admired Ken's love of life, spirit of adventure, passion for the outdoors, and his kindness, generosity, humility, and patience.

Ken will be greatly missed by all who were lucky enough to know him. Our condolences go out to his wife, Pam Kennedy, also an ESWA VWR. Read Ken's [obituary](#) in the Vail Daily. ESWA is honored that Ken's family has asked that

[donations](#) be made in Ken's name to ESWA (when giving, please note in the comments section that your donation is in honor of Ken Harper).

**ANNUAL CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 23 - SAVE THE DATE!**