



Council voted to protect this critical wildlife habitat through eminent domain, and won a favorable decision in district court. This critical habitat, threatened by Vail Resort's development plans is still in dramatic legal process.

**ESWA has worked to support East Vail Pass Wildlife Crossings Project** and Summit County's application for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation RESTORE Colorado 2024 grant opportunity for the Wildlife Crossings Project, long identified as a priority due to the high traffic volumes, creating a major barrier to wildlife including the endangered Canada lynx. Colorado estimates over 4,000 wildlife-vehicle accidents each year, resulting human injuries and fatalities, along with thousands of wildlife deaths.

**Dec. 7 Crossings!** This is a wonderful opportunity to get a better understanding of the threats of our highway systems to wildlife. Ben Goldfarb is the Colorado author of *Eager Beavers*, an excellent history of the value of beavers in our ecosystems. His new book is *Crossings: How Road Ecology is Shaping the Future of our Planet*. He will be sharing insights, discussions and a documentary, "Deer 139". 6:00 – 8:30 pm. Thursday, Dec. 7 - Colorado Mountain College, Breckenridge.

**December 28, 2023 is the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)!** The ESA is a testament to the power of partnerships and conservation successes we can achieve by working together. Hundreds of species are stable or improving thanks to conservation actions and partnerships with environmental protection groups and local, state and federal agencies.

### **TAKE ACTION: SAVE OUR CONFLUENCE!**

It's BACK! The Rincon Mine proposal on the banks of the Colorado River near the confluence with the Eagle River will be heard by the Eagle County Board of County Commissioners on Dec. 19, despite receiving two denials for a Special Use Permit by the Planning Commission. Even though Rincon has added some bells, whistles, and scant dollars to the proposal, it's time to stop this ill-conceived project once and for all! Rafters, Anglers, Recreationalists, Wilderness lovers, and people who drink water, unite!

Please write a letter to the County Commissioners at [planningcomments@eaglecounty.us](mailto:planningcomments@eaglecounty.us). See the [Save Our Confluence FB page](#) to learn more and find the many talking points for your letter

If you've written before, you still need to submit your letter again to [planningcomments@eaglecounty.us](mailto:planningcomments@eaglecounty.us).

Letters are due by **Dec. 18** and we will let you know the time of the BOCC meeting in Eagle when posted.

### **THANK YOU!**

For more information or to receive talking points and background by email, contact Susie Kincade, ESWA Advocacy Committee: [susie@ebcmarketing.com](mailto:susie@ebcmarketing.com)

### **SAVE THE DATE: WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL**

March 2, 2024 will be our second ESWA Wild and Scenic Film Festival at the Riverwalk in Breckenridge. There will be many amazing and inspiring films showcasing our interest in protecting Wild places. Please contact Karn Stiegelmeier at [karnstieg@comcast.net](mailto:karnstieg@comcast.net) if you have interest in volunteering to watch some of the remarkable films we get to choose from, or if you would like to volunteer to help the evening of the Festival.



### **ESWA ADVOCACY EFFORTS**

The issues impacting our local Wilderness Areas mount every year. From the Homestake proposal for a new reservoir at the expense of Holy Cross Wilderness acreage, to preserving Bighorn habitat in Vail, to passing the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act which would protect more than 300,000 Wilderness and public lands throughout the state, demands on our precious wild lands continually increase.

Because of ESWA's strong membership support and volunteerism, we have a small budget to offer occasional donations to 3rd-party causes. In 2023, we donated to Poudre Wilderness Volunteers after their wildfire, to the Town of Vail to protect Bighorn habitat, and to passing the CORE Act, among other initiatives that affect the Holy Cross Wilderness.

If you are an ESWA member and would like to offer input about issues we should support, or on any of our advocacy projects, the Advocacy Committee (AC) would like to hear from you. Further, the AC needs more active participation to meet growing demand. Please consider joining this proactive committee of ESWA. Contact Frances Hartogh, [frances.hartogh@gmail.com](mailto:frances.hartogh@gmail.com). Your involvement is welcomed and needed!

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## COLORADO GIVES DAY IS DECEMBER 5TH

When making your year-end tax-deductible gifts, please consider ESWA, an all-volunteer 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to assist the Forest Service in protecting and preserving Wilderness Areas in Summit and Eagle Counties. Donations received starting October 1 will be credited to your 2024 annual membership. Please be as generous as you can, and help ESWA “Keep Wilderness Wild!” Our heartfelt thanks to our committed donors and members.

Donate through our [website](#), or [Colorado Gives site](#)

Or mail to ESWA at PO Box 4504 Frisco, CO 80443.

New Member/donor policy this year:

We will use email confirmations for **renewing** memberships or donations to provide the IRS-suitable letter, but will mail a new ESWA sticker to donors upon request. **New** members and donors will still receive a printed letter, Trifold brochure and ESWA sticker. Donors of **\$250 and above** will get an email confirmation and an offer of a choice of our swag (photo notecards, T-shirt, ball cap or knit cuffed cap), rather than being sent an automatic gift.

Shown below are the 4 winning photos from 2023 which comprise the notecard sets.

1<sup>st</sup> prize Ellen Miller



Runners-up (L to R) Stan Wagon, Ellen Miller, Guy Warren:



Notecards and other swag are also available for purchase through our online site.

### **HELP ESWA GET \$\$\$\$\$ FOR FREE!!**

There is an easy way for you to give money to ESWA at no cost to you. City Market and King Soopers offers this opportunity. They will donate a percentage of every dollar you spend at their stores when you use your normal Loyalty Club Card. Here is all you need to do:

Go to the Community Rewards page on the King Sooper's website: <https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>.

Click "Enroll Now."

If you already have an online account, sign in using your email and password and skip to step 6.

If you don't have an account, click "Create Account" at the bottom of the page.

Enter the requested information and click "Create Account."

Under "Find an Organization" search for Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance.

Click Enroll.

***THAT'S IT. NOW EVERY TIME SHOP YOU GIVE BACK TO WILDERNESS. THANK YOU.***