

EAGLE SUMMIT WILDERNESS ALLIANCE



April 2022 Newsletter



ESWA IN THE NEWS



ESWA Chair-Elect Karn Stiegelmeier Honored by High Country Conservation Center for Environmental Work. On March 4, Karn received the well-deserved Tim McClure Lifetime Achievement Award for decades of passionate advocacy on behalf of the planet. We are fortunate to have Karn as one of our leaders championing our local Wilderness Areas. Read the full Summit Daily article on Karn and her award [here](#).

ESWA's Volunteer Programs Featured by the Vail Daily. Reporter John LaConte wrote a [profile](#) of ESWA on March 22 that appeared both online and in print. The article was republished in the [Summit Daily](#) a few days later, thanks to a request made by Karn. The response from new members and volunteers has been inspiring!



Regular Columns Going Strong. We hope you've been enjoying ESWA's weekly [Get Wild](#) column in the Summit Daily. ESWA also authors articles in the Vail Daily, through the Curious Nature column, arranged by

Walking Mountain Science Center. Check out the latest article on [Bobcats](#).



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. Our sawyers will now have new high visibility vests and hard hats, both for safety and to let the public know the tree clearing service is courtesy of ESWA sawyers.



Attendees of ESWA's group sawyer outings will now be identifiable by these cool vests and helmets.

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. At the end of the day, we will all gather to share stories, summer plans, and BBQ. If you are interested, send an email to mfrowning1952@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.



BEHIND THE SCENES: MAY 21 VWR TRAINING DAY

ESWA volunteers are busy preparing for the big day! Mike Browning, Mike Mayrer, and Ken Harper are reaching out to new applicants. Joan Betz is updating contact information for the training manual. We're finalizing the agenda and polishing the online video segments. Cool items for the VWR "goody bags" - notebook, wildflower book, USFS hat, dog leashes - are being ordered by Mike Mayrer. Dave Owens has ordered Wilderness regulations and dogs-on-leash cards, and Bill Betz arranged for reprinting the trifold brochure.

An important item to be pre-ordered is the VWR shirt. ESWA is proud of its long tradition of wearing the USFS shirt – with its official patch on the left side and volunteer patch on the right. These cotton-polyester shirts, in long- or short-sleeve, men's or women's sizes, **must be ordered by our USFS liaison Tyler Kirkpatrick**, using ESWA credit

card information, and require at least 3 weeks for the order to arrive. Since 2018, Joan has been handling the ESWA shirt inventory, and calculating what new shirts to order. (VWRs no longer wishing to participate must return their shirts, to be used by other rangers.)

So, if you want to participate in VWR training, PLEASE get your shirt size and sleeve-length preference to Mike Browning (mfbrowning1952@gmail.com) and Joan Betz (jbetz@regis.edu), **before April 19** so we can have a shirt for you on May 21!

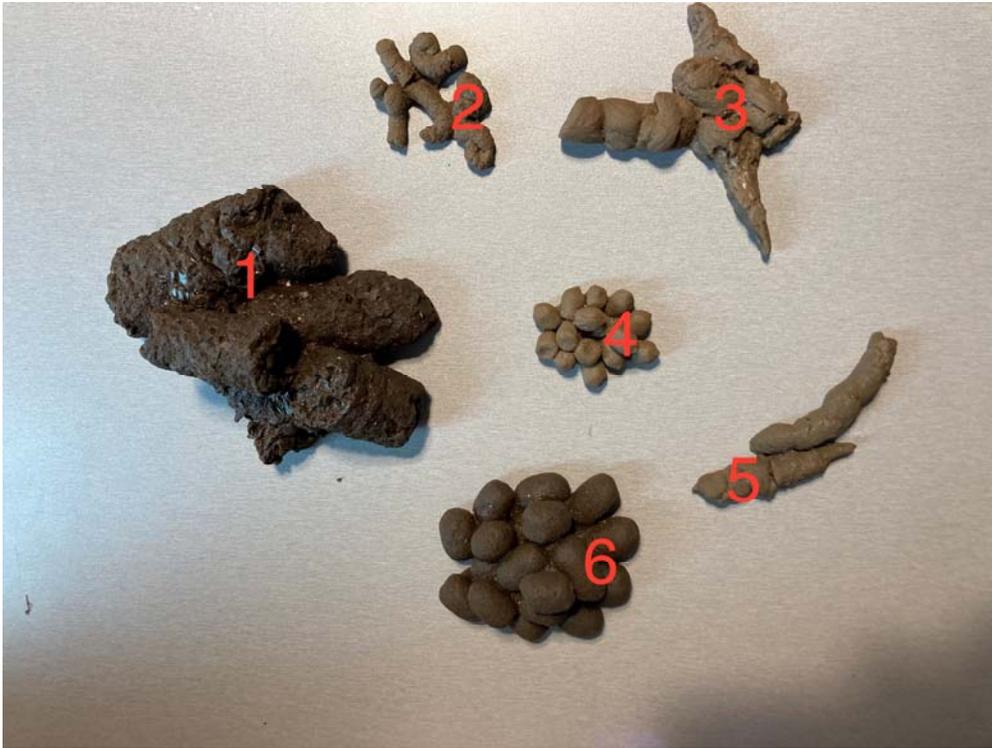


Check out the cool stuff new Volunteer Wilderness Rangers receive on completing training!

TAKE THE ESWA APRIL FOOL'S SCAT I.D. CHALLENGE!

Don't be a fool about the scat you see on the trail! Here's a chance to

practice. Identify as many of the wildlife droppings in the image below as you can. Click [HERE](#) to open an email, add your guesses, and click Send. All winning Scat Fools will be recognized in next month's Member Forum. If you include your mailing address, we might send a little something to winners!



Possible answers: Black bear, moose, coyote, mountain lion, turkey, mule deer

MEMBER FORUM: Karn's trail reminiscence

One of my favorite trails for many years is North Ten Mile. No secret! It is so heavily used that I have recently, very sadly, given up going there. This valley is so spectacular. The trail follows the creek with its waterfalls that are fun to see at different water levels, ponds and wetlands, and the

birds and wildlife in those wonderful habitats.

I have very fond memories of driving up there when I was learning to drive at age 15, long before it was Wilderness and before there were so many people in Summit County. I am very happy that it was established as Wilderness, and I've enjoyed hiking up there on a very regular, weekly, every-other-day basis until recent years.

It has been sad to give up this favorite trail, with the trailhead parking full and the parking at the entry to Main St Frisco also full. But, there is a secret: you can still find parking and space during the right time of year! You guessed it – late fall and early spring... and it is still a beautiful place. The creek is ever enchanting and the landscape changing and opening up as you get up higher is such a marvel. Then, you get beyond the most traveled, and into what I have



always enjoyed most of all as the valley opens up. You can continue toward two options – toward Vail Pass to the left or toward Meadow Creek Trail to the right. It is magnificent territory either way.

You can also do the opposite, and come from the top of Vail Pass down to North Ten Mile, or come from South Willow or Mesa Cortina to North Ten Mile as a great shuttle hike either way, and manage to avoid the crowds most of the way.



In the fall months, these trails tend to be full of mushrooms sequestering carbon and providing a possible wild mushroom meal for you (only if you are confident you know your mushrooms, of course). In the spring months, you may catch some of the early bloomers and great waterfall glories.

HELP WANTED: WEBSITE MANAGER



ESWA is seeking a **website manager**. We use Wix, the friendliest program imaginable. It's all copy-and-paste with no coding, ever. If you can use Word, you can learn Wix. We'll teach you. Bonus: With Wix, you can easily and for free make your own website for weddings, family reunions, and so forth. Please email info@eaglesummitwilderness.org with your interest.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT FDRD AND VVMTA

FDRD Casino Night - April 8, 6-9 pm: Join Friends of the Dillon Ranger District for their annual [Casino Night fundraiser](#) at 10 Mile Music Hall in Frisco! The night is full of games, good company, fundraising, and fun. Try your luck at poker, blackjack, roulette, and craps. If you win big, you'll have the chance to choose from an array of prizes. Guests can also peruse and bid on donated items in a huge online auction.

VVMTA Wildlife Trail Ambassador Training - April 6, 5:30-7:30 pm: Become a Wildlife Trail Ambassador! Join the Vail Valley Mountain Trail Alliance (in-person or virtual) to learn more about how you can help protect wildlife and our trails. Many Seasonal Wildlife Closures are in place and will be going into effect from April 15-June 20 and July 1. We need your help to educate trail users on why these closures are so

important and to inform them where they can recreate responsibly during the spring season.

Where: [Vail Mountain Coffee & Tea](#) in Minturn. Virtual option via Zoom.

What: Beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) & snacks provided.

Please register for the [in-person event here](#). If you can't attend in person, please register to [attend virtually here](#).

CORRECTION: ESWA CODE FOR KING SOOPERS/CITY MARKET

Apologies - last month's newsletter listed an incorrect code for ESWA's account - the correct number is below. 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**).

[Donate](#)



ESWA earned a 2022 Gold Seal of Transparency! Now, everyone can learn more about our organization [here](#).

Special thanks to our partners for making our work possible!



Also, thanks to our friends at Restop for their generous donation of another 100 WAG bags! ESWA Volunteer Wilderness Rangers report increasing piles of human and dog waste in the Wilderness, which pollutes our alpine lakes and streams and sickens wildlife. WAG stands for Waste Alleviation & Gelling – a powder in the inner bag absorbs moisture and smell, and bags are good for 2-3 uses. Our VWRs will be distributing (not demonstrating) WAG bags to Wilderness users this summer. Let's pack out the poop!



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