

**EAGLE SUMMIT
WILDERNESS ALLIANCE**



May 2022 Newsletter



HAPPY MAY DAY

And Happy Mother's Day, May 8, to ESWA moms and to all the wildlife

mothers who are nurturing their springtime newborns in our three Wilderness Areas. Mama moose, elk, deer, bear, bobcats, lynx, foxes, coyotes, and so many of our animal neighbors are caring for young now. As always, please keep your distance, try to stay on trail, and leash your dogs – a leash will help keep you and your pup safe from protective wildlife mothers!



VWRs — SAVE THE DATE FOR A PARTY!

ESWA will be throwing two parties in Summit and Eagle counties for new and returning VWRs to kick off the 2022 Patrol and Trailhead Hosting season:

- **Eagle party:** Wednesday, June 1 from 4-6 pm, E-Town Kitchen and Bar, in the Riverfront complex at 295 Main Street in Edwards.

- **Summit party:** Wednesday, June 8 from 4 to 5:30 pm, Highside Brewery, 720 Main Street in Frisco.

ESWA will buy your first beer while you connect with old friends, plan summer outings, and tell tall tales of your winter exploits. Details will be emailed to all VWRs in mid-May, but **put the date on your calendar now.**



UPDATE: SAVE THE VAIL BIGHORN HERD – MORE ACTION NEEDED!

Thanks to everyone who responded to our letter-writing campaign to encourage the Town of Vail Council to preserve critical bighorn sheep habitat above east Vail. In response to the outpouring of support, council members voted to approve a motion directing the Town Attorney to prepare a resolution of intent to condemn the property.

But we are not there yet! The vote was a close 4-3 with council members Foley, Langmaid, Mason, and Stauffer voting in favor and council members Coggin, Davis, and Seibert voting against.

We need you to:

- **Email council members** by tomorrow May 2 at publicinput.vailtowncouncil@vailgov.com and (1) thank them for beginning the process of condemning the parcel, and (2) encourage them to vote YES on the May 3 resolution to condemn the Booth Heights property and protect it as permanent wildlife habitat.
- **Consider attending** (in person or virtually) the 6pm Tuesday, May 3 Council meeting as council members consider the resolution of intent as an action item. This meeting will take place in the Vail Town Council Chambers, 75 S. Frontage Road. Public comment will be accepted in person or virtually by registering at vailgov.com/town-council.

Need more info? Email ESWA Advocacy Chair Frances Hartogh at frances.hartogh@gmail.com.

EVER WONDER HOW TREES ARE CLEARED FROM EAGLE AND SUMMIT US FOREST TRAILS?

Because of the devastation the [mountain pine beetle](#) caused from the 1990s to 2012, the Rocky Mountains are filled with stands of dead trees. As the roots of these trees die, the effects of snow and wind cause them to fall across our many trails in the Wilderness.

The US Forest Service clears many of these trails, but simply doesn't have the capability to clear everything. That's where groups like ESWA step in. ESWA has partnered with the Forest Service to clear trees from specific trails in Eagle and Summit counties – and all that work is done by volunteers using [vintage two-man crosscut saws](#) and other handsaws.

We'd love to have you join our team. There are two ways to volunteer. The first is to join our mailing list and volunteer with one of our certified Sawyers to clear a trail this summer. We'll email you when a clearing event is scheduled, and you can join when it is convenient for you.

The second way to volunteer is to become a certified Sawyer and help lead teams who clear trails. This requires first-aid certification, and completion of a free 8-hour online course, short evening session, and 2-day field certification program led by the Forest Service. Our 2022 training program is June 10-12.



2021's sawyer trainees celebrate a successful weekend of learning and trail clearing

If you're interested in volunteering, please send an email to info@eaglesummitwilderness.org and we'll send you more information.

LOTS OF WAYS TO VOLUNTEER THIS SUMMER

If you or someone you know is looking for a one-day volunteer opportunity that needs no advance training, ESWA will be offering several this summer:

- Sign installs
- Weed pulls
- Seed gathering
- Trail maintenance projects

Look for the dates to be announced in this newsletter or on our website. If you are interested in getting on the list for one or more of these opportunities, simply email us at info@eaglesummitwilderness.org.

NATIVE PLANT LOVERS (WEED HATERS!)



ESWA continues to fight invasive weed populations. Thanks to the dedicated work of Jim Alexander, ESWA received a grant from the [National Forest Foundation Ski Conservation Fund](#) to treat several noxious weed infestations professionally - for the fourth summer in a row! We also will be conducting several weed pulls - July 9 and 12 in Summit County in conjunction with FDRD, and in Eagle County (dates to be determined). On the native plant side, we hope to schedule seed gathering days in August or September. Seeds are used to preserve and replant native species. There are also opportunities to help the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens do an alpine plant inventory. Interested? Contact Jim Alexander at jimofcolorado@gmail.com.

Our thanks go to the NFF, Vail Corporation and the USFS for supporting this important project.

ESWA MEMBERS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

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 educate the public about our Wilderness Areas – here are just a few examples!

- Emily Elder delivered an inspiring ESWA and Wilderness presentation to CMC Sustainability students on Earth Day, and was [quoted](#) in the Summit Daily.
- Susie Kincade met with graduating CMC Sustainability students.
- Dave Brewster and Karn Stiegelmeier presented volunteer opportunities at the Healthy Forests Task Force meeting.
- Susie Kincade participated in Lobby Day at the Capitol, meeting with our state legislators and advocating for safe wildlife crossings and other environmental causes.
- Karn Stiegelmeier's and Susie Kincade's inspiring testimony to the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board led the Board to select the names "Nuchu" Creek in Summit County and "Colorow" Creek in Eagle County to replace the derogatory term "Squaw."
- Mike Browning, Frances Hartogh, and Susie Kincade participated in the USFS's open house on the Booth fuels reduction plan.
- Steve Elder, Frances Hartogh, and Susie Kincade participated in the Eagle County Wildlife Roundtable.
- And last, but certainly not least, Cindy Levin, active in Rotary, triggered invitations to speak to six different Rotary Clubs in the region, delivered by Bill Betz. In addition, a Vail Daily article about ESWA led to his speaking to the Eagle County Healthy Aging Program. The 7 talks were about Wilderness, ESWA, and 4 nearby sister organizations. ESWA attendees at talks included Frances Hartogh, Susie Kincade, and Mike Browning, and several people signed up to be VWRs!



ESWA presenter Bill Betz receives a certificate of appreciation from Bill Muirhead, Chair of the Broomfield Crossing Rotary Club.

ESWA APRIL FOOL'S SCAT I.D. CHALLENGE: ANSWERS AND WINNER

Thanks to everyone who participated in our fun challenge, and congratulations to **Bill Betz** for getting every answer correct! All answers are below.



Correct answers:

1 = black bear

2 = wild turkey

3 = mountain lion

4 = mule deer

5 = coyote

6 = moose

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.

THANKS TO OUR NEW SPONSOR, US BANK!

US Bank in Silverthorne, where ESWA does its banking, is our latest business sponsor for 2022!



If you know of a business that might be interested in supporting our Wilderness work, contact Steve Elder at info@eaglesummitwilderness.org.

Special thanks to our partners for making our work possible!



Donate

SIGN UP FOR AMAZON SMILE TO HELP ESWA!



Amazon Smile offers the same products and same prices as the Amazon site. Amazon will donate to ESWA 0.5% of every purchase you make – and it costs you nothing. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up. All you do is log in to Amazon using smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com. Sign in through smile.amazon.com each time you shop, so you might want to just bookmark that page.



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