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MESSAGE FROM INCOMING CHAIR KARN STIEGELMEIER

Thanks to all of you amazing ESWA volunteers, we have had an incredibly successful year, protecting our beloved Wilderness, and providing much-needed assistance to the USFS and our many visitors. Thank you to Steve Elder for his excellent leadership this year. I look forward to working with Steve next year as I take over the Chair position.

One reason we have been so successful is our many partnerships. An exciting upcoming opportunity is working with our partner Arapahoe Basin on the [Wild and Scenic Film Festival](#) in January 2023! ESWA will be the sole recipient of the proceeds. If you are interested in volunteering for that event, email me at karnstieg@comcast.net.

Also, if you are a bird watcher, please contact me if

you would like to participate in this year's Dec. 21 Audubon Bird Count in Summit County. We certainly want to keep those volunteer opportunities coming through the winter season!



Karn

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF LLAMA TRIPS!



This year, the llama program received a generous donation from Helen Barker, a long-time VWR for ESWA. A sincere thank you goes out from llama trip coordinator, Krista Hughes, and to her VWR mentor, Helen, for the support.

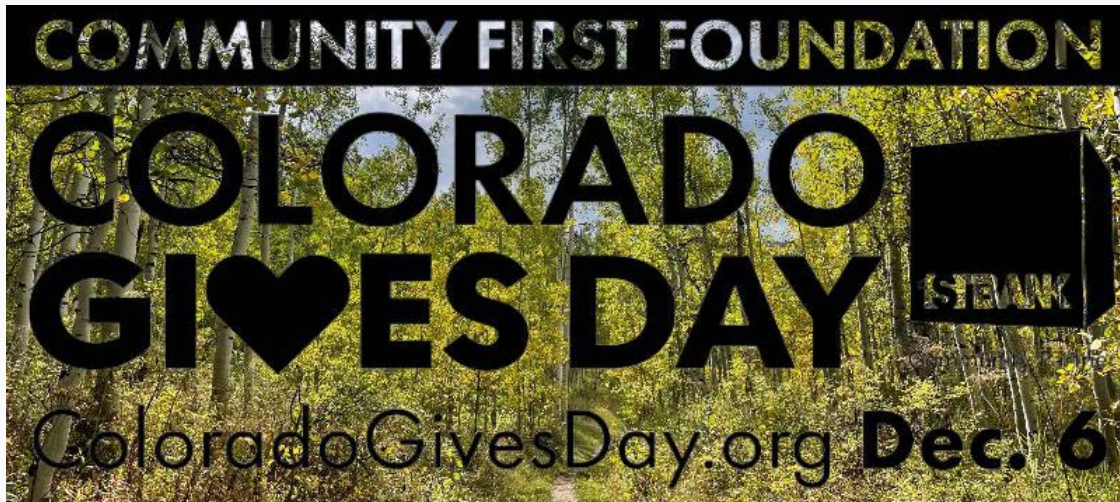


Helen Barker (right) and Krista Hughes

Each of ESWA's llama trips this year was a great success. ESWA annually funds and hires the llamas, Dom & Monty, for the ESWA-hosted llama trips as well as for the USFS to use for other projects throughout the summer. Of the four trips ESWA hosted this year, two were in the Eagles Nest Wilderness and two in the Holy Cross Wilderness. Nolan Lake, Slate Lake, Lake Charles, and Upper Cataract Lake each benefitted from a long weekend of hard work leading to improvements around the lakes and on the trails to the lakes. Some highlights from each trip:

- Nolan Lake: Removed and rehabbed 20 illegal fire rings and illegal campsites around the lake, and cleared 5 major trail blockages.
- Slate Lake: Cleared 24 trees blocking the trail between Slate Lake and Upper Slate Lake, removed and rehabbed a handful of fire rings, and removed over 24 pounds of musk thistle heads.
- Lake Charles: Removed and rehabbed over 37 illegal fire rings, cleared 17 trees blocking the trail, and installed a sign saying "No Campfires above this Point" along the trail a short distance before Lake Charles.
- Upper Cataract Lake: Removed and rehabbed 13 illegal fire rings, cleared 27 trees blocking the trail, and educated many overnight Wilderness users about why campfires were not permitted around the lake.

We'd also like to give a special shout out to all of this summer's trip leaders for their hard work on the trips, and also the hours of time that went into planning a fun, safe outing. Thanks Emily Elder, Krista Hughes, Mike Browning, and Ken Christie! And, finally, THANK YOU to all of the volunteers and our USFS colleagues who joined these trips and gave 110% to helping preserve the Wilderness experience for all!



WOW, A NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT IN OUR MIDST!



Thanks to President Biden, Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, Congressman Neguse, and all the hardworking advocates – especially the amazing Susie Kincade – the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument became a reality! On October 12, Air Force 1 flew into the Eagle County Airport, and a convoy of vehicles whisked President Biden up to Camp Hale to sign the document creating the Monument. History was made!



Congressman Neguse with President Biden



Susan Kincade and State Senator Kerry Donovan at the Monument celebration

ALERT! RENEW YOUR ESWA MEMBERSHIP BEFORE YEAR END – WHY NOT TODAY?

ESWA is a membership-based organization – and because we are an all-volunteer organization, 100% of your contribution goes directly to support our programs! Donations received from October 1 through December 31 will credit to your 2023 annual membership. Visit the [Join/Donate page](#) on ESWA's website or donate through the [Colorado Gives Day website](#). (Colorado Gives Day is December 6, but you can donate through their website at any time.) You can also mail a check to ESWA at P.O. Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443-4504. Choose from several

membership levels, each with its own reward (in addition to helping protect Wilderness). Please be as generous as you can. Help ESWA "Keep Wilderness Wild"!

Did you know you can dedicate your donation or target it for a specific purpose? ESWA also welcomes corporate donations. Here are just a few examples from this year:

Donations in honor or memory:

Tom and Carol Oster in memory of their son Jake
Alicia Ten Eyck in honor of Tom and Sharon Copper
Susan Coulson in memory of Roy E. Carlson
Joan Tilden in memory of Loraine and Colin Nicholson
Marijean DeCesaris in memory of her sister Pat Daily

Dian Wilson donated generously to ESWA's Endowment program in memory of her husband Alan, creating The Alan D. and Dian H. Wilson Endowment for Wilderness.

Corporate donations:

A-Basin and their Employee Environmental Fund
West, Huntley Gregory law firm
Infinite Scope, Inc.
West Vail Liquor Mart
Restop in-kind donation of WAG bags

Targeted Gifts:

Genie Roosevelt for Sawyer program
Helen Barker for Llama trips
Barbara and John Schuette for Trail Maintenance

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our committed donors and members!

**WINNING PHOTOS FEATURED IN ESWA NOTECARDS –
AVAILABLE NOW!**



Krista Hughes, 1st Place in 2022 Photo Contest

Just in time for the holidays, purchase ESWA's lovely notecards featuring the three winning photos from this year's contest. Notecards make great gifts, while also supporting ESWA's mission. A box of 12 cards with envelopes is just \$25 (postage included). Email store@eaglesummitwilderness.org.

Speaking of giving, ESWA member-donors joining or renewing at the \$250 level and above receive a complimentary box of notecards.

WEEDSPOTTERS ALREADY LOOKING TO 2023!

After another great season fighting Noxious Weeds, the WeedSpotter team is planning several ambitious new programs for 2023:

1. Weed Pull(s) - We will take part in a Summit County Weed Pull day with several other organizations. Hopefully it will pull in a hundred or so Weed Pullers.
2. Weed-Free Forage and Pellet program - It is important for horses and other pack animals to have weed-free feed while in the

backcountry. This new program will work across the two counties to promote the use of weed-free products with equestrian and hunting groups.

3. Biological Controls - We are investigating biological agents for killing noxious weeds, and may experiment with one in 2023.

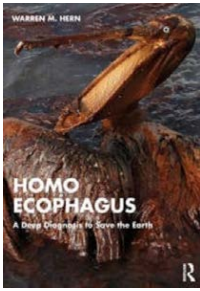
These events will take significant planning through the Winter. E-mail jimofcolorado@gmail.com if you would like to help out.

CPW STUDY SHOWS EAGLE COUNTY RESIDENTS VALUE WILDLIFE HABITAT

A [recent study](#) by Colorado Parks and Wildlife in cooperation with the Eagle County Wildlife Roundtable shows that residents prefer seeing wildlife habitat protected even if that limits future outdoor recreation opportunities or land use development projects.



MEMBER NEWS: Dr. Warren Hern, public health physician and Chairman of the Holy Cross Legal Defense Fund, who was pivotal in stopping Homestake II, reports publication of his new book, *Homo Ecophagus: A Deep Diagnosis to Save the Earth*. Homo Ecophagus (man



who devours the ecosystem) presents an interesting in-depth understanding of how the global ecological crisis has developed over thousands of years, what it means for the future of the human species, and what can still be done to avoid self-extinction. A description of the book, and ordering information, are on the Routledge Press [website](#). The book is available in several formats – including an e-copy for \$23!

FINAL 2022 STATS - ESWA'S VWRs HAD A GREAT SEASON!

110 VWRs contacted almost 13,000 Wilderness visitors during nearly 2,200 hours of patrolling and TH hosting. Digging into the details:

ESWA Volunteer Wilderness Rangers:

- 110 different VWRs did 327 different patrols
- 2,073 Hours on Patrol
- 10,489 Day Users contacted
- 190 Fire Safety conversations
- 922 Overnight Users contacted
- 1,483 Dogs encountered (73% on leash)

ESWA Trailhead Hosts:

- 20 different TH Hosts did 36 hosting shifts at 12 different Trailheads
- 125 Total Hours TH Hosting
- 1,358 Day Users in 518 different groups
- 100 Overnight Users in 58 different groups
- 26 Fire Safety conversations
- 233 dogs were encountered (93% on leash)

A HUGE THANKS to all of our great VWRs. And to Guy Warren for compiling these statistics.

TWO FREE WAYS TO PROVIDE ESWA MUCH-NEEDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **Sign up for City Market & King Soopers Community Rewards – 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).
- **Sign up for Amazon Smile.** 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 bookmark that page.

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Special thanks to our partners for making our work possible!





The Summit Foundation
Soul of the Summit



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