



Colorado Wild Public Lands

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SUMMER HAPPENINGS & CALL TO ACTION

Hello COWPL Members and Friends,

This summer, there are many reminders of our snowy winter, as shown in the winning photos from our Avy Debris Photo Contest, see the winner by Finn Beidleman above!

We have several successes to share this summer. We also want to alert you to a frightening threat to our Public Lands, and let you know how you can readily help, see more below.

One way to get involved, is to join Colorado Wild Public Lands at our regular Board Meeting at 23272 Two Rivers Road on Wednesday July 3 from 5:30-7:30 pm. There'll be drinks and snacks plus opportunities for discussion.

COWPL's successes happen because of you, your interest, your volunteer time and your donations. Thank you for all you do!

PHOTO CONTEST AND WINNERS!



Thank you to all who entered enter our Colorado Public Lands Day Avy Debris Photo Contest. We received over 30 great photos. Participants at Basalt Library's Non-Profit Volunteer Fair in May (above left) helped us to select the top avy debris photos. Congratulations to Finn Beidleman whose Conundrum Creek image (top) won first place, and to Matt Lanning for his second place photo of the Mace Hut (above right).

COWPL in the News

COWPL's name, mission and work are becoming better known in our community and throughout the state! We continue to educate and inform people about our rights on our public lands. We actively assist Colorado communities confounded by, or working on, proposed privately driven land exchanges.

To expand our scope, increase funding and further educate we've recently been involved in the following:

- Presentation at DEVO and Healthy Community Fund
- Basalt Non-Profit Volunteer Fair
- Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days in Paonia
- Coordination/partnering with Wild Earth Guardians
- Presentation/discussion with the Tourism Council of Carbondale

Call to Action!

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests are updating their Forest Plan!

See https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd638492.pdf and <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd541791>

We have a stake in the future of these public lands including those near Marble, McClure Pass and Crested Butte.

Submit your comments on the working draft of the plan **by July 29** via:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=51806>

OR Email to gmugforestplan@fs.fed.us OR post to 2250 South Main Street, Delta, CO 81416

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the bedrock of environmental advocacy. The Forest Service has proposed a major revision that weakens its NEPA procedures.

See <https://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nepa/revisions/index.shtml>

Join us in making lots of noise to prevent agency decision-makers from implementing methods to **evade the required disclosure of impacts** and **cutting out the public** from the review process. **Submit your comments by August 12.**

Here are some of the reasons that you can use in your own words.

- The proposed rule cuts the public out of many decisions about activities on national forest lands, contrary to the NEPA law's clear direction to involve the public.
- Large areas could be logged or burned without any consideration of the possible impacts, and in some cases, without any opportunities for public input!
- Many miles of new roads and trails could be constructed and existing roads reconstructed with no analysis of impacts.
- Potential impacts from projects and activities must be analyzed before approving and implementing them.

COWPL will host an evening event in mid-late July to explain the issues and provide talking points.

Submit comments via:

Public participation portal: [https:// www.regulations.gov/](https://www.regulations.gov/). Go directly to the page for the proposed regulation at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FS-2019-0010-0001>

OR Postal mail: NEPA Services Group, c/o Amy Barker; USDA Forest Service, 125 South State Street, Suite 1705, Salt Lake City, UT 84138 OR Email: nepa-procedures-revision@fs.fed.us.



This early summer view is from the public land that provides access between two privately owned parcels, connecting to Gunnison National Forest lands and the Raggeds Wilderness. To see for yourself, take the turn to Paonia State Park off Highway 133 and continue driving on County Road 2 until you reach Deep Creek where you can park and access a faint hiking trail.

We remember with caring and appreciation, one of our founding members, John McCormick. John was an advocate of equality and justice, an avid reader, writer, and philosopher, and a great dancer. John was greatly loved everywhere he went, everywhere he ever worked, everywhere he ever lived. The lifelong yearning he had was to live in the mountains and to be in the wild, out in the elements, he always said, with sleet or rain or wind or snow biting his skin and letting him know he was fully alive. Wildness was his passion and delight.

"If we must dance with death on our shoulders, we can dance our dreams, old and new, awake again, too." - John McCormick

To all our members - Please continue to keep your membership current.

You can pay via check or via Pay Pal on our website.

Ed Abbey \$20 - Membership

Pinchot \$100 - One Attorney Hour

Roosevelt \$1,000 - Special Projects

Consider additional donations if possible, and share our work with friends.

COWPL also gets donations from Amazon Smile and City Market, when you shop there. (Registration is required on line).

Thank you for your support!

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