



# Colorado Wild Public Lands

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**Hello COWPL Members and Friends,**

**This is a time of frequent new threats to our Public Lands, many of which are surprising and shocking. Yet it is also a time of opportunity for us to MAKE A DIFFERENCE. We'd like to share these recent examples:**

**THREAT:** The Forest Service proposed a major revision that would weaken NEPA procedures, the bedrock of environmental advocacy.

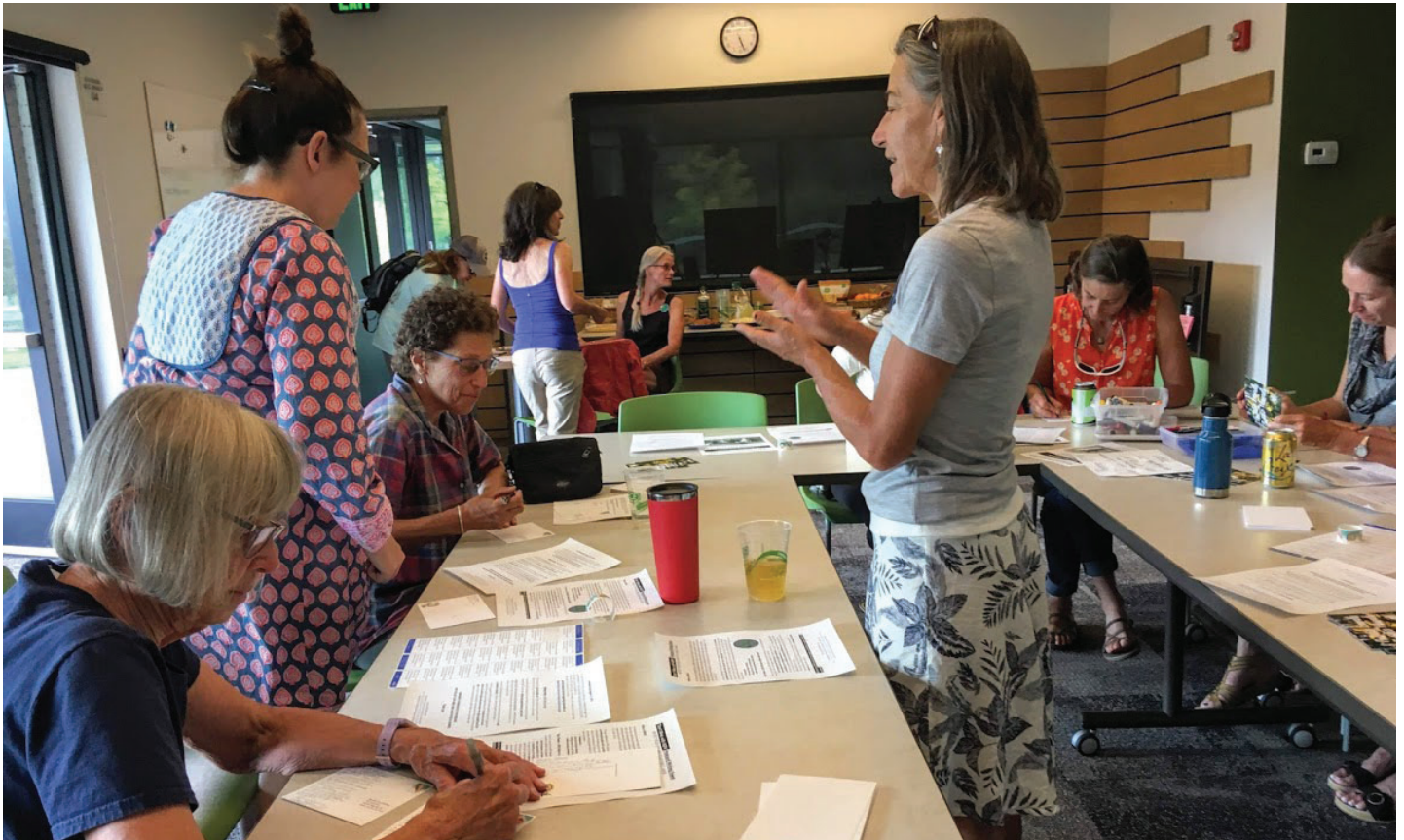
**ACTION:** COWPL teamed with Women for Wildlands and the Roaring Fork Conservancy to sponsor a POSTCARD WRITING session, we provided information to our members to voice their concerns, and we submitted in-depth comments explaining the importance of keeping the NEPA rules intact.

**SUCCESS:** Due to Public outcry, the Forest Service extended the deadline for comments. 43,430 comments were received and are being reviewed. You can see them here: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FS-2019-0010>

## **MORE THREATS:**

1. The **BLM** chooses new acting Director William Perry Pendley, an **advocate for the sale of public lands**. See: [https://www.backcountryhunters.org/new\\_blm\\_leader\\_is\\_advocate\\_for\\_sale\\_of\\_public\\_land](https://www.backcountryhunters.org/new_blm_leader_is_advocate_for_sale_of_public_land)
2. The Department of Interior Secretary, David Bernhardt, orders **e-bike access on federal land** on all trails where non-motorized bicycles can go, including National Park lands. See: <https://www.nationalparkstraveler.org/2019/08/interior-secretary-moves-expand-ebike-access-national-parks> and <https://www.digitaltrends.com/cars/interior-secretary-bernhardt-orders-ebike-access-on-federally-owned-land/>





*COWPL and Women for Wildlands NEPA Postcard writing event held at Roaring Fork Conservancy*

3. There is ongoing **defunding of federal land management agencies** so that they cannot manage their lands effectively.

## **MORE ACTIONS:**

1. We have a Democratic House of Representatives, so let's lobby our representatives and get some traction against these actions. **Call, email or write with your opinions and desired actions.** Contact information: <https://www.coloradononprofits.org/advocacy/public-policy-resources/contact-colorados-members-congress>

2. **Prepare for and vote in the next election**, just one year away - November 3, 2020.

Your voice counts!

3. Celebrate **National Public Lands Day** Saturday September 28, by volunteering on a public lands project in your area.

**Please continue to support COWPL and our work!**  
**Here are ways you can help:**

1. **If we can reach our goal of \$50K in donations this year we'll be eligible for Colorado Gives Day** –The last few years we've been about \$5K short – **Consider increasing your gift by 20% this year to help get us there** - **Participation in this drive will increase the impact of your gift!** You can pay via check or via Pay Pal on our website, <http://coloradowildpubliclands.org/>

### **2. Volunteer with us!**

Send us an email at [coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com](mailto:coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com) and let us know your interest - clerical, policy, research, event planning, graphics, or support. We'll match you up with a fun opportunity.

### 3. City Market Rewards for your Wild Public Lands

If you have a City Market loyalty card, supporting your public lands is as easy as 1-2-3!

1) Click **enroll** and log in to your account at [www.citymarketcommunityrewards.com](http://www.citymarketcommunityrewards.com)

2) Search for **Colorado Wild Public Lands** or **WHO42**

3) Click **Enroll** and you're ready to support your public lands while you run errands!

Learn more at: <https://www.citymarket.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>

**One sign up and you'll be providing ongoing support to COWPL at no extra cost to you!**



## You are invited to the next Colorado Wild Public Lands Board Meeting!

at 23272 Two Rivers Road, Basalt on Wednesday October 2 from 5:30-7:30 pm.

There are several interesting topics, including local and national issues. We'd like to hear and get direction from you, our members! We'll provide appetizers and drinks.

## COWPL at Work

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. Here are updates on several more projects we are engaged in:

1. **Sutey Land Exchange** - We are awaiting the outcome of our lawsuit - if the lawsuit is decided in COWPL's favor, all our legal fees will be refunded!
2. **Blue Valley Proposed Land Exchange** - We retained Mr Matt Kenna, a FOIA attorney, to help COWPL obtain the information we'd requested through the FOIA process. With his help, we received the information AND a refund for Mr Kenna's fees!
3. **Dorais Way Public Access in Redstone** - Homeowners on Dorais Way are trying to stop the allowed public access by removing the County's signs and replacing them with "No Trespassing" signs. The BOCC is taking action to ensure that Dorais Way remains a public access. [More discussion to follow at our Board Meeting.](#)
4. **Independence Pass Winter Camera Project** - At our next Board meeting, we will discuss teaming with the Independence Pass Foundation to buy and install a backcountry video camera following the incident last spring when snowmobilers were caught riding in designated National Forest Wilderness. See <https://www.denverpost.com/2019/07/17/snowmobiles-independence-pass-july/>

## MORE UPCOMING COWPL EVENTS

### Meet 'n Greet with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

October 10, 5:30-7:30 pm at BATCH in Carbondale

### Watercolors for Wildlands

October 15, 5:30-7:30 pm at 23272 Two Rivers Road, Basalt.

With Amy Beidleman, \$30 all supplies included; \$20 bring your own supplies  
Space is limited to ten, so sign up soon via email to [coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com](mailto:coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com)





This early Fall photo was taken on the popular Arbaney Kittle trail in Basalt. This year, our lower elevation oak, serviceberry and rabbitbrush are glowing with color, as are the higher elevation meadows of alpine tundra.

**We are fortunate to have easily accessible public lands where we can enjoy brilliant fall color displays. Let's continue to protect them!**

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**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, see above).

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

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