



FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

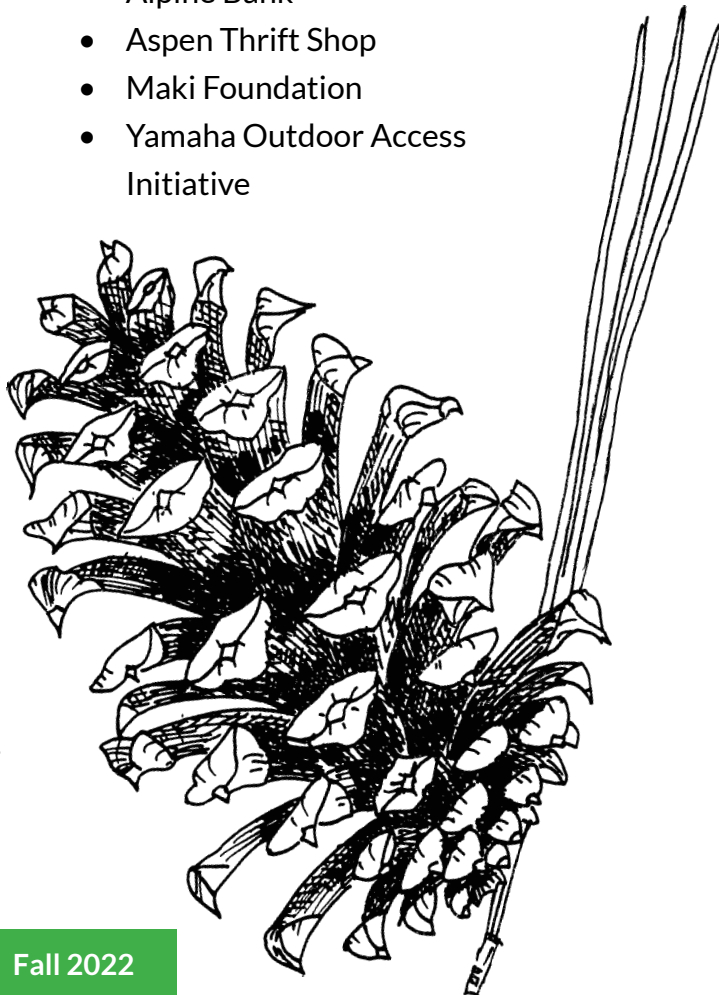


Dear Colorado Wild Public Lands (CWPL) Members,

The 2022 summer has been an extraordinarily active one for CWPL. We've been knee-deep in Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, litigation cases, new land exchanges, Board of Directors summits, and more. We're excited to share our work with you!

Thank you to all our members for your engagement and support! Additionally, we thank our grantors so far this year, who help make possible the special projects and outreach described below:

- Pitkin County Healthy Community Fund
- Alpine Bank
- Aspen Thrift Shop
- Maki Foundation
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative



Upcoming Fall Events

- **Another Speaker Series Event!**
 - If you enjoyed our Spring speaker series event Public Lands: Recreation vs. Conservation, you'll be excited to hear we're planning another one for this fall/winter (details still TBD).
 - If you have public lands issues you'd like to see discussed in a public forum, please reach out to us.
- **Next Board Meeting Wednesday, 1/4/2023**
 - 23272 Two Rivers Road, Basalt at 5:30 pm
 - Attend in person or virtually! Email coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com for the Zoom link and/or if you'd like to check out the minutes from our October 5 meeting!

Land Exchange Updates

Mt. Emmons (A.K.A. Red Lady)

Although this exchange has the trappings of one that CWPL would likely support, our primary concerns have centered on the public involvement opportunities (or lack thereof) originally proposed. Our comments on August 31 (available on the project website) helped influence the inclusion of a public Forest Service open house on September 14. We have also advocated for public release of relevant exchange documents and “tying” the proposed conservation easement to the exchange itself, both of which we await answers on.



Photo courtesy of High Country Conservation Alliance



Valle Seco

On June 28, the Forest Service (USFS) announced they had reached a decision to move forward with the Valle Seco exchange. CWPL partnered with San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA) to issue a formal complaint to the exchange on September 23. We await response.

Blue Valley Ranch

After over a year of fighting for documents vital to the public’s review of this exchange, the BLM has finally released a less-redacted version of Binding Land Exchange Agreement. We still await additional documents requested and a settlement proposal for the litigation CWPL has brought forth in order to achieve this document release. This struggle for basic government transparency began with a FOIA request in July 2021.



Recent Happenings



Board Summit

On August 17, CWPL's board of directors and staff met for a work session to discuss organizational strategy and how to be more effective in pursuit of our mission. Some of our takeaways include:

- Becoming involved earlier in land exchanges through relationship building within BLM and Forest Service and with government officials,
- Completing our land exchange database tool for improved analysis capabilities,
- Pursuing increased outreach throughout the state to promote CWPL's mission of public lands access advocacy in Colorado for land exchanges.

FOIA Overview

Since 1967, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has provided any member of the public the right to request access to records from any federal agency. Federal agencies are required to disclose any information requested through FOIA unless it falls under one of nine exemptions. FOIA is a big part of our work here at CWPL. It is a vital tool for the retrieval of important information about land exchanges (LEXs), and it has helped us expose some of their most problematic practices. Here's how we use it:



1. Determine that the information we seek isn't already available through the LEX or elsewhere.
2. Submit a formal FOIA request to the appropriate agency with all desired information.
3. The agency reviews the request and compiles a response.
4. COWPL reviews the response and determines if it has adequately addressed our request.
5. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until all requested information is received, or, if necessary, bring in legal counsel to pursue formal FOIA litigation.

End of Year Fundraising Drive

The extreme busyness we've felt at CWPL over 2022 has been taxing on both our small staff and our limited budget. The pursuit of government transparency in the land exchange process has required more internal and contracted expert input than in years past and trends we've noticed in land exchange frequency indicate we're only headed for more.

Can we count on you to help meet our year-end goal of raising an additional \$20,000 by the new year?

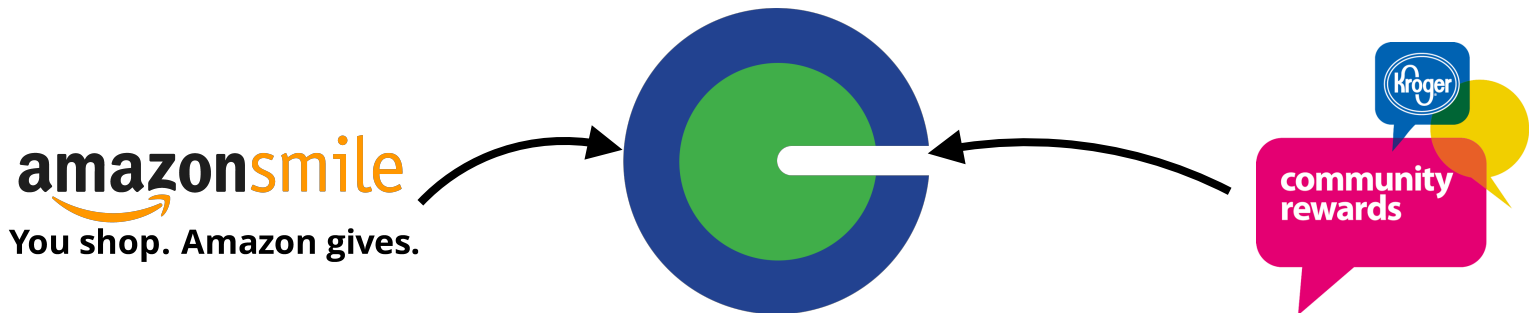
Donations can be made on our website or by mailing cash or check to P.O. Box 1772, Basalt, CO 81621.

Keep it Open, Keep it Ours

Thank you!

- The CWPL Board of Directors: Franz Froelicher, Jean Perry, James Katzenberger, Anne Rickenbaugh, Stefanie Davis, Erica Rosenberg, Hawk Greenway, Nina Itin, and Neil Levine.

P.S. Did you know you can support to Colorado Wild Public Lands every time you shop at [Amazon](#) and [Kroger stores](#) (City Market, King Soopers)? [Here's how to sign up!](#)



1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com
3. Select Colorado Wild Public Lands
4. Shop and earn money for CWPL!
Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for CWPL.

For the Amazon Shopping app:

1. Navigate to the main menu (≡)
2. Tap on Settings and then select "AmazonSmile"
3. Select CWPL and then follow the on-screen instructions to turn ON AmazonSmile in the mobile app
4. Shop and earn money for CWPL!

1. Create a digital account.

A digital account is needed to participate in Kroger Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward Colorado Wild Public Lands.

2. Link your Card to CWPL.

Selecting to support CWPL is as simple as updating the Kroger Community Rewards selection on your digital account.

- a. Sign in to your digital account.
- b. Select "Community Rewards" from the menu
- c. Enter Colorado Wild Public Lands or our I.D. number: WH042
- d. Select us from the list and click "Save".

3. Shop and earn money for CWPL!