



Summer Newsletter 2020

Colorado Wild Public Lands

PO Box 1772, Basalt, CO 81621



Wild Iris at Twin Lakes

Hello COWPL Members and Friends,

Thank you for your continued support and recognition of the importance of our public lands!

During the last few months, we've grown sharply aware of health inequities and social justice issues in our country. At COWPL, we are deeply disappointed that instead of recognizing the key role our public lands play in providing equities and access to the outdoors for all, the current administration remains intent on reducing environmental protections and threatening the sanctity of public lands. Just one example of value, is how natural vegetation on public lands acts as a filter and contributes to clean air and clean water, thereby promoting public health and mitigating climate change. As we move closer to November elections, campaigning to maintain the quality, size and integrity of our public lands is more crucial than ever.

Here are some of COWPL's recent successes, ongoing Public Lands challenges, and suggestions of ways YOU can make a difference. Thank you for engaging with us 🙏.

COWPL's Successes

"Keep the Wild Inside" Photo Contest to Celebrate Colorado Public Lands Day

We received a wonderful selection of photos for our "Bring the Wild Inside" Photo Contest in honor of Colorado Public Lands Day. We loved them all! Congratulations to the winner, Sarah Emery (an intern at COWPL) for her photo titled "Camping season so far and we've found some wonderful views from the yard". And thank you to all the entrants! We hope you continue to use the opportunity to celebrate responsibly OUTSIDE.



Photo Contest - Winning Photo by Sarah Emery

Colorado Academy Grant

We are grateful to the Colorado Academy for their generous grant to help COWPL with outreach and education, especially to the younger generations. See below, and stay tuned for upcoming events.

While the country was looking the other way...

Trump uses "emergency" status of pandemic to further roll back environmental protections

In early June, President Trump signed an executive order instructing agency heads (former oil lobbyist David Bernhardt of the Department of the Interior, former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler of the EPA, and Interim head of the Bureau of Land Management William Perry Pendley) to waive long-standing environmental laws in order to speed up the federal approval of new mines, highways, and oil and gas pipelines. Citing an economic "emergency" gives the President the authority to invoke a section of federal law which allows, "action with significant environmental impact" without observing the requirements of NEPA or the Clean Air & Water Act citing the two as "unnecessary

regulatory delays”. Read more at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/climate/trump-environment-coronavirus.html>

NEPA News

Over the last year, COWPL has been working hard and has held several outreach events to protect our bedrock environmental law, the National Environmental Policy Act. The fundamental changes weakening NEPA proposed by the administration in January are currently under review by the White House Office of Management and Budget, and a decision could be finalized in the next few weeks. Read more at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2020/06/04/trump-sign-order-waive-environmental-reviews-key-projects/>

Good News

On June 17, the Senate took its final vote on the Great American Outdoors Act and passed the bill 73 to 25. Spearheaded by Senators Cory Gardner and Steve Daines (both Republicans are up for reelection this year) the bill has broad bipartisan support, and would commit \$1.9 billion a year to conservation, recreation and park maintenance and provide full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Read more at: <https://www.outdooralliance.org/blog/2020/4/14/whats-happening-with-the-great-american-outdoors-act>

Vote! Your voice counts!

Make sure you are registered to vote! Colorado's PRIMARY ELECTION DAY is Tuesday June 30. There are important federal, state, and local races on the ballot. Congress (that includes members of the senate and the house of representatives) controls the budget of land management agencies. Public land management and stewardship is dependent on their support and funding. And the Administration (the President and the executive branch) has broad discretion over agency policies.

These are the details you should know:

- Every Coloradan who is registered to vote at their current address will receive a ballot in the mail.
- If you are a registered Democrat or Republican, you will be mailed the ballot of the party you are registered with. If you are an unaffiliated voter, you will receive both a democratic and a republican ballot. You can ONLY vote and return one. If you mark and return both ballots, they will both be rejected and your vote will not count.
- You can return your ballot by mail OR drop it off at any drop box. To find a drop box near you, visit www.justvotecolorado.org*. To vote by mail you must mail your ballot by June 22nd. If by June 22nd you have NOT received your ballot you can visit a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) in your county to receive a ballot. You can find a VSPC near you at justvotecolorado.org
- You can make sure that you are registered to vote at your current address or register to vote for the first time by visiting www.GoVoteColorado.com. You can also register in person on the same day you vote at a Voter Service and Polling Center.
- **Ballots must be received by 7PM on Tuesday, June 30th.** Ballots postmarked on June 30th but received later will not count.

HOLD THE DATE: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3RD GENERAL ELECTION

Please continue to support COWPL and our work! Here's how you can help:

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

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!



Volunteer with us!

Send us an email at 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.

Upcoming Colorado Wild Public Lands Board Meeting!

at 23272 Two Rivers Road, Basalt on **Wednesday July 1 from 5:30-7:30 pm.**

Please email us at coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com if you have any items you'd like us to discuss and/or if you'd like to join the meeting via Zoom.

COWPL in the Works

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 is an update on a current project we are engaged in:

Buffalo Horn Proposed Land Exchange - We received and analyzed the appraisals for the private and public lands in the proposed exchange. COWPL's analysis determined that the appraisals for the private and the federal lands have been treated differently and inconsistently, particularly the question of access. In addition, parcels C1 and F5 are undervalued. These are a few highlights from our report:

- The federal appraisal relies on a hypothetical condition that exempts federal lands from appropriate additional analysis, specifically, the before and after approach. Consideration of before and after conditions will show that the exchange adds value to both the acquired public parcels and to the existing Buffalo Horn parcels. The situation of C1 and F5 enhance their pre-exchange assemblage, recreation and agricultural value. Post-exchange, the proponent will benefit from and control access to C1 and F5.
 - The appraisal instructions incorrectly create an aggregated "larger parcel". COWPL's analysis shows that the criteria for creating a "larger parcel" are not met in this case. The sizes and values of parcels C1 and F5 are considerably greater than the other parcels and merit separate appraisals.
 - The appraisals over-emphasize the value of motorized access to properties in the exchange, inappropriately discounting the value of the federal lands and over-valuing the non-federal parcels. Several of the 16 selected comparable sales share similar access to C1 and F5 and support buyers' willingness to acquire these properties at market prices.
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Do you know where this photo was taken in early summer this year?

Email the name of the location to coloradowildpubliclands@gmail.com for a chance to win a gift certificate from Bristlecone Mountain Sports. We are fortunate to have easily accessible public lands where we can enjoy flowing clean creeks and rivers. Let's continue to protect them.

**Tour the Trails with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers and COWPL
Saturday July 12, 2020, 9 am to 1 pm at Lake Christine**

"Remembering the Past, Imagining the Future", is the theme for this visit to the Lake Christine burn area. ACES's forest and climate director will be on hand to talk about the science of wildfire regrowth. **Suzanne Jackson** of COWPL will lead a creative art and visioning activity. Sign up with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers by emailing jbaker@rfov.org

To all our members - Please continue to keep your membership current, consider additional donations if possible, and share our work with friends. You can pay via check or via Pay Pal on our website, <http://coloradowildpubliclands.org/>

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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