

Boulder County Nature Association



"The Boulder County Nature Association is a private, non-profit membership organization committed to preserving the natural history of our region through research, documentation, and public education."

Volume 31, Number 2
Spring 2013

Protecting Walker Ranch

Peter Kleinman

As part of our mission as the Boulder County Nature Association, we have sent the following letter to the County Commissioners concerning the possible development of a trail through a vital area of Walker Ranch and surrounding areas. We feel as a Board that it is vitally important to advocate for environmentally sound policies as the demand for usage by various groups inevitably increases and puts pressure on remaining pristine and valuable land. I want to urge you to read the letter and weigh in as individuals as you deem appropriate, since it is only by expressing these views that they will be heard. I would also urge you to consider joining our Conservation Committee, which we hope will increasingly respond to conservation questions of importance as they come up. Thank you all for supporting our efforts, and let's all make our organization ever more vital in the future.

Dear Commissioners Domenico, Gardner, and Jones:

As discussions advance concerning the development of a regional trail from the west side of Boulder to the Peak to Peak Highway, the Boulder County Nature Association (BCNA) wishes to express its point of view. BCNA has a stated mission "to preserve the natural history of our region through research, documentation and public education." We believe the Walker Ranch property, especially the north part of the property, has unique value, the preservation of which will depend on its remaining relatively undisturbed and unfragmented.

BCNA strongly endorses the following general principles:

- A. Above all, we wish to protect unique and declining natural communities and ecosystems as mandated by the objectives and policies outlined in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP); Environmental Resources Element of the Environmental Conservation Areas (ECA).
- B. Protection of critical wildlife habitats and plant communities can only occur through minimization of human impacts that lead to fragmentation, especially in sensitive areas.

- C. As promised in the Comprehensive Plan, the Environmental Conservation Area element should be the guideline for future planning.

- D. We support the development of at least one environmentally sensitive link to the high country which can serve the needs of all users.

BCNA believes the north side of Meyers Gulch, the aqueduct area and the adjacent Hawkins Gulch Environmental Conservation Area provide one of the few remaining areas in the foothills west of Boulder with a unique ecosystem that remains relatively untouched by development or intrusion of human traffic. It protects the habitat and migration pathways of many species, including mountain lions, bears, elk, bobcats, dusky grouse, raptors, songbirds and woodpeckers. BCNA uses this area to teach classes on a variety of subjects concerning the natural environment. It has also been involved in studying and monitoring these habitats through our Eco-Stewardship Program with the purpose of enhancing the appreciation and preservation of the natural beauty and biodiversity of this area.

(continued on page 7)



Walker Ranch Homestead Trail, photo by Steve Jones

Inside:
Volunteer Opportunities, page 2
Spring Calendar, page 3
Meet our New Board Members, page 5

**Notes from a Wild Garden:
A Northern Cardinal**

Ann Cooper

A nine-inch snowfall in late February brought welcome moisture and a return visit from “our” Northern Cardinal. This male first showed up in the week before Christmas. He hung out for a week or so, and then disappeared. Since then, he has periodically returned for a day or two, gleaning the chipped sunflower kernels that spill from the tube feeder after the flickers and Steller’s Jays have set it swinging. Other times, he scratches around for black oil sunflower seeds scattered beneath another feeder, vying with the squirrels for the spoils.

The cardinal has never ventured off the ground to feed, although he’s spent a lot of time resting in a tangle of forsythia just inches from the food supply, while the juncos, House Finches, chickadees and Bushtits buzz in and out. The brilliant red amidst the snow is as cheery as a greetings card or a Christmas tree ornament. And as this feeder is only a few feet from my office window, I’ve gone wild with the through-the-glass photographs.

Cardinals are primarily an eastern species, although they occasionally stray our way. They are rare enough here that they cause a stir among local birders. It seems many people want to add the Northern Cardinal to their county life list. We’ve had several birding friends drop by hoping to see this visitor.

For me, the bird represents the 115th species seen in, or above, our Backyard Habitat—and probably one of the brightest eye-catchers, equaled only by breeding-plumage American Goldfinches and Lazuli Buntings. What a treat!



Northern Cardinal, photo by Ann Cooper

Volunteer Opportunities

April 21, Sunday, **Myrtle Spurge Eradication**. BCNA will partner with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV), Boulder County Audubon Society and the Colorado Native Plant Society in an eradication effort of the “List A” noxious weed myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) on Sunday, April 21st. This escaped ornamental is a truly dangerous stranger on many people’s property and is now designated for statewide eradication by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. BCNA members can assist this effort by participating in a volunteer weed pull to help remove this species on private property where the landowners may not have the resources to do so themselves. Visit WRV’s website, <http://wlv.org>, and click on Projects and Trainings for more information and to secure your spot on the team.

The City of Longmont Natural Resources Division has two great opportunities to help our local environment. We are in need of dedicated individuals to help us monitor nesting raptors throughout the city in order to make informed resource management decisions. Hardy volunteers are also needed to help control noxious weeds by means of digging, clipping, and pulling throughout the City’s many natural areas, some closed to the public. For more information or to apply, please contact Jim Krick at 303-651-8451 or Jim.Krick@ci.longmont.co.us

Boulder County Parks and Open Space is looking for volunteer Conservation Easement Stewards. A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement by a landowner to protect a property’s important conservation values, limit development and specify allowable uses on the property. Conservation easements granted to Boulder County require Boulder County to monitor the property for compliance with conservation easement terms. Volunteers will learn how to conduct site visits to properties to monitor adherence with conservation easement terms and prepare monitoring reports. Application deadline is May 1st and training is scheduled for May 15th. For more information, contact Emily Greenwood at egreenwood@bouldercounty.org or 303-678-6266.

Have you renewed your membership for 2013?
The strength in BCNA
lies in active membership support!

SPRING CALENDAR**2013 BCNA Ecosystem Stewardship Field Trips
Open to All**

April 21, Sunday, 7:30-11 am. Join eco-stewards Elaine Hill (elainehill1850@comcast.net), Maureen Lawry, Dale Ball, and Carol Kampert for a **bird, mammal, and butterfly survey in lower Skunk Canyon**. This area is rich in all three. Meet at the western terminus of Deer Valley Road (take Kohler Dr. west to Deer Valley, then turn right). Bring binoculars and munchies. This trip will also serve as an introductory session for volunteers who would like to adopt their own areas.

June 16, Sunday, 7-11 am. Join eco-stewards Steve Jones (curlwsj@comcast.net; 303-494-2468) and Ron Butler for a **bird, mammal, and butterfly survey in Long Canyon**. They've documented more than 50 breeding bird species and 65 butterfly species in this secluded part of the Boulder Mountain Park. Meet at the Realization Point parking area (3.5 miles up Flagstaff Mountain Road opposite the summit turnoff).

July 7, Sunday, 7-11 am. Join eco-stewards Steve Jones (curlwsj@comcast.net; 303-494-2468) and Ron Butler for a **bird, mammal, and butterfly survey in Long Canyon**. We should see lots of fritillaries and other butterflies on this trip. Meet at the Realization Point parking area (3.5 miles up Flagstaff Mountain Road opposite the summit turnoff).

Other Programs and Field Trips

April 23, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 5001 Pennsylvania Ave. **Polar Animals and Their Changing Climate: A Visual and Educational Tour of Earth's Iciest Regions** presented by Glen Delman and Ursula Quillmann. Join the Boulder County Audubon Society for this visual and thought-provoking presentation, a journey into the beauty of arctic and subarctic animals and their environment and the impacts of climate change on these environments.

For more information on the following field trips, visit www.conps.org/:

May 9, Thursday, 5:30 pm to dusk or dark. **South Boulder Foothills Wildflowers**, Colorado Native Plant Society Leader: Melissa Dozier.

June 13, Thursday, 6pm to 8pm. **Button Rock Preserve Botanical Stroll/Picnic**. Colorado Native Plant Society Leader: Rich Scully.

July 11, Thursday; 5:30 pm to twilight. **Caribou Ranch—Conifers and Colorful Wildflowers Galore**. Colorado Native Plant Society Leader: Megan Bowes.

Update on BCNA Research Grants

Peter Kleinman

It's my pleasure to monitor grants for BCNA. We rewarded four grants this past spring for \$1000 each to support local research on topics of interest. Two of the four reports are in, and I would like to summarize them for you.

The first was submitted by Caitlin Kelly who is a doctoral candidate in the EBIO Department of the University of Colorado. She is interested in the top-down effects of herbivores on their host plants and focuses on the potential induction of plant defense mechanisms. She is specifically interested in the relationship between penstemon and the checkerspot butterfly. Do checkerspot females alter leaf chemistry in penstemon by laying eggs on the plant? Leaves for plants are harvested and checked for immunoglobulin levels. Experimentation was complicated last summer by the Flagstaff fire and by the presence of multiple egg masses, so methods need to be revised for future experiments. The trend appears to suggest there may be a reduction of immunoglobulins in leaves containing egg masses. Additional experiments were conducted to examine the induction of immunoglobulins by caterpillars chewing penstemon leaves, an experiment that will be expanded this summer.

A second report was submitted by Megan Mueller, Program Director at Rocky Mountain Wild. It is part of the *Front Range Pika Project* which trains and equips volunteers to monitor pika distribution in the Front Range. An important concern in studying this species is that it is an indicator species providing data about the impact of climate change. Twenty-three sites were selected as known pika habitat. Data was collected at each site by volunteers to determine the presence of talus, to look for current pika occupancy, to record GPS coordinates of the talus patch, to document a variety of variables that influence pika detectability like cloud cover and temperature, to record habitat variables like water presence, vegetation and size of talus patch, and to capture relevant photographs. This is part of an ongoing project which is accumulating and sharing data important to conservation efforts and involves coordination with different projects. The data is housed in a customized website (www.pikjapartners.org) created and maintained by the Natural Resources Ecology Lab at Colorado State University.

BCNA has been happy to support these projects and others over the years. We encourage people with local research interests to submit applications for consideration by our Grant Committee for available moneys, usually \$1000 per year.

**Eco-Stewards Discover Dickcissels, Ovenbirds,
Green Herons,
Nesting Peregrines, Jackrabbits, Rattlesnakes,
and Much More**
Steve Jones

During 2012, Boulder County Nature Association eco-stewards devoted more than 500 hours to monitoring bird, mammal, and human recreational activity within 20 wild areas of Boulder County. Here's a brief summary of some of the highlights. If you'd like to adopt a wild area of your own, please get in touch or consider attending one of three field trips scheduled for this spring and early summer. We're looking for another 20-25 volunteers who enjoy hunting for hidden treasures while contributing to conservation of wild areas.

Boulder Reservoir: Multiple observers found a new Great Blue Heron nest and two American Bittern territories in the Dry Creek wetland, calling Soras and Virginia Rails in the Little Dry Creek wetland, and several singing Dickcissels north of Coot Lake. These observations have been submitted to Boulder Parks and Recreation and will help guide the ongoing Boulder Reservoir Master Plan implementation process.

Boulder Valley Ranch: Jo Clark observed a pair of American Bitterns in the Little Dry Creek cattail marsh just below the farm pond. This is a significant discovery, since bitterns (isolated and restricted in Boulder County) had not been reported in this area previously.

Crescent Meadows: Karen Swigart found an American Dipper pair, confirmed nesting for Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, and Savannah Sparrow, and got to watch a Black-headed Grosbeak working on its nest. Her breeding bird observations for this important natural area in and south of Walker Ranch now exceed 60 species, including confirmed nesting of Dusky Grouse, Wild Turkey, Golden Eagle, Hermit Thrush, and Savannah Sparrow.

Gregory Canyon: Linda Andes-Georges documented a Peregrine Falcon territory, confirmed nesting of both vireos and all three nuthatches, and caught a rare glimpse of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a species that appears to be increasing along the Front Range foothills and may soon nest here.

Long Canyon: I photographed my first brown elfin and now have photographed four elfin species (western pine, hoary, Moss's, and brown) in my adopted area. I've photographed a total of 65 butterfly species in Long and Upper Gregory canyons since 2006.

Picture Rock: Linda found a rattlesnake and a rare white-tailed jackrabbit, one of the few reported in the foothills of Boulder County in recent memory. Wild Turkeys were present for the second straight

year, as were, alas, Eurasian Collared-Doves. Also Bushtits, along with a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and both Indigo and Lazuli Buntings.

Sawhill Ponds: AD. Chesley documented a fledged Black-crowned Night-Heron on a newly discovered nest. She also observed fledged Wood Ducks and Green Herons, along with fledged Ospreys. The tracking of Green Heron nesting success at Sawhill and Walden ponds has contributed significantly to our understanding of the habits of this locally rare bird.

Shanahan Canyon: Sandra Laursen and Betty Naughton report that the male Ovenbird returned to upper Shanahan Canyon for the fourth consecutive year, but there were still no signs of nesting. In fact, no one has ever documented nesting of ovenbirds in Boulder County, despite the fact that one or more singing males are observed here nearly every summer. Another mystery that begs further investigation!

Skunk Canyon: Dale Ball, Elaine Hill, Maureen Lawry, and Carol Kampert found a recently fledged Cooper's Hawk and observed Blue-gray Gnatcatchers feeding their young. Their Black-chinned Hummingbird sighting was the first for this study. A black bear observation augmented their mammal list for the area, which also includes mountain lion, coyote, red fox, cottontail, chipmunk species, Abert's squirrel, rock squirrel, pine squirrel, fox squirrel, and of course, mule deer.

South Boulder Creek East: Ron Butler's white-tailed deer herd grew to at least 12 this fall. American Bitterns were heard calling in the cattail marshes again this spring. Ron also found several two-tailed swallowtail caterpillars feeding on chokecherry leaves near the trail.

South Boulder Creek West: Janet Mclachlan found Cedar Waxwings and nesting Blue Grosbeaks. This is another area where white-tailed deer are regularly observed (6 this year, down from 13 during an earlier year). The Boulder County Audubon teen naturalists group found three monarch caterpillars feeding on common milkweed leaves in August.

South Mesa Trail: Bay Roberts and Nancy Neupert found a pair of Golden Eagles, a Prairie Falcon, and a Peregrine Falcon nest with eggs!

(continued on page 6)

We invite you to report your sightings to
www.coloradofrontrangebutterflies.com

Connect with nature:
nature-net-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Cindy Maynard. I've had a deep love of nature and outdoor places for most of my life, exploring the natural world by backpacking, river rafting, bird watching, running, biking and hiking.



In more recent years I spent six months volunteering as an instructor in a program sponsored by the UN intended to help preserve natural resources in Biosphere Reserve areas. We taught 20 adult Mexican students to become ecotourism nature guides. This was an immersion course in which we lived with the students, relocating to three sites in the Vizcaino Biosphere

Reserve in Baja Sur, Mexico. Our emphasis was teaching English, natural history, natural history interpretation, and how to conduct birding tours, whale watching tours, and desert ecology tours. I also was a docent at the Desert Botanic Garden in Phoenix, and volunteered at the Dolphin Research Center in Grassy Key Florida.

Since 2004 I have been a volunteer naturalist for Boulder County Parks and Open Space, presenting public programs on a wide variety of topics, participating in the Wintering Raptor Survey, and monitoring raptor nests for the City of Longmont. This year I will be doing an Eco-Stewardship project as well.

For most of my professional life I have worked as a Realtor, winning several recognition awards.

Claudia Van Wie. I moved to Boulder County as a young adult, fell in love with the mountains, and have stayed here ever since. I have worked for the Colorado State Forest Service on the mountain pine beetle project, written environmental impact statements for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and done environmental studies for the University of Colorado.



I retired from teaching science to middle and high schoolers several years ago. I now thoroughly enjoy volunteering with the Boulder County Naturalists group to take school children and families on short hikes to show them some of the natural areas in Boulder County. I also enjoy monitoring raptor nests for the County, traveling, working on an occasional Earthwatch project, taking my dog for hikes, learning more about wildflowers, birds, nature photography, and playing with my young grandchildren. The advent of two young grandchildren in the past two years has made me more and more aware that it is crucial that we take action today to preserve a habitable Earth in

Thank You Janet, Scott and Terry!

As we welcome Cindy, Claudia, and Shirley to the BCNA Board of Directors we also say "goodbye" to three who have dedicated their time, energy and passion to this organization we all love so much! For several years Janet McLachlan has done all the data entry for BCNA's Wintering Raptor Survey and she has served as chairperson on the Membership Committee, perhaps one of the most important and time consuming jobs there is..., keeping track of all of you, our valued members. She was joined by committee member and fellow Board member Terry Stuart. Janet will be assisting our new Membership Committee chairperson, Cindy Maynard, as we expand the committee and its goal of keeping you well informed and actively engaged in all of the Board's activities and actions taken on your behalf. Thank you Janet and Terry! Scott Severs has a long history of BCNA service in numerous capacities, including the presidency, and remains as a class instructor and moderator of BCNA's Yahoo and Nature-net sites. Though you depart the Board of Directors, we know we will continue to benefit from your support and friendship and for that we thank you!

Sue Cass, for the entire BCNA Board of Directors

order that they and their grandchildren have the same chance to accomplish their dreams that has been given to my generation.

Shirley Jin: I grew up in Ohio and my love of the outdoors began with the girl scouts, camping, and horseback riding. At Ohio State I studied engineering physics and learned to sail. While living and working in Florida for more than thirty years sailing was my favorite activity. While sailing I became totally attuned to the forces of nature and felt part of the natural environment. The birds, trees, plants, flowers, water and fish were all part of that. I did not learn all their names and just enjoyed being among them. After our children left home my husband and I spent summers traveling to and camping in state and national parks around the country.



During the short time I have been in Boulder I have enjoyed the natural environment through hiking, biking, and taking various courses to learn about the wonderful open space and wild environments that exist here. I also have worked with Clean Energy Action in Boulder in opposing the causes of global warming. My contribution to BCNA will involve working to help preserve wildlife habitat and the natural environment.

Eco-Stewards, continued from page 4

Teller Lakes: Ruth Carol Cushman found a Western Kingbird nest with young and observed three teal species during the early breeding season. She reports that several common birds did not fledge young this summer, possibly because of drought conditions and lack of food.

Walden Ponds: American Bitterns continue to nest in wetlands near the boardwalk, and one was calling from quite close this spring. A.D. Chesley also reported fledged Wood Ducks, Green Herons, and Spotted Sandpipers, along with a Marsh Wren. Sawhill/Walden is the only documented nesting site for Marsh Wren in Boulder County (2011), so the cattail marshes there bear close watching.

Walker Ranch Meyers Gulch: Laura Osborn found fledged Dusky Grouse, Red-naped Sapsuckers feeding their young, an Olive-sided Flycatcher territory, a Cordilleran Flycatcher nest with young, and fledged Red Crossbills. Her seven-year breeding bird list for Meyers Gulch is now up to 71 likely and 44 confirmed nesting species, both highs for any adopted area. These data are proving invaluable as we work to protect Meyers Gulch from a proposed multi-use through trail that would fracture and threaten wildlife habitat. Dale Ball and I saw a bobcat near the trailhead parking area in October.

Winter Sightings. Many eco-stewards reported interesting winter sightings, as well. Perhaps most remarkable was a Sandhill Crane photographed by Dale Ball in northeastern Boulder County in early January. Gregg Burch sent in a lovely photo of a Hepburn's Rosy-Finch at his feeder near the Peak to Peak Highway in late January. Volunteers also sent in photos of flocks of Common Redpolls, which were more abundant in Boulder County this winter than during any previously documented winter. We've also seen good numbers of Northern Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks, indicating a bumper vole crop this winter.



Hepburn's Rosy-Finch, photo by Gregg Burch

BCNA Board of Directors

President.....Peter Kleinman 303-554-5320
 Vice President.....Megan Bowes 303-561-4883
 Treasurer.....Howard Witkin 303-789-4950
 Secretary.....Sue Cass 720-684-6922

Shirley Jin 303-499-1574
 Steve Jones 303-494-2468
 Cindy Maynard 303-834-8871
 Steve Ponder 541-822-3248
 Claudia Van Wie 303-494-2250

Committees and Contacts

- *Avian Species of Special Concern*

Dave Hallock dheldora@rmi.net
 Steve Jones curlewsj@comcast.net

- *Conservation*

Steve Ponder 541-822-3248

- *Ecosystem Stewardship*

Steve Jones 303-494-2468

- *Education*

Carol Kampert 303-499-3049

- *Indian Peaks Bird Counts*

Dave Hallock 303-258-3672

Bill Kaempfer 303-954-8998

- *Membership*

Janet McLachlan 303-746-3619

Terry Stuart 303-449-2232

- *Newsletter*

Dianne Andrews, content editor 303-823-6779

Carol McCasland, layout 303-635-6433

George Oetzel, support 303-543-3712

- *Publications*

Sue Cass 720-684-6922

- *Research Grants*

Peter Kleinman 303-554-5320

- *State and Regional Wildlife Issues*

Peter Kleinman 303-554-5320

- *Website*

George Oetzel 303-543-3712

- *Wintering Raptor Survey*

Sue Cass 720-684-6922

BCNA Treasurer's Report

Howard Witkin

\$55,000 cash in all accounts which includes our CD, savings and checking accounts.

Dues collected from Jan 1, 2013 to date: \$1,440.00

Education Income from Jan 1, 2013 to date: \$887.50

All our sales taxes for 2012 have been paid, as well as property taxes.

Our expenses to date since Jan 1, 2013, which include tax payments: \$1,006.66

We also received a refund of \$915.00 from our previous insurance carrier.

Colorado Orchid Class

BCNA is offering a classroom and field course on Colorado orchids. The classroom session will be held on Wednesday, June 5, from 6:30 to 8:30. Beautiful and often rare, orchids have a mystique that draws us to them. You will be introduced to the fascinating world of orchids and learn why this group of plants intrigues people throughout the world. Orchids have many uses beyond corsages and cultivation, having been used for both medicine and food. You will learn how they are used in many cultures around the world and about some fascinating and unusual orchids, such as the Australian orchid that spends its entire life underground.

Orchids have evolved to attract specific pollinators in order to ensure their reproduction. You will learn about their pollinators and their unique seeds and germination requirements. In many areas around the world, these beautiful and exotic plants are threatened with extinction from loss of habitat and over-collection for horticultural and medicinal purposes.



Colorado has over two dozen native orchid species in habitats ranging from wetlands to conifer forests to mountain meadows. After learning about the special characteristics of the Colorado orchid species, we will have two field classes on Saturday, June 8 and Saturday, June 22, where we will search for several different species in the field. We will learn about the specific conditions orchids need to grow and thrive in the wild.

To register for the class, contact the class presenter, Janice Harvey at jjharvey@indra.com or 303-903-6477. Tuition is \$100 (\$90 for BCNA members). Janice is the assistant manager of the greenhouses in the Biology Department at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is active in the Colorado Native Plant Society and the Boulder County Nature Association. Janice began teaching the orchid class as Joyce Gellhorn's assistant and is carrying on with what she learned from Joyce.

Members, mark your calendars! BCNA will hold a second general membership meeting this summer at 6:00 PM on Saturday, August 24, 2013. We will meet at Boulder Reservoir for a potluck picnic and a review of the City of Boulder's new Site Management Plan and its potential impacts on wildlife in the area. The first breeding and migratory bird surveys since implementation of the new plan will have been completed by then. Look for additional information in the next issue of the newsletter.

Nature Drawing and Journaling Class

Want to better understand how that flower is put together, up your birding skills, or just capture some beauty? Start natural journaling! Few activities develop our powers of observation like drawing and writing about what we see. In this class we will explore journaling and sketching techniques using pencils, ink, and watercolor to record field findings in our journals. No previous drawing skills are required. A supply list will be provided.



Two indoor classes will be held (on Wednesdays, April 24 and May 1 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm), before we venture into the field on Saturday, May 4 from 9 am to 1 pm. To register for the class, contact Dale Ball @ vegeats@gmail.com or 703-431-2726. Tuition is \$60 (\$55 for BCNA members).

Dale Ball, a visual glutton from an early age, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from Elizabeth City State University and has since enjoyed creating tiles, murals, paintings and drawings for clients, galleries, and her own home. She has taught classes in drawing, watercolor painting, and tile making. Dale is also an avid birder and amateur naturalist who, as a newcomer to Colorado, finds the Boulder area rich with opportunities for exploration.

Walker Ranch, continued from page 1

Because of changing public pressures for access to these areas many areas close to Boulder are no longer available for quiet reflection and study of Nature. We value and wish to support the development of the best plan that will satisfy our basic tenets and allow everyone to enjoy these resources. We hope it will lead to a regional trail that everyone can feel good about.

Specifically, we are concerned that using the corridor along Fire Road 3 and opening up other fire trails and forest roads to increased traffic would be deleterious. These actions would place high-speed bike traffic and heavier pedestrian use into the heart of the Gulch and increase the potential for off-trail use and off-leash dogs which we won't be able to adequately police, and cause potentially irreparable damage to this pristine and much-loved area of Meyers Gulch and Hawkins Gulch ECA.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of BCNA and its membership, we ask that you spare this area from development and search for workable alternatives. We pledge to continue to work as closely as possible with BCPOS and other stakeholders to find a better solution to this challenge.

Support the Boulder County Nature Association

Name _____

Address _____

Phone and/or E-mail (optional) _____

Type of Membership:

_____ Student/Senior (65 or over)	\$15
_____ General Member	\$20
_____ Family or Household	\$30
_____ Supporter	\$40
_____ Founder	\$100
_____ Life Member	\$300
_____ Corporate	\$500
_____ Donation to General Research Grants	
_____ Donation to Evenson Big Cat Research Grants	
_____ Donation to General Research Fund	

The membership year is January 1 to December 31. Those who join after October 1 are considered members in good standing through the following year. All members receive this quarterly newsletter. Supporter-level members and higher also receive a complimentary copy of each BCNA publication.

Please make checks payable to "Boulder County Nature Association" or "BCNA" and mail to:
P.O. Box 493, Boulder, CO 80306.

Boulder County Nature Association
P.O. Box 493
Boulder, CO 80306