

THE LIVE STREAM

The Coal Creek Watershed Coalition Newsletter



Photo credit: Matt Berglund



Upcoming Silent Auction!

November 17 - December 20

We are thrilled to announce that we will be hosting a celebratory silent auction in partnership with the High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA)!

Participate for a chance to win a custom made Björkstam hat or a pair of Red Lady themed Romp skis.

To see the prizes in person and get first dibs, consider attending HCCA's annual potluck, November 17th at 4:00 pm at the Depot.

Want to see the full list of items? The [online auction](#) will go live at 4:00pm, on November 17th.

Red Lady is Protected for Perpetuity!!

Red Lady has officially been protected for perpetuity due to the completion of the Mt. Emmons Land Exchange, Mineral Extinguishment, and Conservation Easement! This has been a nearly 50 year effort by the community of Crested Butte and the High Country Conservation Advocates due to concerns over the effects of mining on the quality of drinking water, the health of headwater stream systems, and our tourism and agricultural based economies.

The land exchange facilitated a trade of land between the US Forest Service (USFS) and Mt. Emmons Mining Company (MEMC), owner of the Keystone Mine. Prior to the Land Exchange, MEMC owned some land on Mt. Emmons, along with a large tailings storage facility, mine waste piles, and a water treatment facility on USFS land. The land exchange transferred three parcels of land that include the tailings storage facility, mine waste, and water treatment facility from the USFS to MEMC. In exchange, MEMC transferred four parcels of land in Gunnison and Saguache counties to the Forest Service, which will now be part of the National Forest and managed as public land going forward.

Transferring landownership of the parcels on Mt. Emmons from the USFS to MEMC will "facilitate water treatment, land reclamation, and revegetation by MEMC through removal of Forest Service oversight" (Mt. Emmons Land Exchange Decision Memo, 2024). Essentially, MEMC will be able to improve water treatment and mine related reclamation without the lengthy review processes that come with completing work on federally owned lands. However, MEMC will not be managing the land without regulation. MEMC's activities on site are subject to regulation by the town of Crested Butte, Gunnison County, and the Colorado Water Quality Control Division.

Additionally, the Conservation Easement, held by the Crested Butte Land Trust (CBLT), prevents future mining and development, restricts use of the property to remediation activities, authorizes public access, and preserves and protects conservation values. Together, these measures allow for more efficient remediation to mine affected areas of Red Lady, prevent future mining or development of any kind, and ensure public access for perpetuity!

CCWC will continue to partner with the Town, County, and CBLT to ensure water quality is protected through appropriate permitting and regulatory measures, and will continue monitoring Coal Creek to help ensure the integrity of our local ecosystems and Coal Creek's water quality for years to come.

A Tribute to Steve Glazer, Former President of CCWC

BY ASHLEY BEMBENEK

I knew Steve as a dedicated water wonk, and eventually a mentor. Initially, I was astonished to learn his background was in business and accounting. He could have passed for an environmental lawyer or even a water quality specialist but he had no formal training in those fields. I recall dreading the technical questions he'd bring to our meetings; though I still reference the obscure memos he often cited. Steve's determination, persistence, and willingness to learn from the dry regulations and technical reports that determine the fate of our most cherished places was impressive.

Steve died in May 2016, just over two months after the Mt. Emmons Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed. At the time, we were excited by the promises of the MOU but skeptical of whether the parties could deliver. Eight years and many meetings later, we did it! I wish Steve were here to celebrate.

WATER WORDS

In water words we explore the etymology of words we commonly use in the world of water.

This month, we're breaking down the difference between some similar sounding words that get thrown around in the water world.

Hydrophytic (adj.) "Hydro" means water in Ancient Greek. "Phyte" also comes from Greek, meaning "a plant." So, hydrophytic essentially means "water plant."

Hydrophilic (adj.) of, relating to, or having a strong affinity for water; water loving.

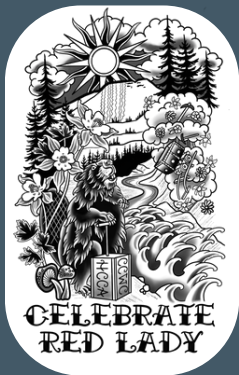
Hydrophobic (adj.) Water repellent; water fearing

Source: Meriam Webster, USGS



Missed out on the commemorative Red Lady hoodies?

Whatever stock is left after HCCA's annual potluck will be added to HCCA's online shop next week. Come by the potluck or visit hccacb.org/store to get yours!



With art by
Alex Stevenson



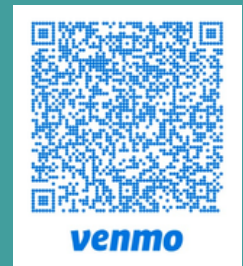
Patagonia Skyline Uprisal Hoody

Proceeds benefit Coal Creek Watershed Coalition and High Country Conservation Advocates



Please consider making a donation!

Colorado Gives day is
December 10th.



Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to CCWC to support our mission. Scan the QR code above or visit coalcreek.org/donate for more ways to give.