



"Sit with animals Quietly and they will show you their Hearts.  
Sit with them Kindly and they will help locate Yours."

**THIS IS WHO WE ARE –**

- **HORSES & MULES** – Keeping our four legged friends in our valley landscapes and on trails with truck and trailer parking for access. Supporting competitions for all equine disciplines; hosting continued education programs including veterinarian partnerships for equine health; creating hiker and horseback only trails for a predictable and peaceful trail experience, while promoting safety campaigns for multi-use shared trails; sponsoring youth equestrian programs for a sustainable generational future.



## ADVOCATING FOR:

- **WILDLIFE** – Protection of biodiverse wildlife habitats for of all wild creatures in our valley. RfVHC created wildlife education signage for trailhead posting. With Climate Change the lack of snow has given humans unlimited access into closed winter wildlife areas. Organizations like Protect Our Winters (POW) have brought our mountain realities to light. Winter wildlife closures are especially important to sustain our declining deer and elk herds. We salute Pitkin County BOCC for gated closing on the Crown's Prince Creek Road, December 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) & Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have worked together for winter wildlife closures on many Roaring Fork Valley Open Space lands. See link for complete list of dates and lands protected for wildlife during the critical winter season. <https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/trails.html>

Thank You.



## ADVOCATING FOR:

- **WESTERN HERITAGE** – From stark beginnings the Roaring Fork Valley's agricultural and ranching roots provided beef and potatoes to our early mining community. Our western frontier was settled on the backs of horses and mules by stalwart men and women during the Homestead Act of 1862. Remnants of original homesteads survive as unexpected finds across our Open Space lands. The RfVHC is committed to working with our partners for preserving and restoring these ghosts of Western Heritage mystique. We hope to find a home for the Western Heritage Museum.







### TRAILS REPORT – ACCOMPLISHED IN 2020 –

- The RFVHC, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps & the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, through a grant by the Roundup Riders of the Rockies made improvements on the BLM Crown Jewel Horse Trail, during a five day trail project. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, RFVHC members rode horses to explore the connection between the Crown Jewel Horse Trail and the Glassier Equestrian Trail. Leaving the Divide Parking lot the ride took 4 hours with a thirty minute lunch stop, arriving at the Glassier Parking lot on the other side of the Crown.



- **The ride honored the late Leslie Thomas, who was instrumental in making this trail a reality.** We remember Leslie for her love of horses, her camaraderie and her passionate commitment to preserve the equestrian lifestyle in our valley.  
Leslie's legacy continues, supported by family & friends for Aspen Fire's commitment for  
"The Leslie Thomas Large Animal Rescue Program"



Leslie pictured center in the wilderness she loved so much.

- New gate replacement by BLM & RFVHC for Upper Fisher Creek Trail on October 19<sup>th</sup>.



Pictured – Holly McLain, Kristy Wallner (BLM) & Susan Cuseo



- Trail Exploration and Report for the Nancy's Path Trail – RFVHC members rode this trail on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Nancy's Path should be considered an experts only, horse and rider, equestrian trail. At this time Nancy's Path is not recommended for novice or intermediate use.



Taylor van Zyle & Holly McLain



View from Nancy's Path



On left, an old twisted tree acts as a guard rail along one trail's edge steep drop-off.



Marty Schlumberger on "Sally". Rock scrabble and cobble fields along this trail with steep, descent switchbacks makes it expert only as the trail drops into the Nancy's Path ravine.

- Light Hill – RFVHC - Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers – Spring planning led to the October 3<sup>rd</sup> work day. This hiker and horseback only trail, departs from just behind Basalt High School and climbs the hill connecting to an old road that runs along the ridge affording great views. Previously, this was a deeply rutted old ranch road, now improved with several switchbacks that ease the climb and provide safe travel at a less extreme angle. The switchbacks will protect the trail from continued erosion.



Susan Cuseo, Liz and Will Tucker –  
RFVHC Volunteers

- Hay Park – Wilderness Workshop - Trail Restoration Initiative. On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, about 20 volunteers from Wilderness Workshop (WW), Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council (RFVHC), Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA), Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV), US Forest Service (USFS) met at the Thomas Lakes Trailhead to travel to the project site near Hay Park. The work was to close certain trails that have become popular with bikes, that lead into the wilderness, where bikes are not allowed. Our task was to clear an old fence section, then gather deadfall from nearby tree stands to drag onto the trail that we wished to obscure. Other volunteers roughed up the tread with hand tools promoting regrowth to discourage travel. Also included was the installation of install a new sign.



Taylor van Zyl was asked to mark the sign until a new sign could be installed. Trusted steed - Morgan "Who needs a ladder"



Susan Cuseo and Taylor van Zyl –  
RFVHC Board Members

- Sutey Ranch Fence Pull – Wilderness Workshop – On September 26<sup>th</sup>, barb wire fence was removed for the benefit of wildlife and travel. This project occurred on “National Public Lands Day” and was celebrated on the BLM Sutey Homestead Ranch. About 20 volunteers worked toward the goal and Audubon Society volunteers installed bird houses alongside the Wilderness Workshop crew. Great thanks to the BLM’s Colorado River Valley Field Office for making this gentle land for wildlife protection with winter closure from December 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup> annually. This means no human intrusion during this critical wildlife survival time.



Helen Carlson and Susan Cuseo  
at Sutey Ranch

- Sutey Ranch Equestrian Parking is now completed and ready for spring opening. RFVHC worked with the BLM to provide parking for trucks and trailers to access the Sutey Ranch Homestead. This property has been designated by BLM as a “Priority Wildlife Habitat” with winter closures December 1<sup>st</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>. The entire ranch is for hikers and horses only, except with one single track mountain bike trail on the far Western perimeter of the property connecting to Red Hill SRMA. If mountain bikes are reported on the Sutey Homestead and off of their designated trail three times, BLM stated that they will lose all access to Sutey Ranch entirely. RFVHC is excited to announce this wonderful improvement for equestrian use.



Entry from CR 112



Parking area with restroom




Horses & hikers only - Admin gate





Winter fun in Glenwood Springs – Support our equine friends!

FREE! GUEST PICK UP & DROP OFF  
IN FRONT OF BULLOCKS STORE  
11:00A.M. - 3:00P.M.

# HOLIDAY WAGON RIDES



  
PAIR OF DICE  
carrages

  
732 Grand Avenue  
Glenwood Springs, CO  
(970) 945-9175

NOVEMBER 28TH & 29TH  
DECEMBER 5TH, 6TH, 12TH, 13TH  
DECEMBER 19TH - JANUARY 3RD\*  
(EXCLUDING CHRISTMAS DAY)  
\*WEATHER PROVIDING



The RFVHC is thankful for our **equine therapy programs** in the Roaring Fork Valley.

WindWalkers - <http://www.windwalkerstrc.org/>

Smiling Goat Ranch - <http://smilinggoatranch.com/>

Ascendigo - <https://www.ascendigo.org/>

RIDE - <https://www.facebook.com/ridewithdisabilities/>

Surmount Counseling LLC - <https://surmountcounseling.com/>

**Hay Bank Relief** – During this time of Covid, RFVHC has partnered with End of the Trail Rescue to receive donations of hay and feed for distribution to horse owners in need. With your kindness & donations, we can support horses and mules in the Roaring Fork Valley, helping them through the long winter months. Thank you. <https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/hay-bank.html>

Contact: RFV Hay Bank Manager Alicia Nolfi, DVM at 970-275-2370 or email [alicianolfi0517@gmail.com](mailto:alicianolfi0517@gmail.com) End of the Trail Rescue (EOTTR) <https://eottr.org/>

We are thankful for the our **Roaring Fork Hounds Pony Club, CWHJA, & RMDS** for continuing education clinics and horse shows in our valley. We also support the Carbondale **“Wild West Rodeo” & Ranching Families** - our living Western Heritage.



***Sportsmanship ~ Stewardship ~ Leadership through Horsemanship***

**Stewardship: The Act of protecting and being responsible for something worth caring for and preserving.**



Never settle for a hamster

Our young equestrians are the future for **sustaining the traditions and customs of Land Stewardship, Western Heritage and horseback riding in the Roaring Fork Valley**. Help support them and the RFVHC by becoming a member, renewing memberships or donating to our horse related non-profit partners.

Thank You -



**We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.  
Kindest Regards & Best Wishes from the RFVHC**

*The Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization*

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<https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/> \* <https://www.facebook.com/keephorsesontrails> \* [Instagram – RFVHC](#)