April 10, 2020

HOW DOES THE ROARING FORK VALLEY HORSE COUNCIL SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY?

• **Partnering** with the BLM, USFS, CPW, all County and State entities and land managers to develop, protect and sustain horse trail connectivity throughout and beyond the Roaring Fork Valley. We promote kind coexistence between humans and wildlife.

• **Composing** documents, which have become models for all County, State and Federal Government Agencies for future recreational trail planning and design. We support safe, predictable and peaceful trail experiences for all trail users, while mitigating trail conflicts. We promote kind coexistence between humans and our biodiverse habitat creatures.

• **Initiating** guidelines for Cozy Point Ranch improvements founded on equine and human health and safety. Recommendations were developed by survey results from boarders, users and experts. Veterinarians, architects, independent land planners, excavators, university and top equestrian professionals were included in the RFVHC submitted documents to the City of Aspen.

• **Educating** the community about horse health, safety and the value of the horse’s unique ability to heal and help humans. We host veterinarian seminars of how to perform standard health exams, reasons to schedule seasonal vaccinations, importance of yearly teeth floating, consistent hoof care every six weeks and “end of life” decisions. We utilize our web site, our Facebook page and experts to discuss the environment, wildfire safety, biodiversity, animal rescue, therapeutic equine programs, trail safety and first aid on trails at our open member meetings.
Coordinating land owner agreements to create soft track trail systems in neighborhoods, so horseback riders can stay off road pavement to travel safely and responsibly from ranches and backyards to open space lands. As an example, we are currently working on connecting trails from Strang Ranch - West to Sutey Ranch and Strang Ranch - East to Basalt Mountain – “The Strang Ranch Trail”. We help neighbors protect wildlife with winter closures.

Soft track trails are preferable riding surfaces to asphalt and cement.
• Promoting equestrian use of the “Rio Grande Trail” right-of-way, which encourages building soft track and equestrian trail connectivity access through the different counties.

• Advocating trail access with parking lots for equestrians at the trail heads, and providing horseback friendly gates and signage for clear wayfinding.

• Restoring historical equestrian trails. Starting in 2015, RFVHC worked with Pitkin County OST to design the “Glassier Equestrian Trail” to include truck and trailer parking at Hooks Spur Lane and connects to BLM lands on Crown Mountain. In 2017 we continued the project restoring our 12 mile horse and hiker only “Crown Jewel Horse Trail”, which connects across the majestic 9,100 acres of Crown Mountain to the Divide Parking Lot at the top Prince Creek Road and Sopris Creek Road. Our project partners are BLM, Rocky Mt Youth Corps, Round-up Riders of the Rockies, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, Pitkin County OST and others. This trail offers safe, predictable and peaceful riding experiences on a variety of changing landscapes, including wildflowers, cactus, sage brush, junipers, pinon pines into spruce tree woodlands with breathtaking views. In many places, this two-track trail allows riders to walk side by side for conversation and camaraderie. Special thanks to the “Magnolia Charitable Foundation” for their generous donation.
• **Protecting** wildlife habitats is part of RFVHC land stewardship education. Horseback riders share wilderness and open space lands with creatures that depend upon their biodiverse habitats for survival. The RFVHC partnered with Pitkin County and BLM closing Prince Creek Road and the Sutey Ranch with gates to protect critical winter wildlife habitat.

Giving wildlife much needed protection from human intrusion

All creature great and small

• **Alerting** the community about equine emergency information for wild-fire horse evacuations, injured local equestrians who need assistance, Covid hay bank donations and factual disease data using national and local news sources – we keep our members informed.

• **Sustaining** the RFVHC organization occurs through three revenue opportunities: ticket and merchandise sales from our shared partner events, contributions and governmental grants. By becoming a member; renewing memberships; listing your business on the website directory or making tax deductible donations we support equestrian efforts. Thank you to each of our members, past and future - you will be with us for a lifetime of equestrian improvements in the Roaring Fork Valley.
• **Horseback Trail Riding** is the true essence of our Western Heritage. When we ride our horses across open lands and high country trails we discover the spirit and attraction of the West. We sponsor the Carbondale Wild West Rodeo and we hope to find a Western Heritage Museum site to display ranch memorabilia and items from Anita Witt Estate.

Western Heritage is Alive and Well by “Keeping Horses On Trails”
In the Roaring Fork Valley
• Producing signage to educate the public about our wildlife and trail safety

Signs of what to do when meeting an equestrian on trails

Trail safety sign produced with partners Pitkin OST, RFMBA for KDNK & Aspen Public Radio and local newspaper education.
• **Networking** offers connectivity on [Facebook.com/keep horses on trails](http://Facebook.com/keep horses on trails), with over 1,000 followers. The Equine & Business Services RFVHC Directory Page, is a new feature on the [rfvhorsecouncil.org](http://rfvhorsecouncil.org), highlighting and advertising equestrian needs.

1. __Arenas (design, footing, watering systems, maintenance
2. __Artists (Photographers, painters & sculptors, blacksmiths, art galleries )
3. __Associations & clubs
4. __Barn and pet sitting
5. __Blanket and tack repair & laundry
6. __Boarding
7. __Building and Construction stables/outbuildings (architecture, design, excavation, contractors)
8. __Breeding,
9. __Educational opportunities & Human Wellness (clinics, certifications, degree programs, outreach)
10. __Equine wellness (veterinarians, chiropractors, massage, dentistry, alternative therapies, rehabilitation
11. __Event Management, horse shows, rodeos, banquets (judges, announcers, jump rentals, rodeo chutes equipment, temporary stalls, concessions, catering, awards)
12. __Farriers, horse shoers, blacksmiths
13. __Farm and ranch equipment & machinery (dealers, rentals, service & repairs)
14. __Farm and ranch management (mowing/haying, weed mitigation, tree maintenance
15. __Feed and supply vendors (feed stores, supplements, bedding, hay, fertilizer, etc.)
16. __Fencing (contractors, supplies, repairs)
17. __Guest Ranches
18. __Horse Rescue
19. __Horse sales and rentals
20. __Horse and rider TRAINING in all disciplines, colt starting
21. __Horse transport, emergency horse transport
22. __Irrigation(system design, maintenance, etc.)
23. __Legal and business professionals(equine attorneys, appraisers, accountants)
24. __Summer Riding Camps for Children
25. __Outfitters (trail rides, hunting & pack trips, camping, horses for lease)
26. __Ranches Food Productions
27. __Real estate professionals (Realtors, property managers)
28. __Saddle fitting
29. __Tack & apparel (tack stores, custom items, boot and tack repair)
30. __Therapeutic Riding Programs
31. __Trailers (dealers, service, rentals)
32. __Pest Control
32b. __Other

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**A Heart Felt Thank You to all our Business & Equine RFVHC Directory businesses in the Roaring Fork Valley, the best place in the world to live.**

Agri-Gas LLC; All Pets Mobile Vet; Alpine Equine Hospital; Bemer; Berthod Motors GMC/Buick Division; Berthod Motors/Equipment Division; Bill Stirling/ Douglas Elliman Real Estate; Blue Horse Equine Design; Capital Peak Outfitters; Carol Dopkin/Engle & Volkers Real Estate; Cedar Ridge Ranch; Coal Creek Farms; Cory Crocker/ Slifer Smith & Frampton; Cozy Point Ranch; Cozy Point Camp; Crystal Springs Ranch and Saddlery; Louisa Davidson Photography; Diamond Arrow Farm; Enhanced Health; Equitarian Initiative; Explore Book Sellers; Four Corners Fencing; Full Circle Farm; Griebel Photography; Glenwood Veterinary Clinic; Happy Landing Ranch; Harris Horsemanship; Heather's Savory Pies & Tapas Basalt; Holmes Excavation and Concrete; Keating Fine Art Gallery; Land+Shelter; Lazy O Ranch; Longacre Equine; Milagro Ranch & Hay; Mountain Primal Meats; Mountain Ranch Management; Natural Vet; Nieslanik Beef; Nieslanik Hay & Horses LLC; OutWest Graphics; Paradise Ranch; Pietrzak Hay; Porter Ranch & Hay; Rachel's Sewing Repair; Ralston Ranch; Riding Institute for Disabled Equestrians(RIDE); Roaring Fork Equine Medical Center; Roaring Fork Valley Co-op; Rocky Mountain School for Massage & Acupressure; Rock E Ricks Farrier Service; Rock Hollow Farm; Rumble Ridge Ranch; St. Benedicts Monastery Hay; Singing Dog Yoga; Snowmass Creek Outfitters; Strang Ranch; Tordoff Farrier; Two Rivers Chiropractic; Valley Mobile Veterinary Practice; Visual West Photography; Wild West Rodeo; Willets Vet; WindWalkers; Woody Creek Distillers; Wolfhill Stables.
Supporting our members during the difficult “end of life” time for their animal partners. When should we decide to let them go? When any animal no longer wants to eat; when they no longer have the strength to get up from the ground; when they are obviously in pain. Owners have a responsibility to plan ahead for them. How will we let them leave this earth with dignity and kindness? Where will we bury them, or will we have them cremated? So many humans hold onto their animal friends past the time of kindness. The decision is a hard reality, so euthanasia is a kind offering for a suffering creature. Go to the Support Tab on our website for a member’s testimonial and information about cremation and special remembrance gifts for your dearly departed horses & mules.

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.”

– Anatole France

Pony Club Chronicles
Sometimes our best intentions are thwarted by our animal partner’s obsession with eating.
• **Enjoying** shared events with members and friends for pot-luck suppers; Kentucky Derby parties; Fall Harvest Tack & Jumble Sales; equine films; dances; horseback rides and BBQs. Members are always welcome to help plan events.

**We are proud of growing our partnerships, memberships and support throughout the years** - Ascendigo Adult Horseback Riding Program; Carbondale Wild West Rodeo; Colorado Back Country Horsemen; Colorado Horse Council; Colorado Horse Rescue; Colorado West Hunter and Jumper Association (CWHJA); End of The Trail Rescue; Equine Land Conservation Resource; Equitarian Initiative; Riding Institute for Disabled Equestrians (RIDE); Rocky Mountain Dressage Society; Smiling Goat Ranch; Snowmass Rodeo; WindWalkers; U.S. Equestrian Federation; patrons of the “Crown Jewel Horse Trail” and we celebrate the Roaring Fork Hounds Pony Club’s - 2020 - 50th Anniversary!

**We could not work without our community partners - thank you** - City of Aspen Open Space & Parks; Pitkin BOCC; OST & Public Works; Town of Basalt; Town of Carbondale; Garfield County BOCC; Garfield County Fairgrounds; Eagle County; Mid Valley Trails; Snowmass Village Recreational Department; Capital Creek Caucus; Emma Caucus; Snowmass Creek Caucus; Woody Creek Caucus; ACES; AVLT; BLM; CPW; Future Forest Roundtable; RFTA; RF Outdoor Volunteers; Wilderness Workshop; Roaring Fork Cycling; RFMBA; USFS; Scenic By Way; West Elk Loop Scenic & Historic Byway Steering Committee; and TrailFinder!

RFVHC Board of Directors.
rfvhc.colorado@gmail.com

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