

FIELD TRIPS

Bats, brats, and brews: an evening of batting at Yampa Valley Land Trust's Rehder Ranch

Date: Monday Aug. 8th, 7-9pm

Number of participants: up to 30

How to register: First-come, first-served, please register for the trip on-line.

Description: Join Rob Schorr of the Colorado Natural Heritage Program and Susan Dorsey of the Yampa Valley Land Trust for an evening of sunsets over Lake Catamount at Rehder Ranch. Enjoy brats (veggie brats available, too), local brew, and the emergence of little brown bats from some of the historic buildings. Rob is conducting a population study of little brown bats and will take time to show you how they are monitoring this and another maternity colony in Routt County. Get a firsthand look at a bat species that was once one of the most common in North America, but was recently proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act because of White Nose Syndrome impacts to populations in the East.



Buffalo Run: How to maintain the integrity of forest wildlife habitats while providing for recreation

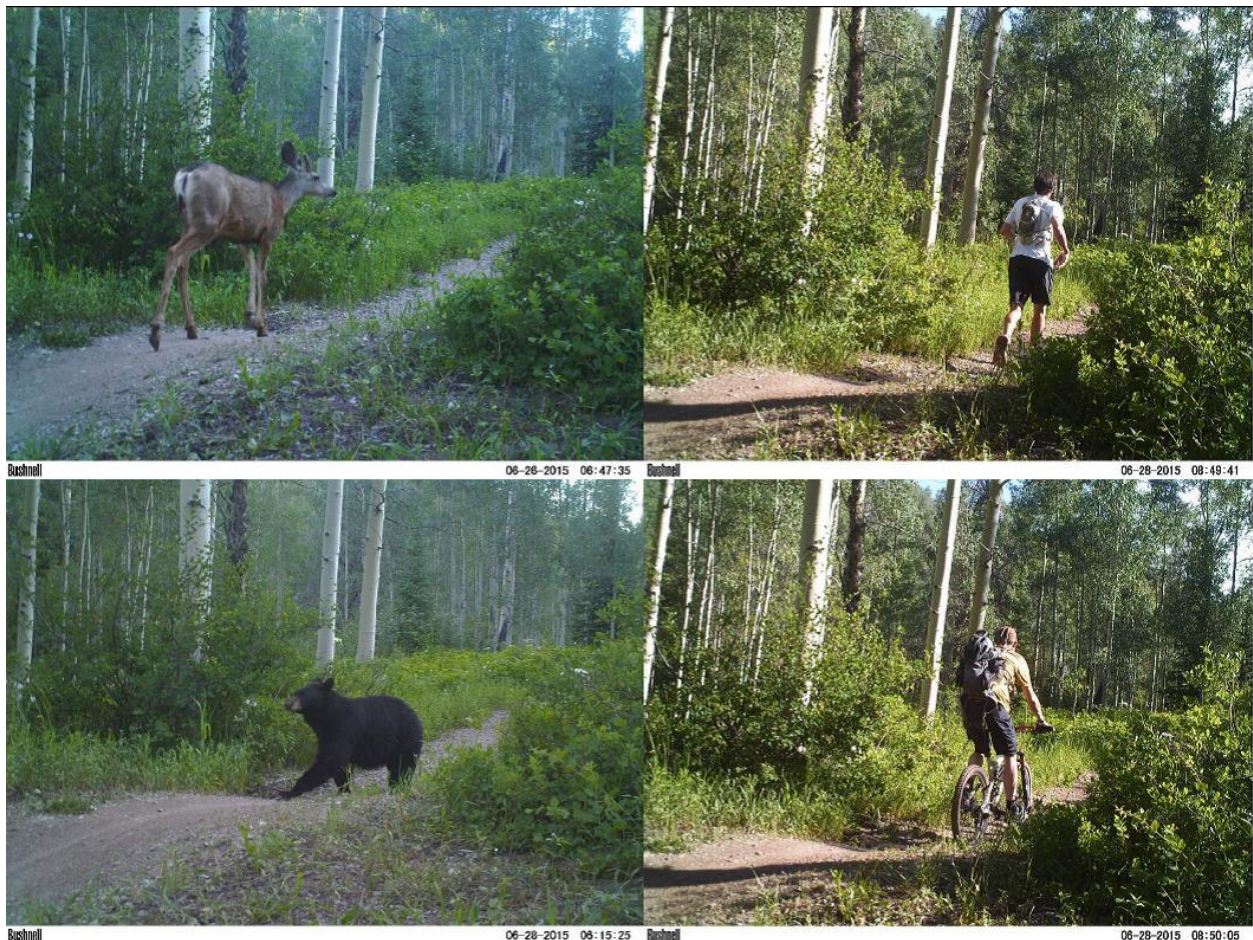
Date: Thursday Aug. 11th 8am-12pm

Number of participants: 25

How to register: First-come, first-served, please register for the trip on-line.

Who: Wildlife Biologist, Melissa Dressen USFS

Description: Join Melissa Dressen from the USFS in Steamboat Springs for an engaging hike to explore the Buffalo Pass wilderness and learn about the challenge of providing both recreation for people, and habitats for wildlife. Steamboat is a focal area for many recreational activities including hiking, skiing, mountain biking, etc. as well a wildlife rich landscape. In recent years, these two paradigms have come in conflict as the Forest Service balances land use within our forests. Buffalo Pass is an area of focus for the Forest Service and CPW where there has been on-going unmanaged recreation (rogue mountain bike trails built- approx. 13-16 miles). Currently, the Forest Service is working on the NEPA to adopt some of the trails (however rebuild them sustainably) and add more trails for a total of 49 miles of mountain bike trails. This field trip is focused on learning about a study of wildlife cameras that have been set up in this area to look at pre- and post-trail development. We will first get a summary of this project and have a discussion regarding these types of conflicting missions at the local, state, and national level. We will then head up to project area and national forest (1/2 hour away from Steamboat) to take a look at the area where the Forest Service and CPW are working to protect wildlife. Discussion topics will include elk production areas, raptor nest protections and riparian areas where trails will be decommissioned due to historic boreal toad breeding sites, etc. Along the way, there will be lots of opportunities for discussion about how we can maintain the integrity of forest wildlife habitats while providing for recreation. This is a hot topic in Colorado and a wonderful field trip to see a beautiful part of the Routt National Forest.



Morning bird walks

Dates: Tuesday, Aug. 9th, and Wednesday, Aug. 10th; 6-8am

Number of participants: up to 15

How to register: First-come, first-served, please register for the trip on-line.

Description: Join local birding experts for a local morning bird walk along the Yampa River, Elk River, or in the local mountains exploring the birds of Routt County. Each morning's field trip is a separate event and will likely visit a different region of the Steamboat Springs area.