



May Newsletter, 2024

Our quarterly community newsletter, highlighting all
the wonderful things about Crowley Ranch
Reserve.

So much to do, so little time!!

*February through May-ish
has just flown and with
good reason.*

*Day trips, weekly trips, and
even month-long
adventures from Crowley
have delighted and
surprised.*

*Where have you been
recently and what's coming
up on your radar?*

OUR JOURNEY





National Park Service ✓

@NatlParkService

Visitor: When will you tell us where you keep the unicorns? 🦄

Us: As soon as visitors stop feeding squirrels and taking dangerous selfies with bison, we'll let you know where the horses with giant spikes on their heads roam.



National Park Service ✓
@NatlParkService

"It's a sticky situation out there," laments one spider who wished to remain anonymous. "It's enough to make a spider crawl! And don't even get me started on the awkward flailing of appendages that follows. This ain't Texas. And my web is down, down, down."



National Park Service ✓
@NatlParkService

I see a little silhouetto of a tree...

National Park Service ✓ @Nat... · 20h
You know it's cold outside when you go outside and it's cold.

1.1M 4.6M 747 14.3K 84.8K

Replying to @NatlParkService

Who is running this account 😂

9:10 PM · 17 Jan 23

57.6K Views 8 Retweets 464 Likes

National Park Service ✓ @Nat... · 18h
Replying to @heychrisjones



National Park Service ✓
@NatlParkService

Always hike with proper supplies and equipment. Remember, floppy floppies may lead to sloppy sloppies.



National Park Service ✓
@NatlParkService

Hot springs are so hot right now.

Well, all the time.



National Park Service ✓
@NatlParkService

Oh, you're headed out to bear country? That salmon-scented body wash was a bold choice.



National Park Service ✓
@NatlParkService

Your chances of being hunted by a turkey are low, but never zero.



National Park Service ✓
@NatlParkService

Trails often look more flat on the map.



National Park Service ✓

@NatlParkService



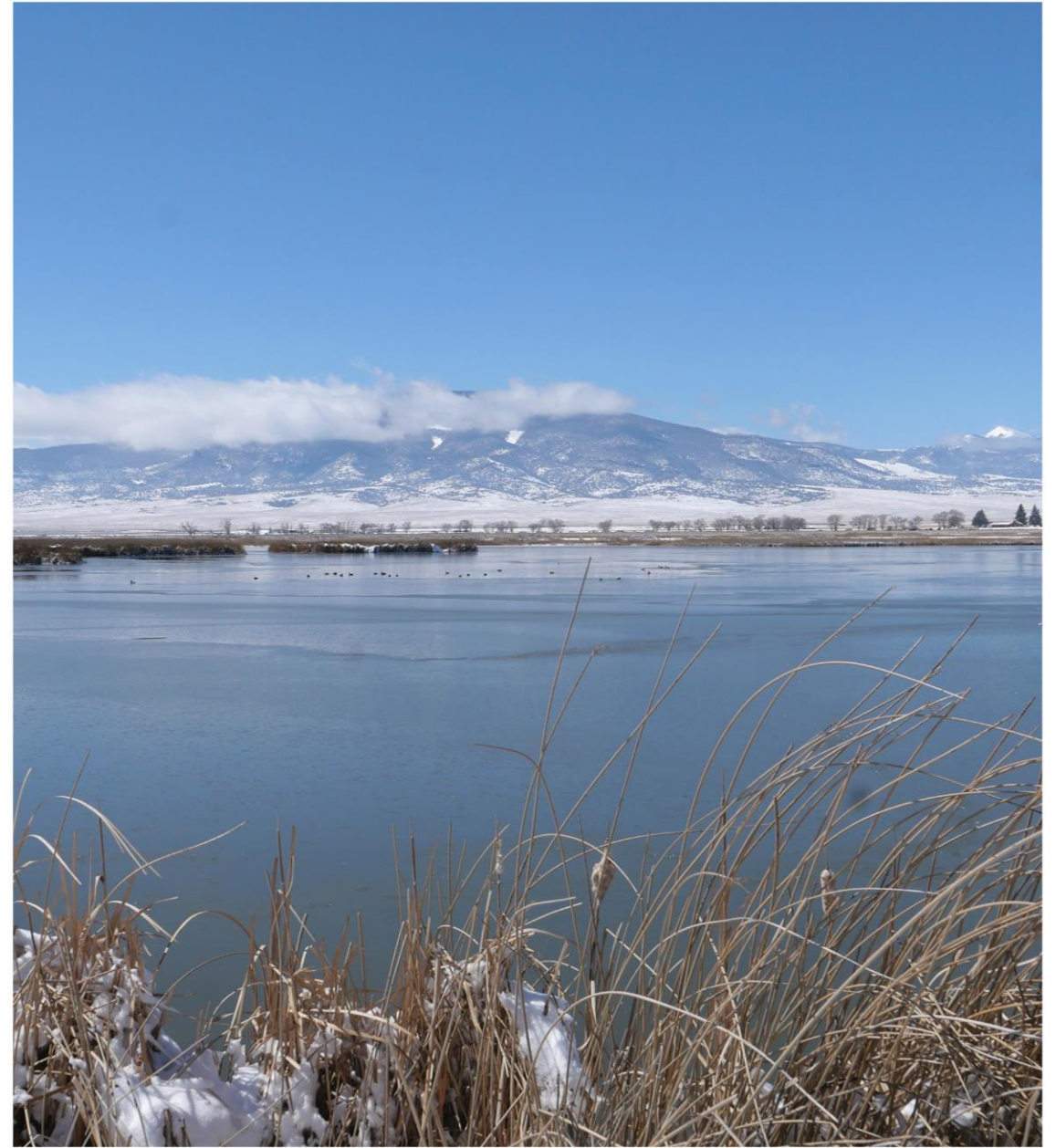
If you come across a bear, never push a slower friend down...even if you feel the friendship has run its course.

the great **ESCAPE**



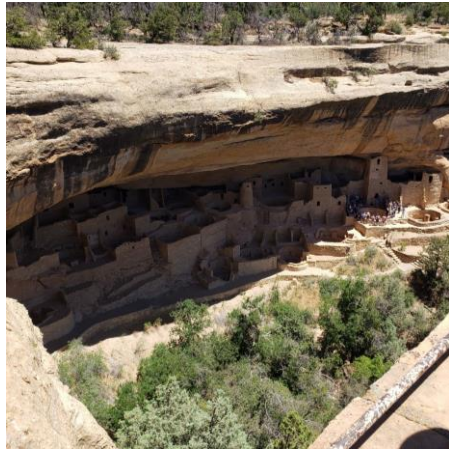


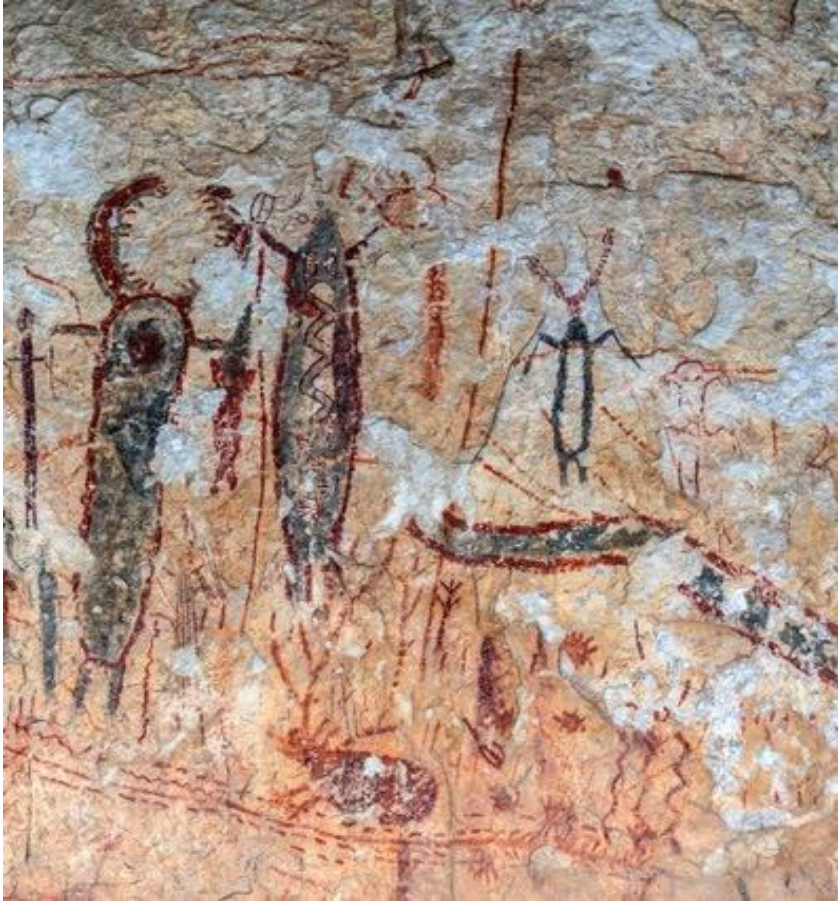
Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge: Migratory stopover for approximately 23,000 - 27,000 Sandhill Cranes. Peak migration usually occurs in early March in the San Luis Valley (SLV).



hit the **ROAD**

The opportunity to travel with loved ones is a gift, and one we don't plan on wasting. Adventures in **MESA VERDE** await!





“The caves are calling – and
I must go.”

Jeff Porter





ROCKIN!

The Witte Museum leads tours to the White Shaman Preserve, overlooking the Pecos River, two miles west of Seminole Canyon State Park. It also offers regular trips to some of the region's most famous rock art sites.



In 2017, The Witte Museum created an unparalleled exhibition, *People of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands* which focuses on living, hunting, gathering and rock art creation from 2,000 to 4,000 years ago in what is now Texas.



Available September thru May
every Saturday at 12:30pm

Pricing:

- Members and Quillins \$20
- Non-Members \$25

Tour Difficulty: (Strenuous)

There is a 250-foot descent
into a narrow brushy canyon
and the trail is steep with
loose rocks and uneven
footing. At any time of the
year, desert heat can be
extreme.

Round-trip Distance: 1.5 miles

Duration: 2 hours



MOAB, UTAH

Here's why **MOAB** should be on your springtime bucket list: Mild Temperatures! Say goodbye to winter chills and hello to perfect hiking, biking, and climbing weather!





Three hours and 26 minutes to **OURAY** from Crowley Ranch Reserve. Enjoy the spectacular views as you head over Red Mountain Pass.



RIFLE, COLORADO

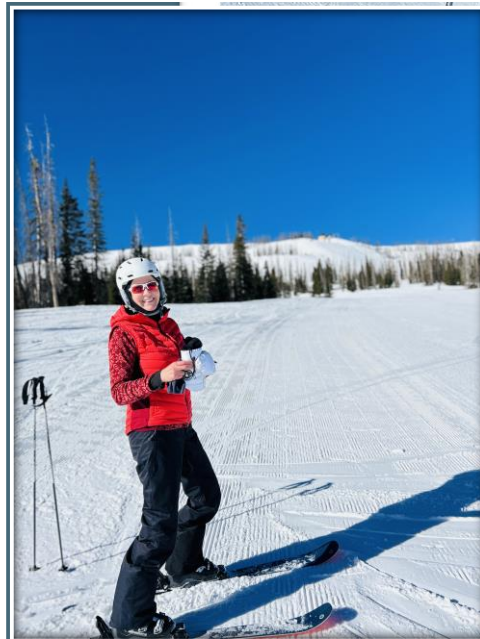
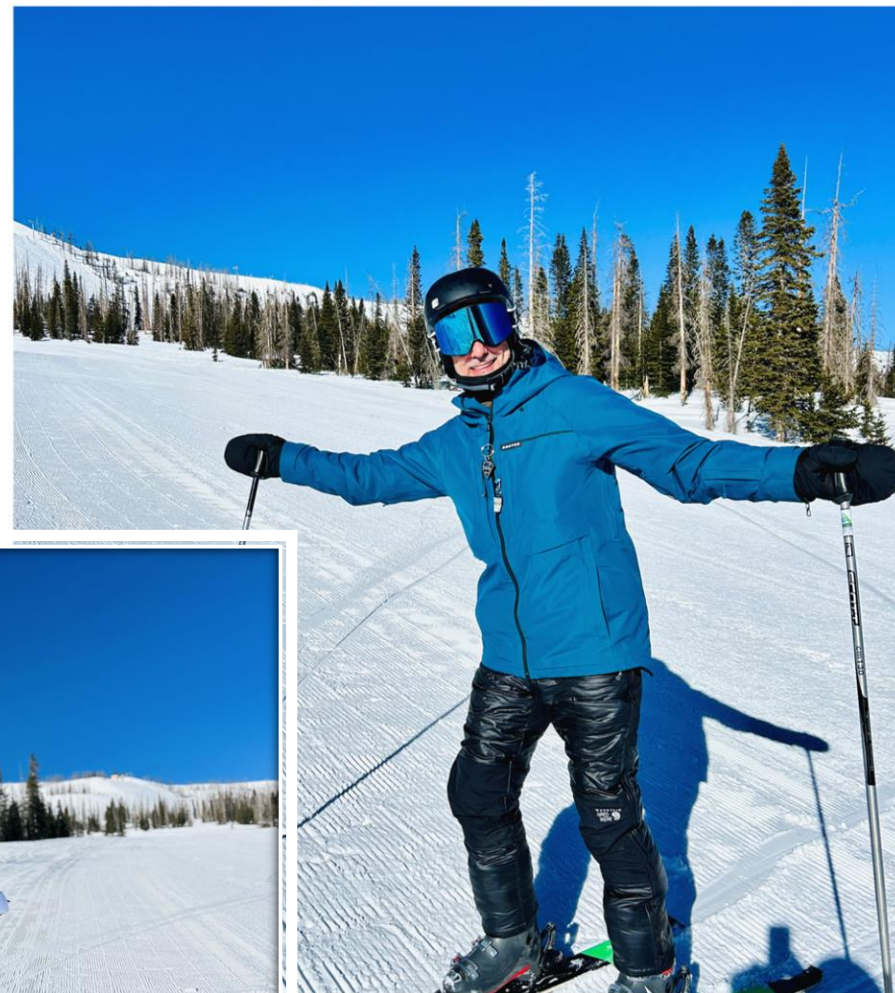
Rifle Falls State Park, Rifle Falls Fish Hatchery, and Rifle Creek Golf Course are full of challenging elevations and interesting sights.

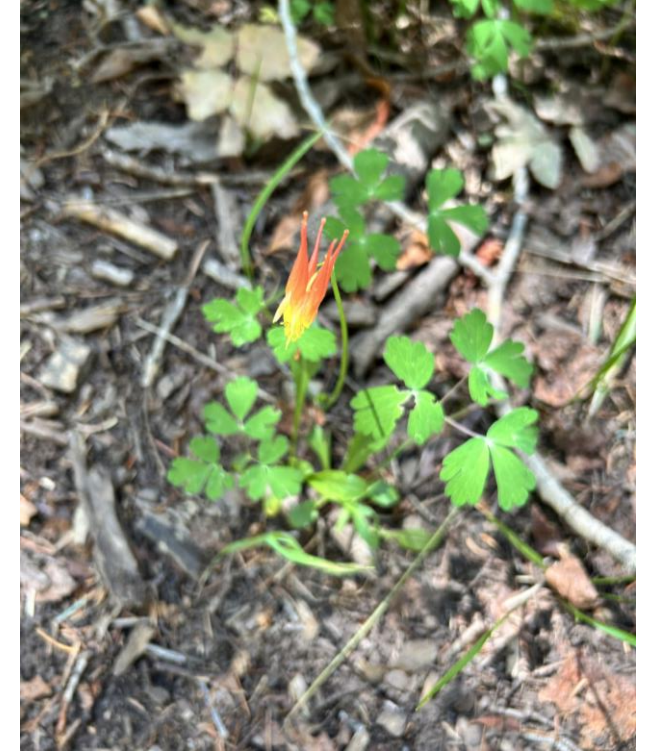




Shhhh, don't say a word, one hour away, it's our little secret!!!

WOLFCREEK





BLANCO RIVER TRAIL: A day hike observing Western Red Columbines, Thimbleberries, Richardson's Geranium, Bluebells, & Nuttall's Linanthus. Traveling closer to the Continental Divide...



OUR JOURNEY





Black Bears have a good sense of smell. They can smell a person as much as a mile away and detect the smell of food on clothing that has been carried in a backpack with food.



This little one ambled over to take a look at an indoor lemon tree...
(Jeff Porter)



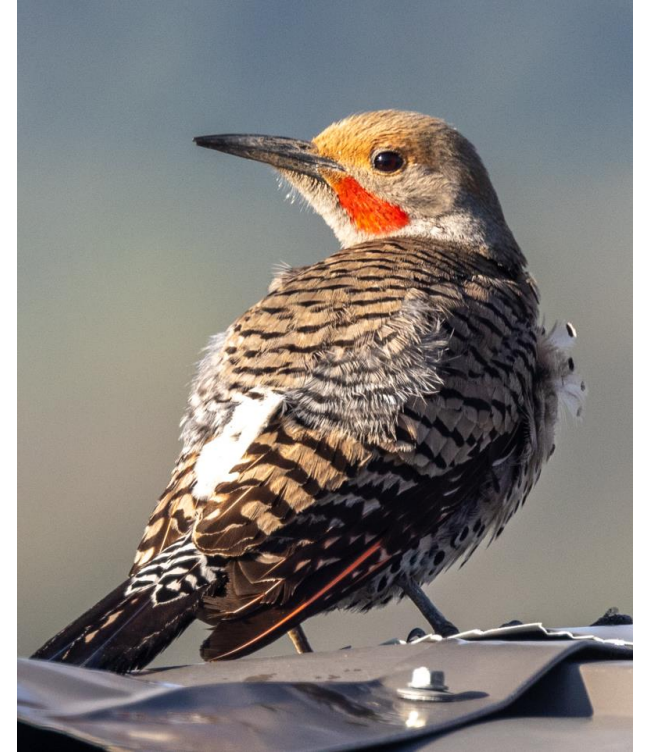


BOBCATS



WHO'S THAT?





Birds of a Feather? Bullock's Oriole, Broad-Tailed Hummingbird, Northern Flicker.
(Kerry Howard)



OUR JOURNEY



IF PEOPLE SAT OUTSIDE
AND LOOKED AT THE STARS
EACH NIGHT, I'LL BET THEY'D
LIVE A LOT DIFFERENTLY.



HOW
SO?

WELL, WHEN YOU LOOK
INTO INFINITY, YOU
REALIZE THAT THERE
ARE MORE IMPORTANT
THINGS THAN WHAT
PEOPLE DO ALL DAY.





Our Stars

Have you ever looked up at the sky during nighttime and searched for the stars yet only seen bleary light instead? If so, what you are witnessing is **light pollution**.

What you will notice most about light pollution is that it makes the stars disappear.

Researchers estimate that *by 2025 only a few dark-sky places will remain in the United States*. As more of the buildings around us illuminate the skies, the stars become dimmer in the night sky. Almost becoming dark themselves.

Why is Dark Sky Compliance Important?



Wildlife

Darkness at nighttime is vital to Earth's ecosystem. Bright, artificial lighting disrupts plants and animals. They depend on natural light rising in the morning and setting at night.

Particularly for nocturnal animals, this can have a devastating impact. They rely on the night to survive against larger predators that occupy the daylight.

Dark-sky lighting (especially those with an amber or orange glow) does wonders to help protect our precious wildlife, (3000K and lower is the best lighting.)

Why is Dark Sky Compliance Important?



Health

Blue light at night (*from white LEDs, laptops, and smartphones*) can harm our health by disrupting our circadian rhythms. And thus, it contributes to health conditions. These include insomnia, obesity, cancer, diabetes, and even heart disease.

For good health, we need sunshine and vitamin D. Still, we also need exposure to darkness. Darkness at night aids in supporting our circadian rhythm. It regulates our sleep cycles so we can repair our bodies from the rigors of daily living.

Why is Dark Sky Compliance Important?





Spending the night
under the stars and
seeing them,
PRICELESS.



OUR JOURNEY





It's great to use native grasses as you landscape!

- Bunchgrasses can be used ornamentally as specimens or in groups.
- Sod forming grasses can make great low maintenance turf and offer savings in mowing, fertilizing, and irrigation.
- Grasses provide excellent forage and cover for birds and beneficial insects.
- Native grasses fill in before noxious weeds compete for growing space. *See OSC grant work on the CRROA website.



To purchase existing Crowley Ranch Reserve NATIVE grasses:

The **NRCS** in Pagosa Springs suggests their Native Grass Mixture:

- ☐ Thickspike Wheatgrass
- ☐ Slender Wheatgrass
- ☐ Western Wheatgrass Sandberg Bluegrass
- ☐ Mountain Brome
- ☐ Sideoats Grama

Southwest Seed in Dolores also sells a N.G. Mixture:

- Fescue, Arizona
- Sand dropseed
- Muttongrass
- Wheatgrass, Slender
- Wheatgrass, Western
- Wheatgrass, Thickspike





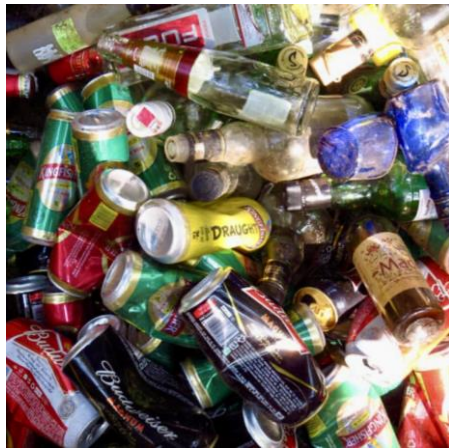
OUR JOURNEY



Semi-Annual HWY Trash Pickup

VOLUNTEERING

What's in your bag?





Volunteering: Dave's Team spent a couple of hours picking up trash on HWY 84 between the CRROA designated mile makers... it was a Cinco de Mayo celebration!!!



the great **ESCAPE**





We spent the day rafting down the Colorado River,
then spent the night under the stars.



SHOW US WHAT YOU GOT!

Send in your best 3 pictures, per quarter, for any category, so at least one may be included.



Pictures are due by the middle of each month listed:

➤ February ➤ May ➤ August ➤ November

Email: Dawn Olson, dgodawn@gmail.com