

To HOA/POA Directors:

This letter is to introduce you to the **Estes Land Stewardship Association (ELSA)**. ELSA was formed to address environmental threats to the Estes Valley and other locations and communities important to the ecosystems near the eastern slope of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). ELSA is composed of individuals and many agencies, including the Town of Estes Park, Larimer County, Rocky Mountain National Park, the US Forest Service, and the Estes Valley Land Trust. ELSA's approximate boundaries, which encompass about 300 square miles, are:

- To the North: Larimer County Road 43 – Drake to Glen Haven
- To the East: Longitudinal line 105°18'45" W (approximately Lyons to Drake)
- To the South: Allenspark
- To the West: RMNP's Eastern Slope boundary

ELSA's mission is to promote the cooperation and collaboration of local residents and federal, state, and local agencies and entities in efforts that encourage the preservation and the ecological integrity of public and private lands on the eastern perimeter of Rocky Mountain National Park. Such efforts shall encourage land stewardship practices that sustain plant communities which provide wildlife habitat, aesthetic value, and help resist encroachment by invasive weed species.

Our initial primary objective is to address the noxious weeds invading the region by promoting awareness of invasive plants and their impacts, through education and outreach efforts such as:

- Articles in local newspapers and newsletters.
- Presentations at meetings and events pertaining to identification, impacts, and management of invasive weed species threatening the region.
- Conduct, coordinate, and monitor weed drop-offs.
- Provide site visits requested from private property owners to assist with plant identification and general information about weed management.
- Publication of the ***Fourteen Very Unwanted Weeds in the Estes Valley*** weed booklet. Posted on the Town of Estes Park website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/townofestespark/weeds>

ELSA is a 501 (c)(3) unincorporated nonprofit association. Please consider including information about ELSA in your annual or monthly newsletter. For questions or more information please email ELSA: elsa.weeds@gmail.com **If** you are not the current contact for your HOA/POA, please provide us with the correct contact information. Your contact information was obtained from the Board of Realtors website (estesparkrealtors.com).

Our ability to sponsor events and print the weed booklet is dependent on funding from outside sources. In addition to grant funding, we are asking property owner associations to support our efforts in philosophy regarding good land stewardship, active membership, and financing. Current HOA/POA financial support has been received from North End Property Owners Association and Carriage Hills Home Owners Association.

ELSA membership meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM in the George Hix Room at US Bank in Estes Park.

Your participation and financial support would greatly strengthen ELSA and the areas we serve!