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Wilder on the Taylor Hosts Wounded Soldiers & Women's Fishing Clinics

Taylor River provides camaraderie, learning and peaceful days

GUNNISON-CRESTED BUTTE, Colo. — Several groups of wounded have visited the Gunnison-Crested Butte Valley for fishing on prime stretches of the Taylor River at Wilder on the Taylor. The recreational and preservation ranch community, located between Gunnison and Crested Butte on County Highway 742, also has hosted a variety of fly-fishing clinics for local women.

“We are honored to be involved with organizations that work with true American heroes and honor their dedication to our country,” says Ron Welborn, development partner at Wilder on the Taylor. “We also had the fun opportunity to get more local women out on the water fishing.”

Wounded Warriors

The 2,100-acre historic ranch and the valley's beautiful scenery and incredible fishing have been a soothing respite for disabled active military service personnel and veterans healing from physical and emotional trauma.

Wilder has hosted Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) many times, welcoming small groups of soldiers and PHWFF mentors from the chapter based at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. The group enjoys fishing, camaraderie, all meals and generally three nights of relaxation in the four restored cabins that overlook a two-mile stretch of the Taylor River at Wilder. Wilder's master fishing guide leads a team of area guides and Ranch Managers Don and Shelly Sabrowski coordinate the visits.

PHWFF was founded in 2005 by retired Navy Captain Ed Nicholson at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The Colorado Springs chapter was started in 2007. For information, visit www.projecthealingwaters.org and Project Healing Waters – Colorado Springs Facebook page.

Wilder also has hosted wounded soldiers from across the country through the local Adaptive Sports Center's programs and provides opportunities to experience the ranch for fishing and dinner as a silent auction item for ASC's annual gala that is held in tandem with its Crested Butte Open golf tournament. The silent auction experience provided by Wilder has raised thousands of dollars over the years, notes Welborn.

Women's Fly-Fishing Clinics

Wilder on the Taylor has offered complimentary women's fly-fishing clinics that have included instruction, equipment and fishing on property.

“We have filled up the three clinics offered, and even had 50 additional women who called after the first year’s slots were filled,” Welborn says. “We wanted to celebrate the women who live or spend time in the valley with learning more about fly fishing on Wilder’s ponds, creek and river access and meeting other women who are interested in fishing.”

To find out more about Wilder on the Taylor, go to www.wildercolorado.com.

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[Wilder on the Taylor](#) is an angling paradise and a recreational and preservation-oriented ranch community located on more than 2,100 acres. The historic cattle and hay ranch is conveniently situated on County Highway 742 between Gunnison and Crested Butte and surrounded by the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Each homestead is a minimum of 35 acres and has access to miles of private fishing water and trails, master guides, concierge services and a base camp for dining, relaxing and socializing. Wilder is dedicated to preserving, protecting and perpetuating the traditions of western Colorado. For additional information, follow [@WilderColorado](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).