

FRIENDS OF THE
EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS

FENW Newsletter June 2013

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness www.fenw.org

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Willow Creek—Kick Off Event!

Great start to the Summer!

The 2013 FENW trail maintenance program kicked off on Jun 15 with an intrepid crew of eight volunteers who planted posts for directional signs in the Willow Creek area and removed illegal campsites along the Gore Range Trail.

Digging post holes in the Rocky Mountains is hard work! Shovels are virtually useless. It's all rock bars, post hole diggers and hand scooping...but we did manage to set five posts on which US Forest Service (USFS) crew will mount signs to better help hikers find their way safely through our wilderness back yard.

We also removed three large, overdeveloped campsites that were too close to South Willow Creek to be legal (100 foot minimum). Aside from violating FS wilderness regulations, the sites violated even the most modest "leave no trace" standards. It was



very satisfying to erase these scars from our wilderness.

Thanks to: Joel & Mern Bitler, Karen Fox, Mike Mayrer, Frank Gutmann, Shirley Beaty, John Taylor, and Judith McGreevy.

National Trails Day



FENW partnered with the Friends of Dillon Ranger District on a joint trail maintenance project on June 8, 2013, at the Frisco Peninsula. It was a great turnout with over 75 volunteers, from age 8 to 80, participating in a team effort to repair, re-route and rehabilitate sections of the trail damaged by erosion. The volunteers succeeded in cutting over 600 feet of new trail over a 3 hour period and made large sections of the Frisco Peninsula trail safe and accessible for the public to enjoy.

Summit & Eagles Nest Volunteer Wilderness Rangers



Left/Right: Bob Barrows, Richard Kiteley, Cyndi Koop, Dave Emm, Mike Dunham

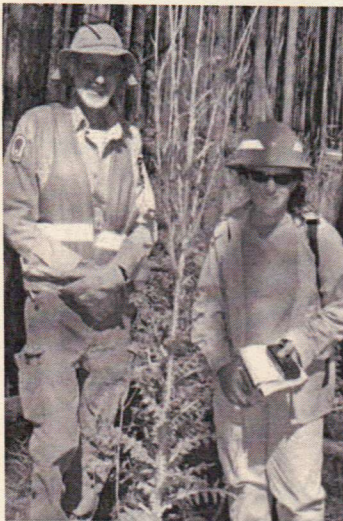
This was the 1st year that we have combined training for the Summit and Eagle Counties Wilderness Volunteer Rangers. We are encouraging rangers to hike both sides of the Eagles Nest Wilderness. One way to promote hiking both sides is to combine the scheduling calendar to include both Eagle and Summit volunteers. Cindy Ebbert from the Dillon Ranger District and Sam Massman from the Eagle/Holy Cross District created a new ranger report form that covers the concerns of both districts. This year we have 7 new rangers joining our group. Last year Summit Wilderness Rangers hiked over 809 miles and contacted over 3,210 day hikers and 175 backpackers. Our volunteers donated 654 hours to the protection of our Wilderness. According to the USFS, a volunteer hour is worth \$20.50, so our contribution to the USFS was \$13,407. In addition, Eagle Wilderness Rangers hiked approximately 450 miles and met 1825 day hik-

ers and 60 backpackers. This equated to 384 volunteer hours and a contribution of \$7,872 to the USFS. We also cleared over 100 downed trees from the Holy Cross and Eagles Nest wilderness trails. We will be scheduling one tree-clearing trail day per month this summer with Carol Rodriguez, our Wilderness Ranger.

Just a note on safety concerns. If backpacking on the Summit side of the Eagles Nest Wilderness please be aware of standing dead trees before setting up your tent. Due to the many dead trees, hiking is not recommended if the winds are gusting.

This year the exciting news is that Sam Massman has arranged for us to go to the Shrine Mt. Hut for the annual Fall party.

Moving on!



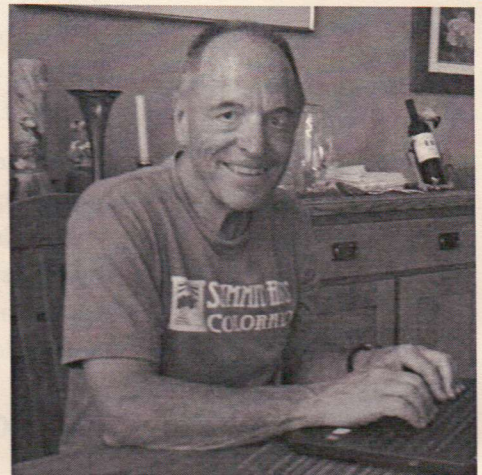
Jessi Miller and Frank Gutmann next to a gigantic seven foot musk thistle

As many are aware, Jessi Miller, our wonderful resident weed technician has moved on. Sadly her USFS position was not filled. This leaves a void that we must fill both through additional volunteers pulling and lending a hand spot spraying coupled with help from Forest Service Staff assisting with our efforts.

In addition to what Jessi did, the volunteer component took on 30 locations to treat by foot, which we intend to treat again this year.

Additional volunteers are needed; without you we will be hard pressed to meet our objective of eliminating and/or containing noxious weeds from invading our forest lands. Contact John Taylor 970.262.5940 for more information.

A big "thank you" to Dave Raymond, who was the editor of the FENW Newsletters from 2008 to 2012. He has handed over the reins to Frank and Mary Gutmann. Dave also retired from the FENW Board of Directors at the end of 2012.

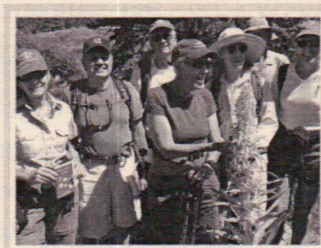


*Dave—you'll be a hard act to follow!
Many thanks for your dedication and creative energy!*

Cyndi Koop — *Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Extraordinaire!*



Cyndi organized a hike at Cataract Lake on June 30th featuring both the best of the best in native floral display as well as a few noxious invaders, i.e., Canada and Musk thistles, chamomile (crazy daisy) and oxeye daisy.



A wonderful experience to see in the natural setting, the many native flowers as identified by Pat Taylor. Noxious weeds along with native thistles highlighted and sprayed by John Taylor and Frank Gutmann, provided a “real time” experience and lessons to differentiate these species.

Thank you Cyndi!

Special points of interest:



George Resseguie, Secretary/Treasurer, just had knee surgery. Guess which knee?



Weedbuster, John Pickering, "nuking" oxeye daisies



A bear, spotted on Beaver Lake Trail by Ken Harper at the end of June

Help us preserve the primitive and pristine natural beauty of Summit and Eagle Counties' wilderness!

TRAFx Trail Monitoring System



Trail usage on 5 popular Wilderness trails continues to be tracked throughout the year with the TRAFx infrared counters. The statistics are

provided to the USFS to help manage trail maintenance activities. Complete trail usage statistics may be found on the FENW website (FENW.org). The counters were purchased through grant funding provided by The Summit Foundation and donations from our members.

For 2013, two new counters purchased at the end of last year will be installed in the

Cataract/Surprise Lake and Meadow Creek trail areas. Two new counters are being purchased this year and will be in place soon. This will bring our total inventory of trail counters to 9. Placement of the counters is determined in collaboration with the USFS.

Trail Crew Schedule

- Saturday June 15: Willow Creek, signage and campsite removal
- Saturday July 13: North Ten Mile, drainage improvements and campsite removals
- Friday August 16 - Sunday August 18: Pack in to Eccles Pass for drainage improvements
- * Saturday September 14: Location TBD based on trail reports

2013 Summer Program

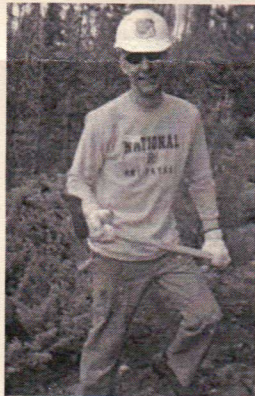
FENW's 2013 trail maintenance program will continue this year with three Saturday projects and a weekend, pack-in project. (See Trail Crew Schedule to left)

If you can, please plan on joining us. The work is rewarding and the companionship is great. For the day projects, we meet at 8 AM at the DRD office in Silverthorne for coffee, orientation and carpooling to the trail head. Tools and safety equipment are provided. Volunteers should bring lunch, plenty of water and any other gear you'll need for a day on the trail. We finish by mid-afternoon with tailgate refreshments.

Please let us know if you plan to join us for any of the day projects. Reservations are required for the pack-in project so we can be sure to have enough tools and supplies.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the program, please contact Bill Reed at 970-513-9741 or bill.reed@fenw.org.

Tool Maintenance Program



Tools of the Trade

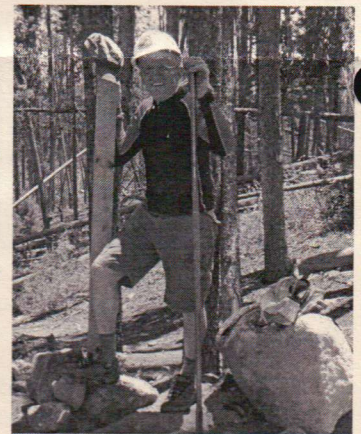
Our Tool Maintenance Program, a collaborative effort with FDRD continues to be extremely successful. In 2012, FDRD recorded 5,800 volunteer hours for their projects and FENW completed 5

trail projects with 500 volunteer hours, In total, the value of the volunteer work last year exceeded \$125,000! Our tools are housed in two tool sheds, one of which was constructed using funding provided by The Summit Foundation.



Signage

In December, we received grant funding from The Summit Foundation and the Towns of Dillon, Frisco, and Silverthorne to purchase new signage for Wilderness trails. The new signs are needed because the new USFS Travel Management Plan now designates many former "social or user" trails as "systems" trails and has adopted a "closed unless posted open" policy for all trails. The new signs, most of which have been purchased, will provide guidelines to enhance users' understanding for the trails being used.



Doggie Poop Bags and Trash

FENW volunteers work hard at keeping our wilderness and USFS trails pristine for all to enjoy. Unfortunately, some users abuse the trails by trashing them. Dog poop in plastic bags are frequently left by the side of the trails. The plastic bags not only prevent the sun's UV rays from sterilizing the poop, the bags are unsightly and take many year to deteriorate. Consider hiking with a plastic shopping bag to carry out thoughtlessly discarded doggie poop-filled bags and other trash on your way out. Every "litter bit" we carry out helps.

FENW 2013 ANNUAL DUES CAMPAIGN Membership Levels

Please register me for the following membership level (check one level)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUFFALO \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> PINEY LAKE \$40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CATARACT LAKE 60.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> GORE TRAIL \$80.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EAGLES NEST \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> BOOTH CREEK \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MT. POWELL \$500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER \$ _____ |



I would also like to help with:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| ___ Trail Work | ___ Weed Control |
| ___ Ranger Patrol | ___ Other (_____) |

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

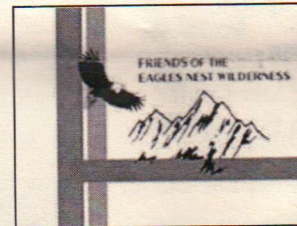
CITY: _____ STATE, ZIP: _____

LOCAL ADDRESS (if different): _____

CITY: _____ STATE, ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: (Home) _____ (Mobile) _____

E-MAIL: _____



FENW
PO Box 4504
Frisco, CO 80443

Please check box below if you would like us not to mention your contribution in a future newsletter.

PLEASE DO NOT PUBLICIZE MY DONATION

Please tear off this page and mail with your check, payable to FENW, to the address above. Or, use PAYPAL payment option on the FENW.org website.

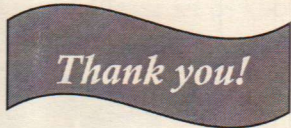
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Thank you for your continuing support

We are continually grateful for the generous support you give FENW. Your contributions are used for the purchase of tools, supplies and other items used in the work of maintaining Wilderness trails. Money received is also used for matching grants which FENW uses for weed mitigation, trail signage and other trail maintenance projects.

100% of your contribution goes for the improvements of the wilderness. There are no salaries. All work is accomplished by volunteers.

New members are needed both as Volunteers and contributors to insure that the work of FENW continues. Please recommend FENW to your friends.



**MEMBERSHIP DONORS
November 2012 – June 2013**

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rosemarie Archangel & | Sally Liu |
| Vera Sapington | Mike Mayrer |
| Bill Betz | John & Connie McKeague |
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| Tom Brennom | Michael Miller |
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| Dave & Cyndi Koop | John & Pat Taylor |
| Jonathan & Jacque Kriegel | Stephen & Elizabeth Weseley |
| Dave & Jan Lace | Hans & MJ Wuster |
| Ed & Margi Lane | |

Grant Donors

- The Summit Foundation
- National Forest Foundation
- NFF/Ski Area Conservation Fund
- Summit County Weed Program
- A-Basin Employee Environmental Fund*
- Black Hills Parks & Rec Fund (USFS)
- Colorado State Trails/GOCO
- Larry Thomas Memorial Fund
- Pulling for Colorado (P4C)
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Jake Oster Memorial Fund
- Town of Breckenridge
- Town of Dillon
- Town of Frisco
- Town of Silverthorne

*Thanks to COO Alan Henceroth and the 40+ contributors to the Fund for their generous donations (for the 13th year in a row!). We greatly appreciate their generous support.

Business Donors

- Abbey's Coffee
- All Seasons Catering
- Backcountry Brewery
- Beaver Run Resort
- Breckenridge Brewery
- City Market
- Copy Copy
- Dillon Ranger District Staff
- Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District Staff
- Eagles Nest Property Homeowners Assoc.
- Friends of the Dillon Ranger District
- Friends of the Lower Blue
- Go-Lite, Silverthorne
- Gore Range Mountain Outfitters
- Infinite Scope
- Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
- John Fielder/Westcliff Publishing
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- Krystal 93
- Mountain Outfitters
- Neils Lunceford
- Nobel-Sysco
- Patagonia
- Peak Provisions
- Slate Creek Ranch
- South Maryland Creek Ranch
- Subway
- Summit County Government
- Summit Daily News
- TRAFx Research, LTD

FENW
PO Box 4504
Frisco, CO 80443

Upcoming Trail Crew Projects

- **Friday, August 16 - Sunday August 18: Pack in to Eccles Pass for drainage improvements**
- **Saturday, September 14: Location TBD based on trail reports**

*To sign up, contact Bill Reed at 970.513.9741
or bill.reed@fenw.org*
