

**Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness**  
**FENW Volunteers were busy during the summer 2008.**

● **Thank you to FENW Volunteers and Contributors**

Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness remains an all-volunteer organization. There is no paid staff. All activities are organized and produced by volunteers. That is why YOU are so important to this organization. The volunteer board members thank each and every one of you for your continuing work on behalf of the wilderness. Your volunteer work demonstrates your love and protection of the wilderness and its solitude, beauty, and habitat. Also, we thank you for your continued financial support of FENW. Your membership contributions fund portions of all programs and provide the essential "cash match" when seeking grant funding for FENW projects.

**Message from President Currie Craven**

FENW members are invited to participate in the latest round of White River National Forest (WRNF) planning, that of Travel Management. As many of you recall, FENW has been neck deep in the WRNF planning process since way back in the '90's. The final (we all hope) stage of planning is Travel Management. I attended the USFS open house Saturday 11.15.08 at our own Dillon Ranger District and was greatly enlightened with the assistance of our local rangers. Comments are due by 1.06.09. FENW will be consolidating our thoughts and ask for your input. You can check out the draft plan on the WRNF web site:  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/projects/travel\\_management/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/projects/travel_management/index.shtml).

Of particular interest to FENW is the "spaghetti bowl" of trails near Salt Lick Creek in the Wildernest area. Some local mountain bikers have been using the trail system on a regular basis and because of the existing pattern of trails, have illegally ridden into the Eagles Nest Wilderness due to a lack of understanding of this informal trail network. For many years we have been involved in informal discussions with our Summit County organization the Summit Fat Tire Society (SFTS) regarding how to improve this

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I discussed this at the Travel Management meeting with Cindy Ebbert, Ken Waugh, and Paul Semmer of the USFS and Mike Zobbe of the SFTS. The USFS does not have funds for needed environmental impact studies. An opportunity exists to submit a joint grant with SFTS to receive funds for planning in order to determine if an appropriate trail corridor exists to encourage mountain bikers to respect the designated Wilderness boundary. Mike will take the matter up with the SFTS Board, and I will request the FENW Board consider this opportunity as well.

Many issues must be considered as this goes forward. Significant is the fact that the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) has identified wildlife concerns, most

importantly, elk habitat and calving. We must tread (no pun intended) carefully. Great concern exists about the appropriateness of potentially changing an existing Forest Plan prescription for wildlife preference to recreation.

I urge all FENW members to contact any Board member and get involved!

I end with sending my best Holiday greetings and wishes to all. Thanks for supporting FENW and Summit County Wilderness. How about giving an FENW membership as a gift?

### **Awards: Dedicated, Hard-Working, Long Time Members Honored**

John Taylor, Cyndi Koop and MaryAnn Gaug were presented original autographed John Fielder scenic photographs at the annual meeting for their tireless and dedicated work in FENW. Thanks to John Fielder for his generous contribution to Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness.

### **2008 Trail Projects: Jonathan Kriegel, Cyndi Koop**

Date	Location	Activity
June 7	Acorn Creek	A joint project with Friends of Dillon Ranger District. 36 volunteers built water bars and trail tread.
June 28	Gateways Project	18 volunteers removed downed trees and did trail work on Eaglesmere and Cataract Lake Trails.
July 27	Mesa Cortina	8 volunteers built check dams and water bars to control erosion on the heavily trafficked Mesa Cortina trail. A new trailhead sign was installed.
August 1	Wheeler Lakes	3 volunteers rehabbed 7 campsites
August 23	Mesa Cortina	8 volunteers removed the nearly unusable turnpike near the intersection of the South Willowbrook and Gore Range trails. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps built a new turnpike during the following week
August 30	Salmon Lake	2 volunteers rehabbed 7 campsites. 15 trees were cut and removed from the area around the Gore Range and Willowbrook trails intersection
	Missouri Lakes	20 illegal campsites were brushed out by Eagle County FENW volunteers

### **Ranger Patrols: Cyndi Koop**

#### **Eagle County:**

23 Wilderness Rangers, with 15 returning and 8 new volunteers, patrolled the Eagle County Eagles Nest Wilderness and Holy Cross Wilderness.

Hours volunteered:	283
Miles hiked:	352
Groups of day users:	429
Groups overnight:	52
Backpackers:	133
Day hikers:	951
Dogs:	161
Dogs off leash:	94
Hunters:	6
Bikes:	6
Deer: 13 Moose 1: Elk 21	

### Summit County:

26 Wilderness Rangers with 16 returning and 10 new volunteers patrolled the Summit County Eagles Nest Wilderness.

Hours volunteered:	493
Miles hiked:	561
Contacts:	2,238
Groups:	684
Backpackers:	129
Hikers:	1,988
Dogs:	219
Dogs off leash:	90
Hunters:	8

### Noxious Weed Program a Success! John Taylor

Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness sponsored a number of events this year to both eradicate weeds and promote community awareness of the impact of Noxious Weeds. "Pulling for Colorado", a statewide event, was sponsored by FENW and supported by 9 entities including towns and environmental organizations. A great success with 100 volunteers participating.

**(Mark your calendars for the 2009 event on Saturday, July 11, 2009).**

The National Forest Foundation, Ski Area Program (Vail Resorts) awarded FENW a \$10,000 grant to contract with a certified sprayer "Weed Busters" to treat 12 locations in the Eagles Nest Wilderness as well as the surrounding National Forest in both Summit and Eagle Counties. Although this is not a one shot venture we are achieving results with less spray applied in repeat areas. Remember weed seed can hang around for up to 70 years and still germinate with thistles good for 10 – 20 years.

2008 was the first year FENW assisted the Forest Service and spot sprayed a number of trailheads and lesser infested areas in the Wilderness with backpack sprayers in both Summit and Eagle Counties.

FENW also was involved with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class from Vail Mountain School for a weed pull as a school service project. 12 children anxious to learn about and pull noxious weeds took to the event with great gusto.

FENW pulled together a Noxious Weed Exhibit of live, (or they WERE alive) noxious weeds in the Silverthorne Branch Library for the months of July and August. We are planning on providing another exhibit for 2009 at the main library. Our thrust is to promote public education and awareness.

**Summation: 704 documented volunteer hours that included 56 hours of spot spraying. Thanks to all who assisted and we look for more involvement for 2009.**

## **TOOL SHED and FENW TOOL & EQUIPMENT INVENTORY CELEBRATES TWO YEARS: GEORGE RESSEGUIE**

The FENW Tool Shed was constructed in the summer of 2007 with funds provided through a grant from the Colorado State Parks organization. The US Forest Service contributed a tool shed "kit" and labor was provided by FENW volunteers. The shed is located at the US Forest Service compound in Dillon.

Most of the tool inventory has been purchased through grant funding, with the remainder a gathering of existing FENW inventory that had been stored in various members' garages, Currie's truck, and so on. The inventory includes trail maintenance staples like McLeod rakes, Pulaski's, pick mattocks, and shovels. Also, two beautiful, old (30-40 years old) cross-cut saw blades have been purchased, and one was used beginning this year to clear downed trees (over 100 trees this year) from trails. Work gloves, hard hats, loppers, rock bars, axes, and small saws have also been acquired. Overall, there are about 200 individual tools available for use.

The tools are available to any non-profit in Summit County and have been in heavy use throughout the summer season, particularly by FENW for our 4 trail maintenance projects, campsite rehab, and tree clearing efforts and by Friends of the Dillon Ranger District for their myriad trail maintenance and adopt-a-trail projects. Countless hundreds of volunteer hours valued at \$17-\$18.50 per hour have been generated using the FENW tools for the benefit of Summit County.

Marilyn Repsher and Cyndi Koop presented the new (old) cross-cut saw, to the Silverthorne Town Council. (See photo) The saw was purchased through a grant from the Town of Silverthorne. Mayor Dave Koop reads to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at Silverthorne Elementary and they named the saw "Teeth Monster".

## **Grants: Money that Funds Programs and Projects**

FENW received generous support from the following organizations:

National Forest Foundation/Ski Area Contribution Program for noxious weeds.  
CCSA, a cost sharing program through the National Forest Foundation  
Arapahoe Basin Employee Environmental Fund  
Colorado State Trails  
Summit Foundation  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Town of Silverthorne

## **Business Donors: FENW Volunteers THANK YOU!**

John Fielder, Hearthstone Catering, Wilderness Sports, Hang Time Gallery, Abby's Coffee, Subway of Breckenridge, Sanders True Value Hardware, and Big Horn Ace Hardware

## **Membership:**

FENW has 107 paid members in 2008. FENW is continually grateful for this generous support. Our mailing list consists of nearly 200 names including business, government and other *interested* parties.

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

## **Board of Directors:**

**President: Curry Craven**

**Secretary/Treasurer: George Resseguie**

**Members: Cyndi Koop, Marilyn Repsher, Dave Raymond**

**Ex Officio: John Taylor, Cindy Ebbert**

**Webmaster: Rick Warren**

**Trails: Jonathan Kriegel**

**Membership: Mern & Joel Bitler**

**Email: [FENW.org](mailto:FENW.org)**

**Mail: FENW P.O. Box 4504 Frisco, CO. 80443**

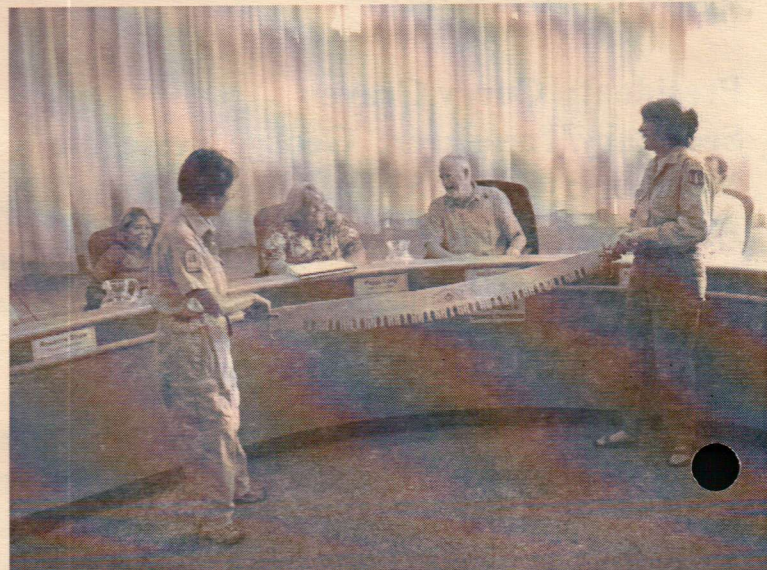
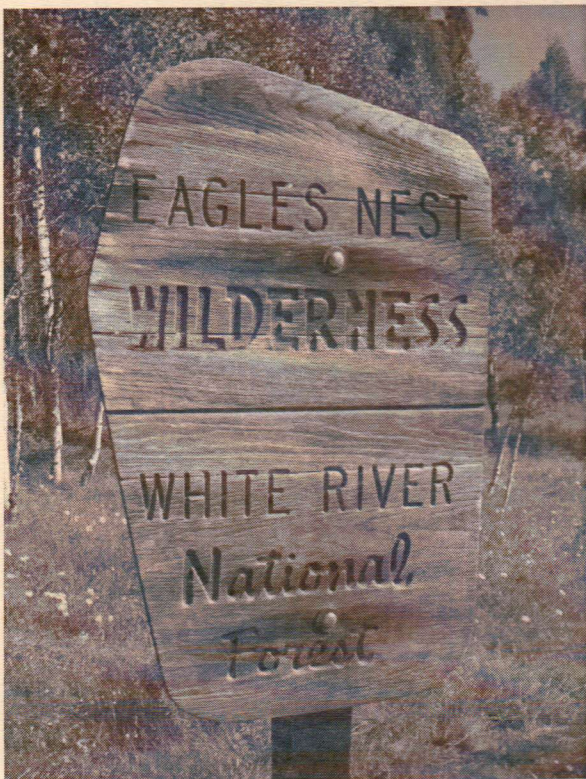
**Website: [www.fenw.org](http://www.fenw.org)**



Acorn Creek Trail Crew



Eagle County Volunteer Rangers



Saw Presentation - TOS Council



Mesa Cortina Turnpike  
Before



Mesa Cortina Turnpike  
During



Mesa Cortina Trailwork



Mesa Cortina Turnpike After



FENW  
P.O. Box 4504  
Frisco, CO 80443

**FENW 2009 ANNUAL DUES CAMPAIGN**  
**Membership Levels**

\_\_\_\_\_ **BUFFALO \$20.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **PINEY LAKE \$40.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **CATARACT LAKE \$60.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **GORE TRAIL \$80.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **EAGLES NEST \$100.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **BOOTH CREEK \$250.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **MT. POWELL \$500.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **OTHER**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCAL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO: FENW P.O. BOX 4504 FRISCO, CO 80443**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!**

**I would like to volunteer to help with:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Newsletter**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Trailwork**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Weed Control**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Ranger Patrol**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Other**