

Forty-Fourth Official Newsletter

August 2003



Introduction to Friends:

The Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is an apolitical nonprofit corporation (501(c)3) formed in May 1994 to raise in-cash, in-kind, and in-service goods to help the Dillon Ranger District of the White River National Forest maintain the Summit County portions of the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas. The Eagles Nest Wilderness consists of 82,484 acres of Summit County while the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness has 13,175 acres. Two Wilderness Rangers cover this area in the summer (47,830 acres each). We presently raise money through membership dues, donations, and grants.

Buffalo Mountain Trail Project

Our third project for the summer will be the Buffalo Mountain Trail. As part of the preparation project for a new trail to the summit of Buffalo Mountain, we will revegetate and obliterate old trails in the area. A separate flyer is enclosed with this newsletter.

Please note two important changes from our usual routine: first there is **mandatory registration** because the Forest Service has asked us to limit the number of people on the project; second we are meeting at the actual trailhead instead of the Dillon Ranger District. Please call Jonathan @ 262-2399 or Currie @ 453-9056 to register before August 21.

We will meet at the top of Ryan Gulch Rd. at the Buffalo Mountain Trailhead in Wildernest. Take I-70 Exit 205 in Silverthorne and go north on Highway 9. Turn left at Wildernest Rd. (by 7-11) and go four miles up the hill to the trailhead at the top.

A light breakfast will be provided. Bring lunch, water, work gloves, and raingear. Wear sturdy boots and long pants. We'll hike a few miles UP and work all day on the steep slopes. A tailgate party will be a happening after we work hard all day.

Travel Management Back on the Front Burner

The scoping process for the Travel Management Plan for the White River National Forest got underway last September when the Forest Service asked for comments about summer travel areas including road and trail designations; winter travel areas and route designations; designation or elimination of unclassified travelways; and identification of classified roads for decommissioning. Them's a lot of words, but bottom line the idea is to specify areas as opened or closed to certain uses consistent with the revised Forest Plan. Each trail or road within each area will be further labeled for allowable uses. The plan will cover both snow-free and over-snow use by the many multiple types of users who love to recreate in the White River N.F.

The Forest Service received over 580 letters of comments and maps. They are offering a series of site visits on Saturdays for people to get a first-hand view of some of the issues the travel planners are facing in this plan. To attend, please sign up with the ranger district by the Monday before. Bring a lunch!

Ryan Gulch area –Sept. 6, meet at Dillon Ranger District office in Silverthorne at 9 a.m. 468-5400.

Clark Ridge and Meadow Lake area – Aug. 16, meet at Rifle Ranger District office in Rifle at 9 a.m. 970-625-2371

Annual Meeting Fun and Informative

On June 5, about 50 FENW members, friends, and Forest Service personnel gathered at Carter Park shelter for good food, camaraderie, and an update on FENW.

Board member elections were held. Members reelected Currie Craven and Jonathan Kriegel.



Jonathan Kriegel grilled burgers and lead wilderness ranger Jimmy Gaudry made his specialty, jambalaya.

Beaver Run, Nobel-Sysco, City Market Dillon, and Mi Zuppa Breck donated food and drinks for the annual get-together. Breck Brewery gave us a good deal on beer.



Clare Bastable of the Colorado Mountain Club gave a slide show on proposed wilderness areas in Colorado. Currie and Jonathan have been working with Clare and other groups of wilderness advocates to provide input to Congressman Mark Udall.

Beth Boyst discussed the new self-registration system in Holy Cross and Maroon Bells–Snowmass Wilderness areas.

Currie gave a little State of FENW address. He and Jonathan have been active in both Travel Management planning and the Colorado wilderness proposal. The Buffalo Mountain trail project is getting underway this year with revegetation, and the trail reroute will happen next summer. Currie also mentioned concern about Colorado requesting to list many roads and trails in the state under RS2477, which could create roads in Wilderness and National Parks.

Left - Wilderness ranger Cindy Ebbert, FENW founder John Fayhee, Gay Fayhee, Treasurer Jim Anthony (hiding), Jacque Kriegel, Evelyn Gaug, and Wilderness manager Beth Boyst at the meeting.

Wheeler Trailhead Relocated

Our workday at the Wheeler trailhead on July 19 was a big success. Fifteen volunteers and four Forest Service employees showed up to relocate the Wheeler trailhead. The old trailhead was located on the off-ramp of the I-70 Copper Mountain exit. The new trailhead is located about 0.75 mile east of the old trailhead near the ponds at the scenic overlook. Volunteers moved and relocated bulletin boards and trail signs, installed bridges, and constructed a new trail along an old road leading from the old trailhead to the new trailhead.

We tailgated at the scenic overlook and consumed the usual amounts of guacamole, chips, beer and soft drinks. Unfortunately we have lots of leftovers of everything which will have to be consumed at our next work project—Buffalo Mountain. The weather held just fine and no one got rained on.

To access the new trailhead, exit I-70 westbound at the scenic area between Officer's Gulch and Copper Mountain. The new trailhead is much safer, away from high speed traffic, and offers a substantially larger parking area. CDOT will be closing the old parking area.

Thanks for all your help and see you on the trail!



Breakfast with instructions before heading out to move a trailhead.

New Group Size Limit in White River Wildernesses

With the approval of the revised White River National Forest plan on April 2, 2002, the group size limit has changed in all wilderness areas. The new rule is no more than 15 people per group with a maximum combination of 25 people and pack or saddle animals in any one group. The Maroon Bells-Snowmass is more restrictive with no more than 10 people per group with a maximum combination of 25 people and pack or saddle animals in any one group.

The new regulations have been posted on the trailhead bulletin boards. A complete list of regulations is posted on the

Gateways Project in June



Cyndi Koop watches while Deb and Rob Nelson, Guff VanVooren, and John Koop give a tree a heave ho. Clearing avalanche debris on Buffalo Cabin Trail.

During Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness annual Gateways trail clearing project on June 21, 28 volunteers and three U.S. Forest Service personnel cleared downed trees on three different trails, weather-proofed wilderness trailhead bulletin boards (purchased with grants from The Summit Foundation and the towns of Frisco and Silverthorne), and installed informational carsonite posts.



Guff VanVooren and Cyndi Koop power the crosscut saw while Mern Bitler watches. Clearing avalanche debris on Buffalo Cabin Trail.

Unofficial Dillon Ranger District Website

Check out www.dillonrangerdistrict.com. This website is privately created and funded, but provides lots of good information about the Dillon Ranger District and our wilderness areas, too. Check out the latest Wilderness Use and Occupancy Regulations for both Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak

Welcome New and Returning Members!

We've been a little tardy in recognizing new and returning FENW members, so here's the list since January 2003. Thanks to all of you for your support!

New members: Bob Watson & Judy Brenner, Charles & Debbie Pitman, Kurt & Penny Steuer, Barbara Stiltner, Kevin Wood & Karina Thomas, Gordon Anderson, Marie E. Roberts, and Linda Bush.

Returning members: Bill & Marylee Adamson, Robert C. & Judith C. Anderson, Ellen Sappington & Rosemarie Archangel, Joel & Mern Bitler, Carol S Bosserman, Beth Boyst & Phil Bowden, A. Keith Brown, Currie Craven, Patrick Dobey, Maryann Gaug, James & Patricia Gilman, John & Jean Green, Jim Holzwarth, Kristin P. & John R. Howland, Ron James, Bob & Fran Jones, Joe Kramarsic, Jonathan H. Kriegel, Dave & Jan Lace, Sandi & Mike MacLeod, Judith McGreevy, Jennifer & Jeff Miles, Leland Miller, Kurt Morscher, Allyn & Joyce Mosher, Roger & Sue Paluska, William Pifer, Robert Porter, Mary Kay Rachwalski, Dave Raymond, Marilyn Repsher, John Roberts, Anne Robinson, Steve & Laura Rossetter, Rob Scheifele, Maxine and Martin Solomon, Pat Spitzmiller, Karn Stiegelmeier, John & Pat Taylor, Connie Tussel.

Thanks again to A-Basin employees and management for your continued support (\$1,778 in 2 years)!

Dillon District Ranger Search Still On

Paul Semmer is the current acting district ranger at the Dillon Ranger District. He will fill the leadership role for about 120 days unless the new district ranger is picked before then. Paul thinks it will be early fall before the new DR arrives. A committee, including Forest Supervisor Martha Kettle, Deputy Forest Supervisor Steve Sherwood, and Cal Wettstein, DR at Holy Cross, is reviewing the applications and references. Once a person is picked and notified, it takes awhile for the person to leave his/her current job, find a place to live, and move to Summit County.

Angela Glenn's job has been filled. Ken Waugh from Boise will be joining the Dillon Ranger District on Aug. 25. Meanwhile his wife, Cam Meyer, a realty specialist with Boise National Forest, will be filling Paul Semmer's lands adjustment job starting Aug. 10 until Paul finishes his stint as DR.

Dogs and Fire Regulations Reminder

A reminder: the regulations for both Eagles Nest and Parmigan Peak Wilderness areas state the following act is prohibited: possessing a dog, except working stock dogs or dogs used for legal hunting purposes, unless under physical constraint of a leash not to exceed six (6) feet in length.

When the fire ban is not in place, the following is also prohibited: building, maintaining, attending, or using a campfire: a) within 100 feet of any lakes, streams, or trails; b) within 1/4 (0.25) mile of treeline or above treeline.

FENW Board Opposes Wildernest-Frisco Road

At their June 19 meeting, the Board voted to oppose the Wildernest to Frisco road that is being discussed by a group of Frisco businessmen. The concept is to build a road from Buffalo Drive in Wildernest, over the existing Salt Lick Trail, over I-70 near the old Dillon water tank to the dam road.

The Board is concerned about the road for a number of reasons:

The area proposed for the road is about 0.5 mile from the Eagles Nest Wilderness border. It appears it would cut through forest wetlands, elk wintering area, and an adjacent elk calving area. The Salt Lick Gulch and Ryan Gulch drainages provide habitat for elk, mule deer, moose, coyote, beaver, bear, and mountain lion.

Numerous trails could be affected by the proposed road. The area is used daily by hikers, runners, mountain bikers, XC skiers, and snowshoers. Summit Fat Tire Society is also opposed to the road.

The road and spur would further fragment the national forest on both the north and south side of I-70, opening this area for possible future land trade and development. The board feels that buffer zones between our communities are necessary to provide wildlife migration paths and preserve our rural beauty.

Fire Ban in Effect in White River National Forest

A Stage I fire ban became effective noon, Thursday, July 17, and will stay in effect until rescinded. The purpose of these restrictions is to decrease opportunities for human-caused fires.

The ban prohibits building, maintaining, attending or using a campfire, charcoal broiler or a coal or wood stove anywhere except in a Forest Service developed camp or picnic ground.

The use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices is allowed, providing such devices meet the fire underwriters' specifications for safety.

Smoking is only allowed within a closed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area that is at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

The Smokey Bear sign at the Silverthorne fire station has been pretty consistently reading Very High fire danger.

No Geocaching in Wilderness

Geocaching is a relatively new sport where someone hides (caches) something in the woods then posts the GPS coordinates on a website. It's basically a scavenger hunt, which typically leads people off-trail. With the Wilderness Act of 1964 specifying that wilderness is without permanent improvements or human habitation and man is a visitor who does not remain, leaving caches is not allowed. The wilderness regulations mentioned above also prohibit storing equipment, personal property or supplies for longer than 72 hours. That means

These regulations help maintain the pristine and natural conditions of Wilderness. Please respect and cooperate!

geocaching is prohibited in Wilderness as well as storing any equipment or supplies for a long trip.

Membership Expiration

Please note your membership expiration date located below your address on the envelope. If your membership has expired a "We miss you" sheet is inserted in this newsletter. Please use the membership form below to renew your membership. Please help us with new membership by passing this form along to friends and family.

FENW Board of Directors

Currie Craven, Chairman/President, 453-9056
Jonathan Kriegel, VP, Travel Management Task Force, Trail chairperson, 262-2399
Anne Robinson, Secretary, 468-6758
Jim Anthony, Treasurer, 262-0984
Maryann Gaug, At-Large, 468-6219

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Membership Form

Yes! I want to join Friends and help preserve Summit County Wilderness. Sign me up at the:

- Trailhead Level (\$10 per year)
- Buffalo Mountain Level (\$20 per year)
- Cataract Lake Level (\$30 per year)
- Red Buffalo Pass Level (\$50 per year)
- Eagles Nest Level (\$100 per year)
- Mount Powell Level (\$500 per year)

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Are you willing to work on volunteer projects? _____

Email Address: _____ I can best work _____ weekdays _____ weekends

Please mail your membership form to: Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness, PO Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443-4504.
Call (970) 453-9056 or (970) 262-2399 for more information

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness
P.O. Box 4504
Frisco, CO 80443-4504