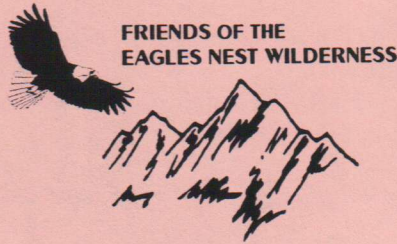


**Thirty-eighth Official Newsletter**  
**March 2001**



**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. Three Wilderness Rangers cover this area in the summer (31,886 acres each). We presently raise money through membership dues, T-shirt sales, donations, and grants.

**FENW Vision for 2001 & Beyond**  
**March 17, 2001**

**Letter from our president**

Spring greetings to all FENW members and supporters. When March arrives, thoughts of spring getaways cannot be far behind. I hope you have exciting plans for warmer places and minimal clothing requirements. Meanwhile, don't forget to follow the planned activities of FENW listed in this and future newsletters. A busy summer is ahead.

First, please remember to follow the ongoing White River National Forest Land and Management Plan revision (the "Forest Plan"). This process will continue this summer with preparations to comment on the Travel Management portion of this epic saga.

As you may recall, when the original Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released last August, the Travel Management component raised many concerns. Many in our community of active recreationalists felt that inadequate analysis was given to the important issue of how many trails and backcountry roads would be administered. The FENW communicated to the USFS concerns that proposed trail and road closures would negatively impact user experience. Citizens commented directly to the USFS, to their local planning commissions, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), and to representatives in the Congress. The Forest Service responded by allowing a separate comment period on the Travel Management portion of the Forest Plan. This decision was met with widespread approval, as interested citizens and user groups will have this summer's "Field Season" to examine USFS proposals and formulate "ground truth" recommendations. The actual comment period for Travel Management is anticipated to be from late August thru November.

This is a critical opportunity to make a difference in the way the White River National Forest (WRNF, or The Forest) will be managed over the life of the next 15-20 years. Please make plans to involve yourself in assisting FENW to identify crucial issues and travelways. This is important for the future of certain access to our local designated Wilderness areas (primarily non-designated "Social Trails"), use prescriptions for areas adjoining Wilderness, trails and roads outside Wilderness which are used for motorized and mechanized recreation, and identification of abuse of the land by irresponsible recreation. This can be non-motorized, such as happened to the once idyllic Shrine Ridge trail, a trail not maintained as it is not included in the recognized USFS trail system, as well as the more common perception of motorized

abuse.

FENW is proposing reviewing Travel Management topics within Summit County's designated Wilderness, as well as social trail access to Wilderness from local subdivisions. Jonathan Kriegel, who directed exhaustive work on the FENW Forest Plan Task Force, will chair this daunting challenge. We will be using GPS records of trails from County Open Space and Trails inventory, as well as conducting an analysis based upon members' local knowledge and our own GPS surveys. We will most definitely need assistance, please stay tuned to find out specifics of how to take action. For those who want to get ahead of the curve, give Jonathan a call.

Traditional trail projects are also being planned. The ongoing effort to donate and install new and improved signage at trailheads and Wilderness "Portals," or boundaries, will continue. Kindly refer to our schedule in this newsletter. We welcome volunteer assistance organizing and promoting these projects.

FENW is also looking for Board members. The current Board appreciates your confidence in our actions, but help and fresh perspectives would be gratefully received. Please contact any current or past Board member for more information.

Also, please keep in mind that as an all-volunteer organization, your membership dollars go a long way to fulfilling our mission to assist the USFS in maintaining the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas. If you have not renewed your membership, please do, and encourage others who value and recreate in Summit County's Wilderness backyard to help make a difference and join us!

As we await the snow melt down and green up, keep thinking about spring diversions and summer Wilderness adventures with a bit of public land stewardship thrown in. Thank you very much for caring to make a difference!

See you on the trail,  
Currie



## USFS White River Plan Update

Friends continues to be involved in the process of revising the management plan for the White River National Forest. We are placing particular emphasis on the Summit County portions of the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Wilderness Areas. Currently, the US Forest Service is in the process of producing a final environmental impact statement based on the comments submitted last spring. The final draft is anticipated to be out in August or September of this year.

The Forest Service has also decided to separate out a large portion of the revision plan dealing with the topic of Travel Management and invite an additional round of comments this fall. Travel Management covers issues related to the movement of people and resources over the forest. The new Travel Management plan will detail things such as maximum group size, presence of snowmobiles in roadless areas adjacent to Wilderness, closure of riparian Wilderness areas to horse traffic, and classification of Wilderness areas as semi primitive, primitive or pristine. There will be a 90-day comment period following the travel management plan draft, which we anticipate to be this August. Travel Management is viewed as a critical topic and the Board plans on submitting substantial comments to the Service. Accordingly, we intend to do an on the ground survey work this summer in preparation for these comments. We want to emphasize the concept of "closed unless signed open."

The last Draft Environmental Impact Statement was considered by many to be "pro-environmental" and criticized by some as going too far towards accommodating bio-diversity concerns. It will be interesting to see if our new administration alters this emphasis. Interested members should contact Jonathan Kriegel 262-2399 for more information.

## Earth Day 2001 River Run, Keystone

Sun April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Earth Day Festival** - Free Admission. River Run Plaza. 12 noon – 3:00 pm, Expo booths, BBQ, Beer & Live Band.

**Snowshoe Ecology Tour** – Registration/Check-in at the River Run Day Room. Starts at 11:00 am. Meet at the left side of the Outpost Gondola, everyone will board the gondola together and go across to the Outpost. All will snowshoe back

on a portion of the Peak to Peak trail, then take the Gondola back down to River Run. 2+ mile hike – approx. 3 hours. All participants who need snowshoes may pick up a complimentary pair at the Day room from 9:30 to 10:30 (Credit card required for collateral)

## Summer Trail Projects

Please mark the following dates on your calendar. More information will follow later on each project.

Sat. June 23 – Gateway project

Sat. July 21 – North Rock Creek Crossing - Rebuild/reroute bridge

Sat/Sun Aug 11 - North Ten Mile washout – Reroute trail

## Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado Info

Here's your chance to give back to Colorado's great outdoors! VOC's *Hands on Colorado: Volunteer Opportunities 2001* catalog is filled with hundreds of ways (over 900) you can make a difference. Help VOC repair a damaged hiking trail, build a community garden, work with wildlife, construct a boardwalk through a wetland, and lots more. Visit [www.voc.org](http://www.voc.org) today to find out how to get involved or call 303.715.1010 or 1.800.925.2220 for your free copy of the catalog.

## New & Renewing Members

Welcome to new members Suzanne Bailey, Lorraine Caposole, Michael Miller. Welcome back to Jim & Sue Anthony, Rosemarie Archangel, Paul Levisohn, Judith McGreevy, John & Connie McKeague, Clarence Meyer, Ellen Sappington, Dennis & Edith Taratus, Pat & John Taylor, Ernie & Barbara Warren. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

## 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.

### **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. Or call (970) 453-9056 or (970) 262-2399 for more information.