



**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 Arapaho National Forest maintain the Summit County portions of the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Wilderness areas. The Eagles Nest Wilderness consists of 82,324 acres of Summit County while the Ptarmigan Wilderness has 13,175 acres. Four Wilderness Rangers cover this area in the summer (23,875 acres each). We presently raise money through membership dues, T-shirt sales, donations, and grants.

**Wheeler Trail is the New Project Site for Saturday, August 23rd**

**Gore Range Trail Project Change**

Since the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp is taking on the North Rock Creek Gore Project, our attention is now focused on the Gore (Wheeler) Trail starting at the trailhead just off I-70 exit 195 to Copper Mountain. (Exit 195 is route 91 to Leadville.) Parking is suggested across the highway in the parking lot at the end of the 10 Mile Canyon bike trail near the Conoco Station at Copper Mountain. We will all meet there at 8:00 am on Saturday, August 23rd and break into groups. No bridges or rock fords this time. No wet feet we hope! Just a solid day of trail restoration enjoyment. For anyone who has taken the delightful hike to Wheeler Lakes and Uneva Pass, you may recall the sad state of this trail with deep eroded tread and multiple ruts. The order of the day will be trail restoration and the creation of check dams and water bars to improve drainage. Work will start approximately a quarter of a mile from the trailhead and extend to the Wilderness Boundary at .6 miles, and on to the Lost Lake/Wheeler Lake Junction at the 2 mile mark. Should there be a real energetic group, there is plenty of work to be done on up to Lost Lake at the 4 mile mark. Hope to see another great turnout! Any questions may be referred to John Taylor at 262-5940 or Currie Craven at 453-9056. Don't forget your workboots and gloves, long pants, water, sunscreen and repellent.

**North 10 Mile Project Wrap-up**

This was a great project with so much accomplished. Thirty-five volunteers making up six teams completed major trail improvements for water management and erosion control as well as the major effort of constructing a rock ford across North Ten Mile stream. This was a significant undertaking and truly a remarkable accomplishment. In addition the eighth wilderness portal sign of the season was installed. The day was an inspiration of volunteerism for Wilderness preservation. Thanks to Steve Bull and the Forest Service gang and to everyone who participated.

**Rocky Mountain Youth Corp**

The Rocky Mountain Youth Corp, despite the rainy weather, did a great job between North and South Willow cleaning up some major wet/bog areas. Hikers will certainly notice the change in the infamous bog area where elevated tread and a boulder step crossing have been implemented. Trail maintenance was also made on sections of South Willow to Eccles as well as a section of the Gore from North Willow Crossing. For the week commencing August 3rd, the Youth Corp will be doing some major renovation between North and South Rock Creek installing a rock ford on North and elevated tread for the bridge approached to South Rock Creek.

**-- 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 (Individual, lower-income, \$10 per year)
- Buffalo Mountain Level (Individual, \$20 per year)
- Cataract Lake Level (Family, \$30 per year)
- Red Buffalo Pass Level (Small business and civic organizations, \$50 per year)
- Eagles Nest Level (Corporations and governmental entities, \$100 per year)
- Mount Powell Level (Truly generous folks and entities, \$500 per year)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you willing to work on volunteer projects? \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your membership form to: Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness, P.O. Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443. Or call (970) 468-6219 or (970) 262-0918 for more information.

**Update -White River National Task Force**

The feedback on our questionnaire was excellent. We received 36 responses with a wide variety of viewpoints and

some interesting comments. Generally, some clear trends were obvious. Within a range of 1 to 10 ;1 being the strongest in favor and 10 being the least; the *average* responses came out as follows: 3.4 on limiting group size to 12 heartbeats, 3.3 in favor of beefed up dog leash enforcement by the FS, 3.4 for excluding pack animals/horses from sensitive above treeline areas, 3.3 for excluding dogs from Wilderness areas if compliance with leash laws falls below 80% after 5 years, 4.5 on banning campfires in Wilderness areas, 5.1 on trailhead fee systems, 5.8 on increased trailhead facility development, and 4.4 on urging the FS to make air pollution an internal priority. Within these averages there are hidden a lot of divergent views from the member who wrote that no additional restrictions are needed to the members who wrote that roaming dogs, mountainbikes and motorized vehicles are a problem.

The Task Force met on August 9 and verbally went over the club position on all of the above issues based on the responses received. Trailhead facility development and fee areas will not be supported. Restrictions on dogs, horses, pack animals and motorized vehicles will be supported as these issues garnered the most support from our membership. Jonathan and Curry are in the process of developing a written position paper to submit to the FS. Additionally, the Task Force is considering working with other local environmental groups to gain additional support for our position and presenting a wider viewpoint to the FS. It has also come to our attention that a new Off Road Vehicle users group has become involved in the process.

We're still interested in your responses so send in more questionnaires if you haven't already done so. Call Jonathan @ 262-2399 if you need a questionnaire. Thanks for all the input.

### **Help us set out trail priorities for 1998**

Believe it or not. We haven't even finished our 1997 trail improvement program. FENW, in conjunction with the Forest Service, is moving to establish priorities for the 1998 season. The time to write grants for funding is close at hand in the next several months, so our funding needs must be recognized and planning put in place. We solicit your input as to areas that need work i.e. hazards, major deterioration to the tread, signage, etc., so we can react. We would like to study the Buffalo Mountain problem. Should the Slate Lake land

transfer to the Eagles Nest Wilderness come to fruition, there may be some work in this area. A number of trail intersection signs are falling down and need to be replaced. Please don't hesitate to call John Taylor, Shirley Beaty, or Currie Craven and give us specifics or your thoughts.

### **New Members, Renewals & Grants/Donations:**

The friends welcome to the group: Kirk Waible, The First Bank of Silverthorne, Al & Robbie Kahn, Peggy & Bruce Peterson, and Keith Brown. We welcome back Anne Robinson and Gary Grady. Great to have you all with us.

### **NRV Projects**

The Cataract Lake project was a success. With approximately 200 volunteers (including several FENW members) the entire 2 mile trail around the lake was stabilized.

NRV teams up with the USFS and Summit Fat Tire Society on Saturday, August 16, 1997 for the Spruce Creek Trail project in Breckenridge.

On Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> NRV will host the Sawmill Creek Trail project in Breckenridge.

FENW supports these projects and your participation would be greatly appreciated. For more information contact Nature's Resource Volunteers at 262-3497.

### **Backstage Theatre Special Discount**

The Backstage Theatre in Breckenridge has made a special offering to the Friends' members. During the month of August, FENW members can attend the Tuesday night performances for \$8 instead of \$10.

### **Board Of Directors**

Currie Craven, Chairman and President, 453-9056

Maryann Gaug, Secretary & Grants, 468-6219

M. John Fayhee, At Large, 547-9914

Jonathan Kriegel, VP & Forest Plan Task Force, 262-2399

John Taylor, Treasurer, Membership & Trails, 262-5940

Shirley Beaty, Co-Chairperson, Trails

Bill Grindle, Social Monitoring, 468-7459

Joan Theroux, Publications, 668-3304

Carol Padlick, Newsletter, 262-2929

### **Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness**

**P.O. Box 4504**

**Frisco, CO 80443**