

## President Currie Craven Says .....

Happy Spring and surf's up FENW! I hope the spring finds you well and ready for another High Country summer. As you will see in the rest of the newsletter, lots will be going on offering plenty of opportunities for active stewardship of our public lands.

I have a couple of updates for you regarding advocacy awareness and opportunities to get involved in Wilderness preservation and management of our White River National Forest (WRNF) lands. Both have been expected for public release and were unveiled recently.

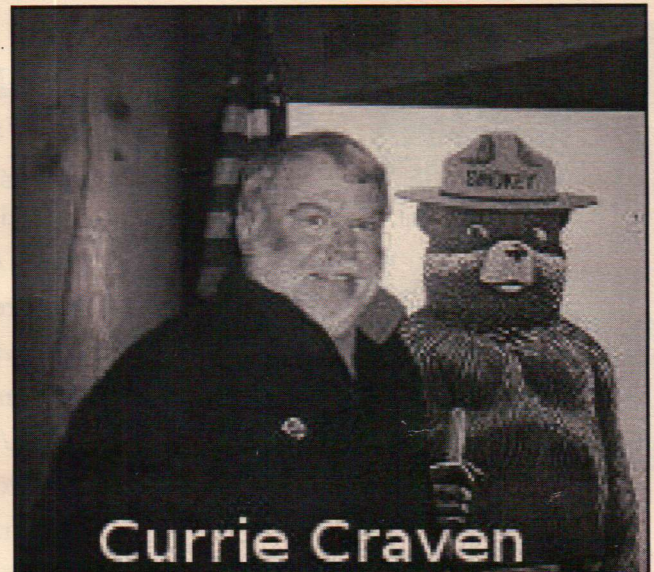
The first is the reintroduction by our Congressman Jared Polis of the Eagle and Summit County Preservation Act. This is slight retooling from the 2010 version and is based on the extensive and well vetted work of the Hidden Gems Campaign. Almost 80,000 acres are shaved off the 2010 proposal with 81,790 acres proposed for the big "W" Wilderness designation and 84,130 acres proposed for special areas designation. The special area designation would restrict development, road construction, and motorized use while allowing mountain biking. Press reports indicate the proposal has the support of the mountain bike advocacy group IMBA.

Of interest to FENW members is the inclusion of proposed Wilderness boundary extensions to the North end of the ENW along Elliot Ridge. This was included after being removed from original proposals due to concern from snowmobile interests. This winter, the USFS did a GPS survey of the ENW boundary on Elliot Ridge. An area used as a snowmobile play area was definitively shown to be in the existing Wilderness. FENW strongly encourages adequate enforcement of Wilderness regulations and passage of this legislation which would assist motorized users identify the boundary.

For more information, see [www.coloradoswildareas.com](http://www.coloradoswildareas.com) and [www.wilderness.org](http://www.wilderness.org).

In May, the USFS released their Record of Decision of the WRNF Travel Management Plan (TMP). This second part of the WRNF Land and Resource Management Plan has been seven years in formulating. Complicating this issue in Summit County is our mining history's legacy of "commodity roads". Many historic roads and trails were constructed with little or no regard to long term effects from following the fall line in many places.

An appeal period has commenced. Press reports list the close of this as August 25, 2011. The TMP will close 692 miles of non system or "bandit" trails, decommission 519



miles of roads and trails, and formalize the national standard of "closed unless signed open". For hikers, the TMP places no restrictions on our on or off trail travel. In Summit County, approximately 100 miles of social trails, old mining roads, or historic trails are scheduled to be closed and restored to native condition.

A recent article in the Summit Daily mentioned trails in the Golden Horseshoe, Fry Gulch, Soda Creek, and the Frisco Peninsula. Of special concern to FENW are trails in the Mesa Cortina and Salt Lick areas

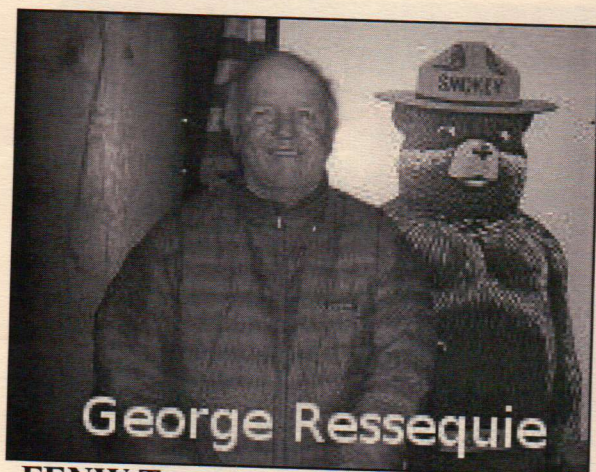
Some concerns our fellow conservation groups have expressed, and I share, are that by legalizing 225 miles of unauthorized trails forest wide, questions remain regarding whether the appropriate degree of environmental review was conducted. Also reported by the USFS is that the agency's financial ability to maintain routes was factored into the decisions, obviously with problematic implications.

FENW can help by continuing to donate money for and installing signs, maintaining and patrolling trails, and assisting the education process through visitor contacts and trailhead posters. A widespread opinion of user groups is that while not everyone will agree with the outcome, the TMP did follow a process where every user and user group had an input.

For additional information, see: [www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver](http://www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver).

Thanks for your support and what you do. I'll see you on the trails!

Currie



**FENW Treasurer George Resseguie**

### TRAFx Trail Monitoring System

#### TRAFx Trail Monitoring System

With grant funding from The Summit Foundation, FENW has purchased a trail monitoring system from TRAFx Research Ltd, Canmore, Alberta. The system includes 4 trail monitoring units that use infra-red technology to count general traffic on trails and paths; the data will be provided to the USFS to evaluate trail usage patterns. The units have been installed and tested at Meadow Creek, Ryan Gulch/Lily Pad Lake, North Tenmile, and Buffalo Cabin trailheads. Monitoring results now are being provided to the USFS to help plan their trail maintenance efforts. In 2011, the first monitoring period covered 10 weeks (March 14 – May 22); below are some of the results:

Trail	High Week	Avg. Wk.	High Day	Most Usage	Best Time
Buffalo Cabin	Mar 14 138 hikers	84 hikers	52 hikers	Saturday	11:00
N. Ten Mile	May 21 270 hikers	129 hikers	78 hikers	Saturday	11:00
M. Creek	Mar 21 219 hikers	90 hikers	94 hikers	Saturday	11:00

### FENW Tool Maintenance Program for 2011

In 2011, primary focus will be to construct another, larger tool shed. Another shed is needed to enable the consolidation of the tool inventory, improved security, and greatly improved storage and accessibility to tooling & equipment items. The Summit Foundation has awarded FENW a \$5000.00 grant to purchase a tool shed kit, that will be ready to use in July. For 2010, the tools were used by FDRD volunteers (4,370 hours) and FENW volunteers (about 400 hours) for over 50 trail maintenance projects.

The value of the volunteers' hours in 2010 was about \$100,000!

Increased usage is anticipated in 2011.

### Financial Report

The FENW financial position is excellent. We ended 2010 with \$18,335 in the bank. Plans for 2011 anticipate grant funding/dues of \$22,725 and expenses of \$26,675. Key expense items include noxious weed mitigation (\$11,575), construction of a new tool shed (\$5,000), trail monitoring and maintenance (\$3,650), and signage (\$1,250). We are extremely grateful for the financial support from our outstanding members, the National Forest Foundation/Ski Area Contribution Program, The Summit Foundation, the A-Basin Employee Environmental Fund, Colorado State Parks, and the Towns of Breckenridge, Frisco, and Silverthorne

# FENW *Newsletter* June 2011

## Grant Donors

The Summit Foundation  
National Forest Foundation (NFF)  
NFF/Ski Area Conservation Fund  
Summit County Weed Program  
Black Hills Parks & Rec Fund (USFS)  
Colorado State Trails/GOCO  
Pulling for Colorado (P4C)  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Town of Breckenridge  
Town of Frisco  
Town of Silverthorne

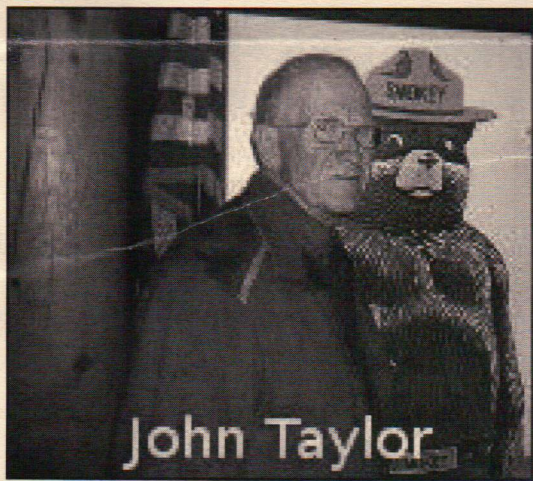
**\*Thanks to COO Alan Henceroth and the other Fund Contributors:  
Jennifer Drake, Tim Finnigan, Leigh Heirholzer, Peggy Hiller, Kristen Lee, Sha Miklas, BJ Mitchell, Maggie Murray, Dave Reynolds, Judd Santry and Alex Still.  
We could not accomplish our objectives without their terrific support!**

## Business Donors:

Abbey's Coffee  
\*Arapaho Basin Employee Environmental Fund  
Backcountry Brewery  
Beaver Run Resort  
Big Horn Materials (Ace Hardware)  
Breckenridge Brewery  
City Market  
Copy Copy  
Dillon Ranger District Staff  
Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District Staff  
Eagles Nest Property Homeowners Assoc.  
Everist Materials  
Friends of the Lower Blue  
Harvest Catering  
John Fielder/Westcliff Publishing  
KSMT the Mountain  
Krystal 93  
Neils Lunceford  
Nobel-Sysco  
Patagonia  
Sanders True Value Hardware  
Slate Creek Ranch  
South Maryland Creek Ranch  
Stan Miller, Inc.  
Subway  
Summit County Government  
Summit Daily News  
TRAFx Research, LTD  
Wilderness Sports

## Signage

With grant funding from The Summit Foundation and the towns of Breckenridge, Frisco, and Silverthorne, FENW has purchased 8 trailhead signs, 2 Eagles Nest Wilderness entrance signs, and 3 No Campfire signs. Using some of the same funding, we also purchased 25 signs to designate areas where snowmobiling is not allowed. Half of the No Snowmobiling signs were installed during the winter in the Elliott Ridge area by the USFS. The trailhead, Wilderness entrance, and No Campfire signs will be installed this summer, consistent with the USFS Travel Management Plan completed recently.



**FENW Weed Specialist, John Taylor**

## National Forest Foundation Award to FENW

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) for the 7th year awarded a \$10,000 grant to FENW for the purpose of continuing our eradication of noxious and invasive weed species in the Eagles Nest Wilderness and the contiguous National Forests. Our efforts are not solely in Summit County as this will be our fourth year attacking these nasty invaders from

the Eagle County side. Our thanks to the NFF for recognizing our efforts and successes as we continue our mission.

As our treated areas come under control, FENW is now monitoring past sites with the use of backpack sprayers which we have found to be very efficient as well as cost effective.

Enjoy a nice hike and zap the nasties!

For more information contact John Taylor  
409- 8867.

## FENW Sponsors Pulling for Colorado (P4C) Annual Weed Pull

We take a leadership role again this year with the 4th annual P4C County wide weed pull.

Expecting over 150 volunteers this year!

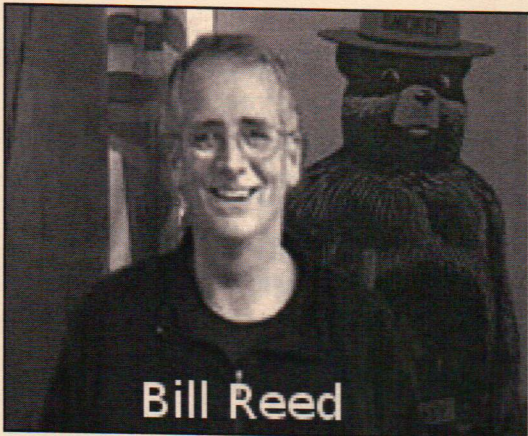
*Date:* Saturday, July 9, 2011

*Place:* Community and Senior Center

*Time:* 8:00AM meet for an education session with live specimens of both noxious and domestic look a likes. Enjoy a light breakfast and sign up for a site.

Pulling from 8:45AM to 12:00 with light lunch and Swag to follow.

Each year we preview sites, determine the number of volunteers required, assign a lead organization and leader. For further information contact John Taylor at 409-8867 or Lisa Taylor at 668- 4218. Come, join us on the 9th.



**Bill Reed, Trail Maintenance coordinator**

### **TRAIL PROJECTS FOR 2011**

If you enjoy hiking or horseback riding in the Eagles Nest or Ptarmigan Peak Wildernesses, please consider giving back just one day of your time to keep the trails in good condition.

For all Trail Projects:

Please RSVP if you plan to come to a trail project.

Signing up will help us to better plan trail projects and teams. If you have questions about physical requirements, the project and/or to sign up, call Bill Reed at 970-513-9741 or e-mail us at [vol\\_rsvp@fenw.org](mailto:vol_rsvp@fenw.org).

Meet at 8 am at the Dillon Ranger District Office in Silverthorne (just north of 6th St. on Hwy 9). We will serve a light breakfast of coffee, bagels and juice and end the day with refreshments and a tailgate party.

Volunteers should come prepared for a day on the trails with your hiking boots, water, lunch, rain gear, long pants and work gloves.

### **June 4: National Trails Day**

Joint trail maintenance project with Friends of Dillon Ranger District. The project will be on the Lakeshore Trail from the Prospector Campground. Check [www.fdrd.org](http://www.fdrd.org) for project times and directions.

### **June 18: Gateways WaterWorks**

We'll improve drainage, repair winter damage and remove downed trees from selected trails to ready them for the coming season.

### **July 16: Meadow Creek**

We'll continue to prepare and place log sills and stringers to bridge a bog crossing along this popular trail.

### **August 13: Meadow Creek**

Complete bridge.

### **October 1-2: Willow Lakes Overnight**

We will hike to the Willow Lakes area, set up camp and spend the weekend doing much-needed trail repairs in this popular area. Tools and heavier gear will be packed in by Gore Range Outfitters. Reservations are essential. Please RSVP early as participation must be limited to about 10 volunteers.

### **Safe Hiking Suggestions in Beetle Kill Forests**

Thousands of acres of forest wilderness in Summit and Eagle counties have been devastated by pine beetles which have turned our green trees to red and, ultimately, to bare poles. These dead trees are susceptible to winds and rain which can cause them to fall more quickly than healthy trees.

When hiking in these areas, be aware of your surroundings. If winds are strong, leave the forest. Be alert by looking and listening for sounds of cracking and falling trees. When camping, stay in open areas or areas that are less exposed to dead tree stands.

Also, wear sturdy footwear; appropriate clothing for changing weather conditions; carry sun protection and sufficient food/snacks and water. Since weather in the mountains can change quickly, it's always better to start your trek early in the day and arrive at your highest point by noon.

## **Report Fallen Trees Blocking Trails**

If you encounter fallen trees that are blocking trails, please contact the USFS office in Silverthorne at 970 468-5400 for Summit County or in Minturn at 970 845-5715 for Eagle County. Or, you can report them to any USFS volunteer ranger you encounter on the trail.

## **Volunteer Rangers Hit the Trails**

Wilderness Volunteer Rangers will again be hiking the trails of Summit and Eagle Counties. Their mission is to educate hikers and campers on the proper protocols for their wilderness experience. Among these are the requirements that all domestic animals be on a leash. Very important for the safety of the pets; the safety of wild animals and for the hiking enjoyment of others. The US Forest Service officers will assess a fine of \$125.00 per animal off leash in the wilderness.

Volunteers also explain proper camping protocols in the wilderness such as where to camp; how far from lakes, streams and trails to camp; disposal of waste; and general "Leave no Trace" procedures.

## **Volunteer Rangers Wanted**

Ken Harper, coordinator for Eagle County volunteer trail rangers and FENW Board member has a few slots available for new volunteers. This is a fun activity that involves hiking at your own pace and on your own schedule requiring a minimum of 4 days for the summer season. Training can be arranged. You'll give some volunteer time back to the forest

and trails that you enjoy and feel good helping to keep them safe and healthy.

For information, please email Ken at [kenh10@comcast.net](mailto:kenh10@comcast.net).

## **Volunteers Wanted**

Please help those of us who work on the trails to keep them maintained so all of us can enjoy the beauty and serenity of a mountain hike. We never have enough volunteers on work days so the burden is heavy on fewer people who show up. We are in need of people who want to give back to the forest and who can give a few hours on a weekend. All you need is a good pair of hiking boots; a bit of energy and the willingness to hike up a trail and perform some maintenance work which will help keep the trails from eroding and becoming difficult to hike.

If we don't do it, who will? The USFS is so underfunded that they can barely keep up with the removal of millions of dead pine trees. They have little money to spend on trail maintenance. Volunteers must do the work or watch the trails deteriorate to impassable.

Check our website at [www.fenw.org](http://www.fenw.org) for schedules and information.

**FENW 2011 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

May we acknowledge your participation in our publication?  Yes  No

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E:MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO: FENW, PO BOX 4504, FRISCO, CO 80443**  
**Or, use PayPal on the FENW.org website.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!**

I would like to volunteer to help with:

Newsletter

Trail Work

Weed Control

Ranger Patrol

Other