

Fiftieth Official Newsletter

June 2006



Introduction to Friends:

The Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is an apolitical nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation formed in May 1994 to raise in-cash, in-kind, and in-service goods to help the White River National Forest maintain the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas. The Eagles Nest Wilderness consists of 82,903 acres of Summit County while the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness has 13,175 acres (totaling about 25% of Summit County). Another 50,400 acres of the Eagles Nest Wilderness lie in Eagle County. We presently raise money through membership dues, donations, and grants. We accomplish our mission through Stewardship, Education, Outreach, and Advocacy. Starting summer 2006, we are helping the U.S. Forest Service in Eagle County in the Eagles Nest and Holy Cross Wilderness areas.

Busy Summer Planned Come Join Us!

Gateways Trail Project - June 17 Summit County

Join us on our annual Gateways project to open up trails below snowline! We will fan out to a variety of trailheads in Summit County to clear deadfall, repair trail signage, and do erosion control depending upon need and snow conditions. Minimal hiking and a wide range of options. Half-day work available.

Meet at the Dillon Ranger District office in Silverthorne at 8 am (just north of Hwy 9 and 6th St.). 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, raingear, long pants and gloves. Children under 18 OK with adult supervision. Well-behaved dogs on leash OK. If you have questions about physical requirements contact Jonathan Kriegel at 970-262-2399 or rsvp@fenw.org. You can also sign up online through www.fenw.org. Please RSVP so we can plan projects and make sure we have enough tools for everyone. We can use lots of help!



Moving avalanche debris during Gateways.

History Tidbit #1

The 32,400-acre Gore Range-Eagles Nest Primitive Area was established on June 19, 1932 in the Arapaho National Forest with an additional 47,250 acres added in the Holy Cross National Forest in 1933. The Primitive Area was reduced by 18,425 acres in December 1941 for the construction of U.S. Highway 6 over Vail Pass.

Annual Meeting June 28

Eagles Nest Wilderness is 30 years old!

Everyone is invited to the Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Annual Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, June 28 at the Frisco Rec Center - 110 S. 3rd Street in Frisco.

Date: Wednesday, June 28

Where: Frisco Rec Center - 110 S. 3rd Street in Frisco

When: 5:30 pm - social half hour

6:00 pm - annual meeting

- elections and 2005 and 2006 reports
- details on summer trail projects
- wilderness report from USFS folks
- Travel Management report
- 30th anniversary program

We'll report on successes in 2005; our three successful trail projects and the Wilderness Volunteer and noxious weed programs that exceeded our expectations.

We hope you mark your calendars and bring your appetite to the meeting! Contact George Resseguie, 513-6547 or gresseguie@fenw.org, with any questions.

Thanks for the Grants!

FENW has been very fortunate and successful during 2006 in raising funds for summer 2006 projects.

A big thank you to:

National Forest Foundation, \$4,000 for noxious weed treatment.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, \$2,000 for noxious weed treatment.

An extra thanks to Arapahoe Basin Employee Environmental fund and matching funds from Arapahoe Basin Ski Area for their \$1,121 donation - six years in a row! And each year they've donated a little more to help us with our various projects.

Patagonia donated \$750 through Wilderness Sports.

More information comes later in this newsletter about our fantastic partners.

Spring Things

by Currie Craven, FENW President and Board chair

Hello spring! It's been a long winter with great snow and news for FENW. In addition to a busy summer field season of work for our wonderful wilderness areas, FENW is expanding! As you may have heard, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) expressed interest in our successful programs becoming an active model of stewardship on the "other" side of our beloved Gore Range. Thanks to Maryann and Beth, along with a new member and friend, Sue Froeschle, FENW will partner with the Holy Cross Ranger District to begin a Wilderness Volunteer program and host the first of many future trail projects this summer. In addition to helping our friends and neighbors in Eagle County in making a positive contribution to our public lands management, the opportunity to explore areas where I have not spent lots of time is a real tickle.

Budgetary challenges for the USFS are not a new reality, and our volunteer response has not gone unnoticed, or unappreciated. The USFS has continued exploring volunteer partnerships as a response to stagnant funding levels. Use of volunteers can "leverage" federal dollars by a significant multiplier. Properly trained and led volunteers can perform many functions formerly done by seasonal USFS staff. However, our efforts are not a permanent solution to issues facing managers of public lands. We, the citizens, should make our voices heard in Congress as fruits of our toil improve conditions on the trails and increase awareness of the masses of users regarding tread lightly and leave no trace minimum impact ethics. Our volunteer efforts will make a positive impact on heavily used wilderness resources, but need outstrips our current capabilities.

Involvement in public land stewardship issues has increased the awareness of many of current funding shortfalls. Please turn your awareness into appropriate letters or messages of concern and encouragement for proper Congressional funding support of our popular national resource.

More than ever, FENW and other volunteer organizations need members to recruit their friends, families, and neighbors to participate as volunteers and board or committee chairs. I urge all Friends to meet these challenges and encourage users of public lands to, in that somewhat overused, but valid expression, "give something back" and get involved! FENW needs additional Board of Directors members, trail crew leaders, and financial supporters.

I also call your attention to matters of Travel Management planning on the White River National Forest. The USFS will need your input as this planning enters this critical summer field season. More information will be available at our annual "Wilderness bash," please see details listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks for giving of your time and financial support. Please continue to stay involved.

See you on the trail!

History Tidbit #2

The Eagles Nest Wilderness was designated in its own Congressional bill on July 12, 1976, with 82,324 acres in the Arapaho National Forest and 50,987 acres in the White River National Forest.

Trail Maintenance Volunteers Needed

by Jonathan Kriegel

Mark your calendars for our July and August trail projects. We've put together three excellent ways to give something back to our community for the summer hiking season. Please join us for a day on the trail helping improve our local Wilderness area and make our community a better place.

June 17th Gateways Project: see front page for details.

July 16th Surprise Lake Trail upper portion: This popular trail in the Cataract Lake area needs extensive erosion and drainage improvements on the upper portions. We worked on the lower portion in summer 2005. Volunteers, with the help of Forest Service personnel, will install water bars and small diversion ditches along the trail. This will require a 2 to 4-mile hike up a moderate incline to the work area.

August 19th South Willow Creek wetlands: We will improve the unnamed trail connecting the Gore Range Trail along S. Willow Creek with the Buffalo Mountain Trail. This trail badly needs significant improvement to pass over large, boggy areas that are currently being damaged. The hike in is less than 3 miles and begins at the Ryan Gulch Trailhead but requires negotiation of a steep rocky area for a 400 ft. descent (ascent on the way out).

Meet at the Dillon Ranger District office in Silverthorne at 8 am (just north of Hwy 9 and 6th St.). 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, raingear, long pants and gloves. Children under 18 OK with adult supervision. Well-behaved dogs on leash OK. If you have questions about physical requirements contact Jonathan Kriegel at 970-262-2399 or rsvp@fenw.org. You can also sign up online through www.fenw.org. Please RSVP so we can make sure we have enough tools for everyone. We adhere to the 15 person wilderness heartbeat regulation so we only have a limited number of spaces.



FENW volunteers making a log bridge over a wet area on Meadow Creek.

Gateways Project in Eagle County

Mark your calendars for FENW's first ever project in the Eagles Nest Wilderness and maybe Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County.

Saturday, June 24, is THE day. We'll work on and clear as many trails as we can below snowline depending on the number of volunteers. The trails will be in the Vail area.

Meet at the Holy Cross Ranger District office in Minturn at 8:30 am (just south of I-70 on US 24). 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, raingear, long pants and gloves. If you have questions about physical requirements contact Maryann Gaug, 970-468-6219 or maryann@fenw.org. You can also sign up online through www.fenw.org. Please RSVP so we can make sure we have enough tools for everyone. We can use lots of folks on this project.

FENW Works West

by Maryann Gaug

After several Board members hiked in the Eagles Nest Wilderness on the Vail side last summer and were appalled by trail conditions and poor/old signage, we discussed offering to help the USFS maintain and preserve the west part of the Eagles Nest.

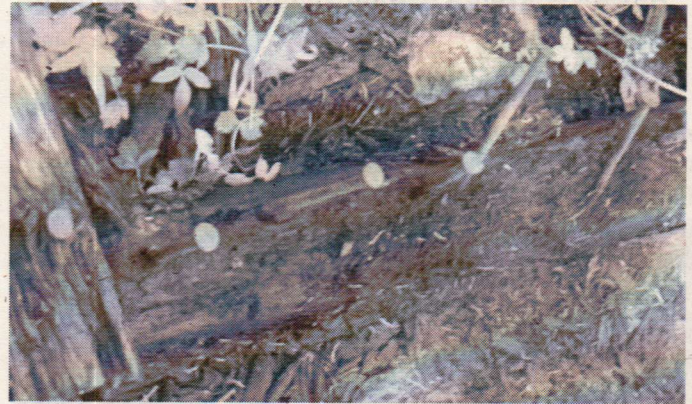
In early March, the Board decided to offer our Wilderness Volunteer program and one trail project in the Holy Cross Ranger District (Minturn). One caveat - any funds raised in Summit County would stay in Summit while funds raised in Eagle County would fund programs on that side of Vail Pass. Of course, some funding from both sides is needed for newsletters, website upkeep, and other group-wide administrative functions.

Beth Boyst is still the wilderness manager in those parts so we told her of our decision. Turns out that The Forest Conservancy (FC), a group similar to FENW, had also offered to help. FC is based in the Carbondale area and is also tasked by the USFS with coordinating the volunteer information specialists at various ranger district offices, running the bookstores at the district offices, and putting volunteer wilderness rangers on the ground in the Flat Tops Wilderness. They have been fielding volunteers in Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness and the Hanging Lake area for several years.

To make a long story short, in early April, Currie and I met with Beth, Marcia Johnson and Sue Froeschle from FC, and Steve Carcaterra, White River National Forest (WRNF) partnership coordinator. Marcia, FC's Executive Director, suggested that FENW work in Eagle County because we are geographically closer. FC will continue to expand their work in the western end of the WRNF. Currie and I agreed. With that OK, we also agreed to expand our Wilderness Volunteer hiking patrol to trails Beth had selected in the Holy Cross Wilderness.

Sue, who was the public information officer for the White River National Forest until she retired last fall, joined FENW and offered to be FENW's Eagle County volunteer coordinator during the meeting. Welcome, Sue! She's already rounded up about 20 people for our programs.

What a great way to celebrate Eagles Nest 30th year!



Spikes protruding from puncheon bridge on Grouse Lake Trail near Minturn.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Grant

by Maryann Gaug

FENW successfully applied for a \$2,000 grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The money will be used to pay John Pickering, Weed Busters, to re-treat weeds he treated last summer and treat any new weeds he finds in the Slate Creek drainage in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. This area had the worst infestation of Canada and musk thistle of the six places FENW hired Pickering to treat last summer. One patch covered 2.3 acres!

A big thanks to Tom Kroening, the Colorado Division of Wildlife District Wildlife Manager for part of Summit County, for his help providing information about elk habitat. The Slate Creek area is important elk habitat, and eradicating noxious weeds will definitely improve munchies for the majestic creatures. The mission of the Elk Foundation is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat.

Thank you, RMEF! Check out their website: www.rmef.org.

National Forest Foundation Grant

by Maryann Gaug

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) granted FENW \$4,000 for noxious weed treatment and inventory for summer 2006. Last year NFF also funded noxious weed treatment and part of FENW's Wilderness Volunteer program.

The NFF, chartered by Congress, engages America in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the 192 million acre National Forest system, and accepts and administers private gifts of funds and land for the benefit of the National Forests.



Patagonia Grant

by Maryann Gaug

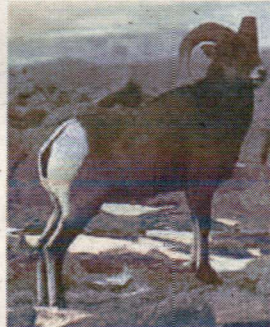
Thanks to Tom Jones Jr. of Wilderness Sports, Patagonia donated \$750 to FENW for our noxious weed treatment program this summer. The outdoor clothing and gear design company will also donate \$250 worth of goods to Wilderness Sports to be used as a fund raiser. Tom and I are working on the fund raiser details so stay tuned!

Bighorn Sheep Survey Volunteers Needed

by Maryann Gaug

The Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep is Colorado's state animal. These majestic native sheep live in craggy areas high in the Gore Range. Tom Kroening, the local district wildlife manager for the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), has asked FENW if we could field volunteers to survey the bighorn population in the Gore.

This survey will occur on Aug. 5 and 6. Teams of 2 or 3 will head up each drainage in the Gore, from both sides (Summit and Vail), and camp the night of Aug. 5. Some drainages, like Slate, might require a two day trek in to get close enough to the high ridges. Then early on the 6th people will wander farther uphill to get a good view of the ridges. Binoculars are required, spotting scopes would be really great. The whole idea is that people will be surveying each area so no two groups will end up counting the same sheep. The survey should be finished by about 10 am leaving plenty of time to hike out on Sunday. The Bighorn Sheep Society will also field volunteers.



Bighorn Sheep courtesy CDOW

Besides having a chance to see some wonderful animals up high, helping CDOW count bighorns, what a great way to get into the depths and wilds of the Eagles Nest Wilderness!

A training meeting will be held on either Aug. 1 or 2 on the standard way of surveying including telling male bighorns from females bighorn and bighorn sheep from mountain goats.

If you are interested, please contact Maryann at 468-6219 or maryann@fenw.org.

voutdoors.org online project sign-up

by George Resseguie and Maryann Gaug

VOutdoors.org is the outcome of a collaborative effort among the community of land management agencies who manage Colorado's public and protected lands, conservation organizations, and businesses. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) facilitated the creation of the website – www.voutdoors.org – which connects people with opportunities to care for Colorado's outstanding natural resources. All of FENW's summer volunteer projects are listed on the website as are hundreds of other projects throughout the state. When you sign up online through FENW's website (www.fenw.org), you'll be hyperlinked to the appropriate project page on voutdoors.org.

Check out voutdoors.org – it's terrific. You can find some great ways to do volunteer work during shoulder seasons in some spectacular parts of Colorado, too.

Travel Management Update

by Maryann Gaug

The latest news on the White River National Forest Travel Management Plan is that it has gone to the printing office and should be out in July. This document was postponed until after the Forest Plan was approved in 2002. Stay tuned!

Discussion with Steve Carcaterra

by George Resseguie

Steve is the Partnership Coordinator for the USFS White River National Forest Supervisor's Office in Glenwood Springs, and has been involved with us in developing our 2006 project plans. Some key details regarding his job and his objectives are as follows:

- Steve is a primary liaison between the Supervisor's Office, USFS Ranger Districts and volunteer organizations.
- He intends to work closely with the various volunteer organizations with a presence in the White River National Forest.
- One of his key roles will be to increase communication and share "best practices" between volunteer organizations which do not have regular contact with each other. He will provide the information to groups with similar charters which will result in more efficient utilization of resources.
- He is interested in FENW leading training efforts for new Volunteer Wilderness Stewards in the Vail area; this is a new program which he believes will benefit greatly from our expertise.
- He is leading USFS efforts to encourage partnerships, like FENW and the USFS, at all levels of the USFS to provide critical assistance in helping manage public land, with a particular focus on recreation use.

Steve brings an enthusiastic presence to our working relationship with the USFS and we already have benefited from his expertise. He has attended one of our Board meetings and we look forward to working closely with him going forward.

Welcome New and Renewing Members!

Since our last newsletter in March 2006, the following people have joined FENW! Thank you ever so much for your support of Wilderness!

Nancy Fegley, Nancy Redner, Jill & Iain Saunderson, Sue Froeschle, Larry Bardwell, Anita & Peter Welles.

The following people have renewed their memberships: Bill Adamson, Sue and Howard Carver, JoAnn Dufty, Leland Miller, Jonathan and Jacque Kriegel, Dave Raymond, Laura Rossetter, Karn Stiegelmeier, Kim Fenske, George and Kathryn Resseguie, Anne Robinson, Elizabeth Packard, Mary Ellen Gillingland, Roger Paluska, Gordon Anderson, Shirley Beaty, Kathy Castrigno, Bill Greene, Lynzie Flynn, Pat and Steve Larson, Jon Podolan, Mike and Anne Rohr, Marshall Rutz, M.J. and Hans Wurster, Stephen and Elizabeth Weseley, Ellyn & Mike Johnson, Kurt Steuer, Cyndi and Dave Koop.

Apologies if we missed someone!



Thank you so much!

Your support helps us with trail projects, matching funds for grant proposals, newsletters, and lots of other projects!

Thank you for your support of FENW and the Wilderness areas we help maintain and preserve.

Email Address Updates Requested

If you did not receive the recent Gateways Trail project reminder via email, either we do not have an email address for you or the one we have was rejected by the email postmaster.

If you are not on the below list and did not receive the recent email, we do not have an email for you.

We have invalid emails for the following people.

Judith McGreevey, Jennifer and Jeff Miles, Rob and Debbie Nelson, Todd and Susan Robertson, Michael and Ann Rohr, Irv and Barbara Strauss, Harvey VanDeWege.

If you would like to receive occasional reminders (maybe 5 a year), please email your correct email address to maryann@fenw.org. Thanks!

Wilderness Volunteer Program

by Maryann Gaug

The Wilderness Volunteer Program is off to a great start in its second year. We held training in Summit County on June 10. Nineteen people attended training, including two from the new Eagle County volunteer program. Eleven of these people are new to the program. Seven volunteers who were Wilderness Volunteers last summer could not attend on June 10 and will go through a refresher course.

Sue Froeschle reports at least another 18 people are interested in Eagle County. That training will be held on June 17 in Minturn at the Holy Cross Ranger District office.

The Wilderness Volunteer program consists of two different jobs: Hiking Patrol and Field Monitors.

Hiking Patrol volunteers hike trails and talk with wilderness visitors, answering questions, helping them understand the values of designated wilderness, Leave No Trace skills, and the whys and wherefores of wilderness regulations. With only two mostly full-time USFS Wilderness Rangers in Summit County this summer, hiking patrol volunteers really help visitors understand how to preserve and protect our special wilderness areas.

Field monitors do campsite and noxious weed inventories. Data collected on noxious weeds helps us plan future years of noxious weed treatment. See later article about noxious weeds. Campsite inventories help the USFS get a baseline on campsites in selected drainages. These sites will be monitored over time to see if they are getting worse, staying the same, or improving. Some sites that are too close to lakes, streams, and trails will be earmarked for restoration in the next few years.

Both hiking patrol and field monitors are helping the USFS meet the Forest Chief's 10-year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge. See article later in this newsletter.

Returning Wilderness Volunteers include: Jim Anthony, Susan Arrance, Elaine Bennett, Currie Craven, Maryann Gaug, Warren Hancock, Terry Hardie, Elliott Henry, Becky Hopkins, Joan Hutchinson, Cyndi Koop, Jacque Kriegel, Dave Raymond, Nancy Redner, and Marilyn Repsher.

New volunteers include: Tom Jones Sr, Christian Link, Becky and Gene Tomlinson, Mila Valenta, Anita and Peter Velles, Duck and Vince White-Petteruti. Arnold and Marcia Borocki are new volunteers who live in Edwards and will help out in Eagle County. Thanks, Everyone!

Cyndi Koop - Wild Wilderness Wonder

by Maryann Gaug

For the third year, High Country Conservation Center and the Sierra Club have awarded the Green Scene awards and one is named Wild Wilderness Wonder. Currie Craven, our president, received the award the first year. I received it the second year.

This year, Cyndi Koop received the award for her contribution of the most Wilderness Volunteer days in 2005. Cyndi spent six days on hiking patrol and several more inventorying campsites. She also did three patrols this winter on skis. Cyndi also offered to mentor any high school honors students under the age of 18 who would be interested in being a Wilderness Volunteer. Unfortunately, none of the students took her up on her offer. Cyndi also puts in a lot of elbow grease on FENW's trail projects.

Thanks, Cyndi, for your enthusiasm and helping preserve, maintain, and protect our wilderness areas and helping people understand how special they are!



Noxious Weed Treatment Program

by Maryann Gaug

FENW is in the process of signing a contract with John Pickering of Weed Busters for a second year of noxious weed treatment in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. John will bring his two mules in July and then later in August to get after the non-native plants.

Treatment areas for this summer include: Slate Creek (with funding from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation); Pebble Creek and North Rock Creek to the Boss Mine; Maryland Creek (with help from the Town of Silverthorne); Three Peaks/Oxbow; North Tenmile (with help from the Town of Frisco); and Elliott Ridge. The Summit Foundation also granted us \$2,500 for 2006.

FENW is talking with the Pebble Creek HOA and some of their neighbors to provide horseback noxious weed inventory along the Gore Range Trail and nearby meadows from just below South Willow Creek falls to just north of the Brush Creek Trail. Another area will include Meadow Creek and the area north of the Giberson Preserve. The final area is east of I-70 across from Copper Mountain to make sure that yellow toadflax hasn't escaped from Copper into the wilderness.

With data gathered during weed treatment and inventory, FENW and the USFS weed guru, Wayne Nelson, will be better able to plan noxious weed treatment in out-years.

Thanks to the Town of Breckenridge for providing \$100 to help train the Wilderness Volunteers to inventory noxious weeds. They will keep their eyes open during July and August when weeds are blooming. We'll be checking out the Ptarmigan Peak and Acorn Creek trails and anywhere we hike.

USFS Wilderness Crew - Summer 2006

by Maryann Gaug

Summit County Wildernesses will have two full-time equivalent wilderness rangers this summer with three people filling the role. Eagle County has two Wilderness Rangers/trails people.

Cindy Ebbert returns as the Lead Wilderness Ranger. She started as a Wilderness Ranger in 1998 and this year is her third as Lead. In winter, Cindy is a ski patroller at Copper Mountain. She is a secondary handler of an avalanche dog named Tracker. Cindy certified Tracker this past winter as a rescue dog.

Tyler Kirkpatrick is splitting his time between Wilderness Ranger and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) patrol. In winter he's the lead backcountry ranger at Vail Pass. This year will be his first as a Wilderness Ranger. He has a degree in Resource Management from CSU. He started working for the USFS in Holy Cross RD in beetle mitigation where he grew used to using chainsaws. He worked in timber until 2002 when he moved into the Vail Pass job. Tyler will surely get a workout with crosscut saws this summer seeing's how chainsaws aren't allowed in wilderness.

Steve Chittum rounds out Cindy's wilderness crew. Steve is also splitting his time between Wilderness Ranger and OHV patrol. He received a degree in accounting and finance from Florida State University, but sitting behind a desk wasn't his idea of fun. He recently moved to Colorado and was a ski instructor at Breckenridge.

Darlene Quinn, whom some of you may know from the Summit County Nordic scene, is working one day a week in wilderness from her cabin at Cataract Lake. Darlene has the unenviable job of collecting fees at the Cataract Lake area.

Another change this summer. Cindy and her crew report to Ken Waugh, Recreation Staff Officer at Dillon Ranger District. In the past, Cindy reported to Beth Boyst, who was the East Zone wilderness manager. Beth is now Wilderness Specialist for the entire White River National Forest, advising the Forest Supervisor and District Rangers on wilderness matters. Ken will be asking Beth and Cindy for their advice on wilderness matters also.

Over in Eagle County, Beth is still the wilderness manager for Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger Districts.

Jeff Thompson is working out of the Minturn office as a Wilderness Ranger and on trails. He's worked for four summers in Leadville Ranger District and one in Holy Cross Ranger District. He majored in ski area operations at the Timberline Campus of Colorado Mountain College. During the winter he is a ski patroller at Beaver Creek. He works with a rescue dog named Dixie. Jeff and Cindy mentioned that Tracker and Dixie are buddies. FENW will be interfacing with Jeff during our Eagle County projects.

Sam Massman is working out of the Eagle office as a Wilderness Ranger and on trails. He's a snowmaker at Beaver Creek in the winter.

When you're out on the trails and you see one of the wilderness rangers, take a few minutes to say hi and get to know the people who are helping to take care of our beautiful wilderness areas.

And thanks to all of these wilderness people for working with FENW as partners to preserve and protect our wildernesses.

Help FENW with Trail Condition Inventory

by Maryann Gaug

Several years ago, John Taylor and others in FENW put together a trail condition inventory book. The time has come to update the book and add new trails.

Please help us update our inventory. From this information, we can better help plan trail projects with the USFS and write grant proposals as necessary for the larger projects. We're talking large grants, like the one we received for Buffalo Mountain from State Trails/Parks, so we can hire the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps to spend a week or three repairing/rebuilding trail.

An inventory form including an example entry in Excel is located on our website at www.fenw.org and click on Summer Trail Projects (in green).

If you don't want to download the Excel form, the information we need is as follows:

1. trail name, date, your name and contact information
2. approximate location which can be how long it took you to hike from the trailhead or the GPS coordinates (please set your GPs to NAD27 CONUS), or a really good description
3. approximate elevation (practice your map reading skills!)
4. a brief comment about the trail problem, such as erosion gully in trail, braided trails going every which way, bridge has spikes sticking out of it, etc.
5. Severity class
 - a. major work that will take more than a weekend to fix
 - b. major work that might be done in a weekend
 - c. general maintenance skills only required
 - d. good "to do" maintenance item, such as reducing near/long term erosion and probably improving the hiking experience.

Now if you don't have a clue about how long the work might take, make a guess as to major, in-between, or minor. We can go check it out. If you have a camera, especially a digital one, please take a photo or two and send it with your email or snail mail.

Many funders want before and after pictures.

Please email your information to maryann@fenw.org or snail mail it to FENW at our Frisco address listed in this newsletter, attn: Maryann.

Media Appreciation

We utilize newspapers, magazines, organizations' newsletters, radio stations, and other communications media to publicize our FENW projects. Many thanks for the ongoing support from the Summit Daily News, County Cable, the Vail Trail, Vail Daily, Krystal 93, the Summit County Seniors newsletter, and the Summit County Chamber of Commerce newsletter - your help is essential in enabling us to attract volunteers for our projects.

Get Muddy! It's Mud Season!

The trails are getting dusty dry in lower elevations, but there are muddy places higher up. Please stay on the trail, walk on the snow or through the mud.

Walking around the mud or snow destroys the vegetation along the side of the trail and just widens the muddy boggy area. Boots are easy to clean. Vegetation doesn't recover as easily.

Board Members Needed

FENW's annual meeting is quickly approaching and we could use a few new Board members to bring new ideas and perspectives to our organizations. We would especially appreciate a couple of people from Eagle County. We'll figure out a way to meet on different sides of the pass (or the top) for meetings.

If you are interested in helping FENW move forward to continue to help preserve, protect, and maintain our great wilderness areas, please contact Currie Craven at 453-9056 or George Resseguie at 513-6547 before June 26.

Thanks for your consideration!

Campfire Talks

FENW members will give campfire talks to our visitors in Summit County. Please come join us to learn more about the Eagles Nest Wilderness and wilderness values.

July 29, Heaton Bay Campground about 7 pm.

August 26, Peak One Campground about 7 pm.

Abbey's Coffee

A great big thank you in advance to Abbey's Coffee for donating that wake-up good hot liquid for our three trail projects this summer. Abbey's has been helping our trail crews get started for many years now.

Make sure you stop by their Frisco store, buy something to eat or drink (they have ice cream for hot summer days), and thank them for their support.

Thanks, Abbey's!

Wilderness Sports Opens New Store

Our long-time supporter, Wilderness Sports, has just opened a new store across US Hwy 6 from Blockbuster Video and Borders Books - by the Mexico Restaurant that's been empty for awhile in Dillon south of I-70.

They will still have their store in Frisco. The one in Summit Place in Silverthorne will become a sales and consignment store.

FENW wishes the best of luck to Wilderness Sports at their new location and also at their existing locations.

Thanks, Wilderness Sports, Tom Jones Sr., Tom Jones Jr., and your great employees, for your fantastic support for 12 years!

Chief's 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Elements

The goal of the U.S. Forest Service Chief's 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge is that within 10 years (2014), every Forest Service unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System will meet at least 6 of 10 stewardship elements. Currently, only 18 percent of the USFS wilderness units meet minimum standard. And minimum standard is 60%, which is barely passing in any school system.

FENW is helping the USFS meet the following current stewardship elements and potential questions. We're helping through our Wilderness Volunteer program and our noxious weed treatment program.

Wilderness is successfully treated for noxious/invasive plants.

- Where are the invasive species?
- What are the ecosystem effects of invasive species?
- How do we effectively treat invasive species?

Wilderness education plans are implemented.

- Where do we find the capacity to make visitor contacts at the trailhead and within wilderness to inform visitors about proper behavior to minimize impacts to the resource?

Wilderness has completed recreation site inventory.

- What are the baseline site inventories?
- What is the connection between use, sites and changes?

Wilderness managers have their priority information needs addressed through data collection and corporate applications.

To learn more about the Chief's 10-year challenge to bring wilderness areas to minimum standards by the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014, come to our annual meeting on June 28.

FENW's storyboards will have maps showing our noxious weed treatment areas and the hard work the field monitors put in inventorying campsites in several areas. One volunteer, Bill Reed, inventoried 22 campsites last summer. The inventory is tedious and detailed, so Bill put in a lot of effort.



Musk thistle



Canada Thistle
from google images



Bulletin Boards and Interpretive Posters help with visitor education. Purchased by FENW with help from Frisco and The Summit Foundation.

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

Membership Expiration

Please note your membership expiration date located on your address label. Please use the membership form below to renew your membership. Please help us gain new members by passing this form along to friends and family.

Remember to send any email or address changes to FENW!

FENW Board of Directors

Currie Craven, Chairman/President, 453-9056
Jonathan Kriegel, VP, Travel Management Task Force, Trail chairperson, 262-2399
George Resseguie, Secretary, 513-6547
John Taylor, Treasurer, 262-5940
Maryann Gaug, Programs Coordinator, webmaster, 468-6219
Kim Fenske, At-Large, 389-4436
Tom Jones, Sr., At-Large, 468-5463

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Membership Form

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

- Trailhead level (\$10 per year)
- Buffalo Mountain level (\$20 per year)
- Cataract Lake level (\$30 per year)

- Red-Buffer 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. Your dues are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. FENW is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For information, call 970-453-9056, 970-262-2399 or info@fenw.org. Check out our website: www.fenw.org.

Fifty-First Official Newsletter

November 2006



Introduction to Friends:

The Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is an apolitical nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation formed in May 1994 to raise in-cash, in-kind, and in-service goods to help the White River National Forest maintain the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas. The Eagles Nest Wilderness consists of 82,903 acres of Summit County while the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness has 13,175 acres (totaling about 25% of Summit County). Another 50,400 acres of the Eagles Nest Wilderness lie in Eagle County. We presently raise money through membership dues, donations, and grants. We accomplish our mission through Stewardship, Education, Outreach, and Advocacy. Starting summer 2006, we are helping the U.S. Forest Service in Eagle County in the Eagles Nest and Holy Cross Wilderness areas.

Summer 2006

A Big Success!

Three Summit Trail Projects Completed!

By George Resseguie

FENW completed three trail projects this summer in Summit County, and with the help of a number of volunteers, made a difference in the wilderness. Some details:

Gateways – June 17

Seventeen volunteers cleared the Eaglesmere Trail to the Gore Range Trail and the Buffalo Cabin Trail down the cutoff trail through the boggy area to South Willow and Gore Range Trail junction. The groups cleared 45 trees off the trails! Thanks to the hardy volunteers who used cross cut and bow saws, axes and a lot of elbow grease because no chain saws are allowed in the wilderness. Volunteers included Kurt Steuer, William Acuff, Shirley Beaty, Peter Welles, Ann Hamilton, Jim Anthony, Jonathan & Jacque Kriegel, Maxine Solomon, Cyndi Koop, Karen Fox, Virgil Robinson, Jim McCready, Janet Jacks, Currie Craven, Bill Rolfe, Margi Pruesson.



Volunteers clearing a criss cross of trees on the Eaglesmere Trail
photo by Currie Craven

Article cont'd. on page 2 with information on the Eagle County trail project, too.

Wilderness Volunteer Program Report

By Maryann Gaug

Congratulations to FENW's Wilderness Volunteer (WV) team! Our WV program celebrated its second year helping the Dillon Ranger District and first year helping the Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District. Volunteers answered visitors' questions and helped them understand wilderness values and regulations.

Thirteen volunteers inventoried campsites and four documented patches of invasive noxious weeds.

Quick summary of accomplishments:

31 volunteers hiked to 34 different destinations donating 628 hours.

10 volunteers inventoried 100 campsites for a total of 63 hours.

4 volunteers inventoried noxious weeds donating 86 hours.

More details and photos on page 2.

Noxious Weed Treatment Program Report

By Maryann Gaug

Noxious weed treatment proved to be an adventure in 2006. FENW's contractor, John and Cade Pickering of Weed Busters, were delayed a week by soggy July weather. The first round of busting weeds took 8.5 days. Pickering planned to return at the end of August only to be stopped by rainy weather, followed by the September snowstorms.

See more details and photos on page 5.

Thanks, John Fielder, for your generosity to Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness!

Gore Range Slide Show/Benefit Nov. 21, 2006 at the Silverthorne Pavilion.

