



An all-volunteer wilderness stewardship organization

From President Currie Craven

FENW is among the longest serving volunteer 501(c)3 public land stewardship organizations in Colorado. Since May of 1994 FENW has worked to assist the US Forest Service manage and care for designated Wilderness Areas of Summit and Eagle Counties. FENW has adopted as central beliefs and operating tenets four principles; education, outreach, stewardship, and advocacy.

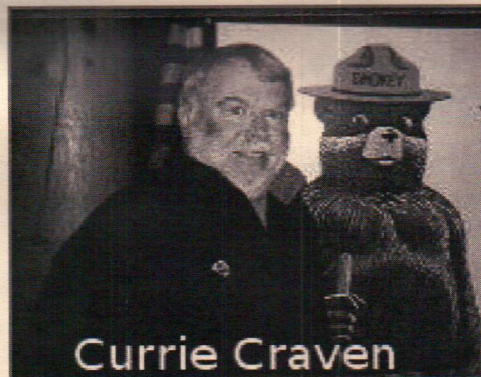
FENW has been awarded recognition by the USFS as a Partner in Action, received grants from the Summit Foundation, National Forest Foundation, GOCO/State Trails, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and others supporting our work. This public service work has included informing public land users of Leave No Trace minimal impact travel and camping techniques, assisting organizations such as Friends of the Dillon Ranger District organize and start up, fielding volunteers who perform thousands of hours of active stewardship in trail work, erosion control, invasive and noxious weed control, public contact and social monitoring, campsite inventory and reclamation, and we have participated in the White River National Forest Land and Management Plan Revision. FENW fully supports responsible multiple use of public lands. FENW members mountain bike, 4WD, ATV, hunt and fish as well as hike, trail run, ski, snowboard, and snowshoe.

We will also continue the long standing American tradition of citizen participation and submitting proposals for designating suitable lands for recognition as Wilderness.

The FENW Board of Directors (BOD) proudly supports the process of research, consultation and presentation to elected officials, land managers and the public, potential designated Wilderness and what is known as "companion" designations through the Hidden Gems Campaign. Our home, known as the White River National Forest (WRNF) in Summit, Eagle, Pitkin, and

Garfield Counties is identified as possessing critical lands for habitat and movement of many species. Interstate 70 was once called "the Berlin Wall to wildlife by a highly respected wildlife biologist. The Hidden Gems process has been incorrectly identified as being primarily about recreation. Wilderness benefits far surpass that single attribute and are well known. Protection of habitat is one such critical element.

As recently covered in the *Summit Daily News* the process, and people, of the Hidden Gems campaign have outlasted negative impressions so vocally expressed in early stages of this proposal. Some are unaware the approved WRNF "Forest Plan" establishes what may be considered "zoning" overlays of land planning, including authorized uses. The Hidden Gems proposal areas reflect USFS non-motorized and largely, non-mechanized use prescriptions. These new Wilderness areas will not change legal motorized access.



The *Summit Daily News* article (3.18.2010 by Julie Sutor) outlines the positive working relationship with user groups such as mountain bikers. Summit County Wildfire Council staff reports and minutes reflect the Hidden Gems proponent's evolving positions in consideration of public safety, infrastructure, and

watershed concerns expressed by local staff professionals from the County and Towns.

Of the proposed Wilderness additions, some, like Acorn Creek and Ute Pass, are included in the WRNF Forest Plan. These are logical components of the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Area and will extend protection into lower elevation ecosystems currently underrepresented in national wilderness. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted unanimously to support this expansion of the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Area.

Even if these Hidden Gems receive the sought after designated, large "W" Wilderness status, they will be in as much danger of abuse as if they do not. The USFS has identified four threats to the National Forest System,



From President continued...

unrestrained recreation, primarily motorized, is one. On many of our public lands a not so insignificant percentage of motorized users abuse the resource of land and water. Long ago, I served on the Summit County Winter Travel Advisory Council. Many of my County neighbors who also served representing motorized interests expressed support for non-motorized designations, such as Wilderness, if the boundaries were definable, or easily recognized. Through boundary considerations such as legal roads and trails, the Hidden Gems process has sought to create such defined boundaries. In any eventual outcome of this process, the FENW BOD appeals to the majority of motorized and mechanized users who are responsible to provide leadership and examples of peer pressure to protect public resources.

I recommend every lover of our public lands view the documentary "Forever Wild".

Grass roots citizen involvement in our uniquely American Wilderness designation process is clearly an established part of our management of public lands. The Hidden Gems campaign is one of the latest in a fine tradition.

The risk of inactivity and benefits of inclusive agreement of Wilderness preservation fall not just to Americans in 2010. To remember to words of the great conservationist, President Teddy Roosevelt, it is also for "generations unborn, within the womb of time".

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective. The FENW BOD encourages everyone who recreates and enjoys our public lands to give back at least one day a year in active stewardship. I believe if we are united in a bit of Pulaski, pick, shovel, and McLeod work, we'll find out we are not so different as shallow perception may deceive.

Sincerely,
Currie Craven, Chairman/President, FENW

This letter appeared in a recent edition of the Summit Daily News.

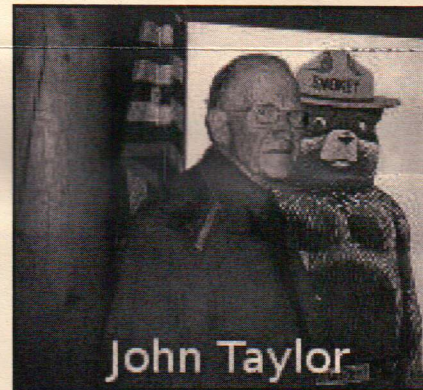
Weed whacker John Taylor says

The Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness takes the lead in pulling together the Summit County-wide noxious weed pull.

The 3rd Annual "Pulling for Colorado" event is on Saturday, July 10, at the Community and Senior Center. Starting at 8:15 with a light breakfast.

Complementary tee shirts and a short education session with live specimens will be presented. Out the door by 9:00AM to pre selected sites where the pulling begins. Back by noon for a light lunch and thank you favors. 120 volunteered in 2009. All ages welcome. Last year our youngest was 9 years old and our master weeder was 89. Please come join us for a fun event which will greatly benefit your community.

Further information contact **John Taylor at 970-262-5940** or go to **FENW.org**.



NFF awards FENW \$10,000 grant for Noxious Weed mitigation

The National Forest Foundation has once again awarded FENW a grant for contracting with Weed Busters Backcountry Outfitter to eliminate the dreaded noxious weeds from our Eagles Nest Wilderness areas and the National Forests leading to them. We ARE making progress. We continually need your input where there are infestations so we can respond. **Early detection leads to a Rapid Response** which is so important to eliminate these unwanted and non native pests. Common weeds encountered here are Canada, Musk and Plumeless thistles, oxeye daisy and yellow toadflax. Please help us. **Contact John Taylor at 970-262- 5940** for further information.



Eagles Nest Wilderness Volunteer Ranger Program

This is a fun and rewarding volunteer program for those of you who enjoy hiking in our Eagles Nest wilderness. Volunteer Rangers choose trails in the wilderness to hike a minimum of 4 days during the season. They interact with other hikers and visit with them about wilderness protocols such as where camps may be set up; whether or not fires are allowed; directions to trails; pet protections; and answer the myriad of questions our visitors ask. Volunteers wear an official US Forest Service shirt to identify them. It's a rewarding and fun activity. Give something back to the land you love. Only a few positions are available for Summit and Eagle County. **Deadline to apply is April 30.**

Visit the FENW.org website for an application or call Cyndi Koop at 970-468-6699 in Summit County and Ken Harper at 970-390-1341 in Eagle County.



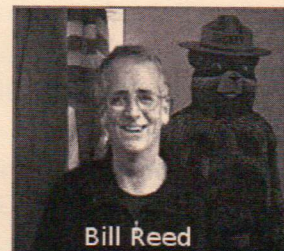
Cyndi Koop

Eagles Nest Wilderness Volunteer Ranger Program is 5 years old

Organized in 2005 by Maryann Gaug, an enthusiastic group of volunteers came together in Summit County to begin the first Volunteer Ranger Program. Leadership was turned over to Cyndi Koop and the program now encompasses the Eagles Nest Wilderness in both Summit and Eagle Counties. During these 5 years, volunteers have given over 3,200 hours of service. USFS calculates the dollar amount of an hour of service to be \$19.00 which adds up to a total of \$60,800. Over 3,300 miles have been hiked and nearly 12,500 contacts have been made. All told, an impressive and generous outpouring of volunteer time benefiting the Eagles Nest Wilderness and all those who visit there.

Trail Maintenance Volunteers needed for summer projects

If you enjoy hiking the Eagles Nest trails, think about giving something back. Much of the maintenance of our trails is left to volunteers. Imagine what the trails would look like if there were no volunteers to maintain them. We always have fewer trail volunteers than we need and more work than we can complete. Call **Bill Reed at 513-9741** or go to FENW.org for more info.



Bill Reed

Please support the land you love.

No meetings. No schedule. Just check our trail projects calendar at FENW.org and show up for a fun and satisfying day out in the forest. **Bring a friend. We need your help.**

June 5 : National Trails Day. Joint trail maintenance project with Friends of Dillon Ranger District. The project will be outside the wilderness at a location TBD based on conditions. Check FENW.org for updates.

June 19: Gateway "WaterWorks" -- Our season start-up project scatters small crews to numerous wilderness area trailheads for light maintenance work. This is a great introduction to wilderness trail work -- with light tools and work beginning right at the trail head.

July 24: Campsite Rehab -- We will send small crews to the heavier-use wilderness lake basins to remove illegal fire rings and generally clean-up campsite footprints. This will be a very full day with potentially long hikes up to our most beautiful lakes.

August 21: Meadow Creek Bog Crossing -- We will repair and re-construct collapsed sections of a low, log stringer bridge that crosses a boggy area along the Meadow Creek Trail.

This site is a short hike from the trail head.

September 18 (tentative): Trail Signage -- We will scatter small crews to various wilderness trail intersections needing repair and/or installation of signage.



FENW co-sponsors new Summit County Forest Visitors Guide

FENW recently announced co-sponsorship of a new publication which will incorporate a comprehensive overview of activities, hiking and biking trails, camping areas, volunteer opportunities and general information for the White River National Forest. The concept was brought to the FENW Board by members of the Summit County Leadership Forum. This type of visitors guide has been successfully used in other areas of the country. The newspaper type format will be published and distributed throughout the county for use this summer.

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Ken Harper
Marilyn Raymond
Dave Raymond
Noxious Weeds: John Taylor
Webmaster: Rick Warren
Volunteer Rangers: Cyndi Koop
Trailmaster: Bill Reed
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Grants/Donations

The Summit Foundation
National Forest Foundation Ski Area
Contributions for noxious weeds
A-Basin Employee Environmental Fund
Colorado State Trails
Pulling for Colorado
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Town of Silverthorne
Town of Frisco
Town of Breckenridge
Black Hills Parks & Rec Fund (USFS)
Summit County Weed Department

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Mail: FENW.org
P.O. Box 4504
Frisco, CO 90443

Web: www.fenw.org

Contact: info@fenw.org



Donors make the work of FENW possible

Volunteers get the work done. Donors make it happen. We are so grateful to the many generous donors who contribute to the work of FENW in preserving and improving the wilderness of Summit and Eagle Counties. FENW is proud to have over 150 active members! Your monetary assistance is the foundation for the rest of our funding efforts such as grant applications and in-kind contributions to the work of FENW in Summit and Eagle Counties. We are very appreciative of your generosity and caring for our Wilderness lands. Without your continued support, we would not be able to accomplish the work of trail maintenance, weed mitigation, education of the thousands of visitors and advocacy.

FENW recognizes the following people who have renewed their FENW membership for 2010 or have become new FENW members (*) between December 2009 and April 2010.

THANK YOU!!

Bill & Marylee Adamson	Nancy Redner
Jim & Sue Anthony	Bill & Suzanne Reed
Tom Brennom	Phil & Gail Reeves
Linda & Jim Cahill	George & Kathryn Resseguie
Joan Davids & Brian Moriarty	Dorothy Resseguie
Scott & AnneMarie Fussell*	Lee Rimel
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Sally Liu	Karn Stiegelmeier & Frank Lilly
John & Constance McKeague	Barbara Stiltner
Rob & Debra Nelson	Gene & Becky Tomlinson
Peter & Susana Novembre	Ken Waugh & Cam Meyer
Millicent Plant	Peter & Anita Welles
Dave & Marilyn Raymond	Ernest & Barbara Werren
Dave & Jan Luce	
Steve & Tammy McCammon	

Thanks to A-Basin Employees Environmental Fund!

For the **10th consecutive year**, the Fund has made a significant donation to FENW. Members include Courtney DeVito, Tim Finnigan, Alan Henceroth, Leigh Hierholzer, Peggy Hiller, Kristen Lee, Mike & Sha Miklas, BJ Mitchell, Maggie Murray, Dave Reynolds, and Judd Santry. We could not accomplish our objectives without their terrific support!

FENW 2010 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: _____

EMAIL: _____

SEND TO: FENW P.O. BOX 4504 FRISCO, CO 80443
or use PayPal on the FENW.org web site.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

I would like to volunteer to help with:

Newsletter

Trailwork

Weed Control

Ranger Patrol

Other