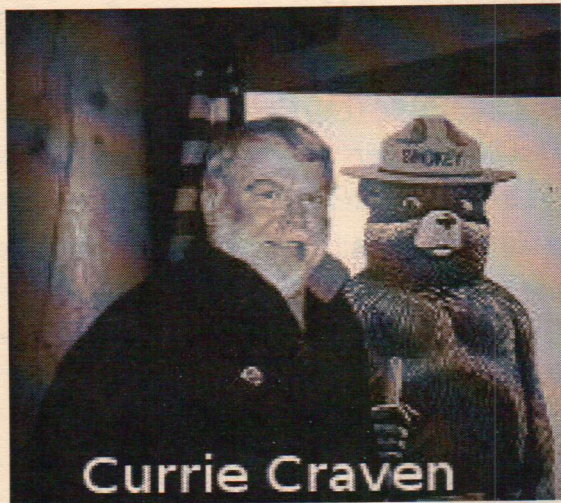


June 2012



Road Notes from the itinerant Prez

Greetings from my spring road trip. I'm returning from visiting family in beautiful Western North Carolina, writing from the banks of the Mississippi in Missouri. My folks live in the Blue Ridge Mountains where that storied mountain chain departs from the Blue Ridge Parkway on its way south and the Parkway transits the shoulder of the highest mountain west of the Mississippi, Mount Mitchell (6,684'). Their community of Montreat had the foresight to preserve over 2,000 acres as Wilderness. Combined with the 20,000 acre City of Asheville, NC owned watershed which is closed to all public use, and other significant tracts of private land adjoining the federally owned Parkway land, almost 30,000 acres in the neighborhood is actual or de facto wilderness. This is an impressive amount of wild land in the eastern region of the United States, specifically the state where the famous Daniel Boone said he must leave for the West, as he needed more "elbow room". True, other areas in the East have more undeveloped land. This extensive bit of room to wander and wonder is in my family's back yard.

In our own shared home, Summit County, the White River National Forest, and the Central Rockies of Colorado, we have another opportunity to preserve treasured places as designated Wilderness. Senator Udall is undertaking a renewed process to bring a Wilderness Bill to the U. S. Congress. You may have

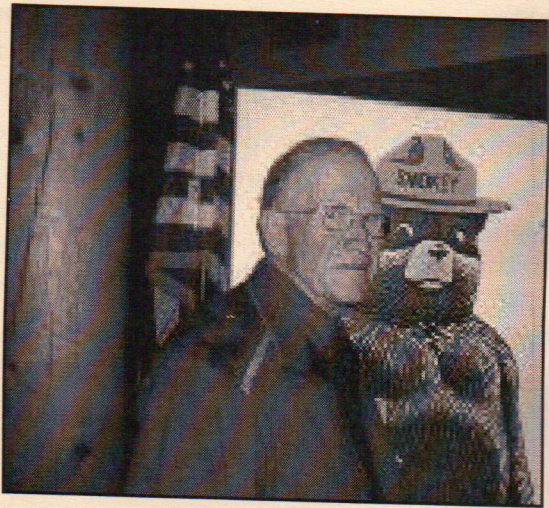
seen some of the excellent letters to various editors and other commentary regarding this proposal. I've been working on a draft for FENW comments and will make an attempt to be as eloquent as the outstanding contributors I have read while on vacation when I offer my thoughts to the public discourse. I encourage all of you to write our elected representatives and consider sharing your passionate feelings through relating your experiences in these proposed Wilderness Areas. Your letters and comments are critical to the success of this effort.

I'll see you on the trail soon. Travel safe and in wonder.

Currie

Cindy Ebbert, Dillon District USFS Ranger Update from the USFS, Dillon Ranger District:

We look forward to another busy field season, especially since summer has arrived a month early! The volunteers of your organization are a critical part to achieving our work in congressionally designated Wilderness areas and we truly appreciate your long term commitment to the Dillon Ranger District. In addition to the FENW trail projects and Volunteer Ranger patrols, we will have an 8-person Rocky Mountain Youth Corp crew working for 6 weeks in the Eagles Nest Wilderness on a variety of projects: Mesa Cortina turnpike construction, Crosscut Saw trail clearing and Lower Cataract Creek bridge replacement. You will also see our new Wilderness Ranger, Kate Demorest, out on the trails along with two Student Conservation Association Interns!! Again, I always appreciate trail and downed tree updates, so please contact me at cebbert@fs.fed.us or 970-262-3458.



FENW Weed Specialist, John Taylor

Noxious Weed Alert:

Learn about the noxious weeds in our area and do your part in ridding our environment of these invasive pests. Know your thistles- noxious (Canada, Musk, Plumeless, vs. native. Pull chamomile and dames rocket, mspray oxeye daisy, yellow toadflax. Success is "There are no boundaries!"

FENW awarded \$10,000 grant to fight noxious weeds.

National Forest Foundation awards FENW \$10,000 to fight noxious Weeds

FENW will again employ the services of Weed Busters and their mules to take on noxious weeds in remote Eagles Nest Wilderness and National Forests leading to these pristine areas. Grant covers both the Eagle and Summit sides of the Wilderness.

Bill Reed, Trail Maintenance Coordinator

2012 Summer Trail Projects

Forest Service personnel will be clearing downed trees from trails and building firebreaks most of the summer so trail maintenance will need to be done by volunteers.

WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR A FEW HOURS, A HALF DAY OR A FULL DAY!

Saturday, June 9

8:00am

National Trails Day - Site TBD

Saturday, June 16

8:00am

Gateways Project TDB

Saturday, July 14

8:00am

Lower Cataract Turnpike

Friday, August 17

Overnight Project - Site TDB

Saturday, August 18

Overnight Project - Site TDB

Sunday, August 19

Overnight Project - Site TDB

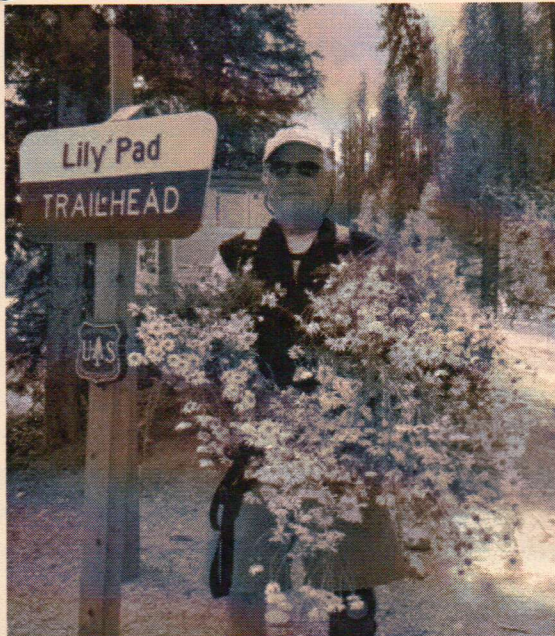
Saturday, September 15, 2012

8:00am

North Ten Mile Project

For planning purposes, please call Bill Reed at 970-513-9741 or email at vol_rsvp@fenw.org.

Meet at the Dillon Ranger District office in Silverthorne across from Target at 8am. A light breakfast will be served. Wear hiking boots, long pants, work gloves and a good hat. Raingear is also suggested. Bring water for the day, snacks and lunch. Refreshments will be available after the work day at the trailhead.



George Resseguie with a noxious bouquet

Financial Report

The FENW financial position continues to be excellent. We ended 2011 with \$17,263 in the bank. The 2012 budget has been approved as follows: popular trails.

| Category | Budget | Restricted* | Un-Rest** | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Noxious Weeds | \$ 11,575 | \$ 10,575 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 11,575 |
| Tools & Equipment | \$ 1,000 | | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| WV Program -- | | | | |
| Summit | \$ 1,000 | | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| WV Program -- Eagle | \$ 1,000 | | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| TRAFx | \$ 1,000 | | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| Trail Projects | \$ 1,500 | | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,500 |
| Publicity | \$ 1,000 | | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| Signage | \$ 2,500 | \$ 2,500 | | \$ 2,500 |
| Advocacy | \$ 500 | | \$ 500 | \$ 500 |
| Grants -- Admin | \$ 500 | | \$ 500 | \$ 500 |
| Newsletters/Brochures | \$ 1,225 | | \$ 1,225 | \$ 1,225 |
| Annual Meeting | \$ 750 | | \$ 750 | \$ 750 |
| Office/Admin | \$ 450 | | \$ 450 | \$ 450 |
| Total | \$ 24,000 | \$ 13,075 | \$ 10,925 | \$ 24,000 |

*Funding from grants

**Dues, donations, and profits from fund-raisers.

Regarding revenue, we already have received a very generous donation from the A-Basin Employee Environmental Fund and the profit from last December's John Fielder's Colorado presentation – together totaling about \$2,800. Assuming our dues collections are consistent with the past several years (\$5,000), our 2012 spending will exceed our revenue by about \$3,100, resulting in a 2012 year-end balance of about \$14,100. The Board considers this level of "cash in the bank" to be indicative of very sound financials.

We are extremely grateful for the financial support from our outstanding members, sponsors, funding from County granting organizations (such as The Summit Foundation), and a donation from the A-Basin Employee Environmental Fund as noted later in the Newsletter.

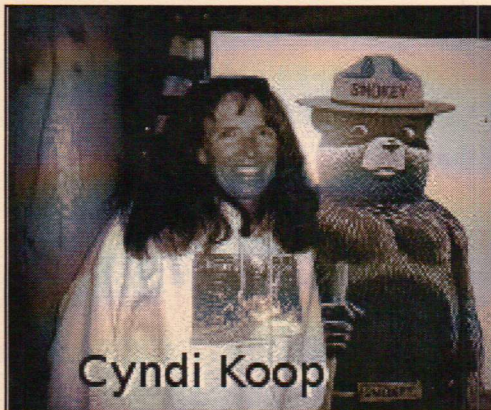
Tool Maintenance Program

The Tool Maintenance Program will continue to be coordinated closely with Friends of the Dillon Ranger District. In 2012, FENW's focus will be on constructing new tool storage racks and shelving in our new

tool shed, upgrading the tool storage racks in the old tool shed, refurbishing/sharpening or purchasing new Corona hand saws, replacing worn-out saw blades for bow saws, and buying a few Pulaski axes. Tools in the tool maintenance program were used by volunteers in many non-profits; the value of the volunteer hours associated with the tool usage exceeded in 2011 again exceeded \$100,000. We would like to recognize one of our key volunteers – Len Shipman – for his extraordinary assistance in helping construct the tool storage racks and shelving.

TRAFx Trail Monitoring System

FENW will again use the TRAFx counters to monitor usage on popular Wilderness trails throughout the Dillon Ranger District. We plan to purchase one or two more counters to expand our coverage – the added purchases will provide a total of 6-7 counters. To date, we have been extremely pleased with the performance of the counters and have provided useful data to the US Forest Service. Further, more detailed, results may be found on the FENW website in June.



Wild Colorado: Wilderness rangers put boots on the trail

Stories abound for Friends of the Eagles Nest volunteers

By Janice Kurbjun
Summit Daily News

Mike Mayrer volunteers with Friends of the Eagles Nest ranger program because "it's peaceful, it's quiet — and it's great exercise," he said.

It's also a way to help preserve wilderness, and continue to educate visitors on what the wilderness designation means.

"People don't know what wilderness is," Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness volunteer ranger coordinator Cyndi Koop said. "They don't realize it's an added layer of protection by Congress. It's held for our children's children's children. It was an idea of a couple of wonderful people."

The volunteer ranger program began in 2005, and since then, it's contributed more than 3,617 hours of time patrolling the trails. That's a value of \$74,151 to the U.S. Forest Service, based on a \$20.50 per hour wage — and that doesn't include trail work done by Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness.

"We have seen 17,297 visitors and have contacted 11,276 of those visitors (on the trail)," Koop said, adding that hikers, backpackers, anglers, dogs and hunters are all tallied separately in the system. "We have witnessed

1,353 dogs on a leash, and that's awesome. Only 747 were off the leash. It's getting better." Dogs are required to be on leash in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. Citations are issued and fines are assessed to owners who violate this law.

Currently, there are 52 rangers in Eagle and Summit counties committing to a minimum of four 4-hour days each summer, with about two dozen dedicated volunteer rangers in Summit County. The program is similar to the Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, except that it is dedicated to the Eagles Nest Wilderness, which spans both counties and has more than 1,000 miles of trails. Rangers also help out in the Holy Cross Wilderness, Koop said.

There to help, educate
Volunteer rangers are on the trail to educate and encourage compliance with wilderness rules. They redirect people who are lost, often walking with them to make sure they find the right path again. Sometimes, rangers carry extra bottles of water, or share mosquito repellent with those who have underestimated the pests' presence. They carry maps and first aid kits — just in case.

Mayrer and Koop tell stories of individuals who have to be gently corrected for breaking rules they didn't know exist, as well as simply helping people understand where they are on the map.

One man, whom Koop later learned was from New York City, was frantic when she met him.

"Where are the signs?" he asked, to which she replied, "You're in the wilderness." He insisted that he should have seen a sign by now, and Koop said she let him know that wherever there's a T in a trail, a sign indicates trail locations.

She has also broken up illegal fire rings — ones situated too close to water — which takes significant work. So much work, she's considering organizing backpacking crews who can stick around to do the rehabilitation.

Another time, Koop was startled by a dog bounding up to her while she was sitting by a stream. When she asked the young man who owned the dog if he knew he was in wilderness, he exclaimed, "Yes! I drove 150 miles to get here so my dog could run free!" To which, she explained that dogs are to be kept on leash in wilderness areas.

Explanations are typically fun and informative.

"People need the wilderness. They need it bad," Koop said. "We are out there to do nothing but help and educate."

Mayrer remembers one boy who met him on a trail and wouldn't say anything — just kept looking at the volunteer ranger. His parents came up behind him and explained that the boy has always wanted to see a real forest ranger. Mayrer didn't tell him he's a volunteer, but played along and gave him the satisfaction of encountering a uniformed patroller.

Rangers are particularly important during summers like this one, when trees are dead and

still standing. The slightest wind could cause a problem, and Koop said visitors and hikers aren't accustomed to looking up when they're exploring. Rangers can help prevent mishaps by letting people know the hazards, she said.

"I've hiked for years and I enjoy it," Mayrer said. "You want to help preserve the wilderness and give a little back. We don't have the coverage for the miles and miles of trails up here. The Forest Service budget isn't adequate." Volunteers are so necessary to help protect the health and enjoyment of our Eagles Nest Wilderness.

Ken Harper Eagle County WV

Wilderness and the Myths of American Environmentalism

With a history of influencing political decisions, the debate over public lands has not only affected modern environmental politics but also American politics in general. As this debate continues, join us in discovering the historical influence the Eagle Valley has had on American politics. Professor Jay Turner will explore Wilderness and the Myths of American Environmentalism and the direct ties the local area has with American politics. Professor Turner teaches in the Environmental Studies program at Wellesley College. He received his Doctorate in History from Princeton University and has recently authored *The Promise of Wilderness: American Politics since 1964*. He is the recipient of the Kerr History Prize and has been awarded the Krefeld Young Scholar Award by the Krefeld Historical Symposium.

This educational, community event is sponsored by Walking Mountains Science Center, Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness, National Forest Foundation, and the U.S. Forest Service. A photography exhibit by Leadville photographer Steve Sunday will also be displayed to showcase the beauty of our Colorado landscape.

If You Go...

When: Friday, June 29th, 6:30pm –light refreshments and photography exhibit;

7pm—Jay Turner, *Wilderness and the Myths of American Environmentalism*

Where: Walking Mountains Science Center; Avon, CO.

What: *Wilderness and the Myths of American Environmentalism*; Explore how the takes public lands debate has been a vehicle for examining broader shifts in American and environmental politics.

Cost: Free!

Space is limited, RSVP recommended to Walking Mountains Science Center (970) 827-9725.

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Mail: FENW
P.O. Box 4504
Frisco, CO 80443

Website: www.fenw.org

Contact: info@fenw.org

Membership

We are continually grateful for the generous support you give FENW. Your contributions are used for the purchase of tools, supplies and other items used in the work of maintaining Wilderness trails. Money received is also used for matching grants which FENW uses for weed mitigation, trail signage and other trail maintenance projects. 100% of your contributions go for the improvement of the wilderness. There are no salaries. All work is accomplished by Volunteers.

Thanks for your continuing support.

New members are needed both as volunteers and contributors to insure that the work of FENW continues. Please recommend FENW to your contacts.

Dec 2011 - May 2012 Donors to Date of Publication.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
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FENW volunteers trail rangers
ready for the 2012 hiking season

FENW Newsletter November 2012

Grant Donors

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National Forest Foundation (NFF)
NFF/Ski Area Conservation Fund
Summit County Weed Program
Arapaho Basin Employee Environmental Fund*
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 40+ contributors to the Fund for their generous donations (for the 12th year in a row)! We could not accomplish our objectives without their terrific support.

Business Donors:

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Dillon Ranger District Staff
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Eagles Nest Property Homeowners Assoc.
Friends of the Lower Blue
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FENW volunteers ready for a day of maintenance on the Willow Creek Trail

Peak Provisions

**FENW 2012 ANNUAL DUES CAMPAIGN
Membership Levels**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUFFALO \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> PINEY LAKE \$40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CATARACT LAKE \$60.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> GORE TRAIL \$80.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EAGLES NEST \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> BOOTH CREEK \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MT. POWELL \$500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

I would like to help with:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weed Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Ranger Patrol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |