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# Canyon Lakes Ranger District

## Volunteer News

### Dear Volunteers,

The year 2013 proved to be a wild ride for our community. While still in the midst of wildfire restoration, the devastating September floods hit our county hard. Yet we are resilient- and next year I'm sure our friends and neighbors will be back again to help with more restoration projects.

This year, we were honored to have 579 volunteers provide **42,422** hours of time towards land stewardship programs. *Thank you.*

*Kristy Wumkes*

District Partnerships Coordinator

## Message From the Ranger

Each and every one of you is important to the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. You continue to break records and be amazing ambassadors for the U.S. Forest Service, even during another year of natural disasters in Larimer County. Our volunteers, employees and visitors have all been impacted. We have a long road ahead of us to recovery and I know that our amazing group of volunteers will rise to the challenge and help where needed.

Two things this year stand out as disappointments through no fault of our own and I want to address those. Forty-eight volunteers worked tirelessly on getting the Young Gulch Trail open following the damage done by the High Park Fire. The public had just started to see this when the floods hit and washed away much of that great work. The trail has been badly damaged, but I know that with your help next year it will open again.

Second was having to cancel the fourth annual National Public Lands Day.

The flooding and government shut down kept this wonderful event from happening. So many volunteers worked to prepare for this event, especially the ARP Foundation, Poudre Wilderness Volunteers and Overland Mountain Bike Club. I appreciate all that you did and know that next year it will be better than ever. We will also work this spring to get those trees in the ground that were supposed to be planted in September. Stay tuned for details.

I have to once again recognize our outstanding interns from Colorado State University this year. They spent their summer answering phones in the visitor center and doing recreation and wildlife work out in the field for the experience it offered and the educational benefits they received. They have been a crucial part of our summer staff the last few years and I hope they realize how much they are appreciated.

Thank you for all you continue to do for us and for our natural resources!

*Kevin Atchley*  
Canyon Lakes District Ranger

## Volunteer Calendar (events are free unless noted)

Group abbreviations

Cameron Pass Nordic Rangers: CPNR

Diamond Peaks Nat Ski Patrol: DPNSP

Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Patrol: DPMBP

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers: PWV

Forest Service: FS

Nov 20	CPNR: Kick-Off Meeting @ FS office (6:30 p.m.)
Dec 4	CPNR: Classroom FS orientation @ FS office (6-9 p.m.)
Dec 7	CPNR: Field training @ Cameron Pass (8-4)
Dec 18	CPNR: Affiliation meeting @ Mulligan's on College Ave. (6 p.m.) "Basic Avalanche Awareness" by DPNSP (6:30 p.m.)
Jan 6,7,9,11,12	DPNSP: Avalanche 1 certification class (Course 1) \$300
Jan 14,16, 23,25,26	DPNSP: Avalanche 1 certification class (Course 2) \$300 More info/ register for either class at: <a href="http://www.diamondpeaks.org/joomla/index.php/classes/50-avylevel1">www.diamondpeaks.org/joomla/index.php/classes/50-avylevel1</a>
Jan 18	CPNR: Affiliation meeting @ Mulligan's on College Ave. (6 p.m.) "Outdoor Recreation and the Still Unlovely Mind"- Dr. Rick Knight (6:30)
Feb TBD	CPNR: Affiliation meeting @ Mulligan's on College Ave. (6 p.m.)
Mar 3	PWV: New volunteer applications deadline
Mar TBD	CPNR: Everyone-get-out-and-patrol-day AND Chili Social
April TBD	DPMBP: Good Host training @ FS office (6-9 p.m.)
April TBD	National Public Lands Day delayed tree planting
May 7	Trails Volunteers: Part 1 Training- Classroom @ FS office (6-9 p.m.)
May 10	Trails Volunteers: Part 2 Training- Field Workshop (8-1)
May 16-18	PWV: New member training @ Boy Scout Camp
Dates TBD	Young Gulch and Hewlett Gulch trail restoration days

### Cameron Pass Nordic Ranger Volunteers Training: Dec. 4 & 7

**KICK OFF MEETING** on November 20th at 6:30 PM at the Forest Service office.

Discover program particulars including requirements and a chance to meet returning Nordics and enjoy several mini-educational booths.

The Cameron Pass Nordic Ranger Volunteer (CPNR) program began in 1992 to provide a backcountry presence and much-needed winter trail maintenance at the district's busiest winter play area around Cameron Pass.

The program has grown from a fledgling 12 volunteer nordic ski patrollers to almost 90 skiers and snowshoers over the 2012/2013 winter season.

The December 4 evening classroom session runs from 6 to 9 p.m. and focuses on safety, Forest Service regulations, and public contact techniques.

The December 7 practical takes place on ski trails near Cameron Pass. Volunteers get a chance to ski or snowshoe a new trail, learn how to handle public contacts, and get hands-on practice using Forest Service radios.

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**





## Volunteer Spotlight

### Smokey's Helpers



Some might say this is the most fun volunteer job of all...

...at least it certainly appears that way from the smiles on our volunteers' faces!

The Canyon Lakes Ranger District has hosted a cut-your-own holiday tree area south of Red Feather Lakes for more than three decades. In 2012, we started recruiting volunteers to help supplement Forest Service staff on weekends at this popular event.

There are actually four different volunteer positions available at the tree sale event.

Besides helping Smokey greet and take memento photos of hundreds of family tree shoppers- and their dogs- over a two weekend period in December, volunteers also help staff in the sale area, and at the entrance and pay stations. The 16 positions available for these coveted jobs are filled for the 2013 tree cutting season, which this year runs December 7-15. Thanks again for your support. Sarah Paski is the contact for more information: [spaski@fs.fed.us](mailto:spaski@fs.fed.us)

Smokey is also popular among younger elementary-aged children, and makes several Fire Prevention appearances at local schools and events throughout the year.

## District Volunteer Programs

With your help, the past decade has seen the District refocus from short-lived, one time projects to on-going, collaborative community building volunteer work, and in the process become one of the largest Forest Service volunteer programs in the nation. Volunteer opportunities to manage this special resource are ALWAYS going to be needed- why not build a program around them and actually get to know people?

As varied as the folks who volunteer in them, each volunteer program serves a need on the District. There are three types of group programs (backcountry patrol, trail or road maintenance, and remote visitor center hosting); and three programs that require only one or two people each (volunteer office administration, webmaster, and shop volunteers).

Are these all the programs we'll ever have? No way! As work type and volunteer needs change, we'll have to change with it.

### Adopt-A-Programs

Adopt-A-Road  
Adopt-A-Trail

### Backcountry Patrol Programs

Cameron Pass Nordic Rangers  
Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Patrol  
Diamond Peaks National Ski Patrol  
Poudre River Volunteers  
Poudre Wilderness Volunteers

### Hosting Programs

Arrowhead Lodge Visitor Center  
Buckhorn Ranger Station  
Deadman Fire Tower Volunteers  
Redfeather Work Center  
Stub Creek Ranger Station

## Fires and Floods

High Park Fire Restoration was still on-going when the floods hit.

The Young Gulch Trail re-closed after opening to the public for only five days this year. And this after a major effort from Forest Service crews to remove burnt hazard trees, and trail restoration work by our hard working volunteers.

Both the Young Gulch and Hewlett Gulch Trails sustained major erosional damage from September floods and remain closed. We hope to be able to host restoration projects on both of them after the winter thaw.

Trails weren't the only things hit, of course. Many miles of Forest Service roads, all three picnic areas along County Road 43 enroute to Glen Haven, and the Big Thompson Fishing Pier were washed away.

Many of the District's roads and trails remain closed due to flood damage. For a complete list and more information, visit our webpage: [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/flood2013](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/flood2013)



The first creek crossing of the Hewlett Gulch Trail looks a little different these days... along with the rest of the trail.

### National Public Lands Day Do- Over

The 2013 floods caused the cancellation of National Public Lands Day this year- but we still have trees to plant! We hoping to get those trees in the ground next April.

Contact Fred Allen at [fred@arp-foundation.org](mailto:fred@arp-foundation.org) if you are interested in being on the mailing list for tree planting work days.

## Mountain Pine Beetle Update



As is the nature of "nature", the forests on the District have changed because of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. While Larimer County remains ground-zero in Colorado for the number of infected trees, numbers ARE going down, since much of the food supplies for the beetle are gone in this area. The silver lining is the increase in tree species diversity, as other conifers and aspen trees grow under the dead tree canopy.

U. S. Forest service crews are now back to normal hazard tree removal operations. In 2013, only 2100 trees were sprayed, at two locations. Revegetation efforts will continue in the future. Long Draw Road and the spur roads along the Laramie River Road will remain closed until hazard tree removal efforts are complete.

To learn more about the mountain pine beetle visit [www.frontrangepinebeetle.org](http://www.frontrangepinebeetle.org).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

- It is still up to forest visitors to be prepared.*
- \* Always be aware of your surroundings.*
  - \* Avoid dense patches of dead trees.*
  - \* Bring a saw to remove fallen trees from blocked roads.*