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**Seems like it's only just begun ...**



And yet here we are with our end of season issue of Poudre Trails. But that doesn't mean it is the end of the work PWV does! Keep your eye on your e-mail for more things you can do in the "off season"! Join the Board of Directions - elections are October 15th. Not to mention the committees that come out of our Board that exist in our organization. Also, look for Winter Patrol opportunities - yes we patrol the lower elevation trails in winter. And, believe it or not, our Chair Elect, Jan Creager will be looking for help on Spring Training. Don't wait until May day to volunteer for something you may want to do in 2010!



**Christina Andre with a large, flowering Musk thistle plant at the North Fork trailhead (Aug. 2008) - find out more about Weed Crew on Page 4 & 5**

**A Message from Our Chair**

By Mike Mosehauer

As the patrol season draws to a close, we can all look back with pride on what we, as part of PWV, have accomplished for the U.S. Forest Service. We started the season with a record number of returning members and a record number of very enthusiastic new recruits at Spring Training.

Our members have made their presence felt in many ways. We have had glowing reports of new members helping hikers above and beyond their mission. I even had a call from two hikers who were helped by our patrollers on the Big South Trail. They were so impressed, they checked our PWV website and called me to say thanks. They will be joining PWV next year!



We had a report of a 10-year member who helped a young disabled child who was hiking with her parents. The girl was tired and getting discouraged but the PWV patroller took the time to talk to

the girl about Leave No Trace, giving her motivation to keep going. The parents were very appreciative. This is what PWV is all about.

I would like to thank our entire membership for an outstanding year. Many of you have volunteered to help with Adopt-a-Trail, Adopt-a-Highway, Weed Patrol, Trail Maintenance and Kids In Nature – we can't thank you enough. Others of you have stepped up to help out with the Web Site, our Newsletter and office support – we can't thank you enough. It is the contribution of our members that guarantees the success of PWV year after year.

But it's not over yet! So get out and do your hikes/rides and plan on coming to the Year End Party (Annual Meeting) at the Drake Center on October 18.

**Doing the Booth Thing**

By Sharon Ruch

I worked at the PWV New West Fest booth again this year; and once again, I lucked out, weather-wise. The Saturday volunteers for the 2-4 shift contended with a fierce mini-burst storm that blew the canopy off the booth, knocked the signboard down and drenched the people inside. Elaine Boni and Vicky Caldwell were the unlucky twosome on duty at the time. With the help of Bob Babbs, the PWV who was still around after filling the noon-2 shift, and Bob's wife, they were able to get the canopy back on the frame. Bob stood on a table and guided the canopy back with an umbrella. As Elaine said, "Good old PWV ingenuity." It took all four people to put things to right.

Sunday, the day I worked, the weather was lovely. (Or, at least it was during my shift.) New West Fest is the best recruitment event we have, or so I've been told. That alone is enough reason for me to keep coming back as a volunteer booth-sitter. But even if we didn't recruit so many new members, I would go just to get my fix of people-watching. The variety I see strolling by makes me realize all over again what a wonderfully diverse society we live in.

It's this diversity of people that also makes me wonder who the best candidates are for PWV. If a

person approaches the booth and looks interested, should I smile and make contact no matter what? Is the couple with the two unruly kids likely to be able to hike any trail at all? Is the tattooed muscle-man going to scare the people he encounters? Will he give up his black sleeveless tee shirt for a PWV uniform? Will the little old lady who seems to have problems just walking be a good candidate? Or how about the guy with a portable oxygen tank? I know people who need oxygen when they hike, and they are excellent PWV representatives. I guess my point is that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover.

I also have to decide how much information is too much. Some folks seem to have short attention spans; and if I start going on and on in too much detail, I lose them altogether. Then there are those who don't seem to be interested in becoming a member, but they will try and get as much information out of us as they can, short of actually buying a trail guide.

*Continued on page 3 (Booth).*

# An Interview with Kevin Cannon

By Toni L. Farquhar

Kevin Cannon, "our ranger" at the Forest Service, calls himself a "self-educated man" who, like Mark Twain, "never let schooling interfere with his education."

Growing up as an "Air Force brat," Kevin lived all around the US as well as in Japan and the Philippines, though most of his youth was spent in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He attended Northern Arizona University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management.

Kevin joined the Forest Service because he enjoys being outdoors and has always been curious about nature. His association with PWV began when he started working for the Canyon Lakes District in September, 2001 and he says that his involvement with this group is one of the most enjoyable parts of his job. "I learn a lot from the members and am constantly revitalized by their commitment," he added.

Kevin is engaged to be married and has many interests other than his work. He enjoys boating, hiking, reading and traveling. He hopes someday to visit Banff and Jasper and to travel to Australia and New Zealand. He'd also like to snorkel all of the greatest spots in the Caribbean. Pressed to pick a favorite spot in the Canyon Lakes District, he chose the northern Rawah.

He sees the future of the nation's forests as vital not only to Americans, but to all peoples. "They are still places of immense beauty and utility, whether that utility is for their enjoyment

or for commercial purposes. I would hope that through wise use we can return the nation's forests to the dynamic ecological and biological communities that they were. Europe's forests are mostly gone or they're highly managed, and forests in other countries are disappearing. The American psyche was molded out of the land and we should renew that psyche as often as possible. Unfortunately, the lands have always been a political football, and I see no end to the back and forth of the competing interests, which in its own way provides a balance."

He fears that little will be left for future generations, adding, "We cannot keep writing checks on a bank account that replenishes at a slower rate than we're withdrawing from it." His greatest hope is that people who go out in nature will be inspired to see the need to help with the forests' survival.

Kevin believes that organizations such as PWV are essential to getting vital work done, especially in educating the public to Leave No Trace and to the importance of their actions today on the forests of tomorrow. We need many, many more organizations like PWV all over the world."

In wrapping up this interview Kevin, asked for a parting thought, said, "Remember life is supposed to be fun. Take time to enjoy it."

Thanks, Kevin, for sharing your thoughts with us.

# Staying Uniform

By Adeline McConnell

When and how do you wear the uniform? Shirt tail in or out? And where does that name plate go? Can you put it on your hat?

If you're one of the PWVs who are struggling with these hard choices, know that we are expected to follow the same rules that govern the Forest Service rangers themselves: shirt tail tucked in and the name plate over the right pocket. If you are wearing a jacket or have a pack on, it can go on the Jacket on the right or on the right side pack strap; and no, don't wear the uniform unless you're representing Poudre Wilderness Volunteers.

But what about weed and trail crews, when the work can be hard on clothing?

The Board at its August meeting voted to relax the rules and require only that one or two people in the crew wear the uniform. They should be the ones to talk to the public.

## Tots on Patrol

Small children may go along on a patrol provided there is a secondary caretaker along to keep them away from the PWV patroller when he or she is talking to the public.

# Going National

By Dave Cantrell

Imagine for a moment that every Wilderness area in the nation has a friend like PWV to help care for it. That bold vision may become a reality, and Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is playing a key role.

The Forest Service is now charged with the care of 440 Wilderness areas. We in PWV are volunteer citizen stewards to four of them, and there are similar organizations overseeing others. But many wilderness lack that grassroots, citizen-based support to help monitor and maintain them and educate their visitors. At the moment, our best estimate is that we have 56 groups helping manage 71 of our wilderness areas, which is only 16% coverage

In October of 2008, Chris Brown, USFS Director, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, called a workshop to consider how to "develop a national service network to foster and support volunteer Wilderness stewardship groups, to increase the number and vitality of groups, to create an allied constituency for Wilderness." A dozen people attended: representatives from the USFS, national NGOs (non-governmental organizations), and boots-on-the-ground stewardship organizations. Because of our national reputation, PWV was asked to be part of that meeting; I was honored to represent us.

What's happened since then? In December of

2008, Elaine Dermody (Friends of Wilderness, Steamboat Springs) and I described the project to an interested audience from Region 2. After that meeting, several of us had lunch and kicked around ideas. This spring and summer, with



Front Row: Win Dermody, Kevin Cannon, Dave Cantrell and Elaine Dermody. Back Row: center of the five people, green shirt, Chris Brown

emails, conference calls, and face-to-face meetings, we've started to turn a vision into a To Do list.

One of our first goals is to identify and link up

with committed Wilderness stewardship organizations nationwide and start to learn how we can be better connected, support each other, and help support and foster new groups.

We are at the earliest stages of planning and imagining. Words come up as we talk about the idea: "service," "communication," "cooperation," "mutual support." Groups involved might be flying or foundering. Right now, we are only a voluntary place to meet others, trade ideas, solve problems, share expertise, and spread resources.

Among our first tasks is to find out how such an initiative could be helpful. We've discussed services like networking, training, face-to-face meetings, conventions, publications, on-site visits, and small grants to help existing groups grow stronger and new groups start up. We may also find ways to help district-level FS staff support volunteer organizations in their area. We assume that a web site will be central to much of what we do, but that nothing replaces getting together with others. We see our role as helping volunteer stewardship organizations develop and thrive, supporting and strengthening the National Wilderness Preservation System.

*Continued on page 5 (Going National)*

## Booth *(Continued from page 1)*

So, was there anything noteworthy at all about my stint on Sunday? Well, there was this one guy who stood about 15 feet away, literally glaring into the booth. When we invited him inside, he growled out this comment: "I don't believe in what you people do." We looked at each other in confusion. What exactly do we do that he doesn't like? Volunteer? I decided he probably had us confused with some other group ... a more controversial or political bunch.

And there was a woman who came up and declared in no uncertain terms that she wanted wilderness that was truly and totally untrammelled by any other human. Would she be a good fit for PWV, when we try to teach visitors to stay on the trails? I don't know, but she did buy a trail guide. All in all, booth sitting is a rewarding and interesting experience. Try it some time.



Bob Manuel Works on the North Fork Bridge

## Tending the Trails

By Mary Ann Baak

The highlight of Trail Crew for Dave Hawkins this year was seeing a lynx on Roaring Creek Trail.

"Frank Lilley, James Johnson, and I had



North Fork Bridge Before

cleared two large trees from the trail and were returning to camp when a large grey cat ran up the hill to our left," he remembers. "We watched it for about a hundred yards as it bounded over the deadfall on a fairly open slope and debated whether it was a lynx or a bobcat; but after consulting the Peterson Field Guide to the Mammals, Frank and I determined it was a lynx. That beat the heck out of the fox in camp that tried to grab Jim Shaklee's bagel out of his hand last year."

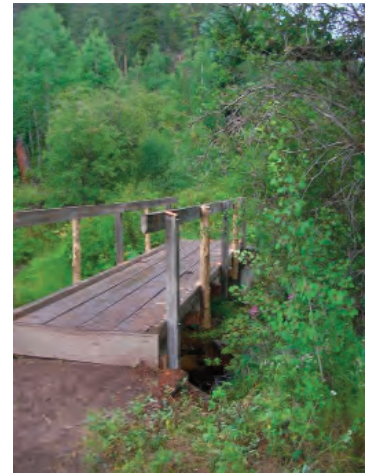
Moments like these are enough reward for the hard work PWV members put in on Trail Crew. These hearty souls carry their own bow saws, shovels, and axes as they go about maintaining the trails we all love to hike. They backpack in for days, clear the downed trees that the rest of

us note as obstacles in our trip reports, and perform other trail preservation as needed. Tree removal takes most of their time by far, and will probably continue to do so due to the beetle kill.

Mike Smilie views Trail Crew as an invaluable experience.

"It gives me a new appreciation for all the efforts to keep trails open, and an appreciation for the summer work of PWV Crews. The highlight, after the hard work, is the camaraderie around the campfire at day's end."

Hard work, yes, but with tremendous benefits for all of us. My hat is off to all of you working Trail Crew!



North Fork Bridge After

## Our Wyoming Connection

By Adeline McConnell

Why did a former sea captain lead a band of volunteers into the Wyoming wilderness a mile above sea level and a thousand miles from the nearest ocean?



The Target - a fire ring in the wilderness

Fred Allen, who has captained merchant ships all over the world, spent more than a month in Wyoming this summer determining "how many

beds are in the hotel." The effort was part of the Forest Service's 10 year Challenge entitled "Rapid Assessment Campsite Evaluation," designed to find out how many camps have been pitched in wilderness areas all over the country and what damage to ground cover and trees has resulted.

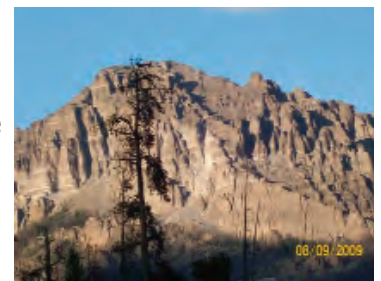
Almost as soon as the project was broached at the Region 2 winter meeting of wilderness managers in Denver last December, it ran into trouble.

"I don't have the resources to get this accomplished," Jeff Leisy a wilderness ranger from Dubois, WY, stated flatly at the end of the meeting. It was then that Allen and Dave Cantrell, PWV members who had been invited to attend the meeting, had a ready suggestion. Why not borrow some of our PWVs to do the job?

The Lander, WY USFS Office does not have its own group of volunteers and the offer was greeted with lukewarm interest. But Allen and Cantrell persisted. In January, Allen e-mailed the PWV membership for volunteers, and 45

members responded, even though there was no mention of reimbursements. The proposal would mean considerable out-of-pocket expense for the participants: food, transportation costs, time away from work. Anyone taking a llama or horse could expect to pay a healthy \$100 in fees just to cross the state line. Allen then applied to the National Forest Service Foundation for a grant and was awarded enough money to pay expenses for all 18 who eventually made the trip.

*Continued on Page 4 (Wyoming Continued)*



Wyoming Scenery

# Wyoming Continued ... Continued from Page 3

As the planning moved forward, the Lander and Dubois US Forest Service offices provided a great deal of assistance, Allen said. There were plenty of logistical challenges. Rendezvous spots had to be set up and PWV radios programmed to work in the Wyoming district. Leaders had to pick up satellite telephones and maps, and figure out where WI-FI and cell phone coverage and showers would be available.

Once on the trails, the crews discovered that the wilderness areas in Wyoming are far wilder and rougher than the gentler terrain that surrounds the Poudre. Even designated "roads" to the trailheads contained ruts a foot or more deep. The three wilderness areas: Washakie, Fitzpatrick, and Popo Agie (nicknamed "the Rock Pile,") were marked by streams without bridges that had to be forded by foot. And then there were those large boulder fields.

"I can still hear the clackity clack of the horses' hooves against those rocks," Allen recalls.

The volunteers sighted moose, deer, elk, ante-

lope, and a lone wolf, but no grizzlies, even though they were in grizzly territory, marked by huge piles of wet new scat. Bear spray was carried just in case. Everyone came in direct contact with mosquitoes! One group made a special passage across the Wind River Indian Reservation in USFS trucks. Another group had their gear hauled in by USFS mules and horses.

The rewards were many. The scenery was breathtaking - huge mountain peaks piercing cerulean skies. Some reported good fishing. Moreover, the company of the professional rangers who sometimes accompanied them was a plus.

"Many of the 'Seasonal Rangers' were 35 and younger, with a different kind of energy," Allen said. "We learned from each other, and I think they gained an appreciation for what volunteers can do."

The search for campgrounds and fire rings was intense. Many were in unexpected locations far from streams, best discovered from the van-

tage point astride a horse. The PWV's hiked and rode over 1500 miles and identified hundreds of campsites in 3 different wilderness areas. Allen alone rode more than 50 miles and hiked over 80 miles. In between, he shuttled back and forth to Fort Collins to pick up new groups of volunteers and attend to his insurance business, which he started after his retirement from the sea five years ago.

In all, the PWV volunteers covered 100% of the Washakie Wilderness assigned trails, 60 to 75% of those in the Fitzpatrick Wilderness, and 10-15 % of the ones in the Popo Agie Wilderness.

"This was our Number Two priority for the season," said Matt Walter with the Lander office of the Forest Service. "Without the help of a group as high powered and well-organized as the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, we would have been hard-pressed to complete this project."

The Forest Service will compile the information and use it to do a better job of managing designated wilderness areas. But an even better outcome may be the formation of a Lander based volunteer group, thanks to contacts between PWV members and local environmentalists, some of whom we may see at next year's spring training.



Kathy Davey rides Excaliber over the rocks

## Jim Shaklee Is NOT All About Weeds

By Sharon Ruch

Does Jim Shaklee hate weeds? Anyone who knows of Jim's involvement with the PWV Weed Crew probably thinks the answer is obvious. Doesn't he spend hours each year destroying weeds and urging others to join the crew and do the same?

Jim has spent more hours organizing weed pulls, pulling weeds, keeping track of how many acres have been affected as well as what types of weeds have been pulled than most people spend on a full-time job. He was instrumental in getting the PWV Invasive Weeds Training Manual printed and distributed so the rest of us would have a portable, easily understood guide to the most pervasive and/or noxious weeds in our area. (I especially appreciate the photos that show look-alike native plants. I would hate to find myself tearing out fireweed, mistaking it for purple loosestrife.)

On a recent weed pull, Jim personally carried 70 lbs. of seed heads (along with his 19 lb. pack) out of a distant campsite area. He admitted he would probably not attempt such a feat again, but I have my doubts about that.

During the interview for this article, Jim stressed that he did not want the entire thing to be about weeds. He said PWV is wonderfully diversified. Members can be involved in many projects - Kids In Nature, the Trail Crew, Highway Cleanup, Trailhead Hosting, and don't forget the Weed Crew, to name a few extracurricular activities - or they can just hike or ride, if that's what they prefer.

It's this diversity that caught Jim's interest

when he first moved to the area in 2005 after retiring. He knew he wanted to get involved with some sort of volunteer group, preferably one that included nature and the outdoors. At New West Fest, he stopped at the PWV booth, and eureka! He found a perfect fit. Beginning with the 2006 season, he threw himself wholeheartedly into the organization. He's worked on the Trail Crew, served on the Board and recently returned from a stint volunteering with the Forest Service up in Wyoming, after they requested help working on campsite locations and conditions.

Jim was born in Kansas. He lived in Colorado as a youth, and later in Hawaii and Australia. He spent much of his working life in Washington State as a biologist. When he began thinking about retirement, he came here to check things out, and decided to stay. Jim got started pulling weeds on his own 20-acre property.

And yes, we are now back on the subject of weeds. What is the definition of a weed? To many, it simply means a plant growing where it isn't wanted. Hence, the dandelion that appears infrequently around a home in the mountains is ignored, or even admired. But that same plant in the lawn of a suburbanite is hated and vigorously destroyed. Jim has a somewhat less simple explanation: a weed is capable of changing the environment in which it grows. It affects the other plants around it, as well as the animals that live in that space. It can displace a native plant that a native butterfly depends on, thereby reducing or eliminating that butterfly population. And per-

haps there is a bird that needs those caterpillars as a staple of its diet. It, too, is affected by the invasive weed.

When asked if he had a personal "most hated" weed, Jim said, without hesitation, leafy spurge. If anyone doubts leafy spurge fits Jim's definition of a weed, he or she needs to go hike Hewlett Gulch, and see how that weed has taken over entire hillsides, eradicating nearly all the native flowers and plants that used to grow there. Jim also dislikes mullein. Why? Because even when dead, those tall, dark stalks dominate the scenery, standing there like ugly zombies.

Jim knows there are some species we will never get rid of. He's done a lot of research, and realizes it can take a long, long time before any definitive statement about the effectiveness of pulling or spraying or biological controls can be made. It is encouraging to know, though, that after the Weed Crew worked to clear an area of musk thistle a few years ago, this year there were relatively few plants found there.

And so Jim keeps plugging away, somehow maintaining a positive attitude. Anyone who has worked with him knows he has a laid-back approach, making sure everyone feels free to quit at any time in the course of the work session. The main idea is to enjoy what you are doing, even to the point of considering it fun. Can pulling weeds ever truly be fun? Yes, if you are in the company of Jim Shaklee, weed guru and general all-round PWV *extraordinaire*.

**For some great weed crew pictures - see page 5**

# Going National

(Continued from page 2)

Forest Service staff in Region 2 and in the Washington office are giving us terrific support, but we all recognize that this must be a grassroots, citizen-based effort, starting from the initiative of local and regional volunteer groups who recognize that there are many wilderness that could use a friend, and that groups already in place can support each other and help foster more groups.

As you see, we've barely begun work on this huge task. The ideas I've outlined here are my own first thoughts, not something the working group has settled on. We hope to continue to shape our ideas this autumn, and to manage a first meeting of interested groups early in 2010.



Fall on the Young Gulch Trail

# Kids in Nature

By Toni L. Farquhar

When Forest Service Chief Gail Kimball retired recently, every National Forest District contributed a couple of pages to an electronic scrapbook. The Canyon Lakes Ranger District chose to emphasize the Kids in Nature program and used a picture from one of its hikes as they thanked Gail for her contributions in securing the future of our forests. Obviously, the Forest Service values this Poudre Wilderness Volunteers program.

Children are the key to guaranteeing the future of our forests and the Kids in Nature program, which began in 2007, seeks to foster environmental awareness, respect, and land stewardship through fun, educational programs, and direct experiences. Leaders hope to educate kids about natural processes and instill a sense of wonder and appreciation of nature.

To date, 35 children aged seven through eleven have gone hiking with the 24 PWV members who plan and conduct this program. The group is targeting youngsters who do not normally get to the mountains and has worked with Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Collins, Partners Mentoring Youth, and with a local Brownie troop.

Each hike begins with a trailhead safety talk and reminders about rules and procedures, a discussion of potential hazards that might be encountered along the trail, and an introduction to Leave No Trace.

The group has designed a Young Gulch Trail Guide that allows the leader to respond to the kids' interests and enthusiasms without imposing a particular set of learning tasks. It provides a description and topographic map of the trail, has 12 pages of color photos and descriptive texts of animals and plants the kids are likely to see. It ends with the seven Leave No Trace principles. The children get to keep it to share with family

and friends.

Along with the guide, four pre-planned activities encourage the children to have fun while reinforcing important nature skills. These include a map and compass exercise, a get-to-know-a-tree-while-blindfolded activity, a Leave No Trace dance, and a listen-to-nature activity.

Typically, hikes start at 9:30 a.m. when the PWV leaders meet the children and their parents or guardians at the trailhead. PWV provides the children with nametags, neck pouches for the trail guides, bandanas, and a snack. They hike for two hours, have lunch, conduct some of the activities, and then turn back to the trailhead.

For many of the youngsters, these hikes are their first time in nature. They learn to identify poison ivy and prickly pear, to read and understand signs at the trailhead, and to be polite to other hikers. Often they have some "wow" experiences, such as seeing a garter snake in a stream. Most important, they are introduced to LNT principles.

Barb Benjamin, the committee chair of the Kids in Nature program would love to see more PWV folks get involved with the hikes. She hopes to expand the program to include more children and more trails, while maintaining the two kids/one adult ratio, which allows all questions to be answered and keeps the children in sight and safe at all times. Reaching these goals, however, will require more volunteers.

Next year the group hopes to schedule hikes earlier and post them on the PWV scheduling site. Since participation now counts as one of the six required hikes of the season, perhaps some of our members will consider a fun day with kids as an attractive alternative to their normal hiking schedule.

# Weed Crew at Work



Sharon Ruch, David Royer, Jerry Duncan, Darrell Maruska, Bob Manuel, Kim Obele (CLRD- district weed coordinator), Dennis McKernan, and Roger Bartlett with a pick-up full of Diffuse knapweed from CO-14 near the Lower Dadd Gulch trailhead (Aug. 2007)



Jerry Alldredge and Dennis McKernan digging Scotch thistle rosettes at the Lion Gulch trailhead & parking lot (June 2008)



Darrell Maruska and Randy Schroeder in Musk thistle at the North Fork trailhead (July 2008)

## Schedule of Events

OCTOBER 4 - LAST DAY TO PATROL

OCTOBER 9 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT COMMITTEE HOURS AND TRAIL REPORTS

OCTOBER 15 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

OCTOBER 18 - END OF SEASON PARTY



Poudre Trails is a publication of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit corporation organized to assist the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and other backcountry areas.

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P.O. Box 271921,  
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or contact us at (970) 295-6730

# Snow Patrol

By Adeline McConnell

If you think patrol is all over for the season, think snow. While PWV continues to hike the lower trails along the Poudre during the winter, there's another group that covers the high country on skis and snowshoes. The Cameron Pass Nordic Rangers have been patrolling 30 miles of un-groomed winter trails every winter since 1992; and PWVs are welcome to join them.

"These are the true winter snow play areas at and around Cameron Pass," says Kristy Wumkes, Partnership Coordinator, Canyon Lakes and Pawnee RD. "Some of those routes don't exist as summer trails and are a real treat to patrol in the winter. They include Cameron Connection and the Meadows Trails. And the snow hounds love the bowls above Montgomery Pass. The powder in this area is some of the best in the state"

Skiers and snowshoers from Poudre Wilderness Volunteers are always welcome to join the group, Wumkes said. The setup is the same as for PWV

patrols: everyone patrols with a partner, and patrollers inform and educate the public, but the required number of patrols is 4 rather than 6 days. The season runs from December through most of April.

Training is December 2nd from 6-9 PM at her office followed by a field day at Cameron Pass on December 5th. RSVP is required. Call or email Kristy at 295-6721 or kwumkes@fs.fed.us.



Spring Training 2009 - See you 2010!



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