



POUDRE TRAILS

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers ~ WINTER 2014

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Notes from the Chair

Spring Promises Significant Trail Restoration Efforts

Last year was a year of biblical proportions: fire, floods, and pestilence. Unfortunately **Kevin Cannon** was not able to part the waters and save some of our trails in the lower canyons from the flooding. Consequently this coming season will see a very significant trail restoration effort which will be partially supported by several grants. To date **The Community Foundation of Northern Colorado** and **The Clinton Family Fund** have contributed significant funds for our planned efforts. There are several pending applications but at least we now have adequate funds to get started.

Spring Training Will Be the Best Ever

It appears that we could have a record number of potential recruits, which on one hand is very exciting, but on the other, stretches our volunteer resources. We're anticipating a fantastic Spring Training event, for both the new recruits and all returning member volunteers. Once again it will be held May 16-18 at the Cub Scout Camp near Red Feather.

Important Initiatives Continue

We will also be focusing on many other initiatives, some of which are:

- Developing new strategies for fundraising,
- Potentially developing a three to five year-year strategic plan,
- Creating a plan to better maintain and enhance our public website,
- Re-focusing on patrolling and backpacking in the Wilderness areas, especially Rawah and Comanche Peak,
- Documenting our processes to make it easier on the chairs of future events,
- Implementing an enhanced patrol scheduling process and internally developed software,
- Enhancing the PWV website on the USFS side, and
- Improving communications with the entire membership.

This newsletter, which is being resurrected from years past, is a result of the communication focus.

So this will be a very busy year, and one in which we couldn't possibly be successful if not for the tremendous efforts of all of our volunteers. Thanks to everyone for your time and expertise, and stay tuned for an exciting season of change, growth and accomplishments.

Jerry Hanley, PWV Chair

Assessing Flood Damage to Our Trails

Kevin Cannon, PWV's USFS liaison has been assessing the flood damage to many of our trails since the mid-September flooding. He began the exploration in a helicopter when it was still raining, and continues to visit and assess the restoration work ahead. The saddest news is that much of the destruction took place on trails that were recently restored and improved with many hours of work by PWV Volunteers. Below is a summary of his findings to date.

- Roughly \$450,000 worth of repairs will need to be made. Primary trails to be worked on with PWV assistance are:
 1. **North Fork** (currently closed). At least four bridges known to be blown out, possibly two more. Portions of the trail will need to be relocated. High Priority as it has high public use and is used by RMNP for access into the Park.
 2. **Lion Gulch** (currently closed). First two bridges known to be gone, third bridge possibly in place. Bridges are expensive structures that may not be funded for rebuilding. New bridges will be required to support stock.
 3. **Hewlett Gulch**. Open now, but future conditions dependent on spring run-off due to erosion from previous year's fire.
 4. **Young Gulch** (currently closed and anticipated to be closed until 2015). First two-plus miles will need rerouting, and additional rerouting required further up the trail. May need bridges.

continued

5. **Crosier Mountain** and **Crosier Rainbow** trails currently closed due to damage at Glen Haven.

6. **Lily Mountain**, open although a 50 foot stretch is blown out.

Further reconnaissance of other trails is still required, with assistance of PWV volunteers. The above referenced trails include several trails with highest reported public use.

Kevin is in the process of planning some advanced training for the current trail crew members as the type of repairs needed require more specialized skills than previous work done. There will also be outreach to other volunteer and community organizations to assist with the tasks ahead during the upcoming spring and summer season.

Mentoring

As you can see from the reporting on flood damage to our trails, our work is cut out for us, not only this year, but perhaps into 2015. Many of our current Mentors are also trained trail crew members and will be invaluable to restoration efforts.

The PWV Mentoring Program, led by **David and Rosellen Lobree** (lobree@comcast.net), is an essential component of the training for all new members.

What do Mentors do?

- Mentors patrol with new PWV members to support them in becoming more confident and to practice the skills and knowledge acquired during Spring Training,
- Mentors usually commit to at least two mentor patrols,
- Mentors are provided Mentoring Patrol Guidelines and Check List which contains a complete description of mentor responsibilities.

Requirements for being a Mentor

- 2 or more years PWV experience preferred,
- Confidence in PWV skills,
- Attend mentor training – to be held in early April (date to be determined),
- Desire to teach others by sharing your experience and skills,
- Enthusiasm,
- Flexibility in scheduling your mentor patrols,
- A willingness to listen and learn.

Benefits of being a PWV Mentor

- Refine your PWV skills,
- Meet enthusiastic new members,
- Learn something you did not know from the new members,
- Mentor patrols count toward your commitment to complete six patrols for the season.

Winter Patrols Extend PWV Presence



PWV member and founder Jacques Rieux (right) takes a guest from Italy on a winter patrol.

Winter Patrols extend the months that PWV has a presence in the U.S. Forest. We provide the same functions as on summer patrols; interacting with and educating visitors, providing data to the USFS and providing trail maintenance. Some patrols are done on foot, others on snow-shoes or skis. The main difference in winter patrolling is extra preparedness in case of weather changes or emergencies.

We patrol all the accessible trails in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District and Pawnee Buttes National Grassland except those near Cameron Pass, which are patrolled by the Cameron Pass Nordic Rangers.

Currently Accessible Trails

A number of our usual trails are closed since the fall flooding. Accessible and open trails include:

- Round Mountain,
- Greyrock and Greyrock Meadows,
- Hewlett Gulch,
- Lower Dadd Gulch,
- Roaring Creek,
- Big South,
- All of the Pingree Park trails except those off Crown Point Road (which is not plowed),
- All the Red Feather Lakes area trails off County Road 74E, and
- Pawnee Buttes Trail.



Ice covered rocks might be encountered during winter patrols.

Volunteer to Winter Patrol

We began patrolling on January 24, 2014 with 82 PWV members interested in winter patrolling this year, 44 of whom attended a training session in January. The winter patrol season runs until late April, when PWV's regular patrolling season begins.

During the 2013 winter patrol season 51 PWVs completed 83 patrols. There's a lot to do in the Forest, many winter and spring visitors and many gorgeous days during January through April! And it's fun to see the trails in different seasons! Keep in shape and help the USFS year-round; winter patrol! Members, please go to the Patrol Scheduling and Reporting website login page to sign up for a patrol. Not a PWV member? Go to PWV Become a Volunteer page to apply for membership. However, the deadline for applications to join PWV in 2014 is March 14!

Shaklee and Allen Receive Environmental Stewardship Awards

The Larimer County Commissioners and the Environmental and Science Advisory Board awarded an Environmental Stewardship Award to **Jim Shaklee** in 2013 to honor his dedication and accomplishments regarding the Poudre Wilderness Volunteer's Weed Crew. Shaklee's education on weeds and the methods for their control began on his own property in Rist Canyon. He brought that knowledge and persistence to the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers in 2006. The PWV Weed Crew works to prevent the spread of invasive, noxious weeds along the hiking trails on US Forest Service lands, the Wilderness areas in the Poudre and Big Thompson Canyons, and the Red Feather Lakes area. When receiving the award, Jim gave credit to the all the Weed Crew volunteers, without whom the accomplishment could not have been achieved. Their efforts prove that education, combined with commitment and energy can benefit our public lands.

Belated Recognition to **Fred Allen**, Past Chair and current Advisory Board Member who also has been a recipient of this Award (2012) for his dedication to two organizations that support National Forest Lands (Poudre Wilderness Volunteers & the Arapaho and Roosevelt and Pawnee National Grassland Foundation). Fred energetically continues his efforts in recruiting and obtaining community support from both the business and private sectors.

PWV Receives Grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado

On January 31st, the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado and Community Foundation Trust, announced distribution of funds received to address the intermediate and long-term flood recovery needs within Larimer County. PWV is honored and grateful to be the recipient of \$22,800 to be used towards the restoration work required to return our trails to the public for use and enjoyment. This funding allows us to begin our work as soon as weather permits.

The Foundation's stated purpose is to connect the people and communities in need, and the resources to assist in those need, together. Please visit www.NoCoFoundation.org for a full list of grants awarded as well as more information on the grant making guidelines and process.

A special note of thanks to **Fred Allen**, who submitted the request on behalf of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers. He is tireless in his efforts to support the environment through his involvement with PWV and other community organizations and foundations.

A special debt of gratitude to the many donors who continue to support the community needs, and the environment in which we live, work, and play.

As of 12/31/2013, **Martha Shepard**, PWV Treasurer reported balances of \$34,024.60 in Operating/Investment funds; \$3,317.00 in restricted Operating/Investment funds; and \$22,174.45 in Endowment Funds/Investment. Total funds are \$59,516.05, which includes matching donations. With year-end giving completed, we plan to move some funds into investment accounts. The 2014 budget was detailed in the Information Sharing document distributed to Board and Advisory Board members prior to the January Board meeting. The Adopted Budget for 2014 is almost equal to the Operating Funds available to us at present time.

Thank You, PWV Members

Our 2014 fundraising begins on a very positive footing. It began near year-end with the efforts of the newly formed Fundraising Committee to challenge our PWV members and friends to help PWV offset a looming shortfall in funds needed for the upcoming year's restoration work on our trails. The drive lasted just two weeks and achieved great success.

This committee pledged \$2,500 of their own money to be set aside as a matching fund for all donations that would be made before the year-end. The goal was surpassed and resulted in over \$8,000!

A sincere thanks is extended from the Committee for your kindness and generosity in responding to this invitation.

*Fred Allen, Jerry Hanley, Judy Jacks,
Alan Meyer, Margaret Shaklee,
Martha Shepard, and Ken Williams*

Birding Adventure, Dinner for Six, Spring/Fall Clean Up and More Are in the Works

Mark your calendar for June 22, 2014. We're planning a late afternoon for enjoyment of outdoor fun, food and beverages and an opportunity to bid on some great services and items to raise money for the PWV Endowment Fund. This is not your ordinary auction! Among the assortment available for auction will be a birding expedition led by an expert; a fall or spring yard clean-up, a dinner for six provided for you and four of your friends. These are just some examples of the items we're gathering. Keep an eye out for more information as spring progresses.

Judy C. and Judy J.

Are We Ready for Spring? Training, That Is!

There's been a lot going on to prepare for the best ever Spring Training event in 2014. Committees have been formed. Plans to enhance every aspect of training, learning, enjoyment, and socializing for our new recruits and veterans are underway.

As always, Potluck Dinner, provided by veterans will be the Friday night meal. Your \$20 registration fee covers Saturday breakfast and dinner, Sunday breakfast and snacks. Bring your own Saturday lunch/snacks. Something new this year is that Potluck will be planned via website organizer so you can see what everyone is bringing. Watch for further news on that.

Check the Event Calendar on page 4 for need to know dates. Be checking your emails for registration forms and online survey from **Don Creager**, Volunteer Coordinator.

There will be an opportunity at spring training to purchase PWV supplies, such as arm bands, pack bands, hats, maps and other miscellaneous items as well as consignment sales of used equipment.

A particular specialized need is for a photographer and videographer – contact Karl Ritters.

Future Planning meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays March 12, April 9 and 23, location to be determined. All members are invited to join in on the planning process.

Questions, ideas, or suggestions, contact **Mindy Cooper**, mindycooper@juno.com or 970-217-5439.

Enjoy the Adventure More -- Affiliation Meetings

Whether you're preparing to embark on an adventure, or just out to enjoy some hiking and riding in the backcountry, we have information to share with you. The next three affiliation meetings are devoted to lightening up your backpack, no matter the destination.

Lighten That Backpack!

On February 17, **Karl Ritters** will share how he dropped from a 45 pound backpack to the 12 pounds he will carry on his Colorado Mountain Trail adventure from Denver to Durango planned for this summer.

Patrol Rawah and Comanche

On March 10, **Chuck Bell** and others will share their experiences and fun to be gained in patrolling the Wilderness areas – How better to celebrate the **50th Anniversary of The Wilderness Act** than to plan a patrol in the Rawah or Comanche Peak Wilderness areas.

Enjoy Wyoming Photographic Tour

On April 21 our program will venture out of Colorado terrain into the Wyoming Red Desert. Guest speaker **Erik Molvar**, Wildlife Biologist and Sagebrush Sea Campaign Director with *WildEarth Guardians* will give an introduction by way of photographic tour of this vast and beautiful landscape.

The meetings will be at C.B. & Potts (east of Lemay on Horsetooth) at 6:30 p.m. Check the Events Calendar and look for the reminders coming from **Bob Hansen**. These promise to be informative and educational, and as always – FUN.

RSVP to Bob at bhansen@frii.com.



PWV Plans 50th Anniversary of Wilderness Act Celebrations

PWV is planning multiple 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act celebrations. The act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964 and the initial Wilderness designation included five areas in Colorado. In fact, the Rawah Wilderness Area in our Canyon Lakes Ranger District was one of the original Wilderness Areas designated in 1964.

There's an impressive array of celebration events planned at the national level and many activities planned across Colorado. Some highlights include:

- **John Fielder**, Colorado's best known nature photographer, has agreed to allow PWV to use his stunning photographs to produce a beautiful commemorative poster to honor each of the 43 Wilderness Areas in Colorado. For more details visit the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers website.
- We're working out details for a local **Wilderness Film Series**.
- A PWV-hosted **Wilderness Art Exhibit** is being planned for September and October.
- PWV will be participating in a **Wilderness Walk at Rocky Mountain National Park**, celebrating both the Wilderness 50th Anniversary and also the upcoming 100th Anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park.
- PWV will also be participating in a **Wilderness Walk in Evergreen**, a follow-up to their successful 40th anniversary event and with the expectation of Senator Udall speaking.
- PWV will have a booth at the **National Wilderness Conference in Albuquerque** in October.

PWV Then and Now

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers was founded by **Chuck Bell** and **Art Bunn** in 1996 to address acute trail patrolling and public education needs in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District due to precipitous decreases in budget (50% decrease) and staffing (88% decrease) in the previous two years. The table below contrasts the situations and PWV contributions in 1994/1995, 1996, and 2013.



	PWV contributed 4,800 hours, worth \$62,640 to USFS	PWV contributed 22,311 hours, worth \$493,962 to USFS
	Encountered 7,500 visitors	Encountered 15,934 visitors
	Contributed 600 staff days	Conducted 868 trail patrols
	1 PWV field program: Trail Patrolling	6 major PWV field programs: Trail Patrolling, Trail Crew, Kids-in-Nature, Weed Crew, Adopt-a-Trail, and Restoration
1 Wilderness & Trails volunteer	PWV founded - 110 members	PWV with 273 active members
USFS: 2 separate ranger districts combined into 1; 3 full-time & 30 seasonal staff reduced to 1 full-time & 2 seasonal staff	USFS: Canyon Lakes Ranger District; 2 full-time & 3 seasonal staff	USFS: Canyon Lakes Ranger District; 1 full time, 1 part time, & 1 seasonal staff

1994-1995

1996

2013

Calendar of Events

February

- 17 6:30 p.m. Affiliation Meeting at C.B. & Potts (east of Lemay on Horsetooth)
- 18 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. US Forest Service New Member Recruiting Open House
- 26 6:30 p.m. Kids in Nature Training at USFS Building

March

- 10 6:30 p.m. Affiliation Meeting at C.B. & Potts (east of Lemay on Horsetooth)
- 14 Deadline for New Member Applications
- 15 New Member Interviews 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at USFS office
- 22 New Member Interviews 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at USFS office

April

- 21 6:30 p.m. Affiliation Meeting at C.B. & Potts (east of Lemay on Horsetooth)
- 30 KON (Kick-Off-Night) for New Recruits

May

- 3 9:00 a.m. Stock Patrol Evaluation at Lory State Park (mandatory for new stock recruits)
- 16-18 **SPRING TRAINING** at Jack Nichols Cub Scout Camp

June

- 22 **SAVE THE DATE** – For lots of Fun! Backyard Party hosted by Endowment Committee Chairs, **Judy Christensen** and **Judy Jacks**

Note: Scheduled educational opportunities can be found on the calendar page at PoudreWildernessVolunteers.org

- And much more!

For more information about the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, please visit the Celebrating 50 Years of American Wilderness web site. This is also a good opportunity to read the Wilderness Act itself at Wilderness.net.

If you are interested in helping with the Wilderness Walk in either Rocky Mountain National Park or Evergreen, or if you are considering attending the National Wilderness Conference in Albuquerque, please contact **Alan Meyer** at alancmeyer@gmail.com