



Canyon Lakes Ranger District

Volunteer News

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You did it again.

Surpassing all expectations in this wild fire year, you provided an astounding **51,500 HOURS** of volunteer stewardship to your national forest.

Words aren't enough to thank each of you, but it will have to do.

We are so grateful to have you as our friends and neighbors. Have a great winter and we hope to see you back next year.

Kristy Wumkes
District Partnerships Coordinator

Message From the Ranger

This past year has proven to be a challenging one for those of us here in Larimer County. The Hewlett and High Park Fires interrupted everyone's lives-- including those of our volunteers.

We have volunteers who were evacuated for weeks and even some who lost their homes. But in the face of a great challenge, our volunteers and community stepped up. Even though many of the regular volunteer activities, such as patrolling, could not take place since much of the Poudre Canyon was closed, you surpassed your already amazing number of volunteer hours from last year.

I would like to thank each and every one of you who helped us reach our new record of 51,500 hours. It is astonishing how much our volunteers were able to accomplish. Just the amount of trail work accomplished after the fire helped us to get the public back into the forest that mother nature had kept them out of this year.

Support for our National Public Lands Day was so impressive. From directing traffic to serving food to helping children learn how to plant a tree-- you helped others gain an appreciation of the forest and knowledge on how to be a true steward of the land.

The district especially appreciates the support of a few of our groups who went above and beyond to help before and after the fire, including the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, Wildlands Watershed Restoration Volunteers, Colorado State University volunteer interns and the ARP Foundation. These groups, along with many others, have helped the forest and our community start to recover from the fires that were so deeply disruptive.

The work is not done. We will have additional trail work days and we will again ask for your help. Your dedication will move us back to a regular volunteer program, which is anything but regular!

Kevin Atchley
Canyon Lakes District Ranger

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Volunteer Calendar

Does your group have an event to post? Let us know!

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|-------------|--|
| Nov 28 | Cameron Pass Nordic Ranger classroom orientation (6-9 p.m.) |
| Dec 4 | Cameron Pass Nordic Ranger field training (8-4) |
| Dec 6 | Avalanche Awareness program by National Ski Patrol (6 p.m.)
Location: Avogadro's Number |
| Dec 11 | First Aid/CPR RE-certification course for volunteers (6-9 p.m.) \$20
Pre-registration required- contact gaineses@frii.com |
| Dec 12 & 13 | First Aid/CPR NEW certification course for volunteers (6-10 p.m.) \$TBD
Pre-registration required- contact sgvolunteer@frii.com |
| Jan 10 | Winter Driving Tips (Cameron Pass Nordic Ranger presentation) 6 p.m.
Location: Avogadro's Number |
| Jan 16 | Poudre Wilderness Volunteers affiliation meeting (6:30 p.m.) |

Cameron Pass Nordic Ranger Volunteers Training: Nov. 28 & Dec. 1

There's still time to participate!

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 over 80-plus skiers and snowshoers in 2012.

The Nov. 28 evening classroom session runs from 6 to 9 p.m. and focuses on safety, Forest Service regulations, and public contact techniques.

The Dec. 1 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.





Volunteer Spotlight

Meet our
Colorado State University
interns



Prebble's Mouse
Catch-and-release trapping

2012 heralded a new component to the District's volunteer program: Internships!

While the recreation department has always lead the vanguard of volunteerism across the Forest Service, this year several other departments on the District came up with some amazing programs of their own in order to get mission-critical work accomplished.

A total of nine CSU students participated in internships for range, wildlife and visitor services. They volunteered 3,400 hours. All came with incredible skill sets and a desire to learn. The program will continue in 2013.

Two range interns worked in both field and office positions. The office intern became "indispensable", translating and entering noxious weed inventory data from 2005 on, into one comprehensive GIS layer mandated for a national database.

Three wildlife interns essentially became the wildlife crew, performing all the field and reporting tasks required by the Forest Service.

Visitor services interns assisted hundreds of visitors and helped with clerical tasks in our under-staffed visitor center in Fort Collins.

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

You're Invited!



Save the date! September 28, 2013

National Public Lands Day

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

A Legacy of Stewardship, A Celebration of Community

2013 NPLD planning has started!

The 2013 event will continue to focus on tree planting projects to counter the devastating mountain pine beetle epidemic occurring on the District.

More than 250 people participated in our third annual National Public Lands Day event.

“Thanks” to the local damage from the High Park Fire, we hosted five times more folks than we usually see at this event.

People came out of the woodwork (no pun intended!) to replant trees and shrubs in the Narrows Campground and restore nursery stock in Mountain Park Campground. This is part of a larger effort to replace some of the ponderosa pine decimated by the mountain pine beetle.

We welcomed everyone ages four and up, and many brought their entire family to help out.

The half-day event also offered fire ecology, wildland firefighters and equipment; a forest scavenger hunt and water monitoring of the Poudre as part of World Water Monitoring Day; archeologists demonstrating tree coring and Native American scarred trees; a hot lunch; and a jazz band!



Please contact Kristy Wumkes at kwumkes@fs.fed.us or (970) 295-6721

Mountain Pine Beetle Update



The mountain pine beetle epidemic continues to spread east across the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. The epidemic has climaxed near Cameron Pass and in the Rawah Wilderness. Most of the food supplies for the beetle are gone in this area.

U. S. Forest service crews, volunteers and contractors continue to remove dead and dying trees from forest trails, roads, and recreation sites over summer and fall. General trail clearing occurred on 129 miles of trail. An additional eight miles of trail were cleared specifically because of hazard trees. Six trailheads were cleared of hazard trees. Approximately 10,000 trees were sprayed at trailheads and campgrounds. Volunteers also helped plant 400 trees at Narrows and Mountain Park Campgrounds. Revegetation efforts will be continued in the future. Lady Moon Trailhead and Long Draw Road remain closed because of hazard tree removal efforts.

To learn more about the mountain pine beetle visit www.frontrangepinebeetle.org.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Much work was done this past field season to mitigate some of these safety concerns, but 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

Special Section: High Park Fire Trail Restoration

We couldn't say good-bye to 2012 without a few words and pictures from the High Park Fire and the trail stabilization efforts that followed.

Five trails were impacted by the fire: Hewlett (double-dipping because of the Hewlett Fire in May), Greyrock, Mt. McConnel, Kreutzer and Young Gulch.

All told, almost 300 volunteers showed up on different work days to stabilize Hewlett, Greyrock, Kreutzer, and the western portion of the Mt. McConnel Trail. They donated 2900 hours of their time to get the trails safe enough to open to the public.

Thanks to all the individuals and groups that made such a big difference.



Larimer County Environmental Stewardship Award

Join us in congratulating Fred Allen, long-time Poudre Wilderness Volunteer (PWV), and current president of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grassland Foundation (ARPF). Fred won the 2012 Stewardship Award for his ceaseless work supporting public lands, including restoration efforts on our fire-impacted trails.



Young Gulch Trail and the eastern summit portion of Mt. McConnel Trail remain closed because of burn severity, erosion and flash flood concerns.

These trails will be re-assessed next year, and we may be asking for your help to work on them.