



Canyon Lakes Ranger District Volunteer News

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Hello Volunteers,

Thanks again for another fantastic year for the District Volunteer Program!

This year **841** volunteers provided **47,051** hours of service- that's the equivalent of 23 full time Forest Service employees and nearly 1.2 MILLION dollars of donated service! We are very grateful for your time and commitment to national forest lands stewardship.

Kristy Wumkes

District Partnerships Coordinator

Watch out!
Trees are still falling
Always be aware
of your surroundings

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Message From the Ranger

When we talk about the health of our National Forests, we often talk about sustainability and resiliency. I think that goes for all of our wonderful volunteers as well. People come back year after year to make the Canyon Lakes Ranger District a better place and are always looking for ways to overcome challenges. For this, I thank you.

Without you, our District would not be the same. You welcome our visitors, clear and rebuild our trails, answer copious questions, gather information, and so much more. Although we measure your efforts in hours (47,051 to be precise), there is really no way to fully measure all you do for our staff, the public and our natural resources.

I know next year will be a challenging one for Poudre Wilderness Volunteers with Kevin retiring, but I also know that your great leadership will persevere and the rest of our staff is here to support you. PWV alone contributes 25,000 volunteer hours, and we know you depend on us to support your crucial work. Let us know what you need and please be patient with us as we try to fill Kevin's very large shoes.

For the rest of our volunteer groups and individuals, there will also be adjustments as Kristy takes over some of Kevin's responsibilities. We ask for everyone's patience as we work through all these changes.

I also have to thank each and every one of you who have put your sweat and tears into rebuilding Young Gulch. Just this year you put over 10,000 hours into this rebuild, which is incredible. Seeing so many groups come together to bring this trail damaged by fire and flood back is humbling to say the least. Thanks to you, the trail is now open, and the public can enjoy what you have achieved. We are very excited to celebrate your work at a future ribbon cutting.

One of the best parts of being the Canyon Lakes District Ranger is that I get to share how outstanding our volunteer program is...consistently the second district in the country in terms of volunteer hours! That is no small feat and you do it over and over again. Thank you for an amazing 2019 and here is to an even better 2020!

Katie

Kathleen Donahue

Canyon Lakes District Ranger

Group abbreviations

Cameron Pass Nordic Rangers: CPNR

Diamond Peaks Nat Ski Patrol: DPNSP

Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Patrol: DPMBP

Overland Mountain Bike Association: OMBA

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers: PWV

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers: WLRV

Forest Service: FS

Volunteer Calendar *(events are free unless noted with \$)*

Nov 20	CPNR: KICK OFF/Info meeting @ Forest Service office (6:30 PM)
Dec 3	CPNR- First Aid/CPR RE-certification , 6-10 PM \$ Register: TimGaines@diamondpeaksskipatrol.com
Dec 9	Joint CPNR/PWV affiliation meeting @ CB Potts Collindale (6:30 PM) AVALANCHE AWARENESS RSVP Register: bhansen@frii.com
Dec 16/18	CPNR- First Aid/CPR NEW certification , 6-10 PM both nights \$ Register: TimGaines@diamondpeaksskipatrol.com
Jan 17	PWV: WINTER patrol season begins
Jan 13	Joint CPNR/PWV affiliation meeting @ CB Potts Collindale (6:30 PM) US Antarctic Program at McMurdo Base RSVP Register: bhansen@frii.com
Feb 10	Joint CPNR/PWV affiliation meeting @ CB Potts Collindale (6:30 PM) Front Range Geology RSVP Register: bhansen@frii.com
Feb 12	PWV/CPNR- First Aid/CPR RE-certification , 6-10 PM \$ Register: TimGaines@diamondpeaksskipatrol.com
Mar 9	Joint CPNR/PWV affiliation meeting @ CB Potts Collindale (6:30 PM) TBA RSVP Register: bhansen@frii.com
Mar TBD	OMBA seasonal kick-off event
Mar 30	CPNR: Get-out-and-patrol-day & chili social
Apr 13	Joint CPNR/PWV affiliation meeting @ CB Potts Collindale (6:30 PM) Poudre History RSVP Register: bhansen@frii.com
April TBD	DPMBP: Good Host training @ FS office (6-9 PM)
April TBD	CPNR: Year end event
May 11	Joint CPNR/PWV affiliation meeting @ CB Potts Collindale (6:30 PM) Prescription Burn Management RSVP Register: bhansen@frii.com
May 29-31	PWV: New member training @ Buckhorn Ranch
Mar-May TBD	TRAIL WORKSHOPS- FREE to Forest Service volunteers! Hosted by NoCo Regional Trails Coalition For more information contact Mike Syzek mjsyzek2383@comcast.net
June- Sep	Remote Visitor Centers open- staffed by on-site RV volunteer hosts Adopt-A-Road and Adopt-A-Trail work
July 11	Deadman Lookout opens (road snowdrift conditional!)

Cameron Pass Nordic Ranger Patrol program kicks off another year

Ski Class of '19



There's still time to participate as a ski or snowshoe ranger!

KICK OFF/informational meeting is November 20 at 6:30 PM, Forest Service office.

Training will be Dec 12, 6-9 PM in Fort Collins and Dec. 14 at Cameron Pass. RSVP required for trainings: kristy.wumkes@usda.gov

The Nordic Ranger 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.



Ginny Deal Recreation Special Uses

Long-time district Recreation Special Uses employee Ginny Deal retired in 2002 but returned this year as a volunteer for the Recreation Special Uses program.

Anyone who worked with Ginny in the past remembers her dogged determination, encyclopedic knowledge of the district, and stalwart work ethic. We are thrilled that she is back!

Since March, Ginny has contributed over 200 hours of service. She has organized countless program files, shared her wealth of knowledge about permit administration and accompanied staff on remote field inspections.

Most recently, she connected district recreation and heritage employees with a former resident of the district's historic Homestead Meadows area. This resulted in a one-of-a-kind living history field trip to this site, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Ginny is willing to jump into any project and her enthusiasm is contagious. Thank you for sharing your skills with us, Ginny. Your passion for land management is truly inspirational!

District Volunteer Programs

Adopt-A-Programs

- Adopt-A-Road
- Adopt-A-Trail

With your help, the District has maintained its standing as one of the largest Forest Service volunteer programs in the nation.

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.

Visitor Services Programs

- Arrowhead Lodge Visitor Center
- Deadman Fire Tower Volunteers
- Redfeather Work Center
- Stub Creek Ranger Station
- Fort Collins Visitor Center

Backcountry Patrol Programs

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

Flood Restoration- Trails

Still Closed- West Creek, Fox Creek

YOUNG GULCH TRAIL IS OPEN!

Thanks to the HERCULEAN efforts of many volunteer organizations such as Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, Overland Mountain Bike Association, Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, CATS, New Belgium Brewing, and RMYCC, the Young Gulch trail is OPEN! We hope to have a ribbon cutting ceremony in the future.

Volunteers provided an astounding 10,290 hours of their time and sweat for the final push this year to get the trail ready for the public.

The pedestrian/horse bridges are amazing. When are you heading to the trail?

All we can say is 'wow,' and a sincere thank you to all the volunteers and organizations that helped make the new Young Gulch trail a reality.



Rocky Mountain Youth Conservation Corps



It takes a village...and a helicopter to haul in 600 pound beams and lumber for bridges. October, 2019