



Poudre Wilderness Volunteers

Caring for Northern Colorado Wilderness

Hello PWV Members,

After being the Trail Restoration co-chair for many years, I am looking forward to being the Trail Restoration chair. Thank you to the past co-chair Mike Corbin for his leadership with this committee.

One of the first things I did, was to call for a meeting to discuss moving forward with the Trail Crew and the Trail Restoration. We met this past Tuesday at the USFS office. In attendance: Kevin Cannon, USFS liaison, Joan Kauth, John Moreland, Jeff Randa, Fred Sprague, Vickie Taylor and myself. Unable to attend in person, Steve Musial, Trail Crew chair.

We decided to craft mission statements for Trail Crew and Trail Restoration, not getting too specific in the statements, but we definitely wanted each group to know, what is their main direction. There is probably more flushing out, by going into more depth for each (such as trail maintenance schedules that the FS has), but we wanted to keep this at a big-picture perspective. Some of the things we did not include in restoration were things like Arrowhead Lodge or other US Forest Service facility restorations. We think these should not be included in Trail Restoration for obvious reasons and can be done with an ad-hoc committee at the discretion of PWV. These are one-off type projects, though good and necessary, but not really a Trail Restoration project. We are trying to keep the scope narrow.

We have also scheduled some dates for both the Trail Crew and the Trail Restoration. This will help all of us plan for trail work this summer. And look for additional days that will be organized as the need arises; we will send out emails as these days are confirmed.

~~~~~

### **PWV Trail Crew Mission Statement**

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers will maintain trails assigned so that:

- All hazardous safety concerns are repaired, if possible, or reported to the Forest Service;
- They are clear of downfallen trees;
- Drainages are cleaned and functional; and
- Excessive brush is removed from the trail.

We will perform these tasks always with safety in mind and to meet existing Forest Service standards.

~~~~~

PWV Trail Restoration Mission Statement

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers will work in conjunction with the Forest Service to undertake specific trail projects that improve Canyon Lakes Ranger District trails to a more sustainable condition.

These projects will typically be:

- Rehabilitating trails to have proper out-slope, grade, and drainage (this may include assistance in trail relocations);
- Assisting in repairing/building trail bridges, turnpikes, puncheons, drainage structures and the like;
- Assisting in trail decommissioning/revegetation projects; and
- Assisting in construction of new trails.

We will perform these tasks always with safety in mind and to meet existing Forest Service standards.

~~~~~

## **Coordination Statement**

Trail Crew and Trail Restoration will strive to develop projects, in coordination with the Forest Service, at least a year before the actual work so that fund raising and/or grant writing, and trail planning may occur. General scheduling of Trail Crew work for the forthcoming season will usually be completed no later than the end February; taking into account the projects that Trail Restoration is planning and/or has confirmed for the upcoming trail season.

While the two committees are separate entities, they also utilize a lot of the same people, and so coordination between the two is essential.

The Forest Service will strive to have a prioritized list of projects that looks out 3 years ahead. Any projects that Trail Crew and Trail Restoration cannot take on may be turned over to the Fund-Raising committee to get specific funding for these activities, in coordination with other volunteer or youth organizations to accomplish the project.

## **Strategic Planning**

Looking out ahead there should be an emphasis on training PWV members that are interested in trail work in the next 3 years.

## **Metrics to try to achieve:**

- Crosscut saw certified members:
  - Certified at “B” Bucking and/or Falling level – at least 10 active members;

- Certified at “C” Bucking and Falling level – 1 would be really good and anything beyond would be great.
- Drainage structure (water bars, check dams, steps etc.) competent leaders – 12
- Puncheon and Turnpike competent leaders – 4
- Rock Wall/Rock work competent leaders – 2
- Trail Revegetation competent leaders – 2
- Trail Bridge competent leaders – 4

We realize that there are other metrics, but wanted to share this with you, so that we can move forward with better communication, coordination among the groups in PWV working on trails, setting goals and putting out a schedule so that we can all plan on activities that we want to participate in this summer.

### **Scheduled Trail Work Dates:**

Weekend of June 9-11: Restoration project, TBD, maybe on Little Beaver Creek trail

Weekend of June 23-25: Trail Crew, Pingree Park area trail clearing to snow line (car camping)

Weekend of July 7-9: Trail Crew, Upper Poudre and Rawah trail clearing to snow line (car camping)

Weekend of July 27-31: Trail Crew, Rawah Trail clearing, 5-day backpack

We look forward to a great summer of trainings, getting out on the trails, being safe, having fun and getting some work done.

We invite you to join us! If you would like to join us, even for just one day, please contact me.

Hiking Boots Up!

-Mark Snyder  
PWV Board of Directors Chair  
Restoration Chair