

INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

TRAIL DUST

March 2002



IPWA gearing up for 2002

By Gordy Blair

The Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance is preparing for another great season of service. With just over 90 days remaining before the annual Wilderness Volunteer training day, IPWA Board members are busy meeting once a month to organize the agenda for this year's recruitment and summer schedule.

IPWA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Indian Peaks Wilderness area. Working closely with the US Forest Service we specialize in educating the general public on backcountry travel, "Leave No Trace" ethics and rules and regulations of the wilderness area. We also provide trail maintenance, conduct surveys and other various tasks for the Forest Service.

Some interesting statistics from the 2001 member's Field Reports:

- People contacted in IPW: 4602
 - Day hikers: 4012
 - Backpackers: 403
 - Dogs seen: 574
 - Dogs off leash: 193
 - Fire rings dismantled: 39
 - Camping with permit: 20
 - Illegal camping: 18 (up 100% from 2000)
 - Illegal campfire: 9
 - Mountain Lions with a cold, wet nose: 1
- Additionally, the Forest Service issued a total of 1402 "overnight" permits last season. Group permits totaled only 253, as compared to 479 in 2000, and 416 in 1999.

Approximately thirty (50 percent) of last year's volunteers will return this season. Several new people are needed to meet our goal of 60. You don't have to be an experienced hiker or backpacker either. We look for men and women who are willing to dedicate a few days out of their summer and in return, teach them the

Tips For Backcountry Travel

- Check the weather forecast for the area.
- Plan clothing, equipment and supplies accordingly.
- Make a realistic trail plan and stick to it
- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Carry a map and compass and know how to use them.
- Choose appropriate footwear for the terrain (remember the "LNT" rules).
- Dress in layers and always carry a jacket for unexpected weather changes.
- Carry water and emergency supplies - even on short hikes.
- Repackage snacks and food in baggies. This reduces weight and the amount of trash to pack out.
- Your pack weight should not exceed 1/3 of body weight.
- Be considerate of others - they too are on a wilderness adventure.

appropriate skills to serve as a Wilderness Volunteer. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering this season, please contact Jeff Charlebois at 303-443-4543 or go to our web site for more information and to register online:

<http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/ipwa/>



Mt Neva, courtesy of USFS

**IPWA Welcomes New Board
Member and Treasurer
Kristl Dolbear!**

February IPWA Meeting

by Gordy Blair

During last month's meeting we were honored to have Ralph Swain, USFS Region 2 Wilderness Program Manager speak to us on the creation of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The following is the first two sections of the Act as is written in it's final draft:

The Wilderness Act

Sec. 2. (a) In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as "wilderness areas", and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness; and no Federal lands shall be designated as "wilderness areas" except as provided for in this chapter or by a subsequent Act.

See *Preservation* on page 2...