



**Wilderness
Stewardship
Since 1985**



May 2021 Newsletter

IPWA News

A Letter From Our Chair

Dear IPWA Volunteers and Members,

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and enjoying life. The Board and I are very excited to see so many of you returning to volunteer this summer, and we are grateful that the COVID-19 and vaccine situation has improved since this same time last year.

It's been a busy year for the IPWA so I wanted to share some important updates.

[New Volunteer Portal:](#)

For many years now, the IPWA has used a custom Volunteer Portal that was largely implemented/maintained by one amazing volunteer, Deb Hopkins. Over the years, Deb has made many upgrades to support our growing programs. However, the system has become more work than is reasonable for one person to do and Deb deserves a break.

An IPWA committee evaluated and tested several low cost commercial candidates to replace the current system. As luck would have it, Yonah Cohen has extensive experience with one product (JotForm) and got a topnotch test system up and running for the IPWA in record time. After testing by both the committee and winter patrollers, the new system was approved by the Board to move into operations. We think you are going to love the new system, including a streamlined trail selection when scheduling a patrol and the ability to upload pictures in patrol reports.

A big thank you to our special committee who researched and tested this new program: Yonah Cohen, Fiona Garvin, Alexa Carollo, Marian Bussey, Craig Glover, Andy Gup, and Kelly Prendergast.

[WIS and TrailHead Hosts Evolution:](#)

The Wilderness Information Specialists (WIS) and Trailhead Host (THH) Programs are currently paused due to COVID concerns and operational changes within the Boulder Ranger District (BRD), including the roll out of **recreation.gov** permit system.

The BRD will no longer be offering in-person backcountry permits; all permits will be obtained online.

In meetings with the Boulder Ranger District, the IPWA discussed the importance of in-person WIS and THH support to visitors planning to visit or backpack in the Indian Peaks or James Peak Wilderness areas. There was strong agreement that we need to adapt these 2 programs to continue to meet the information needs of visitors. Over the next 6 months we will work together to define what the new programs will look like.

Stay tuned for more on this throughout the summer.

Brainard Lake Recreation Area Changes

A formal USFS press release is coming, but here is our *preliminary* understanding regarding the **timed-entry reservation system** to be implemented soon for access to Brainard Lake.

For IPWA Patrollers this means:

1. Volunteers will still need to schedule their patrol ahead of time using the IPWA Volunteer Portal.
2. Volunteers will **not** need to make a timed entry reservation in the system for the day of their patrol.
3. Volunteers will need to be in uniform and still use their BLRA Parking Pass to enter.
4. There will be 3 designated parking spots for IPWA Volunteers to use **when on patrol only**. These spots are for both AM and PM patrol parking so it will be important for Volunteers to verify that 3 patrols are not already scheduled for that day and time.
5. Parking for BLRA tree removal or special work projects will be coordinated prior to the event.

Additionally, car counts are no longer needed for BLRA trailhead parking. Please continue to count people, dogs, etc. Also, please continue to do car counts at all other trailheads in IP and JP Wilderness areas.

We look forward to seeing our returning volunteers at packet pickup on June 5th and meeting our new volunteers for field training on June 5th as well.

Thank you all for helping us keep it wild,

Kelly Prendergast
IPWA Board Chair



Leave No Trace Webinar

"Effective Communication of Leave No Trace"

Date: May 25th
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM MTN
Hosted by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

This virtual and interactive workshop will be focused on how to effectively communicate Leave No Trace practices and wilderness regulations with visitors in the James Peak and Indian Peaks Wilderness areas. It will include tips for interacting with visitors and ensuring they feel receptive to messages from volunteers. Additionally, the workshop will provide information about the Authority of the Resource technique and how it can be used effectively by IPWA volunteers.

We hope to see you there!



[Register here!](#)

Program Updates

2021 Trail Projects



Mark your calendars! We have four trail maintenance trips planned for this summer and early fall:

Saturday, June 26th - Buchanan Pass Trail

Saturday, July 24th - Rainbow Lakes Trail

**Saturday, August 28th - East Portal Crater
Lakes Trail**

Saturday, September 25th - East Portal

We will be cleaning and improving drainage on these highly visited trails.

More information will be available as these dates approach. We look forward to seeing you on these trips!

Winter Patrols

Winter patrols will continue until summer patrols begin in early June. While temperatures are warming in the foothills, there is still significant snow in high altitudes - please proceed with caution.

[Check Winter Trail Conditions Here!](#)



Photos provided by Lincoln Gup.

Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?

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