



Saving Wilderness.
Changing Lives.



Welcome to our April 2020 Newsletter!

Keep It Wild!

IPWA News

*** Please Read! ***

Important Information Regarding COVID-19

This section includes pertinent and important information regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on the IPWA's operations, the Boulder Ranger District, and outdoor recreation as a whole.

Please take the time to read through this entire section carefully.

New Volunteer Program Cancelled for 2020

Like many other organizations, the IPWA has been closely monitoring the developing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

Precautions for social distancing may extend into the summer, and the CDC has recommended canceling events with 10 or more people. As a result, the IPWA made the difficult decision to cancel the new volunteer program in 2020.

While this was a difficult choice, our main priority is the safety and well-being of our volunteers and the community.

Thank you to all those who expressed interest in joining us this year. We are planning to bring back the new volunteer program in 2021, and we hope you will join us then!

Returning Volunteer Training Now Taking Place Remotely

In keeping in accordance with the CDC's recommendations for social gatherings and to prioritize the health of our volunteers, the ***in-person*** training event on June 6th has been cancelled.

Training will now take place remotely, and returning volunteer registration has been postponed to May 1st (date subject to change pending USFS policy and/or public health guidance).

More details to come!

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland to Close Developed Recreation Sites

"Given the demonstrated risk of exposure to COVID-19 from large, concentrated gatherings of people, USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region officials are temporarily discouraging continued recreational use on the national forests and grasslands. Crowded conditions in recent days in parking areas, trailheads, and at popular forest and grassland destinations are undermining the country's critical efforts to contain the spread. At this time, all restrooms, including those at trailheads, on the Forests and Grassland will be closed. Picnic areas and day use areas that are typically open this time of year will also be closing. The warming huts at both Berthoud Pass and Brainard Lake are already closed."

Read the full release [here](#).

Tolland Road to James Peak Wilderness Closed Until Further Notice

"Gilpin County has been experiencing large numbers of Nonresidents traveling Gilpin County to, parking on, and gathering at, on and around Tolland Road for the apparent purpose of accessing United States Forest Service lands...The number of Nonresidents parking and gathering on and around these Roads and using the adjacent public lands in Gilpin County also increases the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus...This Order is intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from Nonresidents entering or leaving Gilpin County and ensure the health, safety and welfare of Gilpin County residents and the general public."

Is Your Recreation Responsible During COVID-19?

With Governor Polis's recent Stay-At-Home order, many of us are wondering what that means for outdoor recreation. Spending time outdoors can provide several health and wellness benefits. However, during this time of crisis, not all recreation is responsible.

Please ask yourself the following questions before recreating:

- ***Am I coming into contact with surfaces that can hold and transfer the virus?***
- ***Does this activity put me at risk for potential rescue, straining local resources?***
- ***Am I leaving my home community?***
- ***Will I potentially come within six feet of people who are not a part of my household?***
- ***Does my recreation bring me in closer contact with vulnerable gateway communities?***

Please read more regarding the [Stay-At Home order](#), as well as Leave No Trace's ["Recommendations for Getting Outside During Covid-19"](#) article for more information.

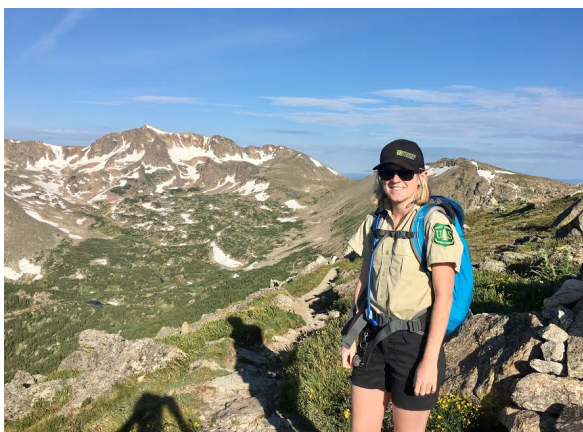
Please Welcome Our New Leadership!

The IPWA is pleased to introduce our new leadership team members!



Fiona Garvin - Treasurer

I've lived in Colorado for 32 years, having moved here from California. I joined IPWA about 7 years ago, mostly in order to hike more with a good friend as well as to help protect the Indian Peaks area, which I've loved & greatly appreciated ever since I moved to this area. I have a degree in Environmental Biology from UC Santa Barbara, and used to run a camping and backpacking program for girls, as well as teaching gymnastics, ballet, and computer skills.



Faith Overall - Summer Patrol Coordinator (Non-Board)

Originally from Massachusetts, Faith moved to Colorado in 2010 to study Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies at CU Boulder. After school, she started a position with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and has been there ever since. Faith loves to camp and hike and is passionate about protecting not only the IP and JP Wilderness areas, but all of our favorite outdoor places. She is excited to be expanding her role with the IPWA in taking the Summer Patrol Coordinator position!

Immediate Position Openings

If interested in a position, please send an email to hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org.

Trail Maintenance Coordinator

This is an exciting hands-on position to assist with planning and overseeing trail maintenance projects in both the IPW and JPW. This is a position where you can truly leave a lasting impression on visitors for many years to come. Some experience with trail maintenance is preferred.

Please note this is not a paid position.

(6 hours per trail project)



Web/Database Programmer

Do you have experience with Microsoft Azure, .Net and C sharp? If so, the IPWA needs your skills to help update and maintain our Volunteer Portal and Database!

Please note this is not a paid position.

(4-8 hours per month)



Join Our Board!

Are you looking to do more for our treasured Wilderness areas? Do you want to step into a leadership role? We are looking for more volunteers to join our Board!

Board members attend the monthly meeting, and put in a minimum of 6 hours each month managing IPWA organizational operations.

To learn more about available positions or ask questions, please email hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org

A New Volunteer Needs You - Call for Mentors

This summer you have the chance to pass on your wisdom and experience to someone who will be walking in those same hiking boots. You can be that resource to help them with strange situations that arise and questions that come up, while having fun at the same time.

The time commitment is minimal, but the rewards are great. Perhaps you'll even make a lifelong friend to enjoy the wilderness with. We encourage all returning volunteers to mentor, whether you have one year's experience or ten. You will meet your mentor as part of our IPWA training day in June and then take them on two training hikes. Your training hikes could be one-on-one or part of a group field day with other mentors and trainees. After that, you simply serve as a resource for your trainee to ask questions throughout the season, either by email or phone.

For more information, please email Leslie Brodhead, IPWA Mentoring Coordinator at lgbrodhead@gmail.com.



Learn More About Wilderness & Conservation!

With closures increasing across public lands and in other sectors of society, webinars and online classes provide opportunities for remote learning during social distancing.

Wilderness Connect is offering several free webinars and short courses!

[Browse & Register Here](#)

Program Updates



2020 Trail Projects

Mark your calendars for our 2020 trail projects!

- Saturday, July 11th and Sunday, July 12th
- Saturday, August 22nd
- Saturday, September 12th
- Saturday, October 3rd

To receive updates and trail project details, please email ipwatrailcrew@gmail.com.



Jonathan Brooks is the Wilderness and Trails Manager for the Boulder Ranger District. Each month he'll be discussing a topic that pertains to Wilderness, along with a Question of the Month!

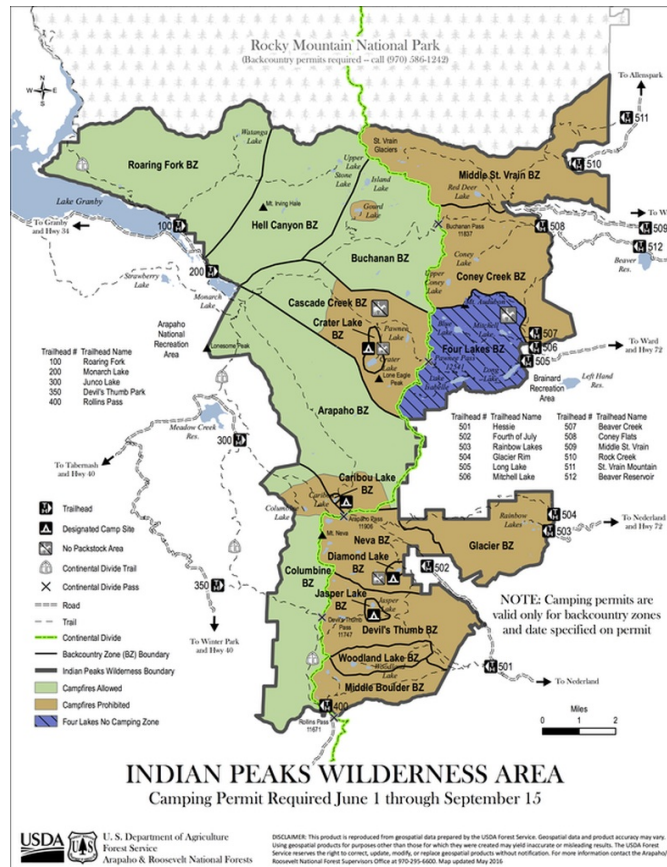
[Backcountry Zones in the Indian Peaks](#)

Once areas are designated as Wilderness, managers are tasked to keep their conditions as they were "at the time of designation." In the case of the Indian Peaks Wilderness, backcountry zones for overnight camping help to keep those conditions.

The Indian Peaks Wilderness is divided into 18 separate backcountry zones, and each zone is allotted a certain number of camping permits per night.

Backcountry zones are based on the following:

- Level of use, or popularity of a specific area
- Acceptable and durable camping surfaces and/or the number and size of existing campsites
- Geographical size, including natural features like large drainages or the Divide
- Ecological carrying capacity
- Overall Wilderness carrying capacity



Last month's question was:

"Since the 1940s, several planes have crashed in the Indian Peaks - name two crash site locations."

Answer:

- 1) **Airplane Gully (just below the summit of Navajo Peak)**
- 2) **Lake Xanadu (near Jasper Peak)**

**Upcoming
Events**

Friday, May 1st

Community Corner

The Community Corner is meant to highlight our wonderful supporters that help the IPWA accomplish all that we do! We couldn't do it without you!

Community Corner Highlight:

Healthcare workers

First responders

Grocery store employees

Other essential workers!

To the workers who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, we thank you for your selfless contributions and unyielding commitment to curbing this crisis, saving lives, and helping others!



Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?

Click the links below to learn more!

Become a member today for just
\$10!

Donate!

Volunteer!

Be sure to like and follow us on social media!

