



**Wilderness
Stewardship
Since 1985**



November 2025 Newsletter

IPWA News

Congratulations, 2025 Photo Contest Winners!

We're thrilled to announce the winners of the 2025 Photo Contest! First, a huge thank-you to everyone who participated. We loved seeing the Indian Peaks Wilderness and James Peak Wilderness through your eyes. The submissions were incredible, and narrowing them down was no easy task.

We hope these photos serve as a reminder of why the IPWA exists: to protect and preserve these remarkable wilderness areas for generations to come.

Photo Contest Winners:

Jeff Bluhm
Bill Bowman
Barry Erdman
Nina Larsen Reed
Ainsley Medina
Andrew Robinson
David Stringfield
Evan Stubbs
Dan Weprin
Mary White

To learn more and see this year's winners, visit our [2025 Photo Contest Winners Page](#).



COLORADO GIVES DAY IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9th!

One great way to support IPWA is to donate on Colorado Gives Day. Starting Nov. 1, when donors set up a new monthly donation on ColoradoGivesDay.org, Colorado Gives Foundation will match the first donation up to \$100. And ask your employer if there's a matching grant program!

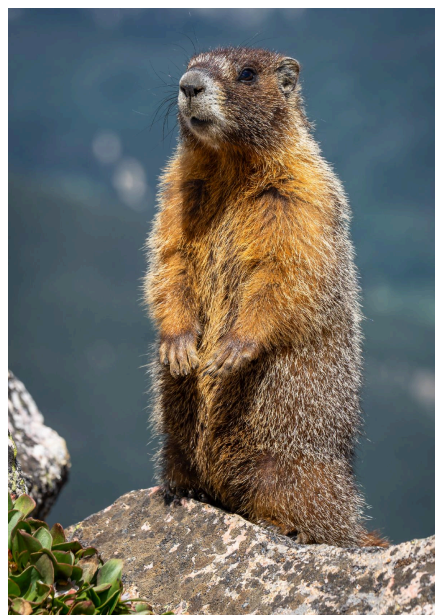
Monthly Naturalist Series: Meet the Marmots and Pika

High-Country Flora, Fauna and Geography

By Rob Pudim

There are a number of mammals that stay in the high-country all winter while many others are vertical migrators who go lower as the temperature drops and snow deepens. Two favorite full time residents in the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness areas are the Yellow-bellied Marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*) and the Pika (*Ochotona princeps*).

Click below to learn some fascinating facts about these hearty creatures.



[Read The Article](#)

& In Case You Missed Last Month's Newsletter, About Rob Pudim:

A long time Boulder resident, Rob describes himself as “a coal-miner's son from Pennsylvania, a scientist (Chemistry, Rutgers University and Microbiology, Tulane University) an editorial cartoonist, an amateur lepidopterist, a Native Plant Master, and a long-time birder”. His affiliation with IPWA goes back to its founding in the 1980s.



Showcasing the 2025 Research Grant Recipients!

Since 1998, the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA) has awarded graduate research grants that explore ecological impacts in alpine and subalpine environments. These projects focus on the ecology of Colorado's high country—particularly the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness areas—and honor the legacy of David Paddon and Joyce Gellhorn. To learn more, visit our [Research Grants page](#).

In 2025, the IPWA awarded two Paddon-Gellhorn Research Grants. Explore the summary videos and reports below to learn more about their work:

[Read About Our Grant Recipients](#)

Moose Management and Ancient Ecology in the Southern Rockies

Join IPWA to attend this panel discussion sponsored by CU's Center for the American West.



Tuesday, **December 9th, 6-7:30 pm**, **Estes Valley Library** in Estes Park.

Let's grab dinner beforehand at Ed's Cantina and Grill! Click [here](#) for more details and to RSVP.

Program Updates

Open Invitation: Be a Host For an IPWA Winter Education and Social Evening!

This winter, we're organizing events to bring IPWA volunteers together for connection and learning, and we're seeking supporters interested in hosting gatherings of about 12 members in their homes. IPWA will provide a speaker/presentation, along with light snacks and beverages.

If you have a large-screen monitor, enough seating for 12, and would like to host, please let us know at hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org. We'll follow up to talk about dates, details, and answer any questions you may have.

Stepping Up For IPWA: Returning Volunteer Services Coordinator Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to fill an administrative role for IPWA! We have an open position for a "**Returning Volunteer Coordinator**" to help keep us organized. Each year, our returning volunteers complete registration and training as requirements for patrolling in the summer.

The duties of the Returning Volunteer Coordinator include updating registration forms, sending email communications and registration reminders, and tracking training completions. The majority of the work is expected to take place during the months of **February through May** in preparation for the summer patrol season. We expect a time commitment of about **2-4 hours per week**.

Please reach out to hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org if you have interest!

This Year's Holiday Gift Wrapping Info

From **December 15th - 24th**, IPWA volunteers will be at our annual **Boulder Book Store gift wrapping fundraiser!** For each online and in-store purchase that we wrap, the IPWA receives a **\$1 donation** (plus tips). Aside from being a fantastic way to raise funds for our programs, this is an excellent opportunity to shine a spotlight on the IPWA's mission within our community.

Stop by with your purchases to be wrapped (and pick from beautiful free wrapping paper and bows) and say hi to our volunteers at the gift wrapping station in the basement.

IPWA Gift Wrapping Times:

Day & Date	Shift Time
Mon. 12/15/2025	11:00am - 1:00pm
Thurs. 12/18/2025	11:00am - 1:00pm
Sat. 12/20/2025	12:00 - 3:00pm
Sat. 12/20/2025	3:00pm - 6:00pm
Sun. 12/21/2025	12:00 - 3:00pm
Sun. 12/21/2025	3:00pm - 6:00pm
Mon 12/22/2025	3:00pm - 6:00pm
Tues 12/23/2025	2:00pm - 4:00pm
Tues 12/23/2025	4:00pm - 6:00pm
Wed 12/24/2025	10:00am - 1:00pm
Wed 12/24/2025	1:00pm - 4:00pm

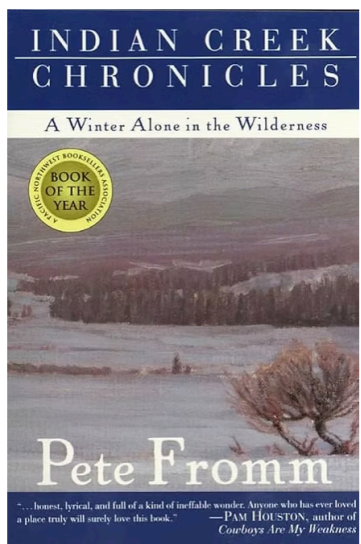


Reading Group

Please join us to discuss books about wilderness, nature, and conservation. All are welcome. Come and share your reflections and experiences.

We'll meet on Jan 22 at 3:30 pm at The Rayback Collective in Boulder. Food and beverages available.

[Indian Creek Chronicles: A Winter Alone in the Wilderness](#), Pete Fromm **RSVP**



Indian Creek Chronicles is an account of seven winter months spent alone in a tent in Idaho's Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, guarding salmon eggs and coming face to face with the blunt realities of life in the wilderness.

A gripping story of adventure and a modern-day Walden, this contemporary classic established Fromm as one of the West's premier voices.

Calling All Volunteers!

Ever wonder how IPWA is managed?
Have questions or comments for the IPWA Board?

We'd like to invite all current volunteers (as-of Summer 2024) to attend our monthly virtual IPWA Board of Directors meetings, typically held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from **6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Your presence and participation is encouraged to help increase volunteer engagement and understanding of our organization!

Head over to the IPWA Volunteer Portal for additional information on how to participate.

[Volunteer Portal](#)

Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?

Click the links below to learn more!

[Donate!](#)

[Volunteer!](#)

[Become a supporter today for just \\$10!](#)

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