



**Wilderness
Stewardship
Since 1985**



June 2026 Newsletter

Indian & James Peak Wilderness News

Boulder ENOFF

EXCITING NEWS! *The Wilderness*, Andy Sameshima and Cade Birgfeld's student documentary about IPWA was accepted into the Boulder Environmental, Nature, & Outdoors Film Festival! We welcome all volunteers, supporters, and friends of IPWA to join us!

Where: Dairy Arts Center

When: July 18, starting at 4pm

Check out the full festival program [here](#).

We hope to see you there! 🎬🍿

Get Your Tickets

BOULDER
Environmental / Nature / Outdoors
FILM FESTIVAL
At the Dairy Arts Center
July 16-19, 2026

Join us for four days of environmental, nature, and outdoors films, discussions, and other artistic celebrations of our natural world. Listen to, speak with, scientists, educators, community leaders and special guests.

Community Partnerships/Collaborations Available, contact us at info@BoulderENOFF.org

Enjoy a stimulating "green" community weekend, July 16-19.

Sign up for our mailing list at www.BoulderENOFF.org and be the first to get advance information on programming, passes, and tickets.

BoulderENOFF.org [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [BoulderENOFF](#) **WEEKLY** **DAIRY ARTS CENTER**

Trail Projects Start Soon!

Our first trail project will be on Saturday, July 11th, on the King Lake Trail! Sign up now to receive more information, and [click here](#) to learn more about the IPWA trail projects program. If you've already signed up, watch your inbox real soon for an email with registration information to join our July 11th crew. IPWA volunteers - check out the Volunteer Corner section of this newsletter asking for Vibes Managers to help make these trail project days super fun!



[Sign Up For Trail Project Info](#)

Fire Restrictions Apply to All of Indian Peaks Wilderness

All of Indian Peaks Wilderness is now under Stage 1 fire restrictions. This means that campfires are not allowed anywhere in Indian Peaks Wilderness, including Backcountry Zones where they are normally permitted. See more on the Forest Service's website. Remember, campfires are *never* permitted in James Peak Wilderness or on the east side of the Continental Divide in Indian Peaks Wilderness.

Program Updates

Winter Patrol Updates

That's a wrap! Our winter patrol season concluded June 5th. We cannot thank our Winter Patrol Team enough! We've had a record-breaking turnout for patrols this winter - the stats below are incredible! Thank you all for your efforts & we hope you have a fantastic summer season!

Winter Program Stats:

- Total Patrols: 144
- Total People Encountered: 3,033
- Meaningful Interactions: 378
- Total Patrolling Hours: 784
- Total Miles Patrolled: 1,060 (37% increase from previous year)!!

- Total Trees Removed: 84
- 62% of our Winter Patrollers clocked more than 30 miles this season!

- Winter Coordinators



Photo from volunteer: Conrad L.

Summer Patrol Training Day

Nearly 100 volunteers attended IPWA's annual in-person training day in early June. Participants included new volunteers, returning volunteers, and representatives from the Boulder Ranger District of the USFS.

Volunteers spent the day learning about the IPWA volunteer portal, patrol preparation, Authority of the Resource, Leave No Trace, patrol counts, the volunteer handbook, backcountry zones, permits, BLRA parking, IPWA policy, fire rings, active violations, and participating in scenarios.



Summer Patrol Updates

The summer season is finally here and we are off to a terrific start! This year we're welcoming 115 returning volunteers and 26 new volunteers, and we are already outpacing the stats from where we were at this time last year.

Volunteer Effort & Observations

Miles 809.91 ↑ 81.9% from previous year	Hours 574.65 ↑ 63.4% from previous year
Patrols (total) 110 ↑ 61.8% from previous year	Outreach Events 2 ↑ 1 from previous year
Trees Removed 26 ↑ 16 from previous year	Fire Rings Removed 23 ↑ 9 from previous year
Total People 5,751 ↑ 125.4% from previous year	Meaningful Interactions 444 ↑ 93.0% from previous year
Backpackers 482 ↑ 141.0% from previous year	Anglers 268 ↑ 157.7% from previous year
Total Dogs 772 ↑ 125.7% from previous year	Off-Leash Rate 15.03% ↑ 25.3% from previous year

Education and Outreach

In early June, IPWA volunteers Cynthia and Pam had the opportunity to lead a Wilderness Education session for ~40 counselors during staff training at Cheley Colorado Camps in Estes Park. These 19- and 20-year olds, representing communities from across the country, explored five defining qualities of Wilderness—untrammelled landscapes, natural ecosystems, undeveloped lands, opportunities for solitude and recreation, and cultural and historic value. They also dug into five priority issues facing Wilderness today: high visitation, fire, waste and Leave No Trace practices, pets, and user-created trails.

It was energizing to spend time with such an engaged and thoughtful group. Even more inspiring is knowing that their enthusiasm and desire to protect wild places will ripple outward to hundreds of campers this summer as they hike and backpack in the Indian Peaks Wilderness.



Reading Group

Please join us to discuss books about wilderness, nature, and conservation. All are welcome!

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

July 23rd: *Night Magic*, Leigh Ann Henion, [RSVP](#)

Sept 24th: *Driven Wild: How the Fight Against Automobiles Launched the Modern Wilderness Movement*, Paul S. Sutter

In *Night Magic*, Henion invites readers to step out of artificial light and rediscover the beauty of darkness. Traveling through Appalachia, she joins a synchronous firefly event in Tennessee, a bat walk in Alabama, a moth festival in Ohio, and explores bioluminescent mushrooms and migratory salamanders in the forests of North Carolina. Along the way, she meets naturalists, biologists, and night explorers who reveal the wonder we overlook when the sun sets. Henion reminds us that awe doesn't only exist in distant galaxies — it glows all around us, right here on Earth.



Naturalist Corner

Naturalist Spotlight: Juniper

By Rob Pudim

When is a plant berry not a berry? Here's a hint...



Most evergreens in the James Peak Wilderness (JPW) and Indian Peaks Wilderness (IPW) areas have needles and pine cones. However, there are two evergreen plants that have evolved to have a very special cone.

Learn more about them here:

[Read The Article](#)

IPWA Volunteer Corner

Sawyer Interest List

Howdy IPWA Volunteers! Please fill out this form to be placed on the sawyer interest list for certifications this year!

Sawyer Interest List

Our Sawyer Certification Training and Recertifications are tentatively scheduled for the end of August / early September. We'll share more information with you as we zero in on a date with the USFS. Please reach out to sawyers@ipwa.org with any questions! 🛠️



Seeking Vibes Managers for IPWA's Trail Project Days!

We're looking for IPWA volunteers to help out with our awesome trail project days on Saturday August 22nd and Saturday September 19th. The July date is already covered! This is a super fun way to help out. Contact trail.projects@ipwa.org if you're interested or have any questions.

- **Committee:** Trail Projects, led by Jere Paulmeno
- **Time commitment:** 1 (or more) trail project days

- **Details:**
 - One designated crew member for each trail project day to help make sure everyone is having a great, safe time.
 - This person does not need to be a technical expert.
 - This person sets a great tone by:
 - Showing up a little early
 - Preparing and conducting a quick ice breaker before everyone gets started
 - Helping with anything the Trail Project Coordinator needs
 - Bringing good energy
 - Making sure all crew members are included and having a good time
 - Making sure everyone is hydrating, eating, and taking care of themselves
 - Taking pictures
 - Bringing a cooler with nonalcoholic refreshments for a quick post-trail work tailgate



Facebook Group for Volunteers

If you haven't already, join our **Volunteer-Only Facebook Group**! We'll be using this space to cross-post program updates, event registration links, and reminders. It's also a great way to coordinate and connect with fellow volunteers!

[Join Here](#)

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 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.

Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?

Click the links below to learn more!

Donate!

Volunteer!

Become a supporter today for just \$10!

Be sure to like and follow us on social media!



Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance | PO Box 17382 | Boulder, CO 80308 US

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