



*"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children "*

## Notes from the Board

### IPWA Members & Friends of the Indian Peaks/James Peak Wilderness Areas

Welcome to our October 2015. Lots of events took place this past month including:

\* The US Forest Service (USFS) issued their recommendation regarding the Eldora Mountain Resort (EMR) proposed expansion. At this point in time it is a split decision, with the USFS allowing EMR to move forward with proposed plans for upgrades *within their current boundaries*, while deferring a decision on EMR's proposed expansion plans *outside their current boundaries* until a date in the future. More details below.

\* The IPWA Board continues to monitor the USFS position regarding recreational shooting. As noted below, a fire caused damage to parts of Pawnee National Grasslands as a result of recreational shooting in that area.

\* We completed our summer patrol season and had one of the most successful seasons ever. A record number of volunteer hours, members of the public contacted, and fire rings displaced. We held our end of season party and a great time was had by all who attended (and a big thanks to Anne Vickery for hosting the event!). As of 10/18/15, the winter gate at Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BLRA) is now closed.

\* We held our IPWA fully managed trail project day in the James Peak Wilderness Area on October 4 with students from the University of Colorado Baker Residence Academic Program. We had a great time and exposed a number of new students to the challenges facing wilderness areas today.

\* We completed our first ever winter patrol training day (a big thanks to Andy Gup for making this happen! We are getting fired up to put IPWA volunteers on the trails during the winter starting on November 17.

\* The IPWA now has achieved a 'Gold' status ranking with Guidestar! By keeping our non-profit profile up-to-date with GuideStar, we can now ensure that information about our non-profit is reaching the 7+ million annual visitors to GuideStar. For those of you who work with companies that provide matching contributions for employee contributions to non-profits, please consider including the IPWA! As a FYI, we'll be starting our annual fund raising drive in Nov/Dec of this year.

So, lots done, lots left to do...

Keep it wild!

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## Eldora Mountain Resort: A partial victory?

### USFS defers decision on EMR expansion plans

On October 1, the US Forest Service issued a decision on the proposed Eldora Mountain Resort proposed ski expansion. The following excerpt is taken from the Daily Camera:

*"With ski season on the near horizon, the U.S. Forest Service on Thursday approved expansion plans for Eldora Mountain Resort - but for now, only within its existing boundaries. The decision was seen as a shift toward meeting the concerns of expansion critics, after a draft ruling earlier this year did not advocate the resort staying within its current boundaries.*

*"This decision will allow the ski area to move forward with proposed improvements inside its existing*

special use permit boundary - such as replacing lifts, adding gladed terrain and new runs, improving snowmaking, and building and renovating restaurant facilities," a news release from the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests stated.

**The decision defers all expansion outside the existing ski area special-use boundaries**, providing an opportunity for Eldora to work with interested parties on the more "controversial elements of the project," according to the release. "While the Environmental Impact Statement adequately disclosed the effects of these proposed projects, there were still environmental and social effects that could be better resolved," acting Forest Supervisor Ron Archuleta said in that same news release. "I just felt like there was an opportunity for the stakeholders, the people who have an interest in Eldora ski area, to work together to come up with a refined proposal for expansion outside the existing boundary, before the Forest Service makes any decision regarding expansion," Archuleta said in an interview.

The decision was well received by Boulder County officials, who had expressed misgivings about Eldora moving beyond its existing boundary.

"I think in Boulder County we're very pleased with the Forest Service decision," County Commissioner Elise Jones said. "We think they took a very thoughtful approach to the issue." Jones applauded "the fact that it allows them to move forward immediately with improvements inside the boundaries, which will enhance the quality of the user experience for skiers and snowboarders, deferring the proposed actions outside of the boundaries, and that there is an opportunity for more collaborative problem solving to occur on that piece of the proposal."...

"Hats off to new Forest Service Supervisor Ron Archuleta for finding a short-term, win-win outcome," Chiropolos said in an email. "Community members who use and love our National Forest appreciate that our public servants charged with stewardship are finally listening to residents and our elected local officials."

Your Board will continue to collaborate with the Middle Boulder Creek Coalition (MBCC) - which is leading the charge in opposing expansion of EMR outside of existing boundaries - and we'll keep our volunteers and friends informed of any new updates.

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## Recreational Shooting 'Suitable' in the Wilderness? NO!

### Say 'NO' to designating the IP/JP Wilderness as 'suitable' for recreational shooting.

As we mentioned in September, the US Forest Service distributed an email in July with their proposed management direction for recreational sport shooting. In that email, the USFS is proposing designating the Indian Peaks and James Peaks Wilderness Areas (and all associated trail heads) as 'land suitable for dispersed recreational shooting.' While the IPWA understands that recreational shooting is currently (and will continue to be) allowed in all wilderness areas, **the Board opposes the USFS designating these lands as 'suitable' for dispersed recreational shooting.**

Members of your Board had a discussion with members of the USFS to share our concerns. It was a beneficial discussion and we appreciate the efforts of the USFS to listen to our points of view. We will be following up on these discussions with members from other wilderness 'Friends' groups at the annual National Wilderness Conference which is being at the end of this month in Missoula, Montana. As we learn more what it taking place on a national basis, we will ensure to share those findings with all of you.

Interestingly enough, one of the issues that causes concern for the Board is the potential for wild fires in the wilderness as a result of recreational shooting. The news release below was posted on 10/15/15 related to a fire in the Pawnee Grasslands just north of us.....

*GREELEY, Colo. (AP) - Recreational shooters are being blamed for sparking two wildfires this week that burned more than 500 acres of the Pawnee National Grassland in northeast Colorado. The Greeley Tribune reports both fires started on the west side of the grasslands, and citations are being issued for shooting at illegal targets. The "Little Sand Fire" burned 560 acres, and the "500 Fire" burned 29 acres.*

Forest Service officials are reminding target shooters that hot projectiles and sparks from ricochets can ignite fires in dry grassy and brushy areas. Recreational shooters are asked to use only cardboard and paper targets, self-healing targets, manufactured metallic targets or clay targets.

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## Summer Patrol Update - Brainard Lake Winter Gate now CLOSED

### Our 2015 Summer Patrol Season is now officially in the books!

A big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who have hiked with us this season. We had a fantastic season and:

\* Completed 468 patrols representing ~ 3,500 volunteer hours,

\* Made contact with ~ 32,000 members of the public while on our hikes,

\* Educated 568 members of the public on why it is important to have a dog on a leash in the wilderness (out of 4,625 dogs seen in total for a 87% compliance rate on having your dog leashed),

\* Destroyed 125 fire rings thereby helping to decrease additional camp fires in the wilderness.

Also, you may have seen that this past weekend, the winter gate was closed at the Brainard Lake Recreation Area. On to Winter Patrols!



## IPWA Winter Patrols - Another new program in 2015!

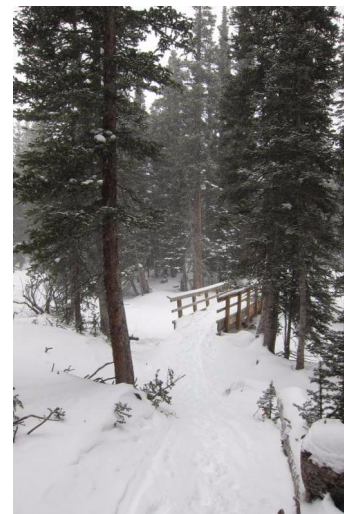
### IPWA providing winter patrols starting November 17

We held our first ever winter patrol training this past Saturday and had a very informative session. Kudos to Andy Gup for getting this program up and running in 2015 and holding a great training session!

We're excited about the program as the wilderness - particularly the Brainard Lake Recreation Area - receives a great deal of use during the weekends and our presence will assist in ensuring that we are educating the public on the importance of wilderness and wilderness regulations.

We'll provide updates over the winter months with regards to trail use, number of folks we are seeing on the trails, and overall conditions.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have signed up for the first year - we're looking to make this program huge success!



## IPWA: Celebrating National Public Lands Day

### IPWACU BRAP students celebrating National Public Lands Day

The IPWA recently won a \$750 grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) to help celebrate National Public Lands Day in 2015. With this award, we purchased lightweight shovels and saws which we were able to use this year - and well into the future - to help maintain the IP/JP Wilderness Areas in as natural a state as possible (with the focus on removing fire rings and trash from our fantastic wilderness areas).

On October 4, we celebrated National Public Lands Day with a full day project up in the James Peak Wilderness Area. With students from the University of Colorado Baker Residence Academic Program (CU BRAP), we hiked into the Forest Lakes area from the East Portal trail head to clear out garbage, remove fire rings, and close off as many illegal campsites and social trails as possible.

This was a great event as not only did we help restore wilderness areas, but we did this with first year students from CU BRAP - many



National Public Lands Day

who had never been to the mountains, much less the pristine wilderness areas we have here in the Front Range. University of Colorado (CU) Baker Residence Academic Program (BRAP). So, not only did we help the wilderness, but at the same time will introduced a number of younger adults to the joys of our wilderness areas, while also exposing them to the multitude of challenges that faces wilderness today - from overuse, to land degradation, to inappropriate activities taking place in the 'wild.' We're extremely excited about the success of this event and look forward to doing more of these in 2016. A big THANK YOU to both CU BRAP and the NEEF for their support!



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## IPWA: A 'Gold' level status on GuideStar!

### IPWA now listed on Guidestar with a 'Gold' status!

This past month we completed updating the IPWA non-profit profile on GuideStar. As a result of the information that we provided, and our clear mission statement and programs that we have in place, we have now attained a 'Gold' status with their organization! For those of you who haven't heard of GuideStar, it is the market leader in providing non-profit information to corporations and individuals across the globe .

For many of the IPWA Members/Friends who work with corporations that have matching grant programs, having the IPWA listed on GuideStar is often a pre-requisite to being able to have your company match any contributions you may make to the IPWA. As always, thanks for your support!



To see our profile on GuideStar, please follow this link:

[www.guidestar.com](http://www.guidestar.com)

Furthermore, if you are interested you can also add your own review comments about our organization and the work that we do. We already have a few folks out there who have shared their insight about the IWPA, but of course are looking for more positive comments from our Friends and Volunteers. If interested, you can add your own comments by following this link (for the review page on GuideStar we are listed under our original name of the 'Indian Peaks Working Group'):

[Volunteer Review of the IPWA on GuideStar](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### **Saturday November 15: IPWA Annual Fund Raising Starts**

We will be starting our annual fund raising on Saturday November 15 with a year end version of this monthly newsletter that we'll be distributing to everyone on our email list. We'll be sending out the email twice (November 15 and December 15) which will summarize how we have used funds contributed during 2015, and our plans for 2016.

### **Tuesday November 17: Winter Patrols begin**

Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas

We are excited to announce that we will be starting our formal winter patrols in the IP/JP Wilderness Areas on Tuesday November 17. We'll keep our members/friends updated on information we receive as part of this program.

### **Sat/Sun Dec 20/21 & Thursday Dec 24: Gift Wrapping at Boulder Bookstore**

We are again fortunate enough to be able to hold our gift wrapping fund raising program at the Boulder Bookstore. We'll be sending out a schedule for those volunteers interested in participating, and for others, please stop by and say 'hi' to some of the IPWA volunteers if you are in downtown Boulder and visiting the bookstore!

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#### **Stay Connected**

**Join Our Mailing List**



**Forward To A Friend**

Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance | [hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org) |

[www.indianpeakswilderness.org](http://www.indianpeakswilderness.org)