

August 2026 Newsletter

Indian & James Peak Wilderness News

Stage 2 Fire Restrictions Remain in Effect

Stage 2 fire restrictions currently apply to National Forest lands in **Larimer, Boulder, Gilpin, Clear Creek and Grand counties**. Under Stage 2 restrictions, **all open fires are prohibited**, including wood and charcoal fires. Other high-risk activities are also prohibited, including smoking outside an enclosed building or vehicle and welding.

Gas and propane devices are permitted only when they are used within an area cleared of all fuels and debris extending **three feet around the device**.
The Forest Service evaluates fire restrictions in coordination with county officials. Decisions consider both short- and long-term weather forecasts, current fire activity and the availability of firefighting resources. Current Forest Service fire restrictions and fire danger levels are available on the Forest Service website. Information about county-level restrictions is available through the **Colorado Office of Emergency Management** website.

Access Updates

Scan, Pay and Hike

Scan-and-pay systems are available for day-use fee payments at several locations throughout the Arapaho, Roosevelt and Pawnee National Forests and Grassland. Participating sites include **Dowdy Lake, West Lake and Big Bend**

Help Keep Cattle Where They Belong

If you're exploring the Pawnee this summer, please remember one important rule when encountering a gate: **leave it exactly as you found it**.

Grazing allotment gates are used to control cattle movement within and

Picnic Sites, as well as the Middle St. Vrain and Rainbow Lakes Trailheads.

To use these payment systems, you must have the **Recreation.gov app** downloaded. Additional information about scan-and-pay is available through Recreation.gov.

between allotments. Leaving a gate that was closed in an open position can allow cattle to mix with other herds or leave their assigned allotment, potentially creating significant challenges for ranchers.

If you need to open a gate to pass through, please **close it securely behind you**.

Safety Reminders

Increased Bear Activity Near Campgrounds

Bear sightings around campgrounds have increased over the past several weeks as wildlife continues preparing for winter. Proper food and trash management remain especially important. Store food securely in the provided bear boxes, and make sure trash receptacles are completely closed after use. **Dumpsters should always be latched.**
If a dumpster is full, consider packing your trash out with you or using another dumpster that has more available space. These simple steps can help reduce wildlife encounters and keep both people and bears safer.

Keep Your Four-Legged Hiking Partners Cool

With high temperatures returning this weekend, visitors heading into the mountains with their pets should take extra precautions.

Avoid strenuous activity during the hottest part of the day, and watch your animal closely for signs of heat-related problems. Bring sufficient water for both yourself and your pet, take frequent breaks, and turn around before your pet becomes overly tired. Planning ahead will help ensure your animal has enough energy for the trip back.

Big Game Hunting

Big game hunting on the Arapaho Roosevelt Pawnee has kicked off with the start of pronghorn season on the Pawnee National Grassland. Hunting is a long-standing use of public lands, and will continue throughout the fall and winter.

Hunting the Arapaho Roosevelt Pawnee this year? Remember to exercise caution when shooting, carefully inspect areas for other forest users, and keep in mind dry conditions when discharging firearms, parking vehicles or camping. Follow all Colorado Parks and Wildlife regulations and federal regulations while hunting. Learn more here: https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/know-before-you-go/hunting

Non-hunting visitors should practice good situational awareness during big game seasons as well. Consider wearing bright/neon colors while recreating, and make noise while moving to alert hunters to your presence.

Step up for Pikas!

Pika Patrol is an app that allows you to record observations of American pikas wherever you find them, whether hiking on your own or patrolling for IPWA! Even if you've never seen a pika before, Pika Patrol will teach you to identify them by sight, calls, haypiles, and scat.

By joining this team of community scientists, you can help researchers understand how pikas are coping with climate change. This is important information as we figure out how to best protect pikas and their habitat. Pika Patrol is part of the Colorado Pika Project, a joint initiative by Rocky Mountain Wild and Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance.



Learn More

Program Updates

Trail Projects



Clearing the Way on Arapaho Glacier Trail

An IPWA crew of ten, led by U.S. Forest Service Forestry Technician Emma Brock, worked on Arapaho Glacier Trail #905 on Saturday, August 22. The group reopened the full width of the trail tread along the climb to timberline, beginning at the junction near the old Fourth of July Mine.

Using lopping shears and pruning saws, volunteers cut back overgrown willows and subalpine fir that had pushed hikers to one side of the trail and onto fragile plant life. We all enjoyed working together to accomplish something truly useful.



Calling All Crewmates for 9/19 Trail Project!

Interested in joining IPWA and the U.S. Forest Service to help with wilderness trail maintenance in September? Although we don't yet know the project location or scope, we plan to send out a crew on Saturday, September 19. Click here to sign up. You'll receive project and logistical details as soon as they are available. Thanks!



Summer Patrol Updates

We're proud to say we've completed over 580 service activities so far this season, covering over 3,500 miles and about 2,800 hours so far! We've continued our projects in support of our Forest Service partners, collecting campsite data at both designated and dispersed sites throughout Indian Peaks and James Peak Wildernesses.



Introducing Your 2026 Patrol Coordinators



Haven Iverson

Profession: Book editor and ghostwriter of adult nonfiction. I worked at a publishing house as their Editorial Director for 18 years, then went freelance 4 years ago. (I also write children's books.)
Book I'm reading: The Emerald Mile by Kevin Fedarko
A few of my favorite things: Camping and the outdoors. (Taking my 17 year old son backpacking in the Wind Rivers this coming summer. He is wild for fly fishing.) Dogs (we have 3). Quilting and knitting (which I hope to have more time for once my 2nd leaves home. I'm almost an empty nester. Eek! Mixed feelings about that. My kids are excellent outdoor adventure buddies.)



Amy Freeman

Profession: I spent over 20 years as a product leader in the long term post acute care software space. I retired 2 years ago but still do some consulting work.
Book I'm reading: About to start The Overstory and also listening to the Dungeon Crawler Carl series when on road trips.
A few of my favorite things: Hiking, backpacking and travelling around in an Airstream with my husband. I also enjoy fishing and love to cook.



Jon Vogt

Profession: Gate Manager United Airlines. I plot out where all the planes go - basically I play Tetris all day with up to 100 planes an hour.
Book I'm reading: Joe Pickett Series
A few of my favorite things: Travel, hiking, and motorcycles



Profession: I worked for nearly 40 years at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), where I helped advance high-temperature solar thermal technologies. I still support the lab as an emeritus researcher, essentially meaning I work for free!
Book I'm reading: Birding While Under the Influence: Cycling Across America in Search of Birds and Recovery. Next up: Solito, a Memoir.
A few of my favorite things: I love the outdoors, spending as much time as I can there both in the US and abroad. I hope to introduce my two young grandchildren to all the outdoor adventures and hard-earned lessons I've encountered over the years.



Sara Raley

Profession: I'm a liberal arts gal who accidentally ended up in tech (I'm currently a Security Consultant at Google).
Book I'm reading: I'm almost done with The Deluge by Adam Tooze, which is about the geopolitical and economic order that emerged from WWI, and how it failed to keep the peace. Next up will be the most recent book in the fun Murderbot series by Martha Wells!
A few of my favorite things: I love being outside, laughing, climbing with my husband, and trail running with my dog…and I'm doing my best to learn about birds from Mark.

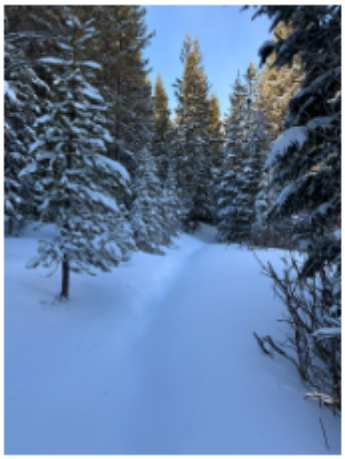
Winter Patrol Training Committee

It's hard to believe fall is just around the corner! 🍂 Please reach out to winter.patrols@ipwa.org if you are interested in joining the Winter Patrol Training Committee! We plan to make some sizable updates and we'd appreciate any input and support.

Winter Patrol Sign-Up Interest

Do you hike, snowshoe, ski, tele, splitboard, etc. in the snowy months? Are you interested in patrolling during the winter season which spans from mid-November through early June?

New & returning winter patrollers please fill out this Interest Form to receive additional information about the upcoming winter season!





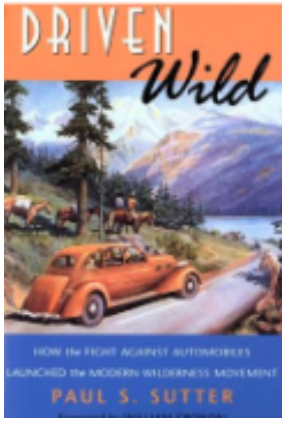
Reading Group

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

We'll meet on the September 24 at 3:30 pm at The Rayback Collective in Boulder. Food and beverages available.

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

In *Driven Wild*, Paul Sutter tells the story of how growing concern about cars, roads, and human access to wild places helped inspire the modern wilderness movement. Through the perspectives of important conservation leaders, he shows how their efforts to protect nature were also about preserving something essential in ourselves.



Naturalist Corner

Naturalist Spotlight: Fish

By Rob Pudim

Here fishy, fishy…

It is not unusual in the James Peak and Indian Peaks Wilderness Areas (JP/IPWA) to meet people carrying fishing rods. After all, there are fish in the reservoirs, lakes and streams of the mountain riparian ecosystems. These ecosystems traverse a broad elevation range from tree-dominated elevations to shrub-tangled alpine bogs and tarns.



Read The Article

Now Accepting Submissions for the Photo Contest!

We will be accepting submissions for the 2026 Photo Contest starting September 1st!

The IPWA holds an Annual Photo Contest to showcase the beauty of the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas. This contest is open to IPWA supporters and volunteers. Each individual may submit a maximum of 2 scenic photos (no people or dogs may be in the photos). To learn more and see past winners, visit our Photo Contest page.

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.

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!

Be sure to like and follow us on social media!

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

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Try email marketing for free today!