

# Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA)



Photo credit: Steve Cushard



## *Annual Report 2022*

Dear IPWA Friends,

2022 was a great year for IPWA in so many ways. Our 120 volunteers served as wilderness stewards year-round by performing nearly 500 patrols, covering over 4,400 miles and contacting over 39,000 members of the public.

We welcomed 15 new volunteers to IPWA, and further refined our reporting system to allow us to conduct timely analysis of our patrol data – this helps us shift resources to areas that need more attention.

Once again, our generous donors exceeded our expectations. In addition to our regular participation in Colorado Gives Day, we were exceedingly fortunate to be selected by the Eldora Play Forever Foundation to be one of two local non-profit recipients of Eldora's annual giving campaign.

Many thanks to our volunteers, US Forest Service Boulder Ranger District, and all of our supporters for another successful year.

Fiona Garvin  
(incoming) IPWA Board Chair







Photo credit: Iona Binnie

# Our Mission

***The Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance's mission is to "Preserve and Protect the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas".***

- Officially partnered with the U.S. Forest Service Boulder Ranger District in a collaborative stewardship effort.
- Indian Peaks (IP) and James Peak (JP) are among the most heavily visited and utilized wilderness areas in the United States.





Photo credit: Bill Bowman

“Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed ... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.” — **Wallace Stegner**,

*Your support for the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance helped us actively protect the Indian Peaks and James Peaks Wilderness areas which provide an array of important benefits to our communities.*

- *Clean water and clean air,*
- *Protected plant and wildlife habitat,*
- *Economic value,*
- *Opportunities for solitude and outdoor adventure,*
- *Scientific knowledge of natural processes,*
- *Fire education and wildfire prevention,*
- *And more*

# Articles of Incorporation

1. A ***forum for discussion of issues*** regarding the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area,
2. A ***volunteer clearinghouse*** to work with the USFS to coordinate, train, and supervise volunteers working in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area,
3. A forum for ***information exchange*** among the USFS, local government, and interested citizens,
4. Assist in ***identifying and solving problems*** for the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area,
5. ***Ongoing public education program*** regarding the Indian Peaks Area, its ecology, its popularity, and techniques to minimize the impact on it, and
6. To ***sponsor, encourage and assist in research*** on the natural sciences and management problems of the Indian Peaks Wilderness and adjacent areas.

# Our History

IPWA's history goes back several decades. In October of 1978, The **Indian Peaks Wilderness was designated by Congress as part of the Wilderness Preservation System**. With its new designation, it started to receive more and more visitation and impacts.

In 1980 a citizens' working group was organized by 3 pioneering women - **Dr. Anne Forrest Ketchin, Jan Robertson, and Anne Vickery**. Over several years this group produced a set of 27 points for preserving and protecting the Indian Peaks, and in 1985 the Indian Peaks Working group was officially incorporated. The US Forest Service agreed to most of the group's recommendations, and thus began a citizen- agency partnership which still endures to this day.



Photos from Carnegie Library for Local History/Museum of Boulder Collection



# *Our Wilderness Areas*



Photo credit: Steve Cushman



# Indian Peaks Wilderness

- ***The Indian Peaks Wilderness is among the top five most visited wilderness areas in the country with ~ 150,000+ visitors per season.***
  - ~ 30 minute drive from Boulder, ~ 60 minutes from Denver.
  - Situated within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.
  - Peaks named by Ellsworth Bethel in early 1900's after native American tribes that visited/populated the area or were based in the West.





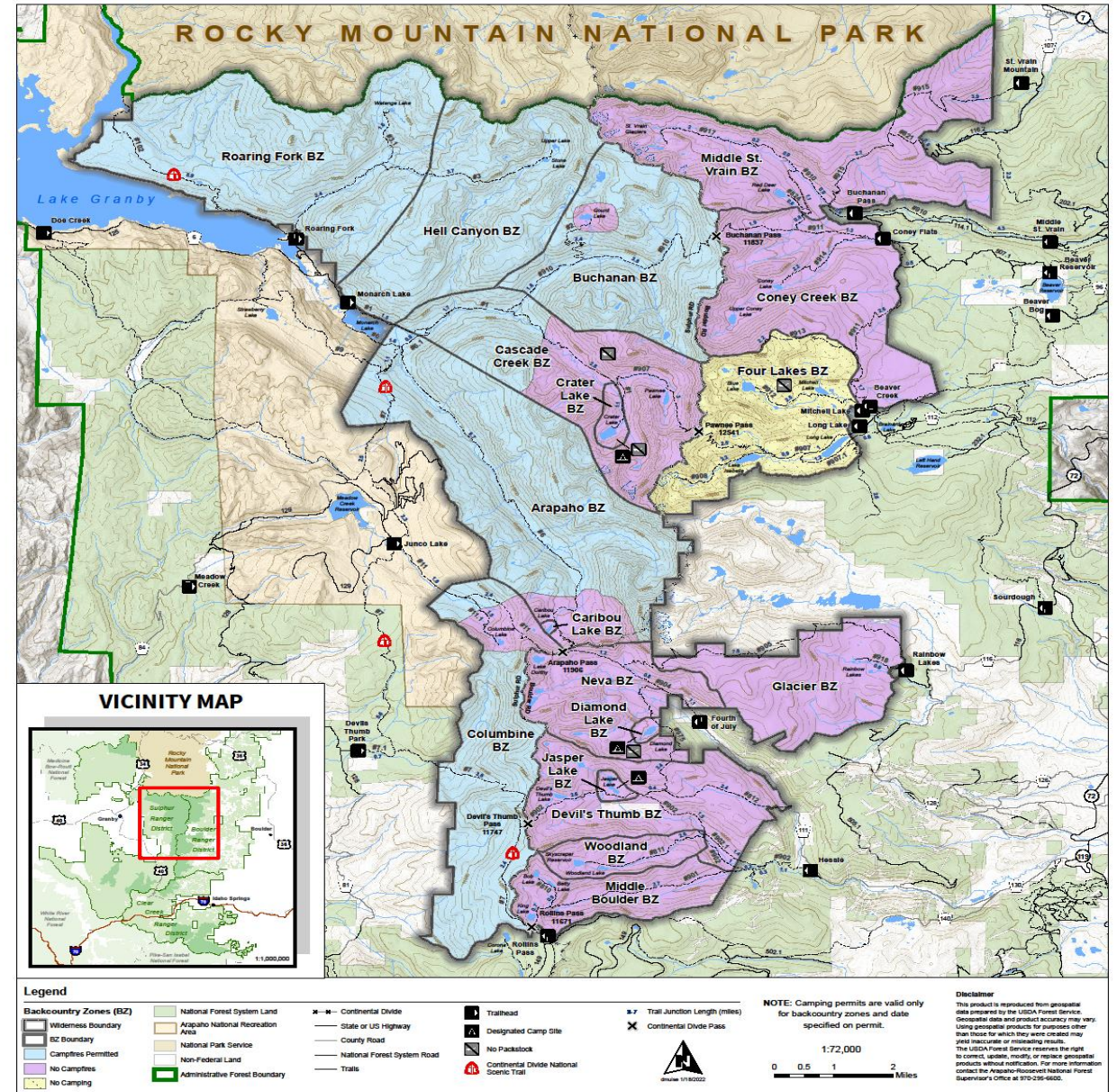
# Indian Peaks Wilderness

*The IPW was designated as wilderness in 1978 by an act of Congress and encompasses ~ 75,000 acres.*

- Originally proposed to be part of Rocky Mtn National park by Enos Mills, the IPW is located just south of the Park.
- The IPW stretches 18 miles north/south and 15 miles east west at the widest point.
- Elevations range from 8,300' to 13,500'.
- 7 peaks over 13,000'.
- 28 maintained trails covering ~ 130 miles.
- Camping permits required (*only wilderness in Colorado requiring permits*).

## INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

Camping Permit Required June 1 through September 15





# James Peak Wilderness



Photo credit: Scott Schaefer

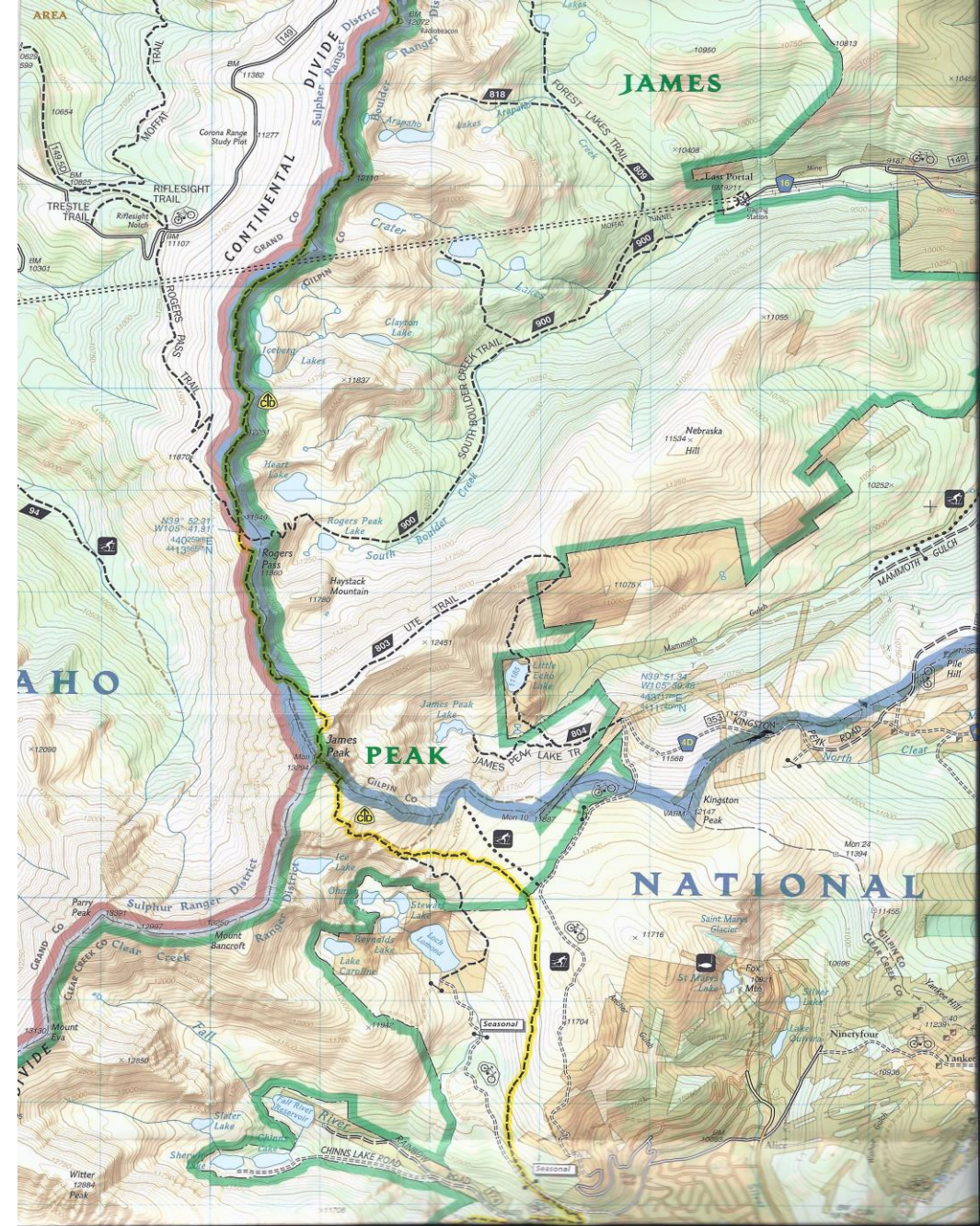
- **James Peak Wilderness receives heavy usage summer and winter, with ATVs and snowmobiles using the old Rollins Pass road to access the Wilderness as well as thousands of backpackers, anglers, and hunters each year.**
  - ~ 60 minute drive from Boulder, ~ 60 minutes from Denver.
  - Situated within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.
  - Three main lake basins, plus access to James Peak and western slope trails.



# James Peak Wilderness

***The JPW was designated as wilderness in 2002 – by an act of Congress and signed by George W. Bush.***

- ~ 17,000 acres, with majority on the East side of the Continental Divide.
- Situated within 4 distinct Colorado counties – Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Grand.
- Named after Edwin James, botanist who was part of Stephen Long's expedition to Colorado in 1820.
- ~ 20 miles of trails.
- Elevation from 9,000' to over 13,000'.
- Upper montane, sub alpine, alpine ecosystems.
- The Winter Park Ski train from Denver goes underneath the JPW at the Moffat Tunnel!



# Our USFS Boulder Ranger District Partner

***IPWA “assists the Boulder Ranger District by providing a volunteer presence in the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas that promotes responsible visitor use and supports the preservation of the Wilderness and the areas natural resources.”***

- IPWA and USFS
  - Work together under a 5 year joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which defines roles, responsibilities, and working relationship.
  - Conduct joint volunteer training annually
  - Plan and execute joint projects annually
- Volunteers complete annual service agreements and risk awareness.





# Other Alliances

***We also partner and create alliances with a wide variety of other organizations to achieve our mission.***

Task	IPWA	Partner
Patrolling		
Trail work		
Research		
Staffing		
Advocacy		
Etc...		

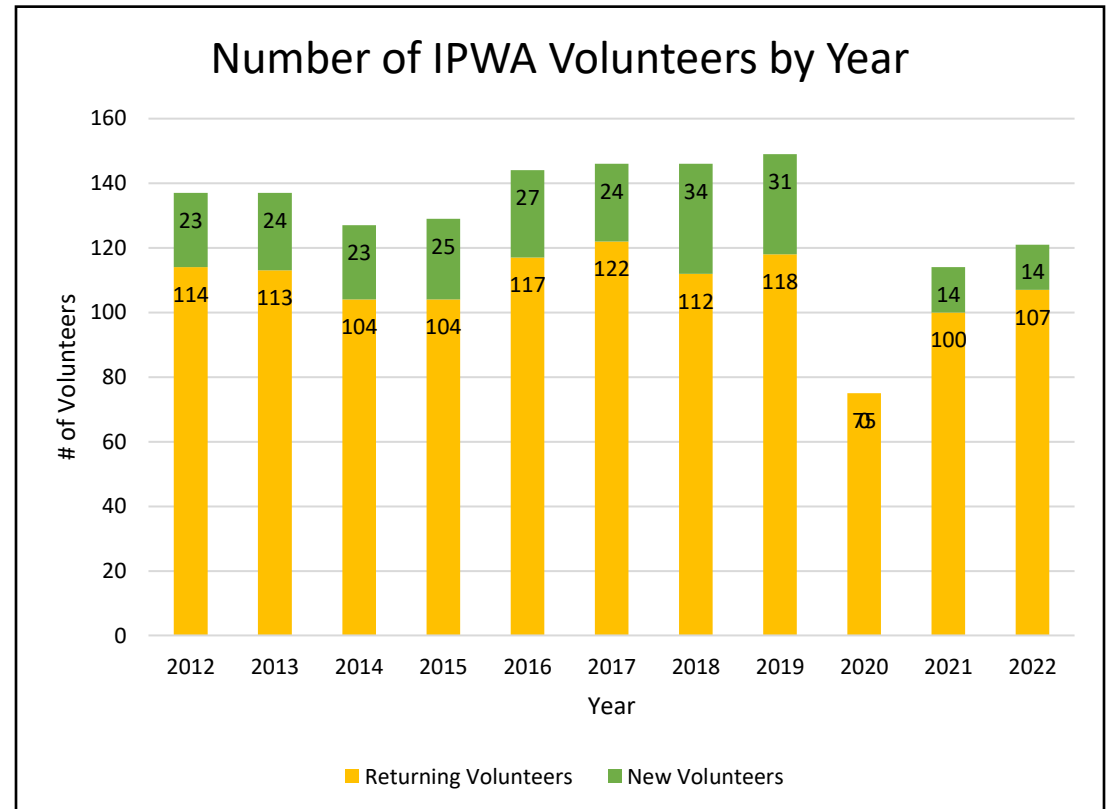
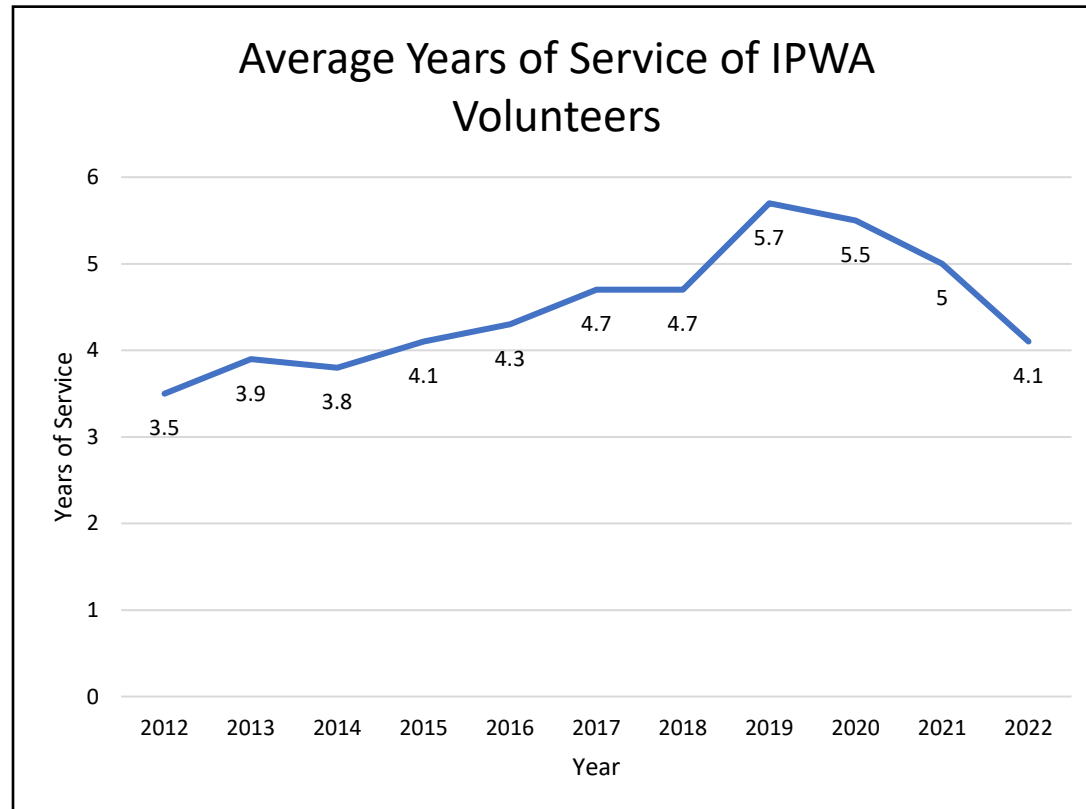


## Current and Past Alliances

- American Land and Leisure
- Bear Vault
- Osprey
- Fjallraven
- Boulder Bookstore
- Bryan Mountain Ski Patrol
- Colorado Mountain Club (CMC)
- National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA)
- Poudre Wilderness Volunteers
- University of Colorado
- and more!

# Our Volunteers

*In 2020, IPWA gave returning volunteers the option to pause their volunteer status for COVID related safety reasons but to remain as volunteers. In 2021 and 2022, after vaccines and improved guidance many volunteers resumed activities and we were able to add 14 enthusiastic new volunteers to IPWA in 2022.*





In 2022, IPWA provided 2600 hours of volunteer service at a value of \$78K to the USFS and provided 3 research grants!

Photo credit: Bill Bowman



# Our Programs

***To “Preserve and Protect the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas” we implement four main programs with our 100% volunteer workforce.***

## Wilderness Patrols

- Summer
- Winter
- Trailhead Host

## Wilderness Restoration

- Trail Projects
- Trail Tree Clearing

## Wilderness Education

- Research Grants
- Internships
- Information Specialists

## Wilderness Advocacy

- Newsletters
- Social Media
- Member Outreach

**Note:** The IPWA Internship and Information Specialist Activities were paused in 2022 due to Boulder Ranger District and IPWA resource constraints.



# Wilderness Patrols: Summer Season



## **In the 2022 Summer Patrol season, IPWA volunteers:**

- Spent 2,116 hours on 377 patrols, covering 2,700 miles
- Contacted 33,480 members of the public and 5,635 dogs (434 off-leash)
- Removed 122 illegal fire rings

# Wilderness Patrols: Winter Season

***Our volunteers patrol the Brainard Lake Recreation Area and James Peak Area from the end of hunting season to the start of the summer***

IPWA Winter Patrollers are trained in:

- Basic wilderness first aid and CPR
- Radio and satellite device communications
- Complete additional classroom and field training
- In 2021-2022, winter patrol season IPWA
  - Completed over 118 patrols – an 85% increase from last year!
  - Logged 478 volunteer hours
  - Skied or snowshoed over 773 miles
  - Contacted more than 5501 visitors – a 98% increase from last year!



Winter Patrolling



# Trailhead Host Days:

After a 2-year hiatus, we re-started our Trailhead Host program with 4 hosting days at East Portal Trailhead (James Peak Wilderness)

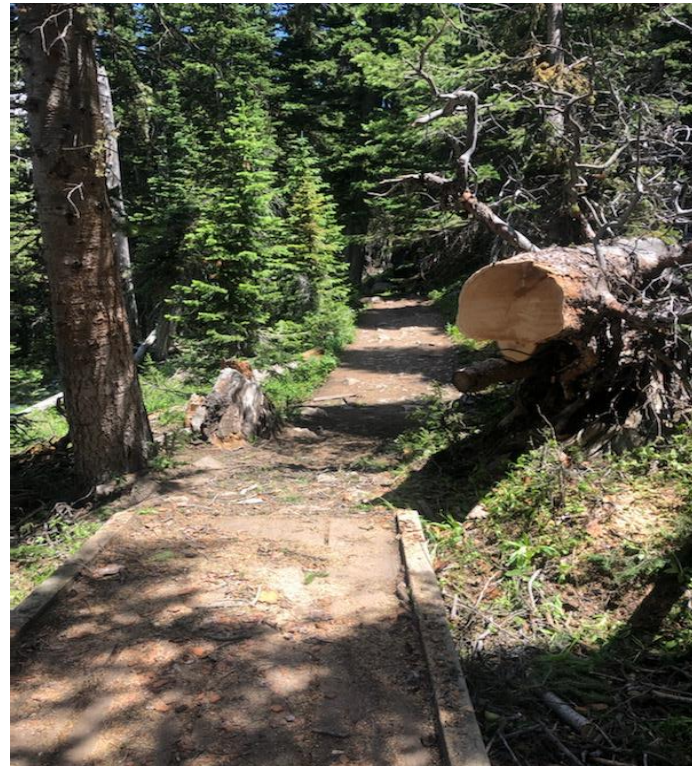


*IPWA contacted 1,241 visitors during Trailhead Host days, including approximately 250 backpackers heading into the three main lake basins.*



# Wilderness Restoration:

In 2022, IPWA Volunteers worked to remove over 35 trees from wilderness trails prior to heavy summer hiking season and pre-winter patrol season.





# Wilderness Education: *Paddon/Gellhorn Research Grants\**

*For over 20 years, IPWA has provided research grants to graduate students for studies within high altitude ecosystem. In 2022 we provided 3 grants for a total of \$6,000. \*Named for David Paddon and Joyce Gellhorn – researchers, teachers, and supporters of the wilderness.*

Sade Cromratie Clemons  
(Master's Candidate,  
University of Colorado-  
Boulder): Study the  
forested landscape's  
response to flooding and  
how this reposes affects  
the carbon cycle in  
mountainous regions ([see  
video report](#))



Scott Nordstrom (PhD Candidate,  
University of Colorado): Do  
shading and soil moisture  
influence flowering time in alpine  
wildflowers? ([see video report](#))



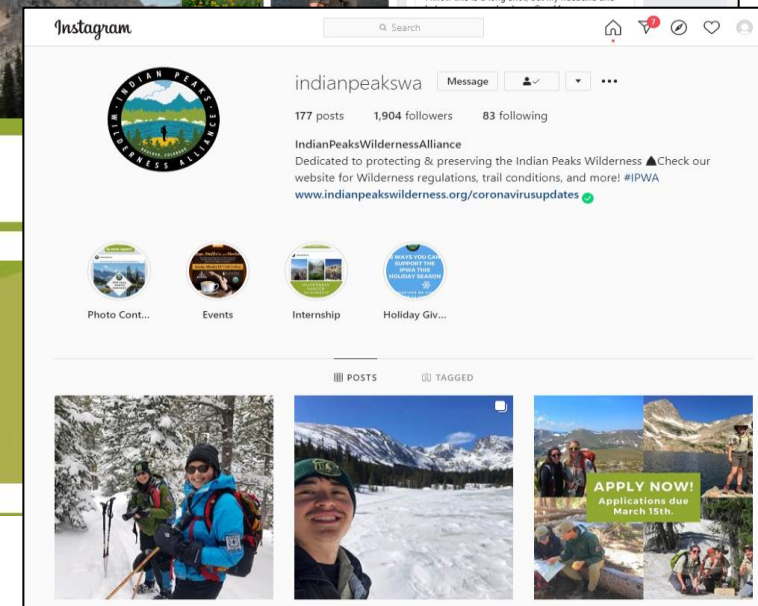
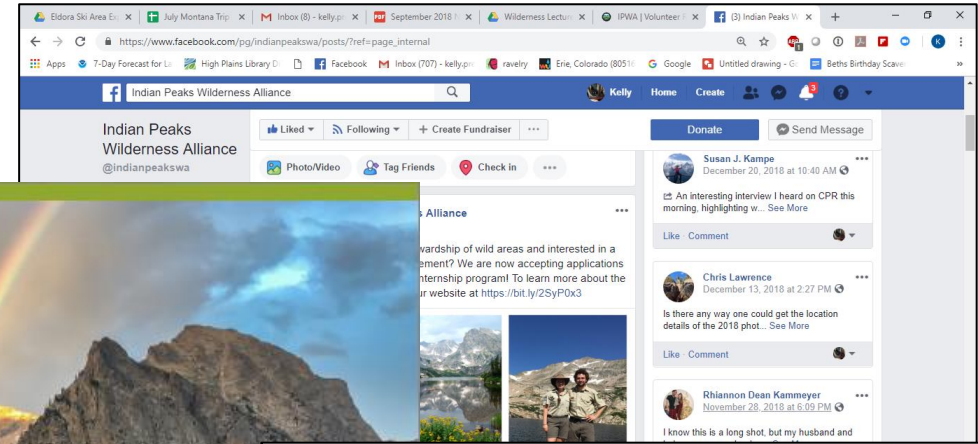
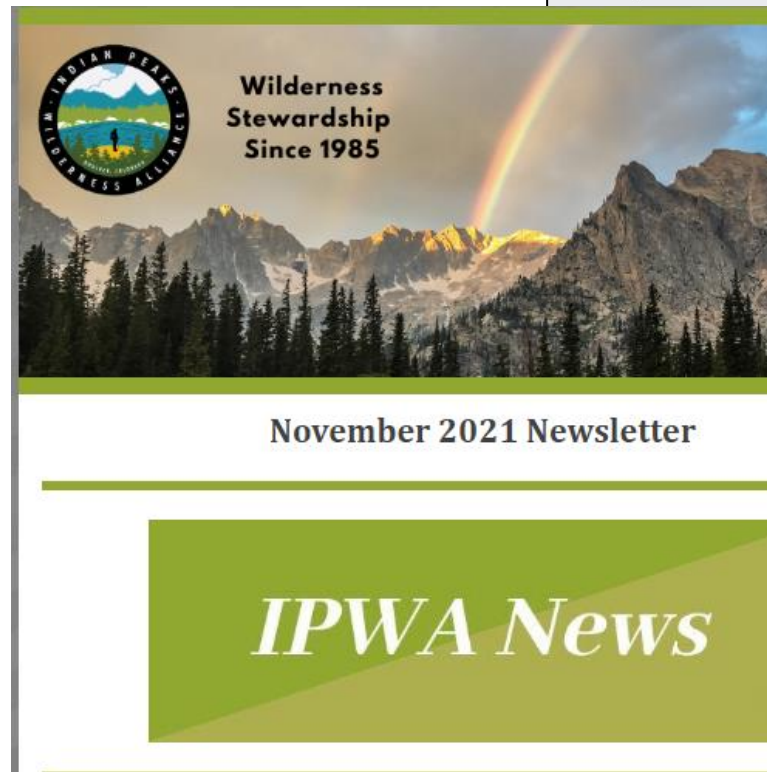
Airy Peralta (PhD Candidate,  
University of Colorado: Improving  
forecasting of pika occupancy in  
Rocky Mountain National Park  
using microclimatic variables as  
predictors ([see video report](#))

\*Named for David Paddon and Joyce  
Gellhorn – researchers, teachers, and  
supporters of the wilderness

# Wilderness Advocacy: Outreach

*IPWA uses a variety of methods to reach its volunteers, members and friends on topics and issues of importance relating to the IP and JP Wilderness.*

- We reach over 5000 contacts through
  - **Monthly Newsletter** (1684 contacts)
  - **Newly designed website**
    - [www.indianpeakswilderness.org](http://www.indianpeakswilderness.org)
  - **Expanded Social Media**
    - Facebook (2315 followers)
    - Instagram (2387 followers)
  - **Constant Contact Email Groups**





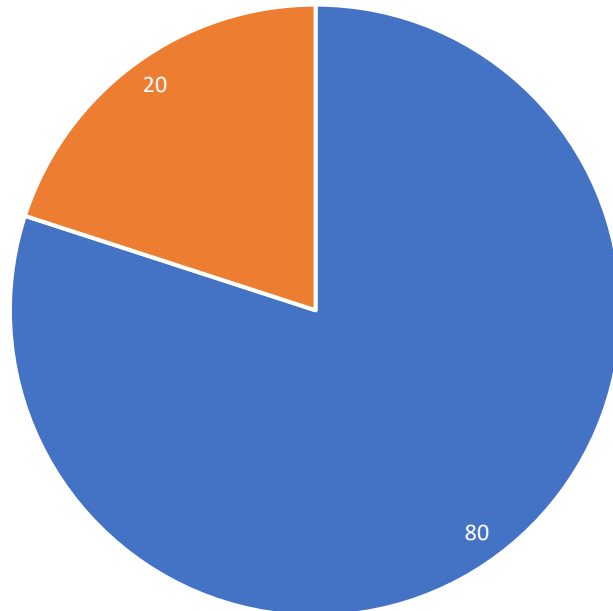
# Finances



Photo credit: Danny McBride

# IPWA Revenue and Expenses, 2022

IPWA Expenses 2022



■ Total Program expenses ■ Total Admin&Fund Raising expenses

Total Revenue: \$ 20,535

Total Expenses: \$ 17,662

Overage: \$ 2,873

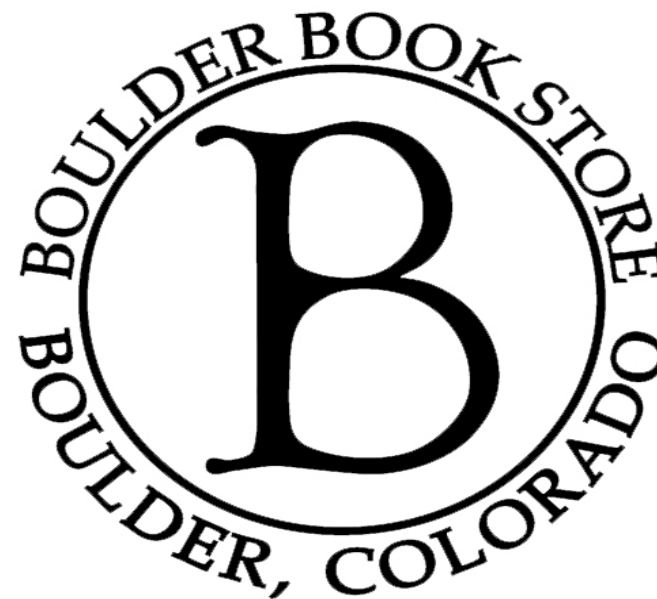
*Note: IPWA is an all-volunteer run non-profit organization, with no paid staff.*



# Local Corporate Fundraising

*In 2022, The Boulder Bookstore and IPWA teamed up for another year to do a giftwrap fundraiser throughout the holiday season.*

***Thank you Boulder Bookstore!***



# Fundraising: Photo Contest

- 2022 was IPWA's 8<sup>th</sup> year to hold an annual Volunteer and Supporters Photo Contest.
- Selected photos are turned into note cards which are in turn provided to donors who give \$100+ as a "Thank You" for their financial support.



**Photo credit: Ellen Steiner**



# Challenges/Opportunities to Our Mission

*During our next planning cycle, we see a number of challenges facing our organization, the USFS, and the IPW/IPW Areas including:*

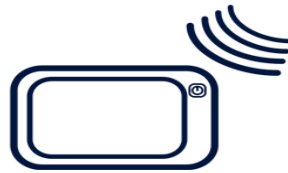


Overuse

*Continued  
Colorado  
population growth*



Lack of  
Awareness  
of *Leave No Trace*  
Principles



Technology

*Drones, Mtn  
Bikes, Social Media*



Pollution



Climate  
Change

*Our 5-year Strategic Plan, written in 2021, specifies actions to address these challenges, such as improving the administrative stability of IPWA, increasing volunteer numbers and patrols, and working with our Forest Service partners to continue improvements to our training and volunteer support.*

# IPWA is 100% Volunteer Run

[hikers@Indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@Indianpeakswilderness.org)



Training Day, June 2019

*“Saving Wilderness,*



*Changing Lives”*



# 2022 IPWA Board Members and Officers:

- Kelly Prendergast (Chair)
- Andy Gup (Vice Chair)
- Fiona Garvin (Treasurer)
- Emily Herrington  
(Secretary)
- Yonah Cohen
- Peter Fellenz
- Reghan Gillman
- CJ Gup
- Daryl Ogden
- Faith Overall
- Alexa Carollo



Photo credit: Jeff Bluhm

IPWA would like to hear from you! Please send us your thoughts at:

***hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org***

***“Keep it Wild”***

***The IPWA Board***