



**Wilderness
Stewardship
Since 1985**



April 2025 Newsletter

IPWA News

A Warm Welcome to New Volunteers & Heartfelt Thanks to Our Returning Ones!

We're thrilled to have **102 returning volunteers** already registered—and we've seen a *bumper crop* of interest from new applicants! Following a thoughtful application and interview process, around **35 new volunteers** have been accepted. We can't wait to welcome them to the team, begin training, and expand our coverage on Wilderness trails this summer.



Save the date for our upcoming trail work days!

Join us on these days to work on important trails and build community with other volunteers excited to help out!

- July 12th
- August 2nd
- August 23rd
- September 20th

Sign up and work details will be available 2-3 weeks before each project. Reach out to ipwatrailcrew@gmail.com with any questions!

Early Season Trail Condition Reporting

One of the best ways we can help our Forest Service partners and the public is by providing detailed early season trail condition reports! As we get excited about the upcoming summer season, start thinking about scheduling patrols with the objective of reporting on the following top priorities:

Designated Campsite Conditions:

Please check and report on each individual site. For example: "Campsite 2 at Diamond Lake is partially covered in snow. Campsite 3 is muddy. Campsite 1 is fully clear and dry." If you are unable to make it to each numbered site, please just specify as such in your report.

- Diamond Lake campsites
- Jasper Lake campsites
- Caribou Lake campsites
- Crater Lake (west side) campsites

Pass Conditions:

Are the passes navigable without resource damage? For example: "Pawnee Pass is only navigable via social trails over delicate tundra" or "The cornice on

Buchanan Pass persists and requires expert skills to navigate" or "Devil's Thumb Pass is mostly clear with a slight detour on hard rocks"

- Devil's Thumb Pass
- Pawnee Pass
- Buchanan Pass

Trail Conditions:

Report on trail conditions by specifying the correct trail name and the mileage point and elevation where 1) trails are wet and muddy 2) snow becomes intermittent 3) snow becomes continuous and walking becomes difficult

- Trails out of Hessie, 4th of July, and East Portal in particular are always in need of updates throughout June!

Remember, you don't need to hike to the point where the snow becomes continuous or the conditions get difficult. Simply asking questions of people coming down can be a good way to get info!

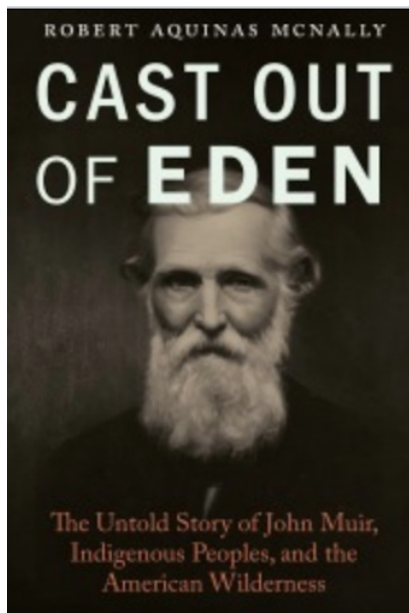
Reading Group

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 the following dates at 3:30 pm at The Rayback Collective in Boulder. Food and beverages available.

May 22: Cast out of Eden: The Untold Story of John Muir, Indigenous Peoples, and the American Wilderness, McNally [RSVP](#)

July 17: A Walk in the Woods, Bryson [RSVP](#)



“John Muir is widely and rightly lauded as the nature mystic who added wilderness to the United States' vision of itself, largely through the system of national parks and wild areas his writings and public advocacy helped create. That vision, however, came at a cost: the conquest and dispossession of the tribal peoples who had inhabited and managed those same lands...”

In Case You Missed this Last Month: Expert Tips; Navigating IPW Permits with Ease

Planning a trip to Indian Peaks Wilderness? Check out our new “How-To” video for

a step-by-step guide on IPW regulations and the permit purchasing process through Recreation.gov—especially helpful for first-time visitors!

While permits became available on March 4th, this video can still be a great resource for those who haven't secured theirs yet. Feel free to share with fellow adventurers!

□ Watch the video here:

**Permit Purchasing
Guide**

Hey, 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

*Program
Updates*

Supporting the Next Generation of Wilderness Researchers

This year, IPWA is excited to support two graduate students through our grant program:

Samantha Kruzek, studying how avian pox virus (APV) affects two chickadee species along an elevational gradient in the Colorado Front Range, and **Dani Laird**, whose research focuses on spatial modeling for the endangered Uncompahgre Fritillary Butterfly.

We're grateful to play a small part in their important work—and can't wait to see

Winter Patrol Updates

This winter season, our volunteers have logged an impressive 114 patrol hikes, with coverage across the IPWA and JPWA:

- **Brainard Lake Rec Area** – 69
- **IPW South** (Hessie, Rainbow Lakes, S. Sourdough THs) – 23
- **IPW North** (Beaver Reservoir, Camp Dick, St. Vrain Mt THs) – 7
- **JPW** (East Portal TH) – 15

In addition to trail patrols, volunteers also stepped up for 10 non-patrol outreach activities, including tabling events at REI Boulder and Denver, the Dairy Center for the Arts, and the BRLA Interagency Outreach.

Field support included 3 tree removals, 1 fire ring removal, and 2 medical walkout assists at Brainard for mildly hypothermic individuals. Grateful for our volunteers' quick response and steady presence on the trail!

Special shoutouts to this season's most active patrollers:

- Conrad L. – 18 patrols/activities
- Andy G. – 9
- Bryon L. – 9
- Lincoln G. — 9
- Cynthia G. — 8

Looking ahead, winter patrols will continue until the day before summer training. And one last exciting update: we've officially opened a new radio cache at the Ward Fire Station—a big thanks to Pam H. for making it happen!



[Check Winter Trail Conditions Here](#)

Join the Sawyer Team – Help Keep Trails Clear!

Calling all returning volunteers! We're looking for individuals interested in joining our tree-cutting (sawyer) team. Certification involves a combination of online training and a one-day, in-person session. Final training dates are TBD but will likely be in late May or early June.

To register or learn more, email winter.ipwa@gmail.com.

Get CPR Certified – Free or Low-Cost Training Available!

Boulder Rural Fire is offering free CPR training for Boulder Rural residents and \$25 training for non-residents. This AHA Friends and Family CPR course is a great opportunity for both current and new volunteers to gain a valuable certification.

Training Dates (All sessions run from 5:30–7:30 PM):

- Tuesday, May 21
- Tuesday, July 9 (Board meeting date)
- Tuesday, September 10

Location: Boulder Rural Fire Station, 6230 Lookout Rd, Boulder, CO 80301
Immediate CPR can double or triple the chances of survival after cardiac arrest. Take this simple step to be prepared for an emergency!
For more details, visit www.brfr.org, call (303) 530-9575, or scan the QR code to sign up.



Last But Not Least!

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has a new website. Check out the new USFS Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests & Pawnee National Grassland site here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/arp>

Also don't forget to sign up for the [USFS email list](#) for regular updates!

**Sign
Up**

Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?

Click the links below to learn more!

Donate!

Volunteer!

**Become a member 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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