



Saving Wilderness.
Changing Lives.



October 2020 Newsletter

Keep It Wild!

IPWA News

IPWA Used Outdoor Clothing & Gear Drive

The IPWA will be hosting a used outdoor clothing and gear drive to benefit student teachers at the University of Northern Colorado Center for Urban Education!

Read below for more details.

Wanted: New or used items in clean, usable and working condition

Outdoor clothing: Raincoats, jackets, hiking clothes, hiking shoes, hiking socks or boots

Gear: Tents, sleeping bags, daypacks, and backpacks. Children's hiking clothing, shoes and gear is also needed.

The drive will benefit: Student teachers at the University of Northern Colorado Center for Urban Education (CUE) at the Lowry Center in Denver. 70% of students teachers are students of color and 90% are first generation college students. Most of these college students do not have the extra funds to buy hiking shoes, a day pack or other gear.

View this 5 minute video to learn more about this worthwhile program at

<https://www.unco.edu/urbaned>

Items collected will be distributed during a free give away at the Center in January 2021.

Professor Jessica Feld from UNC's Center for Urban Education (CUE) states, *"If we can get our future teachers outdoors exploring, they will take their students outside more when they have their own classroom."*

Drop off date and times: Anytime until November 30th
Drop off location: 1340 6th Boulder 80302 (on the front porch)

Please email Jessica at jessica.feld@colorado.edu or call 303-817-7602 with questions or to make other arrangements.

Thank you for helping our future teachers to get outdoors!

Summer Volunteer Training Survey

To meet the challenges of COVID-19, the IPWA held online training this year for returning volunteers. The IPWA would like your feedback on this new training format. We hope to bring back in-person training next year (especially for new volunteers), however, we are exploring ways to incorporate more online/virtual training options in the future.

Your feedback is critical in helping us to improve future training programs. Thank you!

[Click here to take a brief survey!](#)

Program Updates

2020 IPWA Grant Recipients Share Their Work!

Kathryn Grabenstein (PhD candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder):
Characterizing breeding dynamics of two Colorado songbirds as climate change indicators



Laurel Brigham (PhD candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder):
Do Microclimates And Plant-Plant Interactions Change The Nature Of Range Expansions?



Molly Huber (PhD candidate, University of Colorado, Boulder):
Temperature and moisture dependence of alpine wetland gas emissions and implications for future change.



Jonathan Brooks is the Wilderness and Trails Manager for the Boulder Ranger District. Each month he'll be discussing a topic that pertains to Wilderness!

As we come to a close on a busy summer, I want to first thank all of you for your dedication, passion, and patience with less than ideal conditions for this patrol season. Without you, we would be unable to successfully educate and inform the public and protect the Wilderness resource we all love so much. THANK YOU!

Water Rights in the Wilderness

With lakes being drawn down this time of year, I wanted to touch on the complex issue of water rights in wilderness. *Please note, the information I'm providing is a general overview, as every body of water in the wilderness is different.*

The Prior Appropriation Doctrine

The majority of wilderness areas in the western US fall under the "Prior Appropriation Doctrine". This system of water appropriation was developed where water is generally scarce. The basic principles of Prior Appropriation include:

- The right to make use of water is based on diverting the water and applying it to a recognized "beneficial use."
- Water rights are separate from the land and can be sold separate from the land.
- The right to the use of water is based on who first used it. The first to use the water has the priority to its use thereafter, and use cannot be interfered with by a junior water right owner.

To understand the extent of water rights in wilderness, we look at two other parts of the Wilderness Act, though neither of these sections specifically mentions water or water rights:

- Section 4(c) affirms that the Wilderness Act is "subject to existing private rights" held prior to wilderness designation (Prior Appropriation).
- Section 4(b) establishes the mandate for "preserving the wilderness character of the [Wilderness] area."

Subjecting wilderness designation to existing private rights means any water rights existing prior to the designation of a wilderness area continue unaffected.

In summary, most water rights were established prior to wilderness designation and are held under permit with the U.S. Forest Service. We work with these water right owners on how structures can be maintained and accessed for the minimum necessary for operation. However, we rarely get any information on use of water or when reservoirs will be drawn down, unless it is for maintenance purposes.

The protection of water resources and water-dependent species was highly featured in the congressional debates favoring passage of the Wilderness Act. Senator Frank Church, widely known for his legacy of conservation initiatives, stated that *“wilderness not only is important to those who love the outdoor life and the sportsmen who hunt and fish there; it is equally needed for nature studies and general scientific inquiry, and for wise watershed and wildlife conservation.”*

Introducing Our New Wilderness Steward!



Lastly, I would like to introduce you all to Maddi Sorrentino with the [Society for Wilderness Stewardship](#). Maddi is a recent graduate of the University of Vermont, with a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology. She will be working with me this fall on Wilderness Character Monitoring (which we discussed in [January's newsletter](#)) as we finalize our elements of wilderness character monitoring and their associated indicators. I am excited to be working with her this fall!

Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?

Click the links below to learn more!

Become a member today for just
\$10!

Donate!

Volunteer!

Be sure to like and follow us on social media!

