



"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 September 2015 newsletter (and getting this out on the last day of the month still counts as September!)

As we start to come to the close of our 2015 summer hiking season, a lot of activities are taking place....

* We have had excellent hiking season! As of this past weekend, we have already done close to **450 patrols** and have made contact with more than **30,000 thousand members of the public** as part of our presence representing the Forest Service while hiking on the trails of the IP/JP Wilderness Areas. Fantastic results!

* We've wrapped up our first year of the Wilderness Ranger Internship Program. A huge thank you to Michael Anderson and Mary Kalendovsky at the US Forest Service, and Carol Kearns at the University of Colorado Baker Residence Academic Program for helping to make this a success. Of course, a special thank you to Jason Ferrell and Elliot Levy as our first two interns through the program. Check out the link to the video below that Jason put together!

* We're planning on holding a USFS National Public Lands Day project with the University of Colorado BRAP program on Sunday October 4. As part of this project, the IPWA was awarded a \$750 grant from the USFS National Environment Education Foundation (NEEF) based in Washington DC. The grant will be used to purchase light weight backpacking shovels and lightweight saws to help with trail projects - both this Fall and into the future.

* We're continuing to build out our non-profit operational infrastructure, and have recently signed up for Guidestar (an information service specializing in reporting on non-profit organizations), and PayPal (to allow us to accept donations over the web).

* We're moving forward with our plans to commence a winter patrol program starting in November of this year (with training for participants in October). A big THANK YOU to Andy Gup for driving this project!

* We've begun the planning for our Fall/Winter fund raising activities (and thanks to everyone that donates to the IPWA - we are a 100% volunteer organization and all funds received go to our programs and/or infrastructure needs). We have already teed up our Boulder Bookstore volunteer gift wrapping event (to be held the Saturday/Sunday before Christmas, along with all day Christmas Eve Day). More to come on this.

* We're also continuing to monitor the Forest Service proposal regarding designating the James Peak and Indian Peaks Wilderness areas as 'suitable for dispersed recreational shooting. While recreational shooting is currently **allowed** in the wilderness areas, your board opposes the Forest Service actively designating that the wilderness is **suitable** for recreational shooting.

* We also continue to monitor the Eldora Ski resort expansion proposal and will keep our members up to date on any news we hear on this as well.

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

Keep it wild!

Summer Patrol Update

Winding down our summer patrol season

A big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who have hiked with us this season. As mentioned, we are close to having completed 450 patrols and have made contact so far with 31,188 members of the public while on our patrols. In addition, we've chatted with more than 550 folks who have had their dogs off leash in the wilderness (out of a total of ~ 4,500 with dogs on leash or close to 90% compliance) and have also destroyed more than 100 camp fire rings. All of this was done with ~ 3500 volunteer hours that our members have put in while hiking with the IPWA.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!

Wilderness Ranger Internship Program - a HUGE success!

Kudos to Jason Farrell and Elliot Levey

We completed our first ever Wilderness Ranger Internship program and a huge THANK YOU to our two interns, Jason and Elliot. They had an absolutely fantastic summer experience with work ranging from attending a week long wilderness workshop, to interacting with members of the public while on patrol, to putting in new signage on many of the trails (if you see any new signs in the JP/IP wilderness areas, it was probably these two who did it along with Mary!), to performing other trail maintenance projects. To listen to a quick two minute video put together by Jason on his experiences this summer, check out this link that takes you to the main IPWA website where the video is posted:

www.indianpeakswilderness.org

..and a special THANK YOU to all of you who contribute to the IPWA as your contributions helped to fund this program in 2015!

IPWA Wins Grant from USFS National Environment Education Foundation!

Celebrating National Public Lands Day (and we're doing this on October 4)

The IPWA recently won a \$750 grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation to help celebrate National Public Lands Day in 2015. This award will go toward the purchase of lightweight shovels and saws which we will be 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).

This year, we'll be celebrating USFS National Public Lands Day with a full day project up in the James Peak Wilderness Area on 10/4. We'll be hiking into the Forest Lakes area from the East Portal trail head to clear out garbage, remove fire rings, and close off as many social trails as possible. More importantly (if even more exciting), we'll be doing this with first year students from the University of Colorado (CU) Baker Residence Academic Program (BRAP). So, not only will we be helping the wilderness, but at the same time will be introducing 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 this program and thank both CU BRAP and the NEEF for their support!



National Public Lands Day



Guidestar and PayPal sign-up

IPWA now listed on Guidestar and using PayPal!

We have just completed updating the IPWA account profile on GuideStar. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. They envision a nonprofit sector strong enough to tackle the great challenges of our time. GuideStar's Nonprofit Profiles provide members of the public - and non profit organizations - with the information you needed to make smart decisions, build connections, and learn from each other to achieve our missions.

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. We'll be providing more details on how to use GuideStar in future newsletters (as we are still working through a couple of items with them). As always, thanks for your support!



USFS Recreational Shooting Proposal in the IP/JP Wilderness.

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

As we mentioned last month, 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 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 keep you abreast of updates as they occur.

IPWA Winter Patrols - Another new program in 2015!

IPWA providing winter patrols for interested volunteers

Winter patrolling is a great opportunity for volunteers that wish to hike all year long. Due to the

high-alpine nature of wintertime hiking or skiing we have additional training and requirements.

* Winter season officially starts Nov 16 and goes until the day before summer training 2016.

* We will have a mandatory one day training session (10/17) around patrolling in the wilderness in the winter, special requirements requested by the USFS, and radio usage.

* Winter Patrollers will be required to get their Advanced First Aid certificates (two day class) and have this completed PRIOR to performing patrols.

* Before hiking, winter patrol volunteers must have a SPOT device, DeLorme InReach or PLB.

We're excited about the opportunities that this program presents for our volunteers and will provide more details over the next several weeks.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 30: End of 2015 Summer Patrol Season (NEW DATE!!)

Our error in the last newsletter (so apologies!). We will be ending our summer patrol season on Wednesday 9/30 as rifle season starts 10/1 in the IP/JP Wilderness Areas. .

Sunday October 4: James Peak Wilderness Clean-up project

We will be working with students from CU BRAP to perform a fire ring removal and trail clean-up project prior to the end of the hiking season at Forest Lakes in the James Peak Wilderness Area. As mentioned, this is in celebration of the USFS National Public Lands Day. This will be our first year of working on such a program and we're thrilled to be working on this program in collaboration with students from CU. Andy Gup will be coordinating this project and a huge THANK YOU to Andy!

Saturday October 10: End of 2015 Patrol Season volunteer party (members only)

We're picked Saturday October 10 at 4 PM for our volunteer end of season party. This is always a fun event to share stories from the hiking season, meet other IPWA volunteers, and start the plans for 2016. More details to follow!

Saturday October 17: Winter Patrol training date

(location to be finalized)

We are excited to announce that we will be commencing formal winter patrols in the IP/JP Wilderness Areas this winter! We are in the midst of finalizing the training for this day and are looking forward to the start the kick-off of the winter hiking season.

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www.indianpeakswilderness.org