



## Notes from the Chair

### IPWA Volunteers & Friends of the Indian Peaks/James Peak Wilderness Areas

Welcome to our June 2015 newsletter!

We've had a very eventful and productive past few months. Our focus has been on getting ready for our summer hiking/patrolling season and over the past two months we have:

- \* Finalized the planning for our training day on Saturday June 13,
- \* Interviewed and accepted over **25 new IPWA volunteers** who will join us on our training day,
- \* Interviewed a number of excellent candidates for our Wilderness Ranger Internship Program and extended offers to two CU students,
- \* Continued to monitor the Eldora ski area expansion proposal,
- \* Updated our Volunteer Member website for scheduling and reporting on patrols,
- \* Reviewed scholarship proposals from a number of CU graduate students,
- \* Started the planning for our Fall Fund Raising activities, and
- \* Reviewed the results of our pilot winter patrol program in the Brainard Lake Recreate Area (which was a huge success!).

We're looking forward to another fabulous hiking season up in the IP/JP Wilderness Areas and can't wait to get up in mountains soon!

## Eldora Ski Area Expansion Proposal

### IPWA update

We've been monitoring the recent news from the Forest Service on the draft plans for expansion of the Eldora ski area. This is an issue that is important to many and as a Board ***we are opposed to the expansion plans as currently drafted.*** For those who desire more information on the project, the following link will provide information as presented by the Forest Service (which is in favor of the expansion plans):

<http://www.eldoraeis.com/>

For those who would like to receive another perspective, the following link will take you to the Middle Creek Boulder coalition (which is opposed to the expansion plans):

<http://www.middlebouldercoalition.org/>

We will continue to monitor this proposal and provide updates as they are available.

## Wilderness Ranger Internship Program

### IPWA/Forest Service/University of Colorado pilot program

Our Wilderness Ranger Internship Program is officially underway!

Starting this summer, the IPWA in partnership with the Forest Service and the Baker Residential Academic Program (BRAP) from the University of Colorado will all be working together to create a Wilderness Ranger Internship Program.

This program will be focused on providing two college age students the ability to get first-hand experience in wilderness management activities. The students will work directly with the Forest Service on performing visitor education on wilderness ethics/regulations while on patrols, performing trail maintenance and restoration projects, assisting with natural and social resource monitoring and preparing an end of season presentation. The IPWA is taking the



lead in putting the program in place and funding the students with a stipend during the ten week program, while the FS will be managing the interns on a daily basis and providing oversight and guidance, with BRAP sourcing candidates for the position.

We interviewed a number of qualified candidates during April and finalized on two individuals who will be starting the program this coming week - Elliot Levey and Jason Farrell. They will be kicking off the program by attending a week long Forest Service wilderness training event in Gunnison CO, and then will be joining us for our training session on Saturday June 13. For our volunteers, please make sure to take the opportunity to meet them!

---

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

---

### Friday June 12:

#### **Brainard Lake Recreation Area Gate Opening (current plans!)**

Current plans are to have the gate opened at the Brainard Lake Recreation Area on Friday June 12. However, with the significant amount of rain that we've seen over the past several weeks in the Front Range, this may need to be pushed back. We'll keep you posted and let everyone know what the gate is opened.

---

### Saturday June 13:

#### **IPWA Volunteer Patrol Training**

We will be holding our annual volunteer patrol training at the Forest Service offices on Saturday June 13 starting at 7:15 AM (continental breakfast) with the general session for returning and new volunteers starting at 8 AM. More information will be coming soon!

---

### July/August (Dates TBD):

#### **IPWA Brainard Lake Trail Projects**

This year, the IPWA will be working jointly with the Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) and two joint trail projects in the Brainard Lake Recreation Area. For those not familiar with WRV, it is a non-profit organization that provides an opportunity for people to come together, learn about their natural environment, and take direct action to restore and care for the land. We'll be providing more details on the specific dates and trail projects in the next few months.



## Saturday September (Date TBD):

### IPWA Brainard Lake Trail Project with University of Colorado students

Another exciting event we have planned is our last trail project of the season at Brainard Lake - this time with students from the University of Colorado. We will be partnering with the Baker Residential Academic Program (BRAP), the US Forest Services, our own volunteers, and members of the public, to continue our work from last year on the Mitchell Lake trail

## Forest Service & Trail Condition Updates - Boulder Ranger District

### 2015 Summer Patrol Planning

The Forest Service has a number of seasonal hires ready and willing to tackle the summer hiking season. As a result, we'll be using this section of our newsletter to provide updates on trail conditions, answer frequently asked questions from our volunteers and visitors, and keep our audience abreast of news from the James Peak and Indian Peaks Wilderness Areas.



More to come in the upcoming weeks!

## Board Updates

So, all in all a very busy April and May. As always, please send us any and all feedback. We are interested in hearing from you! And remember...

"Keep it Wild"

### Stay Connected

Join Our Mailing List



Forward To A Friend

Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance | [hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org) |

[www.indianpeakswilderness.org](http://www.indianpeakswilderness.org)