



Notes from the Board

IPWA Volunteers (Members Only Newsletter)

This newsletter is a quick update for IPWA volunteers on a variety of items to review post our training session on June 13. Thanks again for volunteering and don't hesitate to send any questions our way.

Keep it Wild!

Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BLRA): Trail Head Gate Opening 7/10

Brainard Lake Recreation Area Trail Head gate opening July 10

While the winter gate opened earlier this month, the gate to the various trail heads in the Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BLRA) is tentatively scheduled to open on July 10 (date may change). For those who have been up to the BLRA, there is parking available at the east side of Brainard Lake (though it has been already filling up at times on weekends).

For the most recent information on Brainard Lake Recreation Area, visit:

www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/brainard

IPWA Public Web Site #1: Access to Trail Conditions

Public Access to Trail Conditions

Our main public facing web site now has access to summary trips reports! This means two things for our volunteer members:

1) Effective last Friday, the summary information which you write into your trip report is now available to the general public (please note - none of your personal information is shared!). The information that is shared is below:

- * Date of Hike
- * Trailhead Start
- * Destination
- * Trail Condition
- * Trail Information

IPWA Login

Trail Condition Report - Last 14 Days

Show past 14 days - [Show past 28 days \(1 month\)](#) - [Show past 180 days \(6 months\)](#)

Date Hiked	Trailhead Start	Trail Destinations	Trail Condition	Trail Information
06-28-2015	Beaver Creek (Mt Audubon)	Mt Audubon Trail (hiked a portion of the trail)	Snow Packed in Places	Snow drifts continue to line parts of the trail up to Beaver Creek/Mt Audubon Junction. Be prepared for wet and muddy spots on the trail, and water flowing down the trail, until the snow completely melts.
06-28-2015	Long Lake	Lake Isabelle	Very Muddy	Trail is very muddy in places with some melting snow, so it can be a bit slippery.
06-28-2015	Moffat Tunnel East Portal	Crater Lakes	Somewhat Muddy	
06-28-2015	Mitchell Lake	Mitchell Lake Trail (TH to Mitchell Lake) Mitchell Lake Trail (Mitchell Lake to Blue Lake)	Snow Packed in Places	Very muddy and wet sections up to Mitchell Lake. Then soft snow conditions past that point.
06-27-2015	Long Lake	Jean Luning Trail	Snow Packed in Places	Trail very wet and in places snow packed. Public should be advised to wear boots and

2) As a result, please ensure that the text box titled **'Trail Conditions'** in your trip report is accurately completed as members of the public will be reviewing what you write (and we don't have anyone proofreading or checking the reports prior to having them be made public!). We're doing this as a service to both the Forest Service and the general public so that our summary report information is made available as soon as possible. The goal is to help decrease the inflow of calls that the Forest Service has to handle regarding general trail conditions in the IP/JP Wilderness Areas, along with providing the public with details on trail conditions so that they will then be prepared when entering the wilderness with appropriate gear, footwear, etc.

IPWA Public Website #2: Contest to change our Trail Conditions icon!

Help Replace our Trail Conditions Icon!

We would love a new image for the front page of our public facing website for the link to the trail conditions. Currently there is a quick placeholder icon that we would love to replace (see below). Please submit your proposed image(s) to hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org by July 15 so that we can make a change by the end of the month. Please include the following

- format must be JPG, GIF, or PNG
- it must have the words "Click Here for Trail Conditions" easily readable in it.
- please do not use any copyrighted material
- size height min 50 to max70px, width min150px to max300px



August Pot Luck Picnic - Date TBD

Early/Mid-August IPWA Volunteer Pot Luck Picnic

We are in the very early stages of planning a mid-summer pot luck picnic for our volunteers. This would take place someplace in Boulder during a week day (probably a Thursday evening) and allow our members to come together to share stories of the summer, get better acquainted with each other, and help celebrate our fantastic organization. More details to follow!

Packet Pick-up for Volunteers not at training

Packets at Forest Service Office

For those members unable to attend training, we held our make-up session last Thursday evening. As discussed on that conference call, you can pick up your packets of information (Brainard Pass, dog cards, back country permit) at the Forest Service office off of Yarmouth Avenue.

Volunteer Training: 'Voice of the Ecosystem'

Voice of the Ecosystem

As part of our June 13 training session for new volunteers, we spent time in the afternoon discussing the concepts around 'Voice of the Ecosystem.' As this information was not included in your packets, we are including here the basic concepts around this topic:

AUTHORITY OF THE RESOURCE (ATR) is a concept developed by Professor George Wallace at Colorado State University. "Resource" refers to ecosystems - land and wildlife. "Authority" refers to ecosystems speaking to hikers and campers regarding how their actions are impacting soils, vegetation, water and wildlife. Translating ATR into the **VOICE OF THE ECOSYSTEM (VOE)** helps the concept to be more easily understood by both volunteers and visitors. The goal of IPWA volunteers is to educate campers and hikers how they can help reduce erosion and damage to trails and campsites by looking and listening for this voice.

Volunteers in their conversations with visitors should explain that these wilderness areas are public lands and the lands and wildlife belong to all of us. Therefore all of us have the responsibility to protect them as we hike and camp. How to do this can be related to the particular circumstance. Ownership and responsibility for public lands can come up as you talk about staying on snowy or muddy trails, talking to someone with a dog off or leash, or just watching a deer or looking at a beautiful view as you chat with a visitor.

Point out to hikers walking on vegetation beside a rocky or wet trail that with each step on grasses and plants the vegetation in effect says "ouch". Footsteps of hikers off the main trail invites others to follow further trampling the vegetation which soon dies exposing the soils. Tell them that next time they visit they should wear sturdy boots so they can walk on rocks and in mud and snow.

Explain to someone with dog off leash that dogs frighten and harass wildlife, that there can be marmots or pika or ptarmigans up the trail or perhaps a moose in the valley which if annoyed could really hurt their dog. The chirps of pika and marmots are a signal their rocky homes are in danger. Stress that the wildlife belongs to all of us and each of us have an obligation to protect them.

If you see someone shortcutting, point out that with each step they trample the vegetation and expose soils which then wash away with rain or snow. Their footsteps invite other hikers to follow which increase the erosion. This affects the health of the whole surrounding ecosystem.

As a volunteer when you take your first steps on the trail, look around and identify the elements of the ecosystem - a bird, a stream, grasses, flowers and soils. Begin to think in terms of how the ecosystem reacts to your footsteps and those of others. This will make it easier for you to help visitors understand the voice of the ecosystem. Be respectful and friendly with all visitors. Some may not wish to talk. With others you may have a good conversation and begin to help them understand how the ecosystem speaks to them.

Backpacker's Pantry: Pro Deal 2015 for IPWA Volunteers (Members only)

Discounted backpacking food from Backpacker's Pantry!

Here is ordering information that enables you to purchase high quality freeze-dried backpacking food at 52% off retail from IPWA sponsor Backpacker's Pantry, a Boulder-based company that shares our wilderness preservation ethic. That's right, basically half-price.

You are welcome to order whatever you need for use on your patrol hikes AND/OR for your personal needs for any other outdoor adventures you may be taking!

Please do NOT give out our discount code for use by anyone outside of IPWA. This helps ensure that IPWA continues to be able to extend this perk to our volunteers in the future.

Ordering process:

1. Go to <http://www.backpackerspantry.com/> and fill up your shopping cart
2. Enter 2015IPWA In the 'DiSCOUNT CODES' box on the Shopping Cart page
3. Click 'apply coupon'
4. Click 'Proceed to Checkout'

Be Safe Out There!

'Me/You/Goo/Who/BooHoo'

In closing, please remember to be safe in the wilderness and always make sure that you are comfortable engaging in any situation that comes your way. Your safety is our primary concern! As discussed at our training, when presented with a 'situation' (e.g. dogs off leash, camp fires in the wilderness, injured hiker, members of the public hiking up into a storm, etc.), remember to perform your own quick 'situational assessment' prior to engaging, considering the following:

- "Me" Are you comfortable engaging? If so great; if not disengage.
"You" What is the situation/status/demeanor of the individual you are engaging with?
"Goo" Anything going on in the environment you should be concerned with (e.g. lightning?)
"Who" How many individuals are you addressing? What is the general scene like?
"BooHoo" What is your summary assessment? Thumbs up or Thumbs down?

As always, our goal is to strive for the minimum level of contact necessary with visitors to disseminate information or establish a presence. A simple "Hello" will suffice for most contacts. When visitors do initiate contact with questions or comments, always be personable and introduce yourself as an Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance volunteer and/or Forest Service volunteer. Then address their questions - and/or situation - based on your comfort level!

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www.indianpeakswilderness.org