



**Wilderness
Stewardship
Since 1985**



May 2026 Newsletter

Indian & James Peak Wilderness News

Know Before You Go

As warmer weather returns and trail traffic increases, it's a great time to check current conditions before heading out. The Forest Service maintains up-to-date information on both seasonal fire restrictions and road access, and staying informed helps protect wilderness areas and makes for a smoother adventure on the trail!

Learn more here:

- [Current USFS Fire Restrictions](#)
- [Road & Access Conditions](#)

Get Free for Three Trail Projects This Summer!

Free up a Saturday -- or three! -- to help IPWA and the U.S. Forest Service do light maintenance along wilderness trails. It's another way you can give back, meet fellow volunteers, and enjoy the backcountry. Save these dates and stay tuned for project details and signups: July 11, August 22, and September 19.

Questions? Email Jere ("Jerry") Paulmeno, IPWA Trail Projects Coordinator, at trail.projects@ipwa.org.



Program Updates

Winter Patrol Update

Shout out to our Winter Patrol Team! We've had an excellent turnout for patrols this winter - the stats below are incredible! Thank you for all of your patrolling efforts! For patrollers still needing to get in their 4 patrols, there's still some time and don't forget that the USFS & the public loves our spring season reports for thaw conditions, so continue on until our season ends June 5th!

Winter Program Stats:

- Total Patrols: 134
- Meaningful Interactions: 342
- Total Hours: 715
- Total Miles: 970!!
- Trees Removed: 75

Winter Patroller Stats:

- Most Patrols & Mileage & Patrols out of Multiple Trailheads:
 - Conrad L. - 22 patrols / 166 miles!!
 - Mark M. - 17 patrols / 90.5 miles! (1st year volunteer!)
 - Dan P. - 13 patrols / 71.5 miles!
- Most Meaningful Interactions:
 - Lincoln G., Conrad L., & Sara R.

Reports from the Field:

- Meaningful interactions included: trail conditions, 10 essentials/preparedness, directions, & what trails dogs are allowed on in BLRA
- Recent snows and warm weather has made for some soft, slushy, & muddy conditions - wear waterproof boots & forge through puddles to stay on trails

- Winter Coordinators



Volunteers: Peter F., Mark M., & Amy F.

Film Premiere Recap - The Wilderness by Andy Sameshima and Cade Birgfeld

On May 3rd, 2026, IPWA hosted the premiere of *The Wilderness*, a documentary produced by Colorado College students Andy Sameshima and Cade Birgfeld. The IPWA film festival was held at the Kress Cinema & Lounge in Greeley, CO.

The documentary follows IPWA volunteers as they carry out their duties to preserve and protect the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness. Andy and Cade masterfully captured the profound meaning, community, and sense of place that come with volunteering in service of our public lands. We are in awe of their cinematic skill and honored to have been part of the production.

Huge thank you to The Kress Cinema & Lounge for hosting and our prize drawing sponsors - Fjallraven, Haven Iverson, & Kaley Alie Art!

[Watch The Film](#)

First Aid Class Recap

IPWA recently hosted a First Aid training session for both new and returning volunteers, with 27 participants in attendance. The class provided valuable, hands-on instruction designed to build confidence and preparedness in emergency situations. A special thank you to our partner, Joe Cox, for delivering comprehensive, in-depth training with a unique wilderness focus. His expertise

ensured our volunteers are better equipped to respond effectively and safely while out on patrols.



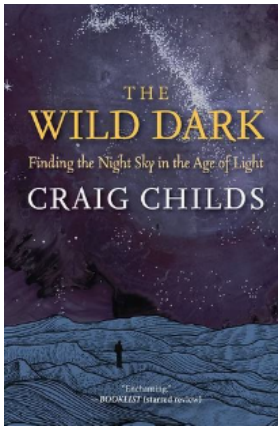
Reading Group

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 28th: [The Wild Dark: Finding the Night Sky in the Age of Light](#), Craig Childs
RSVP

July 23rd: [Night Magic](#), Leigh Ann Henion, **RSVP**



A night sky is not an absence of light; it is the presence of the universe. In *The Wild Dark*, master storyteller Craig Childs embarks on a quest to bike from the blinding lights of the Las Vegas Strip to one of the darkest spots in North America. As an explorer of both the natural world and the human imagination, Childs is the perfect guide to help us rediscover the heavens and to ask: "What does it do to us to not see the night sky?"

Naturalist Corner

Meet the Golden Mantled Ground Squirrel

By Rob Pudim

You make the call! Is it a golden-mantled ground squirrel or a chipmunk?



This common ground squirrel is often mistaken for a chipmunk because of its resemblance. However, it is larger and has no stripes on its head. The tail is also shorter. On its neck and shoulders is a russet to golden "mantle." It also has cheek pouches for carrying food. Sometimes called "Goldies" these squirrels lead an interesting life in the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness areas.

Learn more about them here:

[Read The Article](#)

IPWA Volunteer Corner

Training Day

We are less than two weeks away from our in-person Summer patrol training day!

Thank you to everyone that has completed their online training. If you have not done so, please complete the online training by the end of day on Sunday, May 31st. If you are a returning volunteer that is attending training day, you are still required to complete the online training.

We appreciate all of the returning volunteers that are attending and helping support the day, and are excited to welcome a great group of new volunteers to the organization!

Immediately following training day, IPWA will be hosting a volunteer social hour at Harlow Platts Community Park, which is roughly three-quarters of a mile from Summit Middle School. We encourage everyone to attend and enjoy each others company following a great day of learning.

Returning volunteers not attending training day are encouraged to pick up their packet between 7:30 and 8:15 at Summit Middle School or after 4:00 at the volunteer social hour at Harlow Platts Community Park.

Final training day details will be sent out to attendees the week of June 1st.

Important Dates - New & Returning Volunteers	Dates
On-line training: New & Returning Volunteers	5/1 - 5/31
Summer Patrol Scheduling Opens: Mentor/Mentee	6/1
Summer Patrol Scheduling Opens: Returning	6/6
Summer Patrol Training Day - Summit Middle School	6/6; 7:30 - 4:00
Volunteer Social - Harlow Platts Community Park	6/6; 4:00 - 6:00
Summer Patrol Season Begins	6/7

Facebook Group for Volunteers

If you haven't already, join our **Volunteer-Only Facebook Group**! We'll be using this space to cross-post program updates, event registration links, and reminders. It's also a great way to coordinate and connect with fellow volunteers!

[Join Here](#)

Calling All Volunteers!

Ever wonder how IPWA is managed?
Have questions or comments for the IPWA Board?

We'd like to invite all current volunteers 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](#)

Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?

Click the links below to learn more!

[Donate!](#)

[Volunteer!](#)

[Become a supporter 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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