



**Wilderness
Stewardship
Since 1985**

July 2026 Newsletter

Indian & James Peak Wilderness News

Stage 2 Fire Restrictions !!

In response to the fire danger across the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, [Stage 2 fire restrictions](#) are in effect for National Forest lands in Larimer, Boulder, Gilpin, Clear Creek, and Grand counties. This includes all of IPW/JPW and the surrounding National Forest lands.

- Stage 2 restrictions prohibit all campfires, including within developed campgrounds and recreation areas.
- Stage 2 restrictions also prohibit other activities with a high risk of causing wildfires, such as smoking outdoors and parking on grass.
- Gas or propane stoves or grills with an on/off switch are permitted in areas cleared of brush and debris within three feet of the device.
- Here are the links to the USFS orders for [Boulder and Clear Creek Ranger Districts](#) and [Sulphur Ranger District](#).

Monsoon Season Safety Reminders

Monsoon season is underway and many areas have storms in the forecast. Websites like [Weather.gov](#) allow visitors to search localized forecasts for the trails they are interested in visiting. Before heading out, be mindful of weather forecasts and watch for signs of building storms as weather can change quickly! Plan on hiking early and dropping into the trees before afternoon storms break.

Program Updates

Trail Products

Visitors to the Indian Peaks Wilderness will find it easier to stay on route along 3.6 miles of King Lake Trail #901, thanks to our July 11 volunteer trail crew! Led by USFS Wilderness & Trails Lead Nick Walden, the team cleared brush and removed downed trees up to the junction with Bob and Betty Lakes Trail #810, building on earlier sawyer efforts.

The day was both fun and productive, with volunteers learning and practicing sawyer work under expert guidance. The Forest Service has received positive feedback from visitors—likely including many trail runners we met along the way!

Ready to be part of the next crew? Join us Saturday, August 22, as we head above timberline toward King Lake. We'll be trimming willows, clearing small tree limbs, and tackling other light maintenance tasks. We'd love to have you out there with us. Sign up [here](#) and keep an eye on your email for details. Questions? Reach out to Jere ("Jerry") Paulmeno, IPWA Trail Projects Coordinator, at trail.projects@ipwa.org.



Summer Patrol Updates

We've completed 337 patrols covering over 2,508 miles! Along the way, we've naturalized over 40 illegal fire rings, drowned a live illegal campfire, cleared over 50 downed trees, made progress on data collection projects for our Forest Service partners, and had

wonderful interactions with backpackers, anglers, and hikers about Leave No Trace and our shared love of Colorado's wild places!



Hessie Trailhead Outreach

IPWA, the Forest Service, and Boulder County recently hosted a joint outreach event at the Hessie Trailhead. Beneath two canopies near the trailhead and the Forest Service cabin, we shared information with visitors heading into the area and highlighted the importance of this special place. Outreach tables included maps, interpretive activities for kids and adults, Leave No Trace resources, and COTREX info, creating a welcoming space for visitors to learn and ask questions.



Trailhead Hosting at East Portal

We've hosted 3 days at East Portal this month, counting 500+ visitors each day. Wag bag distribution has been popular with backpackers, and we've had great interactions about Leave No Trace camping and discussions of the fire ban. Returning backpackers report NO CAMPFIRES SEEN overnight!

Thanks to Amy F, Rob P, Mary K, Joan W, Ed G, Mary C., and Yonah C. for sharing information and answering questions.

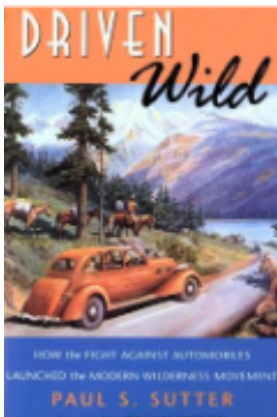


Reading Group

Please join us to discuss books about wilderness, nature, and conservation. All are welcome!

We'll meet on the September 24 at 3:30 pm at The Rayback Collective in Boulder. Food and beverages available.

Driven Wild: How the Fight Against Automobiles Launched the Modern Wilderness Movement, Paul S. Sutter **RSVP**



In *Driven Wild*, Paul Sutter tells the story of how growing concern about cars, roads, and human access to wild places helped inspire the modern wilderness movement. Through the perspectives of important conservation leaders, he shows how their efforts to protect nature were also about preserving something essential in ourselves.

Naturalist Corner

Naturalist Spotlight: Butterflies

By Rob Pudim

"The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough." — Rabindranath Tagore



Here in the West, they flutter around water seeps on the trails. These seeps are called "ojos" in the old Spanish Norteno dialect from the 16th Century which means a seep or slow spring. Think of Ojito, Ojo Caliente, Ojo Seco or Ojo Felix. Have you seen me on the trails?

Learn more about them here:

[Read The Article](#)

Bonus: Check out the article [Are Colorado moose invasive? New research says no](#)

Now Accepting Submissions for the Photo Contest!

We will be accepting submissions for the 2026 Photo Contest starting September 1st!

The IPWA holds an Annual Photo Contest to showcase the beauty of the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas. This contest is open to IPWA supporters and volunteers. Each individual may submit a maximum of 2 scenic photos (no people or dogs may be in the photos). To learn more and see past winners, visit our [Photo Contest page](#).

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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