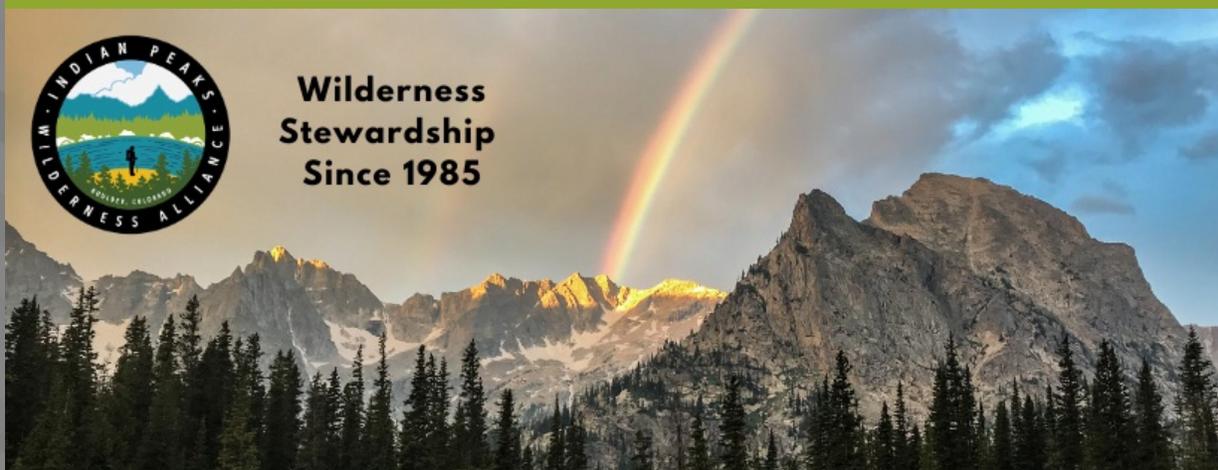# April 2021 Newsletter

IPWA News

Reminder: Returning Volunteer Registration

Returning volunteers who wish to patrol this summer must complete registration by April 30th. **We will not be able to accept late registrations** this year, so please complete registration as soon as possible. If you are not returning or wish to skip this season, please email us at **hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org**. Thank you!

IPW Backcountry Permits Now Online

Starting March 16, 2021, Indian Peaks Wilderness backcountry permits will be available for purchase at **Recreation.gov**. Through the new system, customers will be able to view permit availability, book a reservation, pay online, print permits, and manage reservations from one account. Permits will no longer be issued in person or via mail.

Permits are required for all overnight camping in Indian Peaks Wilderness Area from June 1 to Sept. 15 and are always required for groups of 8-12 people.

Learn more here!

Program Updates

2021 Trail Projects

Mark your calendars! We have four trail maintenance trips planned for this summer and early fall:

**Saturday, June 26th - Buchanan Pass Trail
Saturday, July 24th - Rainbow Lakes Trail
Saturday, August 28th - East Portal Crater Lakes Trail
Saturday, September 25th - East Portal**

We will be cleaning and improving drainage on these highly visited trails.

More information will be available as these dates approach. We look forward to seeing you on these trips!

2021 Paddon/Gellhorn Wilderness Research Grant: Grant Recipients Selected!

The IPWA is excited to announce our 2021 Research Grant recipients!

Since 1998, the IPWA has awarded graduate and undergraduate research grants with a focus on ecological impacts in alpine and sub-alpine environments. The research topics provide a better understanding of the ecology of Colorado high country. These grants honor David Paddon and Joyce Gellhorn.

Airy Peralta

Scott Nordstrom

PhD Candidate, University of Colorado

Project Title:
"Improving forecasting of pika occupancy in Rocky Mountain National Park using microclimatic variables as predictors."

Airy wants to evaluate the role of microclimatic variables in controlling the distribution of the American pika, a climate-sensitive species that is considered the National Park Service's "canary in the coal mine" for climate change.

Project Title:
"Do shading and soil moisture influence flowering time in alpine wildflowers?"

Scott aims to study the influences of fine-scale variation in sunlight, soil moisture, soil temperature, and snowmelt on the timing of flowering of two typical subalpine wildflowers commonly found both in meadows and forest understories. This research can help refine our predictions about the fate of alpine plants in heterogeneous environments under climate change conditions.

Learn more about the Paddon/Gellhorn Research Grant

Winter Patrols Update

Winter Patrollers will continue patrolling until the day before summer training in early June. Additionally, they will be piloting IPWA's brand new, online scheduling system and help get it ready for the upcoming busy summer season. One of the new features that everyone is raving about is the ability to upload photos! We know this has been requested for years.

Patrollers are also reporting that spring-time hikers are out and about, many of them underdressed and unprepared for winter conditions. Volunteers assisted with a quick search for a temporarily lost hiker that wandered off trail, and have provided directions to hikers that had become disoriented. A reminder that, even as the weather warms in the foothills, there's still plenty of snow in the mountains and it's easy to lose the trail if you step off a few feet.

Check Winter Trail Conditions Here!

Photos provided by Leslie Brodhead (left) and Kelly Prendergast (right).

Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?
Click the links below to learn more!

Become a member today for just $10!

Donate!

Volunteer!

Be sure to like and follow us on social media!