



## Notes from the Chair

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

Welcome to our June 2015 mid-month newsletter (well, a few days past the middle of the month....)

We'll send out these email updates during the summer hiking season to give our volunteers and friends news on what is going on in the Indian Peaks and James Peaks Wilderness Areas. We'll keep the mid-month newsletter short and sweet to just focus on trail conditions and answer any frequently asked questions that we get during the summer hiking season.

Due to the wet weather we have been recently having, please be prepared for heavy snowpack up in the mountains and wet/muddy trails (and please take along appropriate gear!) - even into middle of July.

Keep it Wild!

## Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BLRA): Winter Gate Opening

### Brainard Lake Recreation Area winter gate opening tomorrow 6/19 at 8 AM

Due to heavy snowpack and unsafe conditions, the Brainard Lake Recreation Area opening has been tentatively scheduled tomorrow **June 19**. **The road west of the lake to the Long Lake and Mitchell Lake Trailheads will likely open later in June. Pawnee Campground is scheduled to open on June 26.**

Northwestern Colorado received a large amount of snow in May. Snowpack levels for high elevation areas west of Boulder are at 320 percent of normal for this time of year, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. At the Brainard Lake Recreation Area, where snowpack in June is a normal occurrence, the above-average amount is melting slowly in some areas but not others.

Recent storms have oversaturated soils and loosened tree roots, creating hazardous trees - both leaning and snagged - which pose a risk of falling and injuring somebody, especially on windy days. Public safety is the primary concern for delaying the opening date. Forest Service crews will be working to remove these hazards prior to opening. For more information and regulations for the Brainard Lake Recreation Area visit:

[www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/brainard](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/brainard)

*(Picture below is the exit out of Pawnee Campground at BLRA)*



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## Other Trail Reports

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### 4th of July Trailhead: Arapahoe Pass trail to Diamond Lake June 7

Road clear to 4th of July trailhead...but muddy...trail up to Arapahoe Pass/Diamond Lake junction is in decent shape...lots of water of course for this time of year and having to post hole through a number of 1' banks of snow on trail in spots. Trail down to creek past the Diamond Lake/Arapahoe Pass junction is lots of snow drifts and post holing. 1/2 down to creek trail disappears and is very difficult, if not impossible, to find trail to creek...Immediately on opposite side of creek, trail is impossible to find due to large amount of snow....Diamond Lake is still covered in ice, snow pack is probably at the 1' - 2' in spots...

*(Picture below is bridge across North Fork Middle Boulder Creek heading toward Diamond Lake)*



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### Moffat Tunnel East Portal: Forest Lake trail to Arapahoe Lakes Junction June 14

Very muddy conditions in spots after the Wilderness boundary sign. After the 2nd foot bridge past the South Boulder Creek/Forest Lakes Trail junction I started to encounter snow. Trail was snowy and snow packed past that point.

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## Hessie Trail Head: King Lake Trail..Lost Lake June 14

Trail alternated from dry to muddy to river like and snow packed in places. At 10,250 elevation and approximately 3.7 miles from shuttle stop, trail became completely covered in snow...Trail to Lost Lake was muddy in places but passable.

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