



# Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance

Website: [www.ipwa.org](http://www.ipwa.org)

Main email: [hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org)

Summer Patrol Coordinator email: [summer.patrols@ipwa.org](mailto:summer.patrols@ipwa.org)

# Volunteer Handbook

2026 Edition



In Partnership with U.S. Forest Service  
Boulder Ranger District  
2140 Yarmouth Ave, Boulder, CO 80301



# Emergency Information

## Emergency Phone Numbers

- Dial **911** in emergency situations including but not limited to serious injury, wildlife, or unlawful activity that requires immediate attention.
- IPW - Boulder County Sheriff's Dispatch: **303-441-4444**
- JPW only - Gilpin County Sheriff's Dispatch: **303-582-5511 or -5500**

## Emergency call box locations

(Pick up receiver and dial 911 to connect to Emergency Services)

- St. Vrain: Outside Allenspark Fire Station
- Camp Dick: Across Peak-to-Peak Hwy from entrance & north
- Brainard: Winter parking lot near warming hut
- Hessie: End of pavement from Eldora
- East Portal: West end of parking lot near trailhead

## If You Are Injured

**Step 1:** Seek proper medical attention immediately.

**Step 2:** Contact [hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org) **and** one of the following people for injury forms and billing information within 48 hours:

- **Lyle Skaar: 303-541-2521; Lyle.Skaar@usda.gov**
- **Albuquerque Service Center: 1-877-372-7248 #2 OWCP**

## Billing Address

**US Forest Service, Attn: Lyle Skaar  
2140 Yarmouth Ave; Boulder, CO 80301**

## Boulder Ranger District

Visitor Information

970-295-6600 (*press 0 to leave a message*)  
email: [visitarp@usda.gov](mailto:visitarp@usda.gov)

Wilderness & Trails Manager:

Lyle Skaar                      303-541-2521  
email: [Lyle.skaar@usda.gov](mailto:Lyle.skaar@usda.gov)

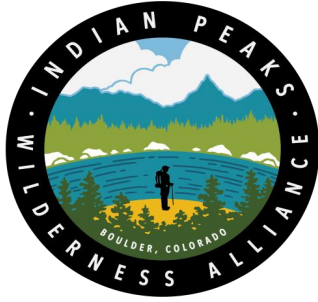
Law Enforcement Officer (LEO): Payton McCully

720-470-3670

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# We welcome you to the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA).

Welcome!

Each year, you play an important role in the preservation of two of the most beautiful and valuable Wilderness areas in the country. There are currently over 100 IPWA volunteers who represent the US Forest Service and contribute over 3,500 volunteer hours a year.

IPWA volunteers use the Leave No Trace principles and Dr. Wallace's *Authority of the Resource* Technique to educate visitors about responsible recreation by emphasizing their potential impact on the natural environment rather than emphasizing regulations. Our shared understanding of the importance and value of this natural resource brings us together as one Alliance for the preservation of Wilderness.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the IPWA, we thank you for helping to keep our Wilderness wild.

- IPWA Board of Directors

## **IPWA History & Mission**

The Indian Peaks Wilderness (IPW) was established on October 11th, 1978. The Wilderness designation increased the already heavy visitation to the area. Impacts by visitors included cutting trees for firewood, erosion around lakes from campsites, and many intertwining social trails.

Concerned about this damage and degradation, Dr. Anne Forrest Ketchin, Anne Vickery and Jan Robertson organized a concerned citizens forum in 1980, which developed general agreements among a diverse group of parties that the Wilderness needed a volunteer patrol presence. The Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance was incorporated as a Colorado non-profit organization in 1989.

IPWA partners with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Boulder and Sulphur Ranger Districts in a collaborative stewardship to preserve and protect the Indian Peaks (IPW) and James Peak (JPW) Wilderness areas. IPWA works closely with the USFS to ensure optimal trail coverage and to coordinate trail maintenance and tree removal work. We also seek to support USFS goals and annual objectives as appropriate.

# IPWA Mission & Goals

The Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance is committed to:

- Providing quality education to the public on all aspects of the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas.
- Providing a volunteer clearing-house to work with the Forest Service to coordinate, train, and supervise volunteers working in the IPW/JPW.
- Providing a forum for exchanging information and for discussing wilderness and area-related management solutions among the Forest Service, local government, and citizens.
- Supporting research on the natural sciences and management problems of the IPW/JPW and adjacent areas.
- Instilling in society a sense of respect and stewardship for public lands.

## **Native Land Acknowledgement**

The Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance acknowledges that the Indian Peaks and James Peak wilderness areas are the ancestral and unceded lands of the Nuuchu (Ute), Hinono'ei (Arapaho) and Tsistsistas (Cheyenne). Further, we acknowledge that 48 contemporary tribal nations are historically tied to the lands that make up the state of Colorado.

# IPWA Volunteer Overview

The IPWA Volunteer Program is for those who have time to volunteer seasonally or for the entire year - and can commit to completing annual training requirements and **a minimum of four (4) service activities per season.**

IPWA Wilderness Volunteers are uniformed and badged as U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Volunteers, and complete service activities that promote the IPWA's mission through our four primary pillars: **wilderness patrols, wilderness restoration, wilderness education, and wilderness outreach & advocacy.**

The volunteer service activities we perform as part of those pillars are the following:

- Summer / Winter Season Patrols
- Trail Head Host Activities
- Trail Restoration Projects (also open to public volunteers)
- Tree Removal Projects (certified sawyers only)
- Outreach and Fundraising Events (e.g. gift wrapping, tabling events, etc.)

Volunteer activities are managed through a “volunteer portal” area where volunteers can log in and view important announcements, volunteer resources, and the scheduling and reporting forms.

- To access the Portal, go to the IPWA Website at: <https://www.ipwa.org> and select the ‘Volunteer Portal’ link in the upper right.
- Enter your email address and password to log in.
- Access to the portal is restricted to current active volunteers only.
- If you do not have an account, select “sign up” to create one. Your account will need to be approved by an administrator before you can login. Check your email for a confirmation message

Volunteers can schedule their own patrols (although new volunteers must complete at least two patrols with a mentor before going out on their own), and may sign-up for organized group activities (such as trailhead host days, trail restoration projects, events, etc.).

Each volunteer must fill out a Service Activity log after each activity to record their own hours and miles. A single full report of counts made while on patrol is also required, including counts of visitors, specialized users, such as anglers and backpackers, dogs on and off leash, etc.), trail conditions, and report downed trees and trail maintenance needs.

Volunteer work is also allowed outside the wilderness on trails that are part of the gateway to our wilderness areas. For example, volunteers hold trailhead host days at or near the trailheads leading to the wilderness. Volunteers may patrol from Hessie on the Devil's Thumb Trail to Lost Lake, which is entirely in National Forest. Another example is the Buchanan Pass Trail, west of Camp Dick/Peaceful Valley.

Many hikes will traverse several miles through the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest (ARNF) or Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BLRA) especially in winter before reaching the wilderness. **It is important to know where the wilderness boundary is located and the rules and regulations on the trail that apply to the different zones inside and outside of the wilderness.**

# What is Wilderness?

Wilderness is a type of protection (as defined in the 1964 Wilderness Act) given to the most pristine public lands – areas within national parks, forests, recreation areas and other public lands – where there are no roads or development.

With the signing of the Wilderness Act by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964, the National Wilderness Preservation System was established to “...secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.”

Since then, Congress has designated nearly 110 million acres of official Wilderness. Less than 3% of the land in the continental U.S. is designated Wilderness. **A designated Wilderness area receives the government’s highest level of land protection.** Wilderness areas are often encompassed by and/or overlap with other public lands such as national parks, federal reserves, and national forests.

The regulations in Wilderness areas are designed to protect the resource as well as the area’s “Wilderness character”. Wilderness character is a concept based on the interaction of nature primarily free from modern human manipulation and impact, personal experiences in natural environments relatively free from the experiences of modern society, and symbolic meanings of humility, restraint, and interdependence that inspire human connection with nature.

The rules and regulations in the IPW and JPW such as dogs being leashed, permitting systems and no flying of drones all support maintaining the area’s Wilderness character.

# Leave No Trace Seven Principles

Leave No Trace (LNT) is a 501 c(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to teach and inspire people to enjoy the outdoors in a responsible way. The seven LNT Principles are a set of simple yet effective guidelines people enjoying the outdoors can put into action to protect the natural world for generations to come.

Following LNT principles is a key part of protecting Wilderness character!

## 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4-6.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass or GPS to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

## 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 100 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.
- In popular areas:
  - Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
  - Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
  - Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.
- In pristine areas:
  - Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
  - Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

## 3. Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Bag dog poop and take it with you – right then, right there. Don't leave poop bags on the trail.
- Pack out or deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished (*see WAG Bag section, below*).
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

#### **4. Leave What You Find**

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

#### **5. Minimize Campfire Impacts**

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

#### **6. Respect Wildlife**

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

#### **7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

© Leave No Trace : [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)

## **Human Waste: W.A.G. Bag**

W.A.G. (Waste Alleviating Gel) refers to the NASA-engineered 'poo powder' in the bag that gelatinizes human waste and prevents odors. The bags are resealable and used to carry human fecal waste out of backcountry areas, and have long been used on mountain climbs and glacial expeditions.

W.A.G. bags cost about \$3-\$5 each and can be purchased at retailers like REI or on Amazon. They are great things to have in your pack...just...in...case, and especially for longer days and overnight trips. After use, put the sealed bag in an extra trash bag or gallon Ziploc bag for added security while carrying out of the wilderness to the nearest trash receptacle.

In the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas, we **encourage everyone to use W.A.G. bags**, due to the high volume of visitors and to protect the sensitive sub-alpine and alpine ecosystems. The alpine tundra above treeline is an especially fragile environment with shallow, delicate soils and slow decomposition rates.

# Our Forest Service Partners



The Forest Service is a Federal agency under the Department of Agriculture established by Congress in 1905 to manage national forests and grasslands. The United States Forest Service currently has a system of 154 national forests, 20 national grasslands, and 222 research and experimental forests, as well as other special areas, including 445 wilderness areas.

## *Mission*

***Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.***

*Caring for the land and serving the people*

## **Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest: History & Administration**

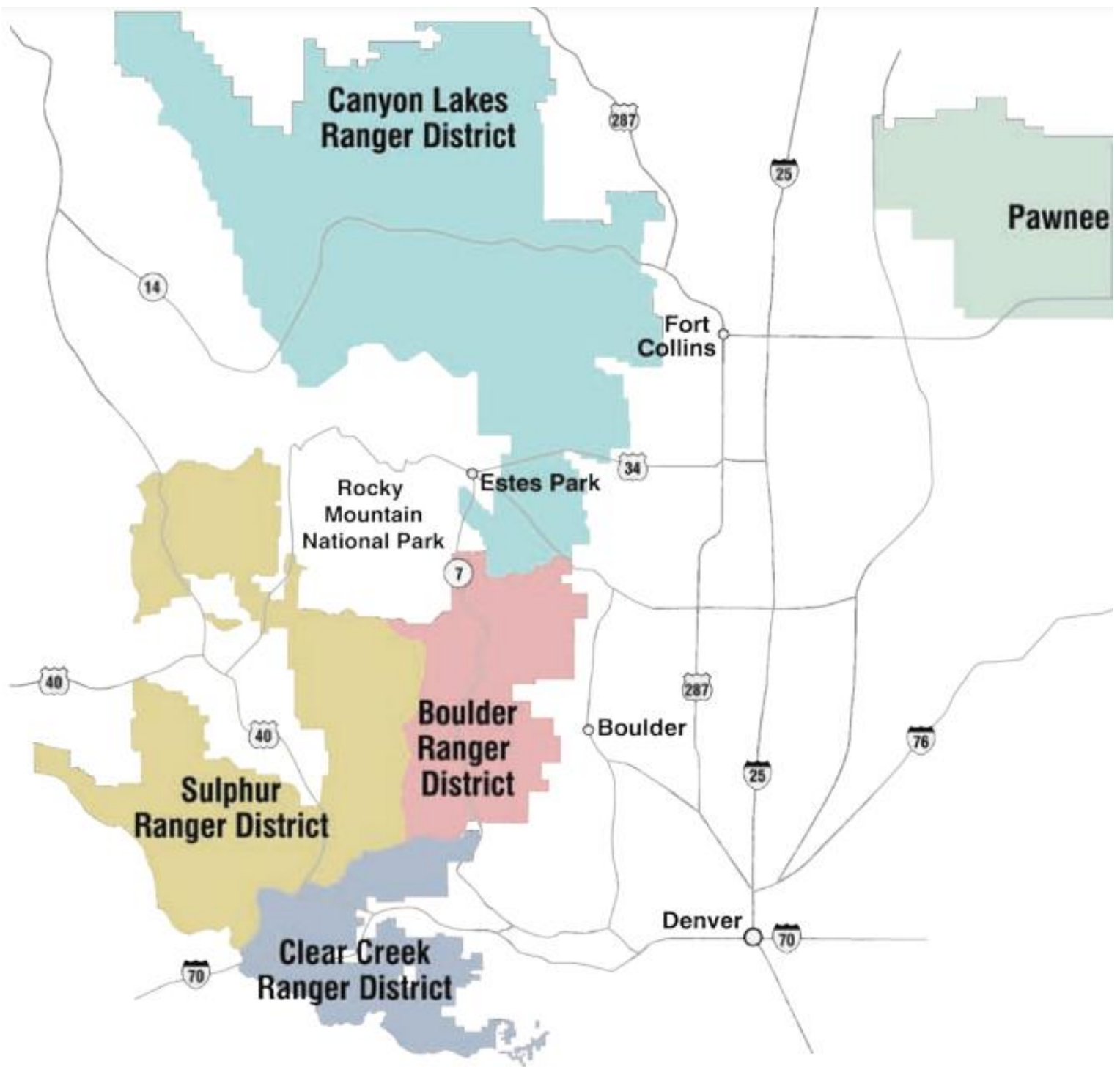
President Theodore Roosevelt established the Arapaho National Forest in July, 1908. It was named for the Arapaho tribe who lived in the region. Roosevelt National Forest was originally part of the Medicine Bow Forest Reserve, established in 1897. In 1910, it was renamed the Colorado National Forest, and renamed yet again in 1932 to honor Theodore Roosevelt, the man most responsible for its creation.

The Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness areas are situated within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests with elevation ranging from 8,400 to over 13,500 feet, which includes montane, sub-alpine and alpine ecosystems. The Forest Service manages the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness areas.

The **Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and the Pawnee National Grassland (ARNFPNG or ARP)** are part of Region 2 (R2) of the Forest Service headquartered in Denver. R2 includes forests and grasslands of Colorado, eastern Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. The **ARP** is managed as one forest unit, under the Supervisor's Office (SO) in Fort Collins, CO. It is divided into the following 5 Ranger Districts:

- Canyon Lakes (Ft. Collins)
- Clear Creek (Idaho Springs)
- Boulder (Boulder)
- Sulphur (Granby)
- Pawnee National Grassland (Greeley)

The **Boulder Ranger District (BRD)** shares the 90,586 acres of the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas with Sulphur and Clear Creek Ranger Districts. The Indian Peaks is one of the highest-use Wilderness Areas in the nation, receiving around 150,000 visitors annually. Hundreds of Indian Peaks camping permits are issued annually through the *recreation.gov* website. See map below.



**Boulder Ranger District office – Boulder**  
**Sulphur Ranger District office – Granby**  
**Canyon Lakes Ranger District office – Fort Collins**  
**Clear Creek Ranger District office – Idaho Springs**  
**Pawnee National Grassland Ranger District office – Greeley**

# How To Be An IPWA Volunteer

While we're out on patrol or performing other public-facing activities, IPWA Volunteers provide a friendly face and a helping hand to the public. We educate about regulations, Leave No Trace principles, safety, and the importance of Wilderness. We're volunteers, stewards, and ambassadors—not law enforcement. We take that distinction very seriously.

## Where Do We Patrol?

**Day Patrols – East Side:** IPWA Volunteers perform day-patrols from Trailheads located East of the Continental Divide, in Indian Peaks Wilderness (IPW) and James Peak Wilderness (JPW). We schedule for established trailheads and trails. Travel to “off-trail” destinations is best saved for a non-patrol hike; while USFS appreciates periodic information about such areas, we don't want to be an official presence.

### **Overnight Patrols:**

Volunteers can do backpacking trips and camp overnight in the wilderness. Note that if a volunteer chooses to do so, the overnight portion of their trip is considered personal time.

Volunteers may of course reserve a permit through the recreation.gov website, but USFS has Administrative Permits available for IPWA Overnight Patrols. Contact USFS Wilderness and Trails Manager to obtain an Administrative Permit. If you are using a BLRA trailhead, you may also obtain information about where and how to park overnight.

Volunteers must be out of uniform after their day patrol(s) ends. As per the Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA), all public contacts are limited to daylight hours only. Volunteers should exercise good judgement and not interrupt the peace or solitude of members of the public during the evening hours, even if daylight technically persists.

Since overnighting is outside the scope of our VSA and Risk Awareness Worksheet (RAW) agreements, there is no check-in notification

requirement with the IPWA Summer Patrol Coordinator. We do not monitor overnight patrols - the overnight portion is undertaken at your own risk.

It is strongly recommended that each volunteer carry a satellite communication device, KNOW HOW TO USE IT, and check-in regularly with a family member or friend. They will be the primary contact if assistance is needed during your trip.

### **West-Side Patrols:**

IPWA primarily partners with the U.S. Forest Service's Boulder Ranger District (BRD), which manages the James Peak Wilderness and the Indian Peaks Wilderness on the Eastern Slope of the Continental Divide. IPWA volunteers may also patrol on the west side of the Indian Peaks Wilderness (western slope of the continental divide), which is managed by the Sulphur Ranger District (SRD) and our sister wilderness volunteer organization, the Grand County Wilderness Group (GCWG).

When scheduling a patrol, if you choose a trailhead/destination on the west side, you must sign the IPWA West Side Signatures Form to acknowledge that you agree to the Sulphur Ranger District's Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA), the Grand County Wilderness Group (GCWG) Training Slides, and the Crater Lake Handbook. You only need to do this once in a given year.

Note: Crater Lake (west side) is accessible from west-side trailheads AND east-side trailheads, and is distinct from the "Crater Lakes" destination out of East Portal Trailhead.

IPWA volunteers may camp overnight at Crater Lake (west side) in the overflow campsites (1-3) without a reservation - although an administrative permit from the FS is still necessary. This is limited to one campsite per night, so check the schedule for availability.

## **How to Schedule a Patrol**

1. At the IPWA website ([www.ipwa.org](http://www.ipwa.org)), log in to the Volunteer Portal. Only registered Volunteers who have completed training requirements have access to the Portal.
2. Select “View Schedule” to confirm that your planned date, time, and location are “open”. At BLRA, also check the parking space availability. If someone is already scheduled, you must select a different date/location.
3. Select “Schedule a Patrol” and complete the form to specify date, Trailhead, planned destination, etc.
4. You may bring no more than 2 non-IPWA companions on any scheduled patrol.
5. Schedule a 2-hour “buffer” if you want to patrol the same TH and destination as another volunteer earlier in the day (e.g., Susan 8:00-11:30, Joe 1:30-5:00)
6. A note about Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BLRA) trailhead parking: you may select “Use one of the IPWA parking spots” when you schedule your patrol out of Long Lake TH or Mitchell Lake TH. More on parking below.

## **If you Can't Make Your Patrol**

If you can, please RESCHEDULE your patrol through the portal, rather than cancelling - this helps save time for our hard-working volunteers who coordinate and manage the schedule. If you need to cancel a scheduled patrol, email your request to [summer.patrols@ipwa.org](mailto:summer.patrols@ipwa.org).

## **Patrol Preparation**

- Check the weather forecast. Storms can affect your ability to complete a trip (e.g. Return over a mountain pass may be too dangerous if conditions deteriorate). Google these sites for snow conditions: “snotel” (selecting “University Camp” station for snow depths) and “TundraCam” (for real-time views of the area). Check “wunderground.com” and “weather.gov” for general weather.
- Review all regulations for the area you will be patrolling.

- Tell your emergency contact person where you will be going, and when you plan to return.
- Prep your gear for the trail including your **clean and unwrinkled uniform** (see Uniform section, below), nametag, your **IPWA handbook and map, handouts for the public** (IPWA business cards, etc.) and a **backpack** with your gear, including the **10 essentials** and additional recommended items.

## **The Ten Essentials**

1. **Carry plenty of water** and drink often before getting thirsty. Also carry a water purification device if you or a member of the public should run out.
2. **Food/snacks** with enough calories to sustain the energy demands of hiking.
3. **Map and compass** and know how to use them.
4. **Appropriate Footwear** - volunteers are required to wear hiking boots or closed-toed shoes with slip resistant soles and sufficient ankle support (no sandals or Tevas). If snow is present, bring adequate traction devices (hiking poles, micro spikes, snowshoes, and/or skis as needed).
5. **Adequate raingear and extra layers** of warm clothing.
6. **Safety items** including a lighter or Firestarter, a flashlight or headlamp (keep in mind evacuations often take 12+ hours), and a signaling device (such as a whistle, mirror and/or emergency beacon/spot device).
7. **Carry a First Aid Kit** and know how to use it for personal use and/or for assisting the public under the Colorado Good Samaritan Act.
8. **A small multi-purpose tool or Swiss army knife** (note: volunteers are not allowed to carry a weapon while patrolling, such as a firearm or large knife).
9. **Sun Protection** including wearing a hat, sunscreen and sunglasses in every season. Reflected light from snow fields can cause eye and skin damage if unprotected.

10. **Shelter** - Protection from the elements in the event you are injured or stranded is necessary. A lightweight, inexpensive space blanket is a great option.

## **BEYOND ... the 10 Essentials**

Volunteers hiking alone are strongly encouraged to carry some type of GPS device with an emergency notification system such as a **SPOT or INReach Device** to summon help in case of an emergency, *and know how to use it!* Be sure to add your emergency contacts when you register your device as IPWA is not able to respond to emergency activations. Do not rely solely on cell phones (as you may not have coverage or battery power when you need it), or the chance of seeing another person.

We strongly suggest bringing a hard-copy of the **Lost/Missing Hiker form**, the **Active Violations Reporting** summary and **Fire Information Checklist** (forms located at end of this Handbook). In a stressful and/or emergency situation, having a form to use is extremely helpful!

**Other suggested items** to bring include: count forms/clickers, toiletry essentials, a WAG bag (to carry out human waste) or a trowel to make a cathole, large trash bags, nylon cord or spare dog leashes, fishing line, extra socks, and extra water bottles.

**Recommended equipment for light trail maintenance** (trash pickup, removing fire rings, removing small branches/trees blocking the trail): leather work gloves, flagging tape, plastic trash bags, and plastic gloves to pick up trash, hand sanitizer, and a small/collapsible shovel.

## What to Wear: IPWA Uniform Policy

The USFS requires IPWA volunteers to wear the Forest Service uniform during all patrol activities. Along with the privilege of wearing the uniform comes the responsibility to wear it correctly. The Uniform Policy (summarized below) may be reviewed on the IPWA Volunteer Portal (Volunteer Resources / Volunteer Agreements). Please review and follow these policies.



- IPWA issues a standard uniform consisting of FS approved shirts and an IPWA approved rain jacket. Both of these have USFS and IPWA patches sewn on the sleeves. Do not remove or add patches or modify IPWA-provided shirts or rain jackets. Shirts must be worn tucked-in.
- Name tag must be worn on the right front shirt pocket flap.
- Pants and shorts supplied by volunteers should be a single, neutral color (tan, light grey, olive green, khaki, brown) and without logos or insignia. No blue jeans are allowed.
- Hats supplied by volunteers should be a single, neutral color (tan, light grey, olive green, khaki) and may have a USFS Volunteer or IPWA patch. The hat brim should be less than 4 inches in diameter.
- Undershirts and sleeves in a single neutral color (tan, light grey, olive green, khaki) and without logos or insignia may be worn.
- Wear hiking boots or closed-toed shoes with slip resistant soles and sufficient ankle support (no sandals or Texas). If snow is present, bring adequate traction devices (hiking poles, micro spikes, snowshoes, and/or skis as needed).
- Non-USFS/IPWA weather protection clothing for rain, snow, cold, etc. may be worn when conditions warrant. Wear clothing that ensures safety foremost, while presenting a professional image at all times.
- Volunteers may wear high-visibility hats or vests as a precaution during hunting season.
- Uniform items are only to be worn by currently registered volunteers who are either on a scheduled patrol or volunteering for IPWA in a public-facing activity (e.g. Trailhead Host).

## **Getting to the Trailhead and Parking**

Most wilderness locations require a car to get to the trailheads and a few require a vehicle with high clearance and/or four-wheel drive (please check the road conditions and review Forest Service road status and closures).

A bus option is available for some trails, such as the RTD Boulder-Nederland route. From Nederland, hikers can take the free Hessie Shuttle on Fridays and weekends (highly recommended).

For popular trailheads at Hessie (if you choose to not take the shuttle), 4th of July, Middle St Vrain, and East Portal, and/or if hiking on a high-use day (weekends and holidays), arrive very early (before 6am) for parking at these trailheads.

## **Brainard Lake Recreation Area - Volunteer Parking for Patrols**

IPWA Volunteers receive a Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BLRA) Parking Pass at the start of the summer season. Volunteers may use this pass for official patrols only (not for personal use) for the parking lots at BLRA (main lot, Long Lake and Mitchell Lake Trailheads).

The main lot typically opens mid- to late-June and the upper lots for Long Lake, Mitchell Lake, and Niwot Trailheads typically open by early- to mid-July (depending on snowpack and road access).

Volunteers do not need to make a reservation for timed entry/day use parking, however the Mitchell Lake Trailhead (TH) Lot is limited to 2 volunteer parking spots (one for patrols heading towards Mitchell Lake, and one for patrols heading toward Mt. Audubon). Long Lake Trailhead (TH) has 1 volunteer parking spot, with an additional IPWA-signed parking spot at Niwot Cutoff Trailhead.

Volunteers must be in uniform and have their pass ready to show when approaching the BLRA entry gate. **NEW 2026: You must also sign in on log sheet located just past the gate: Date, Time, Pass #, Trailhead, and Destination.**

**Important note: It is your responsibility to check the IPWA schedule for parking availability PRIOR to scheduling your patrol. We expect volunteers to treat each other with respect and kindness.**

Overnight trips out of BLRA may not use the IPWA Volunteer spots; contact USFS Wilderness and Trails Manager to obtain information about where and how to park overnight. Of course, you may also park at the Gateway Lot or be dropped off.

## **While You are Patrolling**

IPWA Volunteers are responsible for following the Volunteer Code of Conduct at all times while performing public-facing service activities.

### **Volunteer DO's**

1. Represent the USFS and IPWA in a professional and positive manner.
2. Follow all rules, regulations, policies, and safety guidelines provided by the USFS in the Job Hazard Assessment (JHA) and/or Risk Assessment Worksheet (RAW) and by IPWA in the Volunteer Handbook. Do not attempt to tackle any situation for which you do not have adequate personal protective equipment (leather gloves, eye protection) tools, skills, training, or personnel.
3. Serve in the capacity of contacting the public to provide information and education, while striving for the minimum level of contact with members of the public.
4. Follow the dress code specified in the IPWA Uniform Policy.
5. Leave pets at home - yours and/or a hiking companion's pet (Service animals that have been trained to perform a particular task are excepted)
6. Report violations and suspicious/illegal activity as soon as possible.

### **Volunteer DON'T's**

1. Don't use derogatory or confrontational language or participate in discrimination, sexual harassment, or violent or threatening behavior. Don't discuss politics.
2. Don't enforce regulations (such as asking for identification or checking any permits or licenses, etc.) as enforcement is **solely** the responsibility of Forest Protection Officers and Law Enforcement Officers.
3. Don't patrol after daylight hours (take off uniform)
4. Don't disturb a visitor's personal property/belongings (i.e., do not move or disturb their campsite, tent, backpack, etc.) even if they appear abandoned.
5. Don't detain people or close a section of trail - as a volunteer we can provide advice, such as staying at a safe distance from wildlife but we cannot detain people or close a trail.
6. Don't smoke, or possess/use alcohol, marijuana, or illegal drugs.
7. Don't carry a firearm.

***Never initiate contact with individuals where drugs, alcohol, guns, or other suspicious activity is taking place and/or you don't feel comfortable.***

## Interacting With the Public

When interacting with the public, it is very important that volunteers represent IPWA and the Forest Service in an appropriate and professional manner. Remember, for the majority of the people you see on the trail a smile and hello will be plenty. Volunteers should only connect with the public if visitors stop to ask them a question, they see someone doing something dangerous (such as being too close to wildlife) or if they are not following a regulation.

### Public Contact Tips and Guidance

- Strive for the minimum level of contact necessary with visitors to disseminate information or establish a presence. A smile and simple “hello” will suffice for most contacts. Allow the visitor the option of initiating a conversation unless you have important information to impart (i.e.: “There is a moose on the trail ahead”).
- "Read the room" - be aware of visitor's demeanor and wrap up the interaction if visitor wants to depart. Don't detain a visitor verbally.
- Be receptive to what the visitor wants (or doesn't want) to discuss. Listen and do not anticipate what is said next. Maintain a calm demeanor. NEVER be aggressive or argumentative.
- When visitors initiate contact with questions or comments, always be personable and **introduce yourself** as an Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance volunteer in partnership with the USFS. Limit all public contacts to daylight hours only.
- Remove your sunglasses – eye contact helps develop rapport.
- Use Authority of the Resource techniques for communicating about regulations (see below)
- If a visitor turns contentious, end the interaction as smoothly and politely as possible, and include a description of the interaction in your trip report.

- Be familiar with this handbook. Know how to access information quickly such as regulations, wilderness facts, and contact information.
- Brush up on current issues, nearby activities and pertinent regulations prior to your patrol (i.e. Weather forecast, fire regulations, etc.) Signing up for the USFS' Peaks to Prairie Newsletter is a great way to stay informed; this QR code will take you to the website to sign up:



## **Authority of the Resource**

*Adapted from Wilderness Use Management Law Enforcement and the “Authority of the Resource.”*

When an IPWA volunteer approaches visitors about behaviors that do not follow regulations or that are not in line with Leave No Trace practices, the first tendency is to focus on the authority (the power to influence or command thought, opinion or behavior) of the agency. In other words, we may think that reminding visitors of the human-imposed rules - such as those posted on signs - will encourage responsible behavior. In reality, that approach doesn't always work. Nature has its own authority, one that naturally reminds visitors of the effects of their actions.

Nature can be said to have its own authority. It has its own rules, operates in certain ways, and has certain laws. Wilderness areas are among the few places on earth where we have agreed to allow nature, for the most part, to operate on its own terms. Desirable behavior is more likely to occur if people understand how their actions affect the way nature operates. That is, when they learn to listen to the voice of the ecosystem.

The Authority of the Resource Technique (ART), developed by Professor George Wallace at Colorado State University, is the preferred tool for changing behavior and is based on a visitor's understanding of the negative impact of the behavior. ART asks the volunteer to de-emphasize the regulations and instead help the visitor to nature's requirements, nature's voice and the impacts recreation-related behaviors can have on the outdoors.

“Resource” refers to ecosystems – land, water and wildlife. “Authority” refers to ecosystems speaking to hikers and campers regarding how their actions are impacting soils, vegetation, water, wildlife and even other visitors. Translating ART into the Voice of the Ecosystem (VOE) is another phrase that may help the concept to be more easily understood by both volunteers and visitors.

The Authority of the Resource/ Voice of the Ecosystem has three sequential parts:

1. After opening a conversation, the volunteer simply makes an objective statement of observation about the violation. For example:

*“I have noticed some people with their dogs off leash.”*

The above statement is made without directly blaming the party in question. This is done as a tactic to avoid implication. It is important to avoid terms such as “it’s wrong, you shouldn’t, don’t you know it’s harmful, it’s against regulations” etc.

2. Explain the implications of the action or situation that was observed. It is here that the volunteer attempts to explain the ART or interpret what will happen in nature if the action is continued. ART always uses the positive expectation, which assumes that once the person understands what is happening in nature, or in the wilderness experience of others, that they will want to stop what is considered undesirable behavior. For example:

*“There are many moose in this area and they can become easily startled by and aggressive towards dogs off-leash. Keeping dogs on leash helps to protect the wildlife, visitors and their pets.”*

In this example, the authority lies in the wildlife or the moose as well as the safety of visitors and their pets. This approach helps people understand the consequences of their actions.

3. Tell them what can be done to improve the situation – It is acceptable to state how you feel about the possible results of the visitor’s undesirable behavior. The visitor will assume that the volunteer is interested and concerned about what is happening. For example:

*“We appreciate it if visitors can keep their pets on leash and help us protect all the wonderful wildlife here in the Indian Peaks Wilderness as well as other visitors.”*

The majority of impacts we see in the outdoors are created from visitors not understanding the consequences of their behaviors. That said, always expect the best of people. We hope for long-term changes in peoples' behaviors and in particular, for an increased sense of stewardship of the Wilderness.

***Example situations and responses for using the Authority of the Resource/ Voice of the Ecosystem***

Example 1: Instead of telling the visitor that the rules do not allow dogs to be off leash, try “Hi, did you know about all the nesting birds? This is a very crucial time for these animals to be undisturbed. That's why it's especially important to keep your dog leashed.”

Example 2: Instead of telling the visitor that the rules do not allow camping within 100 feet of lakes, try “Did you know that wildlife also use these lakes to drink? By camping away from the lake, not only will wildlife be able to access the water but you will be able to watch them from a safe distance.”

## **Authority of the Resource “Talking Points”**

Regulation	ART “Why”
Dogs on leash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many animals and birds are impacted by the presence of dogs; leashing keeps “corridor of disruption” narrow</li> <li>• Reduces negative interactions with other dogs</li> <li>• Protects dogs from hazards such as swift-flowing streams, giardia, and moose, who consider dogs to be wolves!</li> <li>• Unleashed dogs can intimidate other visitors, depriving them of the peace that wilderness provides</li> <li>• Volume of visitors and dogs has cumulative impact</li> </ul>
Pack out dog poop (right then, right there!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pet waste contaminates nearby soil and water sources</li> <li>• Spreads disease to pets, wildlife and humans</li> <li>• Can take over a year to decompose</li> <li>• Impacts the experience of other visitors</li> </ul>
Camp 100ft from lakes and streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damages vegetation at edge of water</li> <li>• Prevents wildlife access to water</li> <li>• Impacts the experience of other visitors</li> </ul>
No Drones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can startle/harass wildlife</li> <li>• Mechanized objects damage wilderness character</li> <li>• Impacts the experience of other visitors</li> </ul>
Group Size limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserves wilderness character for all visitors</li> </ul>
Safe distance from moose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces human impact on wildlife, especially females with offspring.</li> <li>• Safety for visitors; moose are the most dangerous animal in the Wilderness!</li> </ul>
Picking Flowers (or other collection activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces seed bank for next year, and food sources for animals this year</li> <li>• Impacts the experience of other visitors</li> <li>• Carrying/wearing picked flowers can imply “permission” for other visitors to do the same!</li> </ul>
Campfires (where not permitted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fires can smolder underground for months in the duff layer, charring root systems and igniting trees</li> <li>• Wood removal in these heavily-used areas has a huge impact on essential habitat for insects and forest nutrients</li> <li>• Foraging for wood and establishing a campfire generates a larger camping footprint</li> </ul>

## How To Do Patrol Counts

Begin counting when you enter the wilderness boundary. The one exception to this is when you patrol to Lost Lake (out of Hessie TH); for this patrol, begin counting at the trailhead. You will be asked to provide the following counts when you submit your patrol report:

- Total # of people encountered
  - Of people encountered, also record # of anglers, backpackers, and horseback riders. Note any other types of people encountered in your notes (e.g., bicyclists, persons carrying firearms)
- Number of meaningful interactions (beyond a simple greeting) where you give information to visitor(s) about:
  - trail conditions, distances, or directions
  - weather conditions or any safety guidance (including moose)
  - LNT or ART principles, with or without an active violation taking place
  - camping, fishing, campfires, drones, bikes, parking, reservations, or any other regulations
  - flora, fauna, geology etc.
  - discussing public lands or wilderness in general
  - telling visitors about IPWA (who we are, what we do, how to get more info)
- # of dogs seen total, and of those, # off-leash (e.g. 20 dogs seen, of which 3 were off-leash is recorded as 20 total, 3 off-leash)
- # of Fire Rings seen and/or dismantled, and information about where located, size, ash color, and composition

There are various tools you can use for keeping track of your counts. You can use pen/pencil and paper or a counter/clicker device. Always note patrol start and stop times.

Also note trail conditions, maintenance issues, any minor injuries you may have incurred (e.g., rolled ankle) and active violations information (see next page).

# Active Violations Reporting

Active Violations are actions observed that violate wilderness regulations. There are four types of violations/situations described below, with information about what to do, how to report, and examples. See Active Violations Policy for further details.

The four types are described below. ALL active violations should be noted in the appropriate space in your patrol report.

	Type	Example	Report to external contact
1	No Report Needed	Dogs off leash	No
2	Non-Actionable Violation (ranger probably can't arrive in time to assess)	Group size, illegal camping or collecting, drones, bikes	No
3	Actionable Violation (ranger may be able to arrive in time to assess)	As above	Report to Mary Kalendovsky (USFS Ranger: 303-494-1300) and Summer Patrol Coordinator as soon as possible
4	Dangerous or Emergency Situation	Wildfire, Life-threatening activities	Report to Emergency Services as soon as possible (see Pg 1 of Handbook)

All instances of an active illegal campfire, regardless of whether it was extinguished or not, are considered to be an Actionable Violation. Report to Mary Kalendovsky, 303-494-1300.

If you are not sure how the action you've observed should be reported, include a description in your trip report and contact the Summer Patrol Coordinator as soon as possible (unless it's clearly an emergency situation).

When reporting to USFS: Include your name, specific location details, time, actions observed, outcome of any contact made, as well as any helpful identifiers (if you can collect this information discreetly), such as: Do they have dogs? What kinds? Description of height, gender, hair color, clothing, tent/gear type & colors? Any vehicle description and license plate information?

## **When You Get Home**

1. Check in with your contact person to let them know you returned safely.
2. Complete your Patrol Report by logging in to the Volunteer Portal and Selecting “Patrol Report”.
  - a. The SCHEDULER must complete the full trip report: hours, miles, all counts, trail conditions, active violations, etc.
  - b. All IPWA Volunteers who accompanied the Scheduler must complete a Volunteer Hours report.
  - c. The Portal will give you the option of which to report.
3. Be very careful with trail names in your report: i.e., Diamond Lake Trail does not start at the Fourth of July trailhead, Heart Lake Trail is actually South Boulder Creek Trail, Crater Lakes Trail does not start from East Portal, etc. Use your IPWA-issued map for reference. .
4. Public Trail Conditions section of Patrol Report:
  - a. This section should include only trail conditions (e.g., dry, wet, muddy, packed snow, etc.) and turn around point information (such as when their is deep snow). Do not include wildflowers or wildlife seen, since this can drive more traffic to those specific areas.
  - b. This field is automatically published to our website and the Forest Service website (along with the trailhead and destination from the report), in order to provide trail users with helpful trail conditions, such as turn around point, snow conditions, etc.
  - c. Since this field is visible to the public, never include directions or advertise a location, especially off-trail or closed areas. Also, never include sensitive information such as violations and complaints, in the public trail conditions section (this should go in the violations to report section instead).

## **Other Patrol Information**

### **WHAT TO DO... if you are injured while patrolling**

As a volunteer with the Forest Service, Worker's Compensation is available to you if you are injured while on a scheduled volunteer activity. If you are injured to the point that you need medical attention (such as a wound that may need stitches or sprained ankle):

- Seek proper medical attention immediately.
- Within 48 hours of receiving medical attention, contact one of the following to obtain injury forms and billing information (contact info on Page 1 of this Handbook):
  - USFS Contact
  - Albuquerque Service Center

PLEASE NOTE all minor injuries that don't require medical attention in your trip report (e.g., rolled ankle, tick bite).

### **WHAT TO DO... if you encounter an injured visitor or a visitor experiencing a medical situation**

While rare, it is possible that you may encounter an injured visitor, or someone experiencing a medical situation. We strongly suggest Wilderness First Aid and CPR training for summer patrollers, but this training is not required. We also suggest carrying a 2-way satellite SOS device, such as a Garmin InReach - and learn how to use it in case of an emergency.

Your safety comes first, always. Anyone can refuse assistance for any reason, and if the situation seems dangerous do not approach and summon emergency assistance.

When a volunteer provides medical assistance, they are doing so as a non-volunteer/citizen under the Good Samaritan Law. Neither USFS nor IPWA provides liability insurance.

#### *Good Samaritan Law*

*Persons who in good faith render emergency care or emergency assistance to a person not presently his patient without compensation at the place of an emergency or accident are exempt from liability, unless the acts or omissions were grossly negligent or willful and wanton.*

## **ONLY OFFER AID UP TO YOUR LEVEL OF TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE**

When acting as a Good Samaritan, be aware that once you start providing hands-on medical assistance there is an expectation that you will not stop providing care until someone of equal or greater level of training takes over, or the situation is life-or-death and there's no other choice but to leave and go for help. In the event that no one has medical training, have someone else stay with the patient while you go for help.

We recommend the following steps (volunteers with higher levels of certification may perform additional steps in accordance with that training):

**ESTABLISH** your own safety first. Stop, Breathe, Gather your Thoughts.

**INTRODUCE** yourself by name and let them know your level of first aid training (if any).

**DETERMINE** if rescue assistance is needed to treat the person and/or get them out of the wilderness. Directly ask the person if they would like you to help. If the person is responsive and able to communicate, obtain verbal consent from them (or if a minor, ask their parent/guardian). If they refuse, respect their decision and do not force help (consider contacting emergency services if needed). If the person is unconscious or unable to communicate, consent is implied for aid.

**PROVIDE ASSISTANCE** in accordance with Good Samaritan Law; only to the extent that you are trained and comfortable in doing so.

**REPORT** and summon rescue assistance as soon as possible if required.

**USE THE FORMS** - See *Visitor Minor Injury or Medical Situation Form* and the *Severe Injury or Life Threatening Situation Form* at the end of this Handbook to ensure you gather all appropriate information.

## **WHAT TO DO... if you want to post on Social Media**

- IPWA supports volunteers sharing information about IPWA on their own social media sites, within the guidance and norms that the Forest Service requires for its volunteers. Consult the Social Media Policy (on Volunteer Portal) for further information.
- Do not show Forest Service (FS) logos or registered marks on personal posts, unless it clearly states 'Volunteer'.
- Faces, fronts of uniforms, name tags, and IPWA patches and logos may be posted.
- Posts from IPWA group activities (e.g., training day, group hikes, trail crew work) may only be posted on the official IPWA social media accounts.
- Landscape and nature images and videos may be posted, if they were taken in a safe manner and do not violate FS regulations (for example, no drone footage).
- Keep in mind that social media can drive increased traffic to special places, so tag and share thoughtfully. Do not share specific locations, directions or sensitive/off trail site locations ("Indian Peaks Wilderness" and "James Peak Wilderness" are fine to post). Think about how the post can encourage responsible use and Leave No Trace principles, such as noting that wildlife photos were taken with a zoom lens at a safe distance.
- It is allowable for posts to mention "Volunteer", "Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance", and "In partnership with US Forest Service". To avoid misrepresenting the IPWA or the Forest Service, make sure to identify yourself as a volunteer and state that any opinions expressed are your own.
- Text and comments you post must be respectful. DO NOT post foul language, images or references to violence, weapons, sexual conduct or acts, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, or any other illegal activities. DO NOT mention political opinions in posts related to IPWA. Do not insert inappropriate or location-specific hash tags.
- In general, when in doubt, don't post. IPWA's policy is to err on the side of being cautious about posting.

## **How To Participate ... in other IPWA Service Activities**

Check the regular communications you receive from IPWA to learn about other Service Activities, and how to sign up for them.

- Trailhead Host: 2-3 hour shifts occur regularly throughout the summer at popular trailheads. This is a great opportunity to answer visitors' questions, make IPWA more visible, and advocate for Wilderness Stewardship.
- Cross-Cut Sawyer training: This training is required for participating in tree-removal activities, which are coordinated with the Forest Service. Contact IPWA ([hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org)) if you are interested in attending the training.
- Trail Maintenance: several trail work projects are planned in coordination with the Forest Service each year (weekend days).
- Winter Patrols: Separate training takes place in the Fall; patrol season is usually Nov – May. Pre-requisite is at least one season as a summer patroller.
- Outreach and Advocacy: We are always interested in having volunteers join us at various events to increase IPWA's visibility and to advocate for the Wilderness. Past events include presenting at the Nurture the Wild event, tabling at REI, co-tabling with USFS at Boulder and Louisville Farmers Markets, and annual Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser at Boulder Bookstore in December.
- Administrative and Management Help: IPWA is run by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Each Board member is responsible for specific task(s) – e.g., Treasurer, Training Coordinator. We regularly put out the word for assistance – please consider putting your skills and experience to work in helping to manage the organization. There are a variety of opportunities for different skills and time availability!



## **The Indian Peaks Wilderness (IPW)**

The Indian Peaks became part of the National Wilderness Preservation System in 1978. Many of the peaks within the area were named for Native American tribes of the west. The 74,195-acre wilderness is located primarily within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. A portion along the northern boundary lies in Rocky Mountain National Park. The Indian Peaks is one of the most heavily used wilderness areas in the U.S. and crosses over the Continental Divide.

### **IPW Backcountry Zones (BZs)**

#### **East Side has 10 zones**

Middle St. Vrain  
Coney Creek  
Four Lakes  
Glacier  
Neva  
Diamond Lake  
Devil's Thumb  
Jasper Lake  
Woodland  
Middle Boulder

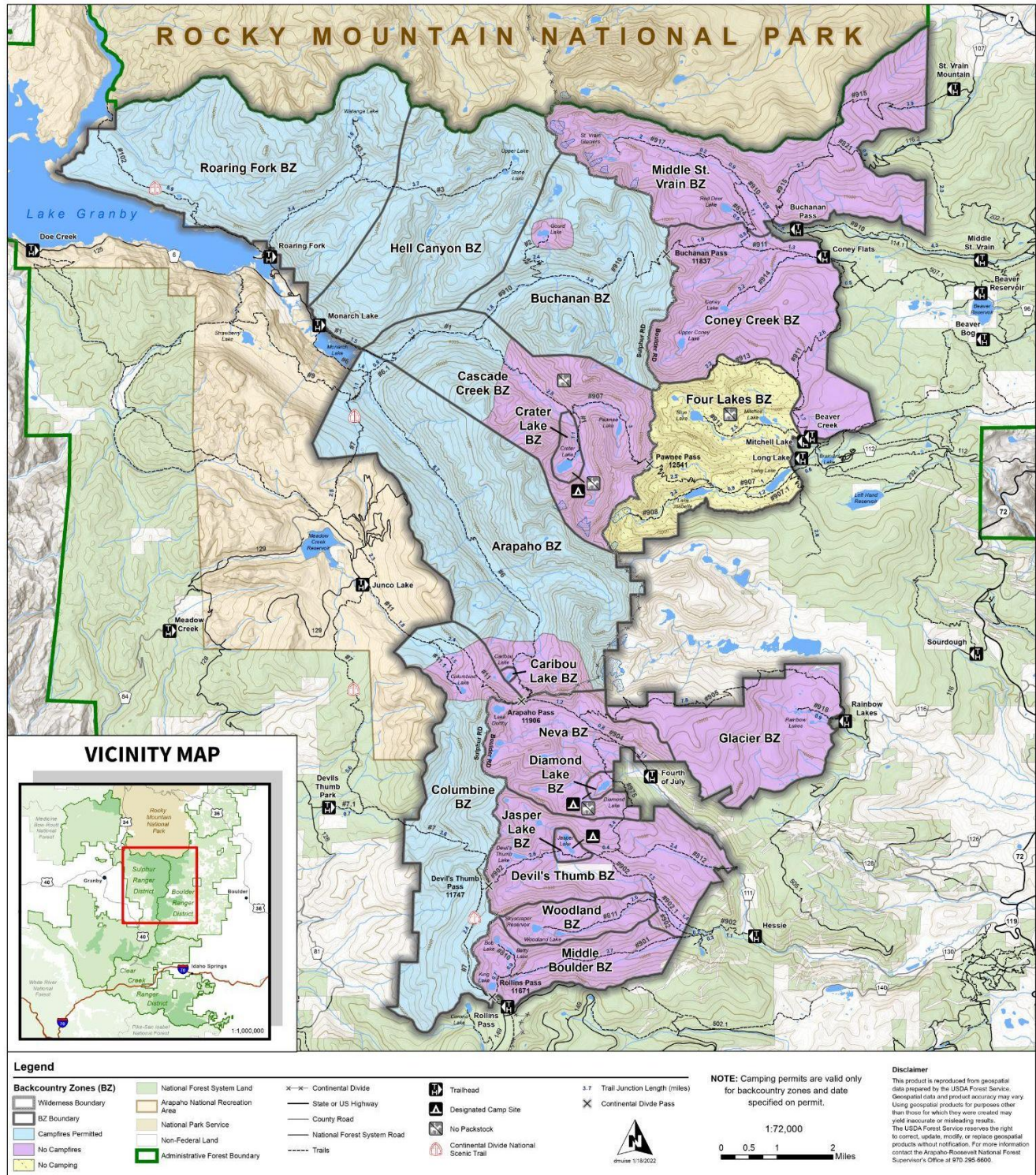
#### **West Side has 8 zones**

Roaring Fork  
Hell Canyon  
Buchanan  
Cascade Creek  
Crater Lake  
Arapaho  
Caribou Lake  
Columbine

For more information on the backcountry zones, see the map on the next page and the Wilderness Camping section of this handbook.

# INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

## Camping Permit Required June 1 through September 15



## Indian Peaks Wilderness (IPW) Regulations

The purpose of wilderness regulations is to protect the lands, water and wildlife and to ensure that visitors have an opportunity to get the Wilderness experience, as it was intended.

<b>Hiking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Permits required for groups of 8-12 June 1 – Sept 15</li> <li>-Permits required for all outfitters/guides &amp; organized groups, and for groups of 8-12 people</li> <li>-No groups &gt; 12 (including pack stock) year round. Pets do not count toward group size. Groups greater than 12 that break into smaller groups are in violation of this regulation.</li> <li>Organized group permits are issued to only one day-hiking group per zone, per day</li> </ul>
<b>Camping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Permits required June 1-Sept 15 <u>all</u> visitors</li> <li>-Outfitter/guides &amp; organized groups need permits year-round. Organized group permits are issued to only one overnight group per zone, per day.</li> <li>-No groups &gt;12 (counting pack stock)</li> <li>-No camping in Four Lakes BZ May 1-Nov 30</li> <li>-No camping within 100' of lakes, streams or trails</li> <li>-No camping within ¼ mile of trailheads</li> <li>-Camping limited to zone assigned on permit</li> <li>-Campers must use designated campsites when camping at Crater, Caribou, Jasper, and Diamond BZs</li> </ul>
<b>Pets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pets must be on a hand-held leash (&lt; 6 ft) at all times.</li> <li>-Hunting dogs are permitted off leash when hunting</li> </ul>
<b>Campfires</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No fires east of Continental Divide</li> <li>-No fires on west side within 100' of lakes, streams, or trails</li> <li>-No fires in these areas west of the Continental divide: Upper Cascade Creek BZ (above Cascade Falls), Crater Lake BZ, Caribou Lake BZ and surrounding areas in the Arapaho BZ, Gourd Lake, Pawnee Lake, Columbine Lake and surrounding areas in the Columbine BZ.</li> <li>-No campfires during fire bans</li> <li>-Stoves permitted</li> </ul>

<b>Shooting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hunting allowed in accordance with State Law</li> <li>-Target Shooting allowed (including semi-automatic weapons)</li> <li>-No shooting within 150 yards of people, structures, campsites, trailheads, picnic areas; or into caves, over lakes or across roads</li> <li>-Backstop required for target shooting</li> <li>-No open-containers of alcohol</li> </ul>
<b>Mechanized Devices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No motorized equipment, bicycles, chainsaws, carts, wagons, portage wheels, or strollers</li> <li>-All wheelchairs allowed (even motorized)</li> </ul>
<b>Drones, UAS Hang gliders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Prohibited</li> <li><i>Note: UAS = Unmanned Aerial Systems</i></li> </ul>
<b>Pack/ Saddle Animals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Not allowed in Crater Lake BZ, Cascade Creek (above Cascade Falls), Four Lakes BZ, Diamond Lake BZ, Diamond Lake Trail</li> <li>-Where allowed, pack animals count towards permit total</li> <li>-No hobbling/tethering/picketing within 100' of lakes, streams or trails</li> <li>-No hay, straw or unprocessed feed</li> <li>-Feed must be certified weed-free and include original and current documentation</li> </ul>
<b>Boats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Non-motorized boats/boards permitted</li> </ul>
<b>Fishing Regulations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Allowed. License required for people 16 and older</li> </ul>
<b>Other Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mushroom collecting is illegal in the Indian Peaks Wilderness</li> <li>-Firewood collecting is prohibited in the Indian Peaks Wilderness</li> <li>-Special permits required for: prospecting, research, commercial filming, any commercial activity and any event where a fee is charged.</li> <li><i>Note: No competitions/races ever allowed in Wilderness</i></li> </ul>

# James Peak Wilderness (JPW)

The James Peak area became part of the National Wilderness Preservation System in 2002. James Peak (13,294 feet) was named for Dr. Edwin James, best known for his participation in the 1820 Stephen H. Long expedition to Colorado. This 17,015-acre Wilderness is located within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and south of the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area.

This map of the JPW shows the most heavily visited trails. See IPWA-issued map for entire JPW. The Continental Divide Trail (CDT) runs through JPW in the south and many hikers visit James Peak, as well as other peaks, via numerous trails through JPW. We encourage you to patrol throughout all of JPW.



## James Peak Wilderness Regulations

<b>Hiking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Day-Hiking permits NOT required</li> <li>-Outfitter/guides must have Special-use Permits</li> <li>-No groups &gt; 12 (including pack stock) year-round. Pets do not count toward group size. Groups greater than 12 that break into smaller groups are in violation of this regulation.</li> </ul>
<b>Camping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Camping permits NOT required at this time</li> <li>-Outfitters/guides need Special Use Permits</li> <li>-No groups &gt;12 (counting pack stock)</li> <li>-No camping within 100' of lakes, streams, or trails</li> </ul>
<b>Pets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pets must be on hand-held leash (<math>\leq</math> 6 ft) at all times</li> <li>-Hunting dogs permitted off leash, when hunting</li> </ul>
<b>Campfires</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No fires</li> <li>-Stoves permitted</li> </ul>
<b>Shooting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hunting allowed in accordance with State Law.</li> <li>-Target shooting allowed</li> <li>-No shooting within 150 yards of people, structures, campsites, trailheads, picnic areas; or into caves, over lakes or across roads.</li> <li>-Backstop required for target shooting</li> <li>-No open-containers of alcohol</li> </ul>
<b>Mechanized Devices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No motorized equipment, bicycles, chainsaws, carts, wagons, portage wheels, or strollers</li> <li>-All wheelchairs allowed (even motorized)</li> </ul>
<b>Drones, UAS Hang gliders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Prohibited</li> <li>UAS = Unmanned Aerial Systems</li> </ul>
<b>Pack Animals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Allowed, but count toward total group size</li> <li>-No hobbling/tethering/picketing within 100' of lakes, streams, or trails</li> <li>-No hay, straw or unprocessed feed</li> <li>-Feed must be certified weed-free and include original and current documentation</li> </ul>
<b>Boats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Non-motorized boats/boards permitted</li> </ul>
<b>Fishing Regulations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Allowed. License required for people 16 and older</li> </ul>
<b>Other Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mushroom collecting is illegal in the James Peak Wilderness</li> <li>-Firewood collecting is prohibited in the James Peak Wilderness</li> <li>-Special permits required for prospecting, research, commercial filming, any commercial activity and any event where a fee is charged.</li> <li>Note: No competitions/races are ever allowed in Wilderness.</li> </ul>

## **Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BLRA)**

The Brainard Lake Recreation Area is set in a glacially carved valley, and is bounded on the west by several prominent peaks in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BLRA) is the most popular destination in the Boulder Ranger District.

Moose are often present. Be considerate of all wildlife. Approaching closely can threaten wildlife and they can be dangerously unpredictable.

BLRA is a non-wilderness, Federal Recreation Area located within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. Please note that the rules within BLRA are different in summer and winter and are different than adjacent Wilderness trails and other areas in the National Forest (including the adjoining Sourdough and Wapiti Trails).

**Visitors who hike trails west of the Long Lake or Mitchell Lake Trailheads are responsible for following IPW regulations and permit requirements.**

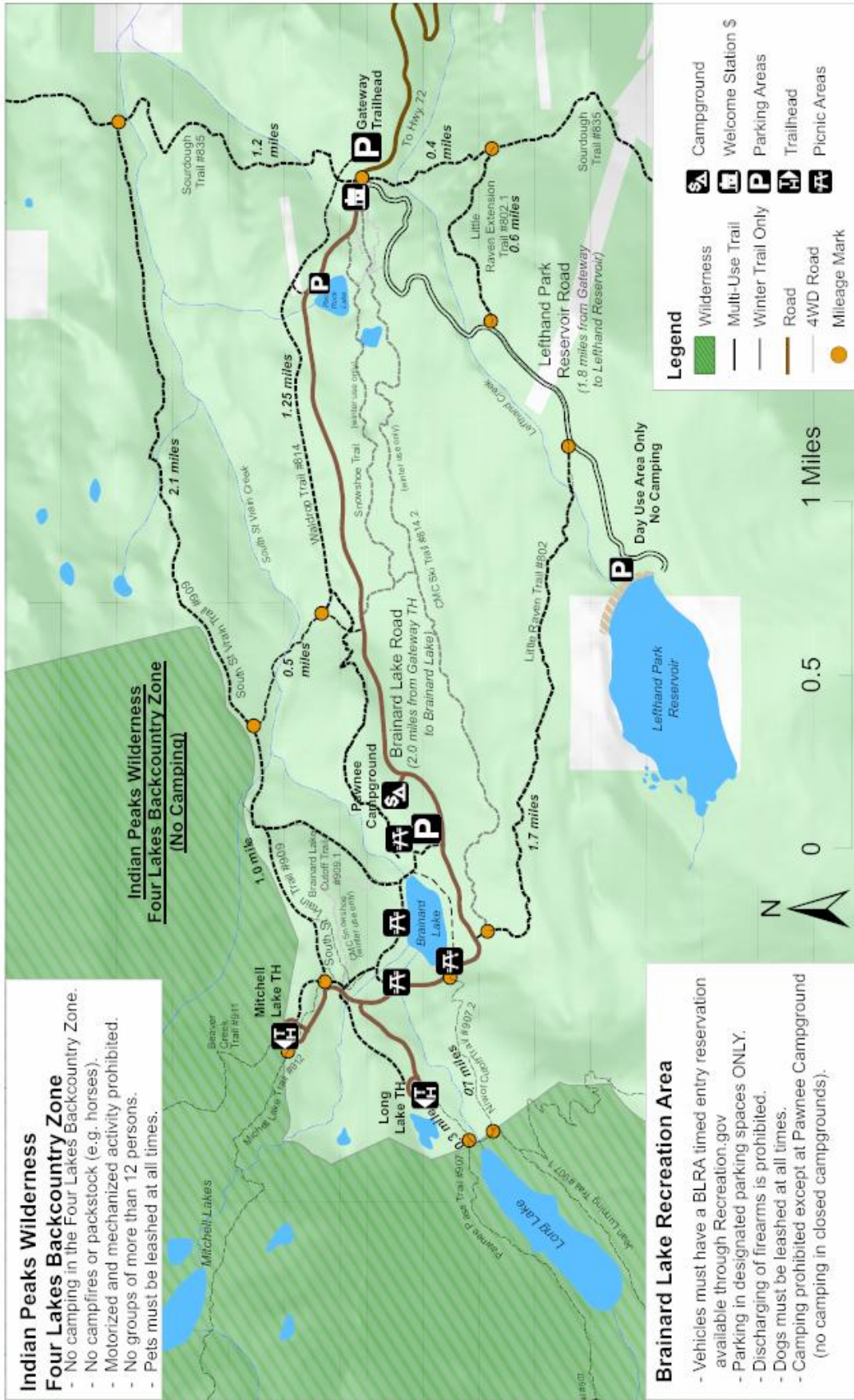
	<i>Summer Rules (May 1 – Nov 14)</i>	<i>Winter Rules (Nov 15 – Apr 30)</i>
<b>Parking</b>	-BLRA visitors must reserve and pay for timed entry spots in advance through Recreation.gov for June 10 – October 15	-Parking permits are not required outside of the period of June 10 – October 15; parking fee charged at fee station.
<b>Hiking</b>	-Permits not required (except outfitter/guides) - No groups >74	-Permits not required (except outfitter/guides) -No groups > 74 -Skiers only on Little Raven trail & CMC ski trail
<b>Camping</b>	-NO camping except at Pawnee Campground when open or north of South St. Vrain Creek -Must be 100' away from streams, lakes, and trails and ¼ mile from trailheads	-Camping allowed -No camping within 100' of streams, lakes or trails, or within ¼ mile of trailheads, picnic areas, and Pawnee Campground -Camping allowed at Red Rock Lake
<b>Pets</b>	-Pets must be on hand-held leash. -Hunting dogs permitted off leash when hunting	-Pets ONLY allowed on Sourdough trail & roads to Brainard Lake & Lefthand Park Reservoir. Leashes Not required, except at trailheads -Hunting dogs permitted everywhere

	<b><i>Summer Rules (May 1 – Nov 14)</i></b>	<b><i>Winter Rules (Nov 15 – Apr 30)</i></b>
<b>Campfires/ Fireworks</b>	-Fires permitted at Pawnee Campground and in the developed day sites in provided (metal/concrete) campfire rings -No fireworks -Stoves permitted -Firewood collection and tree-cutting are prohibited	-Campfires allowed -No fireworks -Stoves permitted -Firewood collection, tree-cutting are prohibited
<b>Mechanized Devices</b>	-Bikes allowed on all roads & these trails: Little Raven, Waldrop, CMC, South Saint Vrain and Sourdough Trails -e-bikes prohibited on trails -Wheelchairs, strollers, carts allowed	-Recommend fat bikes use only roads and Sourdough Trail. Little Raven and CMC trails are ski-only -Wheelchairs, strollers, carts allowed -No snowmobiles, vehicles or e-bikes
<b><i>Year-Round Rules</i></b>		
<b>Drones, UAS</b>	-Should not be launched from developed areas (trailheads, parking lots, picnic areas, campgrounds) and are NOT permitted in the Wilderness -Should not fly near wildlife or during firefighting - Should be operated within operator's line of sight UAS = Unmanned Aerial Systems	
<b>Boats</b>	-Non-motorized boats and stand-up paddleboards allowed	
<b>Weather</b>	-Check trail conditions before visiting -Because of the area's high elevation, snow typically remains until July. See the 'Safety for Yourself and Others' section of this handbook for snow and weather Internet sites.	
<b>Shooting</b>	-Hunting allowed. No moose hunting within ¼ mi. of Brainard Lake from the highwater line until the gate closes -For latest authoritative information on hunting regulations within BLRA, contact the Boulder Ranger District office -No target or recreational shooting	
<b>Pack Animals</b>	-Not allowed	
<b>Fishing Regulations</b>	-Allowed. License required for people 16 and older	
<b>Other Activities:</b>	-Special permits required for outfitters or guides, prospecting, mushroom collecting, research, commercial filming, and any activity where a fee is charged OR where >74 people attend (weddings, reunions, etc.)	

# Brainerd Lake Recreation Area



## Summer Season Map 2026



**Indian Peaks Wilderness**  
**Four Lakes Backcountry Zone**  
 - No camping in the Four Lakes Backcountry Zone.  
 - No campfires or packstock (e.g. horses).  
 - Motorized and mechanized activity prohibited.  
 - No groups of more than 12 persons.  
 - Pets must be leashed at all times.

**Brainerd Lake Recreation Area**  
 - Vehicles must have a BLRA timed entry reservation available through Recreation.gov  
 - Parking in designated parking spaces ONLY.  
 - Discharging of firearms is prohibited.  
 - Dogs must be leashed at all times.  
 - Camping prohibited except at Pawnee Campground (no camping in closed campgrounds).

**Volunteer Partnerships** provide immeasurable benefits to our public lands and thousands of hours of service. Contact any of these partners or the Boulder Ranger Ranger District for more information.



**For More Information Contact:**  
 Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests  
 and Pawnee National Grassland  
 970-295-6600



## Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest

**Opening and closing dates** vary (approx. mid-June through mid-October.) For road openings & closures, Google “Road Status Table” for Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest or visit the USFS Website.

### **Regulations for non-Wilderness Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest**

The following rules apply to the non-wilderness areas of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. These are areas such as Devil's Thumb trail to Lost Lake, Sourdough Trail, and other non-wilderness trails west of Camp Dick/Peaceful Valley.

Be aware that the wilderness boundary on the Buchanan Pass Trail is five miles west of the Middle St. Vrain TH. Thus, wilderness regulations such as leash requirements, camping permits, etc. do not apply to the first five miles of the Buchanan Pass Trail.

<b>Hiking</b>	-Permits not required (except outfitters/guides)
<b>Camping</b>	-Permits not required (except outfitters/guides) and groups >74 -No camping at trailheads, or picnic areas -No camping at Niwot Ridge Biosphere Reserve -Camping at Lost Lake & some roadside areas limited to designated sites as posted -No camping along 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Road -Camping limited to 14 days within a continuous 30-day period
<b>Pets</b>	-Pets NOT allowed on Buchanan Pass Trail from 12/1 - 4/30 -Leashes recommended, but not required except at “Developed Recreation Areas” i.e., campgrounds, trailheads, parking lots, & picnic areas. -Leashes required at the following trails outside of Wilderness: Arapaho Pass, Diamond Lake, and St. Vrain Mtn
<b>Campfires</b>	-Fires permitted except during Fire Bans -Stoves permitted

<b>Shooting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hunting and target shooting allowed in accordance with State Law— See Shooting Closure Map USFS website</li> <li>-No shooting within 150 yards of people, structures, roads, campsites, trailheads, picnic areas, into caves, or over lakes</li> <li>-Backstop required.</li> <li>-No open-containers of alcohol</li> </ul>
<b>Mechanized Devices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Bikes allowed on roads &amp; trails</li> <li>-e-Bikes are not allowed on the Buchanan Pass Trail; use the Middle St. Vrain 4x4 road instead. E-bikes are only allowed on roads and trails that are identified in the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)</li> <li>-Off Highway vehicles (OHV) allowed ONLY on roads</li> <li>-Wheelchairs allowed. (even motorized)</li> </ul>
<b>Drones, UAS Hang-gliders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-May be launched except during aerial firefighting</li> <li>-Should be operated within operator's visual line-of-sight</li> <li>-May not be launched from developed areas (trailheads, parking lots, picnic areas, campgrounds)</li> </ul> <p>UAS = Unmanned Aerial Systems</p>
<b>Boats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Motorized/sail boats permitted. See website for restrictions</li> </ul>
<b>Pack Animals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Allowed</li> <li>-No hay, straw or unprocessed feed</li> <li>-Feed must be certified weed-free and include original and current documentation</li> </ul>
<b>Fishing Regulations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Allowed. License required for people 16 and older</li> </ul>
<b>Other Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Special permits required for outfitters or guides, prospecting, mushroom collecting if more than a plastic grocery bag of &gt; 10 lbs., firewood collection (when wood is removed from forest), research, commercial filming, &amp; any activity where a fee is charged, or where &gt;74 people attend (weddings, reunions, etc.)</li> </ul>

# **Wilderness Camping**

## **Camping in Indian Peaks Wilderness**

The Indian Peaks Wilderness is an extremely popular place for both day and overnight trips. To minimize resource damage and optimize the visitor experience, the Forest Service has implemented a permit system for overnight backpacking trips. The permit allows the permit holder and their group (max of 12 people) to overnight camp in the selected Backcountry Zones within the Indian Peaks Wilderness for specific dates.

Campfires are not permitted east of the Continental Divide in IPW due to heavy usage and wildfire danger. Campfires are permitted in IPW on the west side of the Continental Divide, unless fire restrictions are in place, EXCEPT for the following locations, where fires are never permitted:

- Upper Cascade Creek
- Crater Lake
- Caribou Lake
- Gourd Lake
- Pawnee Lake
- Columbine Lake

## **IPW Backcountry Zones (BZs)**

The Indian Peaks Wilderness is split into 16 different areas called “backcountry zones” on the east and west sides of the continental divide (See the IPW Backcountry Zones Map). Each backcountry zone has a nightly quota limiting the number of overnight camping groups.

### **East Side (10 zones)**

Middle St. Vrain  
Coney Creek  
Four Lakes  
Glacier  
Neva  
Diamond Lake  
Devil’s Thumb  
Jasper Lake  
Woodland  
Middle Boulder

### **West Side (8 zones)**

Roaring Fork  
Hell Canyon  
Buchanan  
Cascade Creek  
Crater Lake  
Arapaho  
Caribou Lake  
Columbine

## **Permit Requirements:**

A permit is required for anyone planning to stay overnight within any of the backcountry zones from June 1 through September 15. The exception is the Four Lakes Backcountry Zone (BZ): West of Brainard Lake (includes Long Lake, Lake Isabelle, Isabelle Glacier, Pawnee Pass, Mitchell Lake, Blue Lake, Mount Audubon and all areas in between), which **prohibits camping** between May 1 and November 30.

## **Visitors Acquiring Indian Peaks Backcountry Camping Permits**

- All overnight visitors must have a permit. Permits are issued for specific dates and backcountry zones. Camping permits do not include a parking reservation which is a separate purchase. In order to protect the wilderness and the wilderness experience, each zone has a limit on how many permits can be issued for a specific night. Indian Peaks Wilderness permits are found exclusively online at <https://www.recreation.gov> and may sell out months in advance. Permits are not issued by mail, phone, or in person.
- Visitors can acquire permits from the date permits are released (usually March 1st) through the end of the season on September 15th.
- 25% of permits are held back and are not released until 3 days prior. This allows visitors to acquire a permit last-minute.

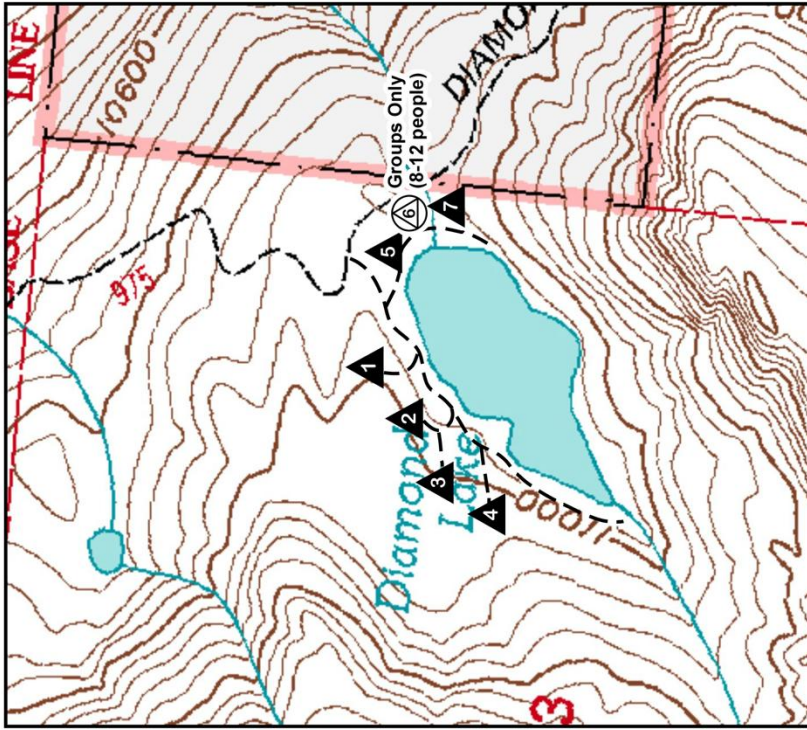
For example: a person with a permit to camp on June 1 at a designated campsite within the Jasper Lake Backcountry Zone and June 2 within the Devils Thumb Backcountry Zone cannot camp at Jasper Lake both nights. This would be a permit violation and there is a good chance that person would be occupying a designated campsite on June 2 sold to another party.

There are ***four backcountry zones that only allow camping at designated campsites***: Diamond Lake and Jasper Lake (east side of divide); and Caribou Lake, Crater Lake (west side of divide). Campers must be within 30 feet of a campsite marker. At each of the four backcountry zones, there is only one large-group campsite that fits 8-12 people. The other designated campsites in these areas accommodate 1-7 people. Campfires are prohibited in all of these campsites. (see maps – next 2 pages)

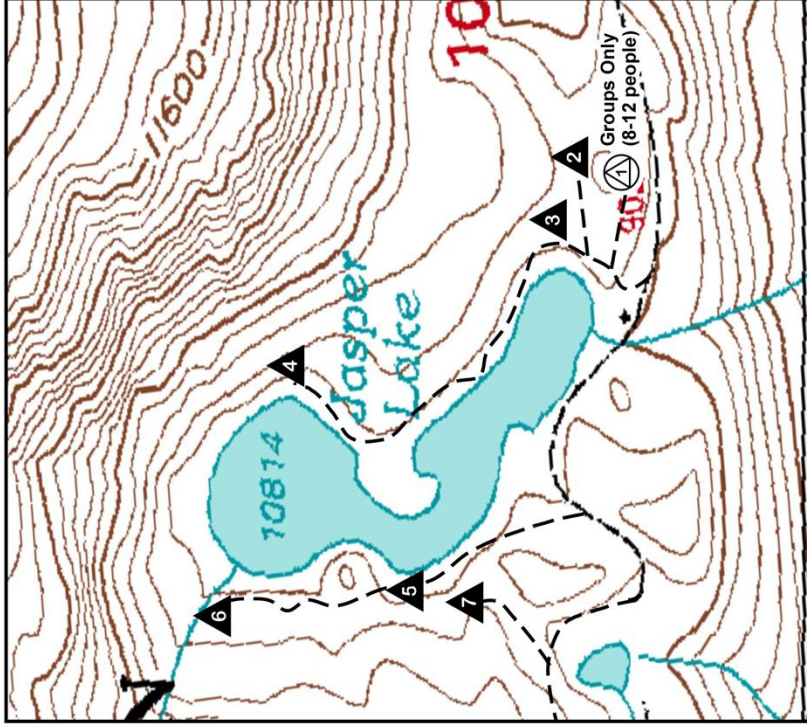
**Large groups** (8-12 people) are also required to have a large group permit for overnight trips from June 1 – September 15.

# Indian Peaks Wilderness - Designated Campsite Maps

Diamond Lake Travel Zone



Jasper Lake Travel Zone



1:10,000



This map is for display purposes only (not for navigation). If you have questions, please contact:

Boulder Ranger District  
2140 Yarmouth Ave  
Boulder, CO 80301  
303-541-2500  
EW 2015



## Leave No Trace . . . .

- Pick up all trash and pack it out, yours and others'.
- Use a stove for cooking.
- Campfires are prohibited year round.
- Minimize all noise to help maintain solitude.
- Bury human waste in catholes six to eight inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, and carry out toilet paper.
- Do all washing at least 200 feet from water sources.

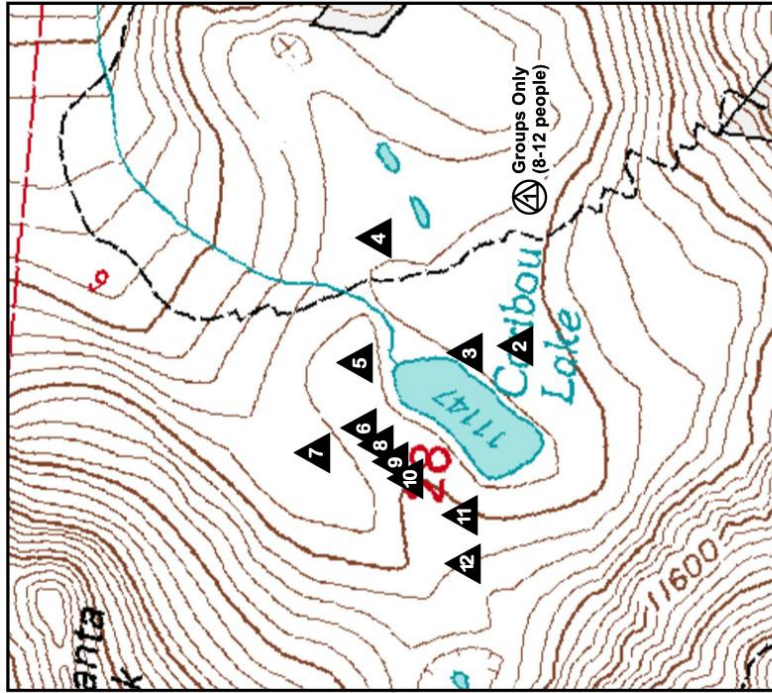
- Pets must be on a hand-held leash at all times.
- Camp only in designated sites and pitch tents within 30 feet of a campsite marker.
- Large groups must camp at Site #6 at Diamond Lake and Site #1 at Jasper Lake. Permit required year round. No small groups.
- Campsites 1-5 and 7 at Diamond and 2-7 at Jasper Lake are for small groups. First come, first served. Permit required June 1 - September 15.



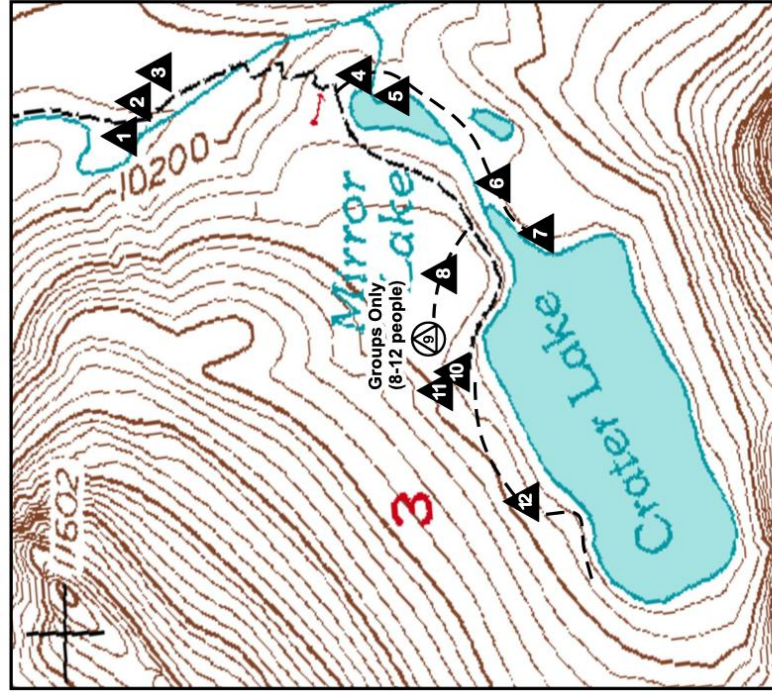
Arapaho & Roosevelt  
National Forests

# Indian Peaks Wilderness - Designated Campsite Maps

Caribou Lake Travel Zone



Crater Lake Travel Zone



1:10,000



This map is for display purposes only (not for navigation). If you have questions, please contact:  
 Sulphur Ranger District  
 9 Ten Mile Dr.  
 Granby, CO 80466  
 970-887-4100  
 EW 2015



## Leave No Trace . . .

- Pick up all trash and pack it out, yours and others'.
- Use a stove for cooking.
- Campfires are prohibited year round.
- Minimize all noise to help maintain solitude.
- Bury human waste in catholes six to eight inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, and carry out toilet paper.
- Do all washing at least 200 feet from water sources.

- Pets must be on a hand-held leash at all times.
- Camp only in designated sites and pitch tents within 30 feet of a campsite marker.
- Large groups must camp at Site #1 at Caribou Lake and Site #9 at Crater Lake. Permit required year round. No small groups.
- Campsites 2-12 at Caribou and 1-8, 10-12 at Crater Lake are for small groups. First come, first served. Permit required June 1 - September 15.



Arapaho & Roosevelt  
 National Forests

## Camping in James Peak Wilderness

The James Peak Wilderness has **no permit system**, no backcountry zones and **no designated campsites**. Camping is allowed as long as the campsite is more than 100 feet away from lakes, streams, and trails. Visitors should use existing sites to protect sensitive vegetation and reduce the creation of new campsites.

**No campfires are allowed due to heavy usage.**

### Bear-Resistant Food Storage Requirements

The Food Storage Order requires visitors to safely store food and other scented products like toothpaste and deodorant when they're not actively cooking or eating, in certain specified locations. Bear-resistant containers include bear lockers in campgrounds, bear-resistant canisters stashed 200+ feet from your campsite, and food stored out of sight in closed and locked vehicles. IPWA has several Bear Vault containers available for borrowing.

The order applies when visitors are either in a developed recreation site such as a campground or within 300 feet of either side of the centerline of any open public road such as Coney Flats Road, St. Vrain Road and much of the south-side of the Buchanan Pass trail to the foot bridge at the 5-mile mark. Refer to the Motor Vehicle Use Map for additional areas.

**The order also applies to camping in Diamond Lake Backcountry Travel Zone, Jasper Lake Backcountry Travel Zone, and at Lost Lake. At other Wilderness camping locations, bear-resistant storage is strongly recommended.**

In locations within and outside of the Food Storage Order areas, food can also be secured by properly hanging it 12 feet off the ground, 6 feet from the tree's trunk and 6 feet below the supporting limb. (see illustration, below). This can be challenging in higher elevation areas where trees are stunted and scarce; consider bear-resistant container!



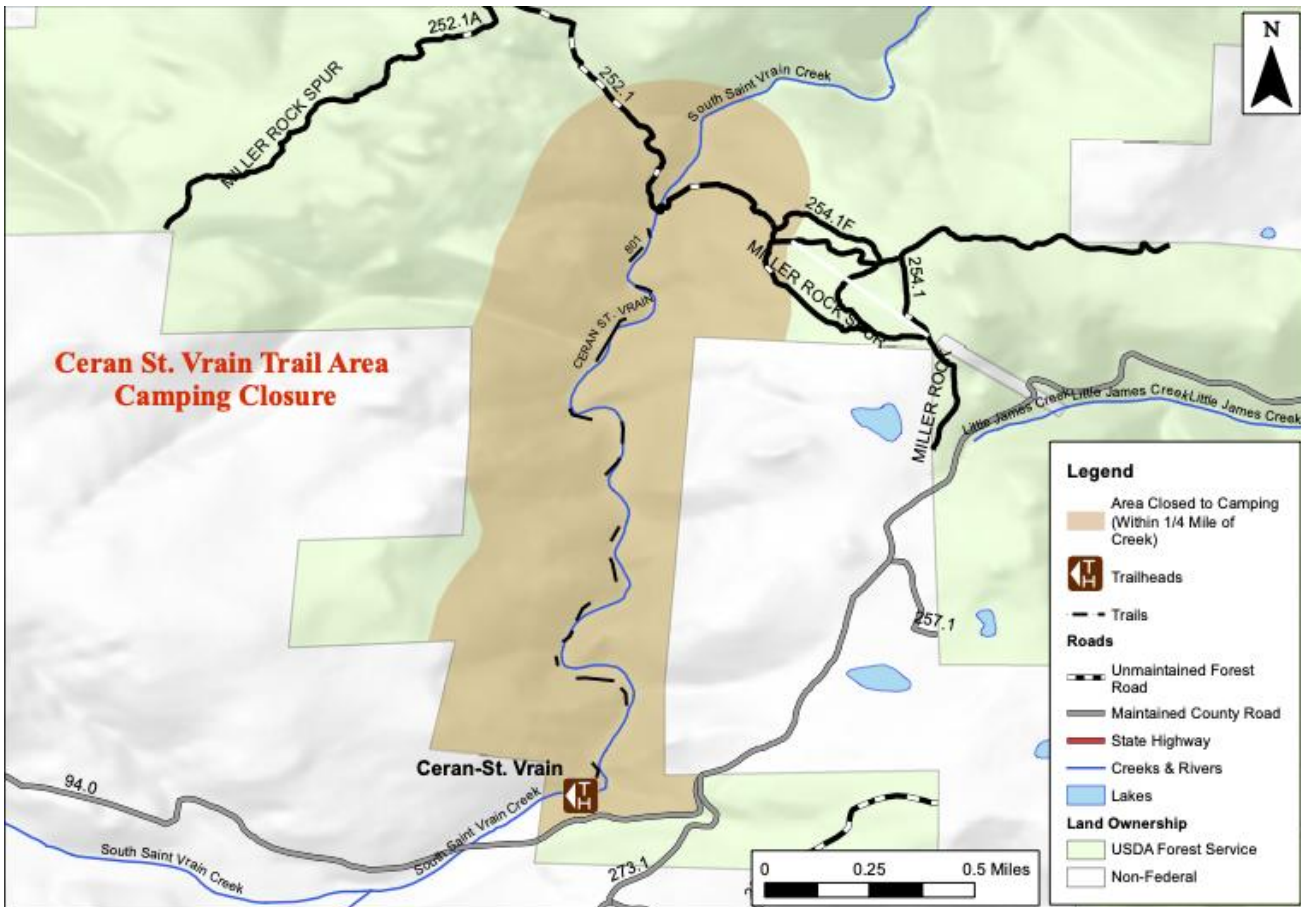
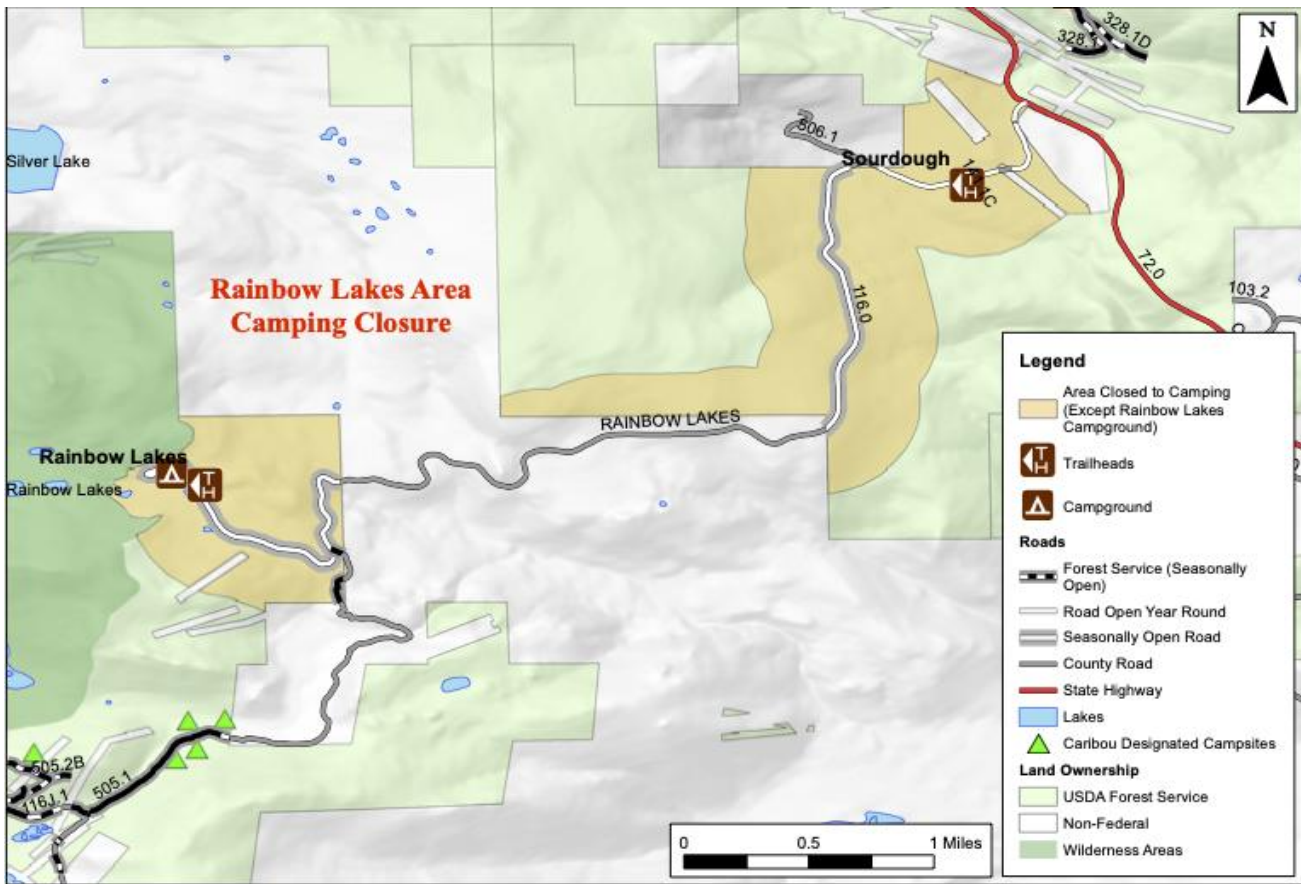
## **Camping on National Forest Lands - Dispersed Camping**

*This section does not apply to Wilderness areas but is included to help IPWA volunteers redirect members of the public to allowable camping areas.*

Dispersed camping (sleeping outdoors on forest land outside of a campground) is available in areas outside of Wilderness. However, 40% of lands within the Boulder Ranger District are privately owned. It is the camper's responsibility to know which areas are open USFS lands and which are otherwise owned. Landowners are not required to post their property as private. Campers are advised to obtain or download a "Boulder Motor Vehicle Use Map" to see where camping is allowed and to check the Boulder Ranger District website for additional temporary closure orders.

Dispersed camping is not allowed at trailheads, picnic areas, administrative sites, and within ½ mile of a campground or other area with designated site camping. Camping is also prohibited inside the Brainard Lake Recreation Area in summer (May 1-Nov 14) with the exception of Pawnee Campground, inside the Niwot Ridge Biosphere Reserve, and along the Fourth of July Road between Hessie and the Fourth of July Trailhead. Within the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, the Four Lakes Backcountry Zone is closed to camping from May 1 through November 30. Dispersed camping is allowed in Columbine BZ. Dusk to dawn parking closures exist along the South Saint Vrain Canyon, Boulder Canyon, and Left Hand Canyon.

Camping is currently prohibited by a USDA Forest Service Order within ¼ mile of either side of Rainbow Lakes Road, excluding Rainbow Lakes Campground and within ¼ mile of either side of South St. Vrain Creek beginning at the Ceran-St. Vrain trailhead and ending ¼ mile from the intersection of South St. Vrain Creek and National Forest System Road 252.1. See next page for area closure maps.



## Camping on National Forest Lands – Designated Sites

*This section does not apply to Wilderness areas but is included to help IPWA volunteers redirect members of the public to allowable camping areas.*

In order to prevent resource damage at popular areas, numbered markers were installed in these areas. First-come, first-served camping is allowed within 50 feet of a marker. Camping is not allowed within ½ mile of such an area. These areas are not official campgrounds with amenities and fees. Designated camping areas include:

- **West Magnolia:** located two miles south of the Nederland traffic circle, on the west side of Colorado Highway (CO) 72, this area consists of 22 designated campsites.
- **Gordon Gulch** (National Forest System Road [NFSR] 228): More than a dozen campsites are located five miles north of the Nederland traffic circle in an area east of CO 72.
- **Caribou** (NFSR 505, 128J.3, 116J.1, 116J.0): The old Caribou Town site is located five miles west of Nederland in an area locally known as “five points”. Several designated camping sites can be found along four-wheel drive routes in the area. This area is most easily accessible from Nederland on CR 128 (Caribou Road).
- **Gross Reservoir:** 26 designated are located along NFSR 359.
- **Lost Lake** (NFS Trail 813): A two-mile hike from the Hessie Trailhead leads to Lost Lake. This lake is located outside of Indian Peaks Wilderness. Camping at Lost Lake is restricted to eight designated campsites around the lake and is first come, first serve.

## **Developed Camping on National Forest Lands**

*This section does not apply to Wilderness areas but is included to help IPWA volunteers redirect members of the public to allowable camping areas.*

There are seven (7) developed campgrounds in the Boulder Ranger District. These campgrounds are subject to closure and may not be open during certain times of year. Reservations can be made ahead of time by visiting <https://www.recreation.gov>, or by paying at the campground on day of arrival for first-come, first-served sites.

**Group 1: Campgrounds with running water, vault toilets, grills, picnic tables and dumpsters. Reservations for these sites can be made by visiting <https://www.recreation.gov>.**

- **Kelly Dahl:** 3 miles south of Nederland on CO119 - 46 sites, of which 20 sites are first-come, first-served
- **Pawnee Campground:** 5 miles west of CO72 on CO Rd 102 at Brainard Lake - 47 sites. No first-come, first-served sites.
- **Peaceful Valley:** 15 miles west of Lyons on CO 7, left for 6 miles on CO 72 - 17 sites, of which 9 sites are first-come, first-served.
- **Camp Dick:** 1 mile west of Peaceful Valley Campground - 41 sites of which 21 sites are first-come, first-served
- **Olive Ridge:** 15 miles south of Estes Park on CO 7 - 56 sites, of which 28 sites are first-come, first-served.

**Group 2: Campgrounds with reduced services - vault toilets, grills, fire rings, picnic tables, no running water. All sites are first-come, first-served. None may be reserved.**

- **Meeker Park:** 13 miles S of Estes Park on CO 7 – 29 sites.
- **Rainbow Lakes:** 6.5 miles N of Nederland off CO72 - 18 sites.

## **Fishing and Boating Regulations:**

- Anglers 16 years and older must have a fishing license.
- Licenses are available at most sporting goods stores.
- Specific rules, regulations and licensing information are provided with the purchase of a license, and can also be found on the Colorado Parks & Wildlife website.
- It is the responsibility of anglers to know and follow the Colorado Parks & Wildlife regulations.
- It is the responsibility of anglers to know their bag and possession limits for individual species.
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife establishes regulations and stocking programs.
- A table of lakes in BLRA, IPW and JPW and their fish species (mostly trout) can be found at the end of this handbook.
- Human-powered, non-motorized watercraft are permitted on all national forest lakes (including BLRA & Wilderness).

# Safety: For Yourself and Others

The following sections highlight the most important safety issues IPWA volunteers need to practice or will likely encounter while in the outdoors.

## **Before you leave home**

- Establish a contact person: provide them with your itinerary and instruct them to contact the Boulder Sheriff's Office if you are overdue. Your contact person should also contact IPWA by emailing to [summer.patrols@ipwa.org](mailto:summer.patrols@ipwa.org) but this is only for informational purposes and will not initiate a rescue response.
- Check the weather forecast. Storms can affect your ability to complete a trip (e.g. Return over a mountain pass may be too dangerous if conditions deteriorate). Google these sites for snow conditions: "snotel" (selecting "University Camp" station for snow depths) and "TundraCam" (for real-time views of the area). Check "www.wunderground.com" and "www.weather.gov" for general weather. Be sure to pack the 10 essentials for your patrol. Review all regulations for the area you will be patrolling.
- Periodically review the Risk Assessment Worksheet (RAW) which all Volunteers review and sign each year in order to enhance safety and prevent injury to yourself and others . This document is on the IPWA Volunteer Portal. The RAW identifies existing or potential hazards (both safety and health) with actions to reduce or eliminate these hazards. Volunteers are expected to follow all rules, regulations, policies, and safety guidelines provided by the Forest Service in the RAW.

## **General Guidance, Cold Hazards, Hunting Season**

### **Safety**

- Know and stay within your limits.
- Take breaks and turn around short of your planned destination if necessary.
- Be alert to trail obstacles and hazards (including wildlife).

- Use caution when traveling in steep terrain.
- Be alert to areas where snow may collapse, especially when hazards may exist under the snowfield (rocks, deep or fast flowing water, etc.).
- Yield to people coming up hill and livestock.
- Communicate with horseback riders to pass safely and allow livestock to pass on the uphill side unless otherwise directed by riders.

### **Cold Hazards:**

- Frostbite is the freezing of tissue, commonly seen on fingers, toes, and ears, which causes cellular damage as ice crystals between cells rub together or blood clots stop circulation in small blood vessels. It can be caused by cold stress, low temperatures, moisture, poor insulation, contact with supercooled metal or gasoline, or interference with blood circulation. Frostbite prevention includes 1) covering exposed skin 2) avoiding restrictive clothing 3) keeping your core warm 4) staying dry 5) paying attention to your extremities 6) monitoring yourself and your companions 7) being proactive about staying warm. If you or a companion starts getting cold or feel fingers/toes getting numb, change out of wet clothing, keep up light physical activity, eat high-energy foods, and hydrate.
- Hypothermia is defined as a core body temperature below 95 °F due to exposure to cold weather or immersion in cold water. Symptoms start with shivering and progress to slurred speech, weak pulse, clumsiness, drowsiness, confusion, and loss of consciousness. Recommended treatments include wrapping in warm, dry layers, drinking/eating high-energy items and if feasible, using another person's body heat to help warm up.

### **Hunting Season Safety:**

Hunting is a year-round activity in Colorado, but has specific seasons based on types of animals. IPWA volunteers are most likely to encounter hunters during the Big Game hunting season, which generally runs from September through November.

IPWA volunteers may chat with hunters if they feel comfortable and should record observations in their reports, but volunteers should not attempt to enforce any regulations. IPWA volunteers should defer to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) resources as the authoritative guide for hunting. See the CPW website for current hunting season dates and information: <https://cpw.state.co.us/activities/hunting/big-game>

Colorado law requires hunters to wear at least 500 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material on an outer garment above the waist while hunting big game with a firearm license.

Methods to stay safe during hunting season include:

- Wear bright and visible clothing - CPW recommends a bright fluorescent orange/pink vest and hat (and pack cover if needed). IPWA volunteers are permitted to add a high-visibility element to their uniform during hunting season should they desire.
- Stick to well-marked trails, avoid shortcuts, and make noise when traveling through dense brush.
- Avoid hiking during peak hunting time at dawn and dusk, and instead opt to go out mid-day to reduce the risk of run-ins with hunters. If you hike during peak times, increase your noise and visibility efforts.
- Hike with a partner or group and make noise to help alert hunters to your presence.
- Remind visitors about the added safety precautions during hunting season, including the importance of sticking to designated trails and keeping their dogs on leash.

## **IPWA Tree Cutting Policies**

Downed or leaning trees can store significant "rebound energy" in their trunk and limbs that has the potential to cause serious injury. Volunteers are expected to adhere to these policies for their safety and to properly coordinate with the IPWA Sawyer Team and Boulder Ranger District (BRD) staff. These policies apply to all geographic areas that are patrolled by IPWA.

- Trees impeding the trail must be noted the same day in the appropriate section of your patrol report.
- Any volunteer may use a small limbing saw to remove side-branches which are thumb-diameter or less, that are not under load, and which are impeding the trail corridor. Work gloves and eye protection must be worn during this task.
- It is totally acceptable to leave trees and branches that are fully blocking a trail. The IPWA Sawyer Team and the BRD will evaluate and schedule the tree for removal.
- Most trees are removed fairly quickly, within a week. Some trees may take longer or they may be left alone for a variety of reasons. The vast majority of leaning trees are left to fall naturally because they are dangerous to remove.
- Only volunteers who are certified USFS Sawyers and members of the IPWA Sawyer Team may cut and remove trees or larger branches, and **ONLY** if assigned and coordinated with the Sawyer Coordinator and the USFS.
- For questions about tree removal, USFS Sawyer certification or the IPWA Sawyer program, please email [hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org).

## **Environmental Hazards**

- **Lightning**: When lightning activity is nearby, avoid the tops of ridges, wide-open spaces, ledges, rocky outcrops, bodies of water, lone trees, damp/wet ground, railroad tracks and sheds or shelters in exposed locations. Put down and move away from any tools or metal objects. If traveling with a group, spread out. Seek shelter in a ditch, tunnel, canyon, or head-high clumps of trees in open forest areas. Crouch down with feet together to make yourself a smaller target and minimize the flow of current.
- **Hazard Trees & Mountain Pine Beetle**: Be especially aware and avoid tree species susceptible to Mountain Pine Beetle. Avoid dense patches of dead trees that can fall without warning. Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already in the forest when the winds kick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees. Place tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.
- **Hyperthermia (heatstroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps)**: is the increase in body temperature by dilating blood vessels to radiate heat away from the body through sweating or other means. There are different stages of hyperthermia, heatstroke being the most serious. Symptoms may include moist skin, elevated pulse, nausea, dizziness, headache, and confused or irritable behavior. Basic treatment is to rapidly cool the body, provide water with electrolytes, and vigorous fanning. Seek medical attention.
- **Hypoxia (Altitude Sickness)**: is the lack of oxygen in the blood. Hypoxia can be mild or escalate into High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) or High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE). Symptoms may include headache, nausea, fatigue, irritability, insomnia, dry cough, and elevated heart rate. Get to a lower elevation. Seek medical attention immediately in severe cases.
- **Avalanche and Rock Fall**: Avoid travel across snowfields, scree fields, talus slopes, or under/on cornices if alternatives exist. Don't travel on or below snowfield slopes steeper than 28° without official

avalanche training. Be aware that many snowfields are “undercut” by streams and falling through is a danger.

- **Mines and Mine Shafts**: Never enter abandoned mines or mine shafts. Be aware that the ground in these areas may be unstable and subject to collapse, especially near the entrance. Poisonous gases may be present.
- **Insects and Wildlife**: If you or anyone you are traveling with has a known allergy to stinging insects, make sure that everyone in the group is aware of the problem. Carry emergency medication (epi-pen and antihistamine) at all times. For insects with a stinger, scrape it off, but avoid squeezing the attached venom sack.
  - Mosquitoes and Ticks can transmit a multitude of diseases and viruses. Minimize bites by wearing long sleeves, pants, and an insect repellent (products containing DEET seem to be most effective). Wear light-colored clothing and avoid using scented shampoo or deodorants.
  - Never feed wildlife. Pick up trash and secure food in camp so that it is out of reach. Use bear canisters where required and whenever possible, storing canister 200+ ft from your camp. If you opt not to use a bear canister know how to properly execute a bear hang.
  - Know how to recognize bear, moose, and mountain lion signs. Make noise when traveling through dense brush and riparian areas. If a recent kill is discovered, leave the area immediately. If an animal is encountered, always give them a way to escape. In a bear or mountain lion encounter, stay calm. Don't run from the animal or attempt to climb a tree to escape. Slowly back away and make yourself appear larger. Avoid direct eye contact. If the animal attacks, fight back.
  - Moose can be deadly, especially if dog(s) are present. Warning signs include laying back its ears & raising hair on nape of neck, smacks or licks its lips, looks at and walks towards you, urinates, shows the whites of its eyes, and/or whips its head back like a horse. But sometimes a moose will charge without any warning signs. If charged – back off and run; get behind nearest tree or

rock as a barrier between you and the moose. If a moose knocks you to the ground, curl up in a ball to protect head and vital organs.

- Report potentially life-threatening encounters with black bears to the Colorado Division of Wildlife. All mountain lion sightings should be reported (attacks or encounters should be reported immediately). Include all bear, moose and mountain lion activity in your patrol report.

## **Other Safety Considerations**

- **Breaking Apart Fire Rings or Picking Up Litter:** Always wear leather gloves when dispersing fire rings or picking up litter. Watch for fishhooks, broken glass, metal cans, or other sharp objects. Use care when moving rocks to avoid back injuries or crushing fingers/toes. Lift with your legs, not with your back. Trash cleanup will generally involve collecting occasional discarded items alongside the trail or in campsites. Do not handle any trash that may expose you to hazardous chemicals or blood borne pathogens.
- **When Crossing Streams:** Stream levels can fluctuate dramatically in a short period of time. In early summer, stream levels typically rise during the afternoon as daytime warmth increases snowmelt. Crossings that were passable when first encountered may not be so on the return. Use caution on narrow or slick bridges. Do not use bridge if crossing appears treacherous or unstable. When crossing creeks, never enter deep or fast moving water or where the stream bottom is not visible. Use a walking stick or other aid to cross. Stream bottoms can be slippery. Unbuckle pack straps and waist belts when crossing so pack can be quickly removed if necessary.
- **If You Are Lost:** If you cannot reorient yourself, stay calm and do not change your location. You have prearranged a contingency plan for an overdue return. Stay put until rescuers locate you. Help rescuers by signaling to them with your whistle, signal mirror, signal tarp, flashlight, headlamp, or fire.

## **What to do if You See a Wildfire**

- Leave the area immediately
- Go to safety
- Advise others to go to safety

***Once you are safely out of the area, report the fire by calling 911.***

If there's no 911 access, call the Boulder County Sheriff at 303-441-4444.

**Note info about the fire if safe to do so.**

**Use the Fire Information Checklist at the end of this Handbook to record:**

- Location on map (latitude/longitude)
- Fire's size in acres (roughly)
- Time of day
- Fire's position on slope
- Kinds of plants/trees (= fire fuel)

### **WHERE TO GO IF YOU'RE CAUGHT IN A FIRE**

<b>BEST PLACES</b>	<b>FIRE SAFETY FEATURES</b>
<b>Alpine tundra</b>	Tundra may burn, but fires are generally low to the ground and can be run through or around
<b>Natural barriers such as rock outcroppings and rock slides</b>	Relatively safe — no fire fuel
<b>An already-burned area</b>	Relatively safe avenue of escape — no fire fuel
<b>Rivers and lakes</b>	If a fire comes toward you, get face up in the water, leaving your pack on your back. Put your arms around your head to provide an air pocket.
<b>Downhill from a fire</b>	A fire tends to burn uphill

### **WHAT TO AVOID IF YOU'RE CAUGHT IN A FIRE**

<b>WHAT TO AVOID</b>	<b>FIRE DANGER FEATURES</b>
<b>Saddles and Ridgelines</b>	Fires tend to be drawn to these areas
<b>Uphill from a fire</b>	A fire tends to burn uphill

# Visitors' Most Frequently Asked Questions

## What is going on at Lake Isabelle?

Lake Isabelle has been a reservoir for almost 100 years, and is owned and operated by the Left Hand Ditch Company. Maintenance and repair work is ongoing on the inlet section of the reservoir to continue to operate safely and effectively. Regardless of project work, this lake is drained for agricultural purposes each year in late summer. See: <http://lefthandditchcompany.com/SystemStatus.aspx>

## What is the deal with parking?

Plan ahead when parking at popular trailheads particularly in the Brainard Lake Recreation Area, 4th of July, Hessie, and Middle St. Vrain. If hiking on weekends and holidays, arrive very early (before 7am) for parking at these trailheads. Visitors must reserve their timed entry for Brainard Lake Recreation Area ahead of time. For the Hessie Trailhead, consider taking the Boulder County shuttle from the Nederland High School (runs Fri, Sat, and Sun.).

## Where can I ride my bike in BLRA?

### Summer: May 1 - Nov 14

- Non-wilderness BLRA trails are open to non-mechanized bikes. Bikes are also allowed on Brainard Lake and Left Hand Park Reservoir roads and these trails: Little Raven, Waldrop, CMC, South Saint Vrain and Sourdough.
- E-bikes are prohibited on all BLRA trails, but are allowed on BLRA paved roads.

### Winter: Nov 15 - April 30

- Non-mechanized bikes are allowed on the Brainard Lake and Left Hand Park Reservoir Roads and on the Waldrop, South St. Vrain and Sourdough trails. Little Raven and CMC Ski Trails are ski-only (no bikes or hiking). No motorized vehicles (e.g. snowmobiles, e-bikes) are allowed past the BLRA gate in winter.
- E-bikes are also prohibited on all BLRA trails.

**What's allowed in the Rainbow Lakes Area?** The Rainbow Lakes Road is closed in winter near the Sourdough Trailhead and CU Mountain Research Station. The road is open when conditions permit: most often by June; a high clearance vehicle is recommended. Dispersed camping is prohibited within ¼ mile of either side of Rainbow Lakes Road. See maps for trail access to Rainbow Lakes and Arapahoe Glacier. Be cautious when driving this roadway.

**What is the status of the Arapaho Lakes trail?** The Arapaho Lakes trail in the James Peak Wilderness is not maintained or signed. Much of this trail is located in steep terrain along the creek and not suited for heavy use. The USFS requests that visitors not be encouraged to use of this trail since it is neither signed nor maintained.

# Volunteers' Most Frequently Asked Questions

**May I bring my pet?** No, the USFS has requested that IPWA Volunteers not patrol with their pets, or with pets of their hiking companions. Service animals are excepted.

**Should I report an abandoned campfire?** Yes, all instances of an active illegal campfire, regardless of whether it was extinguished or not, should be reported as soon as possible to USFS. If the campfire has the potential to become a wildfire, it should be considered to be an emergency.

**What should I report about an ongoing violation?** The USFS wants detailed information if a volunteer observes an ongoing violation, such as an illegal campfire which the owners refuse to extinguish or illegal camping. The volunteer should include in their patrol report as much information as can be collected *without directly asking or confronting the person(s)*: for example, a description of the individuals involved and their gear, the circumstances of the violation, and the location of the violation including the campsite, trail name and direction the visitors were headed on the trail. The goal is to get the information to the FS rapidly so that they have a chance to intercept the offender.

**Should I report off-leash dogs in the “Violations” section of my patrol report?** No - just enter the number of off-leash dogs in the specific field provided.

**How many friends/family can I bring with me?** **NEW 2026: You may bring no more than 2 non-IPWA companions on a scheduled IPWA patrol.**

**Can I camp overnight?** Yes! The overnight portion of the trip is considered personal time, and no volunteer hours will be credited for the overnight portion of the patrol. All public contacts are limited to daylight hours only; be out of uniform by end of patrol day. Please coordinate with the Summer Patrol Coordinator to obtain an "administrative" overnight permit from the USFS and information on where to park. All overnights must be cleared by the Summer Patrol Coordinator. It is recommended to contact the Coordinator at least 72 hours before your patrol date. See “Where Do We Patrol” section of this handbook for further information.

# General Wilderness Information

## Mountain Ecology Life Zones

### **Alpine (Tundra)**

Elevation: Tree line (+/- 11,500 ft.) to summit

Climate: Limited precipitation. Annual rainfall 25 inches. Windy (up to 200 mph). Temperatures often above those in the lower valleys. Summer temps: 35 to 60. Winter temps: -35 to 15. Average of only 40 frost-free days per year. Goes through over 30 freeze-thaw cycles during a year.

Mammals: Marmot, pika, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, elk. Some year-round; others migrate up in summer only.

Plants: Many wildflowers (perennials except one). Most are relatives of the plants you'll find at lower elevations: wallflower, dwarf clover, alpine phlox, alpine avens, bistort, alpine chiming bells, king's crown, queen's crown, fairy primrose, rock primrose, moss campion, alpine forget-me-not. Willow thickets in boggy areas. Growing period is only 5 to 8 weeks.

Birds: Few

Other: Concentrate use on established trails. When traveling off trail stick to rocks and disperse your use as to avoid damaging fragile alpine plants. Pay attention to weather and aim to be off summits before midday due to lightning.

### **Subalpine**

Elevation: 10,000 feet to tree line (11,500 ft.)

Climate: More precipitation. Blowing snow accumulates in this area. Cooler than alpine zone. Trails in this area are the last to become snow free. Soil is often water soaked.

Mammals: Elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, marmot.

Plants: Many forest wildflowers, often larger versions of the ones seen in other zones: columbine, tall chiming bells, fireweed, fairy slipper orchid (rare), parry primrose, white marsh marigold, globeflower, Jacob's ladder (skunk smell), heart-leaved arnica, western yellow paintbrush.

Trees: Limber pine, bristlecone pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, aspen.

Birds: Many more: Clark's nutcracker, western blue jay, gray jay (camp robbers), and warblers.

## **Montane**

Elevation: 8,000 to 10,000 feet

Climate: Greater precipitation. Not as cool as subalpine. Most abundant zone for plant and animal life because of climate.

Mammals: Elk, Mule Deer, mountain lion, black bear, beaver, Abert's squirrel, red squirrel, least chipmunk, snowshoe hare, pocket gopher.

Plants: Lots of wildflowers: columbine, penstemon, mouse-eared chickweed, pussy toes, golden banner, loco weed, mariposa lily, kinnikinnik, yarrow, shrubs, current, antelope bitterbrush, sage, shrubby cinquefoil, and berry producing.

Trees: Lodgepole pine, aspen, Colorado blue spruce, Douglas fir (north slopes), ponderosa pine.

Birds: Hummingbird, mountain bluebird, woodpeckers, nuthatches and creepers, flycatchers, vireos, hawks and falcons, western tanager.

## **Foothills**

Elevation: 6,000 to 8,000 feet

Climate: Lower rainfall. Much warmer. Not the abundance of plant and animal life, but greater variety.

Mammals: Mule deer, mountain lion, coyote, black bear, Abert's squirrel.

Plants: Pasque flower, Virginia spring beauty, mountain ball cactus, Lambert's loco, sulphur flower, Indian paintbrush, miner's candle, yucca, wild rose, large number of shrubs.

Trees: Ponderosa pine, juniper, Colorado blue spruce, box elder, aspen.

Birds: Eastern and western overlap (western blue jay and blue jay) western tanager, larger birds of prey.

## **Riparian (any elevation)**

Climate: Much more moisture than the zone in which it is located. Much warmer. Plants and animals could be found here that are not typical for the zone.

Plants: Shooting star, tall chiming bells, elephant head.

Other: Used as a mammal highway. Plenty of food, water, and shelter along the corridor.

Birds: Ouzel or dipper ("flies" under water).

## Interesting Names & History

- **Arapaho National Forest** - established by Teddy Roosevelt in 1908 and named for a Native American tribe in the area. Was almost made part of Rocky Mountain National Park in 1925.
- **Arapaho Pass and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Mine** - Remnants of mining operations are visible on the way up the pass, such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July mine, named because miners staked claim on Independence day 1872.
- **Mount Albion and Kiowa Peak** - Colorado Geographic Board renamed Kiowa (Native American name for all the snowy peaks north of Arapaho). Renamed Sheep Mountain to Mount Albion. Very confusing for mining claims.
- **Caribou Lake and Pass** – Town and mine near Nederland named by a miner, George Lytle, who was reminded of the Caribou Mountains in Alberta Province. The Caribou trail leads over the divide and past the lake.
- **Isabelle and Fair Glaciers** - Isabelle was the wife of Fred Fair of Boulder. Her glacier is on the east side of Apache Peak; his is on the west side of the divide.
- **Mount Toll** - named after Roger Toll, superintendent of RMNP from 1921 – 1929. He invented the bronze container to hold the list of people who have reached the summit.
- **James Peak** - Named for Edwin James, a botanist who was part of an 1820 expedition to the Rocky Mountains. James became a mountaineer and was the first person to do a recorded ascent of a Colorado Fourteener (Pikes Peak).
- **Indian Peaks** - The Indian Peaks were named in 1914 by Ellsworth Bethel, a botany teacher from Denver, who made a sketch of the range and named each peak after the Native American tribes in the area and around the West. These include Apache Peak, Shoshoni Peak, Paiute Peak, Arikaree Peak, Kiowa Peak, Navajo Peak, Ogalalla Peak, Pawnee Peak, and North and South Arapaho Peaks.

Note: Some of the original names of the peaks were preserved in a book by Oliver Toll titled “Arapaho Names and Trails: A Report of a 1914 Pack Trip”, which chronicled his expedition, sponsored by the newly established Colorado Mountain Club, with two Arapaho elders from the Wind River Reservation to document the stories and original places names. Arapaho Peak was called Pawnee Forts and James Peak and its adjacent mountains were called the Wolf’s Tusks.

## FORMS: Patrol Contact & Counting

*Volunteers can carry digital or paper copies of this form to capture information during each patrol*

Date:	
Start Time:	
End Time:	
Trailhead:	
Destination(s):	
Miles Hiked:	
Hours (from trailhead):	
# People Total:	
# Meaningful Interactions:	
# Dogs Total:	
# Dogs off-leash:	
# Backpackers:	
# Anglers:	
# Horseback Riders:	
# Fire Rings Removed:	
# Fire Rings Not Removed:	
Wildlife Observations:	
Trail Conditions:	
Active Violations: describe interaction if contentious	
Other Notes (incl. minor injuries):	

## FORMS: Lost/Missing Hiker Report

<b>Your name and contact info</b>			
<b>Date, Time, Your Location</b>			
<b>Who is reporting missing hiker? Name, address, cell</b>			
<b>Missing Person Name</b>			
<b>Description (sex, hair color, eyes)</b>			
<b>Description (age, height, weight)</b>	<b>Age:</b>	<b>Ht/Wt:</b>	
<b>Clothing worn: jacket, pants, color?</b>			<b>Last seen:</b>
<b>Known medical issues?</b>			
<b>Equipment: backpack, water?</b>			
<b>Direction of travel, last known location and destination</b>			
<b>Training/experience?</b>			
<b>Vehicle Description</b>			<b>License:</b>
<b>Trailhead where parked</b>			
<b>Other info</b>			
<b>Contact person for hiker</b>			<b>Cell:</b>
<b>What was done by whom</b>			
<b>Witnesses</b>			<b>Cell:</b>

## **FORMS: Visitor with Minor Injury or Medical Situation**

1. Take a moment: stop, breathe, gather your thoughts, introduce self
2. Ask if injured person would like help and assess immediate medical needs
3. Keep the injured person calm
4. Assist in accordance with Good Samaritan Law; only to the extent that you are trained and comfortable in doing so
5. Assess ability to get back to Trailhead

<b>Your name and contact info</b>		
<b>Why you are messaging</b>		
<b>Encounter Info</b>	Date: Time of Encounter: Location:	
<b>Injured Person Name, Age, Gender, contact info</b>		
<b>Names of others in Party &amp; contact info</b>	1.  2.	3.  4.
<b>Description of Injury or Medical Situation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Severe/life threatening: use Severe Injury Form	
<b>Did you provide assistance? Describe.</b>		
<b>Rescue assistance needed to get person to TH?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Encounter End Info</b>	Time Encounter ended: Other Info:	
<b>Further Actions taken by Volunteer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency/Rescue contacted at _____ (time)	

# FORMS: Visitor with Severe Injury or a Life-Threatening Situation

Contact emergency response by calling 911, texting 911, or activating the SOS button on your satellite device.

1. **Take a moment:** Stop, breathe, gather your thoughts, and fill out this form
2. **While you wait for rescue personnel to arrive:**
  - Keep the person calm
  - Render aid to level you are trained
  - Update Dispatch with changing conditions

## Report to Provide to First Responders

Your Name:		
Why you are messaging (e.g., “requesting assistance with an injured hiker”):		
Person’s Name:	Their Age:	Their Gender:
Location (trail intersections, and cardinal directions/miles, etc.):		
What happened? At what time? How do you know about the event?		
Conscious/Breathing: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Chief complaint:		
Injuries/Bleeding:		
Treatment being provided:		
Your phone or device battery life:		

# FORMS: Fire Information Checklist

Location on map (latitude/longitude): \_\_\_\_\_

Fire's size in acres (roughly): \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of day you first saw the fire: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Fire's Position on Slope</b>	
	Ridge Top
	Saddle
	Upper 1/3 of slope
	Middle 1/3 of slope
	Lower 1/3 of slope
	Canyon bottom
	Mesa/plateau
	Flat or rolling
	Other:

<b>Kinds of Plants and Trees (= fire fuel)</b>	
	Grass
	Grass/brush
	Oak brush
	Pinon / juniper
	Lodgepole, pine
	Spruce / fir
	Aspen
	Logging slash
	Other:

# FORMS: Early Season Patrol Checklist

Early season patrols provide critical information to the USFS and visitors, especially trails that provide access to campsites. Use this checklist to ensure you collect all relevant information. OK to collect info from other wilderness visitors.

Date & Trailhead	
Name of Trail	
Proposed Destination	
Actual Destination (turn-around)	

## Personal Observations – Trail Conditions

# of miles from TH	Trail description

## Personal Observations – Campsite Conditions

Campsite Name	
---------------	--

## Site Descriptions:

Site #	Condition (snow covered, wet, dry)	Sign Visible (Y/N)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

Reported Observations from other wilderness hikers:

# Table of Lakes & Fish Species

Lake	Elevation	Acres	Depth	Fish Species
Arapaho Lakes East	11,180	9.8	49.2	Cutthroat
Arapaho Lakes Middle	11,180	4.0	15.0	Cutthroat
Arapaho Lakes West	11,580	2.5	16.4	Cutthroat
Barker Reservoir	8,183	380.0	100.0	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Betty	11,430	8.5	11.0	Cutthroat
Blue	11,320	22.7	100.0	Cutthroat, Rainbow
Bob	11,550	6.1	71.0	Cutthroat
Brainard	10,350	15.6	8.0	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Caribou	11,147	5.6	8.2	Cutthroat
Columbine	11,060	5.6	8.0	Cutthroat, Rainbow
Coney	10,600	8.0	21.0	Cutthroat
Coney (Upper)	10,940	16.0	31.0	Cutthroat
Crater Lake (IPW)	10,350	24.8	78.0	Brook, Cutthroat
Crater Lake East (JPW)	10,480	5.7	4.0	Brook, Brown, Cutthroat, Rainbow
Crater Lake Middle (JPW)	10,600	14.0	14.0	Brook, Brown, Cutthroat, Rainbow
Crater Lake Southeast (JPW)	10,580	8.6	29.0	Brook, Brown, Cutthroat, Rainbow
Crater Lake West (JPW)	11,000	8.5	58.0	Brook, Brown, Cutthroat, Rainbow
Devil's Thumb	11,500	11.5	37.0	Cutthroat
Diamond	10,970	14.2	17.0	Brook, Brown, Cutthroat, Rainbow
Diamond (Upper)	11,720	6.0	17.0	Cutthroat
Dorothy	12,061	16.0	100.0	Cutthroat
Envy	11,020	2.0	100.0	Cutthroat
Forest Lakes Upper	10,850	4.3	8.2	Cutthroat
Forest Lakes Lower	10,700	2.7	3.2	Cutthroat
Gibraltar	11,200	5.7	44.0	Cutthroat
Gourd	10,830	13.7	50.0	Cutthroat
Gross Reservoir	7,287	412.0	230.0	Brook, Brown, Lake, Rainbow, Salmon
Heart	11,280	17.0	52.0	Cutthroat
Iceberg Lakes North	11,650	10.0	77.0	Cutthroat
Iceberg Lakes South	11,690	6.0	100.0	Cutthroat

Lake	Elevation	Acres	Depth	Fish Species
Isabelle	10,868	31.3	40.0	Cutthroat
Island	11,400	19.0	39.0	Cutthroat
James Peak	11,212	10.0	10.0	Cutthroat
Jasper	10,814	18.7	36.0	Brook, Brown, Cutthroat
Jenny	10,917	4.5	9.0	Brook, Rainbow
King	11,431	11.5	61.0	Cutthroat, Rainbow
Lefthand Park Res.	10,600	100.0	34.0	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Little Echo	11,185	13.0	96.0	Cutthroat, Lake
Long	10,521	40.5	22.0	Brook, Rainbow
Lost	9,800	8.6	14.0	Brook, Rainbow
Mitchell	10,720	13.8	14.5	Brook, Cutthroat
Neva Upper	11,836	8.6	61.0	Cutthroat
Neva Lower	11,800	10.0	49.0	Cutthroat
Pawnee	10,840	11.3	22.0	Cutthroat
Rainbow (10 Ponds)	10,200	1 – 2.9	4 – 15	Brook, Rainbow
Red Deer	10,372	14.5	58.0	Brook
Red Rock	10,180	6.5	3.0	Rainbow
Rogers Pass	11,120	5.6	6.5	Cutthroat
Skyscraper	11,221	12.9	28.0	Cutthroat
Stone	10,643	5.4	8.0	Rainbow
Storm	11,440	7.0	22.0	Cutthroat
Upper Lake	10,730	6.3	6.0	Brook, Cutthroat
Watanga	10,790	2.8	2.0	Brown, Rainbow
Woodland	10,972	10.0	7.0	Cutthroat
Yankee Doodle	10,711	5.7	24.0	Brook, Rainbow

## IPW Distance Chart - Arapahoe Glacier Overlook - Gibraltar Lake

<b>TRAILHEAD</b>	Arapahoe Glacier Overlook	Arapaho Pass	Beaver Creek TH	Betty Lake	Blue Lake	Bob Lake	Buchanan Pass	Buchanan Pass Trail / Beaver Creek Junct.	Caribou Lake	Caribou Pass	Cascade Falls	Columbine Lake	Coney Lake	Crater Lake	Devils Thumb Lake	Devils Thumb Pass	Diamond Lake	4th of July Mine	Gibraltar Lake
Beaver Creek TH							8.7	6.8						9.5					
Brainard Gateway TH (via Waldrop)*				5.8			13	10.3			12.8		11.1	12.4					
Brainard Lake Parking*				3.2			10.4	7.7			10.2		8.5	9.8					
Camp Dick TH							8				14.7		7	17.4					8.7
Coney Flats TH			5.2				3.5	1.6			10.2		2.5	12.9					5.6
Fourth of July Th	3.7	3.1	11.1			11.5		21.7	4.4	4.1	15.5	7		18.2	6.6	7.4	2.6	2	
Hessie TH	10.6	10	6			6.4			11.3	11					5.9	6.8	6.5	8.9	
Junco Lake TH	7.1	4.3							5.5	3.3	9.3	3.3		11.9	10.3	9.3	7.8	6.3	
Long Lake TH							9.4	7.5			9.2			8.8					
Middle St. Vrain TH			9				7.6				14.3		6.6	17					8.3
Mitchell Lake TH				2.4			8.7	6.9					7.7						
Monarch Lake TH	13.3	10.4					8.9	10.7	9.1	10.5	4.5			7.2				11.5	
Niwot Cutoff TH					3.1														
Rainbow Lakes TH	6.2	9.1	18.8			19.2		27.7	10.4	10.2		13			14.3	15.1	10.3	8	
Roaring Fork TH	15	12.1					10.6	12.4	10.8	12.2	6.2			8.9					
Rock Creek TH								6.6	23.9					17.9	32.4				7.9
Rollins Pass TH	11.8	11.2	1.5			1.9			12.5	12.2					3.7	2.9	7.7	10.1	
St. Vrain Mt. TH							11.1												10.5

## IPW Distance Chart - Gourd Lake to Woodland Lake

<b>TRAILHEAD</b>	Gourd Lake	Isabelle Glacier	Isabelle Lake	Jasper Reservoir	King Lake	Long Lake	Lost Lake	Mitchell Lake	Mt. Audubon	Pawnee Lake	Pawnee Pass	Rainbow Lakes	Red Deer Lake	Skyscraper Reservoir	St. Vrain Mt.	Stone Lake	Watanga Lake	Woodland Lake
Beaver Creek TH									3.9	7								
Brainard Gateway TH (via Waldrop)*	18.2	7.9	5.9		3.8			4.3	7.3	9.9	8.2		12.5					
Brainard Lake Parking*	15.6	5.3	3.3		1.2			1.7	4.7	7.3	5.6		9.9					
Camp Dick TH	13.6		11.2		9.2					15.2	13.5		7.2		6.7			
Coney Flats TH	9.1		8.2		6.1				5.6	12.2	10.5		3		3.6			
Fourth of July Th				5.5	10.3							10.6						
Hessie TH				4.8	6		1.9							5.3				5
Junco Lake TH				11.3	11.8							14						
Long Lake TH	14.6	4.3	2.3			0.2				6.3	4.6		8.9					
Middle St. Vrain TH	13.2		11.6		9.5				9.9	15.6	13.9		6.8		6.3			
Mitchell Lake TH								0.9										
Monarch Lake TH	7.5	13.8	11.8		13.5					7.4	9.2		12			7.6	5.8	
Niwot Cutoff TH		4.8	2.8		0.7			1.6			5.1							
Rainbow Lakes TH				13.2	17.9							1.1						
Roaring Fork TH	9.2	15.5	13.5		15.2					9.1	10.9		13.7			5.9	4.1	
Rock Creek TH	14												6.4		1.9			
Rollins Pass TH				4.8	0.6		5.2							8.3				7.9
St. Vrain Mt. TH													9.1		4.6			

# NOTES