



**Wilderness
Stewardship
Since 1985**



January 2022 Newsletter

IPWA News

A Note From Our Board Chair

Dear IPWA Friends,

It has been a difficult start to the year with the devastating Marshall Fire. To our volunteers and members who were affected, please know we are thinking of you and wishing you well as you navigate the days ahead. As our community is slowly recovering, I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy.

First, the Board and I want to thank you all for the generosity you showed during our 2021 fundraising drive. The IPWA is truly fortunate to have volunteers and members who genuinely treasure our Wilderness and environment and who are passionate about protecting it. As visitations continue to grow, your contributions are helping us get more volunteers on the trails to educate, perform trail maintenance, and advocate for protection of the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness areas.

In case you missed our 2021 Volunteer Highlights, here is a recap of the combined 2021 summer and winter accomplishments:

- # of trail maintenance projects: **5**
- # of patrols: **380**
- # of people seen: **35,709**
- # of hours patrolled: **3,003**
- # of miles patrolled: **3,904**
- # of fire rings removed: **107**
- # of trees removed: **50+**
- # of dogs seen: **5,648**
- # of dogs off leash: **647**

Additionally, be sure to [check out the impressive alpine research work](#) completed by

our 2021 Paddon/Gellhorn Research Grant Recipients.

Our 2021/2022 Winter patrols have already broken last year's record for the number of patrols and new winter patrollers on the trails. Our USFS certified sawyers have removed many problematic trees downed from the winter high winds, helping the Boulder Ranger District keep our high alpine trails open for visitors.

In other news,,,

- After 4 years as IPWA's Mentor Coordinator, Leslie Brodhead has decided to step down. The Board and I are hugely appreciative of the time, thoughtfulness and enthusiasm Leslie brought to the position and the many valuable improvements she made to the program from year to year. Given the importance of the Mentor Coordinator position, we are also excited to welcome Peter Fellenz as the new Mentor Coordinator and Board Member!
- Later this month, Andy Gup, Faith Overall and I will be meeting with our USFS BRD Partners to learn about 2022 Forest Service changes that will be integrated into our IPWA programs and Volunteer training.
- Our Training Committee, led by Faith Overall, has started planning for the 2022 summer season and will be getting key registration and training dates out to new and returning volunteers as soon as they are available.

There is always so much to share, but I will close for now by saying I'm looking forward to another great year for IPWA and hope to see you in person this year. Please reach out if you have questions at hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org.

Wishing you all the best for 2022!

Sincerely,
Kelly Prendergast and the IPWA Board

Boulder Book Store Gift Wrapping

A big thank you to our IPWA volunteers who gift wrapped at our annual fundraiser with the Boulder Book Store! We appreciate you taking time out of your busy holiday season to help raise funds for the IPWA!

Danny Dawidowski
Mary Johnson
Margo MacDonnell
Marian Bussey
Rhonda. Lawrence
Emily Herrington
Catherine Lambert



IPWA Volunteer Emily Herrington gift wraps at the Boulder Book Store.

Please Welcome Our New Board Member!

The IPWA is pleased to announce a new member to our board, Peter Fellenz! Peter will be the new Mentor Coordinator and will be assisting the training team as well. Learn more about Peter below:

Peter grew up in a camping family in the midwest, and at the impressionable age of 10 took a vacation to the Colorado mountains. At that point, he determined he would live here, fish the rivers and climb the mountains. After college, he did just that, and he settled into a life in Boulder that included regular high country adventures. Until family and career took him away to So Cal and Chicago. In 2015 he returned to Colorado with his wife Allison and son Tim.

A Westminster resident, Peter works as a project manager and continues adventuring in the backcountry. In the summer, that includes multi-day backpacking trips, fishing and basic mountaineering. In the winter, it is full day outings on AT skis, usually on "dawn patrol". He found the IPWA in 2019 and began as a volunteer patrol and added winter patrol that same year. Since then he has been active in trail maintenance projects, new volunteer mentoring, and tree removal with the sawyer team.



Program Updates

Winter Patrol Update

This just in - we finally have **snow**! Trail reports across the high country are coming in with great ski and snowshoe conditions.

Earlier this winter season, the IPWA sawyer team spent several days taking out over a dozen trees between Hessie and Brainard Lake. Patrols help to determine the trails that need clearing and our sawyers work year-round to keep them accessible.

We have 21 winter patrollers this year who have completed an additional 15+ hours of training to provide a presence in the backcountry. We have completed over **30** patrols in

the last month and a half, well on our way to breaking IPWA winter patrol records!

Thanks to all the winter patrollers for all your hard work!

Winter Patrols are active from late November to early June and help to provide year-round support to the Forest Service and to all the Wilderness visitors. So, next time you see us out on the trails please stop to say hello!

[Check Winter Trail Conditions Here](#)



Photos provided by Emily Herrington, Emily Monk, and Andy Gup.

Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?

Click the links below to learn more!

**Become a member today for just
\$10!**

Donate!

Volunteer!

Be sure to like and follow us on social media!

