

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness  
P.O. Box 4504  
Frisco, CO 80443-4504

## Fifty-First Official Newsletter November 2006



### Introduction to Friends:

The Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is an apolitical nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation formed in May 1994 to raise in-cash, in-kind, and in-service goods to help the White River National Forest maintain the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas. The Eagles Nest Wilderness consists of 82,903 acres of Summit County while the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness has 13,175 acres (totaling about 25% of Summit County). Another 50,400 acres of the Eagles Nest Wilderness lie in Eagle County. We presently raise money through membership dues, donations, and grants. We accomplish our mission through Stewardship, Education, Outreach, and Advocacy. Starting summer 2006, we are helping the U.S. Forest Service in Eagle County in the Eagles Nest and Holy Cross Wilderness areas.

# Summer 2006 A Big Success!

## Three Summit Trail Projects Completed!

By George Resseguie

FENW completed three trail projects this summer in Summit County, and with the help of a number of volunteers, made a difference in the wilderness. Some details:

### Gateways – June 17

Seventeen volunteers cleared the Eaglesmere Trail to the Gore Range Trail and the Buffalo Cabin Trail down the cutoff trail through the boggy area to South Willow and Gore Range Trail junction. The groups cleared 45 trees off the trails! Thanks to the hardy volunteers who used cross cut and bow saws, axes and a lot of elbow grease because no chain saws are allowed in the wilderness. Volunteers included Kurt Steuer, William Acuff, Shirley Beaty, Peter Welles, Ann Hamilton, Jim Anthony, Jonathan & Jacque Kriegel, Maxine Solomon, Cyndi Koop, Karen Fox, Virgil Robinson, Jim McCready, Janet Jacks, Currie Craven, Bill Rolfe, Margi Pruesson.



Volunteers clearing a criss cross of trees on the Eaglesmere Trail  
photo by Currie Craven

Article cont'd. on page 2 with information on the Eagle County trail project, too.

## Wilderness Volunteer Program Report

By Maryann Gaug

Congratulations to FENW's Wilderness Volunteer (WV) team! Our WV program celebrated its second year helping the Dillon Ranger District and first year helping the Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District. Volunteers answered visitors' questions and helped them understand wilderness values and regulations.

Thirteen volunteers inventoried campsites and four documented patches of invasive noxious weeds.

### Quick summary of accomplishments:

31 volunteers hiked to 34 different destinations donating 628 hours.

10 volunteers inventoried 100 campsites for a total of 63 hours.

4 volunteers inventoried noxious weeds donating 86 hours.  
More details and photos on page 2.

## Noxious Weed Treatment Program Report

By Maryann Gaug

Noxious weed treatment proved to be an adventure in 2006. FENW's contractor, John and Cade Pickering of Weed Busters, were delayed a week by soggy July weather. The first round of busting weeds took 8.5 days. Pickering planned to return at the end of August only to be stopped by rainy weather, followed by the September snowstorms.

See more details and photos on page 5.

### Thanks, John Fielder, for your generosity to Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness!



Gore Range Slide Show/Benefit Nov. 21, 2006 at the Silverthorne Pavilion.

## Membership Expiration

Please note your membership expiration date located on your address label. Please use the membership form below to renew your membership. Please help us gain new members by passing this form along to friends and family.

Remember to send any email or address changes to FENW!

### FENW Board of Directors

Currie Craven, Chairman/President, 453-9056  
Vince White-Petteruti, Vice-President, 547-2104  
George Resseguie, Secretary, 513-6547  
John Taylor, Treasurer, 262-5940  
Kim Fenske, At-Large, 389-4436  
Tom Jones, Sr., At-Large, 468-5463  
Cyndi Kooop, At-Large, 468-6699  
Bill Acuff, At-Large

## Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Membership Form

Yes! I want to join Friends and help preserve Summit and Eagle County Wildernesses. Sign me up at the:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trailhead level (\$10 per year)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-Buffer Pass level (\$50 per year) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo Mountain level (\$20 per year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Eagles Nest level (\$100 per year)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cataract Lake level (\$30 per year)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mount Powell level (\$500 per year)   |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you willing to work on volunteer projects? \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ I can best work  weekdays  weekends

Please mail your membership form to: Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness, PO Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443-4504. Your dues are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. FENW is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For information, call 970-453-9056, 970-262-2399 or info@fenw.org. Check out our website: www.fenw.org.

## Summit Trail Projects cont'd.

Surprise Lake – July 16

Our FENW volunteer crew worked on the upper portion of the Surprise Lake Trail which needed extensive erosion and drainage improvements. The crew achieved quite a bit by installing waterbars and other erosion control devices. Volunteers included Bill Acuff, Shirley Beaty, Karen Fox, Cyndi Koop, Jonathan Kriegel, Becky Hopkins, Bill Reed, Curt Steuer, and Peter Welles. Joining the volunteers from the US Forest Service were Cindy Ebbert, Tyler Kirkpatrick, and Darlene Quinn.

South Willow Creek Trail – August 19

FENW completed its final 2006 trail project on a section of the South Willow Creek spur trail near the Gore Range Trail. Approximately 60 feet of “turnpike” (log trail borders with rock filled in on the trail surface) was constructed through a very wet, boggy section of the trail. FENW work supplemented efforts by the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and the US Forest Service. Volunteers included Bill Acuff, Shirley Beaty, Rick Bombe, Tom Brennom, Currie Craven, Kim Fenske, Karen Fox, Bill Greene, Michael Johnson, Don Kersting, Cyndi Koop, Jonathan Kriegel, Becky Hopkins, Aaron Philabaum, Bill Reed, Virgil Robinson, Marshall Rutz, Marge Schweri, Dan Schweitzer, Kurt Steuer, and John Taylor. Joining the volunteers from the US Forest Service was Cindy Ebbert.



Volunteers working in the muck building the turnpike.

photos by Kim Fenske

As always, thanks to Abbey's Coffee in Frisco for providing the wake-up coffee to get the volunteers off to a great start each morning.

## Meet a New Boardmember – Bill Acuff

Bill Acuff also joined the Board of Directors in September. He presently lives in Frisco and is a long-time Summit County visitor. Bill is the former Managing Director of Wharton Economic Forecasting Associates Global Energy and Utility Practice. He is an avid hiker, backpacker, alpine, and cross county skier.

## Eagle Trail Project

By Maryann Gaug

On June 24, FENW hosted a trail clearing project with the Holy Cross Ranger District on the Booth Falls and Gore Creek Trails. Five volunteers cut overhanging brush and low-hanging branches that were obscuring the trails. Some rock work and tree clearing were also accomplished. Thanks to Bill Acuff, Patsy Batchelder, Maryann Gaug, Brian Topping, and Andy Weissner for donating 34.5 hours to improve trail conditions in the Eagles Nest Wilderness.



Patsy and Andy cutting brush and blocking a braided section of trail.

## Volunteers Help Visitors and Wilderness

By Maryann Gaug

In three wilderness areas, Eagles Nest, Holy Cross, and Ptarmigan Peak, volunteers on hiking patrol contacted over 1,482 wilderness visitors. Thirty-one volunteers hiked to 34 destinations on 57 different days giving a total of 628 volunteer hours to help preserve and protect our beautiful wilderness areas and help visitors enjoy their wilderness trips.

I did a little comparison between 2005 and 2006 in Dillon Ranger District wildernesses. Last summer 12 volunteers contacted 724 visitors. This year, 14 volunteers contacted 1,169 people. That's about a 61% increase with just two more volunteers. Over the last two summers, the number of dogs off leash seen by wilderness volunteers dropped by about 9% from 95 to 86.

One volunteer reported contacting 175 people on the Lily Pad Lake Trail on July 3, 2006. Another volunteer did ski patrol on three different days last winter in the Eagles Nest Wilderness, contacting 60 people, some of whom were very surprised to see a volunteer wilderness ranger in January, March, and April!

Campsite inventories are about finished in the Wheeler Lakes area in the Eagles Nest Wilderness and up the trail to Lost Lake. Meadow Creek (east) is partially done and volunteers started to inventory North Tenmile. Next year Cindy Ebbert (lead wilderness ranger) and volunteers have decided to start rehabilitating inventoried campsites beginning in the Wheeler Lakes area.

In Holy Cross Wilderness, four volunteers inventoried 39 campsites. Inventories in the Missouri Lakes Basin tallied 26 sites around the main lakes with only 6 legal sites. Four volunteers inventoried 12 campsites in the East Cross Creek area, a popular camping spot for Mount of the Holy Cross peak baggers. Two denuded (bare) campsites measured 14,904 and 16,200 square feet each. A typical campsite might be closer to 500 square feet.

Thank you, Wilderness Volunteers, for making a difference in our beautiful wilderness areas! Thanks also to our sponsors: The Summit Foundation, Town of Frisco, National Forest Foundation, Arapahoe Basin Employee Environmental Fund, Cortina Property Owners Assoc., and our wonderful FENW members.

## Eagle/ Vail Welcome!

By John Taylor

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness welcomes our neighbors in the Eagle-Vail area who became actively involved in the Eagles Nest as well as the Holy Cross Wilderness as Volunteer Wilderness Rangers for the 2006 season. FENW looks forward to the added stewardship. Our hands are out to new members Sue Froeschle, Lauri Madena, Matt Kampe, Pat and Larry Stewart, and Abby Dixon. Through these new members and more to follow, their program for the 2007 season can take shape. Of course, not new but from the Eagle area, our thanks to Beth Boyst and Phil Bowden.



Wilderness Volunteers Michael Arnett, Abby Dixon, Jacque Kriegel, Monika Perry, Bob and Sheila Gouterman, and Sara Hall. All but Jacque are from Eagle County.

## 2007 Dillon Ranger District Project Plan

By George Resseguie

Early this fall, Vail Resorts and Copper Mountain Resort each announced a partnership with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) that will have a major impact on preserving and protecting National Forest lands across the Dillon Ranger District. The NFF will be matching fifty cents for every dollar that the resorts receive from their guest donation program. The dollar impact of this partnership is projected to be significant, with the dollars being allocated to projects that are sponsored and run by organizations like FENW.

In order to maximize the use of these funds on the White River Forest, the Dillon Ranger District, Friends of the Dillon Ranger District and the FENW have completed a comprehensive impact assessment that identified seven major areas of need. These areas include trails, trailheads, off-road, campsites, noxious weeds, vegetation and fuels management and Travel Management Plan implementation. Over 75 high priority projects have been targeted that would have a significant impact on maintaining, protecting and preserving our wilderness areas.

On December 18 from 6 - 9 pm, the DRD will host an information sharing meeting with 70 volunteer organizations and local businesses at the Frisco Rec Center in Frisco. The meeting is intended to provide more details regarding the results of the impact assessment, seek organizations' input on the projects and help identify other issues that need to be addressed.

## Membership Drive

By John Taylor

Memberships are so important to establish a volunteer base for our Wilderness Trail Projects as well as provide the funds for such initiatives as matching funds for grants we obtain, pay for this newsletter and our website, support the Wilderness Ranger Hunter Patrol, as well as the Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Program.

The Board has begun a membership drive and is asking each FENW member to try to “sign up” **five new members** by the end of the year. Also, if you have not renewed WE NEED YOUR HELP! Thanks, in advance, for attracting new members to our terrific organization. (Membership enrollment form is at the end of this newsletter).



Summit County Wilderness Volunteers Bill Reed, Elaine Bennett, Becky Hopkins, Dave Raymond, Maryann Gaug, Marilyn Repsher, Anita and Peter Welles, and Cyndi Koop.

## Meet a New Boardmember – Cyndi Koop

Cyndi Koop joined the Board of Directors in September. She is a native Coloradoan and a long-time resident of Silverthorne; she's also lived in Durango and Steamboat Springs. Cyndi has taught Cross Country skiing for over 20 years and also is involved in Tae Kwon-do – she currently helps instruct kids at Breckenridge Rec. Center. She has two sons who are students at the Colorado School of Mines, and her husband (Dave) is the Mayor of Silverthorne. Cyndi been active in FENW's Volunteer Wilderness Ranger program for 2 years, and also has participated in campsite inventories and trail projects. She loves being out in the Wilderness and has a passion to help preserve it for future generations.



Left, Michael Arnett records campsite inventory data. Right, Cyndi Koop measures a camp fire pit for inventory.