



"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children "

Notes from the Board

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

Welcome to our December newsletter. We would like your help!

2015 has been an exciting year. We've accomplished a lot including:

Over 30,000 members of the public contacted as part of our **Wilderness Summer Patrol Program**....a new **Wilderness Ranger Internship Program** introduced...University of Colorado freshmen participating in our first National Public Lands Day trail restoration project as part of our new **Wilderness Trail Projects Program**....our new **Wilderness Winter Patrol Program** kicking off in November....research grants provided as part of our **Wilderness Scholarship Program**....increased wilderness awareness via our **Wilderness Community Outreach Program** including newsletters and updates to Facebook and Instagram....monitoring the Eldora Mountain Resort proposed expansion and recreational shooting issues in the wild as part of our **Wilderness Advocacy Program**...our new **Wilderness Trail Conditions** web site access to allow members of the public free access to the latest on trail conditions in the IP/JP Wilderness Area....and on and on (with more details below)!

We've done a lot, and we could not have done it without the support of our wonderful volunteers, along with the financial support of both our volunteers and friends. ***As we wrap 2015, we would like your financial help to make 2016 an even a better year in protecting the IP/JP Wilderness Areas.***

Through making a tax deductible charitable donation to the IPWA, a 501(c)(3) non profit, you will help provide funding for these programs next year and more. As a 100% volunteer organization, any money contributed goes directly into the operational and program expenses of the IPWA. We have no salaried positions as our volunteers and board members freely donate their time to help us achieve our mission - "Preserving and Protecting the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas."

Any help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Details on how you can help are highlighted below, along with a sampling of how contributions this past year have been used.

Thank you for your help and....

Keep it wild!

How to Donate - Three Easy Ways!

1) Donations via PayPal account/credit card

This year, we have signed up with PayPal so that donors can make a contribution to the IPWA from their personal PayPal account, or simply by using a credit card. Click on the 'Donate Here' link below, and you will be re-directed to our IPWA web site. Then, from there click on the 'donate' icon to get access to PayPal.

[DONATE HERE!](#)

2) Donations via personal check

Volunteers/Friends can also donate by personal check. Please send donations to:

Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance
PO Box 17382
Boulder, CO 80308

Should you decide to donate \$100 or more, we will be sending you a set of note cards (please ensure with your check you include the "ship to" address of where you would like us to send the note cards).

3) Employer matching donations (IPWA listing on GuideStar)

Starting this year, we have listed the IPWA on GuideStar. For individuals who make contributions to the IPWA, many employers offer matching donations for non-profits listed on GuideStar. Please use the following link to provide your employer with information on the IPWA. We are excited to have a "Gold status" on GuideStar and look forward to having company matching contributions!



IPWA ON GUIDESTAR HERE!

As noted by one of our reviewers on GuideStar...

"I have spent the past few years volunteering with IPWA. They are very committed to helping preserve the wilderness by establishing a presence on trails, doing trail projects, and educating the public on wilderness ethics and behavior."

"A Thank You" for all donations of \$100 or more

For all of those donating \$100 or more to the IPWA

Individuals donating \$100 or more to the IPWA will receive a set of 12 note cards (there will be two note cards for each image below). If you would like a set of these cards, please send a check with your name and "ship to" address made out to:

Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance
PO Box 17382
Boulder, CO 80308

** For orders of more than one set, please include \$1.00/set additional for postage. These will be mailed to the requested "ship to" address via US Post.*

*** Sorry, we don't have our PayPal account set up yet to be able to track purchases of the note cards. These can only be ordered by sending a check to our PO Box with your name and "ship to" address.*

**** A special 'Thank You' to Board Member Daryl Ogden for coordinating this project!*





As noted by Carol D, one of our photo contest winners...

"My husband and I enjoy hiking, and volunteering for the IPWA allows us to protect a resource we value highly and to hike in a beautiful setting at the same time. Since a very small percentage of public lands are designated "wilderness", it is important to care for them so that our children and their children may have the experience of untrammeled land."

Wilderness Ranger Internship (new in 2015!)

Created two new internships costing more than \$2500

This past year the IPWA Board worked with the US Forest Service and the University of Colorado Baker Residence Academic Program (BRAP) to create two Wilderness Ranger internships. The program was a great success and provided two students from CU the opportunity to work with the US Forest Service and gain valuable insights into the issues facing Wilderness today. A big "Thank You" to Carol Keams at CU for helping to pull this program together!



A comment from one of our interns...

"Being able to intern with the Forest Service in conjunction with the IPWA was significant for me because I was introduced to the idea of Wilderness, and why it's so important. Because I had the chance to be a steward of the land, I know now that I want to pursue activism or eco-justice when I finish college. Having a better sense of purpose is invaluable, and I have the IPWA to thank for this opportunity."

Wilderness Winter Patrols (new in 2015!)

Created a wilderness winter patrol program with grants totaling \$1,000....

In 2015, the IPWA Board moved forward with moving forward with piloting a winter patrol program. We were able to partially offset the costs of this program with grants that we used to acquire radios to assist volunteers while on the trail. We're extremely excited about the program as it will allow us to establish a more year-round presence on the trails of the IP/JP Wilderness Areas. A big thank you to our Vice Chair - Andy Gup - for driving this program forward and making it a success!



Wilderness Trail Projects (new in 2015!)

Partnered with CU Students on National Public Lands Day winning a grant of \$750

This past year the IPWA has collaborated with the University of Colorado Baker Academic Residence Program (BRAP) both on the ranger internship program and also with a National Public Lands Day project. With students from CU BRAP, we hiked into the Forest Lakes area from the East Portal trail head to clear out garbage, remove fire rings, and close off as many illegal campsites and social trails as possible. This was a great event as not only did we help restore wilderness areas, but we did this with first-year students, many of whom had never visited the pristine wilderness areas we have here in the Front Range.



We were extremely excited by the success of this event in 2015 and look forward to doing more work with CU BRAP in 2016. As mentioned by one of the students on the project:

"Before volunteering with Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance, I was unaware of the magnitude of illegal camping areas. All it takes is a tarp and a few campfires to kill several plants and sterilize soil. However, I am amazed at the forests' ability to regenerate new life within only a year of reducing foot traffic and placing fallen trees and branches over the effected areas. These forests will remain beautiful and resilient as long as human impact is minimized."



Wilderness Trail Conditions (new in 2015!)

Provided up-to-date trail conditions to public through updated web site....

In 2015 we provided the general public access to reports on trail conditions so that appropriate gear would be worn when hiking during the Spring in the IP/JP Wilderness areas. Our goals were to have the public be aware conditions, and also to minimize hiking off trail due to incorrect foot wear. Your donations help with this effort by assisting in meeting our IT infrastructure and community outreach/email costs. A special 'thank you' to our web master Debra Hopkins for making this happen!



As noted by an employee at REI...

"I just found your website with current trail conditions posted. THANK YOU to those of you who go out and hike these and report back on conditions! I work at the Boulder REI and answer multiple questions every day from people anxious to get up to the mountains. Many are on vacation from out of state and assume that because the calendar says it's summer that they are going backpacking..your website has great info..!."

Wilderness Community Outreach (new in 2015!)

Community outreach via Newsletters, Facebook, and Instagram updates

In 2015, the Board focused on increasing the public awareness of the IPWA and the issues facing the IP/JP Wilderness Areas. We did this through creating a monthly newsletter, along with becoming more active on both Instagram and Facebook. Your donations help to offset the cost of the email software used for our newsletter (and we have seen a large increase in the number of individuals who receive our monthly updates!). In addition, we continue to increase the number of followers both on Instagram and Facebook. A huge "Thanks" to Board members Sarah McNamara and Bette Erickson for leading and managing our social media presence!



Wilderness Summer Patrols

Trained/Equipped over 130 US Forest Service Volunteers costing more than \$2,000...

We had an incredible volunteer summer patrol program and put more than 130 volunteers on the trails of the IP/JP Wilderness Areas. As noted, our efforts resulted in "contacts" with more than 31,000 members of the public, the dismantling of more than 100 fire rings, and the educating of numerous dog owners on US Forest Service leash laws. While part of these costs are offset by annual membership dues, your donations go a long way to make sure we are training and equipping our volunteers appropriately. Special thanks to our ex-chair Matt Peck - and many other volunteers - for making the training day a huge success!



A note earlier this year from one of our new volunteers....

"Volunteering at Indian Peak Wilderness means a lot to me. I am proud to contribute to the preservation of our wilderness and helping people develop consciousness about its value. Walking among the pine trees, wildflowers and the rocks, I am reminded how wonderful it will be for future generations to be able to enjoy, understand and appreciate our country's treasures. I was lucky to taste the volunteer's work on my first hike/patrol with my mentor: trail work, helping people with directions and surprisingly how all eyes are on you in "the uniform." It all made sense!" (Delia, 6/30/15).

Wilderness Scholarships

Awarded \$2,500 in Scholarships...

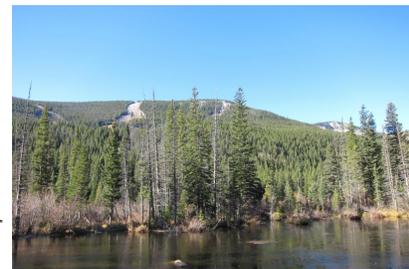
This past year, the IPWA awarded \$2,500 in Wilderness scholarships to both graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Colorado. One of our key programs is ensuring the continued research and education on issues affecting the wilderness - and particularly the alpine environment of the IP/JP Wilderness Areas. Your donations have a direct impact on helping students achieve their research goals - be it on climate change, research on Pikas or Ptarmigans, or other issue effecting the alpine areas. A big "Thank You" to our Scholarship committee for awarding these grants in 2015!



Wilderness Advocacy

Advocated Against the Proposed Eldora Mountain Resort (EMR) Expansion & Proposed US Forest Service Recreational Shooting Guidelines...

Our Wilderness Advocacy Program focuses on ensuring we continue to promote the goals and ideals of the 1964 Wilderness Act. As such, this past year your Board has spent time and effort collaborating with the Middle Boulder Creek Coalition in opposition to the expansion of EMR outside of the current boundaries. In addition, we have also worked with other concerned citizen groups regarding the proposed recreational shooting in the wilderness guidelines offered by the Forest Service (we oppose designating the IP/JP Wilderness Areas as "suitable for recreational shooting"). We will continue to monitor both of these issues in 2016 and keep our volunteers and friends up-to date on any new information we receive.



Thank you

Thank you for your support

As we wrap up 2015, the Board of the IPWA would like to thank of all of our volunteers for a fantastic year, along with all of our "friends" of the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas for your support and contributions.

See you in 2016!



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Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance | hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org |

www.indianpeakswilderness.org