

Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA) 2018 Annual Report



For Year Ending December 31, 2018

Contents



- Welcome to our Annual Report
- Our History and Organization
- Our Wilderness Areas
- Our Mission and Programs
- Finance and Accounting
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Where We Are Going

Welcome to our 2018 Annual Report

“Saving Wilderness. Changing Lives.”

2018 was a successful and rewarding year for the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA). Using the foundation of our patrol programs, advocacy outreach, trail projects, and education programs, the IPWA accomplished needed trail improvements, enabled scientific research, provided land management internship opportunities, and enabled community teachers and Wilderness visitors to acquire knowledge about the value of Wilderness and about important stewardship practices.

Throughout the year, Volunteers also engaged in a variety of training opportunities helping to ensure IPWA could effectively achieve its mission of preserving and protecting the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness areas.

Working together with our partners, our supporters, and our community, we made a difference.

*Sincerely,
The IPWA Board*

Our History

The Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA) was originally known as the Indian Peaks Working Group and officially incorporated in 1985.

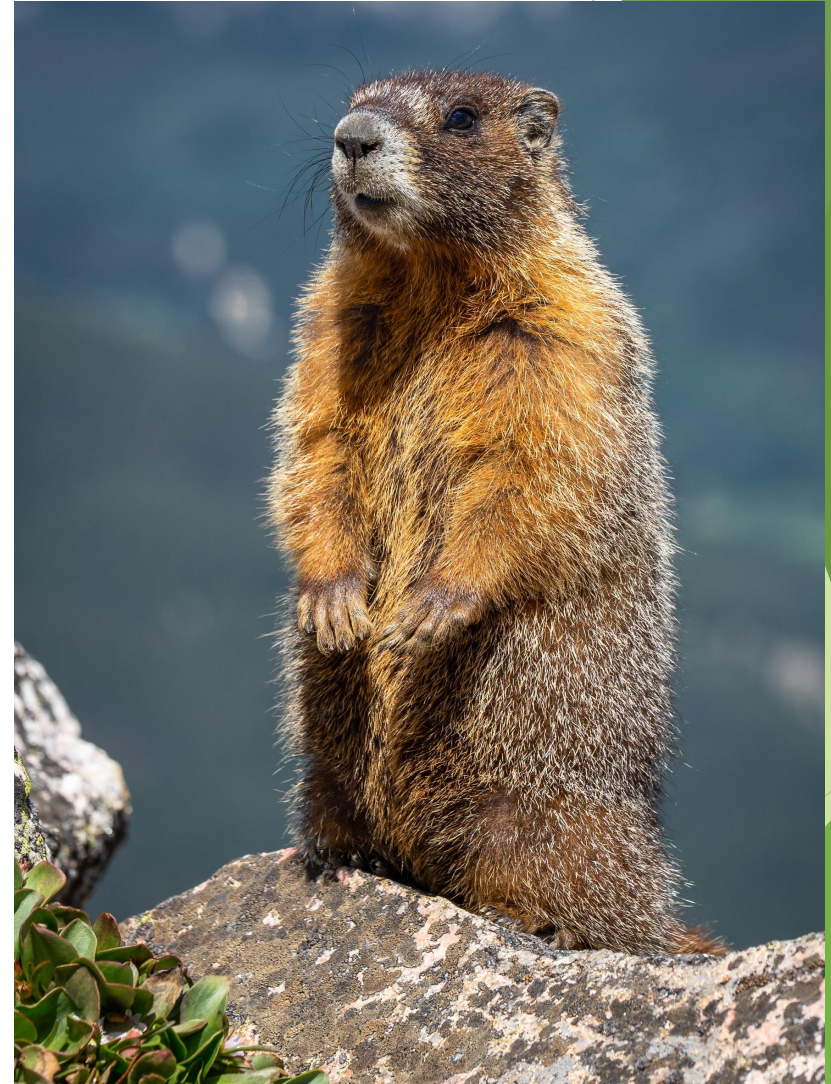


www.indianpeakswilderness.org

- Founders:
- Dr. Anne Forrest Ketchin
 - Jan Robertson
 - Ann Vickery

Articles of Incorporation

1. Provide a ***forum for discussion of issues*** regarding the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area,
2. Provide a ***volunteer clearinghouse*** to work with the USFS to coordinate, train, and supervise volunteers working in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area,
3. Provide a forum for ***information exchange*** among the USFS, local government, and interested citizens,
4. Assist in developing a process for ***identifying and solving problems*** for the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area,
5. Establish an ongoing ***public education program*** regarding the Indian Peaks Area, its ecology, its popularity, and techniques to minimize the impact on it, and
6. To undertake, sponsor, encourage and ***publish research*** on the natural sciences and management problems of the Indian Peaks Wilderness and adjacent areas.



Our Wilderness Areas



Indian Peaks Wilderness

The Indian Peaks Wilderness is among the top five most visited wilderness areas in the country with ~ 150,000+ visitors per season.

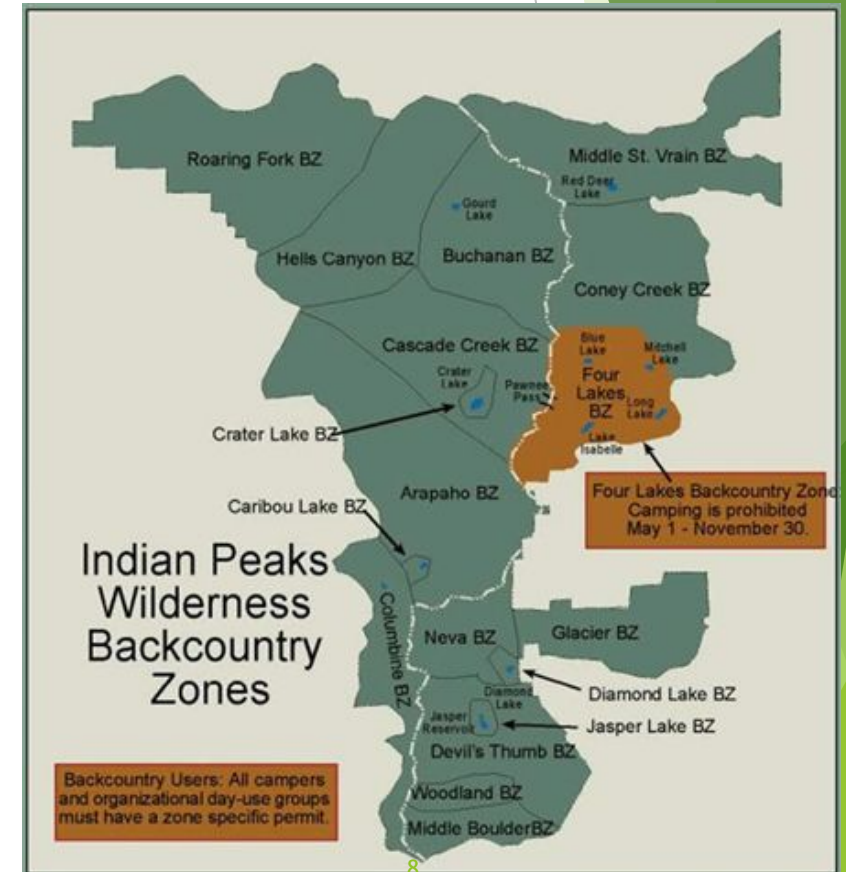


- ~ 30 minute drive from Boulder, ~ 60 minutes from Denver.
- Situated within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.
- Peaks named by Ellsworth Bethel in early 1900's after native American tribes that visited/populated the area or were based in the West

Indian Peaks Wilderness

The IPW was designated as wilderness in 1978 by an act of Congress and encompasses ~ 75,000 acres.

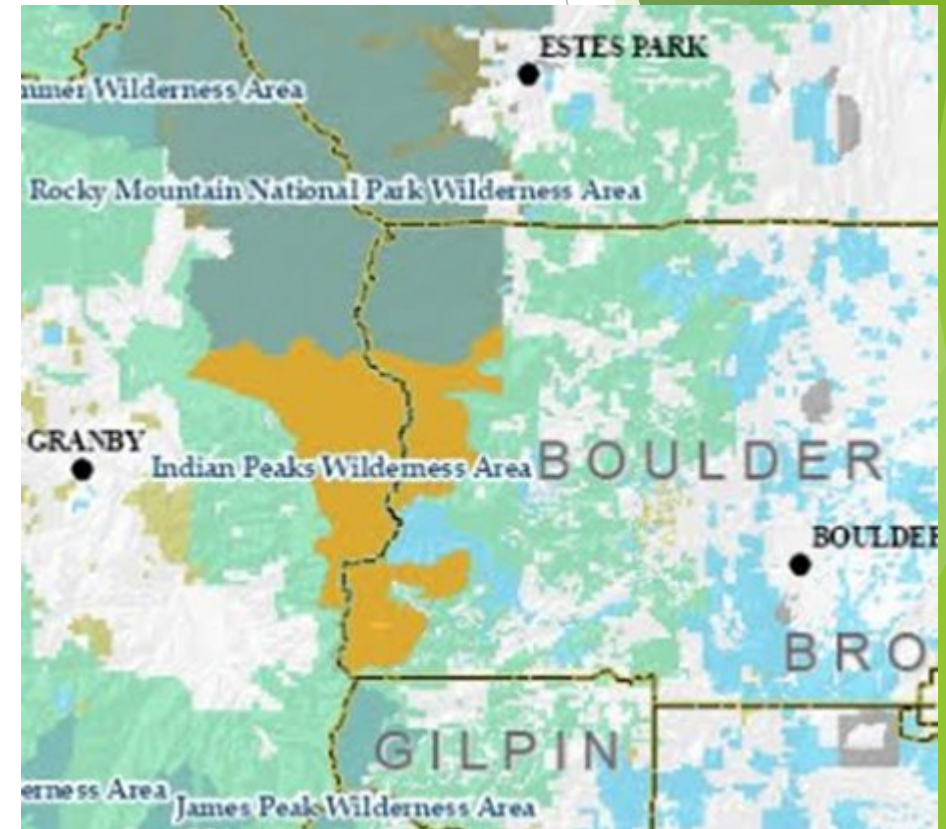
- Originally proposed to be part of Rocky Mtn National park by Enos Mills, the IPW is located just south of the Park.
- The IPW stretches 18 miles north/south and 15 miles east west at the widest point.
- Elevations range from 8,300' to 13,500'.
- 7 peaks over 13,000'.
- 28 maintained trails covering ~ 130 miles.
- Camping permits required (*only wilderness in Colorado requiring permits*).



James Peak Wilderness

The JPW was designated as wilderness in 2002 – by an act of Congress and signed by George W. Bush.

- ~ 17,000 acres, with majority on the East side of the Continental Divide.
- Situated within 4 distinct Colorado counties – Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Grand.
- Named after Edwin James, botanist that was part of Stephen Long's expedition to Colorado in 1820.
- ~ 20 miles of trail.
- Elevation from 9,000' to over 13,000'.
- Upper montane, sub alpine, alpine ecosystems.
- The Winter Park Ski train from Denver goes underneath the JPW at the Moffat Tunnel!



Our Mission

The Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance's mission is to “Preserve and Protect the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas”.



- Indian Peaks (IP) and James Peak (JP) are among the most heavily visited and utilized wilderness areas in the United States with over 150,000 visitors per season.
- Since its incorporation 1985, the IPWA has officially partnered with the U.S. Forest Service Boulder Ranger District in a collaborative stewardship effort.

Our USFS Boulder Ranger District Partner

IPWA “assists the Boulder Ranger District by providing a volunteer presence in the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas that promotes responsible visitor use and supports the preservation of the Wilderness and the areas natural resources.”

- IPWA and USFS
 - Work together under a 5 year joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which defines roles, responsibilities, and working relationship. Current MOU expires March 2022
 - Conduct joint volunteer training annually
 - Plan and execute joint projects annually
- Volunteers complete annual service agreements.



Other Alliances

We also partner and create alliances with a wide variety of other organizations to achieve our mission.

Task	IPWA	Partner
Patrolling		
Trail work		
Research		
Staffing		
Advocacy		
Etc...		

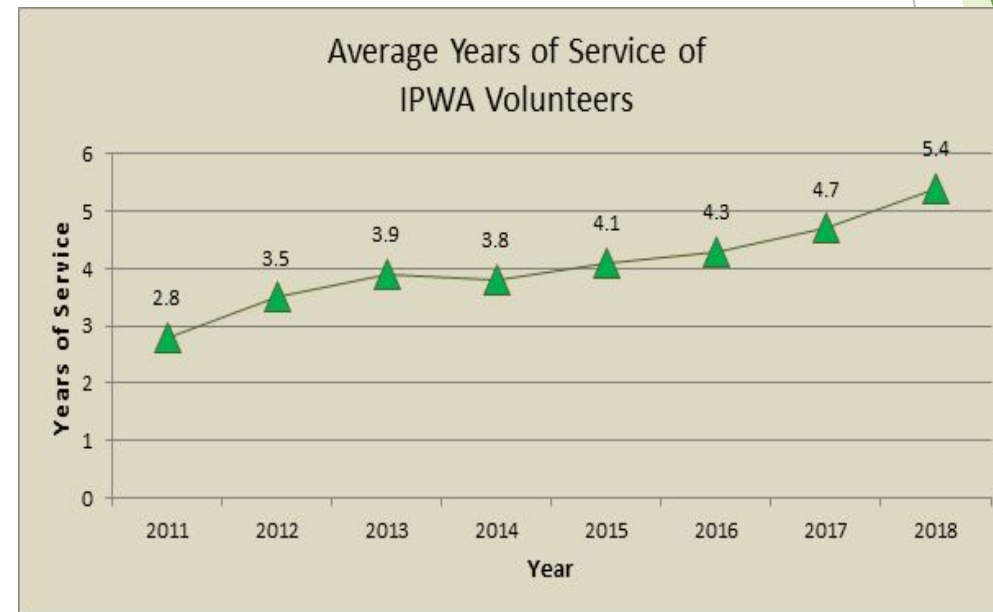
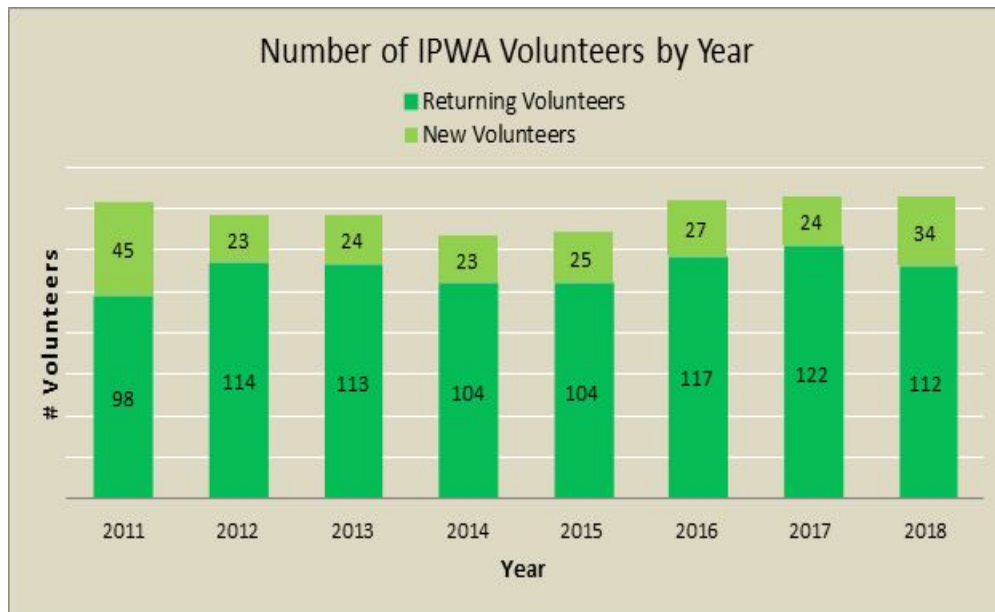


Current and Past Alliances

- American Land and Leisure
- Boulder Bookstore
- Boy Scouts of America
- Bryan Mountain Ski Patrol
- Colorado Mountain Club (CMC)
- Front Range CPR
- National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA)
- Teens Inc of Nederland Colorado
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corp
- University of Colorado
- University of Denver
- University of Northern Colorado - Center for Urban Education
- Wildland Restoration Volunteers and more!

Our Volunteers

For the past 8 years, IPWA volunteer levels have remained relatively stable. In 2018 we had ~148 Volunteers and also our highest years of service average!



Our Programs

Our mission is to “Preserve and Protect the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas.” We achieve this mission with four main programs and a 100% volunteer workforce.

Wilderness Restoration

- Trail Projects
- Trail Tree Clearing
- Invasive Weeds

Wilderness Education

- Research Grants
- Internships
- Information Specialists
- TTT-“Teach the Teacher”

Wilderness Advocacy

- Newsletters
- Social Media
- Member Outreach
- Lectures Series
- Interpretive Center

Wilderness Patrols

- Summer
- Winter
- Trailhead Host

Wilderness Restoration:

Trail Tree Clearing - work to remove as many trees as possible from wilderness trails prior to heavy summer hiking season and pre-winter patrol season.

Trail Maintenance - assist USFS and other partners with basic trail maintenance projects

Invasive Weeds - assist USFS and other partners with invasive species management and control programs



- 2018 accomplishments
 - 336+ volunteer hours of trail restoration work over 6 projects (not including tree removal)
 - 58 trees removed
 - New volunteers trained by USFS as certified sawyers

Wilderness Education: Research Grants

For over 20 years, IPWA has provided research grants to graduate students for studies within high altitude ecosystem zones!



- In 2018, a \$1500 Paddon/Gellhorn Research Grant was awarded to Isabel Schroeter at CU Boulder for ***Managing Riparian Plant Communities in the Rocky Mountains: Can An Understanding of Functional Water-Use Strategies Explain Browsing and Hydrological Feedbacks.***
- The Paddon/Gellhorn Grant is named after David Paddon and Joyce Gellhorn – long term researchers, teachers, and supporters of the wilderness.

Wilderness Education: Ranger Internship

IPWA provides undergraduate students focusing on environment studies with experience in working with the USFS and understanding wilderness preservation issues.



- In 2018, our 2 interns provided ~ 600 hours of volunteer service at a value to the USFS of \$13.5K!
- 4th year of program started in 2015.
- IPWA funds interns (~ \$1500 each per season).
- 10 week program includes field work and wilderness readings (e.g. Nash, Leopold, Muir). Interns assist in:
 - Tree removal, trail restoration
 - Patrols and education
 - Annual forest service project

Wilderness Education: Information Specialist

We created the Wilderness Information Specialist position to help offload work from the Boulder Ranger District Front Desk resources during busy season.



www.indianpeakswilderness.org

- We provided over 400 volunteer hours in 2018 at a value to the USFS of ~ \$9K!
- 4th year of program, started in 2016 at request of USFS.
- IPWA volunteers staff the wilderness permit desk at the USFS BRD Office in Boulder, M-F, 8 hours a day, from June to Labor Day.
- Volunteers responsible for completing permits for visitors and educating visitors on hiking and backpacking options.

Wilderness Education: “Teach The Teachers”

To reach out to a younger generation in urban areas, IPWA piloted an introduction to wilderness program with undergraduates students training to become teachers.



- 2018 is the first year of program which was a success with 4 field trips.
- IPWA works with the University of Northern Colorado (UNC), Center for Urban Education
- Goal of program is to expose student teachers to wilderness ethics and environmental conservation principles so that they can in turn teach their elementary students (primarily at urban schools).
- Program is returning in 2019.

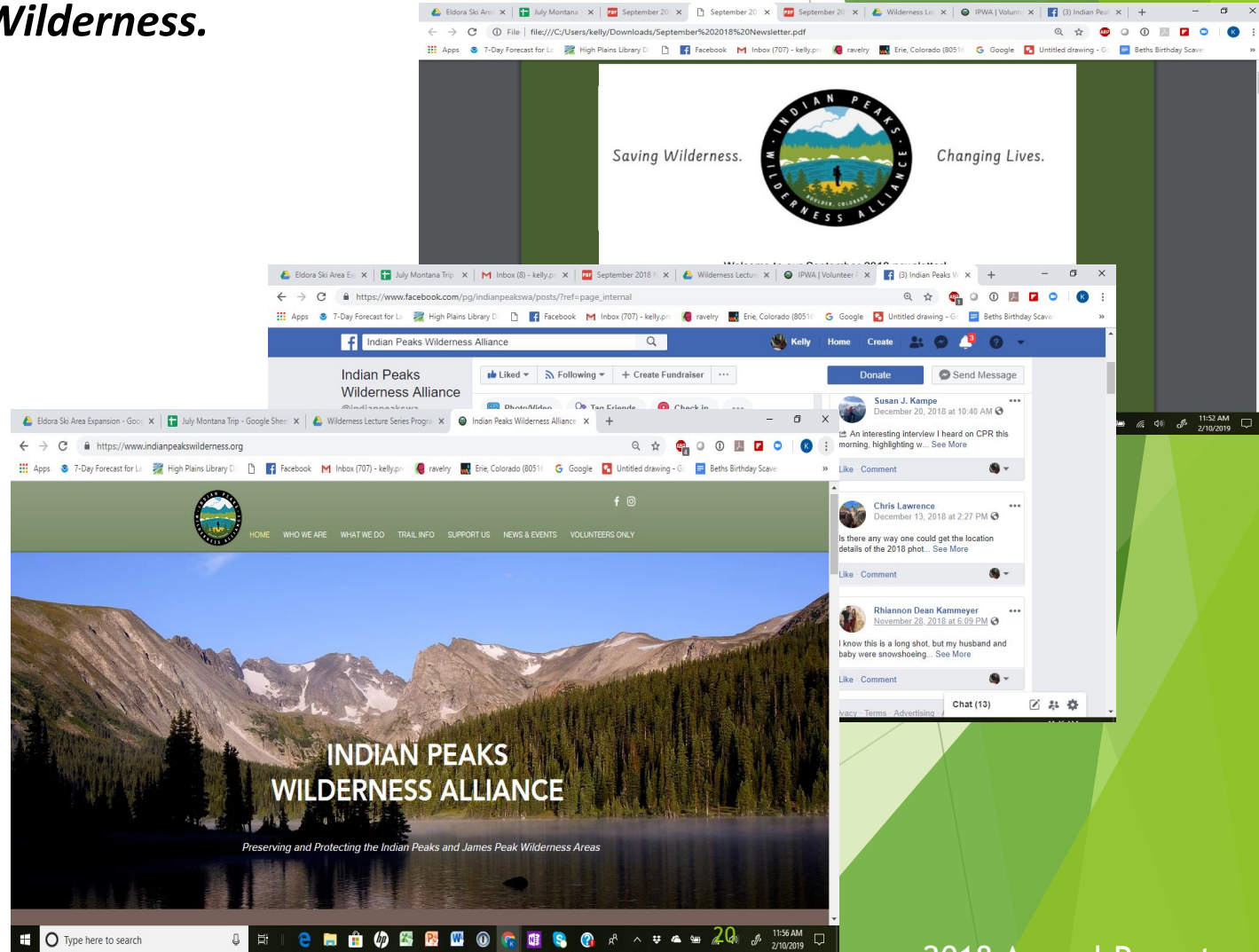
Wilderness Advocacy: Outreach

IPWA uses a variety of methods to reach its volunteers, members and friends on topics and issues of importance relating to the IP and JP Wilderness.

- We reach over 1500 contacts through
 - **Monthly Newsletter** (1572 contacts)
 - **Newly designed website**
 - www.indianpeakswilderness.org
 - **Expanded Social Media**
 - Facebook (1152 followers)
 - Instagram (1642 followers)
 - Constant Contact Email Groups

➤ **Contacts up 19% from 2017!**

www.indianpeakswilderness.org



2018 Annual Report

Wilderness Advocacy: Lecture Series

The IPWA funds and promotes wilderness advocacy through our wilderness lecture series.

- In June of 2018, Wilderness Watch and IPWA co-sponsored a talk in Boulder by George Wuerthner entitled “Wilderness Under Siege” that highlighted the challenges facing Wilderness today including proposed federal legislation affecting wilderness and efforts to weaken the Wilderness Act.
- Next event is planned May 2019.



Wilderness Advocacy: Coalition Support

IPWA members stay apprised and engaged with local efforts that potentially affect the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness areas.



- In the past several years IPWA has supported the Middle Boulder Creek Coalition in its efforts to strengthen protections for the Hessie Valley, a popular gateway to the Indian Peaks Wilderness.
- In December 2017, after 10 years of effort, an historic compromise agreement was reached which preserves the Hessie Valley.

Wilderness Advocacy: Interpretive Center

The IPWA plans to work the USFS BRD to renovate and update a miner's cabin to create Wilderness Interpretive Center during summer season.



- The “Hessie Cabin” is located at junction of *Hessie Road* and *4th of July Road* in Eldora, CO
- In 2018, HistoriCorps did a site evaluation and cost estimate of the site and is working to get the site on the national historic register to facilitate funding.
- Estimated costs are ~ \$40K+.

Wilderness Patrols: Summer Season

Summer patrols in the IP/JP Wilderness are a popular and important tool in educating visitors about environmentally responsible behavior in the Wilderness (i.e Dogs on Lease and “Leave No Trace” principles).

- In 2018 our patrol volunteers:
 - Completed over 600 summer patrols
 - Logged close to 4,500 volunteer hours at a value to the USFS of ~ \$100K
 - Hiked more than 3,500 miles
 - Contacted more than 39,000 members of the public
 - Removed over 50 fire rings helping to mitigate fire danger



Wilderness Patrols: Winter Season

Our volunteers patrol the Brainard Lake Recreation Area and James Peak Area from the end of hunting season to the start of the summer season.



- 2018 was our 3rd year of this program, started in 2015.
- With 8 new graduates in 2018, IPWA doubled the # of winter patrollers.
- New recruits
 - Completed 2 day wilderness first aid course including CPR
 - Completed radio and satellite communication device training
 - Completed additional classroom and field training
- Continued to work with the Bryan Mountain Ski Patrol.

Wilderness Patrols: Trailhead Hosts

3-4 times each year, our volunteer hosts are available to visitors as they head into the James Peak Wilderness. Hosts provide water, maps, dog leashes, general information, and educational materials.



- In 2018 IPWA: Hosted 4 events and expanded the program to include a host day at the Hessie Area
- On August 11th, 2018 volunteers recorded a record numbers of visitors (over 500 hikers and 100 backpackers), many camping out to see the Perseid Meteor Shower away from the light pollution of the city.

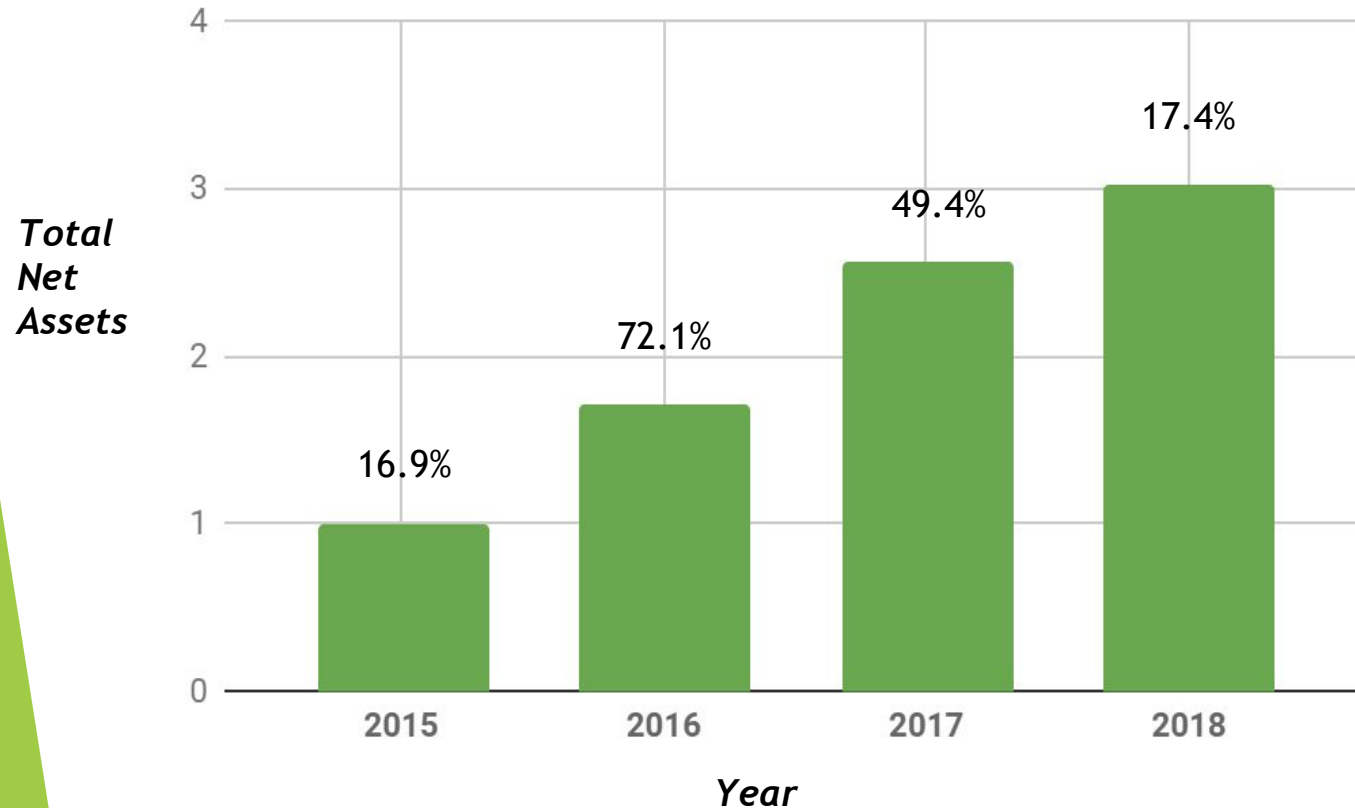
Finance and Accounting



2018 Financial Status

Thanks to all of our donors and grantors!

IPWA Net Assets: Percent Growth Over Prior Year



- 2018 marks our 4th years of growth in our net assets!
- The IPWA is a 100% volunteer organization so all funding goes to programs and operations. We have no paid staff.

Accounting

We are incredibly fortunate to have the local accounting firm of Johnson Kightlinger & Co. manage all of our accounting and financial and tax reporting requirements. THANK YOU!



- We've worked with Johnson Kightlinger & Co. for the past three years and they have done an excellent job with our financial and tax reporting requirements!

2018 Grants: Thank you NWSA!

In 2018, the IPWA was fortunate to receive a summer grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship foundation to help fund some of our projects. Thank you NWSA!



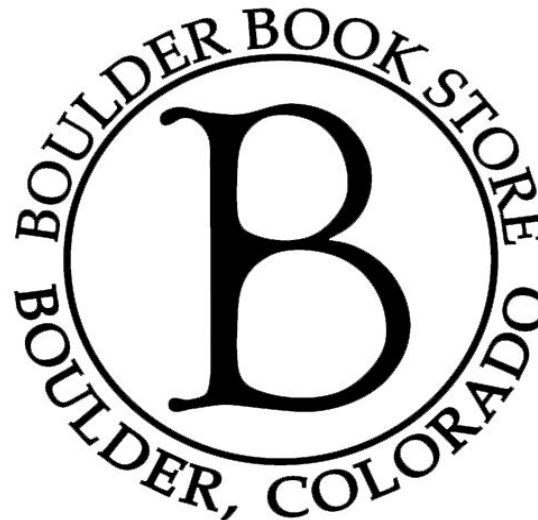
- In 2018, the NWSA grant partially funded for our “Teach The Teacher” program, the summer Wilderness Ranger Internship and our trail project programs.
- The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance exists to bring together the wilderness stewardship community into a growing network of volunteer-based organizations that provide stewardship for America's enduring resource of wilderness. (www.wildernessalliance.org).

Local Fundraising Partners, Corporate Sponsor

We are also very fortunate to have local businesses who strongly support IPWA's mission.

Thank you Corptax, Prana Boulder, and Boulder Bookstore!

- On December 4th, 2018, PraNa Boulder offered shoppers a 25% discount on their entire purchase if they donated \$10 to IPWA!
- We held our annual holiday wrapping event at the Boulder Bookstore on December 24, 2018 which is always a festive and rewarding event.
- Also in December, IPWA received a generous contribution from our friends at Corptax.



Fundraising: Photo Contest

This was the fourth year of our annual IPWA Volunteer/Member Photo contest. Volunteer and Members Photos are turned into note cards which in turn are provided to select donors as a 'Thank You' for their financial support.



Challenges and Opportunities



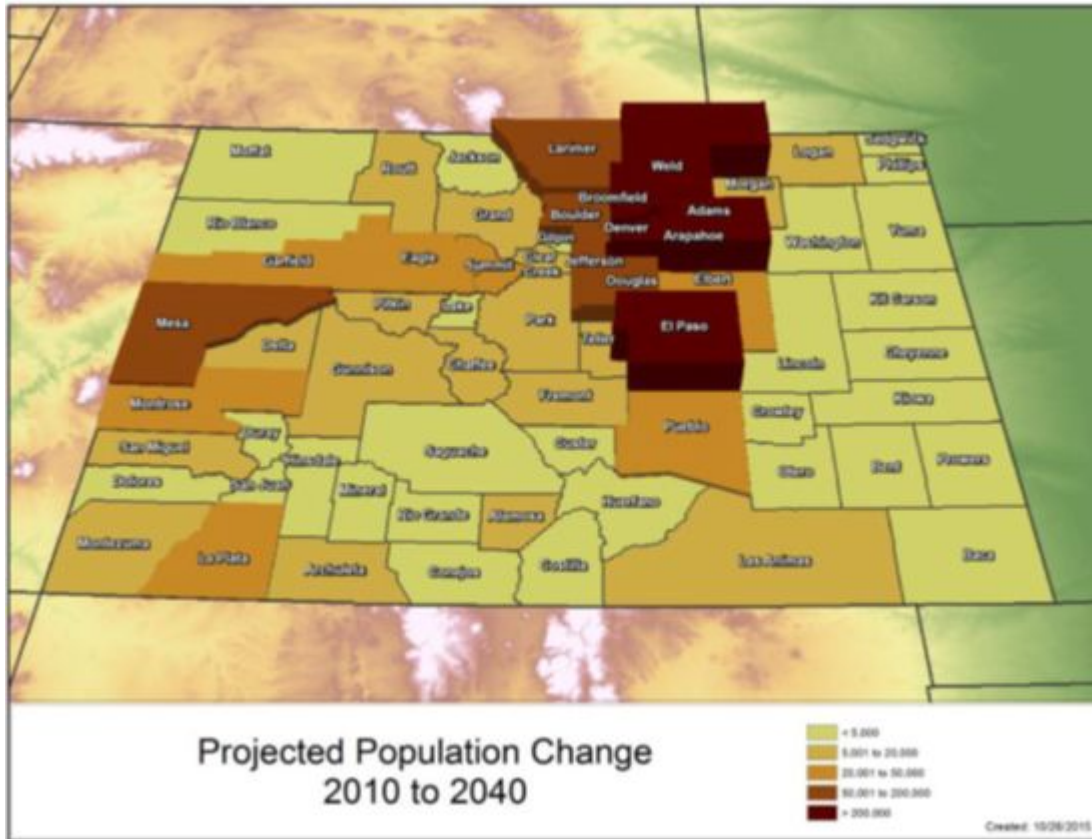
Challenges/Opportunities to Our Mission

As we embark on our next 5 year planning cycle, we see a number of challenges facing our organization, the USFS, and the IPW/JPW Areas including:



Colorado Population Growth

Colorado's population has been increasing by close to 75,000 new inhabitants per year, with the majority located in the Front Range.

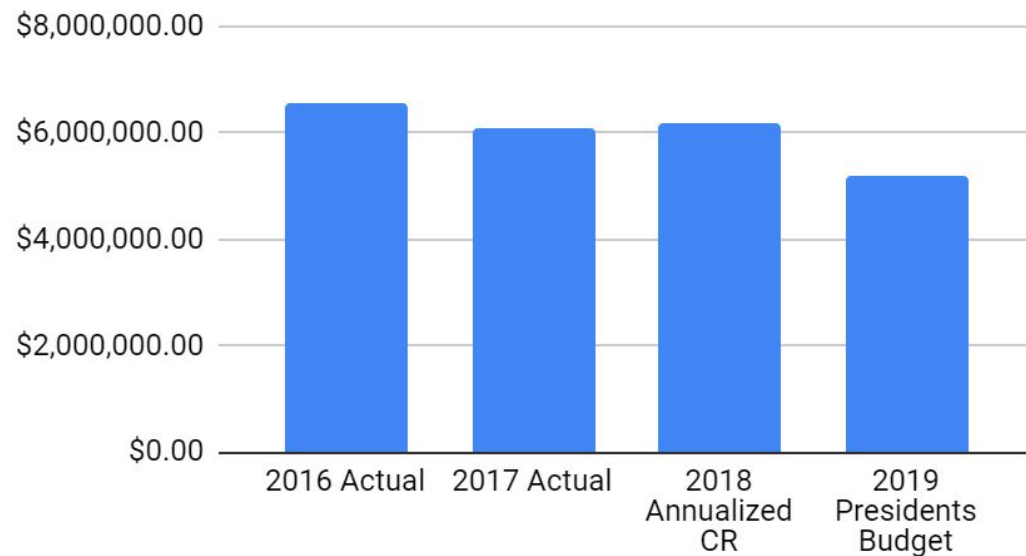


- IP/JP Wilderness Implications:
 - IPW/JPW will see increased visitation with associated challenges (e.g. traffic, parking, trail congestion, social trails, garbage, etc.)
 - Visitor education will be of even greater importance.
 - Permitting systems may need to be considered in the JPW.
- IPWA Implications:
 - Greater need for our services.

Limited Funding for Wilderness Projects

If enacted, the President's proposed 2019 USFS budget reduction has potential impacts to Wilderness management funding.

4 Year Summary of USFS Appropriations



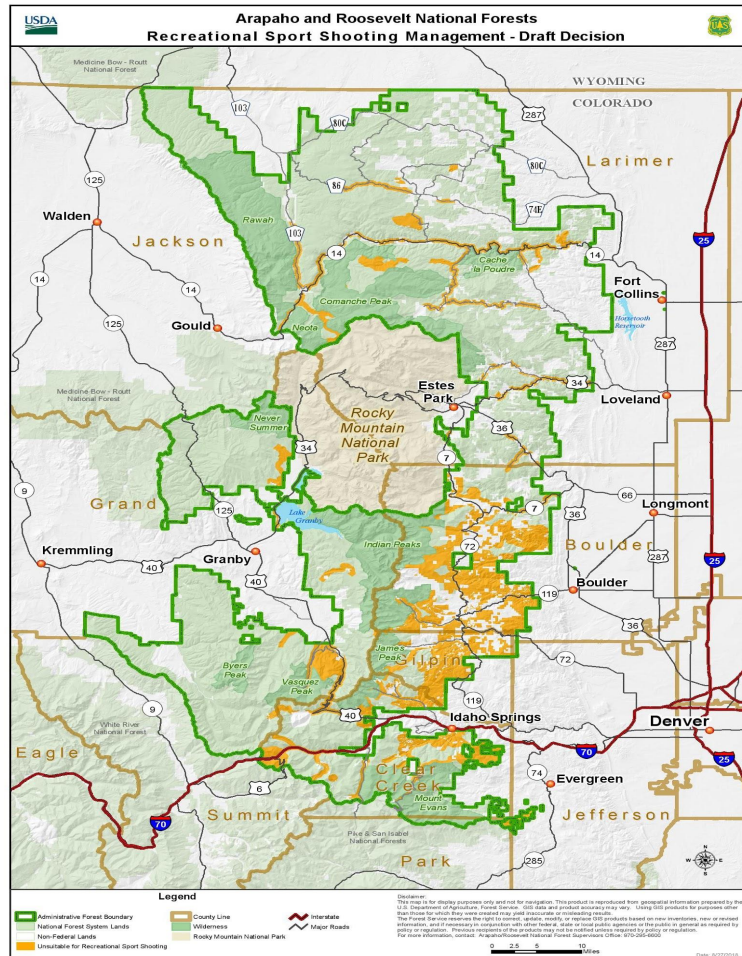
Source: USDA 2019 Budget Justification

www.indianpeakswilderness.org

- IPW/JPW Wilderness Implications
 - Limited funds available for trail maintenance, visitor education, seasonal ranges, etc.
- IPWA Implication:
 - Greater need for our services.
 - Greater need for additional funding models and alternatives.

ARNF Recreational Sport Shooting Designations

In 2018, the USFS has issued a [draft decisional map](#) and [draft decisional notice](#) for recreational shooting in the Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest



- Most high traffic sections within the IPW/JPW Wilderness areas are designated as unsuitable which is a win for the Wilderness.
- IPWA still has concerns:
 - Potential dispersion of recreational shooting from closed areas to the wilderness
 - Potential increased danger to citizens on the trails (150,000+ visitors per season).
 - Guidance is still in draft

Mountain Bikes in the Wilderness

There is a current bill in the House of Representatives (HR1349) which proposes modifying the 1964 Wilderness Act to allow mountain bikes in the wilderness.

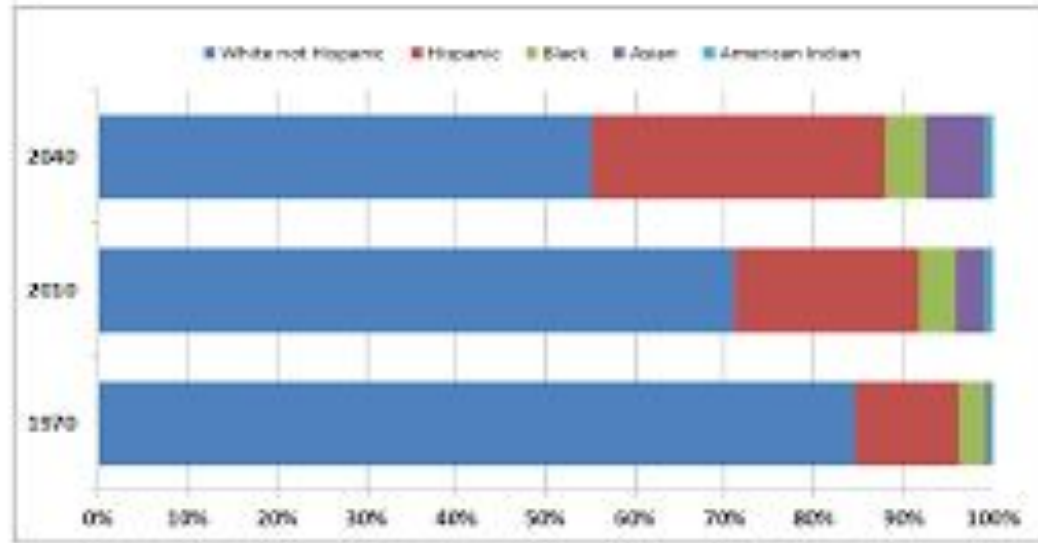


- IPW/JPW Wilderness Implications
 - Wilderness areas nationally would be open to Mountain Bikes.
 - The potential beginning of additional changes to the 1964 Wilderness Act.
- IPWA Implication
 - We are opposed to this designation and will proactively advocate against this law.

Changes in National and State Population Diversity

“To Protect Something, You Need To Care About It.”

.



Colorado Population by Race/Ethnicity

Source: Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office.

- Wilderness Implications:
 - Importance of wilderness conservation principles will need to expand to more diverse ethnicities if the wilderness concept is to endure.
- IPWA Implications:
 - Our organization will need to become more diverse and reflect the changing nature of our State.
 - We will also need to reach out to more diverse ethnic populations and have all citizens of Colorado become aware of wilderness and public land management ethics.

Where are we going?

Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance - 2019 Goals



- Working with our USFS partners to provide improved volunteer training
- Strengthen our core programs by incorporating 2018 lessons learned in each area
- Revise our 5 year strategic plan
- Upgrade volunteer portal web interfaces for ease in reporting
- More...

IPWA Over The Next 5 Years

Building on a firm foundation, IPWA will focus on becoming more ethnically diverse, increasing our multi-generational membership and volunteer community, enhancing our online presence, and furthering our educationally focused wilderness preservation programs.

Elementary, Middle & High School



(Member Katy K. and daughter Vera)

Undergraduate & Graduate



IPWA 2016 Interns Zoe B. and Alex C.

Working Careers



2017 IPWA Volunteers/Members at JPW.

Retirement



IPWA Volunteer Janie S.

Thank You!

Dear Volunteers, Members, Partners, and Friends,

Please accept our sincere gratitude for all of your generous volunteer hours, financial contributions, and enthusiasm for our wonderful organization. Together we made a difference.

The on-going work we do together helps ensure the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness areas will continue to:

- *Provide clean drinking water for our communities,*
- *Offer outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities and a peaceful refuge from our busy lives,*
- *Attract visitors that boost the local economies,*
- *Provide a haven for animals, fish, and birds, providing a safe places to live, raise offspring, rest, and feed during migratory flights,*
- *Ensure a natural legacy for future generations*

We'd like to hear from you so please send us your thoughts at hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org

"Keep it Wild"

IPWA Board

IPWA Board:

“Saving Wilderness. Changing Lives.”



IPWA's 9 Board Members:

- Tim Bickmore
- Yonah Cohen (Secretary)
- Matt Currie
- Reghan Gillman
- Andy Gup (Vice Chair)
- CJ Gup
- Scott Oetting (Treasurer)
- Daryl Ogden
- Kelly Prendergast (Chair)

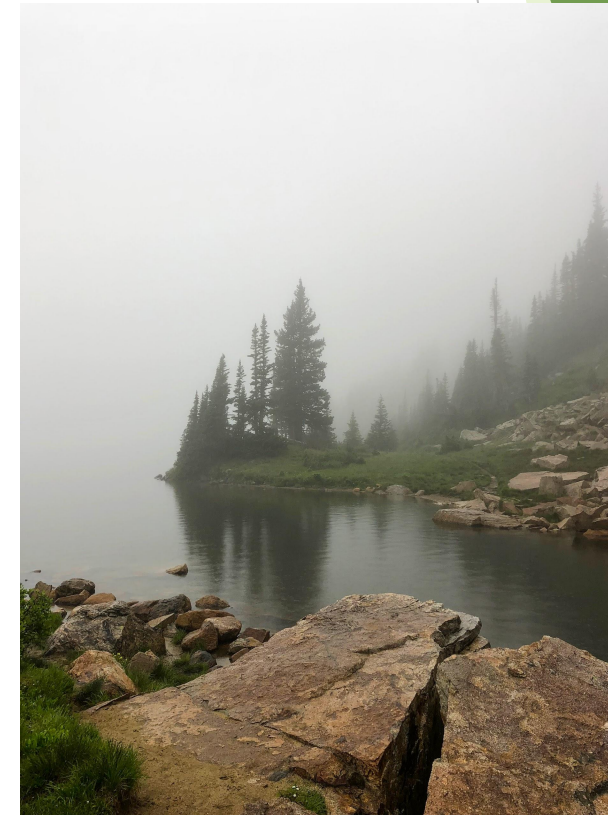
Background



Wilderness Defined

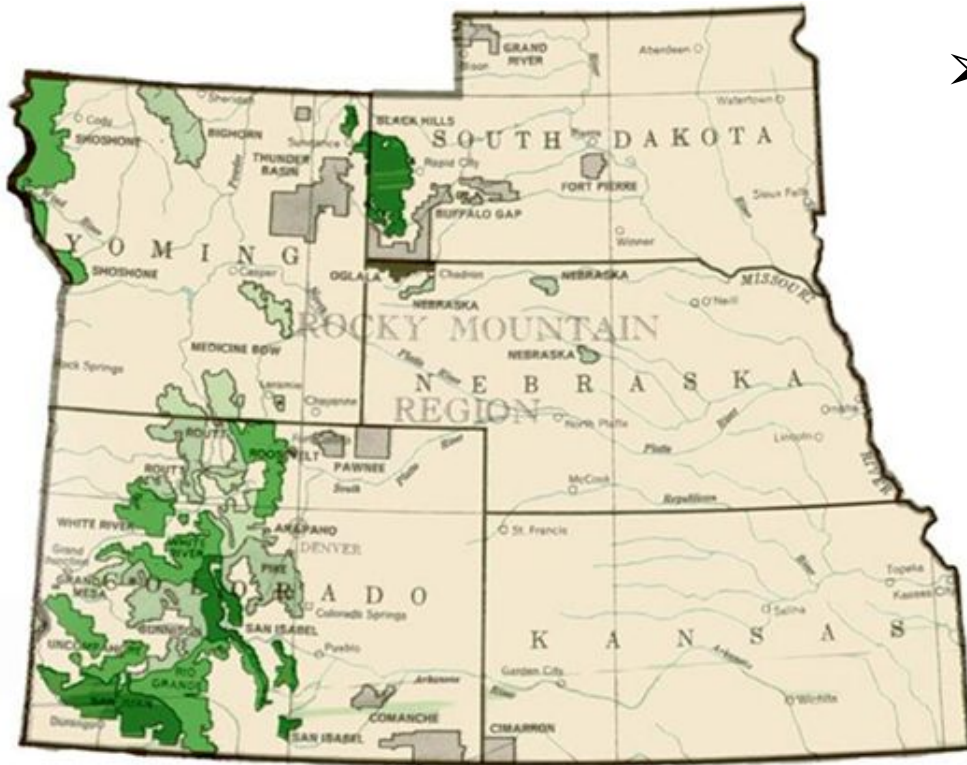
Wilderness is a type of protection (as defined in the 1964 Wilderness Act) given to the most pristine wildlands — areas within national parks, forests, recreation areas and other wildlands - where there are no roads or development.

- Since the Wilderness Act passed in 1964, Congress has designated nearly 110 million acres of federal wildlands as official wilderness.
- Official wilderness has the highest form of protection of any federal wildland.
- A designated wilderness area becomes part of the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)
- Four federal agencies assist in managing wildlands in the NWPS – Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife, and the US Forest Service.



Wilderness Management

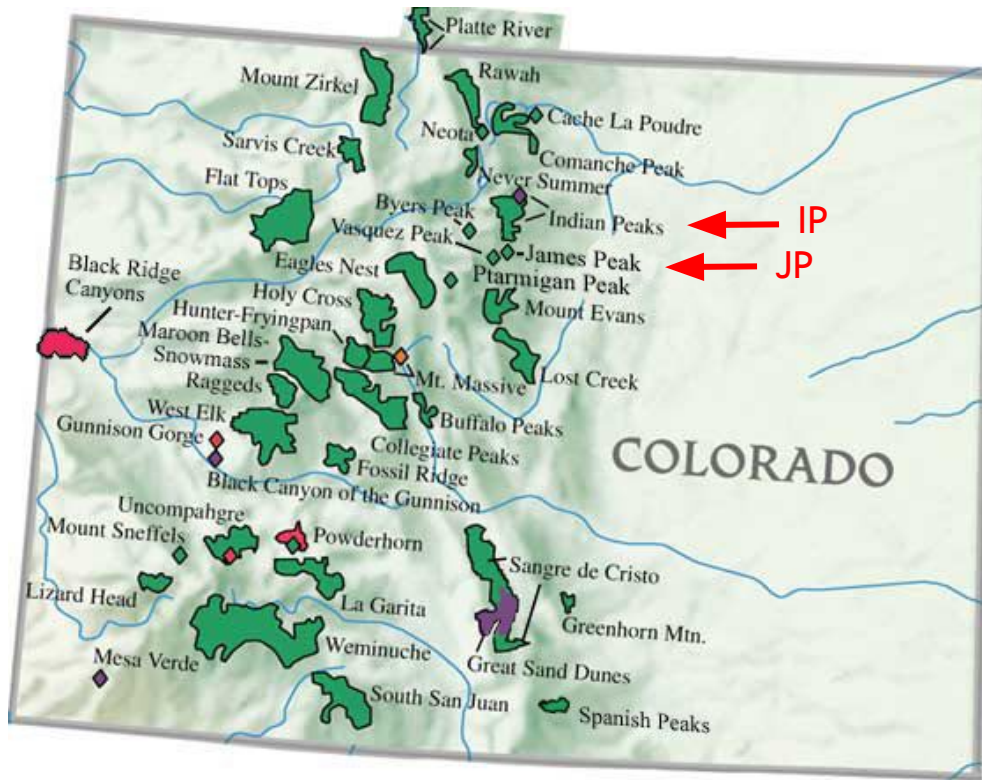
The USFS manages national forests and wilderness areas across the entire country. The USFS divides the country into 9 specific regions. Colorado is located within Region 2.



- Region 2 - The Rocky Mountain Region- is the home of:
- 11 National Forest and Grassland units
 - 40 million acres
 - 48 wilderness areas
 - 5.8 million acres of wilderness
 - 4,500 miles of trail in wilderness

Colorado Wilderness Areas

There are over 3.5 million acres of federally protected wilderness contained within 41 separate wilderness areas in Colorado.



- The **Weminuche Wilderness** in southwest Colorado is the largest wilderness area in the state at ~ 480,000 acres.
- The **Platte River Wilderness** is the smallest wilderness in the state at ~ 750 acres (within Colorado).