



POUDRE TRAILS



The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

<http://www.fortnet.org/pwv>

Volume 2, Issue 4

Oct 1998

PWV MATURES

By Chuck Bell, Chair

As many of you know, **Art Bunn** and I are stepping down from the leadership of PWV in October, and under our newly revised bylaws we cannot continue as voting members of the board. The leadership will truly pass to others. This is a critical step in the life of PWV. It means that PWV has matured. No longer is it the "child" of those who created it. It has become a full-fledged, mature organization of, by and for the community that it serves. It means it can and will endure on its own. It is no longer dependent on a few individuals to keep it going.

I am thrilled that we have come so far in just three years. I look back with appreciation on how so many people have pulled together, and put forth so much effort, to make Poudre Wilderness Volunteers a significant force in the conservation of our area's wonderful forest and wilderness areas.

(Continued on page 3)

A PWV "AUTUMN"

By Art Bunn, Co-Chair

Autumn is the season of harvest, and what a "harvest" PWV's have reaped these initial three seasons; thousands of contacts helping to educate the public in the principles of Leave No Trace, and spreading good will. The season is also one of reflection, a time of recalling past pleasures and accomplishments while anticipating new beginnings. No pleasure has been

personally greater than the warmth of friendships gained through my involvement with PWV. However, autumn is also a season of passage. What more opportune time to pass the baton of leadership? We've been privileged to share together the creation and implementation of PWV, and for this we owe a lasting "Thanks!" to **Chuck Bell** for his vision and drive. As I step down from the Board of Directors, I give my wishes and continuing support to our new slate of officers. To each of you, I give my personal heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity and privilege of serving with you, "Hiking with a Purpose."

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FIRE AND FIRE RINGS

By Frank Lilley

For thousands of years, fire has played a predominant role in the survival of the human race, and the evolution of our environment. Even today, many species are dependent upon fire for their survival, and fire will always be an essential ingredient in the continuation of healthy ecosystems. However, over the last century the importance of fire for survival has become less important to the human race, and more of a nostalgic pleasure. With the expanding population growth and the increased usage of our wilderness areas, our way of thinking about the age old tradition of camp fire building is changing and sound environmental philosophies need to take root. As Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to understand the use of fires in our wild areas, and to educate visitors on the correct use of them.

In the wilderness areas we patrol as PWV rangers, 200 feet or beyond has been the distance designated from water sources and trails to pitch camp and build fires. (The only exception to this is Travel Zones where fires are prohibited.) This designated distance helps keep campers at an acceptable distance from water sources, while creating a larger buffer zone that offers more privacy, and puts less stress on wildlife that are dependent on riparian habitat for survival. However, change may be on the way to make 100 feet the prescribed distance. **Martha Moran**, PWV Forest Service Liaison, stated:

"There is no regulation in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District specifying 200 feet as the legal distance, and 100 feet is the legal and accepted distance in other wilderness areas around the state." Martha goes on to suggest that

YEAR-END GATHERING - OCT 25



As the mountains turn from the lush green of summer to the brilliant yellow, orange, and reds of fall, our 1998 Poudre Wilderness Volunteers season comes to a close. To close the season properly, we are going to have a final 1998 get together to mingle, thank everyone for their contributions, and watch ourselves in our movie debut. We will

also be inviting outside contributors that have donated to the organization to thank them. The gathering is planned for **Sunday, October 25**, in the **US Forestry Craddock Building** located near Mulberry and I-25, from **2:30 to 5:00 PM**. Appetizers, popcorn and beverages will be provided. We welcome all of you and your families. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



(Fire Rings - Continued from page 1)

"In the future, there may be a possibility of designated fire camps in the Rawah and Commanche Peaks Wilderness. Visitors could build fires only in these camps; this could help clarify where fires could and could not be built."

However, in the meantime we will need to use good judgement when it comes to dismantling fire rings. Currently, for wildness areas, fire rings within 200 feet of water sources and



trails should be dismantled. Fire rings outside of 200 feet should be cleaned up if needed and left for future use, as long as they are in established and popular campsites. If there are multiple fire rings in a camp,

it would be best to destroy all but one.

We will keep you posted on any USFS changes related to fire and fire ring management, and change our communication in future training.

When encountering an undesirable and/or illegal fire ring, our main objective should be to restore the site to as natural a state as possible. Following are some guidelines and tips to accomplish this objective:

- Remove all rocks from ring; disperse them as far away as possible from existing site. If there is a rocky area nearby, stream bank, slide area, etc., distribute in these areas.
- Remove all ashes and distribute them in the surrounding area, take care not to dispose of them in the same spot.
- Once all ashes are disposed of, cover the sterile area with duff, gravel, pine needles, etc. Try to make it match the surrounding area as much as possible in appearance.

- Remove any loose firewood, logs, and rock benches. This will help discourage further use.
- Remove all garbage from fire pit such as aluminum foil, tin, etc. Practicing sound environmental behavior is something people do because they believe in the values that underlie their actions.

GIRL SCOUTS

By Jeffery McAbee

It takes a little imagination to grab the attention of girl scouts when the topic is Leave No Trace; after all, we were competing with horseback riding and archery. But, as you know, children are well ahead of us in the area of conservation. This made our job extremely easy and fun. Thanks to the work of Poudre Wilderness Volunteer **Bill Dold** and Leslie Wharton of the Girl Scouts. Poudre Wilderness Volunteers had the opportunity to spread some of the good news, if you will, about Leave No Trace backcountry ethics. This was done at Meadow Mountain Ranch. Aside from the teaching, I spent beautiful weekends sleeping adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park. Listening to Elk bugle

Poudre Trails is a bi-monthly publication of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit corporation organized to assist the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and other backcountry areas. Mail should be sent to P.O. Box 271921, Fort Collins, CO 80527. Phone: (970) 498-2776

Chair Chuck Bell

Co-Chair Art Bunn

Secretary Martha Moran

Newsletter committee:

Editorial Coordinator Glenn French

Art Director Tony Parent

Reporters

Art Bunn

Scott French

Chuck Bell

Glenn French

Frank Lilley

Amy Williams

Jeffery McAbee

and watching the leaves slowly changing color made it a fulfilling assignment. The ongoing plan is to get Poudre Wilderness Volunteer members into girl scout troop meetings, teaching classes at camp next summer and even to have a PWV member accompany a troop into the backcountry where these principles can be shown first hand. If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to help get our message out to even more folks, contact **Jeffery McAbee** at (970) 407-0829.

A PWV VIDEO

By Scott French

Way back in January, during my interview, it came to be known that I produce all sorts of videos as part of my profession at Comcast Communications. Art Bunn, thought that a video about the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers would be interesting and of great benefit to the organization. Near the end of March, I found myself in a meeting with **Art Bunn**, **Chuck Bell**, **Bill Dold**, and **Martha Moran**. We discussed direction, focus, and most importantly what they wanted out of a PWV video as people view it. A week later, the crew assembled again, bringing with them the scriptwriter, **Paige Miller**. We spoke in detail about laying out the video and gave Paige some direction for the script. By the end of April, Paige had come up with the original script that we began shooting from. We've also secured the services of Susan Moore, a local radio personality, to do the narration. Pat Burge agreed to donate her time to compose and perform the music. I've spent most of the summer with other PWVs getting all the needed footage. It all started prior to training weekend and includes horse patrols, foot patrols, seeing people in their work environments, and most enjoyable traveling into the backcountry for that scenic footage. Now, as the month of September comes to a close, the integration and editing process is being finalized. The video will be completed in time for its unveiling to PWV members during the "Year-End Gathering" on Sunday, October 25. The first public viewing is planned at the **Fort Collins REI** store on Tuesday evening, **November 3**, at **7:00 PM**.





FROM THE SADDLE

Amy Williams

HORSES & FOREST SERVICE RADIOS

Often, horse riders and backpackers are asked to carry Forest Service radios while patrolling in the backcountry. The reasons for this are obvious but there's more to carrying a radio in your saddlebag than just having that extra weight in case of an emergency. When carrying a radio, it is suggested that you either leave the radio on during your patrol or turn it on and off frequently to receive any signals or reports that may be coming across. Sounds ideal right?! As horse riders, we all know that the sudden squelch of a radio can be a startling experience for a horse, especially when it's totally unexpected. Here are a few reminders for orienting your horse to these devices:

- Check out a radio this fall or winter for a couple of days to spend some time reintroducing the radio sounds to your horse.
- Over the days you have the radio, repeatedly work around the animal in a confined area to desensitize him or her to the noise.
- Occasionally place an AM/FM radio in the barn or shelter to acquaint your horse with unusual and sudden noises.

(PWV Matures - Continued from page 1)

Of course, I am intensely proud of my role in founding the organization, but I am humbled by all the hard work of so many others that has been absolutely vital to our extraordinary success.

I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard on the trails and off the trails to develop Poudre Wilderness Volunteers and make it what it is today. I especially want to thank **Martha Moran** for her tremendous dedication, and all the long hours she has put in to make sure we succeed at the job we have pledged to do. I also want to thank Art Bunn for being my "alter-ego" and filling in so often when I have been tied up with my work. We have had a good team at the top, and I am thrilled with those who are prepared to step into our boots. I will still be a full participant in PWV, but as a member only. I know that those who are in line to succeed us will do a wonderful job, and bring new ideas to make PWV even more effective in the future. I ask everyone associated with PWV to give them full support and cooperation.

HARMONY

By Art Bunn, Co-Chair

Sitting and sharing at the old oak kitchen table in the warmth of his eclectic ranch home, PWV volunteer and board member **George Wallace** is a man in harmony with his world. With his family background in ranching and forestry and his personal history as a peace corps volunteer, Marine Corps officer, college professor, author, rancher, and international authority on park and protected area management, George's philosophy incorporates a deep respect and reverence for our natural environment.

His concern is that, with urbanization, increasingly fewer people understand the natural and cultural history of the area with the resultant degradation of our finite resources. However, with his positive expectation philosophy, George believes that most people want to do the right thing when it is clearly understood. Fortunately, George's "Authority of the Resource" concept enables each of us as Poudre Wilderness Volunteers to share Leave No Trace principles as custodians and stewards in a non-confrontational and effective manner. George, we know you appreciate the positive impact of our "hiking and riding with a purpose" and we, in turn, appreciate your input and support.

Editors Note: For more information on the "Authority of the Resource" technique, refer to page 4.3 of the PWV Field Guide.

ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS DESIGNATION PROPOSED

By Glenn French

Congressman David Skaggs has introduced a bill that would give wilderness protection to James Peak and other headwater areas within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. The centerpiece of the proposal is 15,850 acres on the eastern side of James Peak. James Peak is located on the Continental Divide about 3 miles south of where the Moffat Tunnel cut through the Divide. The area is dominated by sweeping tundra and accented by steep cliffs and a dozen lakes. In addition to James Peak, the proposal includes 5,140 acres to be added to the existing Comanche Peak Wilderness that we patrol. This includes an addition of 1,110 acres in the Sheep Creek area. Sheep Creek is a small drainage in a SW direction from Crown Point. There is also a small addition of 670 acres that would connect the existing wilderness to CSU's Pingree Park campus. The largest addition of 3,360 acres would be in the Bulwark Ridge/Signal Mountain area which includes big game migration corridors and old growth forest.

It should be noted that to accommodate other users of our National Forest the proposal was modified from the original recommendations to allow existing mountain bicycle use to remain, along with a four wheel drive motor recreation trail.

STONE LION BOOK SALES TO BENEFIT PWV

Mark Your Calendars! On Sunday, **November 1** from **3-5 PM**, the Stone Lion Bookstore will donate 15% of its sales during the afternoon time frame to PWV. Called "Share the Profit," this program offers organizations a chance to raise some money while their members and the general public shop for books. So complete your holiday book shopping or buy that title that you've been wanting! Refreshments will be served. The Stone Lion Bookstore is located at 107 North College Avenue. See you there!

DID YOU KNOW?

By Frank Lilley

Contrary to popular belief, moose have historically inhabited Colorado, though not in large numbers. Documented sightings have occurred in South Park's Routt National Forest in 1933, at the head of Burgess Creek in 1941, and in the Estes Park region as early as 1866.

In 1978, during a program to repopulate the species, twelve moose [*Alces Shiras*] were introduced into Colorado along the Illinois Creek drainage near Rand Colorado in North Park. This included four bulls, seven cows and one calf. These moose were transplanted from the north slope of the Uintah Mountains in Utah. Similar transplants occurred in 1979, with moose from Wyoming. In 1987, twelve more were released along the Laramie River drainage near the Rawah Wilderness. As of this writing, the herd has grown to some 950 head and is distributed over a large area including Roosevelt, Arapahoe and Routt National Forests.

BEST CHANCES TO OBSERVE MOOSE

Streamside willows comprise about 97% of the moose diet; the rest consisting of algae, and pond weeds. Consequently, the best areas to locate moose would be in willow bottoms and aspen thickets along streams. Finding an overlook that allows you to see large stretches of river bottom habitat will offer you the best opportunity to see this handsome animal. Some of the best locations to observe moose in our patrol area are along the Laramie River drainage, the Neota wilderness (especially Trap Park), the Emmaline Lake Trail, the Cameron Pass area, and most anywhere in the Rawah Wilderness where good habitat exists.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Moose are the largest member of the deer family. Males weigh up to 1,100 pounds and stand up to six feet tall. Females average around 700 pounds. Bulls can be especially dangerous during breeding season from late September to the middle of October. Cows pose a real danger while accompanied by calves in the spring and summer months. Moose show no physical signs before they charge. If you encounter a moose at close quarters, try to put a tree between you and him/her, and move a safe distance away.

Page 4



Poudre Wilderness Volunteers
PO Box 271921
Fort Collins, CO 80527