



## PWV “Back in Business” July 1

*By Elaine Green, Chair*

As our members know, on March 19 the PWV Board of Directors made the difficult but necessary decision to suspend all recruitment and training in-person events due to the surging coronavirus in Colorado. For the first time there was to be no Kick Off Night or Spring Training Weekend. Shortly thereafter the Forest Service required all volunteers to stand down.

Our Board of Directors and several committees have continued to meet virtually. The Executive Committee and Trail Patrol Committee chair have maintained close contact with our Forest Service liaison (Kristy) and District Ranger (Katie), including an outside, socially distanced, in person meeting to discuss the upcoming Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) we would be functioning under once we were able to patrol and undertake special projects again.

Thanks to the creative efforts of Celia Walker and others, we have kept in close contact with the 74 people who applied to become members before we suspended recruitment and training activities. We fulfilled our commitment to assist the Buckhorn camp in their annual spring cleanup, so there have been various

“behind the scenes” PWV activities occurring.



*PWV members Joe Cox and Elaine Greene cleaning cabins at the Buckhorn Camp this spring.*

After over 3 months of “standing down” as per Forest Service requirements, we are now back in business, with some important precautions in place. You should review the PWV SOP before engaging in any activity. Note that our SOP may change if the COVID19 situation here worsens.

As of July 1, the ever-popular Weed Patrols are starting again and the Stock Committee is starting work to improve the corrals at Stub Creek. The LNT Trainers hike took place. We are considering alternatives to our annual in-person Year End Event in October. And, of course, we can now resume patrolling while following new guidelines in addition to our usual procedures.

It is important to emphasize that being outside is less risky than indoor activities, but there is still some risk involved in interacting with the public, especially if you are in a higher risk category. For that reason, know that you should not feel any obligation to hike or ride now as part of your PWV membership. In any case, remember to submit your Volunteer Agreement to Kristy.

Our new [Standard Operating Procedures \(SOP\)](#) includes maintaining social distancing.

*As of July 1, the ever-popular Weed Patrols are starting again and the Stock Committee is starting work to improve the corrals at Stub Creek. The LNT Trainers hike took place. We are considering alternatives to our annual in-person Year End Event in October.*

This provides some challenges to us with the crowding we have witnessed at some trailheads and trails. When speaking with a hiker or rider, we will need to stay 6-10 feet away and make sure we are not causing others to “bunch up” along the trail in front or behind us. Perhaps our standard advice should include that hikers and riders

spread out along the trail, and to step aside (hopefully onto durable surfaces) on narrow trails when being approached by another.

We can expect a lot of trash at some trailheads and perhaps along trails. Bringing a good-sized trash sack and wearing disposable gloves is prudent. I have found disposable nitrile gloves available at Ace hardware stores. Restrooms will be opening as they are cleaned and sanitized.

The Larimer county guidelines since Phase One have included the following:

*"Face coverings to be worn when recreational activities are being done with other people. Groups of individuals recreating together should maintain physical distancing and be 10 or less people. Remember masks are to protect those around you, NOT to protect yourself. If you are out walking/running/hiking/jogging by yourself you do not need to be wearing a mask."*

Masks will be required if social distancing is not possible at trailheads or on trails. We should start thinking of "The 10 Essentials" as including some sort of mask or other cloth covering to put over our nose and mouth.

Only one person per vehicle OR members of the same household for travel will be permitted while volunteering.

If you do choose to utilize our trails try to avoid adding to the overcrowding on more popular trails. Remember that for now at least, to slow the spread of this deadly disease, we should all do our part.

Best wishes, Stay safe.

## June 2020 Forest Service Notes

By Kristy Wumkes, USFS

We're living in extraordinary times right now.

COVID19 has created a fluid, long-lasting and potentially life-threatening situation in all our lives. It has caused the

Forest Service to think, re-think, and then re-think again, safety guidelines.

PWV's continued engagement in these constantly evolving discussions on risks and mitigations during these past few months says much about your passion and commitment to public lands stewardship and our close partnership. The Canyon Lakes District is grateful for your support and patience, and the continued spirit of shared stewardship from your board of directors.

I know you are ready to get back to volunteering, and we certainly want you back on the trails as soon as is safely possible. This was made a reality on July 1.

*COVID19 has created a fluid, long-lasting and potentially life-threatening situation in all our lives. It has caused the Forest Service to think, re-think, and then re-think again, safety guidelines.*

The Forest Service is slowly easing back into a new normal, which includes getting field personnel and volunteers safely back to the field. This has been a thoughtful and methodical process, rooted in a safety framework. Office employees began teleworking in mid-March and will continue to do so until further notice.

A forest-wide volunteer program Risk Assessment (formally a Job Hazard Analysis) will soon be approved by the district rangers. The Risk Assessment will provide consistent yet flexible and well-decisioned actions, anchored in state and county safety guidelines. Once this document is signed, YOU can go back to volunteering. These guidelines will be emailed to all members once approved by the District Ranger.

So, what's happening on the Forest regarding recreation in this new COVID-world?

The Forest has a phased recreation site re-opening plan.

Some closures remain in place to allow employees time to prepare facilities, as well as time to ensure that necessary

personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies are readily available with a sustainable supply.

Some campgrounds have opened. Others will have a delayed opening. Some first-come first-served campgrounds are on the reservation system at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) for this season. All of Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest's campgrounds are managed by American Land and Leisure.

Day-use recreation sites (picnic areas) and trailhead toilets will also have a phased re-opening.

You can find campground and picnic area status on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest website at [www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/arp/recreation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/arp/recreation)

We're finding a lot more dispersed recreational use than we've ever seen, some of it in places that are legally off-limits to camping. Our recreation staff is working hard to keep up with signing, re-signing, clean up, educating (with masks on) and citing recreationists.

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions are in effect until rescinded. Stage 1 restrictions allow open fires in campgrounds and picnic areas in established metal fire grates, but not the backcountry or roadside. The dispersed camping sites along Long Draw and Manhattan Roads are not considered to have established fire grates. Backcountry users can still use camp stoves. Smoking is allowed in campgrounds and picnic areas, in vehicles, and anywhere outdoors within a three-foot bare-earth perimeter.

Federal wildland fire agencies work closely with state and local partners. Fire restrictions are in place to prevent the drawdown of fire and medical resources of our local county and state partners and our Forest Service firefighters by limiting the number of human-caused wildfires. On average, annually 87% of wildfires are human caused.

None of this is static. We're living in a dynamic situation, requiring adaptability in case our work and procedures need to shift if there is another surge in COVID19 cases.

Thanks for your patience and understanding in this interesting time in the world. Stay safe.

## Wild 56 Patrols July 31–August 9, 2020

By Russ Smith

Wild 56 is the planned 2020 version of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (PWV) annual celebration of the Wilderness Act, July 31 - August 9.

The Wilderness Act, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964 is considered one of America's greatest conservation achievements. The act created our National Wilderness Preservation System and provided the means for Americans to induct unspoiled areas into the system. Today the Wilderness system contains 111 million acres of lands enjoyed by all Americans. These Wilderness lands all exist within our national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Land Management lands.

Within the Canyon Lakes Ranger District, the area patrolled by the PWV there are four different Wilderness Areas – Cache La Poudre Wilderness, Rawah Wilderness, Neota Wilderness, and Comanche Peak Wilderness.

Each year since the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, PWV set aside a ten-day period to concentrate on patrolling the trails within these Wilderness Areas. Our designation for this period of recognition is simply called 'WILD'. That designation with the Wilderness Act's anniversary year added is our way of denoting each year's recognition and celebration. For instance, last year was the 55th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act so our designation was 'Wild 55'. This year, 2020, will be 'Wild 56'.

Contrary to our normal patrolling processes, during the Wild recognition days, multiple daily patrols on a single Wilderness trail are encouraged. Various patrolling groups are encouraged to patrol

the same patrol complex if they wish – often covering different parts of the trail(s) – and coordinate their data in a combined report. This is accepted any time, but encouraged during WILD 56. All PWVs who are patrolling on a specific patrol trail complex are asked to include all others on the list of patrollers. Bottom line, the Scheduling and Reporting system will only accept one scheduled Trail Patrol and one patrol report. So, a bit of additional communication will be required to coordinate on reports during the Wild recognition period.

During this ten-day period we encourage as many PWV members to get out patrolling our four Wilderness Areas as have time and energy to do so. During last year's 10 days of Wild 55, PWV volunteers logged 192 people days between day hikes, backpacking, stock patrols and trail maintenance. Impressive! Of course, some volunteers – Steve Musial, Mike Shearer and a couple of others were out patrolling in Wilderness Areas virtually every day of our designated Wild 55 recognition period. What an example for the rest of us to emulate. Better get your boots, backpacks or stock ready.

While on patrol our job will be to meet and greet as many visitors as we can, offer assistance if needed and inform them of our reason for being out on the trail in recognition of the Wilderness Act and its place in protecting these unblemished Areas within which all of us can recreate. Explain not just how to enjoy them but also how to help protect these Wilderness Areas for future generations.

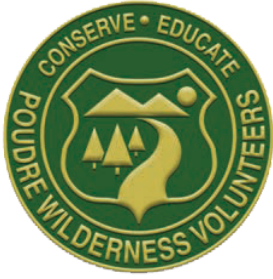
As Wilderness Rangers it is incumbent upon us to help visitors enjoy these Areas and at the same time recognize how important it is for everyone to make efforts to keep these Areas pristine and available for future generations. As members of PWV we are in a perfect position to do this, especially during our 10-days of Wild recognition. We encourage every Patrolling member to make a concerted effort to get out on trails in Wilderness Areas during this annual event.

## What's Inside

PWV "Back in Business" July 1	1
June 2020 Forest Service Notes	2
Wild 56 Patrols July 31–August 9, 2020	3
PWV 2019 Fact Sheet - More than Numbers	4
Recruiting in 2020	4
Friends of the Bridger-Teton Hosts Poudre Wilderness Volunteers in the Winds	4
New Patrol Trail, PWV Adds Twin Sisters Trail	5
PWV Weed Patrol 2019 Report	5
ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES: Smokey Gets a Body Lift!	6
Strategic Planning Committee 2-3 Year PWV Plan	6
Kids In Nature Update...	7
Calling all Social Media buffs!	7
PWV Website (pww.org) is Getting a Makeover	7
Trail Crew and the Restoration Committees	7
PWV Fundraiser: New Mugs, More Colors, More Fun!	8
Kevin Cannon's USFS Retirement Celebratory Roast	8
Support PWV	9
PWV on the Trail	10

## Newsletter Team

Mark L. Snyder, *Editor*  
Caitlin Mohr, *Designer*



## POUDRE WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS MISSION

The mission of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is to assist the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and backcountry areas within its jurisdiction.

To achieve this mission Poudre Wilderness Volunteers recruits, trains, equips, and fields citizen volunteers to serve as wilderness rangers and hosts for the purpose of educating the public, and provides other appropriate support to these wild areas.

## PWV 2019 Fact Sheet - More than Numbers

By Elaine Green

Our volunteers are busy all year gathering data on trail use and conditions. Ever wonder how many trails we actually patrolled in 2019? What about those illegal fire rings you worked hard to remove—how many total were cleared? And what did we spend on our efforts, anyway? Inquiring minds want to know!



PWV members interacting with a hiker.

The PWV 2019 Fact Sheet provides answers to these and other questions. Updated each year, the fact sheets are more than a breakdown of numbers.

*Ever wonder how many trails we actually patrolled in 2019?*

They track and reveal a changing landscape of statistics—information used in grants and government reports, and that helps us measure the results of our stewardship on behalf of the US Forest Service. That's pretty cool. Click [PWV 2019 Fact Sheet](#) to check it out - a two-page printer friendly PDF document.

## Recruiting in 2020

By Celia Walker

2020 had the appearance of being a very good year for Recruiting. We were delighted that 74 people had applied to join PWV. Given that life often intervenes between application and Spring Training, we predicted from previous years that about 65-70% of those applicants will be on the Spring Training trail. Fifty recruits, five animal groups: PWV ranks would continue to grow.

Then, in early March, disappointment replaced delight. Measures to address the pandemic intervened. It became much more likely that 2020 applicants would be interviewed in 2021 and trained with a class of around 80 recruits in 2021. While plans continue to be in flux, what does remain certain is the importance of retaining the interest of these applicants and helping them wait, however long it takes.

How to do that? We'll stay in virtual touch: send them an email every two weeks between now and October 1, something informative, about PWV, or about hiking, gear, local history, or something to make them a little more "trail-savvy." We'll let them know PWV is still thinking about the future and resuming normal activities, and encourage them to do the same.

The first "Dispatch," April 1, was a welcome and a short video about PWV, <https://vimeo.com/402301213>. Many thanks to David Fanning, editor and voice on the video, which we typically show

during applicant interviews. Within 48 hours, at least 10 applicants had thanked PWV for this extra effort, so we're pretty sure we're on the right track!

For Dispatch #2 Ann Turner coached on how to read trail descriptions and we followed up with a "scavenger hunt" of 10 questions about our trails. Future dispatches will include one on safely crossing streams, Kids in Nature, Chuck Bell's memories about starting PWV 25 years ago, tips for picking a backpack, how to choose hiking gear for your feet, potable water, carrying less weight, gifts for the PWV ranger, and more.

So far 10 PWV members have volunteered their writing skills, and a few more would be welcome to fill out the expected 15 dispatches needed. If you have an idea or you'd like to author, contact Celia Walker [CeliaWalkerPWV@gmail.com](mailto:CeliaWalkerPWV@gmail.com). You'll have guaranteed --- and appreciative -- readership!

## Friends of the Bridger-Teton Hosts Poudre Wilderness Volunteers in the Winds

By Sarah Walker, Friends of the Bridger-Teton

About this time last year I was enjoying a beer with Dave Cantrell and Janet Caille next to a big Red Truck. I was marveling at the quantity and quality of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers after the Central Rockies Wilderness Volunteer Workshop conference. "I wish I could get that many enthusiastic, experienced volunteers in the Wind River Range," I said. "I wish we could

spend more time in the Wind River Range," they said. And the scheming began!

Friends of the Bridger-Teton is excited to partner with Poudre Wilderness Volunteers on the Pole Creek Trail project in July 2021. You might even call it a PWV field trip?



*Friends of the Bridger-Teton Volunteers at the Pole Creek Trail Work*

The Pole Creek Trail out of Elkhart Park is the most popular access trail in the Wind River Mountains. Over 4,000 visitors registered at the trailhead last year, over twice the number of people that live in the small town of Pinedale, Wyoming. This high visibility, high use trail was identified by locals and FS personnel as the trail that could most benefit from volunteer support. This easy access, high alpine, incredibly scenic trail in the Bridger Wilderness presents the perfect volunteer opportunity for a PWV partnership. Work will include construction and repair of turnpikes, water bars, check dams, and cleaning existing drainage structures under the Direction of the BTNF Pinedale Trail Crew.

*Friends of the Bridger-Teton is excited to partner with Poudre Wilderness Volunteers on the Pole Creek Trail project in July 2021. You might even call it a PWV field trip?*

The Wind River Range in western Wyoming is a backpacking mecca. There have literally been dozens of books written on the subject, so I won't try to do them justice here, and many of you may know them well. But the secret of the Wind River Range is out, and these once remote, lesser-known mountains, are feeling the pressure from more and more visitors every year. The Big Sandy parking lot

meant to hold 60 cars can have up to 400 on a typical July day. The Instagram-famous Cirque of the Towers is overflowing with lakeside tents. The Pinedale Ranger District has the largest trail crew on the Bridger-Teton National Forest (14), but it's not enough for the hundreds of miles of trail in the Bridger Wilderness. The residents of Pinedale (population 1,878) welcome the influx of Wind River visitors with open arms each summer, but they don't have the capacity to steward these mountains themselves. And that's where PWV comes in. Partnering with an experienced team of volunteers like PWV, for "destination" volunteer projects, might present a more sustainable stewardship model for the Bridger Wilderness. We're excited to try it out with you.

**Who:** Friends of the Bridger-Teton, Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, Pinedale RD Trail Crew

**What:** Pole Creek Trail Work

**When:** 2021 Wind River Mountain Fest, July (optional but highly encouraged!). Trail work after 2021 Wind River Mountain Fest.

**Where:** Pinedale, Wyoming, Elkhart Park, Bridger Wilderness, 5.5 hours from Fort Collins.

**Contact:** PWV Dave Cantrell: [dave@wildernessalliance.org](mailto:dave@wildernessalliance.org) or [Sarah@btfriends.org](mailto:Sarah@btfriends.org)

In light of Covid19, we have rescheduled this event for July 2021. The trail and the work will still be there.

## New Patrol Trail, PWV Adds Twin Sisters Trail

*By Jeanne Corbin*

For the 2020 season, PWV has added a new patrol, Twin Sisters Trail. If you are a destination hiker, this trail is for you! Although the climb is steady and often steep, the views once you get to timberline are spectacular.

At the peaks, one can see to the east for miles across the prairie and to the west the

view consists of range after range of alpine peaks, the closest being Longs Peak.



*View from the Twin Sisters Trail*

The trail zig-zags between Rocky Mountain National Park land and the Canyon Lakes Ranger District, but we will patrol and report it the same as any other patrol. Be prepared, however, for huge numbers of hikers on this trail during the summer months! Enjoy!

## PWV Weed Patrol 2019 Report

*By Jack Morgan*

Howdy folks. I finished summarizing the reports of weed infestations over 2019 that I submitted to the Forest Service where they review this information and can use it for tracking and managing purposes. First, thanks to all for your terrific support this past year reporting and often pulling noxious weeds on trails you patrolled. A special thanks to Joan Kauth, who led the weed crew, and also to the 19 folks who joined her on the organized weed pulls. As a result of these collective efforts, PWV identified and located 232 invasive weed sightings, comprising 9 noxious weeds on 23 of the trails we patrol. And we removed a ton of weeds. Great job!



*PWV Weed Patrol: Jack Morgan, Dave Cantrell, Joan Kauth, Mike Corbin*

The noxious weed information you collect on routine patrols is important. It provides the weed crew with current data to fine-tune their management plans, plus it can inform them of hot spots that may need special attention. And since PWV's weed management control practices are limited to pulling or hacking biennial weeds like musk thistle with a pick Mattock, information on perennial weeds like Canada thistle or Dalmatian toadflax is summarized and given to the Forest Service, where they have the option to manage these hard-to-control weeds by selective and judicious spraying. While it is not yet clear what weed management will look like for the PWV weed crew this year, here is what is planned: First, our Weed Wednesdays of last year will transition to Weed Weekends this year, with weed pulls to be scheduled from Friday through Monday for the month of July and early August.

*...our Weed Wednesdays of last year will transition to Weed Weekends*

This will allow folks who cannot get away in the middle of the week to join the weed crew on one or more of the four days surrounding/including weekends. We will also be trying out some smartphone apps, WildSpotter and EDDMaps, to evaluate their potential usefulness for PWV's Weed Program. And we'll be working with the Forest Service to see how the weed data we collect can be utilized in their tracking software. All of this is to continue in the fine tradition this program has developed over the years, and to look for ways to enhance its effectiveness in the future. So while our immediate actions combating weeds on the trails have been hampered somewhat by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have the opportunity to now safely return to the field, conduct some great patrols, get to know our fellow patrollers, and whack away for a few hours at some of these dastardly weeds. We hope you'll join us for some fun and rewarding days on the trail. Don't hesitate to contact me with

questions you may have about participating in weed patrols, especially first-timers.

## ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES: Smokey Gets a Body Lift!

*By Mary Beth McCubbin*

At the April meeting, the PWV Board unanimously approved a \$3,000.00 PWV Endowment Fund grant to purchase a new Smokey Bear costume, carrying case, and battery pack for the fan in the hat.



*Smokey (Mike Corbin) and PWV member Jeff Johnson at the Realities for Children Summer Festival 2018*

The current suit was purchased in 2000 so it had a long life. Smokey Bear is used by many groups, including PWV's own Kids in Nature (KIN) program, to promote fire safety. He draws big crowds every time he makes an appearance! What a perfect ambassador! The grant was requested by PWV's Kids in Nature Committee and spear-headed by Mary Bollinger, USFS Visitor Information Specialist.

Without Smokey Bear, thousands would be disappointed every year at the CLRD Christmas Tree Sale. He is a big hit! Posing for family photos for many decades and greeting the visitors as his PWV helpers offer Smokey swag and fire education materials.

Smokey isn't ours alone, he is used by many other groups in the community, including volunteer fire departments, libraries, nature festivals and schools for wildfire education and safety-related presentations. As long as fire messages are offered, only our imaginations hold him back. As PWV members who find and put out abandoned live fires and clean up illegal fire rings on our patrols and who work hard to restore trails destroyed by big fires, we know the importance of fire education. Thank you, PWV Endowment!

## Strategic Planning Committee 2-3 Year PWV Plan

*By Jerry Hanley*

The Strategic Planning Committee spent several months in 2018 developing a 2-3 year strategic plan for PWV. Input for the plan was provided by committee chairs, the BOD, and the Advisory Board.

### A strategic plan is:

- 3-5 year horizon
- Provides direction and focus (where do we want to be?)
- Organizational level (usually BOD)
- Focused on our Mission statement – 6 objectives
- Establish metrics so we can objectively assess the success of the organization

### The 6 Mission objectives:

- Recruiting
- Train volunteers
- Field volunteers
- Equip
- Support
- Educate (public).

The BOD concurred with the strategic plan proposed in January, 2019. There were 15 strategic initiatives in the plan, and responsibility for project execution was spread across a number of committees as well as the BOD / Executive Committee. To date, 10 of the projects have been completed, 3 are in progress, and 2 are

remaining to be started.

An update on the two largest efforts:

- The Spring Training process was reviewed by an ad hoc committee spear-headed by Mike Corbin. The review looked at Kick-off Night and the Spring Training weekend. A number of improvements were recommended and approved by the BOD. Unfortunately we will need to wait until next year to experience these improvements.
- 21 major committees were asked to submit operating plans for 2019 and 2020. The intent was to have the committees identify their major objectives to be accomplished, a timeline, responsibilities, and metrics for success. Each committee is being offered an opportunity to review progress with the BOD at their monthly meeting. The intent was to have this be an annual plan, and discussion has taken place to pair this process with the annual budgeting process in the fall. Stay tuned.....

The Strategic Planning Committee will start coordinating an update to the strategic plan mid-next year.

Committee members: Jerry Hanley (chair), Margaret Shaklee, Elaine Green, Tom Adams, Russ Smith, Randy Ratliff, Tom Collins, and Yolanda Sarason. Any questions about anything in the process should be directed to Jerry Hanley, [jahnley1950@gmail.com](mailto:jahnley1950@gmail.com). And if you would like to join the PWV Strategic Planning Committee, please contact Jerry.

## Kids In Nature Update...

*By Mary Beth McCubbin*

With no real good news about the course of the COVID-19 epidemic for this summer, we made the tough decision to suspend our summer KIN hiking program for 2020. However, that doesn't mean we will be taking the year off! Lots of new projects in the works. With help from Jane Gordon, USFS Fire Prevention Officer we're

expanding our curricula with a new fire awareness program. It's the perfect fit for hikes now planned for Young Gulch.

And work has already been underway to expand our outreach program to reach more children and families in our "off" seasons. We're also busy updating our publications, adding some new games for kids (in Spanish and English,) and developing our nascent Families in Nature program that was a huge hit with The Family Center/La Familia last summer.

If you are interested in learning more about our program, please contact me! Mary Beth McCubbin, Chair Kids in Nature: [mccubbi@g.clemson.edu](mailto:mccubbi@g.clemson.edu)

## Calling all Social Media buffs!

*By Kathleen Karol*

PWV is increasing its use of social media. In addition to Facebook, we will now be on Instagram. Any PWV member will be able to post comments and photos. A perfect way of having more people learn about our great organization. We are looking for a volunteer to be our social media guru, and post to the sites twice a week. If you are interested, please contact Kathleen Karol: [kkarolpwv@gmail.com](mailto:kkarolpwv@gmail.com)

## PWV Website (pwv.org) is Getting a Makeover

*By Karl Ritters*

Even though PWV patrolling had been grounded, the Web Team has been marching on with plans for a new website. For many years it's been our goal to have a mobile smartphone & tablet friendly site; so, with renewed enthusiasm and plenty of time on our hands due to COVID-19, the process has begun!

Not surprisingly, the "Trails" link on our current website gets the highest number of hits, followed by the home page and interestingly, a page with a list of ultralight backpacking gear. Plans for the new website will expand the convenience of the Trails information as well as improve the navigation and flow of the site. The link to

the USFS Patrolling Website will not be affected by the new PWV website.

The new website design and implementation is being led by 2nd year PWV member Cathy Morgan with support from the rest of the Web Team. In her professional working days Cathy has developed and implemented over 14 websites. The Web Team is excited by the talent, expertise and enthusiasm that she brings to this project.



*Cathy Morgan, project leader for new PWV website*

The PWV Web Team has 5 or 6 active members who keep the website up to date and send out all of the broadcast emails with information for all PWV members. Workload can be quite high during our annual membership drive, Spring Training and summer patrolling season; so, we are always looking for new volunteers to join the Web Team. The more team members we have, the more the work is shared. If you know the Joomla content management system, or have IT experience, or just a desire to learn, we'd love to have you.

Look for the launch of the new website sometime this fall.

## Trail Crew and the Restoration Committees

*By Mike Corbin*

PWV does a variety of tasks on the trails besides patrolling. We have two

committees that perform trail work, the Trail Crew Committee which clears down trees and does maintenance work such as addressing drainage issues and the Restoration Committee that does major rebuilds of trails or other facilities.

As an example of one of our more changeling efforts that the Restoration Committee undertook this past year was a bridge we built on the Young Gulch Trail.



Bob Manual working with the Rocky Mountain Conservancy trail crew

This trail had been closed to the public since the flood of 2013. It also was severely damaged in the fire of 2012. After the fire PWV rebuilt this trail in 2013 and it was open for 4 days before the flood closed it again. The old trail had 47 creek crossings but no bridges. The new trail has only 27 creek crossings and now has three bridges (that accommodate horse traffic) and a number of smaller bridges. PWV took part in building all three of the horse bridges and built nearly all of the second bridge. This bridge was different from any bridge we had built before. It is what is called a laminate bridge. It is made out of 2x12 lumber fastened together on edge. The bridge site is 0.7 miles up the trail so that all the materials had to be carried up. We had to build concrete foundations for the abutments. This required 6000 pounds of concrete. The concrete is very heavy. But we have horse friends who enjoyed a day in the mountains. Well the horses were great at carrying the concrete but were worthless at loading and unloading it. Once we built the concrete pads we built wooden abutments to hold the bridge. Then we had 6500 pounds of 2x12 and 6x6 lumber to haul up. Well we did not have the horses

for this but found high school kids who could not only carry the lumber but were also self-loading. But they do seem to eat more than horses. The high school crew came from the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. We shared the cost of this crew and found them very capable.

Once we got the abutments built and the lumber hauled up PWV members along with our Conservancy crew assembled the deck of the bridge.

*The concrete is very heavy. But we have horse friends who enjoyed a day in the mountains. Well the horses were great at carrying the concrete but were worthless at loading and unloading it.*

This was a bit of a challenge since none of us had ever built a bridge of this type before. We assembled the first three rows of 2x12s on the ground and then muscled it across the creek and set it on both abutments. We really appreciated the younger generation during that process. It took several days and thousands of screws to complete the bridge deck. And we had some issues during the assembly. Some of the boards were warped and difficult to fit to the bridge and we found that when we had pre-cut the board someone had misfigured how many of which length of boards we needed. Now we do not know for sure who made this error but the high school crew was not there so we cannot blame them. But we were able to modify some boards and complete the bridge.

After we built the deck, the Forest Service and PWV completed the decking and railings. The bridge is now in use with the trail open. Go by and take a look at it.

## PWV Fundraiser: New Mugs, More Colors, More Fun!

By Pam Vagge

Check out our exciting selection of PWV fundraiser logo mugs. Coffee and beer mugs are available in several new colors.

Coasters are also available in several colors, and are a new addition to our line of logo items. We still have refrigerator magnets and ornaments, as well.

- You can see the current inventory on Facebook by typing “@FundraiserLogoMugs” in the ‘search’ bar. Click on the ‘Current Inventory’ photo album to view available items.
- For those of you not on Facebook, you can go to this link: [https://1drv.ms/u/s!AkYICesN0tINqWbW\\_MwxagbUX10v?e=H82u9P](https://1drv.ms/u/s!AkYICesN0tINqWbW_MwxagbUX10v?e=H82u9P)
- If you are interested in making a purchase, please contact Pam Vagge at [pvagge@msn.com](mailto:pvagge@msn.com) or call 970-413-1322.

Mugs are \$30. All other items are \$10. (Please note that tax will be added)

A ‘no contact’ delivery can be arranged in Fort Collins and Loveland. Shipping is also available

## Kevin Cannon's USFS Retirement Celebratory Roast

On Thursday, January 23rd, 2020, 160 USFS personnel, PWV members, friends and family gathered at the Drake Center in Fort Collins to celebrate, honor and roast Kevin Cannon on his retirement after 18 years with the USFS Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CLRD). During these 18 years, Kevin also served as liaison to the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (PWV).



USFS Kevin Cannon's decorated cake

After many yummy appetizers brought by guests and a dinner of pulled pork, baked beans, salad and rolls, the USFS guests provided a wonderful and well-decorated cake in Kevin's honor.



During the roast, Kevin received some great and fun gifts including a beautiful framed picture (USFS) and a book of pictures spanning Kevin's career (PWV).

Ten people 'roasted' Kevin with some funny stories and a LOT of glowing endearments. Although unable to attend, long-time friend of Kevin, Michael Rowan, sent some very humorous stories that were shared. Volunteers from the audience also 'roasted' Kevin. Ralph Swain, Regional Wilderness and Rivers Program Manager, mentioned that Kevin was most unique in receiving not one but two national awards during his service, the Bob Marshall Award For Individual Champion of Wilderness Stewardship in 2004 and the Outstanding River Manager in 2019.

PWV's Photo/Video committee created a couple of great videos about Kevin and his time in this area.

- Click link to view [Kevin's PWV Farewell Address](#)
- Click link to view [Kevin's Interview With Celia](#)

PWV is thankful to have Kristy Wumkes as our new liaison. She mentioned that she has big shoes to fill. PWV will miss Kevin; best wishes and Happy Trails!

## National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Webinars 2020

The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance offers monthly webinars focused on your interests as a steward of America's wild places. The webinars are usually second Tuesdays at 1:00. Past webinars are always still available to watch. You can get updates, learn more, and access past webinars by clicking [HERE](#).

### Upcoming 2020 Live Webinars:

- **July 14:** *Mindfulness While Working*
- **August 11:** *Back Country Horsemen of America – the 3-S Model*
- **September 8:** *Public Lands and Climate Change – Panel Discussion*
- **October 20:** *Ethics in Digital Media*
- **November 10:** *Working with Kids in Nature*

## Join PWV Stock Members at Stub Creek

By Fred Allen

The Forest Service has given the PWV Stock Committee the go ahead to commence work at Stub Creek. Starting in July and continuing throughout the summer, we will have 4 to 6 person work parties. There is plenty of room to camp while social distancing. **All PWV's are welcome!**



Fred Allen building a picnic table at Stub Creek USFS Administrative Site.

Contact Fred Allen at 970-218-7979 for scheduling. Work will include constructing temporary corrals, repairing fences, enhancing a fire pit, and building a couple of very sturdy picnic tables. The intent is to make this area available to all PWV's whether patrolling on horseback or hiking.

## Support PWV

PWV thrives and prospers with support from people like you! For the past two decades, dedicated individuals have served the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers by providing countless hours patrolling and maintaining trails, educating users of the backcountry and wilderness areas of Northern Colorado, thus creating and preserving the legacy of these cherished areas for future generations.

Donations to the Poudre Wilderness Volunteer and the Endowment Funds qualify as a tax deductible charitable

donation. PWV is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Note: When making a donation, you might want to explore whether your employer has a matching donations program. [www.pwv.org/donate](http://www.pwv.org/donate)



PWV recognizes the generosity of sponsors and contributors.

Our success is enhanced by their participation:

- **The Clinton Family Fund**  
*Chicago, IL*
- **Smiling Wolf Foundation Fund**  
*Orange County, CA*
- **Walmart Foundation**  
*Bentonville, AR*
- **Odell Brewing Company**  
*Fort Collins, CO*
- **287 Craft Spirits**  
*Fort Collins, CO*
- **Pour Brothers Community Tavern**  
*Fort Collins, CO*
- **New Belgium Brewing Company**  
*Fort Collins, CO*
- **Red Truck Beer Company**  
*Fort Collins, CO*
- **Colorado Gives**  
*Arvada, CO*
- **Scheels**  
*Loveland, CO*
- **KRFC FM Radio**  
*Fort Collins, CO*

Special thanks to:

- **National Forest Foundation**
- **National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance**

## PWV on the Trail

