



Most Recent Past Chair Looks Back

By Elaine Green, Past Chair

As usual, my tenure as PWV Chair started in October at the Year End Event/Annual Meeting, where we gathered to eat, drink, and celebrate the past year's accomplishments of our organization and it's new class of members. Little did I know that event, along with a couple of great Affiliation Gatherings, would be the last "usual" things about my time as Chair.



PWV 2019-2020 Board Chair Elaine Green

Yes, 2020 was an unprecedented year. We gathered in January for a roast/retirement party, to send off our beloved USFS liaison Kevin Canon. Then in March we made the gut-wrenching

decision to suspend all recruitment activities due to Covid. Soon thereafter we realized we would not be able to hold Kick off Night or Spring Training or any other training or social activities. The Board and several committees continued to meet, mostly virtually.

Little did I know that event, along with a couple of great Affiliation Gatherings, would be the last "usual" things about my time as Chair.

But most of us never saw other PWV members in person from then on. That was hard for a group as social as we are!

Our Board of Directors made a smooth transition from meeting in the Forest Service Conference room to meeting virtually, another first for PWV. The Board took on a number of issues from updating our written policies, operationalizing our Strategic Plan, to working on the problem of notifying PWVs in the field when an emergency such as the Cameron Peak Fire is creating dangerous conditions.

I want to personally thank the 2019-2020 Board members for their dedication and perseverance this year. It was a pleasure to serve with them. They were:

*Bob Hansen Karen Roth
Janis Kloster Mike Shearer*

*Katina Mallon Bruce Williams
Jack Morgan Jim Zakely
Linda Reiter*

We also had an outstanding group of Officers:

*Tom Adams – Past Chair
Janet Caille – Secretary
Mike Corbin – Chair Elect
Sandy Sticken - Treasurer*

And our USFS Liaison, Kevin Canon, then Kristy Wumkes.

Even though attendance is not required, our great Advisory Board was also diligent in attending virtual Board meetings throughout the year and offering their wisdom and experience. Kevin Canon joined that group and continues to offer his expertise.

Once again, we had a great group of Committee Chairs who hung in there and are eager for a restart, asap! Examples include Celia Walker, Recruitment co-chair, who took on the task of maintaining contact with the 74 people who had applied, and she did a fantastic job. Another is Fred Allen, Stock Committee co-chair was able to pull off Covid-19 safe work days to improve the corals at Stub Creek so stock members can use that as a base camp. Mary Beth McCubbin, Kids In Nature Chair applied and received an award from Larimer County for the great

work KIN group does. We were awarded a grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and bought 8 Chromebooks for use by the Recertification Committee and others. The Strategic Planning Committee under the leadership of Jerry Hanley moved us forward in taking planning to the committee level. We backpacked for Wild 56 thanks to Russ Smith. The Year End Event Committee came up with a new way to celebrate the accomplishments of the year. The Web Team continues to offer valuable support and both Alan Meyer and Karl Riter can now add "Zoom-Master" to their resumes.

Thanks to all the dedicated folks for going above and beyond patrolling to keep PWV strong and vital.

Although patrolling was strictly voluntary, there were 387 patrols and 4,303 members of the public contacted on our trails before the Cameron Peak fire shut us down again. Janet Caille topped the list with 232 members of the public contacted.

As we look ahead, we know the challenges to PWV and the Canyon Lakes Ranger District aren't letting up. We will have tons of trail work to do after our fires, and Covid-19 will continue to challenge us to find new and creative ways to fulfill our mission.

Luckily, we have a great new Board and a great set of new officers to lead that work. I look forward to being part of what lies in store for PWV.

2020 Mike Corbin NEW Chair

By Mike Corbin, newly elected Chair

2020 was a very difficult year for PWV with both Covid-19 and the Cameron Peak Fire. PWV made it through the year and even accomplished a good deal with the help of all of our members. We were able to patrol, clear trails of trees, perform trail work and accomplish many other tasks due to our members' hard work. We also worked closely with the Forest Service to



PWV 2020-2021 Board Chair Mike Corbin

ensure that our patrolling was safe for both our volunteers and the public. We are done with 2020 and good riddance. I hope we never have another year like this again.

This coming year will be interesting for all of us. Covid-19 will still be with us and the forest will still be burned. PWV will be working to get back to our normal functions of patrolling the trails so that we support the Forest Service and educate the public. A major project will be helping the Forest Service restore the trails that have been damaged. The objective will be to ensure the trails are safe for the public so that they can be opened and allow everyone to once again get out into the forest. From what we know today about 20 of our trails have sustained damage; the Forest Service is still evaluating how bad the damage is and what will be needed to allow each trail to be opened.

PWV, along with the Forest Service and other non-profits such as Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and Rocky Mountain Conservancy will be involved in working to restore these trails. This will not be a one year project but will require several years of effort to get all the trails safe and again opened to the public. PWV and the Forest Service are now working to get the resources and plans in place to be

ready next spring to start work on the trails. Prior to us working on these trails the Forest Service has to ensure that they are safe for our volunteers. Currently there are plans to have trail crews from both Larimer County Youth Corps and Rocky Mountain Conservancy working with our volunteers. We also plan to have work days open to the public so that the public who is interested can also take part.

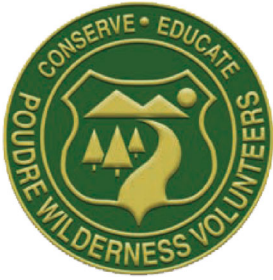
I am looking forward to a busy but productive year this coming year and hope you will all come and join us. We can't promise that everything will go smoothly but I think I can promise it will be interesting.

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Newsletter Team

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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.

Weed Crew Carries on in Challenging Year

By Jack Morgan

Despite an especially challenging year beginning early-on with the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Weed Crew found a way to do what they do best, terrorizing weeds and having a good time doing it! Sixteen intrepid PWV patrollers, all socially distanced and led by Joan Kauth conducted a total of 31 Weed Management Patrols this past summer. More than ten invasive weed species took a beating, especially Musk Thistle, Houndstongue and Common Mullein, with numerous infestations being cleared of weeds on ten different trails from Columbine Complex in the North to Crosier Mountain and Lion Gulch in the South. Taking their cues from other PWV patroller reports as well as early-season scouting, the Weed Crew hiked to weed-infested spots and pulled thousands of mostly biennial weeds. They identified patches of perennials like Canada Thistle that will be targeted in future spraying programs by the Forest Service.

We also worked on a Great Outdoors Colorado and the Colorado Youth Corps Association grant led by Kevin Canon. The grant will provide funding for youth and young adults throughout Colorado to participate in our volunteer work in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. It involves trail work, access to trails, recovery work from the Cameron Peak Fire, and management of invasive species. If funded, Weed Crew Leaders will teach volunteers some basics of plant identification and

forest ecology and have them work with us to expand the Weed Crew's program next summer. We're excited about this possibility of bringing new folks into our program and providing them with some basic knowledge and tools of conservation work.

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PWV Joan Kauth & Barbara Rodekahr, weed patrol on Crosier Mountain Trail

It will be a while before we understand the full extent and nature of the changes brought about by the Cameron Peak Fire. But in its aftermath, we can be certain that invasive weeds will continue to need to be understood and managed in this substantially altered ecosystem. Come join us next summer for this and other challenges. It's fun, it's educational, and it's a great way to meet new people.

Trail Patrolling Committee

By Jeanne Corbin

The Trail Patrolling Committee has been busy in many ways throughout 2020, even though our patrolling season was very short, with Covid-19 and the Cameron Peak Fire.

We extensively updated eight Trail Descriptions and added trail-specific regulations to all 58 of them. We added the Twin Sisters Trail to our patrols. WILD56 had 32 participants and 31 patrols during 10 days in August. We continued to review patrol reports and found that the error rate has decreased by nearly half since this was begun in 2015. We have been working with the Web Team on the content and format of the Trails link as they upgrade the web site and will be adding a new Stock Trails link, similar to the Bicycle Trails link we now have.

We also answer inquiry emails. This year, one email conversation ended with "I am lucky that your group exists. I've found that even though I am a Colorado native and have spent a huge amount of time outdoors, it can be very difficult to untangle the complex web of rules, regulations, permits, guidelines, boundaries, zones, closures, and other measures in place by local, county, state, and federal agencies that all seem to have a hand in controlling our outdoor spaces. And I am someone who is trying to comply — I imagine that a large portion of outdoorsy folk in the state don't put in the multiple hours of effort it takes to get it all understood correctly. So thank you for being there to clear up these types of questions!"

A huge thank you to those who have contributed 5 or more years on the Trail Patrolling Committee, which has only existed 5 1/2 years! – Janet Caille, Gerry Cashman, Jeanne Corbin, Mike Corbin, Lisha Doucet, Joan Kauth and Ann Turner!

KIN Wins Again!!

By Mary Beth McCubbin

Last January, Kids in Nature started the year by winning the Fort Collins Heating & Air Community Service Award—a \$1000 prize to support Kids in Nature. Thanks to the many PWV friends who supported our nomination with a vote!



Richard Nelson, PWV/KIN; Glenn Frank, President and GM of Fort Collins Heating & Air, Mary Beth McCubbin, Chair KIN, and our partners from The Family Center/La Familia.

Then again, we are proud to be one of four winners of the Larimer County Environmental Stewardship award for 2020. An honor that recognizes:

“the environmental stewardship activities of individuals, organizations, business, or public agencies that take place within Larimer County. The activities can be simple or complex. The criteria used to select those nominations that will receive an award include effectiveness, innovation and creativity, leadership, and sustainability.”

<https://www.larimer.org/boards/environmental-and-science-advisory-board/awards>

These awards are affirmation of the tremendous contribution made by the many volunteers for Kids in Nature. Although we were not able to offer our

regular hiking schedule this past summer, we are keeping fingers crossed that we will be able to resume next summer.

In the meantime, we're not sitting idle. A team of KIN Folk—Janet Chapman, Susan Tree, and Julie and Pete Ramirez are exploring ways that we can expand our outreach efforts. Looking for opportunities to take our mission and message into schools and libraries.

Summer of 2020

By Mike Corbin

PWV was doing our normal patrolling season in the Spring of 2020 when Covid-19 arose. The Forest Service asked us to cease patrolling in mid-March due to the virus. The first of July the Forest Service gave PWV the go ahead to again start patrolling with guidance on how to remain safe. Our volunteers were out on the trails patrolling and clearing the trails until August 13 when the Cameron Peak fire broke out. At this time the Forest service closed the trails at risk from the fire and continued closing trails until all the Forest was closed.



Mike Corbin giving a safety talk to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy college crew at the North Fork Trailhead

The fire has affected some of our higher trails in the Rawah Wilderness and many of our trails in Poudre Canyon and the Comanche Peak wilderness. The fire is what is called a mosaic fire, which means all the forest is not destroyed, some is severely burned and some was not burned at all. The extent of the damage is unknown at this time but the Forest Service is evaluating the damage and will make a

plan over the winter on what will need to be done to make the trails safe and be opened to the public.

PWV will have crews on the damaged trails next spring and summer to restore the trails so that they may be opened to the public. This may include removing fallen trees, repairing bridges and trail damage due to spring floods which are expected due to the fire damage. PWV will hold some public work days on the trails where we have both PWV members and members of the public working on the trails. We will announce these dates in the spring. PWV and the Forest Service plan to bring in both college age and high school age trail crews from both Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps and the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. The trail Restoration effort will take at least 5 years due to the large number of trails that have been damaged.

Anyone interested in joining us in our effort to restore these trails can contact our Restoration Committee at restoration@pwv.org.

Drainage

By Kevin Cannon

With yet another major fire on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CLRD), I would like to talk to you about the importance of drainage on trails. I know we all like to have trees cleared out of the way, but drainage is actually more important, here is why. With the types of soils we have here in the Rocky Mountains they are not used to getting much water and so cannot absorb the moisture of heavy rains with a canopy of trees and shrubs. So after a fire, such as High Park and Cameron Peak, the water runs over the ground and erodes our trails when water is not removed by the use of drainage structures.

The importance of properly draining a trail cannot be overstated. As we get back onto the trails in 2021 and as you hike and ride, look at the trail and see where water is collecting, and/or where it cannot get off the trail and runs down for dozens or

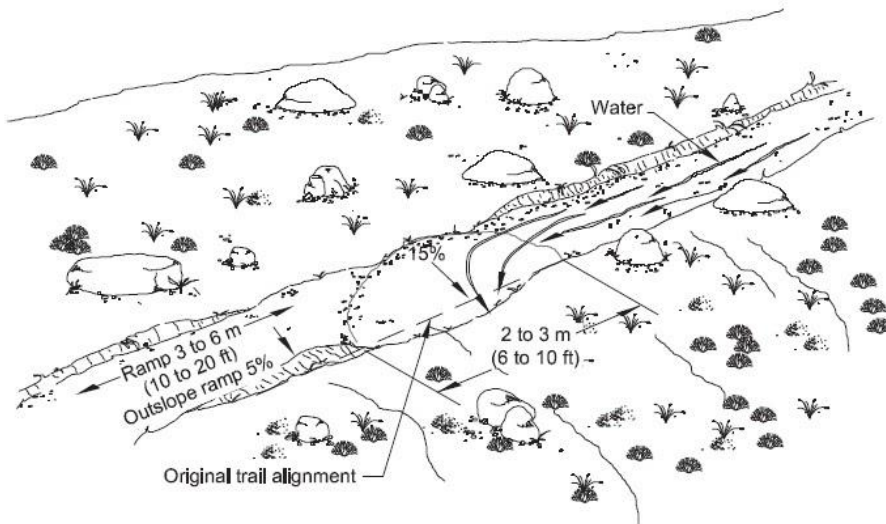


Figure 16—A rolling grade dip builds on the knick design. It helps direct water off steeper sections of existing trail.

(worse) hundreds of feet. These can develop into serious problems. If all you do is kick your toe or heel through the debris that is preventing the water from flowing off the trail, that is not enough as those can fill with debris quickly.

Make sure you 1) report it, 2) make a wide enough breach so that debris cannot easily block it quickly. The long term solution is to get a crew out and have them do a rolling grade dip. For more information, and for those that have a Trail Notebook, please refer to the section on "Surface Water Control".

Waterbars are nice, but a rolling grade dip will last longer and require less maintenance over time. Yes, they take a little more time to do properly. However, the investment in time now can pay off 10 fold in the future.

Here are some "rules of thumb" for drainages:

- For a stretch of trail of 10% in grade, a drainage structure should be installed every 200 feet.
- For a stretch of trail of 15% in grade a drainage structure should be installed every 100 feet.
- For a stretch of trail of 20% in grade a drainage structure should be installed every 33 feet.
- For trails that bicycles and motorcycles are permitted on, the

angles of waterbars should not exceed a 30 degree angle.

- A 2 degree outslope on the trail surface will be comfortable to hike/ride on while being good for getting water off the trail.

Be forewarned that trails will not open up all at once, and some may remain closed through 2021. It will take some time for the trails to be assessed for damage, fixed and then opened. Many trails may not have signing replaced right away either. Much new signing has been requested in the likelihood that the signs out on the trails were burnt. But when signs come in could determine when they get put up. Your help in reporting what you see in these areas will help immensely. Crews will be needed to assist in restoring trails, putting up signs and checking on various things along trails (designated campsites, for example).

The CLRD will hopefully have folks in place early in May to start getting out on trails to do the initial assessments and begin to get small projects that volunteers can organize. It may take longer and we may work in smaller groups due to Covid-19, but we should not be in a hurry. Your safety is the critical item that will make this all work.

While safety is important, not all hazards along a trail can or will be

mitigated before a trail is opened. Especially in Wilderness where the land is to retain its primeval character. It is further managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

I hope when you go out hiking/riding on the fire impacted trails you will keep in mind this article. Thank you!

Supplemental Training 2021

By Linda Reiter

Your Supplemental Training Committee (Linda Reiter, Karen Roth, Mike Shearer) has been on hiatus since Covid-19 shut down most PWV in-person activities. When asked about our plans for 2021, we have ideas but can't yet assign dates. Typically we offer some core classes (CPR/First Aid, CPR/First Aid/Recertification, Wilderness First Aid, Map and Compass and In-Reach/GPS) and some special interest classes such as Gaia GPS, Mushrooms, Spring Wildflowers and Geology. When our instructors were contacted, all said they wanted to wait until the restrictions on in-person gatherings are lifted before they resume teaching.

Tim Gaines, PWV'S CPR/First Aid instructor, estimates that up to 25 PWV members have lapsed or will need to renew soon. If you think your CPR/First Aid certification has lapsed or may expire soon, here's what Tim explained:

The AHA standard for renewals means that students that have lapsed should take the full class. We have not enforced this standard. Generally, we have discussed the updates in every class for a year or more, then after that taken anyone that had been through either a new or renewal class since the last release. Based on the 2020 materials we will probably continue our policy. That means everyone with a current card now will have 2 years to get into a renewal. After that everyone who has had a class should be good to renew (with us) through probably about 2025.

Contact lindareiterpwv@gmail.com, if you want to check your status.

Tim Gaines, PWV'S CPR/First Aid instructor, estimates that up to 25 PWV members have lapsed or will need to renew soon.

At some point, PWV will be retraining members on the new SPOT X device and our updated emergency procedures. The Cameron Peak Fire outbreak found gaps in our communication that we hope to rectify. You have probably seen the emails regarding individuals who own their own devices. The emergency procedures will apply to those as well.

Through a grant, Mike Shearer procured some Google Chrome Books for use by any group in PWV. Supplemental Training presenters may be able to use them in future classes. If you do a presentation, this resource is available to you.

If anyone would like to share their knowledge of existing on-line classes that would be of interest to PWV members, please get in touch with the Supplemental Training Committee. Or if you have a topic you are curious about and would like us to find on-line resources, let us know. Better yet, if you can present a class to PWV members through Zoom or some other on-line platform, we would love to hear from you. Contact

Linda at lindareiterpwv@gmail.com;

Karen at karenroth.kayak@gmail.com;

Mike at mikeshearer78@gmail.com.

Kristy Wumkes USFS Retirement December 2020

Hello PWV. We've all endured a lot of change this year and made it through 2020 with most of our sanity intact! There is going to be more coming up in 2021, as the pandemic continues to shape our lives and actions, and post-Cameron Peak Fire will shape the work that is done on the District for years to come. I know that PWV will be one of the amazing partners that will step up to help with that work.



Kristy Wumkes Partnerships Coordinator, Canyon Lakes Ranger District, Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests

Image Credit: Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

One more bit of change that will be happening is my retirement at the end of this year. It's wonderful to work with such a dedicated group of people that really care about their public lands, and I've been very fortunate to get to know many of you over the years. You are what I will miss most about working for the Forest Service.

Stay in touch and keep on doing the amazing work for public lands that you have been doing.

See you on the trails!

Canyon Lakes District Going Forward After the Fires

By Katie Donahue, Canyon Lakes District Ranger

I hardly know where to start with this message for your newsletter. As I write this, we are in day 90 of the Cameron Peak Fire and it has burned over 208,000 acres – more than any other wildfire in Colorado history. In late October, you all saw the entire Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) Forest closed completely to public use due to fire risk and to the number, growth, and complexity of the wildfires on the ARP. The "Stage 3 Fire Restrictions," which amount to a closure, have never been enacted on

this Forest. I am glad to say that those restrictions have now been lifted and we have returned to smaller area closures around the wildfires and regular Stage 2 fire restrictions. Please come back to the woods where you can do so safely!

How will these historic fires impact the ARP, the Canyon Lakes Ranger District, and the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers? I don't know yet.

What I do know is that for many of us, there will be moments where we experience shock and a sense of loss when we find that some of our beloved places are greatly changed. I know that there will be other moments when we see green grass growing through the black, or a

How will these historic fires impact the ARP, the Canyon Lakes Ranger District, and the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers?

family of turkeys enjoying newly exposed scratch, or a vista opened up where we will be able to experience the beauty that comes from an ecosystem undergoing a major change. I know that for the next few years our work will be changed significantly from what we had planned. I know that many of you have reached out and lifted the spirits of employees exhausted by endless hours of suppression work following an already difficult summer. I know that you have supported the critical closures that helped the firefighters do their work safely. I also know there is a strong community around this District that has already started coming together to begin the repair and restoration work needed to once again enjoy the burned areas of the Forest safely. Finally, I know that we are part of a growing network of forests and communities nationwide that have experienced this type of tremendous fire. We will be able to learn from the experiences of others to help smooth our path forward.

Please be patient with us as we evaluate an incredibly large area and begin to outline our repair, recovery, and



Bulldozer helps with firing operation Cameron Peak Fire
Image Credit: Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

restoration efforts. Your organization and others will be critical in helping us move forward with recreation infrastructure repairs. You will help the public learn how to navigate and be safe in burned areas. I hope you will be there as we reimagine some of our facilities and rebuild them to modern standards. Your leaders are already planning ahead for future safety challenges like emerging wildfires to ensure that every one of you can return home safely at the end of your volunteer session.

Sometime this winter, I hope to introduce you to two new members of our recreation staff. They too will be a critical part of how we re-imagine our future on Canyon Lakes. I know you will be there to help them understand where we have come from, what we have all experienced together, and where we are headed.

2020 has been a difficult year on so many levels and would have been challenging even without a superlative wildfire. Take time to grieve what we have lost, but also take time to look forward to all the opportunities that will present themselves as we rebuild now and into the future. Thank you for all you do and for all your support!

Colorado State Parks Program Visit for Free - FYI

This program is a partnership with the Colorado Department of Education, State Library, local library systems, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. It is meant to encourage Coloradans to visit our State Parks and

experience all of the great outdoor recreation that this state has to offer. Libraries across the state are offering two "Check Out State Parks" passes, each for distribution with an activity backpack containing binoculars, brochures and other educational materials to library patrons for up to seven days and use it to visit any Colorado state park for free. Learn more at: <https://coloradooutdoorsmag.com/2020/09/18/library-backpack-experiential-learning/#respond>

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.

Your organization and others will be critical in helping us move forward with recreation infrastructure repairs.

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

Colorado Gives Day Dec 8

Colorado Gives Day is an annual statewide movement to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving.

Schedule your Poudre Wilderness Volunteers donation now for Colorado Gives Day on December 8 and it will be boosted by the \$1 Million Incentive Fund <https://www.coloradogives.org/PoudreWildernessVolunteers/overview>



PWV recognizes the generosity of sponsors and contributors.

Our success is enhanced by their participation:

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Special thanks to:

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

PWV on the Trail

