



Introduction to Friends:

The Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is an apolitical nonprofit corporation (501(c)3) formed in May 1994 to raise in-cash, in-kind, and in-service goods to help the Dillon Ranger District of the White River National Forest maintain the Summit County portions of the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Wilderness areas. The Eagles Nest Wilderness consists of 82,484 acres of Summit County while the Ptarmigan Wilderness has 13,175 acres. Four Wilderness Rangers cover this area in the summer (23,915 acres each). We presently raise money through membership dues, T-shirt sales, donations, and grants.

Eagles Nest Wilderness Increases 160 Acres

Local Rancher Trades Land to the Forest Service – 160 Acres Added to Wilderness

State lawmakers recently enacted a bill, H.R. 985, which expands the Eagles Nest Wilderness by 160 acres. This addition was made possible thanks to the insistence of local ranchers Howard “Scotty” and Jeanette Moser. The Mosers participated in the Slate Creek land exchange, a multi-entity land swap involving 20 different parcels of private and public land in the county. They stipulated that their land was to be made part of the Eagles Nest Wilderness. This parcel is a beautiful and invaluable addition to our Wilderness. During the approval process, FENW committed to assist in whatever may be necessary to remove fences, signs or other indications of human imprint and to perform any trail work as necessary, so you may see a Slate Creek project added to the 1998 trail work.

At the same time, another bill, H.R. 1020, was also approved and signed. This bill adjusts the boundary of the White River National Forest to include all national forest lands within Summit County. Forestlands in Summit County were previously under jurisdiction of the Arapaho National Forest, via the Dillon Ranger District. This adjustment officially includes our district in the White River National Forest, where it actually has been managed.

Update on Forest Plan Revision

The process of revising the working plan for the White River National Forest is creeping along through the democratic process. Scoping comments, developed by the FENW Board of Directors based on the member survey responses received, were submitted to the Forest Service in November. If you would like a copy these comments please contact Jonathan @262-2399.

The next phase of the process involves working groups holding public meetings on each of the four revision topics: Special Use Areas, Travel Management, Biological Diversity and Recreation; in an effort to come up with a range of alternative suggestions for the Forest Service to consider. Based on the alternatives suggested the Forest Service will then produce a draft plan and related environmental impact statement. This is anticipated to be in late ‘98 or early ‘99. A public comment period will follow.

Currie Craven is a member of the Special Use Areas group. Jonathan Kriegel will be attending the Travel Management meetings and submitting comments to group members. Each will try and impact the group process in a positive way, which promotes the interests of FENW and forest health. Many special interest groups have representatives on the various working groups. Snowmobilers and motorized use groups are particularly well represented at the Travel Management meetings.

Once the initial draft plan is made public there will be a great deal of work to be done during the public comment period. We can use all the help we can get. Anyone who would like to be involved in the public process or would like more information or has input (i.e. recommendations for roadless areas, additions to the Wilderness, etc.) should contact Jonathan or Currie.

Colorado Natural Heritage Foundation Presentation: Wed., February 4, 1998

During the last year and a half the Colorado Natural Heritage Foundation (CNHF) has been researching the “most in-peril species and habitats” of Summit County. To date Hoosier Ridge is the only designated Research Natural Area (RNA). CNHF has identified 42 potential sites for protection, located in wilderness, private land

and open space. On Feb 4th, the CNHF will present its findings and recommendations to protect the biodiversity of these areas at 7:30pm at the County Commons in Frisco, Buffalo Mountain Room. FENW will then relay these recommendations to the Forest Service via the Special Use Areas work group. For more information call Todd Robertson at the Summit County Open Space & Trails at 668-4061.

Help the Forest Service by Reporting Winter Problems

This winter as you are enjoying the Wilderness recreation, you can be of great help to the Forest Service by reporting any problems that you encounter. For example, it would be greatly appreciated if you report any blow down areas, trails with hazards, and violations such as snowmobiles in the Wilderness to the Forest Service. Call any of the Board members or Tom Healy, Enforcement Officer at the Dillon Ranger District at 468-5400, ext. 3491.

Interpretive Display is Ready for Viewing

The Wilderness Interpretive Display is assembled and now on exhibit at the Dillon Ranger Station in Silverthorne. The presentation is impressive and the content very informative. Thanks to the hard efforts of the designer, Todd Parker, and John Taylor. This display was made possible by the generosity of Big Horn Lumber, The Town of Silverthorne and the CMC Foundation. Drop by and have a look! There will be a dedication ceremony sometime in January – watch the Summit Outdoors for details. Also, the display has 3 open areas for seasonal displays. If your school or other group that would be interested in creating a display, please let us know!

Your Non-winning Lottery Tickets may be Winners for FENW

The Colorado Lottery is offering a program that could be worth up to \$10,000 for Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness. Find your non-winning Lottery Scratch game tickets (any Scratch game the Colorado Lottery has ever offered) and write your name, phone number and “Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness on them. Then take the tickets to City Market or Safeway between December 13 and January 18 and drop them in the “Everybody Wins” collection box. On Saturday, February 14, the Lottery will select six winning tickets! Six qualified non-profit organizations listed on those tickets, as well as the individuals who submitted the tickets, will win cash prizes. So rummage through your stacks and submit those Scratch tickets with FENW listed!

Welcome New Members & Renewals

The Friends would like to welcome Chuck & Carolyn Bear, Dave Alcalay, and Anne Dal Vera. Welcome back to Jim & Sue Anthony, Beth Boyst, Jim & Jill Cunningham, Tom Jones, Jr., Dave & Jan Lace, Marilyn Repsher, Laura Rossetter, Maxine Solomon, Dennis & Edith Taratus, Judith McGreevey, Tony & Gina Bosworth, John & Pat Taylor, Ed Adams, Maryann Gaug, and John & Connie McKeague.

Wanted – One Board Member

We regret to announce that due to unforeseen circumstances, Joan Theroux will be leaving the FENW Board of Directors. Joan’s talents and contributions to the FENW Board will certainly be missed. Anyone who is interested in joining the Board, please call Currie Craven at 453-9056 or John Taylor at 262-5940

Update on Grant Proposals

FENW has been busy submitting Grant Proposals, which could bring up to \$16,486 for our group. If we receive the requested \$8,986 from the three Summit County towns and the Summit Foundation, we will procure and install 8 portal signs, 5 bulletin board signs, 12 junction signs and 14 registration boxes in 1998. We will also be able to procure a few extra of the above as replacements. We will also obtain the interpretive posters for the bulletin boards. Receipt of this funding will probably conclude our signage needs for now. We have already been granted \$500 from the Town of Silverthorne for 1998.

In addition, we have requested \$7,500 from State Trails/GOCO. This grant will provide materials and 2-3 weeks of the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps to fix a badly decayed puncheon bridge on the Gore Range Trail at Squaw Creek. We are receiving a lot of very appreciated community support from Mt.Powell and Brush Creek Ranches, Eddie Bears, Wal-Mart, L.G. Everist, and Big Horn Lumber.

The bottom line is that with the above funding and our three planned trail projects, we need lots of volunteer help this coming summer. Hopefully everyone will be able to help on at least one project, either installation or trail work. Please get your friends to join us too.

A Busy 1998 Ahead – HELP NEEDED!!!

During the fall of 1997 the Friends together with the Forest Service made a preliminary inspection of a number of areas in the field in preparation for 1998. We

hiked into Boulder Lake, Wheeler Lakes area, up Buffalo Mountain and the trail down to Mesa Cortina as well as the north end of the Gore Range Trail.

Following this, grant writing began in earnest to apply for moneys to finish projects in process, as well as kick off a number of new needed programs. (See Update on Grant Proposals).

If we are successful with the State Trails Grant we will construct approximately 100 feet of replacement cedar corduroy and turnpike in the Squaw Creek Bog area. The current bridging has rotted away and urgently needs replacement for obvious safety reasons. We hope to employ the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps from Steamboat Springs, which did such a wonderful job for us in 1997 in the Middle Willow and Rock Creek areas of the Gore Range Trail.

1998 should wrap up our Wilderness Portal Sign Program, bringing the total to 18 in place. We want to initiate the replacement and addition of new junction signs in key areas in the wilderness where confusion is often the case. New Bulletin Boards are in the plan for areas currently without. New "friendly" trailhead registration boxes will be installed which we hope to use to supplement our social monitoring program.

The Friends will be counted on heavily to implement these programs. We could conceivably have a chairman for each sign program as well as the registration boxes. Don't be shy, call John Taylor at 262-5940. All tools and materials are provided.

Trail Projects for 1998 will include a revisit to the Wheeler Lakes trail where we accomplished a great deal in 1997, Boulder Lake where we have a hill side erosion project, and potentially a trip to the beautiful Slate Creek area where we have added land to the Wilderness with the land exchange. This is one of the most beautiful areas in the Gore and could possibly be an overnight outing. We would also like to kick off a general trail maintenance program to get ahead and prevent erosion and trail degradation problems as well as introduce members to areas where they may not have hiked before.

The Buffalo Mountain area needs work, but the Forest Service needs to first make preparatory studies before we can kick off improvements. We hope to have this on the agenda for 1999. For those of you that have brought this to our attention, we agree.

All of the efforts of the Friends is dependent on our Membership. Lets each of us recruit a new member and have a fun and rewarding 1998.

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Membership Form

Yes! I want to join Friends and help preserve Summit County Wilderness. Sign me up at the:

- _____ Trailhead Level (Individual, lower-income, \$10 per year)
- _____ Buffalo Mountain Level (Individual, \$20 per year)
- _____ Cataract Lake Level (Family, \$30 per year)
- _____ Red Buffalo Pass Level (Small business and civic organizations, \$50 per year)
- _____ Eagles Nest Level (Corporations and governmental entities, \$100 per year)
- _____ Mount Powell Level (Truly generous folks and entities, \$500 per year)

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Are you willing to work on volunteer projects? _____

Email Address: _____ I can best work _____ weekdays _____ weekends

Please mail your membership form to: Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness, P.O. Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443. Or call (970) 468-6219 or (970) 262-0918 for more information.

Our Thanks for a Successful 1997—

To our contributors and members – we couldn't have done it without you. 973 hours of on-trail volunteerism completed a lot of badly needed trail improvements, bridge and rock ford water crossings

not to mention 8 more Wilderness Sign placements.
We needed you all, you came, we accomplished,
and we hope you enjoyed it and will join us again
for 1998!

Happy Holidays!



Board of Directors



Shirley Beaty, Co-Chairperson, Trails, 453-2158
Currie Craven, Chairman and President, 453-9056
M. John Fayhee, At Large, 547-9914
Maryann Gaug, Secretary & Grants, 468-6219
Bill Grindle, Social Monitoring, 468-7459
Jonathan Kriegel, VP-Forest Plan Task Force, 262-2399
Carol Padlick, Newsletter, 262-2929
John Taylor, Treasurer, Membership & Trails, 262-5940

**Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness
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