



Forests to Grassland

... and everything in between

The Arapaho and Roosevelt NF's and Pawnee National Grassland

Volume 1, Issue 1

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A message from the Forest Supervisor

Greetings! This letter to our stakeholders is long overdue. Communication with the owners of the National Forests and Grasslands, the American people, is vital for their successful management. This newsletter is meant to be a forum for exchange that we hope to utilize in the years ahead, but it is only one forum. We hope to use it to highlight ongoing activities not only of the Forest Service staff, but of our many volunteers, collaborators and other stakeholders. By "spreading the light" in such a manner, we hope to inspire others to repeat successes in their areas, connect stakeholders

with mutual interests and provoke involvement in resource management activities on the ARNFPNG.

On everyone's mind this summer were drought and fire. As you'll see inside, our fire suppression forces, including county and local fire departments, did a great job this summer under extreme conditions. In a season of record heat and drought, we were able to control 93% of the fire starts with initial attack crews. Our largest fire, the Big Elk, threatened many homes, impacted the tourism economy of Estes Park, and most importantly, resulted in the tragic loss of three pi-

lots contracted to help fight the fire.

Coupled with catastrophic fires around the state and the legacy of the fires of 2000, we ended the summer with the resolve to address the fuels situation much more aggressively in the coming years. The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership, detailed inside, endeavors to reduce the threats of fire to homes, water sheds, and firefighter safety within and nearby the Pike, Arapaho, and Roosevelt National Forests. The area extends from north of Fort Collins, south to Colorado Springs

Cont. on p. 2

Editor, Forests to Grassland

Arapaho and Roosevelt N.F. & Pawnee N.G.

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Hot Topics

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership

The 2002 wildfire season was the worst on record for Colorado, especially the Front Range. Wildfires both big and small burned at high intensities and were extremely difficult to suppress. The impacts to Colorado's Front Range were some of the most devastating in the United States.

Over 12,000 people were evacuated during this year's fire season, many for several weeks resulting in significant hardship and economic loss. Also, several million people who depend on Front Range watersheds for drinking water found those watersheds threatened by the wildfires. Community sustainability has been threatened by the increasing frequency and size of catastrophic wildfires.

On the ARNF/PNG for example, the Big Elk Fire was second only to the 2000 Bobcat Creek Fire as the largest wildfire on the forests. The Hayman, the largest wildfire in Colorado history, burned 137,526 acres, and destroyed 133 homes and 466 other

structures in its path.

The cost of wildfire suppression and rehabilitation are also major consequences of this and other fire seasons. Wildfire suppression costs on the Front Range are estimated at over \$45 million, with an additional \$24 million spent on Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation. The long-term restoration costs are estimated at over \$30 million. These risks and cost can be reduced by strategically treating hazardous fuels.

As a result of these numerous wildfire threats and financial strains along the Front Range, the Pike National Forest, the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, the Rocky Mountain Research Station and the Colorado State Forest Service have come together to develop a strategy to greatly accelerate the treatment of hazardous fuels. This strategy is called the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership.

The key to the success of this partnership strategy requires extensive local government and public involvement and collaboration. This collaboration process will be implemented through a variety of channels, including public forums conducted primarily by the Colorado State Forest Service.

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership will develop and implement a collaborative process with the goal of identifying, prioritizing and implementing fuels treatment projects along Colorado's Front Range. Implementation will occur over the next 10 years, in line with the Western Governor's Association's 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan signed last May. It will focus its efforts on fuels treatment and community assistance to increase our ability to reduce risk to public and firefighter safety, housing in the wildland-urban interface, watersheds providing municipal water, ecosystem function, and threatened and endangered species.

We will include more information about the Partnership in the upcoming issues of the newsletter.

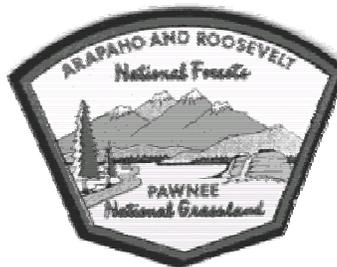


The Big Elk Fire creeps down the ridge taking out the vegetation in its path. The fire caused more than 300 people to be evacuated from their homes; however, no homes were lost.

Vision of Forests to Grassland Newsletter

"Our vision is to utilize this newsletter to create a channel for improving an ongoing dialog between the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grassland and stakeholders.

We hope that it will provide new opportunities for the public to participate with processes, projects and partnerships throughout the Forests and Grassland."



Message Con't...

and over the divide into Grand County. The reasons for the current forest conditions and values at risk are many, and the solutions are challenging. Collaborative problem-solving with our stakeholders is a must if we are to have effective, sustainable results across the landscape. I encourage you to get involved in helping to achieve those results!

Of course there are many other things that you look for, from the scenic beauty of wide open spaces and opportunities for wildland recreation, healthy ecosystems and wildlife habitats, to utilization of forage, wood fiber, and water resources. The demands are numerous, but the resources are ultimately finite. My aim is to continue to find balance and integration in all resource management decisions, always with an eye on the long term. I look forward to working with you in that vein!

James Bedwell, Forest Supervisor

In Memory...

This fire season was particularly tragic for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland with the loss of three experienced and dedicated pilots on the Big Elk Fire.

In Memory of the Fallen Pilots of the Big Elk Fire:

Milt Stollak, July 12, 1946—July 18, 2002
Rick Schwartz, February 17, 1963—July 18, 2002
Gordon Knight, February 20, 1950—July 30, 2002



PRAYER OF FIRE

Say a prayer for the ones who fight.
 Say a prayer for their strength tonight.

For they are the ones most in fear,
 Yet their courage and bravery has no peer.
 Tho' the fire may rage and the heat unending
 They have wills that are strong and forever unbending
 Tongues of red flame lash out at firemen's faces
 Yet they advance on it with slow, steady paces
 Protecting our homes and loved ones' lives,
 Brothers, sisters, fathers, wives.

Firefighters are the heroes of our nation;
 On their strong shoulders we build our foundation
 Of assurance, confidence, hope and pride.
 When danger knocks they do not run and hide.
 They face risk and an uncertain ending
 Yet their call leaves room for mending.

Say a prayer for the ones who fight
 Say a prayer for their strength tonight.

By Eli McCutchen, 8th grader at Big Elk Meadows



Big Elk Meadows: On the edge of the fire

The Big Elk Meadows Subdivision experienced first-hand how extreme this fire season was. People in the subdivision were evacuated the first day of the Big Elk Fire, then allowed to return home, but were re-evacuated the next day. Smoke filled the sky over the area and the fire reached the subdivision; however, no homes were lost.

Community members were affected in many ways, and the proximity of the fire has motivated many to work on fire mitigation strategies now that the fire threat has become such a reality.

"It shows you it really can happen anywhere," Karina Mesagno, community member, said.

Some of the fire mitigation done since the fire has been accomplished by a volunteer mitigation group that was organized in conjunction with Colorado Cares Day. The event was held on August 3 and included between 60-70 volunteers from the surrounding areas of Lyons, Pinewood Springs, Estes Park, Longmont and others. It consisted of many church and community groups, particularly the Lyon's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which

began the organization of the event through their annual involvement with the Colorado Cares Day.

Twenty-two homeowners in the subdivision received help from volunteers. Volunteers helped individual homeowners clear land around their homes 10' up trees and 30' around structures.

"We did some good, but there's so much to do," Vern Hodges, volunteer, said.

Hodges, along with community member Collette Smith, helped organize the event. Smith helped organize a second work day on Sept. 2 focused on clearing woody vegetation at the Little Deer Meadow Lake dam overflow and using straw bails to slow the water flow through the area. The workday had 35 volunteers that put in a total of 120 hours.

"We are trying to keep follow-up risk to a minimum," she said.

To show their appreciation, community members hosted a pot luck lunch for the volunteers after the August 3 workday. Community members and volunteers ate together and had time to talk and create a sense of community.

"The turnout was so enthusiastic and overwhelming," Smith said. "It was really nice to have the volunteers come up and help."



The fire started near Big Elk Meadows subdivision on July 17. Smoke filled the sky above the houses and firefighters worked diligently to protect the houses in the area.

Hot Topics Con't

Larimer County Information Center

Six phones ringing all at once and those on the other end wanting to know the same thing – “What’s happening with the fire?”

This is what individuals working fire information at the Larimer County Sheriff’s Office at 2405 Midpoint Drive in Fort Collins dealt with on a daily basis during the Big Elk Fire. Anywhere between two to 10 individuals from the Forest Service and Larimer County answered public and media phones; updated recorded phone lines; sent out press releases; updated Larimer County’s Website; and handled a variety of tasks associated with the fire to disperse the most up-to-date and accurate information for ten consecutive days.

Fire information specialists answered questions of all types from various agencies, the media and the public. Callers were concerned with the smoke, the evacuations, the firefighters, the fatalities, the weather, the fire’s location and, often times, how they could help. Many, even those whose houses were in danger, would call and want to volunteer or donate items to help the firefighters and those at the shelter in Estes Park.

More than 5,000 phone calls were answered. Calls were received from all over the United States and even Canada wanting fire information. In addition to calls from local communities there were calls

from Texas, Maine, Florida, Vermont, California, Georgia and many other states. Each fire information specialist has one or two phone calls that they will always remember.

“My call was a woman that had a home in Big Elk Meadows,” Debra Schofield, fire information specialist, said. “She called crying after Tanker 123 went down because the pilots died saving her house, and it could be replaced but they couldn’t. I will never forget her or her voice. It will always stay with me.”

Long hours were spent answering the phones and often when they started ringing they did not stop. On a typical day you would see a fire information specialist with a phone up to each ear and another one on hold.

The ability to have so many phone lines was due to the Larimer County Sheriff’s Department and the facilities they provided for the Fire Information Center. Six public, one internal, and two media phones were set-up in the Fire Information Center, along with multiple white boards, a television and Internet connections. The cooperation between Larimer County and the Forest Service allowed the opportunity for the two agencies to share and disseminate information, greatly due to the help of Sheriff James Alderden, Eloise Campanella and Erik Nilsson. The concept for this cen-

ter was developed after the Bobcat Fire to improve the dissemination and coordination of information during future incidents. The center was tested earlier in the summer during the Fish Creek and North Bald Fires. However, the biggest test of the center was the Big Elk Fire.

“The Larimer County Information Center exhibited an amazing spirit of cooperation. We were extremely pleased with how well the two agencies settled in to work with each other, how fast the center was set up and how many employees just walking by stopped in and answered phones during peak times” Campanella, Press Information Officer for Larimer County Sheriff’s Office said.

It was this efficiency that helped provide the best information possible to the public and media. Many callers expressed their appreciation for the information center. Often they just needed to speak to someone and not just get the recorded message.

**Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest Recorded Fire Information:
970-498-1030 & 1031
Larimer County Information Center: 970-498-5500 (activated only during major incidents)**

Changing Places... Changing Faces

Plans for co-locating Fort Collins Offices make progress.

Currently, the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Supervisor’s Office employees are occupying four different buildings. Our goal is to bring all our Fort Collins employees under the same roof, except our pre-positioned fire personnel.

The new building, expected to be ready for occupancy in late 2003, will be located among the Natural Resource Research Center (NRRRC) Buildings on Center Drive in Fort Collins. The building will be occupied by all employees from the Supervisor’s Office, the Canyon Lakes Ranger District and Visitor Information Center and two Washington Office Detached units, the Inventory and Monitoring Institute Group and the Forest Service Vegetation Group.

Last spring we passed a major step and gained approval of our building design from Colorado State University. The Gen-

eral Services Administration (GSA) has received final BFO’s (Best and Final Offers) from the remaining developers in GSA’s solicitation process.

With our new consolidated location we will provide more efficient service to the people we serve, as well as have a more productive work environment for our employees. The location will maintain our close relationship with Colorado State University, the Rocky Mountain Research Station and other USDA cooperators, on the campus. Lease costs, however, remain a concern. We are currently looking at ways to reduce costs prior

to accepting the final bid.

In anticipation of our move our employees have adopted the Spring Creek Trail from College Avenue to Shields Street for litter control. Employees will use personal time and wellness time to keep the trail clean. Employees are excited about this opportunity to give back to the community.



NRRRC BUILDING E USFS & USDA HEADQUARTERS

Changing Places... Changing Faces Con't

Patti Turecek returns to ARNF/PNG

The ARNFPNG is pleased to have back Patti Turecek, Fire Prevention Technician on the Boulder Ranger District.

Patti has worked for the Forest Service for 13 seasons. She started out as an SCA on the Olympic National Forest. She is not a genuine new face on the Forest, because from 1991 to 1995 she was busy patrolling the Indian Peaks as a Wilderness Ranger. She left the ARNF in 1996 to work in recreation special uses on the South

Park Ranger District, Pike National Forest, only to return in July 2001, with added fire experience, to fill our Fire Prevention Technician position.

Patti has been developing fire prevention programs for schools, staffing information booths at local events, and patrolling the forest informing visitors on Firewise.

Patti works closely with Forest Watch, a local Forest Service volunteer group, whose mission is to educate visitors on

Firewise and general forest regulations.

She tackled a busy fire season this year and hopes to make a difference with her fire education and prevention programs.

There are others who tackled this fire season, as well as in other ARNF/PNG positions. Eight permanent positions and 145 temporary positions were filled between April 1 through July 30, providing a wide variety of fire expertise.

Volunteer Spotlights

Pawnee Grassland's shooting range gets a clean-up

On Saturday, April 27, 2002, the Weld County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post # 459 completed their bi-annual clean-up at the United States Forest Service Pawnee National Grasslands designated shooting range located just southeast of the intersection of Weld County Roads 57 and 96.

This spring, the explorers and other community volunteers removed enough bullet-riddled trash to completely fill a 19-ton dump truck. The amount of trash that people left behind truly disgusted us.

We removed two refrigerators, 11 computers, numerous TVs, VCR, and pallets, an entertainment center, a 100 pound semi-truck wheel, two mufflers, and a Neighborhood

Watch sign.

That was just the bigger items. The remainder of the small trash, which included beer and soda bottles and cans, clothing, CDs, plate glass shards, paint cans, cardboard boxes of all shapes and sizes, telephone books, spent shotgun shells, and used paper targets were bagged and filled the remainder of space in the dump truck graciously donated by the Weld County Road and Bridge Division.

Subway and King Soopers of Greeley provided a lunch for everyone who participated.

Rob Otterstatter, Weld County Deputy Sheriff



Workers at the site load up the 19 ton dump truck.

Local involvement for National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is an annual effort to refurbish and restore our nation's public lands.

Locally, 221 volunteers working for eight hours each completed trail work in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapaho National Forest near Granby. This was the eighth year of local participation in NPLD.

The volunteers accomplished 1,000 feet of trail maintenance, constructed 200 feet of new trail, and other projects on the Onahu/Continental Divide Scenic Trails. Other work included the construction of 1,100 feet of buck and rail fencing over four sites near Stillwater Pass-Idleglen. Various projects also included construction of 30 feet of turnpike and the planting of 25 wil-

low stakes in Fraser at the Granby Trail. At Flume trail, 30 feet of existing boardwalk was ripped out and 30 feet of new turnpike was constructed; 80% of a trail reroute and approximately 1,220 feet of new trail was constructed at Doe Creek Trail; as part of the children's program 10 bluebird boxes were constructed and installed within the Green Ridge recreation complex; and many other trail projects were also accomplished.

For the past four years this national event was sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, USA. NPLD brings together many organizations including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Hiking Society, Sierra Club, Garden Club of America, National Parks Conservation Association and others. Public lands include national parks,

forests, monuments, grasslands, wildlife refuges, lakes, reservoirs and marine sanctuaries. There were also a number of local sponsors that helped make this event possible.

"America's public lands – our country's natural treasures – need help," Devin Coyle, President of National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, which has managed and coordinated the all-day effort from its start in 1994, said. "On National Public Lands Day, we all have a chance to contribute to the improvement of these places for current and future generations of Americans."

The theme for this year's NPLD was "Exploring America's Backyard."

Volunteer Spotlights Con't

Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Patrol on Duty



Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Patrol volunteers are always willing to help those in need on the mountain trails and carry survival gear to help with any problems that may arise.

What would you do if you found yourself with a flat bike tire on a trail west of Fort Collins with no spare, or you couldn't find your way back to the road? You would look for a volunteer from the Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Patrol for help.

The patrol is an outgrowth of a volunteer ski patrol that works Cameron Pass during the winter months. The group was founded in 1995 by Tim Gaines, a Timnath resident and seasonal employee at Colorado State Forest State Park.

According to Kristy Wumkes, volunteer coordinator for the Canyon Lakes District, there are about 30 patrollers who volunteered this year. The group also

did trail maintenance on the Hewlett Gulch trail to benefit riders. The group often patrols on or near this trail.

One of these 30 volunteers is Ramon Ajero. He heads the Diamond Peaks Mountain Bike Patrol. He says volunteering with the patrol is a good way to give back to the forest, as well as have fun in the mountains.

The group patrols in pairs around the area in the Roosevelt National Forest, Lory State Park and Horsetooth Mountain Park. They provide a variety of services, but providing trail users with information about trails or the weather is the priority. They also help bikers with mechanical problems and occasionally medi-

cal assistance. They ride prepared with water, maps, compass, cell phone and other survival items. The patrollers are trained by the Forest Service to provide information to educate the public. The group also encourages responsible riding on public lands.

Last year, 550 volunteer hours were logged during 88 patrols. Volunteers patrol four weekends between May and October. Each patrol lasts about three hours.

"We try to just be out there for the people," Ajero said.

If you would like information about volunteering for the patrol, please contact the Canyon Lakes District at (970)498-1375.

Forest Service Highlights

ARNF/PNG's Accomplishments are Many

Although it was a busy fire season this year, there were many accomplishments throughout the Forests and Grasslands. Here are some highlights of the good work employees did this year.

The ARNF/PNG purchased 2,700 acres to add to the National Forest this year on the Clear Creek District. "Deb Ryon, lands forester, was busy this year because we also purchased 26 acres to get four right of ways," said Paul Kaiser, Lands Program Manager.

On the Canyon Lakes District, the ARNF/PNG traded Joe Wright Reservoir for 360 acres adjacent to the Wilderness.

The Boulder Ranger District employees had a workday to construct a fence near Mammoth reservoir to keep vehicles on designated routes. They also worked with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers to rehabilitate an area near Jamestown that was being impacted by off highway vehicles and many projects were completed in the Indian Peaks and the new James Peak Wilderness Area. Also on the District, Americorp, a national youth work group, logged in 100 miles of trail maintenance and patrol. The District and the South Zone Interdisciplinary Team completed the Sugarloaf Landscape Assessment.

The Sulphur Ranger District improved two drainage crossings on the Vasquez Creek road in cooperation with the Denver Water Department. This road is open for administrative use only to motor vehicles, but is a popular mountain bike trail. The drainage crossings were causing sedimentation into tributaries of Vasquez Creek, a public water supply, as well as posing a safety hazard to trail users when flow was high.

In cooperation with the CSU Watershed Science program,

soil scientists and hydrologists continue to monitor the effects of the Bobcat Fire. They are looking at the effects of runoff and sedimentation at the site, hill slope and watershed scale, as well as monitoring the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts.

As part of the air quality-monitoring program on the ARNF/PNG, we are monitoring lake chemistry from eight lakes in the Rawah and Indian Peaks Wildernesses. This was the seventh year of a planned ten-year study to establish baseline and trend data. This program would not be possible without the volunteers, who collect many of the water samples.

The Forest Service is conducting a four-year study of visitor use and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests continues to lead the nation with 6.1 million visitors during our sample year of 2000. Visitation was slightly lower this year due to the drought and fire restrictions, but many still enjoyed the National Forests and Grasslands.

Some other highlights included the grassland increased range allotment monitoring to insure resource protection due to the drought. Also, the ARNF accomplished 100% of the planned timber sale goals, and the planning group accomplished 315,000 acres of integrated resource inventory. New fire barracks in Fort Collins, Red Feather and Nederland were finished on time. The Fort Collins facilities were finished ahead of schedule in time for the fire season. Another new addition includes the management takeover of Jeffco Tanker Base in Broomfield. As of April 1, 2002, the Regional Office handed the management reins to the ARNF/PNG. The tanker base will receive a facelift in the coming year to reconstruct the facilities.

All of these accomplishments helped keep the ARNF/PNG moving forward, despite the busy fire season.

Stakeholder/partners Highlights

Looking Back to Look Ahead: Comments from a Stakeholder

“Looking back to look ahead” and associated quotes from Gifford Pinchot first Chief of the Forest Service, are more relevant today than they were in the early 1900s. The vision Pinchot had about the role of the public in the management of National Forests at that time is clearly relevant to today’s world.

Pinchot (not to mention others) would look upon this stakeholder newsletter with great anticipation given the opportunity it provides stakeholders and the ARNF & PNG to establish some meaningful interaction. Let us explore opportunities and see if we can develop a stronger partnership among stakeholders and the ARNF & PNG.

As stakeholders, we know that there is increasing competition for forest re-

sources; the management and stewardship capability of the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grassland (ARNF & PNG) has been severely impaired by declining budgets; and as taxpayers we have a stake in the future of the ARNF & PNG. We have a responsibility to foster the stewardship of forest and grassland resources for today and future generations.

“Looking back” here are some of Pinchot’s guiding principles for interaction between the FS and the public:

- A government employee is there to work with and serve the public.
- Public knowledge of acts affecting pub-

lic rights is absolutely required.

- When there is an information and understanding gap between the agency and stakeholders about management and stewardship activities, it is important that timely two-way dialogue is established and maintained.
- All appropriate media and forums should be used (first, last and always) to interact with the public.
- Unnecessary problems due to trivial reasons or agendas should be avoided. To accomplish sound resource management and land stewardship, we need all the help we can get.

Howard R. Aiden, stakeholder

Points of View

The goal of this newsletter is to start and maintain a dialog with stakeholders. We want to get people with different ideas and interests talking with each other and with the ARNF/PNG. In future issues, this section will be dedicated to such a dialog. The contributions will be reviewed by a non-forest service points-of-view board. We have three volunteer board members, who will serve at least one year.

Our board members are Deni La Rue, Marilee Long and Jonathan Maziarz.

LaRue works in the Larimer County Commissioner’s Office as the Community Information Manager. She has lived in the Fort Collins area for more than 30 years. La Rue worked in the radio industry for 21 years, on air, doing news and music, and in management. She co-hosted a local cable television public affairs program, and continues doing freelance voice work. She received her BA in technical journalism and her MS in technical communications at Colorado State University.

Long is an associate professor in the Department of Journalism and Technical Communication at Colorado State University. She also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism. Long’s primary research interest is in the public understanding of scientific, environmental and health/medical information. Long received a B.A. in the technical journalism from Colo-

rado state University. She completed her graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where she received an M.S. in agricultural journalism and a PH.D. in mass communication. Long has also worked as a technical writer/editor.

Maziarz is a journalist with the Winter Park Manifest and Sky-Hi News in Grand County. He has lived in Colorado for eight years and loves to ski, fly-fish, hike and climb in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park. He received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Middlebury College in Vermont in 1993. Before moving to Colorado, he lived in Costa Rica studying endangered sea turtles. Maziarz is married and lives in Silver Creek.

The board’s duties will be to ensure items submitted meet the guidelines for the section, they will edit for grammar and spelling, and work with the person (s) submitting articles if the articles need to be shortened. Submissions must be no longer than 300 words and can only be submitted electronically or in hard copy form (no disks) to: Points of View Board: C/o Forests to Grassland Editor Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests & Pawnee National Grassland 240 West Prospect Street Fort Collins, Colorado, 80526 or e-mail to : tjwilliams @fs.fed.us.

Contributions will only be accepted if

the contributor provides their name, affiliation (if any), phone number and or e-mail address so the editors may contact them about their submission.

Submissions must be factual and geared towards starting a dialog rather than stating a position or criticizing another individual or organization. We would like to hear what you are interested in, your likes, dislikes, major concerns and hopes and aspirations for the ARNF/PNG. If we do not receive any submissions, this section will contain concerns, ideas, etc. that we have heard from individuals and groups at our public meetings, through the NEPA process.

Article Contributions

We would also like article contributions for the various sections of this bi-annual newsletter. When submitting articles, please provide their name, affiliation (if any), phone number and or e-mail address send the article, topic, or photo via e-mail or hard copy. Articles should be no longer than 500 and should identify the topic area the article is geared toward.

Submissions can be sent to:
 Tammy Williams
 Forests to Grassland
 240 W. Prospect
 Fort Collins, CO 80526
 tjwilliams@fs.fed.us

Spotlights

Event Spotlights

- ▶ The American Red Cross Fat Tire Classic Work Day was held on Aug. 17 on the Sulphur Ranger District on the Creekside trail. The day consisted of four distinct projects: a section of the trail that was too close to the creek was vacated; this section was replaced with a new section of trail; one of the two existing small bridges was replaced, as well as the deck on the other bridge; and the southern approach on the big bridge was re-routed. Approximately 75 volunteers worked to make these projects a success.
- ▶ The James Peak Wilderness dedication took place on Aug. 26. Congress approved the James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act on Aug. 2.



Smokey Bear got up close and personal with Sheryl Crowe at the 2002 KBCO Rockfest at the Winter Park Resort in July. The music festival had over 13,000 participants each day of the weekend. Volunteers handed out fire, trails, camping, hiking, fishing and biking information throughout the event.

Ranger District Spotlights

- ▶ The Americorp group that worked on the Big Elk Fire received a special recognition from the Forest Service and the Boulder Ranger District. The Americorp group was the first crew to arrive at the Big Elk Fire and provided extended attack and support throughout the fire. Those recognized include: Tom Basenfelder, Ann Cramer, Emily Dugan, John Noonan, Dominic Salce, Norm Williams, Audrey Bates, Jeff Dockus, Todd Mostak, Remsen Voorhis, Nick Becherer, Ned Deakins, Georgeann Koch, Jay Norman, Amy Tolliver, Keturah Wint, Shawn Cottrill, Geoffery Goode and Allison Vanlunskisin.
- ▶ The Sulphur Ranger District works with a county organization called Headwaters Trails Alliance to support the local Adopt-a-Trail program, where businesses, individuals and clubs adopt trails on National Forest lands. There are currently over 25 trails adopted in the Fraser Winter Park area. The program fosters ownership and pride in the trail system with adopters.
- ▶ The Canyon Lakes Ranger District recognized the hard work of two of its volunteers in September. The 2002 Volunteers Program National Award was presented to Donald and Lois Walker. The two are site hosts at the district's remote Buckhorn Work/Information Center. They have been volunteering since 1996 on the district and have donated 4,400 hours a piece to serving the public for the Forest Service.
- ▶ On Sept. 5, the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance was recognized for exceptional creativity and innovation and won the Boulder Community Foundation NOVA award, which provided the Alliance \$1000. It plans on putting this money to use to purchase more ranger uniforms.