



Introduction to Friends:

The Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is an apolitical nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation 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 Peak Wilderness areas. The Eagles Nest Wilderness consists of 82,903 acres of Summit County while the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness has 13,175 acres (totaling about 25% of Summit County). We presently raise money through membership dues, donations, and grants.

10th Anniversary Celebration June 3, 2004

Wilderbash Our 10th Anniversary Celebration

Mark your calendars! Come celebrate our 10th anniversary at our annual meeting!

Date: Thursday, June 3
Where: Frisco Recreation Building at 110 S. Third, Frisco
When: 6:00 p.m. for FENW members and prospective members — social gathering, food, drink, and membership meeting with elections and yearly reports.

WILDERBASH for one and all:
7:00 p.m. Social gathering, food and drink for one and all
7:30 Special Wilderness program including a slide show presentation by The Wilderness Society about 40 years of Wilderness in Colorado.

We'll have really cool 40th Anniversary Wilderness posters by John Fielder for a fundraiser. Read on for more info.

More details will be mailed before the Wilderbash.

We're 10 years Old!

By Maryann Gaug

Where did the time go? Spurred by words deploring the lack of resources to take care of the Eagles Nest Wilderness in a Summit Daily News column by John Fayhee, a group of concerned citizens put their heads together and started a group to make a difference. Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness incorporated in 1994 and became a 501(c)(3) in 1995.

Our first project in July 1994 was cleaning up a hunter's camp in in the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness.

Over ten years we've provided the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with over 9,500 hours of trail work and advocacy. Through our efforts and the generous support of many entities, especially The Summit Foundation, FENW has raised over \$75,000 in those 10 years, not counting membership dues.

Have we made a difference? You bet! Keep reading the newsletter for more on our accomplishments and thoughts from John Fayhee and Tom Jones, Jr. who were involved in founding FENW 10 years ago and Beth Boyst, our Wilderness manager.

Buffalo Mountain Trail Construction FENW Awarded \$18,900 from State Trails

FENW received its biggest grant ever in April. State Trails/State Parks awarded \$18,900 to FENW for the Buffalo Mountain Trail Construction Project in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. Besides being our biggest, State Trails gave us a score of 94.5%, the highest score funded!

Reviewers comments included high usage, visibility, location, environmental need, benefits, and urgency. They liked our pre-planning and cost projections. Most importantly, they said our proposal showed broad community support, development of other sources of funding, and good partnership with volunteer groups and the private sector.

So what's all that mean? For anyone who has hiked up Buffalo, you know what a steep, eroded, awful trail it is past Buffalo Cabin. About five years ago, work began to figure out how to reroute the trail and build something sustainable that was more hiker and environmentally friendly. After all the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) "ologists" finished their studies, an Environmental Analysis was prepared.

Trail work will start in early July. The project will build almost 1.5 miles of new trail to replace the very steep, eroded, user-created trail up Buffalo Mountain. The trail will then become part of the USFS trail system. Trail crews will close and revegetate 0.9 mile of the old non-system trail. (cont'd. p. 2)



Present steep and eroded trail up Buffalo Mountain. Photo by USFS.

The \$18,900 will pay for most of the cost to have the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps spend four weeks working on the Buffalo Mountain trail. A Forest Service crew will also spend four weeks working on the project.

The remaining funds have been either donated or promised to FENW by the following organizations and businesses: Buffalo Mountain Metro District \$2,000, The Merriman Family Foundation \$1,550, The Summit Foundation \$2,700, 1st Bank Silverthorne \$250, Wilderness Sports \$200, Colorado Mountain Club Foundation \$500, J. Henry's \$50, Omni Real Estate \$50, and Wilderrest Property Management \$50. The combination of the USFS trail crew and the above comprise the matching funds required by State Trails for the grant.

Organizations and businesses which provided letters of support for the grant proposal include: Wilderness Sports, Omni Real Estate, Summit Seniors, 1st Bank Silverthorne, Colorado Mountain Club, U.S. Forest Service, Town of Silverthorne, Town of Frisco, The Summit Foundation, Board of County Commissioners, Wilderrest Property Management, and A-Basin Employee Environmental Fund.

The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) of Steamboat Springs, which is part of a network of over 100 youth corps nationwide working to improve communities, the environment and the lives of youth and young adults by putting them to work on public lands and open spaces. The USFS trail crew will provide guidance to RMYC and four weeks of work. Due to the limited budget, the USFS trail crew could not be funded for the entire project. Trail work will start in early July.

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) will provide one weekend of the revegetation work. FENW has Buffalo Mountain trail volunteer work projects scheduled for July 24 and Aug. 28.

The Town of Silverthorne granted FENW \$1,571 of in-kind rec center and Rainbow Park use for VOC and RMYC.

The Prez Room

By Currie Craven

Dear Friends,

I hope the winter was an epic one for you and yours. Spring fever came early this year. Many people told me about exciting trips to exotic locations. The Board is focusing on trips within the County this summer, mainly up Buffalo Mountain. You will read more in this newsletter about FENW's ambitious plans to "fix" Buffalo. Now please get that interesting visual out of your mind. We're talking trails, not veterinary procedures here. Really folks, the Buffalo Mountain project is the most exciting undertaking we have accepted in a long time. Those of you who have experienced confusing, braided social trails, hazardous descents, and gully flushing flows during rainstorms will be glad to know plans are afoot to create order out of chaos.

In partnership with the USFS, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC), Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC), State Trails and the federal Recreation Trails Program Funds, the Town of Silverthorne, The Merriman Family Foundation, Buffalo Mountain Metro District, The Summit Foundation, 1st Bank Silverthorne, Wilderness Sports, Colorado Mountain Club Foundation, J. Henry's, Omni Real Estate, and Wilderrest Property Management. FENW is spearheading establishment of a real (read system or official) trail up the very popular Buffalo Mountain. Maryann Gaug and Beth Boyst have proved to be the best grant writers in the known universe and have obtained funding from State Trails and the USFS for the project. But that is not all in the land of Wilderness stewardship.

Please read all about our upcoming annual "Wilderbash," extra special this year as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and the 10th anniversary of Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness!

Also being announced is our web site. I am thrilled with these developments. When we started our local volunteer organization, I never dreamed we would achieve such success. Thanks

to you, our dedicated volunteers, whose core is our repeat worker bees seen at yearly projects, and in exceptional starring roles, Board members Jonathan Kriegel, Jim Anthony, and very specially, the irreplaceable Maryann Gaug. Forest Service professionals such as Beth Boyst, Ralph Swain, Jimmy Gaudry, and Cindy Ebbert have contributed immeasurable wisdom and support. I feel very blessed to have made some of the best friends one could ask for, while doing something I truly love.

What always starts as a short column always grows a bit. Thanks again for being a Friend of the Eagles Nest Wilderness. Please remember to encourage your friends and trail partners to "give at least a day" a season to volunteer public land stewardship. And, if someone out there is willing, we need some Board members. We meet once a month (usually), and the time commitment is very satisfying.

May the peace of the natural world be your journey's end. See you on the trail.

Currie

Currie - Wild Wilderness Wonder

By Maryann Gaug

Our fearless and tireless president, Currie Craven, was finally rewarded with much deserved recognition at the Green Scene Awards on April 22, Earth Day. Sponsored by Summit Recycling Project and the Blue River Group of the Sierra Club, the event honored those in our community who have worked to educate, facilitate, cajole, model, or institute better environmental practices and policies.

Currie received the Wild Wilderness Wonder award for work in protecting Wilderness or Wilderness qualities for our future. It's a new award given in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Currie sure deserves it!



Of course he had to ham it up a little for the picture. The rose belonged in the recycled wine bottle vase not his teeth, but Sandy Briggs caught him on digital film.

New and Returning Members

from Jim Anthony

Returning members: Pat Spitzmiller, Doug & Mary Schwartz, Dennis & Edith Taratus, Bill & Dee Simon, Tom & Mary Kisker, Dave Raymond, Bill Pifer, Marjorie Kroeger, Rob & Deb Nelson, Mary Ellen Gilliland, Connie Tussel, Joan Hutchinson & Stan Wagon.

New Members: Stephen & Elisabeth Weseley, Vera Gesse, Ed & Nancy Widmann, Harvey Van De Wege, Laura & Roger Boharth.

Thanks for joining/rejoining FENW and helping us be Wilderness stewards!

Cindy Ebbert - Lead Wilderness Ranger

By Maryann Gaug

When Jimmy Gaudry, lead Wilderness ranger for Eagles Nest, Ptarmigan Peak, and Holy Cross Wilderness Areas, transferred to Leadville Ranger District, he created an opportunity for Cindy Ebbert. Cindy's been a seasonal Wilderness ranger in Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan for the last five years.

Cindy was chosen to replace Jimmy as Lead Wilderness Ranger. Her job includes visitor contacts and education in the Wilderness areas, trail maintenance, and working with FENW. She will also supervise the yet-to-be-hired Wilderness ranger out of Holy Cross Ranger District.

"Applying for the Lead job seemed like a natural progression," Cindy said. "I'll have more of a role in decision making, learn new skills, have a broader perspective, and be in a supervisory role. The position is permanent seasonal which is a plus."

In addition to the above duties, Cindy's work this summer will also involve the Buffalo Mountain Trail project, maintaining other trails to certain standards, lake water sampling, and revisiting the trails survey and inventory.

With only two Wilderness rangers covering three Wilderness areas this summer (USFS budget cuts keep getting worse), she and her co-worker will be as creative as possible to cover all the areas.

The Wilderness Rangers may get some help from teenagers sponsored by the Hill Foundation. These kids work for the USFS for about eight weeks each summer. Cindy hopes to use them for some trail maintenance projects and other Wilderness tasks this summer.

When Cindy meets visitors on the trail, she chats awhile with them to get an idea of their level of knowledge about the area and Wilderness values. Customizing further discussion with each person, she provides necessary information to help make the person's visit more enjoyable and also friendly to the Wilderness environment.

Cindy said she is looking forward to working with FENW. She really appreciates the community support.

Good luck in your new job, Cindy! FENW looks forward to working with you again.

White River N.F. Travel Management Plan

The draft of the Travel Management Plan that goes with the revised White River Forest Plan is due for release sometime in July — and it looks like late July right now.

FENW will be looking over the draft to make sure it adequately reflects the state of the forest so to speak. Jonathan Kriegel and Currie Craven have been involved in the Travel Management process over the last 7 (wow, is it that long?) years.

Stay tuned for more information as the draft is released for public comment.

Thoughts from Founding Members

By Maryann Gaug

A 10th anniversary newsletter wouldn't be complete without comments from John Fayhee, whom we recognize as FENW's founding father.

After a 3-day backpack with then Wilderness Rangers Katie Larson and Holly English, John was stunned at the lack of resources those ladies had to do their job. He originally wrote an article for the Summit Daily News about what it was like to be a Wilderness Ranger. When he had to come up with an idea for his weekly column, he thought he'd write about the financial plight.

John didn't think anything would come of his column until Tom Jones, Jr of Wilderness Sports came into his office. TJ asked "What are we going to do about this situation?" Well, the two of them decided to call a meeting and see if anyone was interested in helping the Wilderness Rangers.

John said about 35 people showed up to that first meeting including Currie Craven, Frank Smith Jr., and Ed Adams. Frank, a part-time Summit County resident and philanthropist, brought expertise from his work with the Galveston Bay Foundation. Currie and Ed brought a lot of energy. Wilderness Sports also provided support to get the ball rolling.

"Currie's really responsible for FENW," John said. Without Currie's energy, John figures they might have just sat around talking about the idea.

Tom Jones, Jr. remembers similar things about how FENW got started. He's pleased that the group gathered momentum and continues to thrive.

"It's rewarding to see that a citizens' group can supplement the efforts of the federal government and make a difference," Tom continued.

John commented that it amazes him that a group that started so informally has taken off and is doing so well. He noted the \$18,900 grant FENW just received.

Currie became chairman of the board of FENW while Ed Adams was president. Frank has long been FENW's mentor and provided financial assistance at various times. Ed has since moved to Ouray.

Currie continues as both FENW president and board chair. He has a ton of energy when it comes to Wilderness and attends umpteen meetings to assure Wilderness continues to be a special place in the US and Colorado. No doubt that he's truly a Wild Wilderness Wonder!

From our Wilderness Manager ...

By Maryann Gaug

When I asked Beth Boyst, the Wilderness Manager for Eagles Nest, Ptarmigan, and Holy Cross Wilderness areas, about FENW's last 10 years, her first thought was that FENW has done a ton of stuff in the past 10 years that we certainly should be celebrating.

Interestingly, Beth started her job as East Zone Wilderness manager in 1994, the same year FENW started. She said we sort of grew up together.

As Wilderness manager, she appreciates all FENW has done, including physical improvements to trailheads and trails and establishing a support base for Wilderness. She feels that the citizen support will be what protects and maintains the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas throughout time.

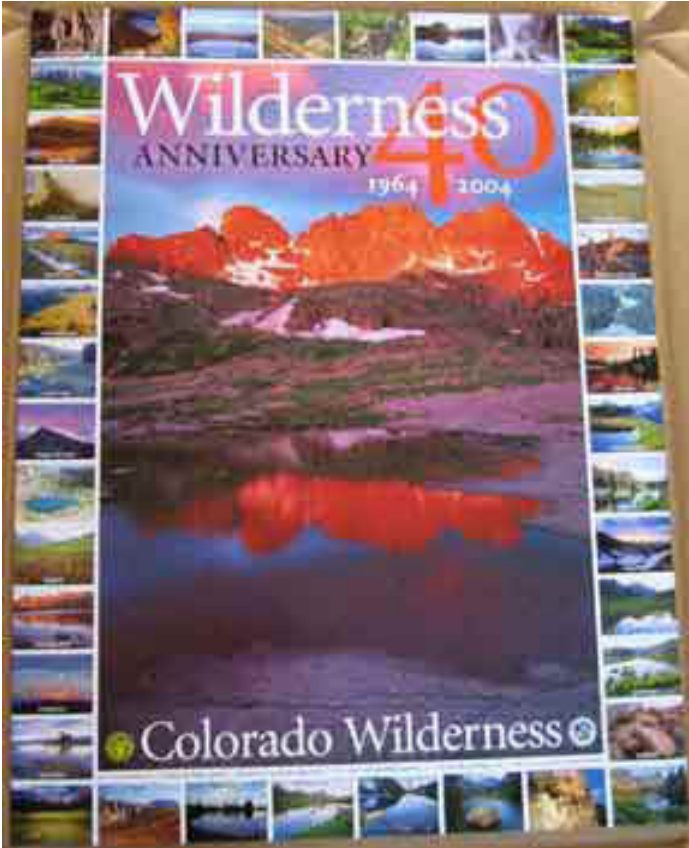
Check out FENW on the web!

www.fenw.org

Wilderness Posters!

FENW just purchased 40th Wilderness Anniversary commemorative posters for fundraising. These posters are really great! The below black and white photo doesn't do them justice. Pardon the kraft paper background. We're trying to keep them pristine.

The poster contains a large photo of the Weminuche Wilderness bordered by 40 photos of other Wilderness areas. John Fielder donated the photos, so you know they're fantastic.



The poster is sponsored and copyrighted by Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (logo on left of Colorado Wilderness. The Wilderness Society logo is the one to the right).

FENW will have these posters at our Wilderbash 10th Anniversary celebration/annual meeting on June 3.

The photo of the poster will be online in a couple of weeks, so check it out!

Elections Coming - Anyone Interested?

FENW will hold elections at our annual meeting on June 3. We presently have no secretary and are looking for a treasurer. With only four, yes 4!, Board members, we could sure use some new brains and ideas and energy.

The Board meets once a month, typically the third Thursday at 6 pm at the County Commons. We are a fun group, but work hard on FENW's stewardship role in Summit County.

If you're interested in being on the Board, please contact Currie at 453-9056, Jonathan at 262-2399, Jim at 390-3282, or Maryann at 468-6219.

Please volunteer your talents to our 10-year young organization. We're looking forward to celebrating 15 years and beyond! Help make a difference for the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas.

FENW Is Online

Last December, The Summit Foundation granted us \$300 to design and implement a website. FENW is contributing at least another \$200.

We're online as of May 17! Our domain name is www.fenw.org. The home page is temporary and hopefully by Memorial Day weekend the real home page with links to additional pages will be up.

FENW hired Marie Orlin to do the basic website design. Maryann Gaug will add to it as time goes on with help from Marie as needed.

We'll have up-to-date information about upcoming trail projects and events, so remember to check the website regularly especially during summer for the latest and greatest.

Highlights from FENW's 1st Five Years

By Maryann Gaug

I started to thumb through back FENW newsletters and gleaned a few things to share about the first five years. Second five years will be in the next newsletter.

In 1994, FENW incorporated and organized three cleanup projects. The biggest part of the first trail project was taking down an old barbed-wire corral. FENW removed six bags of garbage and 30 pounds of bared-wire!

By 1995, the group has 47 members and 7 board members. We received our first grants, sold T-shirts, and organized 4 trail work days. We received our 501(c)(3). Three Wilderness rangers worked that summer.

In 1996, the first FENW logo was created, we organized 5 trail work days. With grants received, we started to procure and install portal signs at the Wilderness boundaries. We had 71 members and 7 board members. We donated \$2,000 for Wilderness Rangers during hunting season. More portal signs were installed and we started to design an interpretive display for the Dillon Ranger District office.

By 1997, FENW had 150 members and 9 board members. Four Wilderness rangers worked that summer. The White River Forest Plan revision started. Slate Creek was added to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. We organized three trail projects.

During 1998, FENW installed 30 portal and junction signs and four bulletin boards. We hosted a Wilderness Groups meeting at Keystone and dedicated the interpretive display at the Dillon Ranger District office. Four trail work days were coordinated. We had 8 board members, but the newsletters don't mention how many FENW members. We started to talk about a website.

Stay tuned to the next newsletter for the second five years!

FENW Summer Trail Projects

Mark your calendars! FENW will organize three trail projects this summer.

The first project is Gateways, our annual clean-up, cut avalanche debris work day. Sat., June 19 is the day. Details coming later and check our website for info, too! We need many hands for this day because we spread to various areas for trail work. You can work either all day or half day. Tailgate breakfast starts and tailgate party ends the work day.

Buffalo Mountain will be our main focus this year. We'll work on the trail on July 24 and August 28. Details forthcoming and remember to check the website for more information as time marches on.

- Gateways, June 19
- Buffalo Mountain, July 24
- Buffalo Mountain, Aug. 28

The Buffalo Horn - A First Ascent

By Joe Kramarsic

Two months prior to last August's Buffalo Mountain trail work by FENW, two of the Friends, Joe Kramarsic and Stan Wagon, shouldered their packs with their climbing gear and headed up the trail towards Buffalo. We were intent on climbing and verifying whether the freestanding pinnacle on the north side of the mountain had ever been climbed. The question of whether this pinnacle had a previous ascent dated from an unconfirmed rumor I had heard back in the 1980's from a local climber.

Although this pinnacle presents a tantalizing silhouette on the right side of Buffalo as seen from Ryan Gulch Road, I had never taken the time to investigate an approach to, much less find, its exact location among the myriad rock gullies, ridges, and cliffs that form the north side of Buffalo Mountain.

In September 2002, I finally scouted an approach route to the unmistakable site of the pinnacle's location. From its base I quickly saw that I would not be able to climb the steep-sided formation by myself.

My enthusiasm for climbing this pinnacle carried throughout the winter and surfaced last summer when I convinced Stan to accompany me on a blustery and overcast June day. We followed the braided and eroded trail above Buffalo cabin to the mountain's northeast shoulder and then descended a rock ridge to the base of the pinnacle.

Stan led off on an outward sloping ledge to a stance below a block on the lower southwest face. Working up the eight-foot crack between the block and the face, he quickly disappeared around a corner onto the hidden upper west face. I could only monitor his progress up the cracks of the slanting slabs of the



Buffalo Horn

Photo by Stan Wagon

face from the movement of the rope. The wind sent chills through my body at the shaded belay site. Stan's command of "off belay" was barely audible above the wind and signaled my turn to climb. My cold fingers gripped the rock, and the chills I had developed now turned to shivering as I climbed. I labored to make the moves in the crack to gain the top of the block. I stepped on some loose rocks at its top and knew I was now in trouble. The rapid shivering hindered my climbing on what should have been the effortless cracks of the west face. I joined Stan at the belay site in a near hypothermic state. I managed the strength to climb the few short ledges to a summit small enough for only one person.

I wrote our names in shaky handwriting on a slip of paper sealed in a glass bottle. We saw no cairn or evidence of rappel-gear needed by previous parties to descend the sheer sides of the pinnacle. This seemed to confirm our first ascent.

I could only nod in understanding when we checked our rappel set up, as my voice was now hoarse and almost incoherent. Fortunately we made our rappels down the southwest face without incident. I began to feel better as I quickly donned a pair of pants to cover the shorts on my bare legs.

Our near epic adventure was not yet finished. We decided to descend from the pinnacle to the South Willow Creek valley rather than climb back over the shoulder of Buffalo to our ascent trail. Our way became one of route finding through the rough terrain of the mountain's north side. To reach the valley we rappelled two cliff bands on a descent that we do not recommend.

The level trail along South Willow Creek was a welcome relief from the vertical terrain. From its path we could look up at the views of the stunning needlelike appearance of this pinnacle. Needle or pinnacle, we decided on horn as the fitting name, for not only had we just made the first ascent of Buffalo Horn on Buffalo Mountain but the warm sunshine of afternoon felt exceedingly good to me.

Wilderness Stewards

In celebration of FENW's 10th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, we've developed a Wilderness Steward Agreement for people to read, sign, and take to heart. We'll have these forms at our Wilderbash.

An example from the form, which also gives whys on the back:

Wilderness Stewardship involves following regulations specific to each Wilderness area, because those regulations were established to help preserve and protect that particular area.

Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Use Regulations

* Maximum legal group size is 15 people per group with a maximum combination of 25 people and pack or saddle animals in any one group.

* Campsites shall be at least 100 feet away from all lakes, streams, trails, unless prohibited by signs.

* If a campfire is built, it shall be (1) farther than 100 feet from all streams and trails (2) at least 1/4 mile below treeline (fires are prohibited above treeline) and at least 1/4 mile away from all lakes.

* Equipment, personal property, and supplies shall be stored or left for no longer than 72 hours.

* Pack or saddle animals shall be hitched or tethered at least 100 feet from all lakes, streams, and trails.

* All dogs, except working stock dogs or dogs used for legal hunting purposes, shall be on a hand-held leash not to exceed 6 feet in length.

* Only livestock feed, such as pelletized feed and rolled grains, that has been processed through chemical or mechanical means in a manner that will destroy viable seeds is allowed.

* Hikers/equestrians shall walk/ride on switchbacks because shortcutting causes erosion and environmental damage.

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness
P.O. Box 4504
Frisco, CO 80443-4504

Membership Expiration

Please note your membership expiration date located below your address on the envelope. If your membership has expired a "We miss you" sheet is inserted in this newsletter. Please use the membership form below to renew your membership. Please help us with new membership by passing this form along to friends and family.

FENW Board of Directors

Currie Craven, Chairman/President, 453-9056
Jonathan Kriegel, VP, Travel Management Task Force, Trail chairperson, 262-2399
open, Secretary — any volunteers?????
Jim Anthony, Treasurer, 390-3282
Maryann Gaug, At-Large and grant proposals, 468-6219

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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trailhead level (\$10 per year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-Buffalo Pass level (\$50 per year) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo Mountain level (\$20 per year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Eagles Nest level (\$100 per year) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cataract Lake level (\$30 per year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mount Powell level (\$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, PO Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443-4504.

For more information, call 970-453-9056 or 970-262-2399.