



**Twentieth Official Newsletter
September 1997**

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 Arapaho National Forest maintain the Summit County portions of the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Wilderness areas. The Eagles Nest Wilderness consists of 82,324 acres of Summit County while the Ptarmigan Wilderness has 13,175 acres. Four Wilderness Rangers cover this area in the summer (23,875 acres each). We presently raise money through membership dues, T-shirt sales, donations, and grants.

Thanks for a Successful 1997 Season!

1997 - A Busy & Successful Year

Our membership has gone over the century mark and sits at 150 at this writing. We had three volunteer weekends attended by over 85 strong. Meadow Creek, North Ten Mile, and the Wheeler Lakes Trails are all better with the addition of a bridge, rock ford and significant, much needed trail maintenance. We installed 8 new Wilderness Portal signs to bring the two year total to 13 in place. Total trail volunteer hours stands at 949 for the year, with members of the Friends also taking an active part in the Cataract Lake and Spruce Creek (NRV) projects. Several spontaneous groups assisted in clearing a number of fallen trees in an avalanche area, as well as some preventative trail maintenance in Gore.

Through the hard work of the Board, The Friends was fortunate to receive a highly competitive State Trails Grant, which allowed us to employ the Rocky Mountain

Youth Corps from Steamboat Springs for three weeks of trail restoration in the areas between the North and South Willow Creeks and on the North and South Rock Creek crossings. Major accomplishments were made in all areas. For those who remember the bog crossing at Middle Willow, it's now history.

None of this work would have been accomplished without volunteer efforts, the generosity of State Trails, Summit Foundation, Town of Silverthorne, and the Breckenridge Building Center. Our thanks.



Now that fall has arrived it's time to plan for next year while thinking about skiing and other upcoming winter activities...

-- 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 (\$10 per year)
- Buffalo Mountain Level (\$20 per year)
- Cataract Lake Level (\$30 per year)
- Red Buffalo Pass Level (\$50 per year)
- Eagles Nest Level (\$100 per year)
- Mount Powell Level (\$500 per year)

Date: _____

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 Currie at (970) 453-9056 or John at (970) 262-5940 for more information.

1998 Planning in Process

Before our 1997 trail projects were completed we, together with the Forest Service, reviewed potential project improvements for Boulder Lake, Slate Creek area, Wheeler Lake trail, and Buffalo Cabin Trail. A major area of concern is on the Gore Trail near Squaw Creek where a 91 foot long puncheon of corduroy is rotted to the point of being a hazard. We have not found a suitable alternative routing and are investigating the use of rough cut cedar puncheon and the help of local ranchers and horsemen to assist in the effort. We are seriously considering putting together another grant proposal due to the magnitude and remoteness of the project. An additional area of concern is the trail, or lack of a defined route, up Buffalo Mountain. We hope to get the planning ball rolling for this project.

We hope to take on an aggressive sign program. We plan to conclude our portal sign installation effort with the final eleven signs. Twelve much needed junction signs have been designated to eliminate confusion at the major intersections of the Gore Trail. Eighteen trailhead registration boxes are also planned. Much of the sign program is dependent on the generosity of the Summit Foundation and the Summit communities. We need help in the coming year in heading up these various segments, whether it's portal or junction sign installation, as well as our trail projects. As you can see we are going to have a busy and potentially rewarding 1998 season. Membership and involvement will again be the key to success.

Help Needed – Interpretive Display

The Wilderness Interpretive Display, which will be placed in the Dillon Ranger Station in Silverthorne, is almost complete. The funds awarded to FENW by the Colorado Mountain Club Foundation were used to construct the frame, and design and produce the graphics and text for the panels. The only step left is to finish the frame, which requires some light sanding and staining. Anyone who can help out, please call Currie Craven at 453-9056.

Just a reminder, The Friends Board meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of each month

and all members are welcome to attend. Please contact any of the Board members for more details.

Welcome New Members & Returnees

The Friends would like to welcome Chuck & Carolyn Dear, Dale Drennan, Michael & Ellyn Johnson, John & Kristin Howland, Jennifer Pratt Miles and Jeff Miles, and Jim & Mil Plant. Welcome back to Shirley Beaty, John Fayhee and the Timber Ridge Homeowners Association.

Forest Service Revision Plan Meetings

Thanks for your input so far towards the White River Forest Plan Revision. The deadline for the submission of public opinion is near and The Friends is having a follow-up task force meeting at Jonathan Kriegel's home on Friday, September 26th to further refine our group position. If you have comments or would like to attend please call Jonathan at 262-2399.

In addition to your contribution to our group position, you also have an opportunity to provide your individual input, by attending the Forest Service Scoping Meeting. It will be held on Thursday, October 16th, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm, at Summit Middle School, 0156 Summit County Road 1030, Frisco. Forest Service staff will be in attendance to discuss the plan, and your comments and input, so that they can then complete their analysis. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute to this important process, which addresses multiple interests and concerns. We encourage members to attend or submit their comments (by November 1) to the Forest Service. Hope to see you there!

If you would like be on the Forest Service newsletter mailing list, call their office in Glenwood Springs at (970) 945-2521.

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
Joan Theroux, Publications, 668-3304

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness

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