



Forests to Grassland

... and everything in between

The Arapaho and Roosevelt NF's and Pawnee National Grassland

Volume 1, Issue 2, Spring 2003

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Highlights

- Front Range Partnership 2
- Americorps Affiliation 3
- Poudre Wilderness Volunteers 6
- Clear Creek Volunteer 7
- Sulphur OHV 8
- Points of View 8
- Spotlights 10

A message from the Forest Supervisor

Welcome to the second edition of the *Forest to Grassland Newsletter*. We have expanded this issue to include the wide array of information we received. I appreciate the time and energy of all those who contributed.

I hope you have the time to check out the Points of View Section located on page 9. I greatly appreciate the efforts of our Points of View Board who solicited and edited the information for this section. Thanks Deni, Marilee and Jonathon! Remember it's never too early for

you to contribute your thoughts for the next issue.

As you can read on page 8, a new Foundation is being established to assist the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) in fulfilling our mission. I appreciate the dedication this Foundation has to the ARP and I look forward to a close working relationship.

I hope you all have an opportunity to get out and enjoy the ARP this summer. Our field crews are gearing up to improve

signing and our trail condition through the work of volunteers.

We will also be fighting fire aggressively on the mitigation front and will be working collaboratively with the Colorado State Forest Service to reduce fuel loadings on more than 7,800 acres (story on page 2). As always, we are prepared to respond to wildfires and our number one priority is to provide for public and firefighter safety.

James Bedwell,
Forest Supervisor

Editor, Forests to Grassland

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

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Hot Topics

Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership receives funding

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) has received \$5 million dollars in funding for fiscal year 2003. This funding will be used to proceed in developing and implementing ecosystem restoration projects that will help reduce hazardous fuels along the Front Range of Colorado.

During the development of the FRFTP strategy, the Partnership realized that it would need a higher level of funding this year, as well as in future years, to accelerate hazardous fuels treatment progress on the ground. Cost estimates were based on projects that increased community development and ecosystem restoration along the Front Range. After review of the FRFTP strategy by the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, it was decided that the region needed to concentrate higher levels of its fuels funding to the FRFTP effort. The estimated breakdown of the extra funding for fiscal year 2003 is \$2 million to the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands; \$2 million to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland; \$500,000 to the Colorado State Forest Service; and \$500,000 to the Rocky Mountain Research Station. This funding in addition to the ARP's base funding for fuels treatment, which was \$2.1 million.

Projects for 2003 on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) include Dadd Bennett, Dowdy Lake 2/Red Feather Work Center, Sheep Creek 1, Buckhorn, Sevenmile, Stringtown and Good Neighbor on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District; Winiger on the Boulder Ranger District; Columbine and Santa Fe on the Clear Creek Ranger District; and the Arapaho National Recreation Area on the Sulphur Ranger District. These combine for more than 7,800 acres of hazard fuels reduction treatment by mechanical means, pile burn-

ing and prescribed burns. Some of these projects include work with the Colorado State Forest Service and private landowners. Along with the projects, planning for FRFTP will take place on 10,250 acres for 2004, 12,000 acres for 2005 and 14,000 acres for 2006.

Many organizations and individuals are getting involved with the FRFTP collaborative effort. County forums sponsored by the Colorado State Forest Service are being held to provide information to communities through elected officials about forest health conditions, to compile suggestions on projects that could improve forest health, and on ways to obtain grants and develop partnerships to aid private landowners in planning and implementing forest health improvement projects. Larimer County had a forum on April 18 hosted by the county commissioners. Grand County commissioners have also met with FRFTP representatives.

On May 21, the FRFTP will meet with local congressional staffers from all the Front Range forests and state legislators from the Colorado State Agricultural Committee to discuss the strategy. The legislators will be provided with an overview of the FRFTP, introductions to key partners, presentations of projects, the opportunity to sign up for field trips and an open forum period to discuss suggested topics.

We are looking for opportunities to highlight events and projects associated with the FRFTP, including future feature stories, video of fuels treatment successes and attendance at community events and meetings.

There has been much interest generated by the FRFTP with congressional members and elected officials from around the state. Our hope is that we can use the Partnership to generate public interest and provide community assistance and healthy ecosystems on all of the lands in need along the Front Range.

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."



Article Contributions

We would like article contributions for the various sections of this tri-annual newsletter. The next deadline is **July 29, 2003**. When submitting articles or photos, please provide your name, affiliation (if any), phone number and/or e-mail. Send the article, topic or photo via e-mail or hard copy. Articles should be no longer than 500 words and should identify the topic area the article is geared toward. Please note that there are additional guidelines for the Points Of View Section. You can find those on page 8.

Submissions can be sent to:
 Tammy Williams
 Forests to Grassland
 240 W. Prospect
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Boulder Americorps success

The Corporation for National and Community Service's Civilian Community Corps National Service Program (AmeriCorps*NCCC) assisted the Boulder Ranger District (BRD) the last three summers and are gearing up for this coming summer season.

AmeriCorps started on the district in 2000 as a fire crew. Last year, they started working on hazardous fuels reduction, recreation rehabilitation and trail wilderness work. This year they will have about 30 members, an increase from last season. The crew integrates into the Forest Service workforce and the fire crew.

"We look at them the same as our own," Courtney Wenzel, BRD AmeriCorps organizer, said. "We utilize them just as a regular seasonal firefighter."

There are three 10-person crews and each has a team leader. The teams are based out of Denver and have a two-hour response time. Two of the team leaders are returning from last season. Team leaders help get the crew fire ready and know what the Forest Service expects. The AmeriCorps members are trained firefighters and can be dispatched for 14 days.

Other than fire, members also are involved in travel management, noxious weed reduction, trail work and cleanup in campgrounds.

"They help us out a tremendous

amount," Wenzel said.

The partnership has been successful in the past. The members do a lot of labor-intensive activity and they are really motivated to work.

"We've built a very strong working foundation," Wenzel said. "They definitely do a great deal for our program."

AmeriCorps is a national group that does service programs. The NCCC is a 10-month residential program. Members spend one month in training and nine months in service. NCCC includes both men and women between the ages of 18 and 24. Denver is one of five campuses located across the country.

According to Kevin Rumery, AmeriCorps spokesperson, the Forest Service offers great experience to the AmeriCorps members and the Forest Service gets firefighters. There are only three teams out of the Denver campus that are dedicated to a single sponsor and those are for the Forest Service as dedicated wildland firefighter.

AmeriCorps firefighters meet all the qualifications for a wildland firefighter; however, they do not get paid the same as Forest Service fire-

fighters.

"Unlike other firefighters in the region, they don't get paid when they go out," Rumery said.

AmeriCorps members are on a stipend system and receive an education award of \$4,725 at the end of the service. The Forest Service provides the training and supplies needed. The members are excited to do the work no matter what the financial rewards are. Rumery said they are "really good kids," and he is proud of the work they do and the dedication they have.



Last year's AmeriCorps crew worked throughout the summer on a variety of projects and fires. Crew members serve for one year; however, two team leaders are returning this year. This year's crew will consist of 30 members, an increase from last year.

Forest Service gearing up for fire season, support other incidents

It is May and we are headed back into fire season. Our additional staff is already here or will be in place before the month is over. So far our moisture conditions are normal, but as we all know it won't undue the effects of the past few years of drought and the potential for a higher than normal fire danger along the Front Range remains. We need everyone to help us by being careful with every campfire, cigarette and vehicle you use while enjoying the Forests and Grasslands.

Even though the fire season is just starting our Incident Management personnel and Fort Collins Interagency Wildfire Dispatch Center have been busy this winter supporting the Columbia Shuttle Recovery efforts and the Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) control operations.

The Columbia Shuttle Recovery effort was supported by the Northern Colorado Crew (with members from the Forest Service, Larimer County Emergency Services and Ameri-

Corps), two Incident Information Officers, a helicopter and crew, Receiving and Distribution Managers, and Security Manager.

The END control was supported through specialized coordination center to supply the incident its staffing and resource needs as well as provide training in the use of the Incident Command System to Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS).



END Coordination Center in Fort Collins.

Hot Topics Con't

HR employee introduces new programs



Paul Poppett worked for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, but recently returned to work for the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

Paul Poppett is a human resource assistant, but his talents far exceed human resources. Recently, Paul has presented a money-saving technology to the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the Forest Service for consideration of implementation.

The technology allows local offices to print Notice of Personnel Actions and Notice of Leave Data forms, when previously they were printed at the National Finance Center in Washington, D.C. This allows for more timely records, as well as cost savings. The Forest Service savings could be over \$4 million per year.

Paul first set up the procedure

for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, then helped the Washington Office (WO) do the same. The procedure will be rolled out Forest Service-wide by June 2003. He is also writing the instructions for the procedure that the WO will be sending out for all national forests to use.

Paul additionally created a Leave Audit Calculator, aimed at assisting timekeepers. His program has items such as filling in and producing payroll documents. He was asked to make some modifications, and then it will be made available for anyone in the Forest Service who wishes to use it.

Sugarloaf Project getting started, part of FRFTP

The Boulder Ranger District of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland is considering the utilization of a variety of vegetation management activities to help reduce fuels in the Sugarloaf area west of Boulder. The Sugarloaf Fuel Reduction Project is part of the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) that is being implemented in part as a response to the wildfires of 2002.

A variety of fuels management activities are being proposed to reduce the risk of large crown fires and the potential loss of human life, property and

forest lands. Activities would occur over a number of years, using a variety of tools, including mechanical thinning and prescribed fire.

The Sugarloaf proposal calls for 4600 acres to be treated by mechanical means to encourage the growth of Aspen, to enhance meadows and to create fire breaks. Additionally, about 1200 acres would be treated with prescribed fire, slash burns and the creation of shaded fuel breaks.

The project area is located just west of the city of Boulder and the Peak-to-Peak Scenic Byway defines its western boundary. There are about

15187 National Forest System acres along with 11584 non-Forest System acres in the treatment area. Approximately 43% of the area is in privately owned property.

While the Sugarloaf Fuel Reduction Project is still in the beginning stages of development, it could begin as early as this summer. Two public meetings have been conducted to help identify important environmental, social and geographical issues, and solicited public comment from area residents and other interested parties as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Changing Places... Changing Faces

New Building Continues Development

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland's (ARP) new building planned for Fort Collins has encountered some changes over the past few months; although, the location on the Natural Resource Research Center (NRRC) campus on Centre Drive remains the same.

The building will no longer contain the two Washington Office detached units as previously planned, but will still include the ARP Supervisor's Office and the Canyon Lakes

Ranger District offices.

With the change in the Washington detached units, new building sketches were developed and have been finalized. They are currently being sent out for companies to submit bids. We expect to have a final offer in mid-May.

The new building is part of a continuing effort to provide more efficient service to the communities the ARP serves, by bringing all the ARP employees in Fort Collins together under one roof.

New Heritage employees added, along with others

Many new faces have been added to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) staff since the previous newsletter was sent. Many have also been promoted or switched positions, enhancing the organization and bringing with them new ideas and enthusiasm.

The Heritage Resource Group is one area that has seen recent change, with two new SCEPs (Student Career Experience Program). One of these is Perry Nolan, who started as a seasonal employee in 1999 as an archaeologist on the ARP. The last two years, Perry had a Not To Exceed (NTE) appointment, which is a position that lasts for a set amount of time, for the ARP as an archaeologist. He is now a graduate student at CSU for remote sensing and geographic positioning systems. His new position is as an ARP archaeologist SCEP.

Paul Alford is another new face in the Heritage Group. Paul received his anthropology degree from the University of Colorado in 1998, while working at the Boggsville Historic Site of the Santa Fe Trail in Colorado. Paul started working for the Forest Service in 2002 as a South Zone archaeologist SCEP. He is pursuing his master's degree in archaeology from the University of Leicester.

Nicole Branton and Sue Struthers complete the Heritage group. Nicole has been on the forest since October 2001. Sue is the Heritage Program Manager.

Along with the multiple new faces of the Heritage Resource Group and others around the ARP, seasonal employees will also add many benefits and start work around the beginning of May. The full list of new ARP employees and promotions is extensive, just as the benefits these employees bring are.

In Memory...

The Wildland Fire Community lost one of its finest contributors on February 27, 2003 when Paul Gleason passed away. Paul worked on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland from 1992 to 1999, first as the Fire Management Officer on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District and later as the Fire Ecologist for the Forest.

His major contributions were during the Forest Plan Revision process, developing the ground work for completing fire management on a landscape scale. He also developed a chainsaw certification process for the Forest to improve the skills and ensure the safety of sawyers. Paul was an advocate of fire safety and developing strong fire skills. One of Paul's most noted contribution was the development of the Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes and Safety Zones (LCES) training program whose concepts encompasses all the aspects of the 10 Standard Firefighting Orders and the 18 Situations that Shout Watch Out.

A scholarship fund has been established at Colorado State University for students of wildland fire. Contributions can be sent to: CSU Foundation, Paul Gleason Wildland Fire Scholarship, PO Box 1870, Fort Collins, CO 80522.



Paul Gleason
January 11, 1946 - February 27, 2003

Forest Service Highlights

B.J. Duffy awarded Land Manager of the Year

B.J. Duffy, computer assistant on the Sulphur Ranger District, was awarded Land Manager of the Year from the Headwaters Trail Alliance for 2002 because of her dedication as the Forest Service Coordinator for the National Public Lands Day (NPLD) over the past few years.

Although NPLD lasts only one day, the planning for the event takes months of preparation. The Headwa-

ters Trail Alliance (HTA), a non-profit organization whose mission in partnership with other agencies and organizations is to preserve, protect, build and maintain trails in Grand County, recognized B.J.'s hard work and dedication to NPLD.

She has helped coordinate NPLD the last eight years. She is the site coordinator, which involves bringing the communities together and making ar-

rangements for resources and venues. She works closely with HTA as a major partner.

B.J. was very surprised that HTA gave her the award. She just enjoys getting the opportunity to get out and meet the people who enjoy the land and want to get involved.

"I don't see myself as a land manager," B.J. said. "I just help where I'm needed."

Volunteer Spotlights

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers support district

The Canyon Lakes Ranger District earned recognition as first in recreation-volunteer hours in the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). This is greatly due to the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (PWV) group.

This nonprofit organization was created in 1996 to help the district manage the public use of wilderness and backcountry areas. There are currently 170 volunteers dedicated to PWV, with previous members leaving and new faces joining annually.

The number of visitors to wilderness areas has been increasing steadily, along with the popularity of backpacking, hiking and bird watching. These increases have created a need for wilderness education and support that the PWV supplies.

Volunteers commit at least six days each summer to riding “with a purpose” or hiking in the wilderness areas on the district. They urge visitors to comply with wilderness regulation and the “leave no trace” practices. Other messages they deliver are fire responsibility and dog leash requirements.

Volunteers have a variety of experience with the forest and dedicate their time for a variety of reasons. They are outdoors people, who use the trails and want to help resources.

Linda Knowlton, PWV, worked for the USFS for 20 years and wanted to continue contributing. She knew wilderness rangers and said she use to think to herself, “that has to be one of the best jobs.”

PWV has contacted more than 45,800 wilderness and backcountry users since 1996. Volunteers put in over 14,000 hours a year, training and support included.

Another volunteer adding to those hours is the PWV Chair John Cochenour. He and his wife started with PWV

as an opportunity to get out and share what they enjoyed. The volunteers work together and support one another.

“We have become a lot like a family,” John said.

Not only do volunteers patrol the wilderness and backcountry areas, but some also volunteer to help with other related projects on the district. The last two years 12 PWV members created a trail crew to remove fallen trees from local trails when funding was not available.

“A volunteer group is a hard job, but you can get a lot done,” according to John.

Volunteers wear uniform shirts, which gives a highly visible non-official Forest Service presence on the trails. They also carry two-way radios and are trained in various emergency situations they might encounter.

The goal of the group is simple, “to protect the region’s pristine wilderness and backcountry areas through public education.”

The district is grateful for all the support PWV provides to the land.



Delores Linnik, Tom Linnik, James Johnson and Bill Dold do some trail work with the PWV.

Safety volunteer earns award

Nancy Griffin received a certificate of appreciation for her commitment to both the Medicine Bow and Routt National Forests (MBR) and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) safety programs from February 2002 to February 2003.

She has dedicated over 200 hours in a 12-month period. In this time, she developed a “Volunteer/Host Handbook” for use on both the ARP and MBR, logged all safety and health meetings on both units, filed all safety meeting attendance sheets, and filed

safety correspondence and publicity items. She has developed and maintains databases of this information for easy access. She also helped Jeanette Early, previous safety manager, with seasonal orientations, setting up classes and copying course materials.

Nancy came to the Forest Service through her friendship with Jeanette. Jeanette knew that Nancy wanted to volunteer somewhere and Nancy thought that the Forest Service was a “neat organization” and was interested in getting involved.

“I like the idea of helping people,” Nancy said.

She feels she has learned a lot about safety in the last year and enjoys looking at information and determining what could be useful to employees. She also likes the opportunity to keep individuals safe. She realizes that accidents happen, but she would like for both the ARP and MBR to get to a zero number for safety.

Nancy also spends her time as a commercial hot air balloon pilot and board member of the Balloon Federation of America.

Clear Creek volunteer's return appreciated

Ed McQuiston has dedicated himself to the Clear Creek Ranger District (CCRD) for over eight years, accumulating just over three thousand hours at the visitor center.

Ed started volunteering at the visitor center as an assistant in the spring of 1995. He was very active in the outdoors, which provided him a true credibility when answering visitors' questions.

After volunteering for two years, he was hired as a seasonal employee. He required little training and was able to train other seasonal employees with all of his knowledge of the district. This same year, Ed had a medical emergency and had to take an extended leave of absence and have a great deal of rehabilitation. He decided he needed to resign his employment following this; however, he did not stay gone for too long. Ed still felt a special bond with the Clear Creek employees, the area it represents and the public it serves. He decided to return again as a volunteer.

After his cardiac arrest, he had to relearn just about everything. He could not even find Idaho Springs on a map, but everyone was very patient and gave him reassurance that he could learn it again.

"It is amazing how fast it comes back," Ed said.

Ed volunteers anywhere between 16 to 30 hours a week in the visitors' center, including some weekends. This way it gives employees a break on the weekends. He said he enjoys volunteering because it gives him something to do and he gets to set his own hours. He also feels he owes the Forest Service for all the support they have given him.

"The Forest Service has always been good to me and especially my wife," Ed said.

Since Ed's return, he has answered numerous visitor questions and got to return to his 4-wheel drive passion by working with Todd Hess, information specialist, to update the Clear Creek 4-wheel drive handout. Ed is really proud

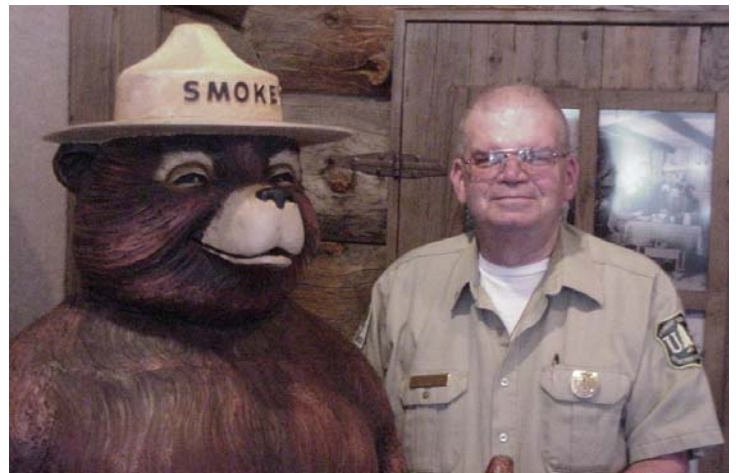
of the work the two of them did on this project.

According to Dan Lovato, Clear Creek District Ranger, Ed's knowledge of the area is immeasurable and his volunteer hours are worth an estimated \$30,000.

"Ed McQuiston is more than just a volunteer; he's a member of the Clear Creek Ranger District family," Lovato said.

Ed and his wife Isobel agree that it is much like being a part of family. They also stay very busy with other activities in their retired life. Not only does Ed volunteer for the CCRD, but the two of them also volunteer for the Christian Outreach Program and the Evergreen Animal Protective League. They have also been key in getting emergency response organizations to carry Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to help other cardiac arrest victims.

"We pay our civic dues," Isobel said.



Ed stands with Smoky at the Clear Creek Ranger District's Visitors' Center in Idaho Springs.

Stakeholder/partners Highlights

ARP Foundation started

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) Foundation, a Colorado nonprofit organization, was formed on April 24, 2003, to support the forests and grassland.

Several stakeholders wanted to get involved in the management of public lands, as well as foster volunteer involvement and raise funds to support ARP programs. They felt a foundation could help increase this involvement.

Members of the group include individuals from communities around the ARP. They have developed articles of

incorporation and bylaws for the Foundation. They have been deemed legally appropriate by the Forest Service and an independent lawyer.

The purpose of the Foundation is to support and assist the ARP and reflects the deep attachment individuals feel for the forests and grassland. The Foundation is also aimed at assisting the Forest Service in achieving goals, particularly the education of Forests' visitors and the preservation of its special places.

The Foundation is exclusively for educational, charitable and scientific

purposes. It will be managed by nine to 15 directors, including one non-voting Forest Service member. Howard Alden was selected as chairman and Chuck Bell as Secretary/Treasurer. Jim Bedwell, Forest Supervisor, is the non-voting member.

The Foundation hopes to benefit the forests and grassland, as well as the publics who enjoy the land.

Any questions about the foundation should be directed to Chuck Bell at 970-498-8791, bellbird@jymis.com, or Howard Alden at 970-482-983, hald22234@aol.com.

Forest Service Highlights

OHV Crew Resides on Sulphur Ranger District

The Sulphur Ranger District's (SRD) "Statewide Off Highway Vehicle Crew" (OHV) is the only crew of its kind in the Rocky Mountain Region and one of only a few in the nation. The crew consists of a three-person team of expert trail riders, who travel throughout Colorado performing vital trail maintenance.

The crew works on public lands managed by multiple agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, state forests, state parks and the US Forest Service (USFS). They ride a couple thousand miles of trails annually performing reconnaissance, inventory, Global Positioning System mapping, trail clearing and trail maintenance.

The crew provides expertise, supervision and volunteer coordination. The crew performs work and supervision for



Jeremie Livingston, Monte Lutterman and Andrew Mcelwee were the three OHV Trail Crew last season.

National Public Lands Day on the SRD, work enduro events and instruct at the annual State OHV workshop.

The program is administered by the USFS and the SRD. Crewmembers are Jeremie Livingston, crew supervisor; Monte Lutterman; and Mike Stricklin, and are USFS employees. The program is 100 percent funded by the State of Colorado with a grant generated from the OHV registration program. The district is allocated funds for operation based on submission of an annual operating plan. As the program manager, Miles Miller oversees project selection, scheduling and the budget.

In March of each year a request letter is sent out, which explains the program and how it works. The criteria for submitting a request for the crew is that the project must benefit OHV recreation. The crew is available to any requesting unit free of charge; the only requirement is the host unit must provide lodging with cooking and shower facilities. Venues each season are determined on the project merit with those leveraging crew time and benefiting OHV recreation the most ranking highest. The crew stays very busy.

Because of extended travel time and distances, the crew works back-to-back four 10-hour days with a six-day break between each venue. They begin early season operations the first week in April and leave for their first venue the first week in May. Operations wind down in the middle of November, averaging 14 venues per season.

The crew stresses safety, as well as encouraging those on the trail to respect other users. They enjoy projects where they clear trails that would otherwise be closed.

"We do something that makes a big difference," Monte, a four-year member of the crew, said.

Points of View—During a Drought

Rafting

The challenges facing river rafting outfitters and Forest Service managers in providing high quality recreational experiences for the general public are considerable under normal circumstances, and more so in drought conditions. With a history of working together, I appreciate being able to share my views in the Forest to Grassland newsletter.

A major effect of the drought for the 2002 season was a drop in commercial rafting activity of 25%, much of which can be attributed to the public's perception of fire danger in response to media coverage. The effects on day to day operations require communication, cooperation and flexibility between Forest Service managers and river outfit-

ters.

Some regulations associated with an outfitter's operating plan, such as the timing of daytime launch windows and the need to be off the river by a certain time at day's end are based on normal river flows. In low water years a specific trip can take twice the amount of time or more to complete because of slow water and getting stuck on rocks. Slower trips throw the schedule off considerably. Multiply slow trips by the number of outfitters (5) and the number of launch windows in a day (30+) and you can see the near impossibility of being at the right place at the right time. Flexibility in enforcing these schedules in drought years can go a long way to maintaining congeniality in the partnership goals of providers and

managers on Forest Service lands.

Low water eliminates the ability to run certain sections of the river during a drought year. We're not currently penalized for non-use. The issue could come up though, and, in my opinion, outfitters should not be penalized for non-use in drought circumstances. Flexibility in interpretation of the spirit versus the letter of the operating plan is important.

Low water also forces more private and commercial activity into fewer miles of river.

This increases the potential for user conflicts among private boaters, commercial boaters and anglers. The Forest Service can help minimize user conflicts by being flexible in reallocating their limited resources and person-

nel to activities such as proper signage for parking and unloading zones and by educating private boaters and anglers on the concept of multiple-use which includes commercial activity. Communication, cooperation and flexibility are still the best tools for outfitters and forest service managers to use in providing high quality commercial recreational activities.

Over many years of talking to outfitters around the country I realize that in the Canyon Lakes District, outfitters and the public are fortunate to have a progressive and responsive partner in providing recreational opportunities for diverse public needs. In a future article, I hope to do a point of view on a high water year!

♦ **Patrick Legel, A Wanderlust Adventure Rafting Company**

Fly Fishing

While most of the state's recreation businesses have been hurt by the drought, the effect has been smaller for some, such as St. Peter's Fly Shop in Fort Collins. According to Chris Schrantz, store manager, the 12-year-old fly shop has weathered the situation better because it's an established business with a large residential customer base.

But, like many businesses that rely on tourist dollars, the fly shop's guide service has been hurt by the drought. In fact, Schrantz said he knew of recreation businesses in destination areas, such as the Medicine Bow Forest, that have seen a 75 to 80 percent drop in business because of the drought.

Schrantz believes recreation businesses that rely heavily on non-local customer bases are most vulnerable to media coverage, which often paints an incomplete picture of the drought. He hopes that the Forest Service will take a more active role in informing residents about the state of Colorado's natural areas.

Schrantz also sees hope in the state's recent snows and spring rains. "It's like you went to Las Vegas with \$200 to gamble, and you've lost \$175. But then the deck is shuffled, and you

see a whole new picture," he said.

Skiing and Horseback Riding

The ongoing drought in Grand County has affected national forest stakeholders, some more severely than others.

In east Grand County, the Arapaho National Forest's largest stakeholder, Winter Park Resort, has emerged from the drought relatively unscathed.

Joan Christensen, resort spokeswoman said that both winter and summer business had not been affected by the drought in 2002-03.

Despite only a 240-inch snow year in the 2001-2002 ski season, the resort still had 975,000 skiers hit the slopes.

"We were down 120 inches from the previous year, but only lost 3,000 skiers," Christensen said.

Summer 2002 was a good season because the low snowfall allowed an earlier than normal opening of the resort's mountain bike trails.

Christensen said the summer was also good because there were no wildfires in the area. She said the resort benefited from tourists who came to Colorado intending to recreate somewhere else in the state, but ended up being diverted to Winter Park because of fires elsewhere. On the other hand, she said some people skipped Colorado altogether because of the fires.

She said the resort was able to offer all of its summer activities, including a couple of outdoor music festivals.

"Most people coming here commented on how green the forest really was last summer," Christensen said.

She said that even though it was a very dry summer last year, the resort still had enough water for snowmaking last fall. The resort did not even have to use its full snowmaking water allotment because of heavy snow in October and November.

With 400-plus inches of snow during the past winter, Christensen said the upcoming summer was also shaping up very well — though the mountain bike trails probably will open later than last year.

Also in east Grand County, Don

Neumann, a special use permit holder on the national forest, said the drought — and the related fires — did hurt some of his business last summer.

He said his horseback riding business — which usually does well in a dry summer — was hurt by the forest fires in other parts of the state

Neumann said the Hayman Fire kept many Front Range tourists at home, although his destination tourist business was not affected. Overall, his summer business was down 10 to 15 percent because of the fires.

Looking further back, Neumann said he lost the beginning and end of his 2001-2002 snowmobiling season because of the drought.

He said there was no significant snow until after Thanksgiving in 2001, keeping riders off the trails until December. The season also ended a few weeks early as the limited snow pack melted fast, leaving his low elevation trailhead high and dry. He even had to drive snowmobilers to the snow during his final week of operation in 2002.

The winter of 2002-2003 was much better for Neumann's Grand Adventures, as the snow fell early and often, getting riders on the trails from early in November until late in April.

Points of View (POV) Guidelines:

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 for the ARP. Contributions will only be accepted if the contributors provide their name, affiliation (if any), phone number and or e-mail address so the POV board may contact them about their submission.

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:
Arapaho & Roosevelt NF & Pawnee NG.
240 West Prospect Street
Fort Collins, CO 80526
or e-mail: tjwilliams@fs.fed.us.**

The non-Forest Service, POV board will ensure items submitted meet guidelines for the section, will edit for grammar and spelling, and work with the person (s) submitting articles if the articles need to be shortened.

Spotlights

Ranger District Spotlights

- ◆ The Pawnee National Grassland is hosting the annual meeting of National Grassland Managers. Managers from America's 20 National Grasslands will meet to discuss policy and issues, May 13 through May 15, 2003. For more information contact Mary Ann Chambers at 970-498-1280 or Faye Piper at 970- 346-5002
- ◆ The Sulphur Ranger District (SRD) participated in Grand County's first "Christmas Bird Count" on January 4, 2003. It was coordinated by two SRD employees, Doreen Sumerlin and Steve King. It was part of a nationwide attempt to count the country's winter bird population. The event is conducted by the Audubon Society and has been around for over 100 years. This year was a trial for Grand County, but next year's tallies will be reported. Thirty-eight volunteers took part and counted 1100 individual birds and 31 species, including three bald eagles.
- ◆ The Canyon Lakes Ranger District and ARP Supervisor's Office phone numbers were left out of the last Fort Collins phone book. For those trying to contact the Canyon Lakes Ranger District, the visitor information number is 970-498-2770. The Supervisor's Office number is 970-498-1100.
- ◆ Mount Evans on the Clear Creek Ranger District (CCRD) and Colorado Highway 5 will be opening mid to late May after the road is cleared by the Colorado Department of Transportation. The recreation fee demo is \$10; however, if you have any of the Golden Passports, they may be used for access. The Passports can be purchased at the district and 80% of the revenue will stay at CCRD.

Did you know?

- ◆ Golden Passports are now honored at all Forest Service Entrance Fee Sites. This includes Golden, Golden Age and Golden Access Passports.
- ◆ Eighty percent of the funds generated from the Passport sales is retained at the local office where it was sold. The other 20% goes to a centralized sales pooled fund to be redistributed based on each region's fee demo receipts, visitation and percentage of deferred maintenance.
- ◆ We would be happy to sell you a pass at any of our Ranger District Offices or Fee Demo sites and put your money into improving your recreation experiences on the ARP. . .



Event Spotlights



Employees from all five districts and the Supervisor's Office attended a Length of Service Award February 13, 2003, at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver. Employees were recognized for their years of dedication to the Forest Service and entertainment was provided by the Fiddlin' Foresters, a musical conservation education group.



The Sulphur Ranger District hosted a winter wildlife tracking workshop January 7-8 in Grand Lake. Dr. James Halfpenny, a famous Yellowstone tracker, instructed the class. He is known for finding Lynx in the Vail area. There were 30 participants from the Forest Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. There was a specific focus on Lynx, wolverine and other more common wildlife in the area. The first day was classroom instruction, followed by a day out in the field.

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