



# Forests to Grassland

... and everything in between

The Arapaho and Roosevelt NF's and Pawnee National Grassland

Volume 1, Issue 3, Summer/Fall 2003

Website: [www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/)

E-mail: [tjwilliams@fs.fed.us](mailto:tjwilliams@fs.fed.us)

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Our days of summer are almost at an end and you know what that means. The third edition of the *Forests to Grassland* newsletter is here! We have had a very busy field season and have made quite a few accomplishments, as you will see highlighted throughout this issue. Although our fire season has been relatively quiet and free of large fires so far, we have supported 90 incidents nation-wide in addition to our local efforts. More about this on page 2. Additionally we have made good progress both in implement-

## A message from the Forest Supervisor

ing fuel treatment projects and making sure we have an array of projects ready for implementation this winter and next spring and summer. This is an on-going dedicated effort to make a difference in forest health, as well as reducing our risk from catastrophic wildfire. We have expanded and improved the ways the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership is working together. See page 2 for details.

Another partnership is the ARP Foundation that has been developed by stakeholders such as yourselves to create opportu-

nities for continued support of the ARP. See page 8.

We hope you enjoy this entire issue and reading about all the contributions our partners and volunteers have made this summer. If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, see the National Public Lands Day article on page 6.

Please enjoy the fall colors and remember we value your contributions to this newsletter. Help us continue the dialog.

Jim Bedwell,  
Forest Supervisor

Editor, *Forests to Grassland*

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

240 West Prospect Street

Fort Collins, Colorado 80526



## Hot Topics

# Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership and 2003 Fire Season

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) has continued to gain momentum throughout the spring and summer months. In fact, we recently obtained a commitment from the USFS Rocky Mountain Region for a high level of funding for at least the next three years.

New partners have also joined the FRFTP, including the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. These two agencies joined the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP), Pike National Forest, Rocky Mountain Research Station, and local

government agencies in continuing fuel projects across boundaries along the Front Range of Colorado.

To help coordinate the integration of these various agencies,

Dave Hessel with the CSFS has been appointed Integration Coordinator. Dave will work with counties, the CSFS, and us to identify landscape-scale projects to reduce hazardous fuels and restore ecosystems across ownership boundaries.

Much has already been accomplished in the first year of the partnership with the additional funding, including about 3,000 acres of treatment already in 2003 on the ARP, with the potential for additional acres this fall. Future planning and implementation on the ARP includes 7,000 acres planned for 2004. This all compares with the approximately 1,500 ARP acres treated in 2002. Many of the future plans have been and will continue to be identified with extensive participation from local governments and public involvement and stress integrated resource solutions. Continuing participation is necessary for continued support and progress of the FRFTP.

For a copy of the strategy, projects, newsletters and other FRFTP-related information, please refer to the Rocky Mountain Area Interagency Wildland Fire Communications Group's website at [www.rockymountainwildlandfire.info](http://www.rockymountainwildlandfire.info).



Work done at the 7 Mile project on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District.

### 2003 Fire Season

The 2003 fire season has been relatively calm for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) as compared to last year. Most of the fires have been suppressed on initial attack and no incident management teams have been brought in to manage any of the fires.

ARP employees did not sit idly by as other forests burned though. The Ft. Collins Interagency Wildfire Dispatch (FCIWD) supported 90 incidents and sent 299 individuals as overhead support, 22 engines, 20 crews and 48 aircraft to support internal and external incidents. Many traveled to other parts of the country and served other agencies locally, such as Boulder and Larimer Counties.

Fire restrictions were put into place when vegetation started to dry out, increasing the fire danger. Restrictions were implemented on July 21 and were lifted on Sept. 2. The restrictions limited campfires to developed campsites and also limited smoking.

#### ARP 2003 Fire Season Stats

| Cause      | Number | Acres Burned |
|------------|--------|--------------|
| Human      | 12     | 1 acre       |
| Lightning  | 37     | 33 acres     |
| Total      | 49     | 34 acres     |
| FCIWD Area | 71     | 190 acres    |

## 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 **November 25, 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  
 Fort Collins, CO 80526  
[tjwilliams@fs.fed.us](mailto:tjwilliams@fs.fed.us)

## Larimer County Wildland Fire Program

Since 1969, the Larimer County Wildland Fire Crew and training program have been preparing firefighters to battle wildland fires both locally and across the country. The program is a part of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Unit.

Larimer County's training program is known throughout the west and stresses both safety and the importance of every individual firefighter. Usually between 90 and 120 students participate each year. This year there were about 150 individuals trained, following a 208-person enrollment in 2002.

Often, wildland firefighters trained in this program go on to work with various local and federal agencies, including the US Forest Service. Currently there are 12 Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) firefighters who started with Larimer County. In fact, the ARP sends personnel to the County's training program every year.

"The staff there has a lot of experience and put on a really good introduction to wildland fire training program," Sonya Whitesell, Canyon Lakes Ranger District fire prevention officer, said.

There is a great deal of teamwork between the Larimer County Wildland Fire Program and the ARP. ARP fire personnel assist in the teaching of the course and also participate in the field days. The two agencies often work on fires together, particularly in the wildland-urban interface.

"The cooperation between Larimer County and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests is something that has taken some time and effort to make it a

successful operation," David Mosier, Larimer Emergency Services, said.

There are many benefits to the co-operation, including the experience the two agencies can share.

"Each agency exposes you to new ideas and new ways of doing things," Whitesell said. "This helps to expand the firefighters experience."

The two agencies work with the principle of "closest resource availability." This means that no matter what jurisdiction a fire is in, the closest resource will respond to it. This helps to keep the incident smaller and more controlled, as well as saving time in the size-up process.

The Larimer County wildland fire crew is committed to serving the residents of Larimer County to the best of their ability when faced with wildland fires. Annually, the crew responds to an estimated 60 calls and travels to areas such as Idaho, Arizona and California. Larimer County firefighters also participate in the northern Colorado Type II Interagency Crew. They have 145 firefighters on their on-call list, ready to respond to wildfires. The on-call list offers new firefighters the opportunity to gain experience without having to commit to a full season.

In order to be a part of the Larimer County Wildland Fire Crew, an individual must be 18 years of age; take a week-long course that includes basic wildland firefighting, basic wildland fire behavior, and two field days; and pass a physical fitness test.

For more information about the Larimer County Wildland Fire Crew, please call 970-498-5302.

## Fire Training in Grand County

Sulphur Ranger District Fire Management staff sponsored and assisted with Basic Wildland Firefighter training this spring in Grand County. The staff helped instruct during a S-130/190 firefighter course presented by East Grand Fire Protection District in late April. District staff then coordinated and held a S-130/190 course in early June.

The June session included attendees from US Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, the National Park System and Grand Lake and Bond/McCoy Fire Protection Districts. The Boulder Ranger District fire staff also assisted in the training.

Approximately 45 fire fighters were trained during these two sessions. A field day held on June 7 included the two classes and had trainees demonstrate fireline construction, water use, fire shelter deployment and fire size-up skills. A small live fire drill gave them a taste of smoke during an initial attack scenario.

An interagency fire refresher was held June 11, with a jog around a hillside during fire shelter deployment practice. Thanks to the loan of ventilation fans from the Grand Lake Fire Department, the attendees had a wind assist during the deployment.

The district staff also assisted several other interagency trainings during the winter months, including Crew Boss, Engine Boss and Intermediate Fire Behavior (S-290).

## Israeli foresters visit the ARP

Three Israeli foresters from the Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael Jewish National Fund visited the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) on August 21-22.

Two of the visitors, Chanoch Zoref and Ishai Soker, are in the United States for the Forest and Natural Resources Seminar at Colorado State University, and the third, Adi Naali, is in Colorado to continue his education at Colorado State University.

Their visit to the ARP included a trip to Stringtown, a fuels reduction project on the Canyon Lakes Ranger Dis-

trict; meeting with forest budget and contracting officers; traveling to Mount Evans Recreation Fee Demonstration Area on the Clear Creek Ranger District; meeting with fire and planning personnel from the Boulder Ranger District; and was concluded with a tour of the Jeffco Airtanker Base.

The three shared land management challenges they face and discussed how ARP land managers handle similar issues, such as wildland urban interface, recreation access, budgeting and forest fires.

There is approximately 600,000 acres of forest land in Israel and is managed as eleven separate forests.

## Hot Topics Con't

### Pop-up survey soon to come to the ARP website

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) website has been selected as one of four forests in the five state US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region (Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, South Dakota and Nebraska) to randomly offer users the opportunity to fill out a customer satisfaction survey.

The surveys will be used on a national basis to improve the service offered by our forest websites.

If you are randomly selected by the computer when leaving the ARP website, a pop-up window will lead to the survey. The survey uses a temporary "cookie" and does not collect any personal or identifying information about you. We hope you will take the time to complete the survey and help us understand how to serve you better.

### WWW—changes are coming

Have you ever wished you could find information easier on our website? Are there types of information other forests offer that you wish we did? Our website will be getting a new look and feel in September and October.

The new design is national in scope and should look and feel the same no matter what forest website you are visiting. The template was designed to make information easier to find and provide better customer service, as well as improve accessibility. The main pages of our website will be converted to the new template by the end of September. The conversion of the entire site should be completed by the end of October. We look forward to offering you more complete and up-to-date forest and grassland information on the new site.

## Changes at Lefthand OHV area

The Boulder Ranger District (BRD) of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland has implemented a special order that restricts the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) in a severely damaged area of Lefthand Canyon. For years users have been driving in a free-for-all manner, creating multiple routes of their own. What was once a small meadow in a ponderosa pine forest has become a dust or mud "playground" for some users. The special order limits travel to designated routes in order to begin a restoration project.

Although the total area of the order is only 14.25 acres, it allows for restoration of 3.6 miles of illegally created trails. In the 1980s, efforts to close routes and restore resource damage failed due to infractions by OHVs and minimal US Forest Service (USFS) presence. This time, to ensure compliance by users and the success of restoration efforts, a combination of signage, barriers and increased law enforcement are integral parts of the plan.

The funding for the project is primarily from a State OHV Trail Grant. The grant is administered by the Trail-ridge Runners club of Longmont, Colo-

rado. Support for the grant came from a wide variety of OHV clubs and organizations that were interested in promoting responsible OHV use and interested in keeping the Lefthand OHV area open.

In addition to the restoration project, the grant also funds user education efforts through USFS employee field presence, several new kiosks, route signage, maps and information.

The Lefthand OHV area is popular because of its easy access from the communities along the Front Range of Colorado and its mild winter conditions. Peak use of the area occurs in the spring when the weather is nice but many roads and trails in the high country are still snowed in.

Another attraction is the variety of terrain, ranging from intermediate to advanced challenges for all vehicles. The wide range of vehicles that regularly use the area include: mountain bikes, dirt bikes, trails bikes, ATVs and a variety of full-sized four-wheel drives. Users of the area include individuals of all ages.

Besides the resource damage, Lefthand Canyon has other problems. Vandalism of unattended vehicles, conflicts between OHVs and target shooters, and extensive trash buildup

at popular shooting locations are common. Also, all-night parties occur that include underage alcohol consumption, nighttime OHV use, fireworks, broken glass and trash, unattended campfires, and cutting of live trees. With this range of problems, most OHVs welcome the USFS presence. They want the area to be safe and they want to see the environmental damage repaired. They also want the irresponsible use of OHVs to stop, the behavior of a few can reflect poorly on the group as a whole.

The grant-funded project is only a small portion of the OHV area. However, it is the most heavily used and damaged portion. The education and restoration work being done there now ought to send a message to all users of the area that the USFS is interested in improving the recreational experience at Lefthand Canyon and that irresponsible users will have to change their ways.

Currently, the BRD is gathering data to use in future planning and administration of the area. This data already confirms the value of this recreational resource and the importance of current partnerships between the USFS and the recreational user community.

## Changing Places... Changing Faces

### Jeffco Tanker Base receives improvements

The Jeffco Airtanker Base's new facilities were completed this summer. The project was a result of the 1996 national airtanker base review that identified needed improvements for the airtanker bases nationwide and allocated special funding to complete these upgrades.

"It improved everything," Mark Michelsen, Jeffco Tanker Base Manager, said.

The base received a new 3,500 square foot operations and dispatch building, complete with a full kitchen, laundry

facility, workout room and a sound proof room for pilots to rest between shifts or while on standby. This is a vast improvement over the temporary trailer that was used as a ready room for pilots in years past.

Additionally, the base also has a new 1800 square foot heated warehouse. This allows them to work year-round maintaining their equipment and making sure everything is ready when needed to support aircraft on fires.

The sight has the capacity to mix 190,000 gallons of slurry at a time, which is enough for seventy-four and a half 2,555 gallon drops from an airtanker. Jeffco airtanker base supports all types of aircraft used on fires, from single engine airtankers and heavy airtankers to lead planes and helicopters.

This year activity at the tanker base has been quiet compared to past years. Currently, one DC 4 tanker is stationed at the base, ready to respond as needed. The total project cost was approximately one million dollars.



### PNG New Faces

A variety of new employees have joined the staff of the Pawnee National Grassland (PNG). These individuals bring with them a variety of experiences and new ideas to help continue the success of the PNG. Here is a brief introduction:

- **Felon Saurian** was born and raised in Denver, Colo. She came to Greeley from the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, where she worked as a student employee, to pursue a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies of Liberal Arts at the University of Northern Colorado. She now works as a student employee information receptionist at the PNG.
- **Faye Piper's** government service started in 1987 at the Corps of Engineers Resident Engineer's Office in Littleton, Colo. Since then, she has worked for many other federal agencies until she got a job at the Canyon Lakes Ranger District as a business management assistant and purchasing agent, where she worked for six years. In March, she began as the support services specialist at the PNG.
- **Annie McFarland** is a Colorado native and graduate of Colorado State University. She is glad to be back in this beautiful state. She moved here from Region 3 where she worked on the Cibolo National Forest as a fire information officer for one and a half years. Since March 2003 she has worked on the PNG as a visitor information specialist.
- **Beth Humphrey** moved to Colorado from Region 3 where she worked on the Coconino National Forest as a wildlife biologist for four and a half years. Beth fills the position of wildlife biologist for the PNG.

### Clear Creek Visitor's Center

The Clear Creek Ranger District in Idaho Springs, Colo., are enjoying the new and improved visitor's center.

Nearly eight years ago, the idea for the renovations started and now it has become a reality. The visitor center has received changes that will allow employees to serve more customers with greater efficiency and provides a safer environment for the information specialists.

The information desk was expanded and there was new carpet and additional work stations installed. There is also an attractive, updated design. The plan took the work of many district personnel and is a long-overdue addition to the district.



*The visitor's center is located at the Clear Creek District Office at 101 Chicago Creek Road in Idaho Springs, Colo. It is a highly visited center, just off of I-70.*

## Volunteer Spotlights

### Arrowhead Lodge Visitor Center

Located halfway up the Poudre portion of the Cache la Poudre/North Park Scenic and Historic Byway west of Fort Collins, Colo., Arrowhead is a reminder of days gone by. Now a US Forest Service (USFS) visitor center and interpretive site on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District, Arrowhead was once a bustling summer resort that offered rustic cabins, recreation, and some of the best fried chicken and pies around.

Due to its significance to the development of tourism of northern Colorado, in 1992 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It consists of 23 historically significant buildings on 13 acres of land. Today, the historic district is one of only two remaining intact representations of the resort industry as it developed in the Cache la Poudre Canyon.

The main lodge was constructed between 1931-33, with cabins and a recreation room added from 1933-40. A dining room was added to the lodge in 1948. With the lodge ready and decorated with skins, Native American rugs and woodcraft items, the resort opened for business in 1935. Electricity for lights was supplied by a generator and a wind charger. An icehouse stored 25 tons of ice cut from the Poudre River for summer use. Public showers and outhouses took care of the guests' personal needs, and cabins rented for \$2.75 a night- less if you brought your own sheets.

In 1984, Arrowhead was acquired by the USFS and first operated as a visitor center in 1990. Since then, the visitor center has opened for summer use, hosting between 4,000 and 6,000 visitors each summer from around the world. Some former lodge guests return, fondly reminiscing about their stays. The lodge no longer hosts overnight guests, but a self-guided interpretive walk is available.

Historical Arrowhead is just one of many reasons to visit the area. The canyon traverses every mountain ecosystem found in Colorado, from high plains to tundra just above 10,276-foot Cameron Pass, drawing visitors for wildlife and scenery viewing.

The Cache la Poudre Canyon also boasts Colorado's only Wild and Scenic River, attracting thousands of rafters, kayakers, fishermen, hikers and campers to its shores and trails each year.

Arrowhead is hosted by Pat and Terry McFee, Sheila Rosche, and Tom Cook. Each person volunteers 32 hours a week and all live near the lodge in RVs throughout the season. The McFee's are volunteering for the third year and all four volunteers will be back next season.

"We just love it," Sheila said. "We signed up for next

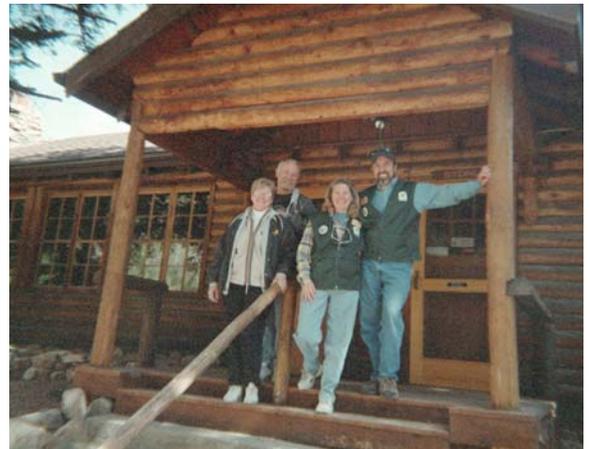
year too."

She had a hard time summing up all the reasons she enjoys the visitor's center, which included many previous lodge guests sharing stories and being able to provide unique information.

"I love visiting with people from all over the place," she said. "We can give them all kinds of information, information you can't always get from a map."

This information includes road closures, specific hiking recommendations regarding elevation and difficulty, wildlife viewing, fishing regulations, and much, much more.

The visitor center is open from Memorial Day to Labor day from 9 to 5. For more information contact the visitor center in Fort Collins at 970-498-2770.



*Pat and Terry McFee, Sheila Rosche, and Tom Cook all volunteer at Arrowhead.*

## NPLD: Preservation in action

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on September 20, is the backdrop for an array of volunteer work on the Arapaho National Forest on the Sulphur Ranger District (SRD), Rocky Mountain National Park and Pioneer Park all near Granby, Colo.

Registration at the Granby Middle School will kick off the day at 7 am with breakfast. Volunteers will then travel by bus to various project locations and start a variety of work having lunch at noon. A dinner and live band entertainment will wrap up the event from 5 to 9 pm.

Some volunteers will work at Pioneer Park doing boardwalk and trail construction, or on general trail maintenance and widening and water drainage on the East Shore Trail in Rocky Mountain National Park. Still others, including the

children's program coloring photos for an interpretive display, will help replace decking and repair a boardwalk at Williams Fork Reservoir on the SRD.

This is the ninth year the SRD has participated in NPLD. Last year over 200 local volunteers helped in an effort to refurbish and restore our nation's public lands. There is also local support for NPLD. Local sponsors include the US Forest Service, the National Park Service and Headwaters Trails Alliance. The event is also being financially supported by local organizations, businesses and individuals.

For more information or a volunteer packet, please contact BJ Duffy, SRD, at 970-887-4120, Headwaters Trails Alliance at 970-887-2058, or log on to the national website at [www.npld.com](http://www.npld.com).

## Forest Service Highlights

### ARP biologist receives award

Dennis Lowry, forest wildlife biologist, received a Rocky Mountain Region Wildlife Stewardship Career Achievement Award in May at the 2003 Regional Wildlife/Botany Workshop in Fort Collins. The award recognizes "his outstanding leadership, dedication and contributions to the Rocky Mountain Region's wildlife program."

His dedication to not only the Forests and Grassland, but also to the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region, has been greatly appreciated.

He has not only developed the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) wildlife program, but has also assisted Region by being a liaison to the fauna development team and serving on silvicultural certification panels.

His willingness to contribute and his leadership skills, as well as his technical expertise, have greatly benefited both the ARP and the Region.



### CCRD sponsors a children's fishing event

A children's Fishing Fest was held at Georgetown Lake on August 23 from 8:30 am to 1 pm for kids ages five to 14 to educate young people and interest them in fishing.

The event started in the early '90s and has continued on and off since that time. This is the fourth year the event has included hearing impaired children, teachers and interpreters.

Annually, this free event introduces 40-50 kids to fish, fishing, rod usage, fish food, water quality and more. Both hearing and deaf teachers worked with interpreters to provide an equal opportunity workshop for hearing and deaf children alike. Participants came from both the local communities and the Denver Metro area.

After children spent about an hour learning about fish and fish habitats, they were encouraged to go fishing with

their families. There was no license required, but children had to be accompanied by an adult. At the end of the fishing portion of the fishing fest, all the kids got prizes and the chance to meet Smokey Bear. The prizes were provided through donations from a variety of organizations, including Wal-Mart, Costco, Safeway and King Soopers.

The event is sponsored annually by the US Forest Service and is co-sponsored by Trout Unlimited, Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Town of Georgetown.

Each year the event hosts a variety of presentations. This year, Mi Hi Rafting is providing raft rides on the lake. Last year, this same local rafting company brought two rafts and volunteers to teach children about boat safety and a raptor display was used to teach kids about bald eagles and how they depend on lakes for survival.

### Fraser Experimental Forest Hispanic Camp

The Hispanic Natural Resources Career Camp is being held September 5 to 7, 2003, at the Fraser Experimental Forest in Fraser, Colo., on the Sulphur Ranger District of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP).

For the past 10 years, the Rocky Mountain Research Station of the US Forest Service (USFS) has sponsored the camp. This year employees from the ARP will participate. The Fraser Experimental Forest is a 23,000 acre forest outdoor laboratory used by the USFS.

Students, instructors and assistants will participate in a variety of

tasks including hands-on exercises, seminars and workshops in the following functional areas: map interpretation, birds and other wildlife, forestry, entomology, forest hydrology and water quality, fire ecology, and administration. Students get to use monitoring equipment and collect and process field data.

The camp introduces students to the diverse and rewarding career opportunities within the USDA Forest Service and provides a chance to make connections with professionals within those career fields. The benefit to the USFS is threefold, as it

- offers training and potential re-

cruitment of populations that are generally underrepresented within the agency,

- provides the students with a rewarding and diverse look at the agency, specifically regarding the future, and
- positively increases the success of the mission of the agency by introducing a pool of intelligent, talented and youthful individuals to the possibilities within the USFS.

If you would like to know more on what the camp is all about, please contact Mary McDonough at 970-498-1167.

## Stakeholder/partners Highlights

### 4-wheel drive club assists Boulder Ranger District

The Trailridge Runners 4WD Club of Longmont, Colo., is continuing to work with the Boulder Ranger District (BRD) in an Adopt-A-Road project agreement on the Gillespie Gulch 4WD road near Jamestown, Colo.

The club has a history of cooperation with the BRD. Over the years the Trailridge Runners 4WD club has had many projects that have helped protect the environment as well as public access to public lands. In September of 1996 the Trailridge Runners 4WD Club officially adopted the Gillespie Gulch 4WD road, FDR331 and the Walker Mountain 4WD road, FDR509, to the south of Jamestown.

The first few years were clean-up projects that removed trash from old campsites and broke up multiple fire rings, leaving only the best-placed rings for future use. In 2000, we placed two large informative signs in restoration areas near wetlands previously closed off to motorized and mechanized traffic. These signs were developed by the BRD to inform the public of the sensitivity of wetlands bordering the Walker Mountain road. In 2001, we began installing Carsonite signs with correct road numbers for the Gillespie Gulch and Walker Mountain 4WD roads. This helps inform the public about the correct roads to travel in the area, keeping the motorized traffic on Forest Service recreational roads.

In 2002, we undertook a buck and rail fencing project to close an old road that was used for a prescribed burn just south of Jamestown. The buck and rail closed off the lower

and upper sections of the old fire road, which had been administratively closed but was seeing traffic. After the closure, the Wildlands Restoration Volunteers re-seeded the old road bed.

Also in 2002, we hauled away an old trailer that had sat beside the Gillespie Gulch road for years. The trailer had been completely destroyed over the years. We cut up the roof section into smaller pieces and loaded them into a member's truck with other pieces of trash and parts from the trailer.

In 2003, we did more cleanup work in Owens Flat off of the Gillespie Gulch road and checked the condition of the buck and rail fences and Carsonite road number signs.

The Trailridge Runners 4WD Club will continue to work with the BRD in the future to protect the environment in and around Gillespie Gulch, as well as the public access to our public lands.

*Adam Mehlberg*, Trailridge Runners 4WD Club Secretary



*Volunteers load pieces of an old trailer they removed from Gillespie Gulch*

### ARP Foundation moves forward

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) Foundation has continued to develop and now has 15 members on the board of directors.

The Foundation is completing its chartering process and is organizing to identify key projects and partnership opportunities throughout 2003. A group of board members has also formed to develop communication and outreach strategies. The Colorado Secretary of State has accepted a set of Articles of Incorporation and the application for tax exemption has been submitted.

The mission of the Foundation is to support and assist the ARP. It reflects the deep attachment people feel for the forests and grassland by en-

gaging communities in the stewardship of these public lands. The Foundation will help facilitate and direct contributions and efforts toward the ARP's long-term projects and programs, including land protection, conservation, restoration, preservation, education and capital improvement programs.

The Foundation hopes to provide a vital role in convening interested communities and concentrating resources to help achieve accessible and sustainable national forests and grassland programs and services.

For more information about the Foundation, please contact either Howard Alden at 970-482-0983, hald22234@aol.com or Chuck Bell at 970-498-8791, bellbird@jymis.com.

#### **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 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.

## Points of View—Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership

### The Environmental Community

The Front Range Fuels Partnership is taking a relatively well-reasoned approach to treat priority areas in the short-term. Projects designed through NEPA processes that support integration of other resource values, adaptive management, community involvement and development of markets for small diameter material are on the right track. But, it is imperative that treatments continue to be scientifically- and ecologically-based in the long-term through collaboration with partners on the prioritization and design of treatments within and outside the wildland urban interface.

Landscape-scale planning can ensure that thinning and prescribed burning is consistent with the needs to conserve biodiversity and protect resources and community values, if applied within an adaptive management framework. Adaptive management is necessary to continually revise management goals, treatment strategies and land management policy through periodic multi-scale monitoring.

Care needs to be taken, especially in ecosystems with longer fire return intervals (e.g., spruce-fir, lodgepole) to ensure that treatments are consistent with natural fire processes and ecosystem structures. Thinning should be implemented on a case-by-case basis, and may not be ecologically appropriate in longer fire return interval systems, or where natural processes did not historically support frequent disturbance or low forest densities.

Decades of fire suppression policy, particularly in ecosystems with short fire return intervals, have essentially precluded in some places the ability to effectively take a hands-off approach to restoration. In some cases, thinning is necessary and appropriate to reduce uncharacteristic fuel conditions to the degree necessary to then subsequently restore natural fire processes. Where ecologically and socially appropriate, wildland fire use for resource benefit (i.e., a more "hands-off approach") could be implemented.

Fire prevention to protect community values, or where human-caused fires are not consistent with natural fire

ignition patterns, should go hand-in-hand with strategies to ensure that future rural development doesn't continue to hamper our ability to restore and maintain natural processes.

*Ayn Shlisky, Nature Conservancy*

### Homeowner

"It's dirty, dusty work, but it's good filthy fun." That's how Ron Moucka describes the work he and his wife, Bonnie, have done to reduce the fuels on their 3.5 acres of land in the Crystal Lakes development near Red Feather Lakes.

"We're in a stand of incredibly thick Lodgepole pine, probably 50 to 60 years old," says Ron. "In places, the ground is littered with fuel, and the trees are so thick you can't walk through." Still, their land is safer than it once was.

Since purchasing their land 5½ years ago, the Mouckas have been thinning their Lodgepole stand, increasing the chance that their weekend log home will survive a forest fire. And they're making it safer for firefighters to defend their property. In addition, the Mouckas now see more wildlife on their property, and snow falls to the ground instead of landing in the forest canopy and evaporating before it can be absorbed into the soil.

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) could help other property owners reduce the fuels on their land. But to succeed, the FRFTP must address barriers to participation. One barrier is "not knowing how" says Ron. Additionally, the work may be too strenuous for some older homeowners, and other homeowners may not have the necessary equipment, he says.

To remove these barriers, Ron suggests that the FRFTP work with homeowner associations to publicize and explain the program. The FRFTP could also provide labor for those who can't do the work. Additionally, it could sponsor a monthly fuel pickup day and provide large trucks to transport the fuel that homeowners drag to the road. Finally, Ron says the FRFTP should remember that property owners have varying degrees of involvement with their land, and, therefore, varying motivations to participate in fuel reduction

programs. Some live on their property year round, others come up on weekends, while still others live out of state and simply hold their land for investment purposes.

### Local Government

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) program is a great idea because it encourages collaborative partnerships in dealing with what are truly regional issues. The FRFTP looks at landscapes instead of jurisdictional lines. Yes, we all have our jurisdictional responsibilities but when looking at general forest health we have to look at the bigger picture.

The FRFTP program breakdowns political barriers by allowing a wide range of agencies and the public to come to the table to look at how best to treat forest fuels problems and issues.

Larimer County co-hosted an information-sharing forum earlier this year on this topic. The public that attended had specific interests and specific reasons for doing so, such as ideas on potential fuels treatment programs. Other than groups that are generally interested in this topic, my constituents, generally speaking, just want to know that the county has a plan and that agencies are working together on these regional issues. How the plan affects people personally is specific in that people usually get involved when there is a potential direct affect. One thing I would like to see is more involvement from the private sector in the mechanics of the program and the use of extracted fuel materials to reduce taxpayer expense.

In my opinion the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership program has been very successful. After the Hayman fire in Colorado, Counties developed more specific fire plans in order to receive state and federal assistance. That was good in that we now look at fire plans on a regional level through programs such as the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership program. I'm very interested in seeing what the program continues to accomplish in dealing with forest health and economic development issues.

*Tom Bender, Larimer County Commissioner*

## Spotlights

### Ranger District Spotlights

- ◆ The Clear Creek Ranger District has the use of two Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to assist visitors. One of these is located in the district office and the other, on summer loan from the Clear Creek Ambulance Association, is carried by employees on Mount Evans. Currently, 22 district employees have been trained to use the AEDs. AEDs help heart attack victims, particularly when the victim is more than 10 minutes away from advanced life support.
- ◆ The Canyon Lakes Ranger District participated in a Big Elk Memorial Ceremony on July 19, the anniversary of the tanker crash on the Big Elk Fire in 2002. The event was held in the Big Elk Meadows subdivision. Following the ceremony, district employees lead hikes from the Lion Gulch Trailhead to the three large trees planted at the tanker crash site in recognition of the three pilots who died while fighting the blaze.
- ◆ The General Services Administration (GSA) announced the contract award to Acquest Development for the new Forest Supervisor's and Canyon Lakes Ranger District Office Building on the Natural Resources Research Center (NRRC) campus on Centre Drive in Fort Collins. There will be a ground breaking ceremony in early October.

### Event Spotlights



Fort Collins area media got a hands-on training with fire shelters at a media fire training hosted by the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland.



Pawnee National Grassland hosted a Greeley Independence Stampede float on July 4. Smokey Bear, Annie McFarland and Steve Curry all helped to spread the Forest Service news.



The 13th Fat Tire Classic was held in Winter Park on June 28-29, 2003. Employees of the Sulphur Ranger District helped patrol this year's event, they included Vicky Burton, Holly Antol, Tamara Larson, Lori Carpenter and Steve Brewer (above right). The Fat Tire Classic is the largest single fundraising event for the American Red Cross nationwide.



The USFS Prospect Building received a bit of a facelift May 22, 2003, as employees of the ARP and the Rocky Mountain Research Station planted flowers and did various landscaping projects.

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