

# Poudre Trails

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

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Summer 2001

## Backcountry Patrol

### Education is wilderness ranger's crucial mission



Wilderness ranger Fred Tighe says he would rather educate backcountry visitors than punish them for breaking the rules. He figures that in the long

run, education will protect the wilderness more than writing tickets will.

Tighe, 25, is a seasonal wilderness ranger for the U.S. Forest Service in northern Colorado this summer. He is working with Poudre Wilderness Volunteers and the Forest Service to patrol backcountry areas and maintain trails.

Tighe is trained in law enforcement, but he says he concentrates his efforts on visitor education rather than lowering the legal boom on violators. As of late July, he had issued only one written warning to some folks who were camped too close to a trail and too close to water. He had written no tickets, yet.

"A lot of people go into the backcountry with a lot of common sense. They try to keep things beautiful," says Tighe. Most visitors know the basics: Pack out your trash, leave the area nice for the next visitor, and so forth. But they might not know the specific rules and regulations of the wilder-

(See *Backcountry Patrol* on page 2)

## SPLAT!

### Use tact when you encounter paintballers in the forest

By Bob Kretschman

At first glance, a serious paintball game can resemble a real war. Camouflage-clad, gun-toting warriors sneak through the forest, searching for opponents at whom they can fire paint-filled pellets.

Paintballing is a popular pastime on public lands in northern Colorado. Poudre Wilderness Volunteers have encountered several groups of paintballers on various trails this year. So what do you say to a camo-clad paintballer? Is the sport legal in the national forest, or should you suggest that paint-splattered troops find another battlefield?

Paintballing is legal in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, and the forest doesn't have any rules limiting the activity, says Ron Strobel, recreation staffer for the

Canyon Lakes Ranger District.

If you run into paintballers while you're patrolling, treat the encounter like you would any other visitor contact. Use your best judgement about approaching the participants. If you strike up a conversation with the paintballers, find out what they're doing and where they're playing their game.

Paintballing is allowed in the national forest, but you can urge participants to be considerate of other forest visitors. A paintball game that takes place along a trail might scare other hikers and horseback riders. You can also make the point that paintballing isn't necessarily in the spirit of the Leave No Trace principles; however, paintballers use paint that is biodegradable.

Finally, note the encounter in your trail report. It is always helpful to have a record of unusual activities in the forest.



## Year-end event set for Oct. 20

### Accomplishments & awards to highlight gathering

Although the PWV patrol season is in full swing, it's time to start thinking about the PWV Year-End Event. Set aside the evening of Saturday, Oct. 20, for a few hours of conversation and camaraderie with your fellow PWVers.

You'll hear about the season's accomplishments, and awards will be presented. Details of the gathering haven't been worked out yet, but you'll hear more about the event as the time gets closer.

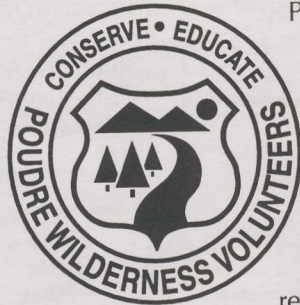


# Welcome to PWV!

By Jim Bedwell, forest supervisor, Arapahoe & Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

Greetings and welcome to all of our new and returning Poudre Wilderness Volunteers! The growth and achievements of the PWV, now 175 members strong, are truly impressive.

When I spoke at the summer kickoff and annual training on May 18, I mentioned a "50-cent term," "capacity building". That is a term currently popular in the USDA Forest Service that means finding ways to expand our capacity, or ability, to accomplish our mission of "Caring for the Land and Serving People". Simply stated, in this era of declining agency budgets and increased demands on the public lands, we must find ways to take care of the precious resources that are the national forests and grasslands, and the wilderness areas within them. So, the 175 members of the PWV literally



expand the ability of the USDA Forest Service to take care of the land and help visitors enjoy their wilderness experience in a way that sustains them for future generations.

However, I know that for most of you, helping a federal agency is probably low on your list of motivations for volunteering with the PWV. A love for the land, enjoyment of outdoor recreation, and the desire to ensure wilderness opportunities are maintained are probably much higher on the list. I know and appreciate that people have strong attachments to public land and its beautiful places, much more than they do to government agencies. And that's OK. In fact, it's only right because as the owners of the public lands, Americans citizens have the responsibility to care, to recognize needs and demands, and to respond with positive action. You, the members of the PWV, recognize this and act well beyond most of your fellow citizen-owners.



## Backcountry Patrol

(continued from front page)

ness, like keeping dogs on a leash or camping at least 100 feet from water or trails.

"That's where we come in," Tighe says. "We're there to educate people about the right way to visit the wilderness. A lot of them know the basics, and they're willing to learn more."

Tighe, who grew up in northern Michigan, has spent the past four summers working as a wilderness ranger, a trail crew member, and a fire crew member in Colorado's White River National Forest. He is especially fond of running a crosscut saw, a skill he is

(See *Backcountry Patrol* on page 4)

# SPRING TRAINING RECAP

Photos by Brett Berlin

Jacks Gulch Campground was a busy place in mid-May as 71 new Poudre Wilderness Volunteers learned the basics of trail patrols during the organization's three-day spring training session.

This year was the second year of the "hands-on" training format that puts new recruits on a practice trail to learn first-hand about situations they might



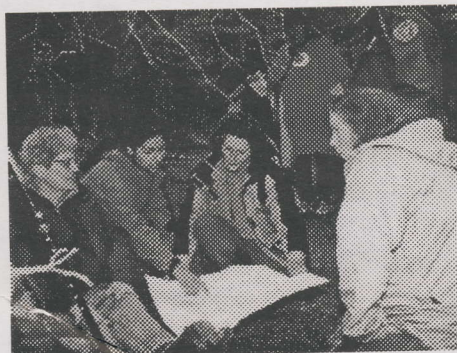
encounter on an actual patrol. Training scenarios included a mountain biker in the wilderness, dogs off-leash, and an improper campsite.

By all accounts, the format was popular and effective, and PWV will use it again next year. PWV members have passed along several suggestions for improving portions of the training weekend, and



many of those ideas will be incorporated into next year's event.

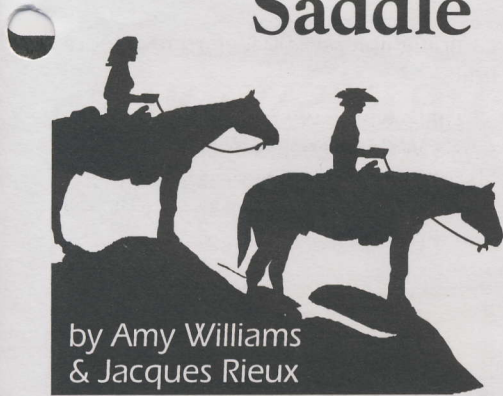
Thanks to PWV member Paul Asmus, who pioneered the new training format and has led spring training the past two years. Thanks also to all of the volunteers, Forest Service personnel, and others who helped make the training weekend a success.



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# From the Saddle



by Amy Williams  
& Jacques Rieux

Below you'll find a listing of the Certified Weed-Free Hay Suppliers located along or near the Front Range. We encourage all of you who ride for Poudre Wilderness Volunteers to feed certified hay (or cubes) at least 72 hours prior to riding on your wilderness trips and patrols. Equally as important is to educate others when possible. The Forest Service Visitor Center at College and Pitkin in Fort Collins has copies of this statewide list available. The list is produced by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

*We hope you all have a safe and fantastic season out in the wilds!*

## Weed Free Hay Suppliers

**Russ Bybee**, Walden

— Grass — 970-723-4201

**J.D. Carelli**, Fort Morgan

— Alfalfa — 970-867-6112

**Sam Clark**, Hygiene

— Alfalfa — 303-776-5763

**Bob & Cheryl Clifton**, Longmont

— Grass - 303-772-5294

**Gary Hazen**, Eaton

— Alfalfa — 970-454-1242

**Keith Holsinger**, Walden

— Grass — 970-723-4587

**Linda Jamison**, Longmont

— Grass — 303-702-0186

**Bill Markham**, Berthoud

— Alfalfa — 970-532-2497

**Steve Penner**, Lafayette

— Alfalfa — 303-665-5603

**Richard Peterson (PWV member)**,

Greeley — Alfalfa — 970-356-7252

**James Pollard**, Longmont

— Grass/Alfalfa — 303-772-1945

**Tom Rutledge**, Walden

— Grass — 970-723-3209

**Dan Lisco**, Boulder

(Sombrero Ranches)

— Alfalfa, Alfalfa/Grass, Grass

— 303-652-2285



## Glen Echo offers PWV discount

PWV Advisory Director Frank Lilley has negotiated a 10 percent discount for PWV members on food and drink items at the Glen Echo Restaurant in Rustic.

The restaurant has a list of all PWV members, so you might need to give your name in order to get the discount. "Based on my recent experience, a stop at Glen Echo to get a cold dish of ice cream and a tall, cool drink on a hot Sunday afternoon after four days in the Rawah hit the spot," reports PWV Chair Garin VanDeMark.



## Helping the Office Volunteers

To make life easier for the volunteers who work in the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers office, here are a couple of things each PWVer can do:

— Please return radios after a hike as soon as possible. If you check out a radio for a weekend hike, try to return it the following Monday or Tuesday if possible. When you return your radio early in the week, volunteers have an opportunity to charge the battery and prepare the radio for checkout the following weekend.

— If you find it necessary to cancel a hike, please call the PWV office number and leave a message with information about the hike you're canceling. By making the call, you eliminate the need for office volunteers to look for a ranger report for a patrol that wasn't made.



## Seeking memorabilia

In an effort to build an "organizational memory" for Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, Advisory Director Art Bunn is collecting memorabilia about the organization.

Art says he wants to build a collection of materials that will serve as a reference for future PWV members who need information about the organization's past. Newsletters, handbooks, newspaper articles, organizational documents, and any other material with a PWV connection can be included in the collection.

If you have something to donate, or if you have questions, you can contact Art at 970-229-9119 or ARTHUR\_BUNN@compuserve.com.





Poudre Trails is a quarterly publication of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit corporation organized to assist the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and other backcountry areas.

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