



POUDRE TRAILS

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers ~ WINTER 2015-2016

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Looking Back at 2015



This past year has been an active one for our organization. Poudre Wilderness Volunteers completed 973 patrols; 8,900 contacts with forest visitors were made; 1,354 trees were logged out — all with NO accidents.

These efforts contributed 27,182 volunteer hours to the USFS, equating to \$623,000 in value.

Some of the highlights of the year were: A beautiful weather weekend for our Spring Training at which we trained our forty-eight new recruits. We have **Nate Donovan**, **Lynnette Liley** and the rest of the Spring Training committee to thank for all their hard work.

The Restoration committee was again hard at work on both the *North Fork* and *Hewlett Gulch* trails. My personal thanks to everyone who volunteered to work on these trails and a special note of thanks to our crew leaders who led our work efforts. The PWV trail crew had a great year out there clearing trees. In one 5 day backpack in the *Rawah*

Wilderness 362 trees were cleared from the trails (and nearly worked this Board Chair to death). But we did all survive.

PWV finances are in good order. Our Fund Development Committee is doing a great job of developing new funding sources and our Treasurer has our accounts well defined and understandable.

Interest from prospective recruits remains strong, so there is no doubt that we will see a very robust recruiting class next Spring, and continue to see significant growth as an organization.

My year as PWV Board Chair has come to an end and **Alan Meyer** has taken over as Chair. I am confident that Alan and the Board will keep the organization on track for the next year. Thanks and recognition to the 2014 BOD members who are retiring: **Judy Christensen**, **Jerry Hanley**, **Richard Clopper** and **David Fanning**. Each has contributed countless hours to various activities, committees, events, and the smooth running of our organization. I also want to thank all PWV members for making my year as chair a great experience. It is very easy to be Chair when everyone is so supportive and willing to help get things done.

Mike Corbin, PWV Past Chair

Introducing PWV 2016 Board Members



Current members transitioning to new roles are **Alan Meyer**, *Chair*; **Mike Corbin**, *Past Chair*. Those continuing in their roles are **Bob Meyer**, *Treasurer*; **Meg Parmer**, *Secretary*; **Gerry Cashman**, **Judy Jacks**, **Wendy Nicastle**, **Daryl Smith**, **Mike Smith** and **Kevin Cannon** (*USFS Liaison*, not pictured). **Margaret Shaklee**, former Advisory Board was newly elected to the current board and will be *Chair Elect*. Other newly elected Board members are **Jim Greuel**, **Shannon Keigan** and **Jamie McCue**.

PWV's New Chair Looking Ahead to 2016



I am pleased and honored to serve as PWV chair for this coming year, knowing that the organization is in great shape from all the fantastic work of our volunteers. Looking ahead to 2016, no major changes are anticipated – we will continue with the programs already in place and look at improvements in a few areas.

One of the ongoing programs is Restoration where we continue to work on trails that were devastated in the 2013 floods. This restoration work is not only important to PWV and the Forest Service, but also to the public. As you know, three of our most popular trails, *North Fork*, *Lion Gulch* and *Young Gulch*, have been closed since the flood, with miles of trail washed away and multiple bridges destroyed. Through the dedication of our Restoration team with help from the Forest Service, other PWV members and the public, *North Fork* was partially re-opened this fall. This coming year work will continue on all of these trails. Please consider joining some of the work days in 2016 – it is truly satisfying to see these trails come back to life.

In 2015 we started the first-ever PWV Strategic Planning activity. While this may sound rather highfalutin, to me it is simply a matter of “think before you act”. We have many committees within PWV, and there are often interdependencies between their various activities. We are asking the committees to outline a three-year plan of what they hope to accomplish, providing better communication between committees and making it easier for our fund development team to work with donors. I will be working with our Strategic Planning team this coming year to continue this good work.

Speaking of funding, all of our money related activities have seen great improvements during the past year. Just like balancing your checkbook at home, PWV needs to have a clear view of how much money we have, where we are spending it and what the incoming funds look like. We now have a clearer view of our financial situation than any time in the past, with more improvements planned for the coming year. We certainly don't have all the funds that we would like, but now we have a much better picture of where we stand and this should greatly help our planning and fundraising in 2016.

Finally I just want to thank everyone ahead of time for all the work I know you will be doing this coming year. PWV is

such a diverse organization with many ways volunteers can contribute, both on the trail and in supporting the organization. Check out the listing of committees on our website. There are many that could use additional help. If you have an interest or would like to learn more about any of them, please get in touch. Alan Meyer (chair@pwv.org)

Alan Meyer, 2015-2016 Chair

PWV Celebrates 20 Years at 2015 Members' Annual Year End Event

The 2015 year-end event was special – because we also celebrated **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers 20th Anniversary**. To mark the occasion, we invited all nine hundred-plus past and current members to attend (usually we just invite currently active members). In the end, almost two hundred guests were able to attend. Among other past members, the original PWV founders **Chuck Bell** and **Art Bunn** were both in attendance.

The program featured a slide show of pictures and a summary of highlights from our (first) twenty years. The evening really emphasized the positive impact of PWV and how it has flourished through all the hard work of our many great volunteers.

What Have We Accomplished?

- 20 years of supporting the Forest Service
- Over 900 people have served in PWV
- Over 11,000 patrols
- Over 200,000 people encountered
- Over 8,000 trees removed from the trail
- Over 325,000 hours of FUN

Additionally, several members were recognized for their service and contributions at the 2015 Year End Event.

Judy Christensen was honored with the 2015 Special Recognition Award for her leadership of the Endowment committee for the past several years. During that time the committee raised over \$30,000 dollars for the endowment fund.

Chuck Bell and **Art Bunn**, co-founders of PWV celebrated 20 years of service in 2015. The organization began its growth in 1996 with the addition of twenty-five new members: **Garin VanDeMark**, **Del Brown**, **Frank Lilley**, **Jacques Rieux**, **George Wallace**, **George Brooks**, **Shane Brown**, **Donald Bunn**, **Glenn French**, **Bennet Manvel**, **Wayne Tobey**, **Lori Wiles**, **Amy Williams**, **John Young**, **Vita Young**, **Bill Dold**, **Tom Maddux**, **Richard Norris**, **Gayle Vancil**, **Randy Walrath**, **Charles Peterson**, **Richard Peterson**, **Gary Moore**, **Kristy Wumkes** and **Carl Burton**.

Those completing Ten Years of Service are **Gary Ellerman**, **Jerry Hanley**, **Kathy James**, **Jim Shaklee**, and **Kathleen Wester**.

New Recruits who received recognition for the most patrols completed included **John Baldo**, **David Pauley**, **Celia Walker** and **Mari Murphy**; they all completed 13 patrols during the 2015 season. More than two-thirds of the new recruits completed six patrols and were awarded a pocket-knife in recognition of their effort. Others receiving awards for having the most patrols during the year were **Adrian Farmer**, **Kathleen Reipe**, **Lynn Jablonsky**, (Overnight Stock Patrols); **Jim Shaklee**, **Joan Kauth**, and **Mike Corbin** (Hiking Day Patrols); **Heather Szalmasagi**, **Joan Kauth** and **Jim Shaklee** (Overnight Backpacking Patrols); and **Bob Farmer**, **Lynn Walter** and **Sandy Erskine** (Stock Day Patrols).

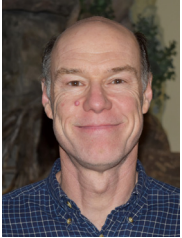
This year's event was held at a new venue, the **Sundance Steakhouse & Saloon**. This turned out to be a good choice, with a great combination of food, sufficient space, friendly staff and a fun western theme. If you have any feedback about this event and what we might do differently next year, please contact Alan Meyer (chair@pwv.org).



Original 1995-96 PWV members celebrate at 2015 Year-end Event at Sundance Steakhouse & Saloon.

Getting to Know our Newly Elected Board Members

PWV continues to be gifted with a membership who want to contribute their time to the Mission of PWV and share their many talents. We don't always get a chance to meet one another face to face, so these new members of the PWV Board have elected to share some of their history with all of us.



JIM GREUEL

I grew up in the dairy lands and woods of Wisconsin, where I received an undergraduate degree in math education with an earth science minor.

The earth science minor included two Canadian summer-long geology field camps that fueled my interest in the natural world and our stewardship of it. In 1984 I moved to Colorado and it was here that I married and raised two children with my wife Jean. It was also here that I started hiking, camping and backpacking in earnest, mostly in the Poudre Canyon and Rocky Mountain National Park. Over the years, I've hiked about half the trails PWV patrols. This fall marked the conclusion of my second season with PWV. I completed six patrols each season and was a presenter at the 2015 Kick-Off Night. I have taken the Wilderness First Aid and First Aid & CPR classes offered by PWV, participated in one of the North Fork Trail restoration work days and have attended several affiliation meetings.

My wife and I recently hiked in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, and observed first hand its heavy use. By comparison, the Canyon Lakes Ranger District wilderness areas enjoy noticeably less human traffic. Yet, with increased population growth in Northern Colorado, I think the CLRDC will face the prospect of use not unlike that of Indian Peaks. That means PWV's work will only become more important and more challenging. I'd like to be a part of the conversation that leads PWV into that time.



SHANNON KEIGAN

When I'm not at work, I find myself out hitting the trails because that is where I rejuvenate. That is where I find my energy and solitude. I first heard about PWV from a friend and fellow new member to PWV. She was looking for volunteer opportunities and thought

that PWV would be a good fit for me (and wanted someone with whom to attend all the mandatory meetings).

I got excited about PWV pretty quickly and jumped straight into the Fund Development Committee. Since my current career and previous organizational affiliations made me a fit for this committee, I thought it a good way to contribute to PWV. I quickly found out that my busy schedule didn't allow me to get up to the mountains to do the 20 patrols I was hoping to get in my first year, but by joining the Fund Development Committee, I could still contribute to the organization in a meaningful way, while getting in my patrols when I could.

I believe that PWV provides a very substantial service to its community and I want to be a part of that. I am excited to be given the opportunity to help shape the future of PWV.



JAMIE McCUE

I grew up in the great outdoors of Wyoming and have been enjoying the Colorado wilderness since 2003 so preserving the forest and our backcountry is something I believe very strongly in. I enthusiastically support PWV's mission and goals.

Since becoming a member of PWV in 2014, I've become involved in Office Crew and most recently became a member of both the Trail Patrolling Committee and Wild51 project. During the 2015 season I was a role player for Spring Training, went on the Rawah trail clearing backpacking trip and participated in the trail restoration project on the North Fork Trail.

Two of my greatest passions are volunteering and the outdoors. I'm privileged to combine the two and serve by educating the public and encouraging the safe and responsible use of our wilderness areas.

I'm looking forward to furthering my involvement in PWV activities!

Fund Development Committee Energized for Success in 2016

The best way to describe 2015 for the Fund Development Committee is a flurry of activity. This past year has seen the fundraising efforts of PWV separated into two distinct committees: Fund Development and Endowment. Fund development reaches into all areas of the organization, as the goal

of our Committee is to provide financial support and sustainability to internal efforts supporting the mission of PWV. We are excited to continue to grow our new committee and to support PWV efforts.

To recap some of our efforts this year:

- **King Sooper Gift Cards:** The cards are free and all you have to do is go to the Forest Service office open the cabinet and get one or more. You may want to give one to your spouse or friends who shop King Sooper, Kroger or City Market and most Kroger owned stores anywhere in the country. They are good for your gas purchases too. **Each time the gift card is used PWV gets 5%!!** Once you have your gift card take it to King Soopers, give it and your credit card to the clerk before you check out and the clerk will debit your credit card and credit your gift card for any amount up to \$500. The card is **re-usable**. Need to re-load the card? Just let the clerk know **before** you start to check out. You still get your King Sooper and credit card points. This is an easy way to support PWV spending money you already plan to spend.
- **AmazonSmile:** Amazon Smile similarly returns a percentage of total purchases when shoppers elect PWV as their charity of choice when shopping online at Amazon. This is simple and Christmas is coming so we know you are going to be hitting Amazon for those all-important special gifts. Just go to amazonsmile.com and it will give you a list of charities and click on PWV. Easy. Now when you log on to Amazon it will ask you if you want to use amazonsmile.org and you just click on that and the rest is the same.
- **Pour Brothers tip night** will be December 2. Mark your calendar, prepare yourself for a fun evening of food, beverage and surprises! Bring your friends and join us from 6:00 to 8:00. PWV receives **ALL** tips during that time. The food is good too so come hungry. More info to follow.
- **The National Environmental Education Foundation** awarded PWV a generous grant of \$4,500 to significantly update our website.
- **Strategic plan** was developed to guide our growth and provide clear direction for our Committee. The plan was drafted as part of the larger PWV Strategic Plan. This will allow for continuity of efforts while allowing PWV members on the Committee to fluctuate and evolve. We are pleased with the direction our committee is headed and we are excited for another thrilling year of Fun(d) Development!

A busy year and thanks from your Fund Development Committee for helping us launch our agenda and begin our efforts

to raise money for PWV. Let us know if you have any questions or ideas. Your committee members are **Judy Jacks** and **Shannon Keigan**, Co-chairs; **Wendy Nicastle**, **Ronda Koski**, **Jackie Picard**, **Margaret Shaklee**, **Ashley Saveland**, **Fred Allen** and **Jeff Dean**. Questions? Contact: Judy at judyjacks44@gmail.com or Shannon at SKeigan@tpaak.org.

PWV Endowment Fund Continues Growth

Reflecting back, as we make our way into the 4th quarter of 2015, we realize the Endowment Fund has grown in two great ways.

In May, the Endowment Committee, with the Board's approval, transferred PWV Endowment Funds to the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. With the knowledge, experience and continuity the Community Foundation offers, we hope to enhance and grow the Endowment Fund.

June brought on the 2nd annual BackYard Party at **Larry** and **Vicki Stroud's** home. It was a lovely summer evening in north Fort Collins celebrating PWV fellowship, fun and the spirit of giving. The hard working BYP Committee members were: **Vicki** and **Larry Stroud**, **Tom** and **Carol Dougherty**, **Kathy Ayer**, **Judy Jacks**, **Daryl Smith**, and **Judy Christensen**. They made this event happen!

With the PWV Endowment Fund topping off at over \$45,000, our goal of \$50,000 is ever closer! The generosity from PWV members and friends continues to bring our vision to a reality-granting funds to enhance the mission of PWV!

PWV Endowment Committee includes **Jerry Hanley** (chair), **Judy Christensen**, **Margaret Shaklee**, **Bob Meyer** and **Mike Corbin**. We look forward to the new year as well as growth in the the Endowment Fund.

PWV Endowment Committee

Treasurer's 2015 Financial Summary

We've had a very good year in terms of funding for PWV's many wilderness service and membership training & education activities. Generous 2014 year-end donations from PWV members and a few corporate donors substantially funded our 2015 operating expenses. In addition, aided by a \$9.6K grant from the **Community Foundation of Northern Colorado** and restricted trail restoration donations remaining from 2014, we were able to fund a **Larimer County** work crew to assist with the restoration of the *North Fork* trail. Provided we have similar fund raising success in November-December 2015, we will again be in a very strong position to meet all of our operating needs for 2016.

In May 2015 the PWV Endowment Fund was entrusted with the **Community Foundation of Northern Colorado**, a nonprofit foundation administering three hundred eighty endowment funds totaling \$84 million dollars. The CFNC's philanthropic mission to manage endowment funds began in 1975. We are close to reaching our initial funding goal of a \$50K balance (currently @ \$43K), after which we plan to use a portion of the fund income for underwriting PWV projects.

One item bearing significant promise for 2016 (and future years) is the use of King Sooper's cards by PWV members, family, and friends for their grocery and fuel purchases. I'm very eager to see what this translates to in terms of a PWV funding resource over a twelve-month period!

And finally, I would like to specifically recognize **Sandy Sticken** for her tireless efforts as PWV bookkeeper for 3 years. She devoted many, many hours updating our QuickBooks files, paying PWV bills, running to the bank and to the post office...in addition to the seasonal push to make our Spring

Training bookkeeping a success. **Sue Pauley** has stepped in effective September 2014 to take over the bookkeeper duties. Be sure to thank both of these ladies for their respective, invaluable contributions to making sure our accounting records are in good order and that we paid our bills timely!

Any members having any questions regarding our finances are more than welcome to contact me!

Bob Meyer
PWV Treasurer
Treasurer@pwv.org.

A Testimonial to Ultra-Light Backpacking

by *Jerry Hanley*

I had given up on backpacking...age, back surgery, and heavy gear all contributed. But then in 2014, **David Fanning** and **Karl Ritters** separately hiked the **Colorado Trail (CT)**, and in follow up presentations, espoused the benefits of ultra-light gear. After seeing their presentation slides of the Colorado back country scenery, I decided that I also had to do the CT, so it went on my bucket list. With some reservation, and using Karl's gear checklist, I invested heavily in new ultra-light gear, and tested it out on a 3-day CT hike of section 11 in August, 2015. I couldn't have been more pleased. My backpack, gear, 4 days of food, and 1 liter of water weighed out at 21 pounds, and was very manageable. The gear all functioned fabulously, and the scenery was breath taking. I am now looking forward to completing the rest of the CT, but I'll do it in sections. I almost feel like I'm in my twenties again!

Paul Randolph and Karl Ritters will be conducting another Ultra-Light Backpacking Class in early 2016 – watch for details to come.

Capturing Kids In Nature 2015 Season

PWV took eighty-one kids and twenty-nine adults (agency staff, agency volunteers and family members) on nine Kids in Nature guided hikes this past season, reaching children from six different agencies and groups. This program is always validated with the enthusiasm of the kids and their desire to do it again. Quoting one child, "Can we go on a Kids in Nature hike again this week?"

The following letter was received from the Grand Family Coalition – this is what makes what we do so enjoyable and rewarding!



Endowment Special Events Planning Session for 2016 - Judy Christensen, Daryl Smith, Jeff Dean, Tom Karol and Jerry Hanley.



Above: Grand Family kids have fun.

Below: Rain did not stop these kids from enjoying nature.



Thank You, Kids in Nature!

I wanted to thank you all so much for the nature walk. It did as much for me as it did for all those that made it. I have not walked that far for a long time and it felt wonderful. Everyone had a story to tell and something special they got out of it. The connection that my grandson made with his partner and connections that grandparents made with each other was so SPECIAL. I cannot begin to tell you just what it means to have made this happen. You would have to know our stories to know just what you have done for us.... The experience was indescribable. Can we please do this again?

We have a newsletter that will be going out soon. Here is what it says.

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers “Kids in Nature” teamed up with Grand Family Coalition to introduce children to our National Forests and how to be good stewards of our Rocky Mountains. This week they taught the kids a few things about trees. Did you know a Ponderosa Pine smells like cream soda and that the white film from an Aspen tree can be used as sun screen? They learned you can identify a tree by the smell and feel of its needles. The cones even have funny ways of helping you identifying a tree. The Douglas Fir Tree cone has a mouse’s tail sticking out of it. The kids found a whole new world in the stump of a tree, including snail shells, larva and beetles. These kids enjoyed the partnership with a one-on-one volunteer ranger and hiked one mile up the Lower Dadd Gulch in the Poudre Canyon.

Grandmas and Grandpas tugged along slow and steady. They took the time to feel the trees, listen to the sounds and explore the names of other plants and flowers around the forest. They enjoyed a little lunch and played in the stream. We’re pretty sure most of the kids slept all the way home. Next time you’re up in the mountains go put your nose to a Ponderosa Pine and see what you smell!

**Gail Engel, President
Grand Family Coalition**

Fun, Learning, Growth — the 2015 National Wilderness Workshop

DID YOU KNOW that the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance got its start right here in Fort Collins, with PWV support, in 2010?

Dave Cantrell, currently a member of PWV Advisory Board also serves as Chair of the Programs Committee of NWSA (**National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance**). Dave recently traveled to Missoula, Montana to attend The 2015 National Wilderness Workshop, and reports it was inspiring to attend, and shares his experience with us with the following summary.

Personal Highlights – Great discussions about the future of wilderness. Tips to bring our love of wilderness to all Americans. Frank discussions of the challenges for groups like PWV. Opportunities to bring millennials into wilderness protection. Field training in trail work. Above all, it was an opportunity to meet others who are caring for wilderness – hear what they’re up to, brag a bit about PWV, form connections to support each other and trade ideas to be more effective. There are some amazing people taking care of our wild areas, and it’s inspiring to realize PWV is part of a national effort.

The Workshop was hosted by the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, the Society for Wilderness Stewardship, the Wilderness Institute, the Montana Wilderness

Association and the University of Montana College of Forestry and Conservation. It’s exciting to see those names, which represent a nationwide base of support for groups like PWV (and terrific local hosts, who welcomed and supported everyone to perfection).

All four government agencies charged to manage our wilderness areas were there: the Forest Service, BLM, the National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service. All in all, the workshop brought together 170 supporters plus many University of Montana students.

It was great to see the support from high-level officials from the wilderness management agencies, but I was especially pleased that the program had plenty of social time allowing for opportunities to meet other volunteers, get a sense of how many good groups are out there, and think about ways we can support each other.

There were panels about working with wilderness management agencies and management issues, which made me grateful again for our extraordinary Forest Service liaisons, Kevin and Kristy. But my favorite sessions were about using media, social media, and new technology to strengthen the wilderness community, and help every American feel why wilderness is so important to us. And the “youngsters”! It was inspiring to see that the coming generations are passionate, competent, and committed to caring for our wild areas, even while they challenge some of our assumptions.

I’m already looking forward to next year!

To learn more about efforts to build organizations like PWV across American wilderness, or if you’d like to get involved at the national level, contact Dave

Wild51...Wild52... A New PWV Tradition?

In 2014 PWV promoted getting out into the Wilderness to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. August



Dave Cantrell, Gerry Cashman and Jamie McCue review results of Wild 51, and begin planning for Wild 52.

2015 followed that with “Wild 51” and now we’re looking ahead to 2016 with “Wild 52”.

Wild51 had three goals: get more PWVs into our backcountry, strengthen the PWV community, and encourage new backpackers to tackle longer, farther trails. **Success!** Some 60 PWVs patrolled in our two biggest wilderness areas in the last weeks of August, at a time when there are many visitors on the trails. Comparing the entire month of August 2014 and the entire month of August 2015, there was a 60% increase in patrols in the Comanche Peak and Rawah Wildernesses combined. Many of us made new friends among our membership, and some of us hesitated, then tried longer backpacking trips – and loved it. Much of our most beautiful territory is impossible to reach on a day patrol, and several of us felt it was thrilling to get back farther than we’ve ever been.

You can learn more about Wild51 at the February 8 Affiliation meeting when many participants will talk briefly about their experience – and of course, with lots of pictures! We are already planning for Wild52, and we hope that what you see and hear at the affiliation meeting will tempt you to be part of it.

Two of our experienced thru-hikers, Karl and Paul, weren’t able to be here during the Wild51 period, so they showed their support a few days later by doing what they do so well: a week-long hike down through the Rawah, over into the Neota, and then across the Comanche Peak! They’ll talk about that experience as part of the affiliation meeting. And stay tuned for news of their popular Ultralight Backpacking class – one of the ways to make longer trips fun.

Do you already have December 2 on your calendar? As you know, at the Pour Brothers Community Tavern on Wednesday, December 2, all the tips between 6 pm and 8 pm will benefit PWV. We hope you already plan to be there for a bite or a drink. The Fund Development Committee has kindly allowed us to use this occasion to recognize everyone who took part in Wild51 with commemorative participant pins. Help us give a round of applause to all the Wild51 participants!

Wild51 Participants: Save the date – December 2 – and plan to join other PWVs at this fundraising event. You’ll be getting an Evite with all the details soon.

Reporting Your Non-Trail Activities

How much is PWV worth to the USFS?

In 2015 PWVs reported 27,182 trail and non-trail volunteer hours to the USFS, which equates to \$623,000 in value.

As PWVs, we all report our **patrols** on the USFS Scheduling and Reporting Website, so the United States Forest Service knows our trail patrol hours, but were you aware that our non-trail hours are also very valuable to the USFS and are currently grossly under-reported by most PWV members?

We all should be reporting our attendance or teaching at PWV-sponsored **events** and trainings, as well as our attendance at other organizations’ webinars, conference calls, and classes. Whenever we prepare for and attend PWV **committee meetings** or complete **committee work**, we should report those hours on the non-trail section of the USFS Scheduling and Reporting Website. Did you know that the **time you spend preparing for your patrols** should be recorded as non-trail activity? If you **add to or work on the PWV website** (PWV.org) or the **PWV database**, those hours count toward the total volunteer hours PWV contributes to the USFS. If you **attend or prepare for Board meetings**, report your hours.



Other reasons to report your hours: **attend and/or volunteer at Kick-Off Night, Spring Training, the Endowment Backyard Party, the Year-End Event, the Annual Meeting, and monthly Affiliations Gatherings.** If you **volunteer at PWV Event Booths**, like the Sustainable Living Fair, or become an **Animal Group Leader** or **Role**



Player at Spring Training, report your hours. There is also a place to report your **travel time** to and from events and trainings.

How can I possibly remember all the volunteer hours I contribute to PWV?

Some PWVs record their non-trail hours daily, just like their patrol hours. Some keep track of their hours in a spreadsheet or on a calendar and then report them periodically. Choose a method that works for you.



How do I report my non-trail volunteer hours?

Go to the Scheduling and Reporting Website (<http://clrdvol.org/groups/>). Choose **Non-Trail Activities** from the menu at the top. Select **Record a Non-Trail Activity** from the dropdown list. If you hover the cursor over the category titles on this webpage, a description of each will appear. Be sure to change the **Date** to the day of your activity. Enter the **Activity Type**, the **Hours** and/or **Travel time**, and a **Description** of the activity(s). Click **SAVE** and go to the next activity to enter. When you are finished entering your activities, you can view and/or edit your Non-Trail Activities on your **Home** page.

What activities can we report?

- To name a few... Whenever you
- serve on the Board of Directors or Advisory Board
 - attend Spring Training or the Year End Event
 - volunteer at a PWV event
 - prepare for or attend any PWV committee meeting
 - attend a monthly Affiliation Gathering

- create a document, chart, or a spreadsheet for PWV
- pick up or return equipment checked out for a patrol
- attend a training sponsored by or associated with PWV
- prepare for a PWV patrol
- attend, prepare for, or present at a Board Meeting
- travel to a PWV or USFS event
- work on the PWV website or database
- complete an evaluation of a program
- respond to a request for event volunteers
- submit a required USFS form
- train others



Chuck Bell

Home Leave

*O what a glory doth this world put on
For him who, with a fervent heart, goes forth
Under the bright and glorious sky, and looks
On duties well performed, and days well
spent!*

– Longfellow

I thought I knew a little about **Chuck Bell**. After all, we had covered some hearty miles rangers together in the Rawah Wilderness some 20-plus years ago: Chuck, a newly retired, energetic, enthusiastic guy who wanted to march up every trail in the Rawahs like the eager boy scout and woods-wandering kid he once was back in Avon Lake, Ohio. I'd heard something about an "overseas career" with the diplomatic corps. But that was "over there," and we were very much "over here," in our element, the American woods.

At the time, circa 1995, I had no idea about what a small fraction I knew of the big picture, of the global, geopolitical map, really, that Chuck Bell knew.

Which missing piece of biography is the most stunning in shape and color? So many to choose from – and that is only after an hour and a half of "ask Chuck" in this downtown Daz Bog coffeehouse a few days after Poudre Wilderness Volunteer's end of the season dinner, an event Chuck traveled back to Colorado to attend. We are sitting in a steamy, roasty room on a cool October day. And my mission is to find out more about the man. For starters, I'd love to figure out why Chuck was the guy with the "right idea, at the right place,

at the right time," as he puts it. I'm sorting out the origins of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers.

Most stunning? How about Bell, young, dashing press attache at various US embassies in the '60s and '70's, writing the first draft of Henry Kissinger's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, closing diplomatic gaps with the ease of a well turned phrase? How about assuaging the Norwegians about the Vietnam War debacle?

Chuck, whose big warm laugh is as legendary as his status as the founder of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, mirthfully retells the Kissinger anecdote. "Of course," goes the punchline, "I wrote the first draft.

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Poudre Wilderness Volunteers co-founders Art Bunn, left, and Chuck Bell at the 2015 Year End Event and PWV 20 Year Celebration.

Not much of that survived." Bell's grand-eloquence, he explains, still laughing while talking, was mostly inked out. Yet I suspect the phantom cadences Bell included make a few cameos.

Bell, the son of a journalist, and a journalist himself, began his heady diplomatic career as a public affairs trainee in Morocco, where he underwent his "baptism by fire," he says, after Israel invaded Egypt in 1967. The American Library was stormed by an angry mob of student protesters, sure that the US was the true mastermind of the invasion, but the protesters were driven back at rifle butt by King Hassan's guards, stationed to protect the

building in Rabat. Bell recalls, “I was watching out the window with the curtain pulled back a little.”

Then a few months later, on to Tunisia as assistant press attache; afterwards West Africa, Ivory Coast, where for two years he was the Voice of America airing out of that African nation. Chuck’s voice, its timbre, radio-ready mellifluous, America personified, communicating the messages that would present American policy to listeners who might otherwise demonize or distort America’s image. Chuck’s voice, but in flawless French, broadcast to the mainly French-speaking citizens of the Ivory Coast.

I am gathering these new puzzle pieces of who Chuck Bell is, auspiciously, 50 years to the month that Bell first went to Washington DC to start his vibrant global romp, mending political schisms.

A few more glorious name-dropping pieces: sixteen days in the company of George Bush Sr. and Barbara Bush in Botswana and beyond for a multi-country African tour aboard Air Force 2; an interview with despotic Idi Amin; dealings with various notable foreign presidents, diplomats, lesser policy-makers and ministers; a US Navy Admiral, commander-in-chief of U.S. Navy forces in the Pacific, who summoned Bell after hours (and out of swim trunks into a suit and tie) to ask, “What’s the hell is going on with...?”

Bell, who has written movie scripts and narrated documentaries, begins to sound like a prime subject for a movie himself. Picture Bell in a dusty rented Renault, southern Senegal, driving on a dirt road, dust flying, reporting on the first big West African drought. A “harbinger of climate change,” says Bell. A telegram arrives. “Would you consider an assignment to Norway?” Bell wipes the dust, sweat from his eyes and doesn’t think twice about it.

Out of the fire and into the frying pan. Norway is a hot spot, geopolitically. They are Viking-mad at the US, specifically US policy in the now freshly ended Vietnam debacle. US-Norway relations are “on the skids,” Bell explains, and the former press attache, about to be declared persona non grata, is skidding out of the country with a bunch of Norwegians kicking from behind. Bell, fulfilling what he describes as a lifetime of either starting things or mending things, then moving on, clearly made nice with that key NATO partner before his next stop: New Zealand and nuclear ships. Once again, Chuck is the message man.

We end Chuck’s foreign diplomacy career as if finishing a lavish puzzle of an ABC book, the Zee countries of Zambia and Zimbabwe, as if the jigsaw puzzle needed to work from the north of the African continent, then to extremes elsewhere and then to the southern

parts of the African continent. Here Chuck, in the upcoming movie version (royalties, no doubt to benefit the PWV endowment fund), can attire himself in pith helmet and safari gear. And here, so very importantly, with an eye on what Chuck will call “my greatest accomplishment,” Bell makes the leap into wildland conservation.

Before we get to that accomplishment, the one for which Chuck is the “most proud,” and which he feels has “influenced the most people,” and continues to “reverberate exponentially,” we flashback, circa 1995. Bell on a flattened rise above Preacher’s Meadow on West Branch Trail, Rawah Wilderness, a place where Bell will later have his Moses moment. But tonight he basks in the icy glow of a sub-alpine forest. Every mile of the trail is a fresh discovery. He acts as if this relatively small wilderness, just this side of the Medicine Bow, is all the world any wanderer could wish for. He is, in his own words, “falling in love” with the Rawahs. His young Forest Service partner will scratch her head with admiration when Bell asks, again, pointing to a fork in the trail, “Where does that go?” As if the 75 miles of the Rawahs were never-ending, and the best is yet to come around the next undiscovered bend.

Chuck Bell’s greatest accomplishment? Sorry Norway, French-speaking Africa, New Zealand, Bush Sr., NATO and all that other peacemaking and diplomatic stuff.

“There are people whose entire lives are centered around PWV. It gives their lives meaning,” Bell says, wonder filling his eyes. He notes the marriages, friendships, before enumerating the group’s other accomplishments. Yes, for 20 years volunteer rangers have served as “Ambassadors of the woods,” he marvels. Because of his Moses moment, his “little idea” he calls it, a creative response to a massive defunding of the USFS Wilderness Management budget by enlisting not just more volunteers to refill the cadre of about 30 seasonal and volunteer employees working out of Stub Creek Ranger station. In its place, an all-volunteer army of educators who could contact the public and teach wildland ethics. Bell clarifies that “There are a tremendous number of organizations like PWV. We are not unique. But what makes PWV different is our principle purpose is education ... our core mission is to educate the public in the backcountry and that we do so with no paid staff.”

Bell is quick to concede that the community of Fort Collins, and the newcomers it attracts, was the perfect place for an idea like his to catch fire; quick to praise, **PWV co-founder Art Bunn**, and Forest Service mentors, such as **Martha Moran**, who helped him to somewhat privatize the work once

done by Forest Service employees; quick to praise the tight working partnership between staff and volunteer rangers. Early on, the partnership acknowledged that PWV could either become competitive or cooperative, and that a citizen-based organization could grow larger and better funded than an agency vulnerable to the whims of congressional funding.

One huge breakthrough for PWV was its ability to shift wildland ethic mentoring from now defunded, thus defunct, Federal Wildness Management programs, and seasonal Forest Service staff who trained the next wave of rangers, to an all-volunteer force that could school itself into perennial Wildland educators. PWV would have staying power in a way that the whimsies of Congress had made impossible for the Forest Service. Paid staff became mostly talented retirees who were in the perfect position to give back gratis.

Bell recalls how, as a young man (who, by the way, aced his written and oral state department exams), he was driven, as were many in his generation, by the words of John F. Kennedy who told the youth of America, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” “It was a time when young people like me were very much inspired by that strong ethos, so it was natural for me to think about government service.”

The whole PWV spirit, come to think of it, tweaks the famous edict. Ask not what the backcountry can do for you, but what you can do for the backcountry. John Muir and other wilderness forebearers would agree, “The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.” Bell knows, what you can do for the wild places is to fall in love – and to turn that love into action.

Thanks, Chuck.

“It is our task in our time and in our generation, to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours.”

– John F. Kennedy

Writer’s biography. Madeleine Lecocq worked as the backcountry supervisor and one of the lead wilderness educators in the Rawah Wilderness through the early 1990s. She teaches literature and writing at Front Range Community College, and joined PWV just in time to celebrate the Wilderness Act’s 50th anniversary last year and PWV’s 20th year milestone this year.

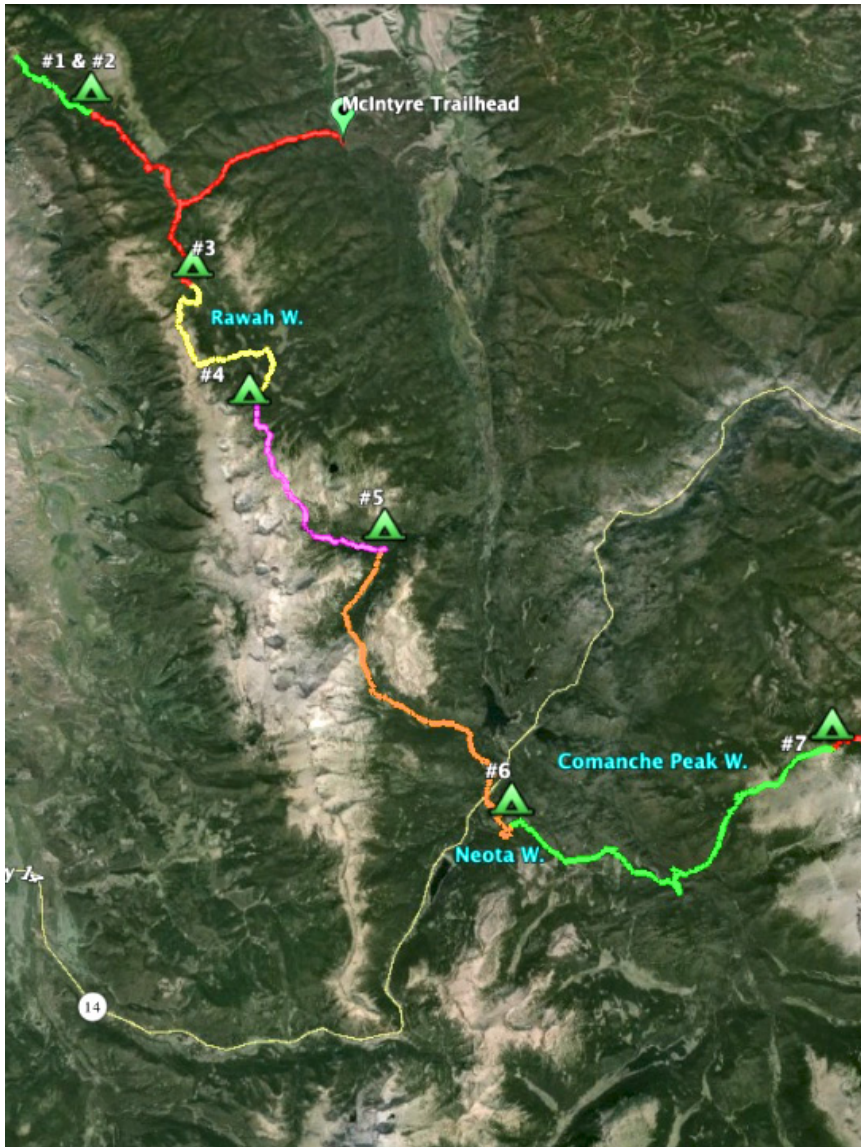
Seventy-Mile, Eight-Day, Thru-Hike of Three Wilderness Areas

Inspired by the PWV Wild51 Project designed to encourage more 2015 PWV patrols in the designated Wilderness areas, **Paul Randolph** and **Karl Ritters** on September 2, 2015, embarked on a backpacking patrol with the goal of thru-hiking all four designated Wilderness areas in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District.

Paul and Karl did reach 3 of the 4 Wilderness areas (*Rawah*, *Neota*, and *Comanche Peak*) but ran out of time to hike to the *Cache La Poudre Wilderness*.

It was an enjoyable experience to spend eight days in some of the most beautiful mountain wilderness in Colorado. They thru-hiked

on 14 different trails that are patrolled by PWV. For six days on the more remote trails they saw 0 to 3 people each day. On the typically busy Labor Day weekend they saw 70 people in the Rawahs. For many of the visitors, they were able to provide information about the area as well as inform them as to what they can do to help preserve the wilderness and make it an enjoyable experience for all visitors. Dogs off leash and campsites with fire-rings next to streams and lakes were the typical problems encountered.



PWV Restoration Accomplishments for 2015

PWV Restoration Committee efforts were mainly focused on the *North Fork Trail* this past summer. Thirteen public work days were conducted; three days of PWV only training; two training days with the **Larimer Country Youth Conservation Corps**; and eight work days with the Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps trail crew. The **Rocky Mountain Conservancy** trail crews and some of their staff and volunteers also joined us for one of our work days. This combined effort allowed PWV to build seven tenths of a mile of new trail through some very difficult terrain. A number of rock walls were built, a lot of dirt moved, and the abutments for a log stringer bridge over the river were built. The new trail was constructed through some very challenging terrain. In some areas, rock retaining walls were required to hold the trail in place on the side of the hill. Additionally, two days were also devoted to work on the *Hewlett Gulch Trail*, where employees of **New Belgium Brewery** joined our efforts.

The work was completed with the combined efforts of one hundred fifty-four individuals - forty-four PWV members and one hundred seventeen of the general public plus ten from the Larimer Country Youth Conservation Corps. This amounted to four hundred seventy-five work days for a total of four thousand, two hundred, seventy-five hours! We also ate a lot of food and had some fun along the way.

The PWV crew leaders did an outstanding job of managing the public volunteers each work day and we greatly appreciate all the hours they spent on this project.

While we did not complete all the work we had hoped for on the *North Fork* trail, we were pleased that the results allowed opening a stretch for hiking with access on the road through the Cheley Boy's Camp and then up to the new trail that was built. What remains to be completed are two bridges, a large crib wall, a turnpike and other smaller tasks. We plan to finish the work early next year so that the trail can be fully opened. Further work on *Hewlett Gulch* and possibly other trails for is also planned for 2016.



Top left: One of the rock walls built on the North Fork Trail. Top right: National Public Land Days at North Fork: volunteers are ready for trail work. Bottom left: We moved a lot of dirt! Bottom right: Crew Leaders at North Fork Trail.

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Mission

The mission of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is to assist the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and backcountry areas within its jurisdiction. To achieve this mission Poudre Wilderness Volunteers recruits, trains, equips, and fields citizen volunteers to serve as wilderness rangers and hosts for the purpose of educating the public, and provides other appropriate support to these wild areas.