



Forest Conservancy

Summer / Fall 2006 News



The mission of the Forest Conservancy is to protect and preserve our White River National Forest for future generations. To achieve this mission, the Forest Conservancy in partnership with the White River National Forest recruits, trains, and equips citizen volunteers to serve as wilderness rangers, forest ambassadors, forest stewards, and historic stewards for the purpose of educating and informing the public about the fragile natural and cultural resources of the Forest.

Hello friends of the Forest Conservancy!

For five years, the Forest Conservancy has been working hand in hand with our community and the Forest Service to preserve our American treasure of wilderness and history, the White River National Forest. This has been a tremendous task made possible by the commitment and generosity of our volunteers and supporters. Our 2006 agenda should prove to be an exciting challenge.

In addition to growing our Volunteer Wilderness Ranger corps, the Forest Conservancy is working on a number of worthwhile projects. We have started a new Trailhead Ambassador program, as an extension of the Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Program. Our Wilderness Rangers will be stationed at specific trailheads and dispense information and advice regarding the trail. We plan to do this twice a week and will advertise in the local papers.

We are planning a Forest Ranger Outdoor Cooking demonstration that will take place on Wednesday, July 5th at the East Maroon Portal at 5:30 p.m. Our Forest Service crew will be the cooks. It will be a fun family event. Please come. Our 4th Annual Weed Wrangle Up (Noxious Weed Education & Eradication Day) will take place on June 24th on Capitol Trail. Wayne Ives, Range Manager, will lead the group and discuss the detrimental effects of invasive species on plant and animal life. While we learn, we will help our environment by pulling those darn weeds. You all are invited to join us.

With your help, we hope to fund a Junior Wilderness Ranger program that targets youths from ages 12 – 15. This program will encourage the youth of our community to become directly

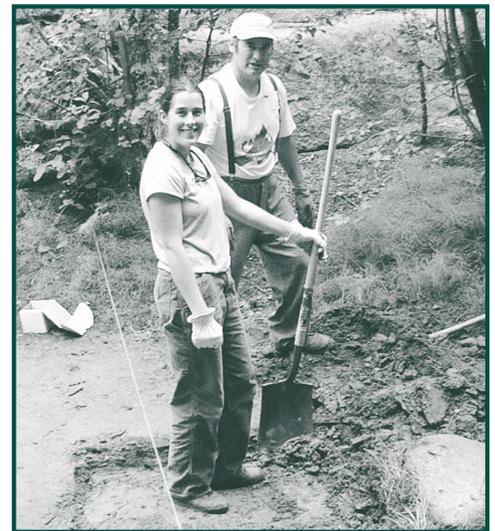
involved (with their parents) in forest resource conservation work on the White River National Forest.

Our plate is full to overflowing with ideas, goals, projects and programs. We need help in all directions – more funding for our programs, more volunteers to help facilitate our projects and more public awareness of who we are and what we are doing. We are a young organization but a very important environmental partner of the Forest Service.

Please join us – as a member, a volunteer, a donor! Working together, we will safeguard our White River National Forest for generations to come.

Happy Trails,

Judith J. Schramm
Forest Conservancy Chair



Volunteers working on the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District.

Forest Conservancy 2006 Board of Directors

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**Join the team of
dedicated citizen volunteers
who insure that the White
River National Forest is
preserved and protected for
this generation and the next.**

**Take a stand. Lend a hand.
Become a volunteer...today.**

**Apply online at
www.forestconservancy.com;
or call 970-963-8071.**



A Message from Your Forest Supervisor

The remarkable new buzzwords on our federal forests today are collaboration and restoration. Or, maybe I should say restoration through collaboration.

On the White River National Forest (WRNF), the challenge of meeting the diverse needs of people is daunting. The WRNF includes 2.3 million acres of land, stretching from Meeker to Aspen, and east to Dillon. We hold 8 of the most stunning Wilderness Areas in the nation, and host 12 ski resorts. We have 10 peak summits over 14,000 feet. Destination spots such as the Maroon Bells, Independence Pass, and Hanging Lake and similar attractions lure enough visitors from around the world to make the WRNF the number #1 recreation forest in the nation.

The WRNF administers 1834 miles of forest roads, over 2000 miles of forest trails, more than 200 summer trailheads, and 336 campgrounds, picnic grounds, observation sites, etc.

This increasing use on our forest land brings with it demands to expand capacity to meet the public's recreation needs. Maintaining our current inventory of trails, roads and campgrounds, providing adequate signage on trails and trailheads, and educating new users of forest lands require human and capital resources that are not keeping pace with the tremendous growth in visitor use we are seeing.

We need a community based, collaborative problem solving approach, sometimes known as community forestry, to adequately manage our public Forest. That means getting everyone involved. That's easier said than done.

Part of the challenge lies in spreading the word that the public land needs the public's help. For most of the last 100 years, the Forest Service has been the "can do" agency and has prided itself as the experts who knew what was best for the land.

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We in the Forest Service need to shift from an agency who is convinced we always know what is best, to one that realizes the need for collaboration and partnerships to get things accomplished.

One partner exclusively dedicated to the WRNF is the Forest Conservancy. The Forest Conservancy exists solely to protect and preserve the WRNF for the use and enjoyment of its visitors. They accomplish this task through involving the community as volunteers. Integrating volunteers into Forest Service operations makes a difference on-the-ground. The volunteer workforce of the Forest Conservancy expands the Forest's ability to meet the needs of the public by patrolling trails, reporting on Forest conditions, educating the public, responding to trail emergencies, and distributing outdoor ethic information.

Your White River National Forest belongs to you. You play in it, admire its breathtaking beauty and make your home in or near it. It supports all of us directly or indirectly.

Your Forest needs your involvement and commitment. One way you can support your Forest is through volunteering with the Forest Conservancy. Help us accomplish our mutual goals of caring for the land and serving people.

Sincerely,

Maribeth Gustafson
WRNF Supervisor

Volunteer Spotlight: Ruth Frey

If you want to know what it means to be a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger, just go on patrol with Ruth Frey. "I feel most passionate about the natural world and its preservation," Frey said. Her passion is evidenced by conducting more than 50 patrols for the White River National Forest (WRNF) during the 2005 summer season.

Ruth has spent two decades of hiking in the Rockies. The pairing of her fervor for the environment and her outdoor experience led Ruth to donning a Forest Service uniform as a volunteer. "I believe that I am making a difference in preserving our Wilderness Areas."

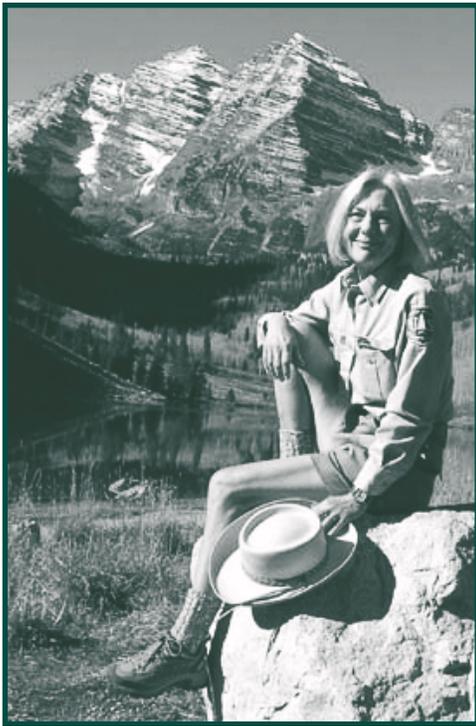
Ruth became a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger through the Forest Conservancy, a non-profit partner solely dedicated to protecting and preserving the WRNF for future generations. "I regard the partnership between the Forest Conservancy and the WRNF as a perfect marriage between a non-profit entity and federal agency, between volunteers and professionals."

The Forest Conservancy plays a vital role in bolstering the shrinking ranks of Forest rangers. The organization recruits, trains, and equips citizen volunteers for the purpose of educating and informing the public about the fragile natural and cultural resources of the Forest. The Forest Conservancy bridges the gap between what services and staff the Forest can afford to provide and what is expected and needed by the public.

Our federal lands are under assault from special interests and inadequate funding. Until the situation is reversed, the Forest Service is in dire need of help. There cannot be too many volunteers.

"Our federal lands are under assault from special interests and inadequate funding. Until the situation is reversed, the Forest Service is in dire need of help. There cannot be too many volunteers," commented Frey.

The purpose of the Forest Conservancy-WRNF volunteer program is to connect the



A Century of Service: Cayton Guard Station

By Andrea Brogan, WRNF Archaeologist

Within rough spruce cabin walls lie the legacies of early forest ranger James Cayton, the young National Forest he sought to protect, and the people he served.

The Cayton Guard Station is situated on the edge of the White River National Forest near the Divide Creek area of Silt, Colorado. It is one of the oldest ranger stations in the United States and was the administrative post for James Cayton, one of the original Forest Rangers.

The story of the guard station is just begging to be shared. It symbolizes the history of the Forest Service, Colorado and the development of the West.

James and Adelaide "Birdie" Cayton lived in a tent and worked together to build a three room log cabin by hand. They finished building the log



Photo Circa 1918

cabin in 1910. The station was named the Johnson Spring Guard Station until it was later named in James Cayton's honor.

James Cayton Jr., as the first Forest Ranger at this station, was recognized regionally for his dedication to and efforts toward administering the policies of Federal law on the National Forest and Forest Reserves. He was a pioneer of the Forest Service. His ability to work cooperatively with local ranching interests balanced with the need to conserve the forest resources for future generations typified the role of an early Forest Service Ranger. As an individual, Cayton is significant to local and state history as a representative of federal management of public lands in the West.

James retired from the Forest Service in 1939. He lived in Rifle until his death in 1956.

The Cayton Guard Station is a significant part of the White River National Forest's history. The station connects Colorado to the history of the Nation's administrative development of the Forest Service.

After more than 10 years of research, the Cayton Guard Station has been successfully listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Listing on the Register means that the site is eligible for federal funds and recognition of its historical significance to the nation, state or community.

Birdie Cayton donated her personal collection of documents, letters, diaries, newspaper clippings, maps, and photographs spanning 1908 to 1968. These historical materials are living reminders of the romance and history of the Forest Service.

Several Forest Service partners are helping to fund the restoration project including the Colorado Historical Society, Silt Historical Society, Forest Conservancy and many private donors. However, funding continues to be needed to conduct critical repairs to preserve the structural integrity of the station. Once the building is restored, it will be opened to public use.

If you are interested in donating your time or money to cultural and natural preservation projects, return the enclosed donation envelope; or visit the Forest Conservancy's website, www.forestconservancy.com. Help us safeguard the White River National Forest.

The Forest Conservancy is a 501(C)(3) corporation, tax ID#84-1583104. Donations are tax deductible.



Photo Circa 2005

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Lend a Hand.
Become a Volunteer today!
Call 970-963-8071**

diverse members of the community with the Forest through hands-on experiences. "I would have no hesitation in recommending the duty of being a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger or Forest Ambassador to anyone. The pleasure of being in the outdoors while simultaneously having the satisfaction of being of use is a winning combination."

According to the 2005 Forest Service Chief's Management Review Report for the Rocky Mountain Region, fostering partnerships is imperative to promoting sustainability of the operations of the Forest Service. Specifically, the Chief's Report stated *The Aspen-Sopris Ranger District is to be commended for fostering a close relationship with the Forest Conservancy and using volunteers to help solve problems of ... large workloads. The Aspen-Sopris Ranger District is a flagship Forest of the future.*

During the 2005 summer season, volunteer service hours exceeded 10,000, an estimated \$175,000 of in-kind donation. "There is a strong feeling of teamwork and there is obvious appreciation for the work we do," said Ruth.

According to Frey, a tremendous reinforcement for serving as a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger comes from interacting with hikers. "They are pleased to find a representative of the Forest Service out there. The fact that I am a volunteer piques curiosity, heightens respect, and stimulates conversation. Perhaps those encounters will inspire others to contribute to preservation of our natural environment."

Forest Ambassadors

Ted Bristol
Susan Carter
Vincent Cangelosi
Bernie Grauer
Marcia Johnson
Joanne Lyon
Ruth McIntyre
Carolyn Moore
Arlene Nelson
Diane Schlough
Linda Ukraine
Ed Villavecchia

Theba Feldman
Dennis Fitzpatrick
Ted Forke
Bill Frazer
Ruth Frey
Linda Gerdenich
Alice Goldfarb
Donna Grauer
Bill Gruenberg
Joyce Gruenberg
Mary Hirsch
Frank Holder
Maxine Holder
Art Hougland
Joanne Jimino
Marcia Johnson
Sam Johnson
Richard Kirk
Katie Kitchen
Paul Kovac
Stephen Kuhn
Carol Kurt
Wendy Larson
Denise Latousek
Christina Lockwood
Catherine McGuire

Dick Merritt
Pat Merritt
Ron Miller
Carolyn Moore
John Moore
Larry Naughton
Arlene Nelson
Nancy Nevin
Bob Purvis
Carolyn Purvis
Suzann Resnick
Judy Schmidt
Judy Schramm
Ronald Stevens
Rheta Strong
Hal Sundin
Ron Thompson
Linda Ukraine
Tom van Straaten
Adelaide Waters
Michael Waters
Richard Wells
John Werning
BJ Williams
Laurel Williams
John Yost

Volunteer Wilderness Rangers

Archer Bishop
Sandi Bishop
Garrett Bouton
Jerry Butler
Markey Butler
Vincent Cangelosi
Barbara Collins
Jack Collins
Stoney Davis
Charles Elias

Calendar or Summer Events

| When | What | Where | What Time |
|-------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| May 23 | Volunteer Recruitment Presentation | Church at Redstone | 7:00PM-8:30PM |
| May 24 | Volunteer Recruitment Presentation | River Valley Ranch Clubhouse, Carbondale | 6:00PM-7:30PM |
| May 25 | Volunteer Recruitment Presentation | Basalt Library | 7:00PM-8:30PM |
| June 3 | National Trails Day | Hanging Lake Trailhead | 9:00AM-Til |
| June 7 | Returning Volunteer Orientation | Maroon Bells Amphitheatre | 9:30AM-NOON |
| June 15 | New Volunteer Orientation | Maroon Bells Amphitheatre | 9:00AM-3:00PM |
| June 24 | 4th Annual Weed Wrangle Up | Capitol Creek Trailhead | 9:00AM-2:00PM |
| July 5 | Outdoor Cooking Demonstration | East Maroon Portal Picnic Area | 5:30PM-7:30PM |

What's New This Summer

Trail Ambassador Program: Volunteer Wilderness Rangers will be posted at seven popular trailheads for one hour in the morning to provide information. Look for publicity in the local newspapers about where Trail Ambassadors will be located, weather permitting.

Weekly Trail Condition Reports: New on our website to keep hikers informed.

Outdoor Cooking Demonstration: Presented by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District Wilderness and Recreation staff on Wednesday, July 5th. Join the fun of learning how to cook delicious meals at your backcountry campsite, weather permitting.

What's in the Works

Help us raise funds to support a Junior Ranger program with sights to begin the 2007 summer season. Please send your monetary contribution in the enclosed remittance envelope. Mark it Junior Ranger program.

We're planning to open the Hanging Lake kiosk at the trailhead by mid-summer staffed by volunteers. Our goal is to assist visitors.

Building a Lasting Legacy for the Future of Your Forest!

2005-2006 Forest Conservancy Members

Spruce

Barbara & Bruce Berger
Diana & Garrett Bouton
James R. Cayton
Betty & Nick Coates
Cecil G & Jessie L Deardorff
Memorial Fund
Theba & Buster Feldman
Kristin & Josh Frieman
Gerri Karetsky
Evelyn & Leonard Lauder
Joanne & Lee Lyon
Susan & Larry Marx
Judith Schramm

Aspen

Judith Barnard & Michael Fain
Ted Forke
Jane & Bill Frazer
Hazel & William Hough
Laura & Gary Lauder
Lynn Russell & Stoney Davis

Lodgepole

Vincent Cangelosi
Sistie Fischer
Nelson Gordman
Larry Naughton
Susan & Edward Oppenheimer
Marcia & Philip Rothblum
Mary & Patrick Scanlan
Mary Norma & Julian Weinkle

Pinion

Robert Adams
Carole & Paul Auvil
Marjorie & William Bardeen
Carla & Stephen Berry
Sandi & Archer Bishop
Irwin Blitt
Kay & Matthew Bucksbaum

Nancy & Richard Carrigan
Bernice & Loyal Durand
Debbie & Jerome Epstein
Zoe & Gerald Eskin
Nannette & Jerry Finger
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Ruth & Peter Frey
Sue Froeschle
Barbara & Gary Goldstein
Donna & Bernie Grauer
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Joan Harris
Linda Haydock
Sue & Bob Helm
Mary & Michael Hirsch
Judith & Stanley Hoffberger
Ann & Sam Johnson
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Martha Madsen
Jeanette Nichols
Patricia Papper
Everett Peirce
Hensley & James Peterson
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John Werning
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Barbara Stirling
Hal Sundin
Ronald Thompson
Gayle & Richard Wells
Dorothy & Harold Wolcott
Edie & George Wombwell

In-Kind Donors

Wendy Bertolet
Michael Bonds
Jeanette Darnauer
Marcia Johnson



Post Office Box 3136
Aspen, Colorado 81612

It's Your Land!

Did you know that the White River National Forest....

- **Encompasses 2,275,956 acres of Forestland?**
- **Includes 751,900 acres of Wilderness Areas?**
- **Has an annual visitation of 9.7 million people, the most visited Forest in the United States?**
- **Is ranked 25th in federal funding for recreation, wilderness, and heritage activities?**
- **Has suffered an 80% drop in the number of wilderness rangers on the trails?**
- **Needs your help to safeguard its future!**

Take a Stand. Lend a Hand.
Become a Volunteer today! Call 970-963-8071.