

# Grand County Wilderness Group



Fall Issue 2016

[www.gcwg.org](http://www.gcwg.org)

## *Letter from the President*

Our work is winding down for the season in assisting the Forest Service in the preservation, protection, improvement and public understanding of the Wilderness Areas in Grand County.

We started with a very informative stewardship training session led by Ralph Swain the Rocky Mountain Regional Wilderness Program Manager and our own Sulphur Ranger District staff. This was a great way to learn or refresh our skills in order to effectively engage with the public on carrying out our mission and volunteer activities.

In addition to hosting the Monarch Lake and Junco Lake cabins, we initiated a pilot project of hosting additional trailheads within the District with mixed success. We'll continue this activity next year with some modifications. We also initiated a program to sell cathole trowels at the Monarch and Junco Cabins, during trailhead hosting and at the Forest Service office. This is to bring awareness to, and alleviate the problem of human waste disposal that is an increasing issue, especially around the popular lakeside camping areas.

Thanks in part to the volunteer hours of GCWG members, we saw a significant increase of Forest Service presence in the Wilderness Areas of Grand County. A grant was obtained to hire 5 seasonal wilderness interns. Along with Andy Borek, our Lead Wilderness Ranger, there were three groups of two people patrolling our Wilderness Areas four days each week including weekends for much of the summer. There was a dramatic increase in contacts and tickets issued for dogs off leash and illegal camping in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. Also, there were several contacts and tickets issued in the other Wilderness Areas in our county, especially at the Bowen Lake area within the Never Summer Wilderness Area.

We had another very significant event in July as we dedicated the Joan Shaw Memorial Kiosk at the Junco Lake Trailhead. We were privileged to have Roger Shaw, his son Gordon and daughter-in-law from Tahoe, CA attend the event along with over 50 other people. With the money that was left over from the Joan Shaw Memorial Fund, we purchased signs for three other trailheads within the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area using the same design. These three additional trailhead kiosks (Roaring Fork, Monarch Lake and Devil's Thumb) will be completed this summer, too.

Also, we will be reporting on and reacting to legislation that has been introduced that will degrade the 1964 Wilderness Act by giving federal land managers discretion to allow mountain bikers into wilderness areas. This shows why we need to remain vigilant in our efforts to defend the spirit of the Wilderness Act and sustain the wilderness characteristics as the legislation directs.

I would like to give a huge Thank You to all volunteers that gave your valuable time to the many activities this summer in support of our mission. We'll be reporting on and celebrating our accomplishments of the summer at our Fall Members Meeting at the YMCA – Snow Mountain Ranch on Sunday evening, October 23rd. Hope you all can join in on the celebration, good times at our Fall Members Meeting at the YMCA – Snow Mountain Ranch on Sunday evening, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Hope you all can join in on the celebration, good times and wonderful pot luck.

## *Upcoming events*

**2016 Wilderness Workshop:** 11/7 - 11/10 in Missoula, MT. GCWG members are encouraged to attend.

**Fall Meeting:** 10/23/16

**White Deer Party:** 1/29/17 5:30 at Snow Mountain Ranch. Details to follow. What is a White Deer Party, you ask? Well, think "white elephant", with a Grand County wilderness slant.

The idea is to wrap something you consider a personal "white elephant", bring it to the gathering, and watch who goes home with it! This is always a fun event.

**Spring Camping Trip.** Watch for dates to be announced.

## *Volunteers Needed*

Please contact the WG Board if you would like to actively participate in the following capacities:

- 1. Orientation Hike Coordinator:** Ingrid Anderson is stepping down from her role that she has had for many years of coordinating Orientation Hikes. We're looking for someone that can take over for next summer.
- 2. Volunteer for Thursday event Organizer.** We're thinking of promoting and recruiting new (younger) members at the Thursday concerts in Winter Park. We're looking for someone to organize this event.
- 3. Maintenance Workers:** Join a core group for trail maintenance. If you are interested in doing trail maintenance work, we are establishing a core group which will be led by Jack Reichert.

Through the end of June we have 850 hours reported. Last year at the same time we had about 1400 hours. Toni thinks it is because of non recorded summer hours.

## ***Will Wilderness be Relevant in the Future***

The term wilderness is defined as “an area where the earth and community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions. <http://www.wilderness.net/factsheet.cfm>

Bob and Anne recently attended a wilderness conference where the question of whether wilderness will remain relevant to the next generations was discussed. Apparently this is a question others have asked. According to research, the desires of humans really haven't changed much from generation to generation. Every generation has those individuals that desire to wonder in the woods and experience the untrammled natural world.

In an article, What does wilderness mean to the millennial generation? The Sierra Club National Wilderness Essay Contest asked young writers to answer this question. This quote from the contest winner Jeff Wagner's essay “Wild Connections” summarizes the answer this way: They want to live in a society that values the things that pay off in the long run, like clean air, clean water, and a starry night sky. They want things that pay off in human terms. Lots of things come in instant form, but not happiness, kindness, peace, empathy, genuine connections, and certainly not patience. So what is the role of wilderness for my generation? All those twenty-somethings trying to make their way in this world? Environmentalists have no greater ally and teacher than wilderness. I see it in every person I spend time with in wild places and how it changes their perspectives on the world. Wilderness lets us experience an alternative to what humans have created, and it demands that we ask ourselves where our world is going. <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2014-6-november-december/green-life/wild-connections>

Other research, reported in Wilderness 2.0: what does wilderness mean to the Millennials? An Article in Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences 5(3) summarizes: We conclude that the wilderness tradition remains vital and powerful, but we should expect it to evolve in new directions as social and environmental conditions change. Generations Y, Z, and beyond will never know that pristine wilderness; they will know only what humans have created. And, the outlook has only gotten worse: in 2005, Richard Louv warned us that “nature deficit disorder” was on the rise. Today's children, he worried, spend far more time in front of screens than they spend in the woods and end up radically disconnected from the natural world.

They may care about biodiversity, sustainability, and environmental justice, but do they care about wilderness? *continued on page 7.*

## ***Signs*** Doris Klein

More and more people recreate on national forests and grasslands every year. Meeting the increasing needs of these visitors, delivering quality recreation, heritage and wilderness opportunities, and protecting natural resources has become challenging. To help address this issue, President Bush signed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). The Act permits federal land management agencies to continue charging modest fees at campgrounds, rental cabins, and at day use sites that have certain facilities.” (REA, signed 2004) Standard Amenity Fee To charge this fee, a “site or area must contain six ‘amenities’: 1) developed parking area, 2) restroom, 3) interpretive, educational and regulatory signage, 4) safety patrols, 5) picnic tables and 6) trash pickup.” In the Arapaho National Recreation Area (ANRA), there are 13 “fee pods” (areas where the six required amenities are found). These areas are designated in yellow on the ANRA fee area map and include Monarch Lake and picnic areas. The fee applies if someone drives, rides, boats or walks into a fee pod. Expanded Amenity Fee This next level in the fee structure covers “Campgrounds, highly developed boat launches and swimming areas, cabin or lookout rentals.” Since campground fees go toward the upkeep and maintenance of campgrounds only, the Standard Amenity Fee is also charged when someone is camping in the ANRA, for example at Arapaho Bay Campground. One drives in and out of fee areas along the roads to Monarch Lake and Meadow Creek Reservoir/Junco Lake Trailhead, because there are improved areas which meet the amenities criteria for a use fee and unimproved areas which do not. We often think of and refer to ANRA passes as “parking passes”, but they are really day use passes that give people access to areas within the ANRA that feature amenities. For more in depth explanation of recreation fees and passes, see USDA Forest Service website: [www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov). Statements in quotations herein are taken from that website.



### ***What is a Trail Ambassador?***

Trail hosting will now be called “Trail Ambassador” to avoid confusion with trail head hosting. Trail Ambassadors will wear a GCWG shirt or hat and badge while you enjoy your hikes in the wilderness. While you are there, please act as an ambassador for the group.

This entails:

- Greeting other hikers and answering questions if asked (handouts were provided at 2016 spring
- Snapping pictures and gathering GPS coordinates for any trail damage
- Count the number of encounters you have during your hike
- Note the number of dogs off leash you encounter in the wilderness. If appropriate, educate the dog owners about the lease requirements.
- Remember to report your hours.

Our Wilderness Group will miss the energy and dedication of one of our long-time members. Following a quite unexpected and brief illness, Jean Abigail (Hill) Miller, age 87, made the final ascent to the mountains beyond on the sunlit autumn afternoon of September 7, 2016.

One of her last activities was to host the Junco Cabin. Wilderness areas were of great importance to Jean as she helped defend and protect these areas in Grand County. The Wilderness Group family offers our sympathy to Jean's family.



*Goodbye.  
Jean, you will be  
remembered.*

## ***Tales from Cabin Hosting***     *Doris Klein*

Meeting interesting people is one of the great joys of being a GCWG volunteer for the Forest Service.

On August 14th, GCWG was hosting the Roaring Fork trailhead, when this Gunnison, Colorado, family appeared. Asked the typical question, "Where are you headed?", the parents' reply was surprising: "Canada! We are hiking the Continental Divide Trail." (They started in Mexico in mid-April.) Their son, nicknamed Buddy Backpacker, is 8 years old! He has already hiked the Appalachian Trail (2186 miles @ age 5) and the Pacific Crest Trail (2650 miles @ age 6). He holds many hiking records and will likely become the Youngest Triple Crown of Hiking, when he completes the Continental Divide Trail with his parents in Canada in 2017.

There is "nothing more exciting than meeting new people, hearing their stories and being inspired." (Anonymous). To learn more and be further inspired by this amazing young hiker, visit his website: [www.buddybackpacker.com](http://www.buddybackpacker.com).



## ***Hatchery***     *Doris Klein*

We thought this sign was funny. It is posted at the rifle falls fish hatchery, One of 16 in the state. Many of us have seen monarch being stocked... It is interesting to visit a hatchery to get the full story. You can often get a facility tour and talk to a biologist. Interesting to learn how they make stocking decisions (when and where), how they stock high mountain lakes by airplane or sometimes even by pack horse. We recently learned they even stock Granby reservoir after it is frozen over. Members may enjoy taking the opportunity to visit a hatchery.



## ***Remembering Joan Shaw and Jean Miller at Public Lands Day***     *Stephen Lee*



I took these pictures of the Public Lands Day memorial table for Joan Shaw & Jean Miller. We were all having coffee when we got back to the Y after a cold, snowy day. We had a productive day!

# Mountain Bike Coalition Targets Wilderness

By Kevin Froescholdt

**A** coalition of mountain bikers has announced its plans to ride rough-shod over the 1964 Wilderness Act in an attempt to open the National Wilderness Preservation System to mountain bikes. The Sustainable Trails Coalition has drafted legislation to amend the Wilderness Act, embarked on a fundraising campaign, and announced plans to hire a Washington, DC, lobbying firm to have its bill introduced and passed through Congress.



*The 50 year-old boundary of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness in New Mexico was changed in 2014 to allow mountain bikers to legally use part of a trail originally inside the Wilderness. Photo: Steve Boucher*

bicycles and other forms of mechanical transport out of Wilderness.

Yet this new challenge is a serious threat to Wilderness. Mountain bikers have flexed their political muscle recently across the country at the expense of Wilderness, shrinking the boundaries of proposed Wildernesses *before* designation, and in at least one instance, actually eliminating land from an existing Wilderness. Consider these examples:

The Wilderness Act, of course, rightly prohibits bicycles in Wildernesses. Although the modern mountain bike didn't exist in 1964, the Act's authors wisely excluded all motorized and mechanized travel in Wilderness. Section 4(c) of the Act plainly states "there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, *no other form*

*of mechanical transport,* and no structure or installation within any such area." (emphasis added). For more than 50 years, this provision has been widely understood and implemented to keep

- **Boulder-White Clouds.** Congress designated three Wildernesses in the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains of Idaho in 2015. Mountain bikers succeeded in excluding some trails from wilderness designation in what are now non-wilderness corridors that fragment this area into the smaller Wildernesses.

- **Hermosa Creek Wilderness.** In Colorado, the original Hermosa Creek roadless area covered more than 148,000 acres, and for decades conservationists had pushed to protect about 100,000 acres as Wilderness. But because of active opposition from mountain bikers, the final wilderness boundaries were shrunk in 2014 to just 37,000 acres, with an additional 70,000 acres designated as a Special Management Area to allow mountain biking to continue there.

Mountain Bike Coalition continued on page 4

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## Rescuing Chunky Monkey

Carolyn Sunderland

Monarch Lake provided a unique adventure for hosts Monica Sandstrom and Carolyn Sunderland on Saturday, Sept. 10. It was the usual September day, beautiful and BUSY: pack horses, musket hunters, llamas, fisher people, dogs plus many day and back-country hikers (with and without permits).

At the end of the day, as we closed down the cabin, we were alerted by a returning hiker that a large dog had grounded itself on the trail and refused to move. The dog appeared to be in pain. The dog's caretaking family consisted of a human mother, her two daughters and two other smaller dogs. Six heartbeats stranded on the trail.

Imagining we may need to carry this dog some distance, Carolyn went to the closet in search of a litter. No such luck. But she did find a couple of aluminum poles (of perfect length) and some sturdy Forest Service jackets. *Cont. page 7.*

## *2015 Registration Box Report* Stephen Lee

The Grand County Wilderness Group has been monitoring and maintaining registration boxes for trailheads leading to Wilderness Areas for the US Forest Service for 16 years. There are now a total of 11 registration boxes that are maintained by the GCWG. A volunteer provides registration sheets, retrieves them and tabulates the numbers for that trail. These numbers are given to another volunteer who pulls them together and writes a report for the Forest Service. This report has been identified as being very important in Forest Service planning and funding.

Below is a tabular listing of all the data obtained for the total number of visitors at each trailhead registration box. A big THANK YOU to all our registration box volunteers!

Trailhead	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Monarch	7550	7350	8300	7866	9300	8167	9760	12018	13780	16474	13496	14250	17733		19661	19880
Junco	2400	2800	3700	2828	2800	3122	2592	3242	3275	3070	3323	3246	3329	2223	3266	3688
Byers Peak	2950	2350	2750	2128	2300	950		1003	659	810	901	750	936.5	994	1000	986
St. Louis Creek			2650	2052	2020	1001	853	682	886	754	1112	623	698	604	623	669
Devils Thumb													1218		1391	1420
Baker	1230	1530	1150	1144	998	1034	1185	991	962	1252	1407	890	839	1389	1083	1678
Bowen	830	990	630	616	710	687		568	582	651	596	470	612	420	394	796
Kinney Creek	270	370	280	252	203	205		157	193	328					171	
Lake Evelyn	150	530	520	332	420	430	431	473	351	412	378	344	378	167	410	
Vasquez	530	615	675	424	530		366	400	435	524	461	444		455	654	921
Roaring Fork								427	1201	1345	1085	1363	1139	913	830	860

Looking at the registration box data for 2015, general usage seems to have evened off at most of the trailheads. Of course Monarch Lake usage is still very high, but only increased by a total of 200 visitors. Some data from over the winter at Monarch seems to be missing, so that total number could be a bit higher. One thing I have noticed is that Monarch, with its lower elevation does get more around the year usage. Most of the other trailheads are not accessible (or barely so) in Winter.

Major increases were seen at Bowen and Baker Lake, as well as Vasquez. Bowen and Baker are gateways to the Never Summer Wilderness, and of course Vasquez is an entryway for the Vasquez Wilderness. Perhaps this is a sign that visitors are beginning to disperse more into wilderness areas. I mentioned in last years report that the Forest Service office was attempting to direct visitors to less utilized areas in our Grand County backcountry.

Junco seems to be holding very steady, 3266 in 2014 vs. 3688 in 2015. Trailhead numbers for the other sites seem to be holding fairly steady as well. For 2015 we are missing data from two registration boxes, Lake Evelyn and Kinney Creek. Lake Evelyn did show an increase from 2013 to 2014, but we did not gather any data for 2015. And it is hard to draw conclusions from Kinney Creek from the sparse nature of the data. Both of the trailheads are remote and somewhat difficult to access.

The numbers in the following Table are a count of the number of overnight visitors passing through each trailhead multiplied by the number of nights spent in the Wilderness. So the numbers give a better sense of how many people are actually recreating in the various Wilderness areas.

### **Backcountry Overnight Usage**

	2014	2015
Monarch	1899	1801
Junco	74	245
Byers	5	35
St. Louis	44	43
Devils Thumb	26	38
Baker	1008	1564
Bowen	24	1122
Kinney Creek	24	
Lake Evelyn	49	
Vasquez	126	43
Roaring Fork	378	239

**Fall Member's Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 23, 2016 5:30 pm**  
**Rawley Room (under the Chapel),**  
**YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch**

#### Agenda

**5:30 pm Appetizers**

**6:00 pm Dinner**

**7:00 pm Meeting**

Celebration of summer activities

Bob Saint/Andy Borek

**7:45 pm Presentation:**

**Wilderness Safety and Survival Jack Richert**

## ***Mexico documents big rebound in monarch butterflies***

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUBLISHED: February 26, 2016 at 4:22 pm |

UPDATED: April 18, 2016 at 12:12 am



MEXICO CITY — After suffering serious declines, monarch butterflies have made a big comeback in their wintering grounds in Mexico, investigators said Friday. The area covered by the orange-and-black insects in the mountains west of Mexico City this season was more than 3½ times greater than last winter. The butterflies clump so densely in the pine and fir forests that they are counted by the area they cover rather than by individuals.

For more,

<http://www.denverpost.com/2016/02/26/mexico-documents-big-rebound-in-monarch-butterflies/>

***Beth and Jim hosting at roaring fork trail head.*** In the following photos Beth and Jim are conferring with a ranger, greeting a family heading out on a day hike with their dog on leash, and advising a backpacker.



## ***Will Wilderness be Relevant in the Future*** *continued from page 2.*

The 2005 book of Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods*, articulates a concern that resonates broadly with American audiences. “Within the space of a few decades,” he argues, “the way children understand and experience nature has changed radically.... Today, kids are aware of the global threats to the environment—but their physical contact, their intimacy with nature, is fading.” (Louv 2005, p. 1).

The carriers of the wilderness tradition have always been a small group of highly engaged individuals who (1) articulate, in particularly compelling and resonant ways, a set of values and concepts that tend to congregate together around the idea of wilderness and (2) organize action in service of those values. To understand how a tradition is evolving, we must investigate how this small group of environmental leaders and advocates is engaging with and interpreting the traditional idea of wilderness.

This brings to mind the question of how the Grand County Wilderness Group members can do their part to help the wilderness in our area survive and encourage the next generation’s awareness. How can we support and grow this group of highly engaged individuals? The answer to this question is easier than you might think. Every volunteer hour you report goes towards dollars that can and have been used to sponsor young people who come to our area to work with the Forest Service. This past summer, there were five of these interns. Not only does this help tremendously in the maintenance of the Forest in our area, it gives these individuals opportunities to experience wilderness for themselves. I asked these interns to give me feedback on their thoughts on wilderness.

Ariana Inman’s responses, included below, should give us incentive to up our commitment to the Wilderness Group. Our many thanks to these interns. Let’s get to work volunteering and make sure to report all of our hours to help keep this tradition going here in Grand County.

**Thanks to Ariana Inman for sharing her answers to the following question:**

1. What caused you to become interested in working with the Forest Service.
2. What does wilderness mean to you?
3. Have you learned anything this summer that makes you more or less interested in the Wilderness?
4. In your opinion, how is the best way to educate young people on the importance of both designated Wilderness and other wilderness like areas that may not be designated.
5. Going forward, how do we continue to preserve wilderness with increasing numbers of Americans flooding into the most isolated and remote areas, seeking the spiritual, aesthetic, and recreational experiences?

1. I am currently a student at Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, NY. I took the internship with the Forest Service as an opportunity for me to gain field experience as I am pursuing a career in Natural Resources Conservation: Law Enforcement. The Forest Service in particular appealed to me, because it is a federal agency where I can actively participate in a nationwide effort to preserve pieces of land for the enjoyment of people both now and in the future.

2. To me, wilderness is a section of land that is set aside to be used in its purest most natural form. This means minimal human impact, where we as humans are only respectful guests.

3. This summer I served as a Wilderness Ranger Intern. Along with this job title came the responsibility to be a presence in the Arapaho wilderness areas educating the visitors on how to manage the natural resources through their compliance of the rules. In doing so, I hoped to encourage the visitors in the impact that they can make towards keeping the wilderness areas pristine for future enjoyment. Most violators were more than happy to comply once they realized the rules and their purpose. The positive feedback I received and my own personal observation of some of the most pristine land areas in the entire world solidified my passion for the preservation and protection of wilderness areas.

4. The best way to educate young people about wilderness is to have them experience it. Until they truly experience the spiritual, recreational, and aesthetic value that it holds; they will have no appreciation for it. Furthermore, they may not realize the preciousness of it. They should experience the opposite of wilderness in order to truly value and see its importance.

5. Currently, the government has set aside these lands and they belong to the federal government. We can use that to our advantage and not let them be owned and developed by the interest of individuals. Additionally, we should not seek to withhold the enjoyment of these lands from the people. We should encourage their visitation, but monitor their impact in order to preserve the condition of the lands. When they experience the land in its natural condition, many will develop a passion for it and stand with us for protecting what they can now see is valuable.



**GCWG Wilderness Stewardship Training** *Bob Saint*

On Saturday, May 28th, 22 members of the Grand County Wilderness Group (GCWG) participated in Wilderness Stewardship Training conducted by the US Forest Service. The training was conducted by Nick Schade, Natural Resource Recreation Specialist; Andy Borek, Lead Wilderness Ranger; and Miles Miller, Recreation Planner all employees of our local USFS Sulphur Ranger District. Also special guest, Ralph Swain, Rocky Mountain Region Wilderness and Rivers Program Manager, shared his knowledge and insight on engaging the public in an effective, professional and safe manner utilizing a systematic, six-step process called WISDOM that he has developed over the years. Ralph emphasized using the “Authority of the Resource” to inform users of the reasons for the rules and practices necessary to maintain and preserve the natural solitude, primitive nature and other wilderness characteristics of federally designated Wilderness Areas; now and for generations to come. “The entire event provided us with positive, informative and useful tools to further our ability to engage with the public in the Wilderness” said Ann Steers, member of the GCWG.



(L to R) Nick Schade, Nick Schade, Natural Resource Recreation Specialist; Andy Borek, Lead Wilderness Ranger; and, Ralph Swain, Rocky Mountain Region Wilderness and Rivers Program Manager conducted Wilderness Stewardship Training for the GCWG. *Continued on page 6*



Miles Miller, USFS Sulphur Ranger District Recreation Planner, left, shares his knowledge on the science of the use of crosscut saws with the GCWG. Others in the photo are (L to R) Jim Magill; Ralph Swain, USFS; Ann Steers; Beth Collins; and Gary Perkins.

### ***Chunky Monkey*** continued from page 6.

In front of the cabin, as we were assembling these items, two more hikers arrived with the report of an unfriendly dog in distress. These young fellows helped us put the litter together, but were not moved by our “damsels in distress” message. Were they willing to hike back and lug the dog out? No way.

It was getting later and not many hikers were presenting themselves and those who did were not young and able bodied. We needed muscle. Monica got on the radio and called the Forest Service. No help. In desperation we called the Sheriff’s Dept. They said they would call back.

But then a returning backpacker arrived with the same sad story. He had perhaps helped the dog’s discomfort by giving it a couple of muscle relaxant pills. So, Craig Spivey (from Colo. Springs) became our rescuing hero.

Gathering up our make-shift litter plus a thick pad that he provided, he announced he would jog to the site. Carolyn hurried behind while Monica waited for the sheriff’s call-back.

Thankfully, it was only about ½ mile down the trail when Carolyn caught up with Craig, the Rick family (from Aurora) and their 3 dogs: the largest being the aptly-named, “Chunky Monkey”. They were gently loading the dog onto the litter.

Chunky Monkey weighs about 100 lbs. and looks like a well-fed Burmese Mountain dog. Craig’s thick pad worked to stabilize the litter. With mother and elder daughter on the front poles and Craig on the back they trundled Chunky Monkey, Cleopatra style, down the rocky path.

Periodically a rest break was needed, at which point our sweet Chunky decided to stand up and step off the litter. This required the repeated process of encouraging him to WALK. Not much success there. So again he was rolled onto his litter. Smart dog.

At some point the two women in front were replaced by a young man. This turned out to be Andre Torres from Colombia, out for a hike. With only one bearer in front, progress was faster on the narrow trail. Then Monica arrived to add her services -- reporting the Sheriff’s Dept. could not help.

But all was well as our little troupe shortly arrived at the cabin, and Chunky with many proffered doggy treats and lots of loving encouragement, was willing to wobble to his car. With much relief, Monica and Carolyn left the Monarch parking lot at 6pm.

## ***Joan Shaw Memorial Kiosk***

### ***Dedication*** Bob Saint

Over fifty people gathered at the Junco Lake Trailhead near Meadow Creek Reservoir on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> to dedicate the Joan Shaw Memorial Junco Lake Trailhead Kiosk. The Kiosk was made possible by contributions to the Grand County Wilderness Group (GCWG) to the Joan Shaw Memorial Fund after her passing in February, 2015. Among the attendees were her husband Roger now living near Indianapolis, IN and son Gordon from Tahoe, CA. The dedication included comments from Marshall Haith; Bob Saint, president of the GCWG; Miles Miller, US Forest Service; and other audience members. And of course, a couple of group songs. When the GCWG Board was thinking about an appropriate memorial for Joan, we knew that she was very instrumental in starting the tradition of displaying current photos at the kiosks at both Junco Lake and Monarch Lake Trailheads. We also knew that the Forest Service was wanting to shift to a more permanent, weatherproof design for displaying information at trailheads. We are pleased that the Forest Service allowed us to use the funds received for the design and construction of the panels for the Junco Lake Trailhead informational Kiosk in memory of Joan Shaw. Because we have extra money in the fund, we are able to purchase kiosk panels for three additional trailheads for the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area: Roaring Fork, Monarch Lake and Devil’s Thumb. Click this link to watch a video of the Joan Shaw Kiosk Dedication.

<https://www.facebook.com/100013199685522/videos/174666482983340/>



### ***Installation of the Kiosk*** Installation on Berthoud Pass.

The kiosk will service the Vasquez Peak Wilderness Area located a short distance west of the Berthoud Pass summit on the trail towards the Vasquez Peak Wilderness.

## Mountain Bike Coalition (continued from page 1)

• **Wheeler Peak Wilderness.** The 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) changed the boundary of the existing Wheeler Peak Wilderness in New Mexico to allow mountain bikes to legally use about a mile of trail that formerly ran inside the Wilderness. The boundary change allowed the creation of a 15-mile mountain biking trail, described by some biking enthusiasts as a “ripping-fast single track”, much of it above 10,000 feet in elevation. The original boundary had been established by the Wilderness Act over a half-century ago; so much for the notion of permanent protection via wilderness designation.

Ironically, it was the Boulder-White Clouds bill that in part prompted the formation of the Sustainable Trails Coalition (STC). In addition to trails kept open by non-wilderness corridors, some mountain bike trails were also closed as part of that legislation. The four mountain bikers who formed the Sustainable Trails Coalition soon after passage of that bill felt that the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), the primary mountain biker association in the country, was not forceful enough in fighting to retain all mountain bike trails. These bikers wanted more aggressive action to open all Wildernesses to mountain biking, a move IMBA has not endorsed. And so the STC was formed.

The Sustainable Trails Coalition drafted its legislation, “Human-Powered Wildlands Travel Management Act of 2015,” to allow the federal agencies to open all Wildernesses in the nation to mountain bikes. Furthermore, the bill would allow chainsaws and wheeled devices like carts and wheelbarrows in Wilderness. The bill would further degrade Wilderness by allowing the construction of structures and installations, including cabins, permanent outfitter camps, and fire towers.

Wilderness Watch has been spearheading the effort to oppose this very real threat to our National Wilderness Preservation System. In the spring of this year, Wilderness Watch circulated an organizational sign-on letter

to Congress opposing the efforts by STC members to weaken the Wilderness Act for their personal gain. In all, 115 organizations from across the country signed, and that letter has been shared with Congress.

Elsewhere in this *Watcher* are articles by Wilderness Watch President Howie Wolke and long-time wilderness advocate Doug Scott that further describe this serious issue facing Wilderness.

In his article, Doug uses the “camel’s nose under the tent” metaphor to describe these threats to Wilderness. The analogy is quite apt. Recently in the news, stories have appeared about bicycles with hidden electric motors built into the frames, that are virtually undetectable by visual inspection. The technology for producing these “E-bike” mountain bikes has advanced significantly in recent times. And they provide yet another reason why Wilderness should be kept free of all mountain bikes.

As Wilderness faces increasing pressures from an expanding human population, growing mechanization, and a rapidly changing climate, the last thing Wilderness needs is to be invaded by mountain bikes and other machines. Wilderness Watch will continue to actively oppose this effort. 🐌



*Jim McClure—Jerry Peak Wilderness, part of the larger proposed Boulder-White Clouds wilderness complex that was severely fragmented to accommodate mountain bike trails. Photo: Ken Straley*

### **What you can do:**

*Please urge your members of Congress to support and uphold the Wilderness Act’s prohibition on bikes and other forms of mechanical transportation in Wilderness, and to oppose all attempts to weaken the Wilderness Act and wilderness protections.*

- To find and contact members of Congress, visit: [www.usa.gov/elected-officials](http://www.usa.gov/elected-officials)
- You can write your senator or representative at:  
Senator (Name), US Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510  
Representative (Name), US House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515.

## ***Bees Added to the Endangered Species List?***

Click here to read more,

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/01/us/hawaii-bee-species-endangered/index.html>

Can you find the queen in the picture? Hint: Left center.



## Spring Camping Trip Photos



**Grand County Wilderness Group** - You have joined a service organization. There are plenty of ways to be of serve. We hope that you became part of GCWG because you care about wild places with wild creature in Grand County and intend to help preserve them. NOW is the time to make choices for your involvement. All you need to do is set aside the time and sign up. NO ONE WILL CALL, it is up to you to get out there and make a difference. Here is a summary opportunities for your reference:

1. Host one day at Junco Cabin - sign up at the Spring meeting.
  2. Host one day at Monarch Cabin - sign up at the Spring meeting
- Don't worry about knowing how to host a cabin. Toni Wujek always gives us a training session to start the season.
3. Open up and clean either cabin to start the season
  4. Hike the wilderness trails any day - even ON WEEKENDS and report via website form.
  5. Lead an orientation hike of your choice - Ingrid Anderson
  6. Adopt a registration box and retrieve the reports - Stephen Lee ([stephenchris@rkymtnhi.com](mailto:stephenchris@rkymtnhi.com), [708-990-5967](tel:708-990-5967))
  7. Spreadsheet analysis of trail usage from registration boxes - Stephen Lee
  8. Take digital photographs for our bulletin boards, newsletter and historian. - Holly Whitten ([WPHolly@aim.com](mailto:WPHolly@aim.com))
  9. Help construct signage and update trailhead bulletin boards - Jack Reichert
  10. Work on trail maintenance and other projects - Jack Reichert
  11. Pay your \$20 dues to Grand County Wilderness Group - PO Box 406 Tabernash, 80472
  12. Send change of email or address or phone - Mike Braddy - PO Box 206 Tabernash, CO 80478
  13. Wear your wilderness tee shirt or sweatshirt every time you hike in the forest and report your hours.
  14. Staff the booth at the Art Affair for 2 hours
  15. Consider backpacking with the Encampment group or joining the Spring Camp
  16. Uproot noxious weeds wherever we can find them - Beth Collins ([970-726-5423](tel:970-726-5423))
  17. Record and report volunteer hours - Toni Wujek
  18. Distribute our "business" cards
  19. Contribute to this newsletter, next edition - Holly Whitten ([WPHolly@aim.com](mailto:WPHolly@aim.com))
  20. Work on National Public Lands Day
  21. Purchase shirts, sweatshirts and hats.
  22. Adopt an Osprey nest -USFS ([970-887-4100](tel:970-887-4100))
  23. Monitor a blue bird box - USFS ([970-887-4100](tel:970-887-4100))
  24. Help with Campground Bear Bin Interpretation Stickers - Greenridge, Idlewild, Others - USFS ([970-887-4100](tel:970-887-4100))
  25. Contact the Forest Service anytime - USFS ([970-887-4100](tel:970-887-4100))

**2016 Membership.** Join Today. Pay your \$20 dues to Grand County Wilderness Group PO Box 406 Tabernash, CO 80478. Send change of email, address or phone information to Mike Braddy – PO Box 406 Tabernash, CO 80478

(Application to Join: Fill in information below and send this form with payment or pay on-line at GCWG.org.)

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Interests (Please refer to the activity list on page 6 and make contact accordingly):

Special Thanks to Chas McConnell at [McConnell Printing](#) for his help with printing this newsletter.

### **GCWG Contact Info:**

President: Bob Saint

[president@gcwg.org](mailto:president@gcwg.org)

Secretary: Christine Lee

[news1@gcwg.org](mailto:news1@gcwg.org)

Vice-President: Al Rothenbach

[vpres@gcwg.org](mailto:vpres@gcwg.org)

Newsletter Content: Holly Whitten

[sec@gcwg.org](mailto:sec@gcwg.org)

Treasurer: Tom Whitten

[treas@gcwg.org](mailto:treas@gcwg.org)

Newsletter Editor: Jean Vasicek

[jean@winterparkhoney.com](mailto:jean@winterparkhoney.com)

**Grand County Wilderness Mission Statement:** To Assist the US Forest Service in the preservation, protection, improvement and public understanding of the wilderness areas in Grand County.

#### **Preservation**

- Patrol shores for fish line filament and recycling
- Work on a National Public Lands day project
- Adopt an Osprey nest
- Monitor a blue bird box

#### **Improvement**

- Adopt a registration box
- Join a Daisy Days project and help eradicate noxious weeds
- Pollinator seeding project

#### **Public Understanding**

- Cabin Hosting (Junco and Monarch)
- Hike wilderness trails
- Lead a group hike
- Take digital photos to share
- Staff the booth at the Art Affair
- Wear your tee shirt, hat, vest to bring awareness

#### **Protection**

- Construct signage
- Update trail bulletin boards