

Friends of the Lower Blue River
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For questions, comments or article suggestions for the FOLBR Newsletter, please contact Myrth McDonald at myrth@folbr.org.

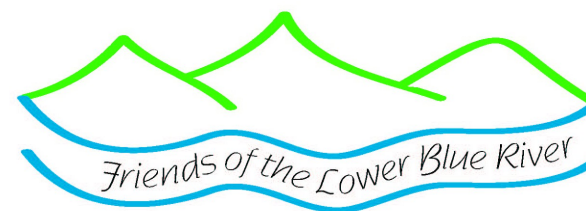


The FOLBR News is printed on recycled paper.



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

Our Annual Meeting is being held on Saturday, August 8 at Pass Creek Ranch. See inside for more information and an RSVP to the event.



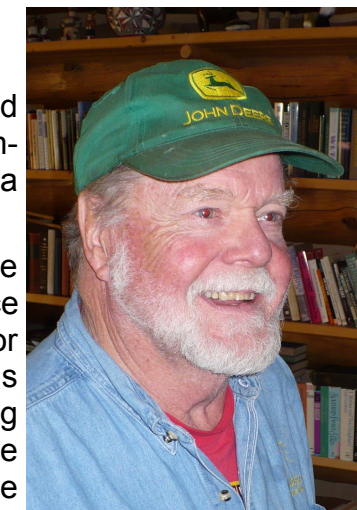
FOLBR News

June 2009

~ Working to keep the real Colorado in the Lower Blue River Valley. ~

FOLBR Selects a New President

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Lower Blue River is pleased to announce that they have elected a new President and Executive Committee. The committee will consist of Sam Kirk, John Fielder, Priscilla Ledbury, and Frank Isenhart.



President Sam Kirk.

Sam Kirk has accepted the position of President. Sam has had a home in the Lower Blue Valley since 1986 and has lived there full-time since 2002. Prior to retiring, Sam practiced privately as a career counselor for 34 years. Outside of his professional career, Sam is well known for his high-altitude bread baking skills and the hard work that he puts in taking care of the horses at Pebble Creek Ranch. Sam has been an active member of the Forest Health Task Force (formerly known as the Pine Beetle Task Force), is on the Board of Directors for the Summit County Weed Management Program, and has also been working closely with the USFS as a member of the Pebble Creek Ranch HOA to try to create defensible spaces around Pebble Creek as part of the WUI project (read more on the WUI project inside). Sam has been a member of FOLBR for 5 years, has served on our board for the past 3 years, and is strongly committed to the FOLBR mission. One of Sam's goals as President of FOLBR is to include more Lower Blue citizens in FOLBR's membership. He plans to do this by working cooperatively with them and by bringing the personnel and political resources of FOLBR to meet the identified needs of the valley residents relative to the preservation of rural character and environment of the Lower Blue.

John Fielder has accepted the position of Vice President, and in addition to other responsibilities, will work with Myrth McDonald, FOLBR's Executive Director, to promote FOLBR's programs. John is a nature photographer and has lived in the valley for the past 2 years. During that time he has been a part of FOLBR and has served on our board of directors. John feels passionately that the ranching heritage of the Lower Blue Valley is very special and needs to be protected along with our wilderness, open space, and water.

Priscilla Ledbury has accepted the position of Secretary and will be focusing on increasing FOLBR's membership with Myrth. Priscilla is retired and has had a home in the Lower Blue for the last 25 years. She has been a member of FOLBR for 6 years and has served on our board of directors for the past 3 years. Priscilla feels that "we need to help the Forest Service in restoring a healthy forest and protecting the urban forest interface" in addition to working in general to maintain the natural beauty of the valley & water quality of our river.

Frank Isenhart continues on in his position as Treasurer, a position he has held since the inception of FOLBR. In the coming year Frank will work closely with Myrth to increase FOLBR's income. Frank is also retired and has had a home in the Lower Blue since 1997. He feels that its important to "keep the valley's rural feel, in spite of development pressures for unlawful density."

Annual Membership Meeting: Pass Creek Ranch

Please join us for the 2009 Annual Membership Meeting for the Friends of the Lower Blue River. Bring your neighbors and friends! The meeting will be held at Pass Creek Ranch on Saturday, August 8, from 11AM until 2PM. Thank you to Sandy & Jim Donlon for hosting the event this year.

Pass Creek Ranch is a 1,300-acre working ranch. They have approximately 220 acres where they grow weed-free horse hay. They also board 30 head of horses (and mules) and raise 220 cow/calf pairs. We will be holding our meeting in one of their pastures just off of Ute Pass Rd with beautiful views of the Gore Range (shown below).

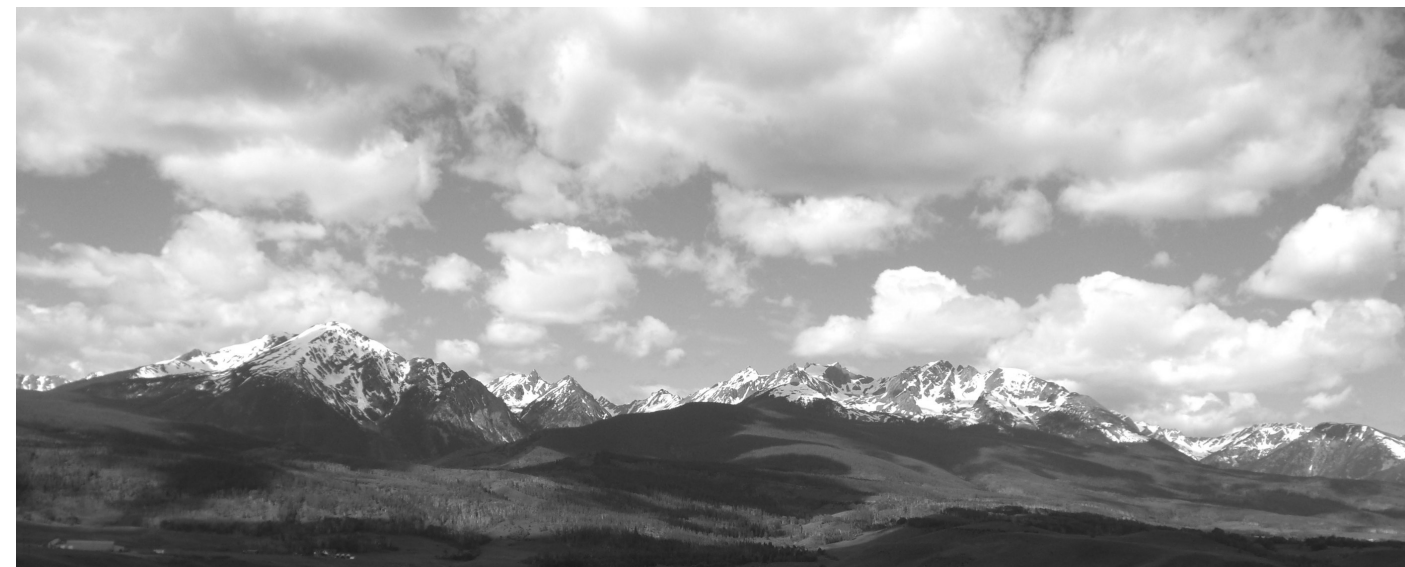
To reach the site, turn east off of Hwy 9 on to on Ute Pass Rd. Travel up Ute Pass Rd. 1 mile and look for the tent and parking area on your left through a red metal gate. Note: this is NOT the same site where we held the last annual meeting at Pass Creek Ranch. Also note that you will turn on to Ute Pass Road to access the meeting location, rather than entering through the "Pass Creek Ranch" gate off of Hwy 9.



Be READY to AIM at FIRE... but where's the WATER?

Your FOLBR Board has decided that a panel of experts on two very important Lower Blue issues would be both timely and of interest to our membership at this August's annual meeting. Those two subjects are (1) future fire protection and (2) water quality and sustainability in the Valley. (The two are also closely linked in various ways.)

Each of our panelists will initially speak briefly on their individual subjects as they look at fire & water issues from their own expert perspectives. Then, we will open up the meeting for questions from our membership. Panel members will include State Senator Dan Gibbs, Lake Dillon Fire Chief Dave Parmley and/or Jeff Berino, District Ranger Jan Cutts, Summit County Emergency Manager Joel Cochran, and Blue River Water Commissioner Scott Hummer.



Summit County Open Space & Trails: COW CAMP

By Lynn Amstutz



Cow Camp Open Space parcel looking west towards Green Mountain Reservoir.

When Summit County Open Space and Trails purchased two Cow Camp parcels in the Lower Blue Valley, the final pieces fell into place to protect the view corridor along the entire eastern shore of Green Mountain Reservoir, east of Highway 9.

The original parcel was purchased in 2002 and contains 572.57 acres. Cow Camp Extension, the second parcel, was purchased in 2008 and contains 351.22 acres for a total of nearly 924 acres of undeveloped land.

These purchases were made with the help from the previous landowners, who have lived in the Lower Blue for generations, and who want to protect their ranching legacy. Also a large contribution was made from a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) which assisted in the purchase of the second parcel. These parcels are

not only the key pieces for keeping the view corridor pristine, but they are also key in the migration vestibule for the elk and deer herds between the Williams Fork and the Gore Range mountains, as well as protecting the habitat of a rare plant community.

These Open Space purchases were funded by a property tax mill levy that was passed by the voters in 1999. That mill levy sunsets at the end of 2009.

Photo Courtesy of Summit County Open Space and Trails Department.

Noxious & Invasive Weeds

by John Taylor

Noxious and invasive weeds are not native to our country and as such have no natural predators or diseases to keep them in check. The result: they take over native vegetation and often create mono cultures which are often toxic to animals and offer no forage value to our abundant wildlife.

Colorado, in December 2001, created a Strategic Plan to stop the spread of noxious weeds. This act identified goals that must be met: (1) Curb the introduction of new weed species, (2) Prevent the establishment of such weeds in Colorado, and (3) Stop the spread and contain those weeds that are so well established that eradication is not possible, often due to prohibitive cost. Finally, the act looks to restore land of exceptional agricultural and environmental value.

Summit County responded to this act and created a weed management plan, and staffed a weed department. Thousands of acres of land in the county were already infested with weeds that were designated "noxious" by the state. Experts estimated that affected acreage would increase by 15% if left uncontrolled.

Noxious weeds recognize no boundaries. They are a threat to agriculture, urban areas, recreational, open space, private homeowners, communities and state and federal lands. We all have a part and must take up the mission to eliminate these weeds in our area.

Hope we have tweaked your interest. To learn more go to: www.co.summit.co.us/weeds/home or the Colorado Dept of Ag. site www.colorado.gov/ag/cs and click on the noxious weed list. Both have great pictures with good descriptive identification.

Highway 9



A great big thank-you goes out to Roger & Phyllis Wegner. For the past 19 years they have been cleaning up FOLBR's "adopted" portion of Hwy 9 between mile markers 111 & 113. This year they were joined by Lynn & Glenn Amstutz.

Roger has now passed the torch, and in the future Lynn will be organizing the FOLBR highway clean-up party twice a year.

We'd love your help for a post-Labor Day work session. If you are interested in helping out, please email Myrth at myrth@folbr.org. Closer to the date, we'll be sending out an email with clean-up details.

North Summit WUI Project Update

In previous newsletters and emails we've been updating you on the North Summit Fuels Reduction Project. The project is still moving forward at this point, but has now run in to a bit of a snag.

The proposed project is located on National Forest System lands along the Highway 9 corridor north of Silverthorne, and would involve fuels reduction activities on 1,095 acres of National Forest land, 706 of which is currently categorized as "roadless." This would create a fuel break of between 200—600 ft. between the forest and developed private land, providing a safe, defensible space from which firefighters could initiate and carry out firefighting operations.

According to District Ranger Jan Cutts, "the purpose of this project is to reduce the hazard to communities from a wildfire that could threaten private property and public and firefighter safety. The ongoing epidemic outbreak of mountain pine beetle is creating a dangerous wildland fire situation throughout the Rocky Mountains, particularly in those areas where urbanization is occurring in forested areas adjacent to the National Forest boundary." The zone where urbanization meets the forest is referred to as the "Wildland Urban Interface" or WUI, and fighting wildfires in this zone can be very difficult and dangerous.

To date, the Dillon Ranger District has completed an environmental assessment of the project. They then gave the public 30 days to comment on and/or object to the study. No objections were received. The Dillon Ranger District was hoping to issue a decision on the project by June 22. According to District Environmental Coordinator Peech Keller, "Everything has gone smoothly with the North Summit WUI project up to now. We did not receive any objections, and we are ready to sign a decision. However, now, because the Roadless Rule is being challenged in court, the Secretary of Agriculture has stated that his office must review all projects that would cut trees in inventoried roadless areas. Since the WUI project would be implemented in inventoried roadless areas, it has to go through that review. We don't know how long that [review] will take."

"...because the Roadless Rule is being challenged in court, the Secretary of Agriculture has stated that his office must review all projects that would cut trees in inventoried roadless areas."

For more information on the environmental study that was completed on the project by the USFS, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/projects/north-summit-wui/index.shtml>. Copies of the study are also

available at the Dillon Ranger District. For more information about the project contact Peech Keller, PO Box 620, Silverthorne, CO 80498; phone (970) 262-3495 or e-mail: cpkeller@fs.fed.us.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! *The Friends of the Lower Blue River (FOLBR) is a volunteer group of dues-paying Summit and Grand County residents, property owners and other interested citizens who share a concern for maintaining the rural character, quality of life, and environment of the Lower Blue River Valley.*

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Lower Blue River will be held at Pass Creek Ranch in the Lower Blue River Valley, CO on Saturday, August 8, 2009, commencing at 11:00AM. The official business will be the election of directors to serve for a period of one year or until their successors are elected.

Please RSVP whether you are planning to attend or not. If you can't attend, complete the proxy section and return by mail or email to myrth@FOLBR.org so that we may be assured of a quorum. If you send in a proxy and attend the meeting, you may revoke your proxy at that time.

New for this year's annual meeting: we will be holding a drawing for a framed John Fielder fine art limited edition photograph. All 2009 members in good standing will have their names automatically entered in the drawing!

Must be present to win.

Yes! I would like to support Friends of the Lower Blue River in 2009.

Name: _____ New Member Renewing Member

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Levels

- Friend: \$35
- Supporting: \$100 or more
- Sustaining: \$1,000 or more

I/We will be ABLE to attend the annual meeting. The following members and guests will be attending:



I/We will be UNABLE to attend the meeting. Please accept my signed proxy.

I hereby appoint _____ as my proxy for the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Lower Blue River to be held August 8, 2009, or any adjournment thereof, with instructions to vote on my behalf as he/she sees fit for the election of directors and in connections with any other business which may come before the Meeting.

Member Name: _____

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail this form, along with your check, to FOLBR: PO Box 2007, Silverthorne, CO 80498

Thank you to our 2008 FOLBR Members for their contributions!

Thank you all so much for your gifts and contributions. Our organization depends entirely on your continued support and generosity. Thank you also to our Board of Directors for the time and energy that they devote to protecting the Lower Blue Valley. If you are interested in serving on our board, please contact Myrth at myrth@folbr.org.

Sharon & Bob Andersohn
Joan & WC Bailey
Sarah Barclay
Susan & Michael Bartosch
Blue Valley Ranch
Rhonda & Robert Boswell
Dorothy & Dick Braun
Pauline Child
Geraldine Cohen
Thomas Davidson
Nancy Duplan
Sheralyn & David Eatherton
LuAnn & Mark Eatherton
Kathie & Jim Edwards
Susan & Chuck Fox
Cynthia & Dave Frazier
Maryann Gaug
Judy & Bob Girvin
Leigh Girvin
Sandy & Steve Goodman
Gary Grady
Laura & Randy Gutzel
Howard Hallman
Tim Hannon
Nancy Heagney
Janet Jacks

Linda & Bob Karcz
Vickie & Peter Knowlton
Paula & David Kraemer
Jennie & Charlie Kurtz
Jean & Terry Laverty
Sherri & Jeff Leigh
Karn Stiegelmeier & Frank Lilly
Rose & John Longhill
Amy & Kevin Mastin
Charlotte Robinson & Jim Minelli
William Porter
Jane & Mark Rogers
Pam & Bob Sechler
Lisa & Peter Sherry
Cathy & Toni Snyder
Anette & Harlee Sorkin
David Spencer
Sandy & Bill Stolar
Gene & Joseph Swedish
Sharon & Bob Sweet
Helen & Bill Taylor
Cheryl & Don Varvil
Helen Barker & Rick Warren
Chris & Robert Wester
Nancy Lippe & Charles White
Jan & Bob Wills

FOLBR Board of Directors

Lynn Amstutz	John Fielder	Tom Jones	Adam Poe
George Beardsley	Jim Griesemer	Tom Kaesemeyer	Sam Kirk
Pam Beardsley	John Hillman	John LeCoq	Roger Wegner
Currie Craven	Frank Isenhardt	Priscilla Ledbury	
Signe Ferguson	Myra Isenhardt	Jim McCotter	ED: Myrth McDonald

**We apologize if we inadvertently left your name off of our member list.*

Upcoming Events

Pulling for Colorado: Weed Pull Event

The second annual all Summit County noxious weed pulling day is **Saturday, July 11**. We will be kicking off the day with a light breakfast at 8:00AM at the County and Senior Center in Frisco. Lisa Taylor, county weed guru, along with Hal Pearce, the Manager of Noxious Weeds for the White River National Forest, will be on hand for a short instruction. Actual weeds will be on display which will make it a must to attend. A "trail gate" will follow at noon with some great give-aways! Weed sites in the Lower Blue River Valley will be reserved for FOLBR. Join Myrth and the FOLBR group in helping to beautify our valley. If you are interested in participating, contact Myrth at myrth@folbr.org.

Silverthorne Slash Site

The Town's slash site has extended hours of operation. They are now open Monday—Friday 10AM—12PM & 3-5PM, and Saturday 10AM—12PM. The site will remain **open until July 17**.

Hidden Gems Hikes

Join the Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign this summer for a nature walk, backpacking trip, or hike. All hikes are free, but you need to register in advance by contacting Anya Byers at (303) 996-2754 or anyabyers@cmc.org. All outings are limited to 15 participants.

Saturday, August 1

Elliot Ridge
Elliot Ridge provides critical wildlife habitat adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area.

Tuesday, August 18

Acorn Creek
Join us to explore the beautiful aspens and lodgepole pines of Acorn Creek while enjoying spectacular views of the impressive Gore Range peaks.

Saturday, August 29

Williams Fork
Teams will hike routes up Mumford, Cottonwood, Shane or Lonesome Gulches to help with volunteer inventory and fieldwork.

FOLBR Annual Meeting

We will be holding our annual meeting on **Saturday, August 8** from 11-2 at Pass Creek Ranch. Our theme this year is "Be READY to AIM at FIRE...but where's the WATER?" and we will be having a panel of local experts on hand to address water and fire issues from the perspective of their respective organizations. Please see the articles on the previous pages for more information on this event.

BRWG Film Fest

The Blue River Watershed Group will be hosting the Patagonia Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival at the River Walk Center in Breckenridge on **Saturday, September 12**. Doors open at 7:00PM, films begin at 7:30PM.

Beetlefest

The 2nd Annual Beetlefest will carve its way on to Main Street; Frisco on **September 12, 2009** from 10AM to 6PM, this unique zany event is designed to bring education and awareness regarding the devastation caused by the mountain pine beetle. The event will benefit the Friends of the Dillon Ranger District. Join us for a full day of activity from lumberjack shows and live entertainment to a bug petting zoo and 5k beetle stomp. If you get tired from all the activity stop by the informational and artist booths to see the latest in Beetle-kill products.



Mules grazing at Pass Creek Ranch, the site for this year's FOLBR Annual Meeting.