



Friends of the Lower Blue River
 PO Box 2007
 Silverthorne, CO 80498
 Phone: 970-262-3660
 Fax: 970-262-3664

PRESORTED
 STANDARD MAIL
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 FRISCO, CO
 PERMIT NO. 19

In this issue:

- Weed Pull Event Scheduled for July 11, 2009
- Save the Date! BRWG State of the Blue River: May 13
- Meet the New Exec. Director
- North Summit WUI Project Timeline
- Save the Date! Annual Meeting scheduled for August 8
- SC Alert System
- Summit County Open Space & Trails Mission

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.

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.



View of Lower Blue River Valley from Ute Pass.



FOLBR News

March 2009

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

Pulling for Colorado!

The Colorado Weed Management Association (CWMA) has scheduled this year's Pulling for Colorado for Saturday, July 11, 2009. According to CWMA's website, "Pulling for Colorado (P4C) is a statewide effort to educate Colorado about the impacts noxious weeds are having on our natural, agricultural, and recreational lands."

Last year they had over 900 participants in the state-wide event; including a weed-pulling team made up of FOLBR members. This year we'd like to put another team together. If you are interested in participating in this year's P4C weed - pull event, please contact Myrth at myrth@folbr.org.

Look for more information on past & present Pulling for Colorado events at CWMA's website: www.cwma.org/p4c.htm.

State of the Blue River

Save the date! The Blue River Watershed Group will be hosting its annual "State of the River" event on Wednesday, May 13 from 6-8 pm at the Frisco Community & Senior Center. Look for more info on this event via email.

FOLBR Selects a New Executive Director

From four qualified candidates, the FOLBR BOD, upon recommendation of its Search Committee, selected Myrth McDonald to become its Executive Director, replacing our former ED and now the new County Commissioner, Karn Stiegelmeier. The hard-working Search Committee was composed of Sam Kirk, chair, Frank Isenhardt, Myra Isenhardt, Priscilla Ledbury, and Karn Stiegelmeier.



Though she was raised in Madison, Wisconsin, Myrth spent many childhood vacations in Summit County visiting her Grandparents at their cabin in Mesa Cortina. She has many fond memories of playing in mountain streams with her sister, skiing at Copper with her grandfather, riding horses in Montezuma with her Grandmother, and sitting around the fire in the evenings with the whole family—watching the stream of traffic coming down I-70 from the tunnel!

Myrth's passion for the outdoors and nature continued throughout her college career as she majored in Geology at Middlebury College in Vermont. She was lucky enough to spend her summers in Vermont working as a Research Assistant studying acid levels in Lake Champlain and hiking through the woods collecting rocks for her thesis. After spending a grueling Senior year in the lab with a scanning electron microscope, Myrth decided to head west to spend time working outdoors. Her love for the Colorado mountains led her back to Summit County and to Copper Mountain where she found employment for the winter.

Like many young people in this county, Myrth began her professional career working as a Ticket Checker for Copper. Myrth spent her first few summers after college traveling through Europe and Australia and returned to Copper each winter to work on the mountain. Eventually she worked her way in to a year-round job with Guest Services and after 9 years, culminated her career with Copper as the Lift Product Manager for the Revenue Maximization department.

While working in the Lift Operations department at Copper, Myrth met her husband Shawn, who is now the Manager of the Lift Operations department. In 2004 Myrth & Shawn were married by Sam Kirk (FOLBR BOD) in the "North Meadow" at Pebble Creek Ranch, overlooking the Williams Fork. In September of 2008, Myrth & her husband welcomed twin boys in to their lives and Myrth decided to take a break from the corporate world.

Are you receiving our email announcements?
 Have you changed your email address?
 Not on our email list?
 Please contact myrth@folbr.org to be added to our list.

In addition to spending time raising her sons, Jay & John, Myrth is greatly looking forward to becoming more involved with the issues affecting the Lower Blue River Valley. The Search Committee found her to be very personable and articulate; and recognized her organizational, administrative, and computer skills that would enhance the efforts of the FOLBR. Myrth and her family live in Silverthorne and she can be reached at myrth@folbr.org.

Dillon Ranger District Seeks Comments on Proposed North Summit Fuels Reduction Project

The Dillon Ranger District of the White River National Forest is seeking public input on the proposed North Summit Fuels Reduction Project. The proposed project is located on National Forest System lands along the Highway 9 corridor north of Silverthorne, Colorado. 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 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 extremely dangerous. The Highway 9 corridor, especially the area between the neighborhoods of Wilderrest and Sierra Bosque, is an area of concern and the subject of this proposal by the Forest Service.

If approved, the North Summit WUI Project would result in fuels reduction activities on approximately 1,095 acres of National Forest lands. This would create a fuel break between the forest and developed private land providing a safe, defensible space from which firefighters could initiate and carry out firefighting operations.

An open house was held at the Dillon Ranger District Office on February 17 and feedback on the project proposal was due March 4. Moving forward, the Forest Service has put the following deadlines in place:

North Summit WUI Project Timeline

- Complete Environmental Assessment: May 1, 2009
- 30 day Public Comment and Objection Period on Environmental Assessment: May 4-June 5, 2009
- Address Objections (if any) by June 12, 2009
- Issue Decision Notice by June 15, 2009

"The purpose of this project is to reduce the hazard to communities from a wildfire..."

Note: Emails were sent to FOLBR members prior to the March 4 deadline encouraging them to get involved and contact the Forest Service with any concerns that they may have had. If you did not receive those emails, please contact Myrth at myrth@folbr.org to join the email distribution list. Additional information on the North Summit WUI project can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/projects/>.

The FOLBR BOD supports the North Summit WUI Fuels Reduction Project and stresses that the individual property owners need to work with the USFS to develop project plans.

SAVE THE DATE!

Please plan to join us on **Saturday, August 8** for the FOLBR Annual Meeting. This year the meeting will be held at Pass Creek Ranch. Thank you to Jim & Sandy Donlon for hosting the event again this summer.

The meeting will include lunch and speakers on topics that are affecting the Lower Blue River Valley today.

We'll have more details on the meeting in the June edition of the FOLBR newsletter.

We will be raffling off a limited edition fine art print by John Fielder valued at \$750!

SC Alert System

SC ALERT is an alert notification system that allows officials to immediately contact you during a major crisis or emergency and can deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all your devices:

- email account (work, home, other)
- cell phone and pagers
- smartphone and other handhelds devices

The SCAlert system is a valuable public warning tool and the more subscribers we have the better we can quickly communicate about emergencies and important public information.

With the potential for a terrible wildfire season ahead, we recommend that you register for SC Alert by visiting their website: www.scalert.org.

SOURCE: SCAlert website & Joel Cochran email

Summit County Open Space & Trails

"The mission of the Summit County Open Space and Trails Department is to identify, protect and manage open spaces, trails, and trailheads to preserve and maintain Summit County's rural mountain character, unique natural areas, and a high quality of life for its residents and guests."

"Summit County's Open Space Program is dedicated to utilizing creative protection techniques to preserve and protect the County's significant and threatened open space resources. The Program focuses on lands that most contribute to the County's quality of life and rural mountain character, including those with the following characteristics:

"ACCESS: Lands that provide trailheads or public access to recreation areas on National Forest and other significant properties.

"AGRICULTURAL/CULTURAL: Lands that contribute significantly to Summit County's past, including agricultural lands with irrigated meadows or open cropland, ranching areas and historic sites. The historic, cultural or social significance of these types of properties should contribute to the community's identity and well being.

"BUFFERS: Natural and undeveloped lands which separate and buffer the impacts of development, define the boundaries of urbanized areas, prevent urban sprawl and strip development, and contribute to the rural mountain quality of the local landscape.

"EXTENSIONS: Land adjacent to publicly held property which meets open space criteria guidelines and which can combine with other open space properties to enlarge and/or connect existing open space parcels.

"RECREATIONAL: Lands with significant recreational value, particularly non-motorized passive uses not requiring intensive maintenance or management.

"UNIQUE LANDS: Lands possessing unique values such as outstanding (but not necessarily generally visible) scenic quality, rare flora, riparian quality, wetlands, critical wildlife habitat, fragile alpine areas, or unusual geologic or topographical formations.

"VIEW CORRIDORS: Lands with high aesthetic appeal and variety within major viewsheds, whose lands are generally visible, apparent, and appreciated by residents and visitors and through preservation will maintain the rural mountain appearance of Summit County."

SOURCE: Summit County OS&T Website

"Of the 13,734 acres of protected land in Summit County, 8,040 are found in the Lower Blue River Valley. What follows is the mission statement of Summit County Open Space and Trails and the Open Space Advisory Board; also following are the criteria that are used to consider possible pieces of land for protection. In the next few newsletters, we will be highlighting various pieces of Lower Blue protected lands."

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

New Member Renewing Member

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Levels

- ___ Friend: \$35.00
- ___ Supporting: \$100 or more
- ___ Sustaining: \$1,000 or more

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