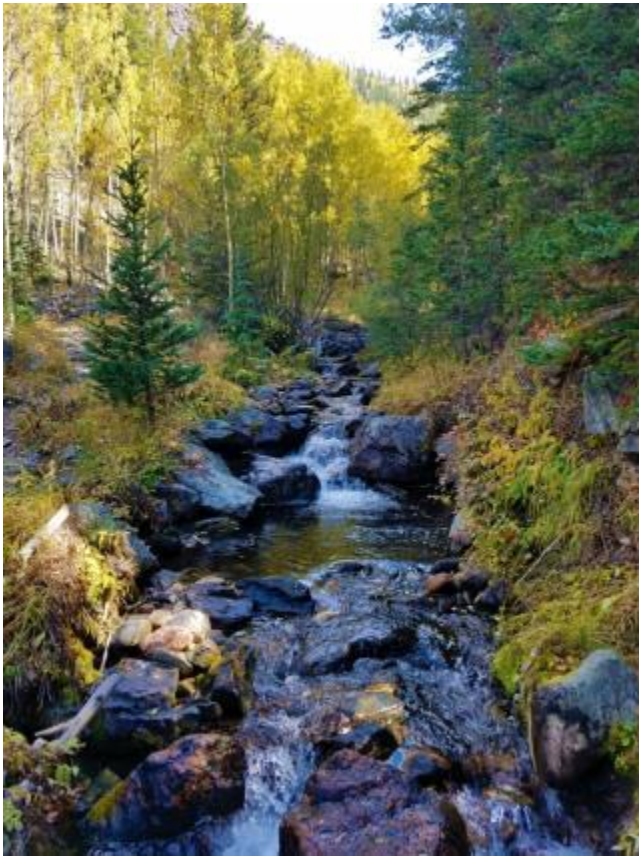




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www.fomelc.org

November 2020 Newsletter



(3Mile Trail, Mt Evans Wilderness by Deb Grass)

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Forest Service Fire Restrictions In Effect

Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/arp>

“FIRE RESTRICTION AND CLOSURE ALERT: Area closures are in place for the CalWood and Lefthand, Cameron Peak, East Troublesome and Williams Fork Fires. Stage 2 Fire Restrictions are in place across the entire Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland.”

Pike National Forest:

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions are in place for South Platte, South Park and Pikes Peak Ranger Districts.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/psicc/home>

THANK YOU!

FOMELC Fundraising Update

Our goal was to raise \$1500 in the fourth quarter of 2020 to help fund our operating budget. We are so grateful to those who donated to our operating budget for 2021; you have donated a total of \$3181.98!

<https://fomelc.org/donate>

Or mail a check to Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness
PO Box 34
Evergreen, CO 80439

Happy Thanksgiving!

Note from the Chair

Peter Vrolijk



Winter offers time for reflection, and Ralph's regular historical notes about the trails and areas that preceded wilderness designation help stretch our minds back through the years to imagine a foundation for that reflection. Winter is a good time to review and organize photos, and Alan's launch of a wilderness photo contest provides further fuel for that reflection. I offer some photos from my summer in the mountains and think of the places I have been. (Photos to follow this article)

Mount Evans viewed from the Rosalie Trail.

For those who venture into wilderness now, it is a different experience than the summer. Vegetation

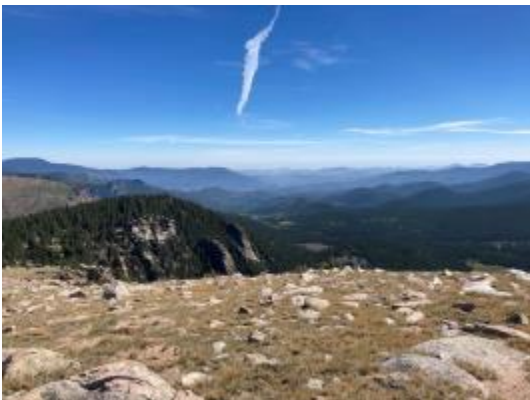
has died off – the vibrancy of the green Earth that seems so exciting during the summer has turned to brown hiatus. Fewer people venture into the wilderness, and you can see more wildlife on the trails that are emptier of human animals. For me, though, the change in the character of the sky is most dramatic – big skies with sweeping high clouds.

Wilderness in winter also offers a sense of greater danger – colder temperatures, greater exposure, windy conditions, and shorter days. Unforeseen mis-steps require more attention to pre-trip planning, but that realization is a welcome reminder of how we are just an insignificant part of the entire wilderness landscape. Strap on those snowshoes (soon!) and appreciate the bounties of wilderness in winter.

- Peter

Wilderness in 2020

The Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness areas maintained their beauty throughout 2020, and for those who stopped for a moment, listened, and pondered the magnitude of surrounding nature, wilderness continued to offer a chance for peace and calm.



Mount Evans Wilderness viewed from the Summit Flats Trail, September, 2020.

Wilderness in 2020 continued

Lost Creek granite knobs viewed from the Goose Creek Trail, Lost Creek Wilderness July, 2020.



A warm spring brought the columbines out earlier than in previous years, but the hurried lifecycle of plants in the always-too-short summer of the high country created this year's unique displays of beauty. The celebration of native plants that make wilderness special enriches the soul.



Colorado Columbine on the Ben Tyler Trail, Lost Creek Wilderness June, 2020.



Native Mountain thistle glowing in the sunlight, on the Abyss Lake Trail, Mt Evans Wilderness July, 2020.

Wilderness in 2020 continued

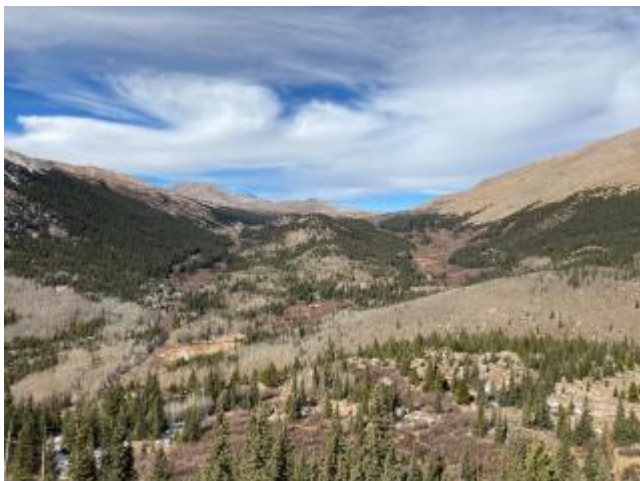
This year presented challenges as so much of the middle and late part of the summer was filled with smoke from fires ravaging forests in Colorado and California. To our great benefit, fire avoided our wilderness forests, but this year served as a reminder of what will eventually come.

Smoke-filled haze fills the sky looking south from the top of the Tanglewood Trail, Mount Evans Wilderness, August, 2020.



Many people enjoyed wilderness this year as other activities and vacations were cancelled. Education on trail patrols became essential as too many people are unaware of the special respect that wilderness requires and deserves. Too many campfires, and too many fire rings left hot...

Trail into Abyss Lake, flanked by Mount Bierstadt on the west and Mount Evans on the east, Mt Evans Wilderness July, 2020



Wilderness rests for the winter, wildlife returns to the trails in the absence of people, and we contemplate our year sitting by the warm fire during the long nights, remembering the big skies that envelope our expansive natural setting.

View to the NW along the Rosalie trail toward Mount Bierstadt, Mt Evans Wilderness November, 2020

FOMELC MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE BACK! VIA ZOOM



The December meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday December 9th at 7 pm.**
We will be presenting a video called “**The Wilderness Idea**”.

A 1989 documentary: John Muir, Gifford Pinchot and the First Great Battle for **Wilderness.**
To one man, it was a perfect natural resource to benefit thousands of people.
To another, it was a beautiful, sacred land that must not be defiled under any circumstance.

Please RSVP to peter@fomelc.org if you wish to attend the session.

Looking forward to continuing our monthly meetings with you!

Leave No Trace in High-Use Wilderness

Peter Vrolijk & Gordon Brown

This year saw a dramatic increase in the number of people venturing out into open, public spaces. Anyone out on the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness trails experienced this, too, especially on weekend hikes. For those of us seeking solitude, we learned that Wednesday and Thursday outings gave us the best chance for avoiding others.

This popularity came with a price – the price of people without the knowledge of how to act in a natural setting that we share with native plants and animals. An article in the Denver Post this past summer (<https://theknow.denverpost.com/2020/08/07/litter-graffiti-vandalism-colorado-parks-forests/242965/>) highlighted some of the issues faced across all public spaces, including national forests, and cited evidence of substantial damage. Vandalism, graffiti, and trash increased in all public lands, including national forests. Although our patrols in wilderness revealed few of these problems, there were localized instances of inappropriate use, like marking camping sites with flagging tape (see photo, tape removed from trees marking an illegal camping site in the Indian Creek Trail, Mount Evans Wilderness)



Readers of this newsletter know the 7 principles of Leave No Trace (<https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/>) and can probably recite them from memory:

1. Plan ahead & prepare – how many times have you encountered other hikers ill-prepared for their outing? Hikers who have lost their way, have too little water, or are unprepared for weather conditions.
2. Travel & camp on durable surfaces – popular trails and areas become overrun with visitors, which makes this principle more important.
3. Dispose of waste properly – pack it in and pack it out. Most visitors to our wilderness understand and follow this principle.
4. Leave what you find – take only photos, and leave only footprints. While the temptation to pocket some small, found treasure visits us all, the greatest respect we can pay to wilderness is to leave it behind.
5. Minimize campfire impacts – this issue becomes acute during years like this one when most of the summer camping season is covered by fire bans.
6. Respect wildlife – we share the wilderness with wildlife, and our greatest respect for wilderness comes when we afford other animals our highest regard.
7. Be considerate of other visitors – in wilderness we seek solitude and strive to offer the same to others.

While it is crucial for our members to know and practice these principles, it is also crucial for us to help other wilderness users understand how to practice them. For those who have undergone FOMELC training, we practice methods to interact with others and help them imagine other behaviors more compatible with Leave No Trace. Authority of the Resource is a powerful argument for these discussions. Many members pack a trash bag before heading out on a hike to collect any trash found along the trails, and most outings yield some results.

We can see progress – the number of hikers with dogs off leash seems to decrease – but it is still possible to encounter hikers who are unaware of the leash requirement, even if they seem to be practicing other Leave No Trace principles. Respect wildlife, the underlying rationale for the leash regulation, is the most effective means of persuasion.

We practice the Leave No Trace principles, and we help others learn and use them in order to ensure that future generations have all of the wonders that wilderness offers.

FOMELC Photo Contest - Details Coming Soon

Going through your summer 2020 photos this winter season?

And creating more great shots this winter hiking in Wilderness this Winter?

In 2021, we are starting a new feature in the newsletter and on FOMELC's webpage. Find your favorite photograph(s) of either Mount Evans or Lost Creek Wilderness. If you submit a photo, you are giving us permission to use it in our newsletter or website and we will be giving you the credit for the beautiful photo.

We will not be accepting photos that contain people and pets. The photographs can be of grand panoramas or a tiny detail of your wilderness experience that day. If your photograph is selected by the newsletter editors, it will appear as featured photo in one of our newsletters. Your photo will also be added to a new gallery on FOMELC's webpage.

Instructions for submitting your favorite photo will be published shortly so stay tuned and keep an eye out for that incredible photo in Lost Creek or Mt Evans Wildernesses!

FOMELC Member Crew Shirts & Hats for Sale

Shirts are sold at ½ the price from original order price.

Consider purchasing a shirt/hat to support FOMELC.

Shirts (Dark Green only): \$15 100% lightweight polyester

Hats \$10

Contact Gordon at: gordon@fomelc.org

Purchasing items from Amazon?

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and order from that site. Before ordering, select your charity to be "Friends of Mount Evans & Lost Creek Wilderness". From then on, all of your shopping will generate 0.5% of the purchase to FOMELC.

LOST CREEK WILDERNESS HISTORY

PAYNE CREEK TRAIL - RALPH BRADT

Early History

Little if anything has yet been found of the history of the area before the late 1800s, aside from occasional arrowheads and a broken spear point of petrified wood found up the now closed road on the west fork of Payne Creek.

Early Logging History

Payne Gulch was named for Jim Payne, a logger who had a sawmill (known as a millset) two miles up Payne Creek from Glen Isle in 1881 and 1882. The daily capacity of the mill was ten thousand board feet. Concrete remains of the foundation of his millset can still be found at the south end of a small meadow.

Jim Payne was not the only one who cut in Payne Gulch. In the late 1800s and early 1900s there were logging operations up and down the Platte Canyon, cutting railroad ties, mine timbers, lumber for construction, and pulpwood for paper mills. A man named Hilderbrand had a mill with capacity of 6,000 board feet per day near the site of Glen Isle for a year and a half in 1883-1884. A John Travins is said to have had a mill high in the gulch near the divide between Craig Meadows and Payne Gulch in 1882. Over on Craig Creek, W. H. Clay had a millset in 1883-1884 with a daily capacity of eight thousand board feet. A man named Burdette also had a millset on Craig Creek in 1894.

About six tenths of a mile up an old, steep logging road on the west fork of Payne Creek in the Wilderness lie the fading remains of an old mill, quite possibly John Travins' mill. From the numerous hole-in-cap cans and the remains of old skidding chutes on the hillside above constructed of logs, it seems reasonable to assume it existed sometime in the late 1800s-early 1900s and had a relatively large capacity. A visit to the site in the late 1990s by Al Kane, forest archaeologist, turned up an old child's toy, indicating it probably was a family operation.

The Payne Gulch fire

On May 30, 1927, the 135 acre Payne Gulch fire began a half mile beyond the present end of the Payne Gulch road. The fire was determined to have begun at a campsite. The campers put out their campfire, but failed to notice fire was travelling along the underside of a log leading away from the fire into the timber. The fire apparently drew a great deal of interest at the time. In October of that year, a group of dignitaries from the U.S. and state forest services and the city of Denver visited the site. A study of the site was begun and a sign was erected at the site marking the forest study plot. The study was dropped in 1955.

1936 photo of the Payne Gulch burn



Payne Creek Trail History Continued



Inspecting the fire's origin



Sign marking the site of the burn

1933 CCC Camp F-10-C

In the meadow (AKA Mowing Machine meadow) west of the Payne Gulch/Brookside trail junction, there is a concrete slab marking the site of Civilian Conservation Corps Camp F-10-C (Forest Service-Camp 10- Colorado). The camp was established in 1933, the first year of the CCC. It was occupied by Company 1814 in the spring of 1933. The men of the Bailey camp thinned 3,174 acres of timber, the best showing of any CCC company in the state. They also put in over 300 man-hours fighting a 20 acre late season fire to the north at the head of Deer Creek. A crew from the camp also did erosion control work on Denver Mountain Parks property just south of Evergreen.

Unfortunately, information on the camp is limited, and it lasted only one season and was abandoned November 30 of that year, with Company 1814 being sent to Texas. It is possible the site was used as a side camp on occasion in later years, but it was never again a formal camp.



The only known photos of Camp F-10-C.

The trail itself developed from the old logging roads and general social use. Just when it became a Forest Service trail is unknown, but until the early 1990s the trail began at the end of the present road through the Payne Gulch Summer Home area. In the early 1990s, the north end of the Payne Creek trail was rerouted to the decommissioned Bailey Group Picnic ground to avoid conflicts with the summer homes in Payne Gulch. At the same time, the north end of the Brookside trail was also rerouted to the current trailhead to take it off private land. Also, neither of the old trailheads had parking areas.

What is Wilderness? Dee Lyons

What Does Wilderness Mean to You? Willing to Take Action to Protect It?

<https://wildernesswatch.org/take-action-current-wilderness-alerts>

There are an alarming number of critical issues you can be an important part of in taking action.

<https://wildernesswatch.salsalabs.org/bonneville-shoreline-trail/index.html> Removal of Wilderness in Utah

<https://wildernesswatch.salsalabs.org/arcticwildernessbill/index.html> Protect Arctic Refuge as Wilderness

<https://wildernesswatch.salsalabs.org/hr5598/index.html> Protect Minnesota Boundary Waters from Mining

<https://wildernesswatch.salsalabs.org/senatearcticrefugedrillingrepeal/index.html> Protect Arctic Refuge from oil and gas drilling

<https://wildernesswatch.salsalabs.org/hr2579/index.html> End Hardrock mining in Wilderness

https://wildernesswatch.salsalabs.org/oppose_s1695/index.html Keep mountain bikes out of Wilderness

https://wildernesswatch.salsalabs.org/support_s264/index.html Keep the border wall out of Wilderness

What are the impacts of Mountain Biking? Here is a link to the Wildlife News:

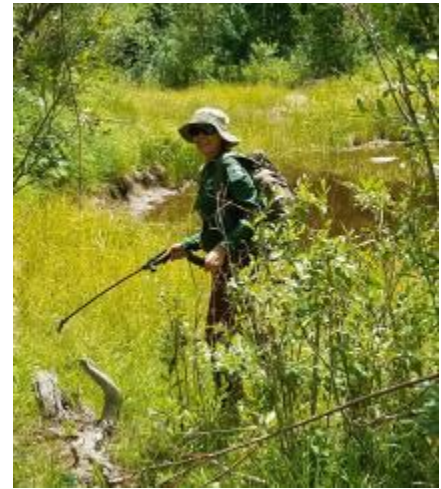
<http://www.thewildlifeneeds.com/2019/06/18/impacts-of-mountain-biking/>

Wilderness Watch is a great site to keep up to date on Wilderness Alerts.

Founded in 1989, Wilderness Watch is the leading national organization whose sole focus is the preservation and proper stewardship of lands and rivers included in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The organization grew out of the concern that while much emphasis is being placed on adding new areas to these systems, the conditions of existing Wilderness and rivers are largely being ignored. We believe that the stewardship of these remarkable wild places must be assured through independent citizen oversight, education, and the continual monitoring of federal management activities.

The idea of wilderness
Needs no defense.
It only needs more defenders

- *Edward Abbey*



FOMELC Mission Statement:

The Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses encompass 194,400 acres with over 170 miles of trails in Colorado's Pike and Arapaho National Forests.

We work in partnership with the US Forest Service, engaging in education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the wilderness character of these lands for current and future generations.

How do I become a volunteer with FOMELC?

Check out our [website](http://www.fomelc.org) to sign up. www.fomelc.org

Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses
PO Box 3431
Evergreen, CO 80439