



# THE DREAM KEEPER

"Never Give Up!"

Winter 2014

## Highlights of 2013

- ◆ The year began with fantastic results from the Tunnel inspection that occurred on September 12, 2012. Deere & Ault Consultants, Inc. reported to the RPR Board and membership the Needles Eye Tunnel **CAN** be restored and made safe for 2-wheel drive vehicle passage once again.
- ◆ April 29, 2013 the RPR Board hosted a meeting in Idaho Springs for Boulder, Gilpin, and Grand County Commissioners, the Town of Winter Park Mayor, the Forest Service, and other dignitaries. Don Deere and Christoph Gross presented the Deere & Ault findings to the group. Unfortunately, even though the meeting date and time was arranged to fit the Boulder County Commissioners' schedule, no one from Boulder joined us for the discussions. Clear Creek County Commissioners have voiced an interest in collaborating on the venture.
- ◆ A documentary, *Stone and Steel at the Top of the World* on the early years of the Moffat Road/Needles Eye Tunnel area, highlighted the Annual Meeting on May 13, 2013. CSU's Dr. Jason La Belle's students, Chris Johnston and Hallie Meeker, presented the video. Following that, Christoph Gross presented the positive Deere & Ault findings to the audience and answered many questions about the tunnel's safety.
- ◆ Picnicking in the Colorado Rocky Mountains cannot get much better than the August 25, 2013 event located at the East Portal of the Moffat Tunnel. The Board took the opportunity to introduce the new RPR supporter ball caps (\$15) that are a more popular design. Please see our Website for information on all of the RPR Merchandise. Approximately 50 people from throughout Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas attended the picnic, which ended just prior to a summer rain.
- ◆ During the time since the picnic, the RPR Board is keeping in contact with the previously mentioned Counties Commissioners and standing ready to support their efforts. The RPR Board remains positive our Dream of reopening the Moffat Road and the Needles Eye Tunnel will be met. Thank you for your support.

## —An Important Invitation—

The Boulder County Commissioners have scheduled a public hearing for **Thursday, February 13** beginning at **5 pm** in the Hearing Room on the Third Floor of the Boulder County Courthouse.

The purpose of the hearing is to take public testimony on opening the Rollins Pass Road. This testimony will give the Board important information regarding support for the reopening of the road and will help better define impacts associated with this proposal.

Boulder County residents are invited to address the Board. Please read the Public Hearing information on the [Boulder Website](#). The information outlines sign up and timing for testimony.

## Talking Points. . . . .

Many of our members and supporters have requested talking points that can be used in communication concerning reopening the Moffat Road and Needles Eye Tunnel. Following are a few examples. Please feel free to edit and create your own comments.

**The Moffat Road and Needles Eye Tunnel are National Historical Landmarks.** They belong to Colorado history and the American people. Both sites have been open and free passage allowed for decades. Blocking access to hundreds of people who have been and will continue to be coming from all over the world to understand our history has caused safety issues and embarrassment to Colorado. Why are people not allowed passage?

**The Boulder County Commissioners have excluded the viewpoint of the majority.** The RPR, Boulder County residents, Gilpin, and Grand Counties have repeatedly asked to be allowed to work toward the safe reopening of the Moffat Road and the Needles Eye Tunnel. We have been denied or ignored at every point. We as Colorado residents must be allowed passage from Rollinsville to Winter Park via 2-Wheel Drive vehicles, as stated in the *James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area* law.

**There is an alternative that will work better than current conditions.** Open the Moffat Road to the people and save the fragile ecosystem. Currently, due to closure of the Road and Tunnel outdoor enthusiasts are forced to go off-road or carry their bicycles while climbing over or around the Tunnel. Open both sites and the environment can once again thrive without being overrun. The alternatives will also prevent the need for erecting multiple barriers to attempt the blocking of trails.

If you would like to receive the "Dream Keeper" by email, send your request to [straight2u@msn.com](mailto:straight2u@msn.com). Also make sure you notify us if your email address changes.

## Save the Dates!

**Our Annual Meeting is Scheduled for:**

May 12, 2014, 6:30-8:30 pm

Meadows Branch, Boulder Public Library  
4800 Baseline Road, Boulder, CO 80303.

The program will be announced via Facebook, the RPR Website, and press releases.

## Annual Picnic

12:00 noon, August 24, 2014

On the Westside at Ranch Creek Wye



PO Box 1082  
Longmont, CO  
80502-1082



Photos by Dr. Kathleen Anderson

### Latest News from Gilpin County

The Grand and Gilpin County Commissioners and staff met at the top of Rollins Pass August 9th; with a better understanding of the issues, and some possible solutions, they then extended an invitation to the Boulder County Commissioners to join them for a second expedition. Unfortunately, the Boulder County Commissioners canceled the tour. After considerable delay, a meeting was set for December 12th at the Boulder County Courthouse; but both the Grand and Gilpin County Commissioners were disappointed to see that this meeting was hosted only by Boulder staff, and that none of the Boulder County Commissioners themselves were present. However, there were high-level representatives from the US Forest Service present, and the remaining parties were candid in their discussions of the difficulties remaining in moving a reopening forward. Both Grand and Gilpin County Commissioners are committed to reopening the road and tunnel, and all are hopeful of more progress in 2014.

Roger Baker  
Gilpin (CO) County Manager  
203 Eureka St., P O Box 366  
Central City, CO 80427  
Ph: (303) 582-5214  
Fax: (303) 582-5440

### Latest News from Grand County

The Board of Commissioners from Grand County focused on addressing some of the concerns voiced by the Boulder County Commissioners that include:

- Liability for opening the tunnel or road
- Funding to improve the tunnel and road, and ongoing maintenance
- Protection of the fragile ecosystem with oversight

The Commissioners have shared a draft of a proposed *Needles Eye Tunnel Authority* and most recently a letter to Senator Udall requesting a meeting to ask that he and the Secretary of the Interior provide assistance with reopening the Rollins Pass Road. We as a Board are excited to assist Grand County with this endeavor.

The RPR Board requests your assistance and support for reopening the Rollins Pass Road and repair of the Needles Eye Tunnel. Please go to [Senator Mark Udall's Website](#) and fill out the contact form, call, fax, or send a letter to the Senator requesting his assistance with enforcement of the *James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area* legislation. Some talking points are included with this newsletter.

**Washington, D.C.** P: 202-224-5941  
Hart Office Building Suite SH-730 F: 202-224-6471  
Washington, D.C. 20510 Coloradans, call toll-free:  
877-7-MUDALL  
(877-768-3255)

RPR has a few of Art Wainwright's DVD 'Hell Hill' available.

The cost is \$10.00 for members and libraries, \$15.00 for non-members, and FREE with a \$50.00 donation.

Order and check may be sent to RPR, P.O. Box 1082, Longmont, CO 80502.

## Rollins Pass Restoration Association

P.O. Box 1082 Longmont, Colorado 80502-1082



Our Founder, Col. Dan Straight



Needle's Eye Tunnel, East Portal



Needle's Eye Tunnel, Wire Mesh is doing its job!

### Rollins Pass Restoration Association Board of Directors

*Co-Presidents:* Juanita Straight & Su Eckhardt  
*Vice President:* Errol (Butch) Salter  
*Secretary:* Marvin Burke  
*Treasurer:* Randy Eckhardt  
*Member-at-Large:* Gary Edelmaier,  
*Member-at-Large & Webmaster:* Jack Reed