



# WRRRA Summer 2022 Newsletter

## White River Recreation Association

REPRESENTING FEDERAL LAND PERMITTEES IN THE UPPER WHITE RIVER VALLEY, MT BAKER-SNOQUALAMIE NATIONAL FOREST SINCE 1929

### Summer Picnic

We are looking forward to seeing WRRRA cabin owners and families Saturday, July 30th, 2022 (12pm—3pm) at the Annual Summer Picnic! The location needs to be finalized, but we're hoping to secure Silver Spring Campground, as in previous years. **Follow our Facebook page, or watch for an email for location and more information.**

The picnic starts at 12 noon and ends at 3pm. It includes food, drink and lots of fun. We are hoping for another successful pie contest, and once again there will be games and prizes!

The WRRRA Picnic is free for WRRRA members. Guests are welcome and encouraged; guests will be charged \$10 for each adult, children under 12 free. WRRRA will provide grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and chicken with all the trimmings. Beer and wine (for those over 21) and soda will also be provided.

\*Many volunteers are still needed! We need help before, during and after the event. Setup, prep and cooking, cleanup, shuttle driving, and more. Please sign up to volunteer on SignUp Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054CABA62CA1FB6-wrra1>, or email Bill Vlases at [wvlases@hotmail.com](mailto:wvlases@hotmail.com).

\*Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert that will feed at least 8 people.

\*Bring chairs and sun shades as needed for your family.

\*Pie contest: We need lots of entries to make it a real contest - bakers, pull out your favorite recipe and bake a winner! Prizes in 3 categories—Apple, Berry and other Fruit. be awarded in all categories. Please no cream pies due to melting issues. Judging starts at 12:30pm.



Updates and news items also posted to Facebook: WRRRA Cabin Group

### Hosts Needed for Annual Cabin Tour

As in past years our traditional summer picnic will be followed by a cabin tour in the late afternoon and early evening, generally from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Each year we have generous members who open their cabins to share their cabin histories and stories. This is a fun event and a great opportunity to socialize with other members and to meet other folks who share a common interest in the cabin community.

Every year we ask folks to become a cabin host. Hosting is straightforward and fun. All hosts have their cabins open for two or three hours and some provide light snacks and drinks to go along with the tour and tales of their cabins. Every cabin is different, and it is so interesting to see how each cabin is used for both summer and winter activities. We've all had some of the same experi-

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ences at our cabins, such as break-ins, leaky roofs, too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer and sharing the cabin with critters! It helps all of us to share these things and to see how we have dealt with them.

For our tour to be successful we would like to have between five and seven cabins available for hosting. If you would like to be a host, please contact me at [kenlynnr@msn.com](mailto:kenlynnr@msn.com) or [ss-rep@wrra.net](mailto:ss-rep@wrra.net) or my cell 253-312-0118. You can also contact your tract rep and they will help you with any questions.

There will be tickets for the tour and a sign-up sheet at the picnic along with a brochure and map showing the cabin locations, pictures, and brief histories of the cabins. The tickets are \$5 per person or \$15 per nuclear family. The fee covers the cost of the event; Profits go to the WRRRA Cabin Defense Fund.

Again, the annual cabin tour is a great opportunity to socialize, meet cabin members, and see the variety of cabins that make up our WRRRA tract. Please consider hosting and participating in this event.

~Ken Ring Silver Spring Rep # 2

## President's Message

Summer is finally here, at least according to my calendar. So far, the weather hasn't been very summer-like! Heck, Crystal Mountain is still open for skiing at the time of this writing! I

have no doubt that the sunshine and warm temperatures will arrive soon, and I look forward to spending summer days at the cabin relaxing, working on projects, hiking, and more, as I am sure you all are too.



We are so excited to once again be able to hold our WRRRA social events in person; the built-up need for members to see each other and socialize was certainly evident at our fun and successful Spring Dinner! Now, we are thrilled to be able to see even more of you at our annual Summer Picnic and Cabin Tour events, on Saturday, July 30th!

Our plan/hope (yet to be confirmed) is to hold the Picnic at the Silver Springs Campground, as in the last few years. **Watch for emails and facebook posts for more details, and confirmation of the picnic site.**

The picnic is always a fun event, but we need lots of help to make it a success – with setup, cooking, cleanup, shuttle drivers, and more. Please contact me or Bill Vlases at [wvlases@hotmail.com](mailto:wvlases@hotmail.com) to volunteer to help.

After the picnic, we will plan to have the wonderful Cabin Tour, where several owners open up their cabins for all of us to visit and see. This is always a great event; every cabin is so different and unique, and each has interesting history to share. If you would be willing to host an “open cabin” for this event please contact Ken Ring at [kenlynnr@msn.com](mailto:kenlynnr@msn.com). We need hosts!

A few additional quick updates as we move into summer season:

As discussed previously in this forum, it seems the frequency and intensity of wildfire events is increasing. Whether you believe

this to be due to global climate change, forest management decisions, or a combination of these and/or other factors, I think I can safely say we should all be concerned about this, and work together as a community to help mitigate this danger. See the article in this newsletter about what you can do to prepare.

Also, summer is a time when many members do work on their cabins. Please remember to follow the process to get approval from the Forest Service for any projects you plan to undertake. Doing work without permission can be cause for termination of your permit. Please see additional detail about the cabin project review process on the WRRRA website.

As always, your WRRRA board continues to actively work with the Forest Service and other agencies to advocate for all association members, and for the recreational residence program as a whole. Please let your board know if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help us.

I hope to see you up at the cabins or in the mountains soon!

~Kevin Orth, President

## WRRRA Election Information

At our 2022 Fall Dinner and Business Meeting we will conduct our elections for open Board positions. If you are interested in running for one of these positions please contact, Rena Irwin, 360-870-5453 or by email [renairwin1@comcast.net](mailto:renairwin1@comcast.net). We welcome all interested members to be part of our leadership team and thank incumbents or their contributions. If a current incumbent wishes to run again, that does not preclude others from also putting your name in.

Positions that open in January 2023 are:

President Kevin Orth - incumbent and willing to serve for another term.

Vice President, Fred Orton - incumbent and willing to serve for another term.

Goat Creek Representative, Tom Wood - incumbent and willing to serve for another term.

Silver Springs Representative, Bill Vlases - incumbent. We thank him for his many years of service and contributions.

Deep Creek Representative, Josh and Brittany Gaydeski - incumbent. We thank them, who have worked as a team in this role, for their many years of service and contributions.

A term of office, beginning January 2023, is for two years. Please consider becoming part of the board and serve your cabin community.

~Rena Irwin, Nominating Committee Chair

## Spring Dinner Recap

Approximately 45 folks attended the Spring Dinner on Saturday May 14th., at the Greenwater Community Center (Fire Station.) Since this was our first indoor event since the start of COVID, we were thrilled with the attendance, and all enjoyed reuniting with WRRRA friends and neighbors.

After our Social hour and dinner, Kevin Orth updated attendees on WRRRA news. Notably, our new board members were introduced: Eric Carlsen, Treasurer and Dennette Wood, Silver Creek Rep. The new Goat Creek Rep #2, David Dittmar, was unable to attend.

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Kevin reiterated items noted in the spring Newsletter, Forest Service updates, membership information, and the good news that the Goat Creek Culvert is now in their work plan. He reminded us to send in our Fire Contracts to ensure coverage in case of fire, or an emergency event at your cabin. For those of us who lived through the Norse Peak fire, we'll forever be in the Forest Service's debt for the heroic work they did to keep the fire away from our cabins!

Kevin reminded us we need a snow plow coordinator, and that nominations for the Ken Leader Distinguished Service Award were due at the end of May.

Also in attendance at our spring dinner was Tyler Smith, the Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer for our region. A good discussion ensued about cabin security. He told us that staff shortages, law enforcement in the Forest is a challenge.

The evening ended with door prizes being awarded.

Besides the outstanding company and delicious food, the Spring Dinner reminded us the WRRR Board remains busy advocating for and providing services to the WRRR members. Please join us October 22nd for our Fall Dinner, Silent Auction, Business Meeting and elections. A good time is always had by all!

~Chris Masterson, Secretary

## Notes on Wildfires and Preparedness

As we move into summer, please remember that although it has been rainy and cool so far, the threat of wildfire increases every summer. Last summer, more than 180 cabins were lost to wildfire in western states, and this season has already had losses. Its important we do everything we can to prepare for the possibility of fire in our forest again.



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First and foremost, I want to encourage all cabin owners to pay your Fire Protection Contract fee to Pierce County Fire; this will help keep the Greenwater Fire Department strong and able to protect and support our cabin community in the event of wildfires, structure fires, or medical events at the cabins.

Everyone should have received a payment notice from PCFD 26 in April; if you did not receive one, or it's been lost, for your convenience, a contract can be found on the last page of this newsletter. If you're not sure whether you've paid,, please contact Teresa Steel at 360-663-2626. There is additional information about the fire protection contract fee structure and more on the WRRR website.

Secondly, everyone should implement Fire-wise principles at your cabin; harden your cabin and lot against fire in case it comes, by maintaining the lot and structure. This includes removing all branches and needles from cabin roofs and from around the exterior of the cabin, to twenty feet minimum. Trim branches up to six feet above ground, and cut back branches that restrict access to your cabin by firefighting equipment. Maintain the fire lines established around all our structures by the firefighters that supported us during the Norse Peak Fire, by removing all debris. Ensure your chimney is functioning properly, and has a screen on it. Make sure

wood piles and fuel tanks are located well away from your cabin.

Lastly, everyone needs to pay attention to burn bans and other restrictions on use of outdoor equipment throughout the summer. Burn restrictions are usually posted in multiple places on the highway (departing Enumclaw, and entering Forest Service land), and are online as well (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mbs/fire>). Be smart about outdoor burning at all times, regardless of burn bans. Use gas powered tools only when the restrictions allow it.

Doing these simple things will go a long ways to helping to minimize wildfire potential and impact in our cabin tracts.

~Kevin Orth, President

## National Forest Home-owners Conference Recap

The National Forest Homeowners (NFH) conference on April 29 and 30 was held at the Heathman Lodge, in Vancouver, Washington. Seven WRRRA Members were in attendance, as well as other Washington state tract members (and folks from around the nation). While attendance wasn't what it's been in past years, given the ongoing concern about COVID, it was still a relatively large number and NFH was very mindful of COVID safety and protocol.

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Outstanding sessions were offered Friday afternoon and Saturday, with a major theme being the increase in wildfires, and NFH efforts to support cabin owners impacted by wildfire, and lobby the National Forest Service for action regarding the Wildfire Crisis. A stated goal of NFH is to maintain the current number of recreational residences. Clearly their work is cut out for them. 241 cabins have been destroyed by fire since 2018 (excluding the current fire season), and fewer than 10 have been rebuilt so far!

Beyond the support NFH has given to work with Cabin owners and the Forest Service to rebuild cabins destroyed by fire, they also distributed nationwide an Economic Impact Survey. Their intent is to accurately inform the Forest Service, Federal Lawmakers and local jurisdictions (in their lobbying efforts) the impact the Recreation Residence Program has on the local/regional economies. The results of the study made clear the Recreation Residence Program is a significant contributor to the Economy. Outdoor recreation (not exclusive to Cabin Owners) accounts for \$900 billion in spending each year!

With all that spending, several sessions highlighted how some funds will be "given back" to Forests in the years to come. Notably, the Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 is providing \$5.5 billion of funding to improve Forest Health, and improve the resilience of America's Forests. In January, 2022, a 10-year strategy was announced, under the assumption that \$5.5 Billion is simply a "down payment" to get started. The goal is to "treat" 20 million acres of National Forests, with 4 million acres earmarked for the first year.

Another "give back" is coming in 2025 when legislation goes into effect where permit fees generated by Cabin owners will be given

back/dedicated to the respective forests/areas for which the permits were paid. Throughout the conference it was highlighted the importance of maintaining positive and ongoing relationships with our Forest Service administrators. The WRRRA Board has worked toward that end for the last many years (through quarterly meetings with the Forest Service), and communications/relationships with the Forest Service personnel have improved as a result.

The Saturday luncheon highlight was the awards ceremony in which WRRRA received the Outstanding Communication Award. Presented by Doug Gann, he focused not only on the various ways we communicate with our association, but also that we have an outlined communication plan/strategy which may be somewhat unique amongst the various Cabin Associations.

Unfortunately, Kevin Orth wasn't in attendance to accept the award so Rena Irwin, Chris Masterson and Diane DeWitt did so, in his absence.



On a personal note, this was the first NFH conference my husband and I have attended. Both of us were struck by the great work being done by NFH on behalf of cabin owners nationwide. We came away believing more wholeheartedly in the importance of cabin owners to join NFH (which you can do through the WRRRA membership process); their exist-

ence and work depend on us! Finally, when possible, you're encouraged to attend the conferences and work shops they sponsor. To stay abreast of their activities, go to their website:

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

~Chris Masterson, Secretary

## Crystal Mountain Updates

As you likely know we are deep into construction at the Crystal Mountain base area. The old building that housed retail and such is completely gone, as is the chapel. They are starting on foundation forms now and we should start to see the new building rising from the ground very soon. The new building will be completed and ready for the 2023-2024 ski season. As the entire entrance to the resort, the pathway, is under construction and will be completely redesigned, the main path to the gondola and restrooms is closed off for a while, likely most of the summer. For the summer there is a walking path around the construction site along the east side so you can gain access to the gondola and fireside cantina. We will have a side-by-side running most days to help shuttle people around if they have trouble making the trek. Regarding the new pathway, it is slated to be complete before the snow flies this fall.

The newly located Right Angle sports shop will be open anytime the gondola is running, as will the summit house.

Again this summer, we will be operating the Visitor Information Center (VIC) on 410; I encourage all to swing by. If you have suggestions on what to carry down at the VIC please let them know.

As you know this base area expansion is part of a much larger 5-year plan that will likely see additional terrain offerings, new lifts, updated

lifts, and a new summit house. Below is an artist's rendition of the expanded base area.

~Perry Turner



For more information, go to Crystal's website: [www.crystalmountainresort.com/reimagine](http://www.crystalmountainresort.com/reimagine)

## NFH on our History, Our Heritage

After NFH leadership formed a History and Heritage Committee I was asked to join and I have informally "represented" WRRRA since 2019 by attending monthly Zoom meetings. The H and H committee has been guided by the NFH Strategic Plan of 2019. The Plan is going to be reviewed and updated in the next few months.

The Committee became responsible for the regular publication of stories about cabin culture, history, and heritage. Some of the stories are posted on the NFH website and others have been presented at NFH Zoom conferences 2020 - 2021. The H and H Committee has also been responsible for recruiting and vetting presenters who offer seminars of history and heritage topics: Alexandra Wenzl, USFS Regional Heritage Program Manager and Kate Kornder, USFS Historian in the Pacific Northwest Region presented an illustrated (video) seminar on the

remote beginnings of what is the recreational residence "cabin" program in May 2022.

H and H Committee goals include creating an inventory of those tracts that have already been evaluated for historical status. Apparently the USFS did not keep an inventory. A recent NFH survey found that nation-wide only 50% of cabin owners know about the historical preservation act, how it is managed, how many tracts have been evaluated, and even the status of their cabin or tract. NFH has assigned the H and H Committee the task of working with the USFS to ensure that the evaluations are finished 100%.

Other H and H future goals include setting up a portal to collect, become custodian of, and share cabin and tract stories, pamphlets, and books. Several members of the committee are involved in local cabin history projects, as I have been, although the committee has not yet set a goal about working with local tracts on History and Heritage projects.

~Diane DeWitt, History/Heritage Project

## National Forest Trail Day Recap

Thanks to WRRRA Members Greg Jacobson and John Mower for participating in the June 4th National Trails Day!

The group was small but mighty. A group of volunteers worked on the Snoquera Falls bridge replacement, while John and Greg specifically were tapped to continue the ongoing work on the Goat Falls Trail. Since so much work had already been accomplished there, they set out to improve some of the steep passageways, making

“steps” around the bridge burnout and some other areas.

Greg and John had the opportunity to meet some of the Snoqualmie Fire Lookouts Association (SFLA) members who reported they'll be staffing many of the local lookouts 24/7 this summer, in 48 hour shifts for the Forest Service. The SFLA are looking for new members. You can learn more about SFLA by going to [www.snoqualmielookouts.org](http://www.snoqualmielookouts.org). You may email them at [snoqualmielookouts@gmail.com](mailto:snoqualmielookouts@gmail.com).

Trail maintenance and repair is an ongoing need. Mother Nature sees to it that the work is never done! Please consider reserving September 24th to participate in the next National Public Lands Day Volunteer Event!

~Chris Masterson, Secretary



Above: Volunteers working on the Snoquera Falls Bridge repair.

## Road Maintenance Program—Its History and our Responsibility

The road maintenance fund for the Silver Springs, Goat Creek, Silver Creek and Deep Creek recreational tracts was established in

2010. The sole source of funds to maintain the roads comes from the cabin owners in these tracts.

In 2010, the cabin roads in these tracts were in very poor condition with large potholes, virtually no gravel, and sections of the roads under water during the rainy months, which then became dust bowls in the summer when the roads dried out. Drainage was also a significant problem in a number of areas with water running down the center of some of the roads. These were ongoing issues for a number of years.

The cabin permit document includes an operations and maintenance plan for each cabin that includes a clause for road maintenance that says: **“It is the responsibility of the homeowners to maintain the roads serving the recreational tracts.** Forest Service approval is required before any type of road maintenance can be done.” This is interpreted to mean we are ALL responsible as cabin owners, individually and collectively, for the road maintenance, not just maintaining the road in front of your cabin, but ALL the roads in the tracts, including entrances.

In 2010, the WRRRA board addressed the road issues since it was the duty and responsibility of the cabin owners as a community to be in compliance with the permit requirements and the board was concerned that if the roads were not maintained, the Forest Service (FS) could potentially revoke the cabin permits. Due to the poor condition of the roads and the fact that the FS was not required to maintain the roads, other than the Coral Pass road, the WRRRA Board agreed to support the establishment of a road fund where all cabin owners would contribute equally to make the improvements and provide ongoing maintenance.



In 2010, the road maintenance fund idea was well received by the cabin owners as evidenced by the willingness to contribute over \$36,000 during 2010 and 2011! All of these funds were spent to fix major issues such as culverts, filling in lows spots, road grading, fixing the potholes and drainage issues on all roads throughout the tracts including the Coral Pass road. All told, since 2010 we have collected \$126,000 and spent \$112,000. We currently have approximately \$14,000 that will be used for the work this summer and to maintain an emergency fund.

A question was raised at the WRRR Spring dinner regarding the cabins on the Coral Pass road and whether they needed to pay for road maintenance since that particular section of road is maintained by the FS and Puget Sound Energy (PSE). Only until recently, has the FS and PSE worked on and maintained that section of road, primarily due to the fire reconstruction and the power line construction project. For many years the FS did not have any funds and therefore no work was performed by them.

A few years ago, Kevin Orth applied for and received a RAC grant which enabled a full FS road repair crew including a grader to do work on the lower part of the Coral Pass road through that cabin tract. In 2013, over \$5000 was spent from the road fund to makes repairs, add culverts, and fix drainage issues as water was running down the middle of the

road, in addition to grading and adding gravel annually when needed.

The annual assessment for the road fund is collected in the fall along with the Snow Plow funds. The assessment has been \$75 per cabin for the last couple years, a bargain!! These funds are not only used for fixing potholes and adding gravel in front of each cabin, but also maintaining the entrances, installing culverts when needed to deal with rainwater and flooding issues, cleaning out the culverts when they get clogged, dealing with emergency road repair when there is a washout, grading the roads to have a proper crown, and maintaining the ditches along the roadways. This is why we ask that ALL cabin owners contribute EQUALLY to the fund.

Currently the roads are in good condition thanks to all the cabin owners who have contributed and Randy Iddings, our contractor, who will be doing the road maintenance within the next few weeks. The plan is to do grading and graveling where needed and cleaning out culvert sumps. If you have a particular need, a question, or request for road maintenance, please contact Barbara Mead at [mead5104@comcast.net](mailto:mead5104@comcast.net), or cell phone 253-209-5936. Thank you for your ongoing support of the road maintenance fund!

~Barbara Mead, Road Maintenance

Coordinator

## Snow Plow Update

Another eventful winter in the mountains to say the least. This had to be one of the oddest years I can remember when it comes to snowfall. We underestimated the cost of this year, mostly due to the cost of the equipment rental. Consequently, we had to ask for another pay-



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ment from the group. Unfortunately, not all cabins paid the additional assessment. As this is our last year managing this program I will defer to the new person as to how he is going to handle this. Likely, those that did not pay the additional amount will be billed for that amount this coming fall. The only way this program operates well is if all parties contribute equally.

As I alluded to, this was the last year for Anne and I to manage the program. We have a new volunteer, Robbin Bradburn, who has graciously offered to take on the role. We will be around to make sure the transition goes smoothly. We plan to have the same operators as years past but would still like to find another operator for the Deep Creek area.

It has been a pleasure to work with all of you over these past years on this program.

*(Editors Note: Look for additional details as we move into the Fall; we will communicate via the Newsletter, email and on the WRRRA Facebook page.)*

~Perry Turner

## Spring Trash Pickup

Hosted by Silver Springs (SS reps not able to attend, so Chuck Gillette hosted), the team gathered 20 bags of trash, plus numerous car parts that didn't fit in the bags. The area covered was the WRRRA section and the Moss Adams section between MP 52 and 54. Chuck served a nice lunch of leftovers from the previous night's WRRRA dinner.

Participants were: Barbara Mead, Lori Neth, Chuck Gillett, Brian Brewer, Fred Orton, Jennifer Prewitt, Martha Hunter, Katina Atz, George Atz, Linda Piper, John Mower, Scott Kingland and David Glaab (Photographer)

## WRRRA 2022 Calendar\*

**Summer Board Meeting**  
July 29, Board Member Cabin

**Summer Picnic**  
July 30, Location TBD

**Cabin Tour**  
July 30, All Tracts

**Summer Highway Cleanup: Dalles**  
July 31, Highway 410

**Nat'l Public Lands Day Volunteer Event**  
Sept 24, Cabin area

**Fall Board Meeting**  
Oct 17, Location TBD

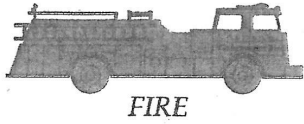
**Fall Dinner Meeting**  
Oct 22, Greenwater Community Ctr

**Fall Highway Cleanup: Goat Creek**  
Oct 23, Highway 410

**2022 Planning Meeting**  
November or December, TBD, Seattle Area

\* All event dates, locations, and activities are subject to change.





Pierce County Fire District 26  
59705 SR 410 East  
Greenwater, WA 98022  
(360) 663-2522



FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT

APRIL 2022

This contract between Pierce County Fire District Number 26 (PCFD #26), Party of the first part, and \_\_\_\_\_, Party of the part second, shall be in effect from the above date for a period of one (1) year, and may be continued annually by payment of a fee to the PCFD #26, all as authorized by RCW 52.12.031 (c).

NOTE: PAYMENT TO BE MADE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS of the date of this agreement and may be terminated by either party only by written notice to the other 60 days prior to date of termination. Make checks payable to PIERCE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT # 26.

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SIGNED this \_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

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Chief, P.C.F.D. #26

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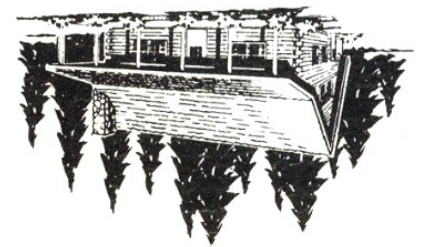
*The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to secure equitable legislation; and to cooperate with the Forest Service in the protection and administration of all recreational feature.*



## 2022 WRRRA Executive Board

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## WRRRA Summer 2022 Newsletter



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