



February 2006

THE DREAM KEEPER

1 It is hard to realize we have a new year underway. "Time and tide wait for no man!" I wish I could report some progress on planning for the restoration of the Pass. Last October Grand County Commissioner Duane Dailey escorted the



Needle's Eye Tunnel Looking West

Boulder County Commissioners up the Pass. We stopped at the Needles Eye Tunnel. The group walked to the tunnel and then onto the trestles over Devil's Slide. Then, everything went on a back burner while budgets were discussed and County planning got underway. I have received no word concerning County activities. I did receive a notice from Great Outdoors Colorado that applications for grants were due in March. GOCO handles gambling funds to be used for Open Space grants, outdoor recreation, and planning. The Rollins Pass Road is listed as a "Rural Mountain Recreation Road" and should be eligible for a grant. In 1975-1978 the Forest Service had traffic counters on the road. They counted 75,000 to 78,000 individuals each year. The big item is getting the Counties, or a County, to request a grant. We have the James Peak

Wilderness and Protection Area Act Public Law 107-216 which was sponsored by Representative Mark Udall stating that the Rollins Pass Road should be returned to two-wheel drive capability. This should be a big factor in securing a grant. These grants must be requested by a County or Municipality so there is not much we can do. I hope to see a grant to use Tomography to prove the Needles Eye tunnel is sound; then, planning for the tunnel restoration and then the trestles. RPRa voted to use Tomography at our 2001 Annual Meeting but failed to get access. We could join in funding to leverage a grant, should a County request assistance!

2 I have just had a phone discussion with GOCO individuals. They had good news & bad news. The good news is



West Portal

Rollins Pass will qualify for recreation grants. The bad news is the Pass, being open only 3 to 4 months a year, can not compete with year round activities. Costs and liability are a big factor. Discussions will continue.

3 There is heavy snow on the Pass. Today's Boulder Daily Camera has an article entitled "Thread the Eye of the Needle". Skiers are given directions for how to go to Eldora Ski Area and proceed by the Jenny Creek Trail to the Guinn Mountain Trail, then follow the ridge west to the Rollins Pass Road and on to the tunnel. The old mountain cabin on the trail is



East Portal

mentioned. Nearby, the Colorado Mountain Club has installed an Arestua hut that is used to warm up. The spectacular view of Yankee Doodle Lake is also mentioned. It makes my pulse faster to just think of people enjoying the Pass.

4 Remember our Annual Meeting will be in May.

Dan Straight
President



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