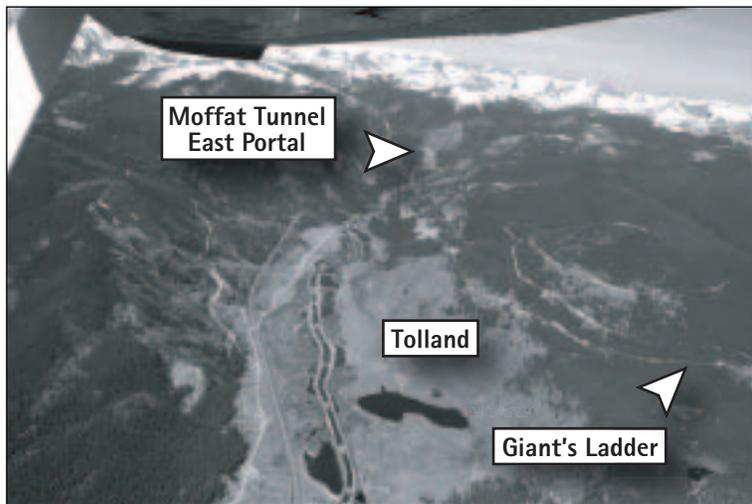




July 2006

THE DREAM KEEPER

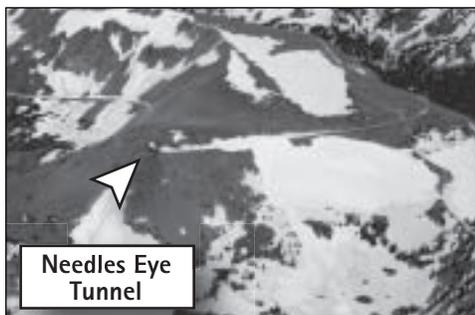


Flying 12,000 feet above Rollins Pass looking down on Giant's Ladder.

1 It finally happened! Eight of the nine County Commissioners from Boulder, Gilpin, and Grand Counties met in Boulder on June 15th to discuss Rollins Pass. Boulder County was the host. There was no prepared agenda, but each county entered into the discussions. It became very apparent that Gilpin and Grand Counties were favorable to restoration. Boulder County was apprehensive about violations of the environment. *"With the road open and Needle's Eye tunnel restored too many people will be up there. They will not stay on the established roads and trails."* said Boulder Commissioner Tom Mayer. Boulder Commissioner Will Toor said he had doubts but would be willing to hear a case for opening the road. Tourism and recreational visitors on a year-round basis are exactly what Gilpin and Grand Counties would like to have. As public observers, RPR member Karl Anuta and I listened. When we finally got to speak, Karl stated, *"With adequate surveillance and patrolling, people will follow the designated route. When they meet barricades, people search for other routes."*

meeting and that Forest Service and State Historic representatives be present. Hopefully topography will be discussed. No definite date or time was set. (A recent Forest Service Publication states that Forest Supervisor, Jim Bedwell, has departed for National Headquarters in Washington and Deputy Forest Supervisor Jackie Parks has assumed the duties until a permanent supervisor is named.)

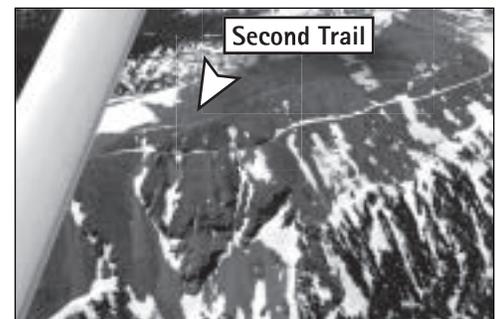
2 On May 25th I flew over the pass at 12,000 feet. Flying over Tolland, it was interesting to look down on the Giant's Ladder. Lots of snow still blanketed the protected areas. The Yankee



View of blanketed with snow above timberline

I reviewed some of the history and added that the Colorado Four Wheeler Association has been very much interested in Rollins Pass, and I was sure would commit to patrols of the road. It was very clear that costs and liability are the major concerns voiced at the meeting. Gilpin County suggested they host the next

Doodle Lake basin was really blanketed with snow. On top, above timberline, there were snow drifts remaining. I was most interested in seeing a definite second trail over the top south, that parallels the trail we call the "Wagon Road". I have seen it before but after the melting snow it really was visible. Could this be the original wagon road and the trail we now call the "Railroad Service Road" developed by the railroad? Due to the difficulty cutting the railroad grade along the ridge, and of course the trestles over Devil's Slide, it is possible. I have talked to a number of knowledgeable people and no one knew about it. I have included a photo which I hope will reproduce. I guess there could have been two trails across the top.



View of two definite trails paralleling Wagon Road

3 On June 24th I received a phone call from Connecticut RPR member, David Peters, saying Rollins Pass was highlighted in the August edition of 'Off Road Magazine'. Written by Larry Hicks, the pass is included in the seventh volume of the Adventures of Pass Patrol series. He includes a number of interesting photos and drove the Jenny Creek Road off the original Wagon Road. Four-wheelers know about the road.

Story continues on next page...

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



Annual Westside Picnic

Sunday, August 27th, 2006

at 12:00 Noon

Ranch Creek Wye

*Bring your own picnic lunch, dishes to share and chairs or blankets
RPRA will have hot dogs, sodas and watermelon.*

Story continued...

4 The **Longmont Times Call** newspaper has been very supportive by publishing two articles and an editorial "*Reopen, Restore Rollins Pass*" citing the James Peak Wilderness and Protective Area Law which states the pass should be opened if one county requested it. Also stating the pass would allow travel from the Front Range over the Continental Divide enabling year-round tourism for Winter Park and other areas that have relied on snow-loving folks wanting to ski or snowshoe. We have many that climb the pass on snowmobiles. The editorial adds that even

Boulder County could reap some rewards on this side of the pass if people really started camping and hiking up the pass. I had a Nederland businessman tell me his business dropped 15% when the pass closed. In their *Open Forum*, the paper published an article from a writer in North Palm Beach, Florida, who wrote that Boulder County should "cede" the road to Gilpin County and then the tunnel day-lighted. (This was studied in the original Environmental Assessment and it was found too much rock had to be peeled and removed from the hill above the tunnel to make the road safe. The tunnel is also directly above Yankee Doodle Lake.) We have members in 39 states

including Hawaii. I am sure the Commissioners must be surprised at the following the road has. All railroaders are interested in the Moffat Road.

Dan Straight
President