



Rocky Mountain Conservancy

CONSERVATION CORPS

2018 End-Of-Season Portfolio





Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Since 1931, Rocky Mountain Conservancy has supported Rocky Mountain National Park and other public land partners through educational programs and philanthropic donations. Early on, the focus of the Conservancy was developing educational materials and publications for visitors to use while in Rocky Mountain National Park. Over the past eighty year, the Conservancy has grown to support its public land partners in a breadth of ways.

Currently, Rocky Mountain Conservancy contains six departments:

- **Retail** – manages 42 nature stores throughout Colorado and Wyoming to provide visitors with educational materials to enhance their experience.
- **Publications** – produces nature guides, children’s literature, natural and cultural history books, and more.
- **Membership** – connects people to Rocky Mountain National Park in support for the Conservancy and through newsletters updating constituents on upcoming projects.
- **Development** – raises funds for RMNP and Conservancy programs through donor outreach, grant proposals, and community engagement. Funds are used for specific projects including land acquisition, historical preservation, trail maintenance, building construction, and education.
- **Education** – provides field classes, internships, nature-based activities, and fellowships for people of all ages to further understand and connect with public lands.
- **Conservation Corps** – see below

Conservation Corps Program Outline

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy created the Conservation Corps program in 2003. Initially, the program supported seven interns on one crew in Rocky Mountain National Park. Since 2003, the program has grown to provide thirty-six youth with a summer-long internship opportunity on six different crews. Crews locations are: (listed in order of when they were established) Rocky Mountain National Park - Estes (2003), Rawah Wilderness (2005), Shadow Mountain (2006), Red Feather Lakes (2009), Boulder (2014), and Rocky Mountain National Park – Kawuneeche/Moraine (2015). Crews are made up of six people (one leader and five crew members).

Program Goals:

1. To empower youth with job skills, career development resources, a conservation ethic, and a connection to our nation’s public lands to create the next generation of stewards.
2. To increase participant awareness of careers related to the environment, environmental stewardship, and public lands.
3. To link Conservation Corps projects to the missions and visions of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, Rocky Mountain National Park/National Park Service, and Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest/USDA Forest Service.
4. To increase participant awareness and use of effective leadership skills based on positive and constructive communication and to provide opportunity for practice of these skills.
5. To increase participant awareness of the cultural and natural history and environment of the Rocky Mountain region.
6. To inform crew members in the need for and use of various methods of construction for environmentally-friendly trails restoration, and reclamation projects.
7. To provide on-the-ground conservation work for Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) and the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest (ARNF).

The season spans eleven weeks between late-May and early-August. For eight weeks the crews work directly alongside the National Park Service and USDA Forest Service completing conservation project you will find summarized in the pages following. The other three weeks focus on leadership training, educational programming, and career development.

The program provides work clothing, camping gear, housing, and a living stipend to all members and leaders. The program is funded through generous donor support, in-kind gear donations, grant funding, and National Park Service and USDA Forest Service project funds.

Estes Crew



2018 Work Summary

In 2018, the Estes Crew worked closely with Rocky Mountain National Park's Trail and Vegetation crews. For most of the season, the crew worked alongside the trail crews on projects related to trail maintenance and construction. Most notably, they spent several weeks working on rerouting and rehabilitating the Aspen Brook Trail, near Lily Lake. This trail is very popular among locals, as it connects to neighborhoods in Estes Park. This is especially true among equestrian users. The Aspen Brook trail was heavily affected by the Colorado floods in 2013. Since the trail travels along a drainage, there was significant erosion and downed trees caused by the flood waters in 2013. This required the trail to be rerouted to a more sustainable location and the previous trail corridor to be restored to a more natural state. The crew spent nearly half of their season cutting new tread (trail surface), constructing rock walls to support the trail, and installing drainages to finish this trail. Building new trail is very technical and tiresome work, with some days seeing only a few dozen feet of new trail completed due to unknown soil conditions below the surface and highly erosive terrain requiring substantial rock structures. This is one of the last remaining flood-affected trails requiring work, and the Conservancy was very excited to be able to continue to contribute to the recovery efforts.

In addition to their work on the Aspen Brook Trail, the crew also completed maintenance runs on the Finch Lake, Fern Lake, Cub Lake, and Glarier Gorge Trails. This work is completed annually and ensures trails are safe and sustainable for recreational use. Maintenance runs require the crew to clear drainage structures of debris to ensure they are effective at preventing erosion and clearing trail corridor of downed trees and encroaching vegetation to prevent trail braiding and human impacts on the ecosystems bordering trails.

During their two weeks working with the Vegetation Crew under the Resource Stewardship Division, the Estes Crew worked extensively on invasive species management projects. This required them to be trained in proper handling and application of approved herbicides, the identifications of noxious weeds in Rocky Mountain National Park, and GIS software used to survey for non-native plants. Some of the invasive plants they targeted were Orange Hock Weed and Leafy Spurge. Additionally, they supported restoration efforts by raking and seeding disturbed areas, removing fencing, and installing an erosion blanket.



Name: Curtis Hall (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Fort Collins, CO.

School/ Area of Study: Colorado Mountain College-Steamboat Springs

Career Goals: I strive to remain in a position where my mind will be challenged to create, problem solve, and grow. Ideally, I wish to educate/lead others to live a healthy lifestyle while taking care of others and the environment. I wish to demonstrate this lifestyle by showing our relationship to the natural world through the connection of food and nature. Conservation efforts are an excellent way for me to foster my goal to connect others to the world. Local organic farming is another option, hopefully this can be successful with the use of volunteers.

Likes/ Hobbies: I love being outside, partaking in activities such as slacklining, snowboarding, longboarding, rock climbing, hiking, camping, backpacking, snowshoeing, playing with family. I also truly enjoy creative arts such as playing guitar, ukulele, drawing, painting, building longboard, wood sculpting, and pottery ceramics.

Best Memory: The best memory from this experience would be the fact that I lived and worked with in the national park for three months, a place that people literally travel across the world to see. Living simply in a tent has made me really appreciate the little things in life, things that most take for granted, such as running water, showers, and food. I'm so grateful for the minimalist life that we've lived this summer, for the skills that I have gained will benefit me forever.

Testimonial/ Quote: "My first season as a crew leader was a challenge, but then again, that's what I wanted."



Name: Maximo Takoda Bye

Hometown: Covington, LA

School: Undecided (just graduated high school)

Career Goals: Undecided

Like/Hobbies: I love being outside, Kenpo, biking, swimming, driving, and hanging out with friends and family.

Best Memory: My best memory this summer would have to be my last day of work on Aspen Brook. It was amazing to look at all the work we have accomplished this year on the new rerouted trail. As we did some finishing work I thought about how this area looked before the new trail, and how it's slowly evolved over this summer. Estes Crew had built this trail and that is something that can never be forgotten.

Testimonial: "This opportunity with the RMC has been one of the best experiences I've had in one summer. I've learned, grown, and shaped my life while working on RMC's Estes crew. Nothing could've been better than doing this for the summer, I will always remember the time I've spent with my crew members and what I learned from all of them. It will always hold a special place in my heart."



Name: Sydney Moreno

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

School/Area of Study: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi | Major: Environmental Science, Minor: Biology

Career Goals: Pursue disaster relief and trail work around the country

Like/Hobbies: Cooking, walking my dog, hiking, reading

Best Memory: Being a part of a Search and Rescue

Testimonial/Quote: "I had an amazing time this summer and really enjoyed all the work we did. I am so thankful for all that we've been a part of, and I look forward to pursuing trail work in the future."



Name: Jovonna Ortega

Hometown: Denver, CO

School/Area of Study: Metropolitan State University of Denver

Career Goals: Currently, my career goals are to work in health care. I am still looking into what which specific field I want to focus on, but I know I'd like a field with lots of patient involvement. I might like to help patients understand their bodies, the procedures they're having, and what next steps they'll need to take to recover. My hope is that with my nonprofit I can somehow include getting out doors and doing something like this type of work.



Name: Cora Starke

Hometown: Columbia, MO

School/Area of Study: Taylor University | Major: Biology

Career Goals: Biology Teacher

Like/Hobbies: Canoeing, Hiking, Baking, and Painting

Best Memory: My favorite memory was when we moved fencing out of the alpine tundra for the vegetation crew to use. It was fun to be able to work as a team to get the fencing up hill in a quick fashion. Having such a beautiful view throughout the whole time was something that motivated me to keep working

Testimonial/Quote: "This summer gave me the opportunity to learn and grow more in my knowledge of the outdoors. My growth in understanding has led me to grow in appreciation."



Name: Nathan Stone

Hometown: Inver Grove Heights, MN

School/Area of Study: Saint John's University | Major: Biology and Environmental Studies.

Career Goals: Become involved in a career that focuses on conservation of the environment.

Like/Hobbies: Fly-fishing, camping, hiking, soccer, videography, photography.

Best Memory: Climbing Longs peak and getting to fish any day I wanted.

Testimonial/Quote: "Sometimes you just got to flip the rock."



Estes Crew members work to construct a switchback on the Aspen Brook Trail, which was destroyed by the 2013 Colorado floods.



Estes Crew members work to construct establish new tread on the Aspen Brook Trail.



Estes Crew members work with the Resource Stewardship division to remove materials from the tundra and complete restoration work at Sprague Lake.



Estes Crew members work to manage invasive species using backpack sprayers with Resource Stewardship.

Rawah Crews



2018 Work Summary

The Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Roosevelt National Forest manages the USFS lands just north of Rocky Mountain National Park along the Cache le Poudre River and northeast of Estes Park throughout the Big Thompson River drainage. In previous years, the Conservancy has supported the Canyon Lakes Ranger District with two crews, one located in the Rawah Wilderness and another based out of Red Feather Lakes. In 2018, the district requested two crews in the Rawah Wilderness due to an increased need to support this remote wilderness areas in Northern Colorado.

With this increased level of support, the “Rawah Mega-Crew” (as it came to be called) maintained over 60 miles of trail. This is nearly 80% of the total trail miles. Over these 60 miles, the crew cleared 440 trees from trail, constructed 5 stream crossings, repaired over 1700 drainage structures, and hauled out 26 pounds of trash. Much of this work was completed on “hitch,” where the crew spent 4-days/3-nights camping in remote areas to complete conservation work.

In addition to the 60 miles of trail maintained in the Rawahs, the crew also completed nearly 15 miles of trail work in the Comanche Peak Wilderness on trails that connect the National Park and USFS lands.

Lastly, the Rawah Crew spent two weeks rebuilding the Young Gulch Trail in the Poudre Canyon. This is a popular multi-use trail burned by the High Park Fire in 2012 and then washed away by the Colorado floods in 2013. The crew constructed nearly a mile of new trail on the upper section to help connect previous crews’ work on the lower portion. The Conservancy is excited to see the trail reopen in 2019 for public use, after a nearly 7-year closure.



Name: Noah Landguth (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Fairview, TX

School/Area of Study: Collin College | Major: Environmental Science

Career Goals: I hope to land a job on a Hotshot wildland firefighting crew in the future. In the distant future I'd love to work as a wilderness therapist, possibly starting my own organization for wilderness therapy one day!

Like/Hobbies: Running, Hiking, Reading, Trail Work

Best Memory: My favorite memory from this experience must be maintaining the Big South Trail from start to finish. After discovering that it was in serious disrepair when we hiked from the Big South trail head into RMNP, it was a wonderful feeling to do good for the trail that did good for us.

Testimonial/Quote: "The idea of wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders." –Edward Abbey



Name: Jordan Vogt (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Greenville, SC

School/Area of Study: College of Charleston | Major: Political Science and Latin American Caribbean Studies, Minor: Spanish

Career Goals: After college, I plan on working seasonal positions in the outdoor industry and traveling in the off-seasons. Eventually, I would like to attend graduate school to further my education.

Like/Hobbies: Swimming, hiking, cooking, watercolors, popcorn

Best Memory: My favorite memory from this past summer was on our hitch in the Comanche Peaks Wilderness on the Flowers Trail. It was after lunch and we had all run out of water. I saw on the map that there was water a little way up and off the trail, so I meandered that way to fill up everyone's bottles. As I was walking up, the woods started turning into alpine and the cutest little mountain stream that I've ever seen popped up on the other side of a meadow, along with a killer view of the mountains. It was a picturesque moment with clear, cold water, wildflowers galore, and mountains all around.

Testimonial/Quote: "My experience this past summer is one that I will never forget. New trail was built, old trails were reached (like the Medicine Bow!), and lifelong friendships were made. I will forever hold these people and these memories close!"



Name: Nathan Herr

Hometown: Akron, OH

School/Area of Study: Alumni, University of Akron | B.S. in Nursing, 2018

Career Goals: To expand outdoor leadership skills and stewardship of natural resources! Also, to incorporate my medical background into a career outdoors.

Like/Hobbies: Running, Climbing, Biking, Backpacking, Philosophy, and Music!

Best Memory: My best memory from this summer is from the week we spent working on the Rawah Trail. The majestic peaks, lakes, and wildflowers were such a reward for our hard work! Experiencing such a wonderful place with such wonderful people was a priceless memory!

Testimonial/Quote: "Going into this summer, I knew the trail work would be right up my alley. However, I was not prepared for the vibrant community within the corps and the amazing people by which I would be surrounded. This summer has created so many lifelong friends and memories and has equipped us all so well for a life in conservation and stewardship!"



Name: Stevie Holt

Hometown: Omro, WI

School/Area of Study: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point | Major: Wildlife Ecology and Biology

Career Goals: Become a wildlife biologist in Glacier National Park

Like/Hobbies: fishing, 4-wheeling, hiking, soccer

Best Memory: making memories/friends that will last a life time

Testimonial/Quote: "It's crazy how fast a group of strangers can turn into some of your closest friends. Before you know it, the summer is over, so never take things for granted."



Name: Ruby Ann Male

Hometown: Sturgeon Bay, WI

School/Area of Study: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point | Major: Natural Resources

Career Goals: Undecided, but I would like to do something related to the environment.

Like/Hobbies: Reading, hiking, knitting, and breakfast.

Best Memory: I have so many amazing memories, I can't choose. One special day was working on the Rawah trail and crossing over the alpine Grassy Pass into West Branch valley. A beautiful day

with wonderful fellow crew members.

Testimonial/Quote: "I have grown and learned so much from this summer. I feel connected to nature in a new way, and I feel like a new person with all the skills I've learned and things I've seen. One of the most important parts of this summer was the relationships I've built with my crew, and I'm so grateful for everything I've learned from this amazing group of people."



Name: Reche Mouwembe

Hometown: Denver, CO

School/Area of Study: University of Northern Colorado | Major: Human Services

Career Goals: Physical Therapist

Like/Hobbies: Cooking, Swimming, Dancing

Best Memory: When we finished working on Blue Lake and swam in a cold lake!

Testimonial/Quote: "Don't let what you haven't done before scare you."



Name: Zoe Parham

Hometown: Columbia, MO

School/Area of Study: University of Missouri | Major: Plant Science

Career Goals: I have lots of interests and am open to many different paths/careers. My goals are to work outside and to give more to the earth than I take from it. I am interested in more seasonal forest service work, sustainable flower farming, and so much more.

Likes/Hobbies: Backpacking, floral design, scuba diving, gardening, and biking.

Best Memory: Working with my entire crew to construct and place a downed tree as a new river crossing. We were all in the icy water, feet and legs completely soaked, feeling happier and more accomplished than I can express.

Testimonial/Quote: "This has by far been the most fulfilling summer of my life. My time spent on the Rawah Crew has gone by way too fast. I have so much love for all my friends here and the work we have completed together this summer. I learned more than I could have wished and grew more than I could have predicted."



Name: Madison Robicheaux

Hometown: Allen, TX

School/Area of Study: University of Arkansas | Major: Public Health

Career Goals: Wilderness Therapy, but excited to see what other things life has in store

Like/Hobbies: Running, Guitar, Embroidering, Sweet Potatoes

Best Memory: Our first weekend we all went to Laramie, Wyoming and Steamboat Springs as a crew. We thrifted, ate, hiked, camped, and swam together, and I don't think we ever stopped smiling.

Testimonial/Quote: "Jordan is someone on our crew who is famous for tripping multiple times a day. Daniel told me one day he asked her why. He says Jordan simply replied, 'It's because I am always looking up, most people just naturally look down.' Me and Daniel have been tripping a lot more now, but I don't think I'll ever look down."



Name: Daniel Vasquez

Hometown: Round Rock, TX

School/Area of Study: Austin Community College | Major: Water Conservation

Career Goals: Pursuing a career in water conservation and sustainable resource management. I hope to one-day work for a water development board or possibly local government.

Like/Hobbies: Soccer, reading, listening to music, hiking,

Best Memory: Getting lost on West Branch while on crosscut with Zoe

Testimonial/Quote: "This summer with RMC has cemented the idea that I want to pursue a career in this field. Whatever I do with my life, I know that conservation and stewardship will be a big part of it."



Name: James Zafarana

Hometown: Fort Collins, CO

School/Area of Study: Colorado State University | Major: Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

Career Goals: To help people create connections with the natural world that sustains us all

Like/Hobbies: Being in the world out-of-doors. Snowboarding, kayaking, walking, climbing.... Anything to be outside!

Best Memory: Walking into RMNP from the Rawah Wilderness for mid-week. And then working to maintain that same route on hitch.

Testimonial/Quote: "Simple joys. This experience has made me so full of joy. I love these people and the places we all go."



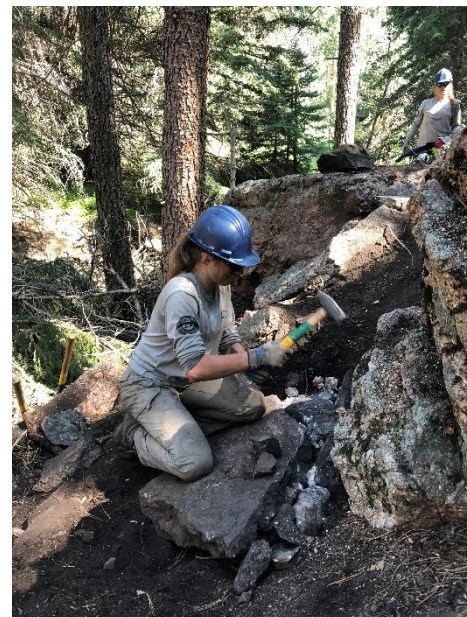
Rawah Crew works to clear downed and hazard trees from trail.



Rawah Crews complete trail maintenance in the Rawah Wilderness.



Crew members clear trail corridor for in ensure safe access and protect ecosystems surrounding the trail.



Crew members construct new trail on the Young Gulch Trail, which was destroyed and has been closed following the High Park Fire of 2012 and the Colorado floods of 2013.

Shadow Mountain Crew



2018 Work Summary

After many years of focusing on hazard tree management and removing dead and downed trees from trail after the most recent Mountain Pine Beetle outbreak, the Shadow Mountain Crew returned to more traditional trail maintenance work. This work sent the crew into the Indian Peaks and Never Summer Wilderness areas to maintain 40 miles of trail along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, the Bowen-Baker loop, and throughout the Arapaho National Recreation Area. Over these 40 miles, the crews removed over 250 downed trees from trail, maintained and installed 234 drains, and cleared 9.5 miles of trail corridor.

In addition to the maintenance work, the crew also participated in some unique projects. One of these was the destruction and removal of an illegal backcountry cabin built in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. The cabin appeared to have been built for winter recreation (i.e. snowmobiling and skiing). Since it was built on Forest Service land without any communication or permitting by the USFS, the cabin was simply a large amount of litter. Over the course of four days the crew deconstructed the cabin, placed the bulk of the building materials in slash piles to be burned, and hauled out over 1700 pounds of trash with the help of two llamas. This work provided a change of pace for the crew and reinforced the fact that our public lands are here to be protected and managed for all of us.

Beyond the cabin deconstruction, the crew also participated in Sulphur Ranger District Trails Smart Sizing Project. This project was approved in August 2017. It includes the construction of new multi-use trail systems and improved signage to help support recreational use, especially mountain bike and motor bike use, as well as protect the sensitive ecosystems surrounding popular trails. During the first year of the project, the Shadow Mountain Crew helped remove 7 outdated or damaged trail signs, install 8 new signs, decommission several hundred feet of social trails, and clarify multiple trail intersections. All this work helps improve the visitor experience and mitigate future impacts by ensuring trails and trail junctions are well-defined. The Conservancy is excited to continue to support the Sulphur Ranger District Trails Smart Sizing Project in the years to come!



Name: Mary Cretney (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Mukwonago, WI (Crew Leader)

School/Area of Study: University of Wisconsin – Madison | Major: Conservation Biology & Environmental Studies

Career Goals: Pursue a long-term career in conservation leadership, likely on a trail crew, as well as spend a season on a wildland fire crew.

Like/Hobbies: backpacking, rock climbing, summiting mountains, laughing at bad jokes, telling bad jokes, drinking coffee in a hammock, identifying plants

Best Memory: One day in the Never Summer Wilderness, Emma and I were installing a check dam. While we were digging the hole, we stumbled upon a stubborn rock. When we finally got it out, we made caveman grunts at it and happily jumped around the trail.

Testimonial/Quote: “The RMC-CC brought strangers together through conservation. As the season progressed, these strangers became family, as we learned, struggled, dug large holes in the ground, and admired the mountains around us. Forever, I will cherish the memories I have made in this Corps.”



Name: Adam Cepeda

Hometown: Dededo, Guam

School/Area of Study: Alumni, University of Dayton | B.A. in Music Studies, 2018

Career Goal: To commission in the Navy as either a musician or an aviator

Hobbies: Staying physically active, walking, eating, playing a musical instrument, composing, mountain biking, writing, learning, sipping on a nice glass of Scotch.

Best Memory: Being surrounded by four bull-moose during lunch; and laughing our butts off all the time.

Testimonial/Quote: “In my experience, this program has taught me a better sense of humility and teamwork. It has taught me to take better care of myself and to not take the well-abled body I was given for granted. Perhaps most of all, this program has taught me to find the joy that comes with the simplicity of life, and to understand that there is something beautiful about having less. Last, but not least, you will learn that hard work is good for you, whether you like it or not.”



Name: Emma Geverd

Hometown: Lansdale, PA

School/Area of Study: University of Florida | Major: Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Career Goals: I hope to work for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Services

Like/Hobbies: I love all board sports. My favorite board sport though of all time is snowboarding. I also love the beach and being outdoors soaking up the sun no matter what I am doing. Volunteering at the shelter and playing with kittens is also one of my favorite ways to get away from the stresses of school. I enjoy camping and hammocking. In my free time I like to draw, play ukulele, and read Harry Potter.

Best Memory: My best memory from this year was our stretch and safety circles in the morning and all the crazy questions of the day. We discussed whether we rather have dust pans for hands or sweat jelly. We have also danced to weird music to warm up our feet from being frozen in the early mornings.

Testimonial/Quote: “Working on the Conservation Corps has helped me to develop into a stronger and more independent individual. I learned how much stronger I am despite what my mind tells me. The memories and friendships I have formed have helped me to heal. My time in Colorado will be a time I cherish for the rest of my life.”



Name: Caitlin Giles

Hometown: Centennial, CO

School/Area of Study: University of Alabama | Majors: Biology and Environmental Science

Career Goals: I would like to intern next summer for a government agency working in Environmental Policy Analysis. Depending on that experience I would like to develop a long-term career towards either becoming the Director of Policy Analysis for one of those agencies or starting my own organization to help get more funding for public schools to become more sustainable and have more environmentally-centered classrooms and cafeterias.

Like/Hobbies: I love to draw, run, read, play with dogs, drink too much coffee, and multitask. Still working on how to do all of those at once.

Best Memory: One Saturday night in June we were playing soccer in the street in our village at Shadow Mountain Lake. We looked up, and it looked as if all the clouds above us had been painted with every shade of the colors of fire. We sprinted to the lake, jumped in a canoe, and paddled out to the middle of the lake. We kept turning the boat in circles to catch every view of the peaks lit up around us. It was spontaneous, overwhelming, and stunning. No description or camera could ever be able to capture the beauty of that moment.

Testimonial/Quote: "This will be a summer that I will look back to frequently and for a long time. This has been a major season of growing and learning. Much of the growth has come from being stretched and broken. Much of the knowledge has come from the amazing community of people around me. In my current season of life, being in college and trying to soak up the world around me, there are a few constant themes: where is home or where do I want it to be; what do I want to do with my life, time, and degree; and what do I enjoy? This season has made leaps in answering all three of those questions."



Name: Ricardo Ibarra

Hometown: Denver, CO

School/Area of Study: Metro State University at Denver | Major: Computer Information Systems

Careers Goals: Work for a huge corporation that needs computer assistance.

Like/Hobbies: Running, listen to music, sleep, breath in fresh air, exercise, coddling

Best Memory: Going up to Lost lake and enjoying the Lake with our Bosses and Hiking up Rogers Pass

Testimonial/Quote: "Sometimes you got to drop your tool, breath in the fresh air, and enjoy the view. After a long day of work, just know that you survived and that you can survive another day."



Name: Hana Nystrom

Hometown: Santa Cruz, CA

School/Area of Study: Colorado Mountain College-Vail Valley | Major: Culinary Arts

Career Goals: To travel the world and learn the different cuisines

Like/Hobbies: Backpacking, pastries, cliff jumping, playing guitar

Best Memory: Kendra going full koala on a tree stump to try and dislodge it from the ground. Then the rest of us trying.

Testimonial/Quote: "Working for the RMC has taught me a lot about what it means to be a steward and the kind of person it takes to be one. You have to have incredible work ethic, a love for the natural world, and a strong back."



Shadow Mountain Crew utilizes USFS boat to access remote areas and help patrol Lake Granby.



Shadow Mountain Crew completes trail maintenance throughout the Indian Peaks and Never Summer Wilderness Areas with the help of llamas.



Shadow Mountain crew gathers after a work day maintaining trails at Columbine Lake.

Boulder Crew



2018 Work Summary

The Boulder Crew focused most of their work on two project areas in 2018. This included the South Boulder Creek Trail in the James Peak Wilderness and the Brainard Lake Area in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. Both are extremely high use areas requiring more structure to prevent erosion and impact to surrounding areas from trail braiding.

On the South Boulder Creek Trail, the crew constructed over 100 feet of turnpike to improve the trail surface through a wetland area. Turnpikes raise the trail by constructing rectangular structures using large rocks or logs. The rectangular structures can cover tens of feet of trail and are filled with smaller “crush” rocks ranging from baseball sized to gravel. This material helps allow water to drain beneath the trail surface without causing erosion. On top of the smaller rocks, trail surface is established using mineral soil. To ensure these structures are long lasting, a lot of time and care is put into the placement of the larger rocks or logs to ensure the integrity of the structure

Within the Brainard Lake National Recreation Area, the crew constructed dozens of check steps on the Pawnee Pass and Mitchell Lake trails. Both trails have short sections of steep grade. These trails are prone to erosion as water flows down them during weather events and spring run-off. Check steps are rock or log structures built into the trail creating a natural stair-like surface. They help slow the flow of water and retain surface material to reduce the effects of erosion. Similar to the turnpikes, great care is put into the placement of the steps to ensure they are solid and will not move under use. The crew also completed trail improvement work to make the trail surface more user-friendly for hikers. This included removing protruding rocks and constructing retaining walls to reinforce switchbacks.

Outside of these two projects, the crew also installed check steps on the Rainbow Lakes trail and completed maintenance work on the Middle St. Vrain Trail and Fourth of July Trailhead.



Name: Zach Pull (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Maple Grove, MN

School/Area of Study: North Dakota State University | Major: Natural Resource Management

Career Goals: I hope to work for a federal agency being involved with conservation work.

Likes/Hobbies: Mountain Biking, Ice Fishing, Camping, Hiking, playing guitar.

Best Memory: Watching my crew grow into the awesome trail workers that they are today!

Testimonial/Quote: "Working for the RMC-CC is truly challenging and exciting. Spending my summer with this program has helped me to become a stronger leader and has given me a critical knowledge base for future careers."



Name: Madison Belland

Hometown: North Branch, MN

School/Area of Study: University Wisconsin-Platteville | Major: Reclamation, Environment, and Conservation, Minor: Spanish

Career Goals: To work with the National Forest Service on either a trail crew or wildland fire crew. To work for an international agency doing international restoration projects.

Like/Hobbies: Climbing, Mountain Biking, Yoga

Best Memory: Working alongside of an awesome crew in the prettiest places ever, doing the best kind of trail work: rock work. Especially working in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area at Pawnee Pass for three weeks was breathtaking and brought the simplest of joys. And summitting Mount Meeker and Longs Peak.

Testimonial/Quote: "This summer working with RMC and the USDA FS has been nothing but the best. It has been another incredible season doing something I consider so important: trail work. I have gained an even greater appreciation for our public lands and the natural world. This summer has been all about connecting to the Earth and living a simple life. Working on the Boulder Crew has brought so much joy, and my crew members, as well as the rest of the Corps have been phenomenal people to work with. I loved getting to know everybody and feel their passion and love for the environment radiate off them. This summer I wanted nothing more than to give back to Mother Earth and be surrounded by beautiful places and faces and I am so thankful that RMC gave me that opportunity and provided me with many skills to continue this lifestyle in the future."



Name: Jess Franta

Hometown: Westcliffe, CO

School/Area of Study: Western State Colorado University | Major: Outdoor Recreation Leadership

Career Goals: To become a mountaineering Guide and educate people about the outdoors.

Like/Hobbies: Skiing, Kayaking, rafting, mountain biking, backpacking, climbing, and fishing.

Best Memory from this experience: Building a staircase out of rocks on the Rainbow lakes trail.

Testimonial/Quote: "This summer taught me how to live more independently and live in a cohesive group with people I just met. I grew a greater appreciation for the mountains and the people who make accessing them easier for the public."



Name: Charlotte Graeve

Hometown: The Woodlands, TX

School/Area of Study: Texas A&M University | Major: Parks & Conservation, Minor: Entomology

Career Goals: I hope to one day work for the Forest Service to both protect our natural resources and help and inspire people as best as I can.

Likes/Hobbies: reading, running, camping, kayaking, playing soccer

Best Memory: Doing rock removal at the top of Pawnee Pass and rolling boulders all the way down the switchbacks.

Testimonial/Quote: “Working with RMC-CC has been one of my most rewarding experiences to date. Through this program I have learned more than I imagined- about trail work, conserving the natural environment, working with others, and about life. I am so grateful for this opportunity and I know that this is a summer I will remember forever.”



Name: Hannah Green

Hometown: Harrison Twp., MI

School/Area of Study: Michigan State University | Major: Environmental Studies and Sustainability, Minor: Entomology

Career Goals: Peace Corps, Sustainability field, non-profit work

Like/Hobbies: Cooking, art of all kinds, coffee, hiking, animal rights

Best Memory: Summiting my first 14er and crosscutting trees.

Testimonial/Quote: “This experience has embodied stewardship for me. I have learned so much about trail work whilst getting the opportunity to explore one of the most beautiful places I have ever been. Boulder Crew taught me what hard work and determination really meant. Thank you, RMC, for a summer I will never forget.”



Name: Rachel Lindsey

Hometown: Farr West, UT

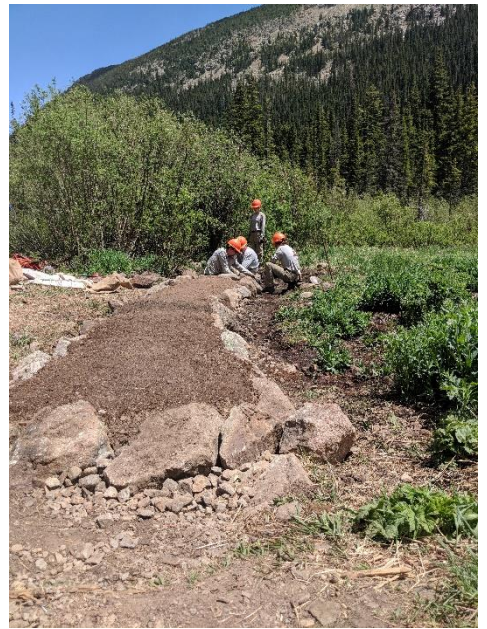
School/Area of Study: Boise State University | Major: Environmental Studies, Minors: Sustainability and Climate Studies

Career Goals: I want my career to reflect my passion and values, that is extending both protection and enjoyment of environmental services. For now, I am going to explore what aspects of the environmental field I will be most successful at and enjoy the most. Whether that is policy or actively in the parks and forests themselves, I believe I can make a difference and share these ideals.

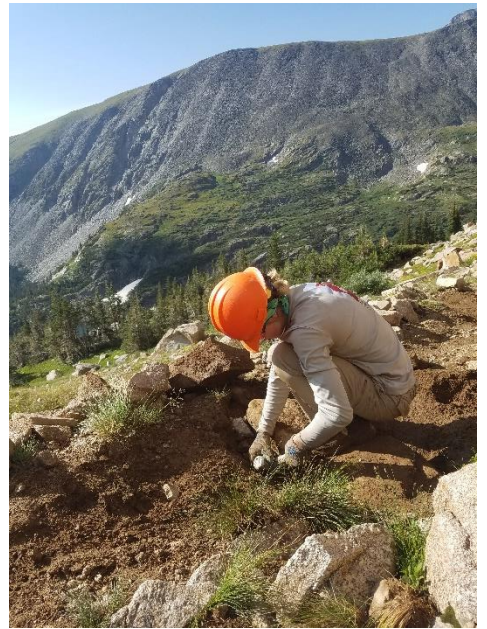
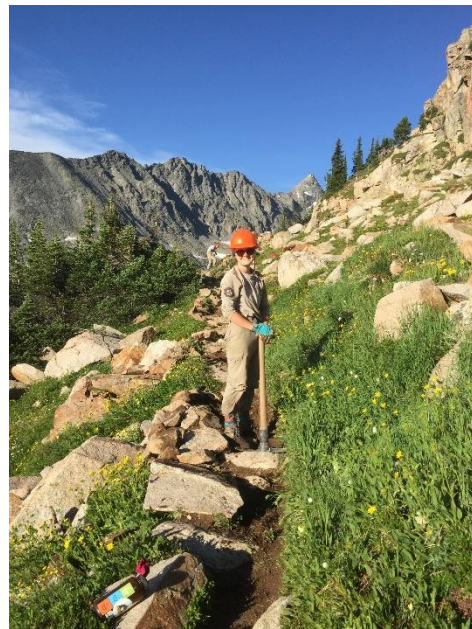
Like/Hobbies: Skiing, Painting, Reading, Baking, Canoeing, Dancing

Best Memory: After work on Pawnee Pass the whole crew would head down to Lake Isabelle and take a polar plunge in the glacial lake! It was fantastic, and a view that will never be beat.

Testimonial/Quote: “I’ve learned an incredible amount this season that I can apply to my future career, but also have newfound confidence in myself and gained life-long friends. I wouldn’t trade this summer for anything.”



Boulder Crew constructs a turnpike on the South Boulder Creek Trail in the James Peak Wilderness.



Boulder Crew completes trail improvements on Pawnee Pass Trail at Brainard Lake National Recreation Area.



Boulder Crew's campsite from their backcountry hitch work at Pawnee Pass

Moraine Crew



2018 Work Summary

The Moraine Crew replaced the Kawuneeche Crew, which worked from 2015-17 on the west-side of Rocky Mountain National Park. The focus of these crews has been on historic preservation projects and visitor use site enhancement. In 2018, the crew moved to the east side of Rocky Mountain National Park and found their home in Moraine Park.

The crew started their season with a week of tool training and practice through refurbishing picnic tables. Many visitor use areas are equipped with picnic tables for guests of Rocky Mountain National Park to gather at and enjoy the scenery. Due to the harsh environmental conditions and heavy use, picnic tables require ongoing maintenance to prevent boards from rotting and breaking. During their first week, the crew disassembled 40 picnic tables and began rebuilding them with newly cut and stained boards. This allowed them to develop skills using saws, drills, and sanders and applying stain to wood.

In addition to the ongoing work on picnic tables, the crew also restored windows on historic buildings to protect the historic integrity and improve the longevity of these structures. Altogether the crew restored over 40 windows on historic buildings through Rocky Mountain National Park. In the realm of historic preservation, the Moraine crew also helped replace a foundational log on a historic ranger cabin at Glacier Basin Campground.

Beyond the world of historic preservation, the Moraine Crew installed a new solar shower structure at Glacier Basin Campground, constructed trails to and from existing facilities for the shower and built an ADA accessible trail to a comfort station at Moraine Park Campground. All this work contributes to the National Park Service's mission to provide for the visitor experience.



Name: William Fazio (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Born in Torrance, CA, but my hometown is Fort Collins, CO

School/Area of Study: Alumni, Colorado State University, Class of 2018

Career Goals: Work Conservation corps around the country and gain employment in the NPS with a career goal of making climbing my career

Like/Hobbies: Climbing, art, biking, craft beer, stories around fires, and skiing.

Best Memory: Reuniting with all the crews during midweek

Testimonial/Quote: "Dismiss your expectations and open yourself to the unexpected."



Name: Anna Baize

Hometown: Plainfield, IN

School/Area of Study: Colorado State University | Major: Wildlife Biology

Career Goals: Work for a national park either in interpretation or as a researcher

Like/Hobbies: photography, hiking, paddle boarding, camping

Best Memory: During midweek, our crew hosted a huge family dinner with all the crews. Each of the people on our crew oversaw one portion of the dish, while Will was the overall master chef for the night. All the crews came over and we had one huge family dinner on the back porch of the cabin eating off the tables and chairs brought from our surrounding cabins.

Testimonial/Quote: "I love the outdoors and if I ever questioned my love for the outdoors, this job crushed that doubt."



Name: Hayley Hasberger

Hometown: Newnan, GA

School/Area of Study: University of Georgia | Major: Communication Studies

Career Goals: I want to both work in Human Resources in a company that values diversity and continue my education and work at a university throughout my career

Like/Hobbies: traveling, hiking, baking, attending community events

Best Memory: digging a trench for an electrical line because I was able to meet the electrician, plumber, archeologist, and work with my entire crew

Testimonial/Quote: "The knowledge and skills I have gained from this experience will continue with me for the rest of my life and have benefited me involving both my professional and personal goals."



Name: Max Murphy

Hometown: Grapevine, TX

School/Area of Study: St. Edwards University | Major: Philosophy and English Writing.

Career Goals: Wildland Firefighting, otherwise ambiguous

Like/Hobbies: Rock Climbing, Poetry, Debauchery

Best Memory: My Dump Truck, that thing could haul, baby

Testimonial/Quote: "It's always sunny on the Mo-raine crew."



Name: Barnabas Tsigie

Hometown: Longmont, CO

School/Area of Study: Colorado State University | Major: Political Science

Career Goals: Political Science

Like/Hobbies: Baking, trivia, politics

Best Memory: Hiking Odessa and Fern Lake

Testimonial/Quote: "I grew a lot and it was definitely not easy, but nothing good comes easy, and that is why I am glad that I did the Conservation Corps."



Name: Randy Ham

Hometown: League City, TX

School/Area of Study: Alumni, Austin College, Class of 2017 | Major: Environmental Studies and German



Moraine Crew works to establish a trail to their recently constructed solar shower station at Glacier Basin Campground.



Moraine Crew installs an ADA pathway to a comfort station at Moraine Park Campground.



Moraine Crew works to restore the historic Ranger Station at Glacier Basin Campground by replacing a log footer.



Moraine Crew learns and complete historic window restoration in Rocky Mountain National Park.