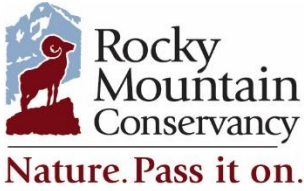


Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Volunteer Stewardship Program
2019 Season





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 years, the Conservancy has grown to support its public land partners in a breadth of ways.

Currently, Rocky Mountain Conservancy contains five 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.
- **Philanthropy** – connects people to Rocky Mountain National Park through newsletters updating constituents on upcoming project and 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** – offers opportunities for youth, young adults, and local populations to learn about conservation through service opportunities including the High School Leadership Corps, Conservation Corps, and Volunteer Stewardship Days (see below).

Volunteer Stewardship Program Outline

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy has hosted volunteer events for Conservancy Members since 2014. These were focused on getting Members out with the Conservation Corps on National Trails Day to kick off the Corps season. Based on increasing interest in single-day volunteer projects, the Conservancy began hosting a full schedule of volunteer events in 2018. Since, the schedule has included public volunteer days and private volunteer days for community organizations, youth groups, and corporations. Projects occur within Rocky Mountain National Park and in the surrounding Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests.

Program Goals:

1. To increase participant understanding and appreciation of public lands.
2. To foster participant awareness of conservation issues and public land management.
3. To develop stewardship skills and ethics in participants.
4. To inform participants on the role and value of public land partnerships in pursuing conservation outcomes.
5. To connect participants with the Rocky Mountain Conservancy through hands-on service.
6. To provide on-the-ground support for priority conservation needs of the Conservancy’s public land partners.
7. To support other local conservation-based non-profits in collaborative efforts to engage communities in stewardship work.

For more information about this program, please contact:

Geoff Elliot

Director of Conservation

Geoff.Elliot@RMConservancy.org

(970)586-3262

2019 Project Calendar, Participation, and Hours Served

Date – Project Name/Group	Project	Project Time	# Participants	Hours
May 18 - Colorado Public Lands Day	Litter	10AM-12PM	32 (7 youth)	64
June 1 - National Trails Day with Conservation Corps	Trails	9AM-2PM	47 (32 youth)	235
June 12 – Moraine Park Restoration Project	Resources	9AM-3PM	7	42
June 20-21 – Arvada United Methodist Church (Youth Group)	Resources	1-5PM/8AM-12PM	10 (8 youth)	80
June 22 – Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance Partner Project with High School Leadership Corps	Trails	8AM-4PM	15 (10 youth)	120
June 24 – St. Paul Episcopal Church (Youth Group)	Resources	10AM-2PM	10 (8 youth)	40
July 20 - Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance Partner Project with High School Leadership Corps	Trails	8AM-4PM	20 (8 youth)	160
July 30 – Girl Scout Troop 71 (Youth Group)	Resources	9AM-4PM	10 (8 youth)	70
July 31 – West-Side Invasive Plant Management Project	Resources	9AM-1PM	10	40
August 2 – BNY Mellon (Corporate Group)	Resources	10AM-4PM	10	60
August 3 – Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Trail Day with Conservation Corps	Trails	9AM-4PM	33 (32 youth)	231
August 21 – Canidium (Corporate Group)	Resources	9AM-4PM	12	84
August 22-23 – Colorado College Orientation (Youth Group)	Resources	10AM-4PM (2 Days)	24 (24 youth)	288
August 24 - Rocky Mountain Rendezvous	Trails	8AM-4PM	25 (4 youth)	200
September 4 – Town of Estes Park (Community Organization)	Resources	9AM-1PM	5	20
September 12 - National Day of Service and Remembrance	Fire Fuels	9AM-1PM	9	36
September 24 – Broadridge Financial Solutions Inc. (Corporate Group)	Resources	10AM-4PM	8	48
September 25 – Cusa Tea (Corporate Group)	Resources	10AM-4PM	6	36
September 26 – Greystone Technology (Corporate Group)	Resources	10AM-4PM	8	48
September 28 – Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado – CAIRN (Youth Group)	Trails	8AM-4PM	30 (25 youth)	240
September 28 - National Public Lands Day	Trails	9AM-11AM	41 (5 youth)	82
		Total:	372 (171 youth)	2224

Project Descriptions

Litter Clean-Up

- The Conservancy celebrated Colorado Public Lands Day and National Public Lands Day with projects near the Beaver Meadows Entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park removing a cumulative of more than 200 lbs. of trash from Rocky (5/18 and 9/28).



Colorado Public Lands Day (May 18, 2019)



National Public Lands Day (September 28, 2019)

Trails – The Conservancy’s Volunteer Stewardship Days supported several trail projects in 2019. These included:

- Restoring trail corridor on the Cub Lake Trail through the construction of structures (check steps and water bars) to fortify the trail and obliteration of braided trail sections (6/1);
- Building turnpike over a wetland area of the South Boulder Creek Trail in the James Peak Wilderness to mitigate trail erosion and watershed pollution in partnership with the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (6/22);
- Rerouting the Mitchell/Blue Lake Trail in the Brainard Lake Area of the Indian Peaks Wilderness to make a more sustainable surface and mitigate erosion in partnership with the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (7/20);
- Installing check-dams near the North Fork Trail in the Comanche Peaks Wilderness to reestablish soil along heavily eroded sections of the former trail after it was rerouted due to the 2013 Colorado floods with the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (8/3);
- Fortifying the Book Access Trail in Lumpy Ridge by installing steps to mitigate erosion (8/24); and,
- Constructing a trail bridge on Buffalo Creek Trail in Arapaho National Forest near Hot Sulphur Springs, CO with the Headwaters Trail Alliance (9/28).



National Trails Day – Cub Lake Trail Restoration (June 1, 2019)



Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance Partner Project – Turnpike Construction on South Boulder Creek Trail (June 22, 2019)



Rocky Mountain Rendezvous (August 24, 2019)

Resources – The 2019 Resource Stewardship projects helped to restore habitat and foster native plant growth by:

- Transporting and repurposing unused mulch from past project site to finalize restoration efforts in Moraine Park after infrastructure updates disturbed the meadow (6/12, 6/20, and 9/26);
- Eradicating Musk Thistle, Common Mullein, and Houndstongue in Moraine Park, Beaver Meadows, and Horseshoe Park areas of Rocky Mountain National Park (6/21, 6/24, 8/2, 8/21, 8/22, 8/23, 9/4, and 9/25)
- Mechanically removing Houndstongue and Scentless Chamomile from the area surrounding the Kawuneeche Visitor (7/31); and,
- Collecting native plant seeds from future restoration areas to establish greenhouse seed bank (9/25 and 9/26).



Transporting and repurposing mulch in Moraine Park (June 12, 2019)



Town of Estes Park staff after mechanically removing invasive plants in Moraine Park (September 4, 2019)



Raking mulch and seed to finalize restoration efforts in Moraine Park (September 26, 2019)

Fire Fuels

- The fire fuels projects supported Rocky Mountain National Park's efforts to mitigate wildfire risk along the Bear Lake Road corridor to protect National Park Service infrastructure, firefighters, and nearby communities (9/12).



9/11-National Day of Service and Remembrance (September 12, 2019)

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy would like to thank all the volunteers as well as our project partners. **THANK YOU!**

Project Partners:

National Park Service - Rocky Mountain National Park

Trail Crew

Vegetation Crew

Fire Fuels Management Crew

Volunteer in Parks Office

U.S. Forest Service - Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests

Boulder Ranger District

Canyon Lakes Ranger District

Sulphur Ranger District

Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers

Headwaters Trail Alliance